

# International Academic Competitions

**International Academic Competitions National Championships require a Stay-to-Play Policy.** This means all participants who are traveling in from out of town will agree to stay in the designated host hotels; these hotels offer excellent accommodations and reasonable rates. Additional family members, friends and guests who are traveling in for the competition are also encouraged (though not required) to stay in these hotels as well. Sponsors and parents are responsible to make sure they comply with the policy; IAC staff will be auditing hotel rooming lists for compliance.

**Why Do We Need This Policy?** First and foremost, people want an affordable hotel rate. IAC has negotiated these rates, which are better than a person would get by contacting the hotels individually. We know that when running a competition that requires housing at hotels, double/double rooms are the most popularly requested accommodations for families and for groups traveling together. We have worked to create blocks of both double/double and king rooms in the hotels where the competition will take place.

**Can I get a better rate from an Internet travel site?** It is unlikely that you will be able to get a better rate; however, in order to participate, all participants' rooms should be booked through the special link provided, and each participant should stay in an official hotel.

**If I book rooms separately, what happens?** Those who have booked rooms in a non-host hotel, or who have booked rooms outside the system, will not be able to compete at Nationals.

**We live near the competition venue. We won't have to stay in a hotel, will we?** If you live within a 100-mile drive of the competition venue, you are exempt from the Stay-to-Play requirement. *Note: In order to receive a waiver, you will have to contact the event coordinator, Deborah Pettingill, directly at [deborah@iacompetitions.com](mailto:deborah@iacompetitions.com). You must do this within six weeks of the competition's opening date.*

**We have a relative living in the area, and would like to stay with that person.** Please contact the event coordinator, Deborah Pettingill at [deborah@iacompetitions.com](mailto:deborah@iacompetitions.com), to discuss the possibility of a waiver in such circumstances.

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**What if we need special accommodations, such as a handicap-accessible room in case a parent or family member needs that?** If you know about this in advance, then it is something you can discuss with the hotel at the time you are making your arrangements. They will be glad to assist you.

**We have friends and family who are planning to fly into the city to watch our student(s) compete. Can they stay in the designated host hotels?** Yes, and we encourage them to do so! They will receive the same reasonable rates as participants. Please have them use the links on the registration site.

**Why are we using this policy?** We use this policy because it offers the following advantages:

- It provides consistent, affordable group rates for everyone participating.
- It makes it more likely to be able to get the double/double rooms everyone wants.
- It helps us keep registration costs down.
- If for any reason, the event needs to be canceled, there is full cancellation insurance; you will not be charged by the hotel (without this, hotels may add penalties to those who cancel a room reservation too close to their arrival.)
- It offers a one-link process for making hotel reservations with an immediate confirmation system.
- If at any point during your stay, you or anyone on your team experience unexpected problems regarding the hotel booking or reservations, you can contact our Help Desk for prompt assistance.

**When I first heard we were coming to this city, I had contacted a hotel near the competition and arranged for rooms. Can I keep these reservations?** Unfortunately, this is in violation of the Stay-to-Play policy. You must book your rooms through the links provided on the registration site. You will have to cancel the reservations you made previously.

**How do I get started in order to make sure we have all the hotel rooms we need?** Use the hotel reservations links on the registration page for the event.