

SPECIAL MATHS CONTEST 2027

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GUIDELINES, RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

The Special Maths Contest (SMC) is an initiative of Special Maths Academy (SMA), an Olympiad training organization dedicated to identifying, challenging, and nurturing talented young mathematicians.

The contest is designed to identify students with exceptional mathematical ability, develop their problem-solving and mathematical reasoning skills, and provide pathways to advanced training, mentorship, scholarships, and national and international mathematics competitions.

The 2027 edition of the Special Maths Contest will consist of three rounds, combining proctored online assessments with a final in-person Olympiad-style competition.

The subjects covered throughout the contest are:

- Algebra
- Number Theory
- Geometry
- Combinatorics

2. ELIGIBILITY

To participate in the Special Maths Contest, a participant must:

- Be between Grade 5 to 9(Junior Category)
- Grade 10 to 12 secondary school graduates who are below 20 years.(Senior Category)
- Not be enrolled in a university or other higher education institution at the time of the contest.
- Provide accurate information during registration.
- Meet any additional eligibility requirements communicated by SMC.

Proof of eligibility may be required at any stage of the competition.

SMC reserves the right to disqualify any participant who provides false information or is found not to meet the eligibility requirements.

3. REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

- Registration for the 2027 Special Maths Contest is free.
- The registration deadline is January 3rd, 2027.
- Participants must complete the official registration process before the deadline.
- Participants are responsible for ensuring that all information provided during registration is accurate and complete.
- Late registration will not be accepted unless SMC officially announces an extension.
- SMC does not authorize any individual or organization to collect registration fees on its behalf.

Participants should retain their registration information and regularly check SMC's official communication channels for updates.

4. FORMAT OF THE CONTEST

The Special Maths Contest 2027 will consist of three rounds:

1. Round 1 — Online Qualifying Test
2. Round 2 — Online Selection Test
3. Round 3 — In-Person Olympiad Competition

The first two rounds will be conducted online using a proctored examination platform. The final round will be an in-person Olympiad-style competition involving written mathematical solutions.

The subjects covered throughout the contest are:

- Algebra
- Number Theory
- Geometry
- Combinatorics

5. ROUND 1 — ONLINE QUALIFYING TEST

Date

January 9, 2027

Time

2:00 PM WAT

Format

Fill in the gaps

Mode

Online and proctored.

The Round 1 examination will be conducted on a proctored online platform to promote fairness, credibility, and integrity.

Approximately 10%–15% of participants will progress to Round 2 based on their performance in Round 1.

The final number of qualifiers may be determined by SMC based on the distribution and quality of scores.

Results Announcement

Round 1 results will be announced on January 25, 2027.

6. ROUND 2 — ONLINE SELECTION TEST

Date

To be communicated to qualified participants.

Time

2:00 PM WAT

Format

Fill in the gaps

Mode

Online and proctored.

Subjects

- Algebra
- Number Theory
- Geometry
- Combinatorics

Round 2 will further assess the mathematical ability of participants who qualify from Round 1.

The examination will be conducted on a proctored online platform to ensure fairness, credibility, and consistency.

Between 10% and 15% of students will be shortlisted for Round 3 based on their performance in Round 2.

Results Announcement

Round 2 results will be announced.

SMC reserves the right to determine the final number of participants advancing to Round 3.

7. ROUND 3 — IN-PERSON OLYMPIAD COMPETITION

Event Dates

To be communicated to qualifiers

Location

Nile University of Nigeria, Abuja, Nigeria

Format

Contestants will solve four Olympiad-style essay problems.

The final round will assess contestants' ability to:

- Apply advanced mathematical reasoning.
- Develop rigorous mathematical arguments.
- Solve challenging problems independently.
- Present complete and logically structured solutions.

The problems will cover:

- Algebra
- Number Theory
- Geometry
- Combinatorics

8.1 PARTICIPATION ARRANGEMENTS

Nigerian Contestants

Nigerian contestants may be assigned physical or online participation based on their performance in the preceding rounds and other considerations determined by SMC.

SMC reserves the right to upgrade a Nigerian participant from online participation to physical participation where necessary.

International Contestants

International students who are not based in Nigeria will participate virtually via Zoom unless otherwise communicated by SMC.

Further instructions concerning virtual participation will be provided to qualified international contestants.

9. TIE-BREAK RULE

Where two or more contestants achieve the same score in a round in which ranking is required, SMC may use performance in the preceding round as a tie-breaker.

Where necessary, SMC may apply additional tie-breaking mechanisms.

SMC reserves the right to make the final determination in cases involving tied scores.

10. PRIZES AND AWARDS — ROUND 3

The final round will determine the overall winners and the top Nigerian contestants.

10.1 Overall Winners

The top three contestants overall will receive:

Senior Category

1st Place

US\$450

2nd Place

Junior Category

1st Place

US\$300

2nd Place

US\$300

3rd Place

US\$200

US\$200

3rd Place

US\$100

The overall top three contestants will also receive Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals respectively.

10.2 Top Nigerian Contestants- Senior Category

1st Nigerian Contestant

- Laptop
- ~~₦~~500,000 cash prize
- ~~₦~~50,000 for their teacher

2nd Nigerian Contestant

- Laptop
- ~~₦~~250,000 cash prize
- ~~₦~~50,000 for their teacher

3rd Nigerian Contestant

- Laptop
- ~~₦~~150,000 cash prize
- ~~₦~~50,000 for their teacher

10.2b Top Nigerian Contestants- Junior Category

1st Nigerian Contestant

- Tablet
- ~~₦~~300,000 cash prize

- ~~₦~~50,000 for their teacher

2nd Nigerian Contestant

- Tablet
- ~~₦~~200,000 cash prize
- ~~₦~~50,000 for their teacher

3rd Nigerian Contestant

- Tablet
- ~~₦~~100,000 cash prize
- ~~₦~~50,000 for their teacher

10.3 Top Female Contestant from Nigeria

The highest-ranked Nigerian female contestant will receive:

- Laptop
- ~~₦~~75,000 cash prize
- ~~₦~~50,000 for her teacher

If the student is already in the top 3 Nigerians, she will not receive a second laptop. She will only receive the cash prize and her teacher will also receive the cash prize of ~~₦~~50,000

10.4 Special Teacher Award

The teacher of the best-performing Nigerian student in SS3 or below will receive:

- ~~₦~~500,000 cash prize.

10.5 Additional Awards

SMC will recognize outstanding participants through:

- Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals.
- Certificates of Excellence for all final-round participants.
- Other special recognition awards as determined by SMC.
- Access to selected SMA learning resources, including a possible one-year subscription to the SMA Olympiad Video Series for selected students from Round 1.

11. EGMO PATHWAY

The Special Maths Contest may serve as a platform for identifying outstanding Nigerian female mathematicians for further training and potential participation in the European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO).

Top-performing eligible Nigerian female contestants may be considered for the relevant EGMO training and selection process.

Participation in SMC does not automatically guarantee selection for EGMO.

Final selection will depend on the applicable national selection process, eligibility requirements, training performance, and other criteria established for the competition.

Where funding is available, eligible students selected to represent Nigeria may receive financial support for their participation.

12. TENTATIVE ROUND 3 SCHEDULE

The final-round programme is expected to follow this structure:

- March 18, 2027 — Arrival of participants
- March 19, 2027 - Organisation and preparation for exam.
- March 20, 2027 — Main competition and academic activities
- March 21, 2027 — Excursion
- March 22, 2027 — Closing ceremony and awards

- March 23, 2027 — Departure

The detailed programme will be communicated to shortlisted participants and may be adjusted by SMC where necessary.

13. CONTEST INTEGRITY AND PROCTORING

The integrity of the Special Maths Contest is of utmost importance.

For the online rounds:

- Participants must complete the examination independently.
- Participants must follow all instructions issued by SMC and the proctoring platform.
- Participants must not receive assistance from another person.
- Participants must not use unauthorized websites, devices, communication platforms, materials, or other resources.
- Participants may be required to keep their camera, microphone, screen, or other monitoring features active.
- Participants may be required to provide identification or other information for verification.

Any attempt to cheat, manipulate the examination system, impersonate another participant, or compromise the integrity of the contest may result in immediate disqualification.

SMC reserves the right to investigate suspicious activity and make the final determination regarding violations.

14. PARTICIPANT CONDUCT

All participants are expected to:

- Conduct themselves respectfully throughout the contest.
- Follow instructions issued by SMC officials, proctors, volunteers, and organizers.
- Provide truthful and accurate information.

- Respect fellow contestants and all members of the organizing team.
- Refrain from cheating, impersonation, examination malpractice, or misconduct.

Any participant who violates these rules may be disqualified.

15. COMMUNICATION

All official information concerning the Special Maths Contest will be communicated through SMC's official communication channels.

Participants are responsible for regularly checking these channels for:

- Examination instructions
- Qualification notices
- Results
- Round 3 information
- Travel and participation instructions
- Award information
- Changes to the contest schedule
- Other important announcements

SMC will not be responsible for missed information resulting from a participant's failure to check official communication channels.

16. IMPORTANT DATES

Activity	Date
Registration Deadline	January 3rd, 2027
Round 1 — Online Qualifying Test	January 9, 2027
Round 1 Time	2:00 PM WAT
Round 1 Results	January 20, 2027

Round 2 — Online Selection Test	February, 6 2027
Round 2 Time	2:00 PM WAT
Round 2 Results	February 12, 2027
Round 3 — Final Competition	March 18 – March 23, 2027
Round 3 Venue	Nile University of Nigeria, Abuja

17. IMPORTANT NOTES

1. Registration for SMC 2027 is 100% free.
2. SMC does not authorize any individual or organization to collect registration fees on its behalf.
3. Suspicious requests for payment or unofficial registration should be reported to contact@specialmaths.ng.
4. Participants must strictly adhere to all contest guidelines and instructions.
5. Any suspected irregularity, cheating, impersonation, or other violation will be investigated and may result in disqualification.
6. SMC reserves the right to verify participant eligibility and contest results before issuing prizes and awards.
7. SMC reserves the right to modify the contest schedule, format, number of qualifiers, or other arrangements where circumstances require such changes.
8. Any changes will be communicated through SMC's official channels.
9. SMC reserves the right to make final decisions concerning eligibility, qualification, ranking, awards, and disqualification.
10. Participation in SMC does not automatically guarantee selection for any national or international mathematics team.

11. Qualification for further training programmes, scholarships, or international competitions may be subject to additional selection criteria.
12. The latest version of these guidelines, as communicated by SMC, shall supersede earlier versions.

18. CONTACT

For official enquiries concerning the Special Maths Contest:

Email: contact@specialmaths.ng

Special Maths Academy
Raising Mathematical Champions

We wish all participants the very best and look forward to discovering and celebrating Nigeria's next generation of mathematical champions.