ORDINANCE
DELTA 2026

Last updated: December 1, 2025
Official Rules of the Delta 2026 Applied Mathematics Hackathon

Article 1

1. Delta 2026 (hereinafter: **Delta**) is an international student hackathon and competition in applied mathematics in artificial intelligence.
2. Delta is organized by the Delta Organizing Committee (hereinafter: the **Organizer**).
3. The Organizer has the exclusive right to interpret this Ordinance in the interest of fairness and equality, including to deviate from it when necessary to maintain fairness and equality. In the event of such deviations, all affected participants shall be informed as soon as reasonably possible.
4. Matters not regulated by this Ordinance shall be decided by the Organizer.
5. The Organizer reserves the right to amend this Ordinance at any time. In the event of such amendments, all affected participants shall be informed as soon as reasonably possible through the communication channels specified in this Ordinance.
6. In the cases referred to in paragraphs 3, 4, and 5 of this Article, decisions of the Organizer are final and are not subject to appeal.

Article 2

1. The persons and entities participating in Delta are: the Organizer, the competitors, Delta partners (hereinafter: **Partners**), the members of the Jury (hereinafter: **Jury**), lecturers, mentors, and invited guests.
2. All participants shall act in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance.

Article 3

1. The objectives of Delta are, in particular,
    a) to promote education and the acquisition of practical knowledge in applied mathematics, artificial intelligence, and related technical disciplines,
    b) to encourage students to independently develop creative and innovative solutions to real-world problems,
    c) to provide participants with thematic lectures, workshops, and mentoring,

d) to connect students with Partners, industry representatives, and the academic community,

e) to provide a platform for students to present their ideas and themselves to the public and potential employers,

f) to contribute to the popularization of STEM disciplines and their applications in society and industry.

2. The Organizer may determine additional objectives consistent with the academic and educational mission of Delta.

3. The objectives of Delta shall guide the interpretation of this Ordinance.

Article 4

1. The competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students of universities and other higher education institutions who apply under equal conditions as determined by this Ordinance and the official application documentation.

2. Competitors must not be members of the core organizing team of Delta or members of governing bodies of the organizations that constitute the Organizer.

3. Competitors who are in a professional, mentoring or close family relationship with any member of the Jury may participate, provided that such relationship is reported to the Organizer in writing prior to the competition phase. The evaluation procedure shall then be adjusted to avoid conflicts of interest.

4. Failure to report the relationship referred to in paragraph 3 may result in disqualification at the sole discretion of the Organizer.

Article 5

1. Teams participating in Delta (hereinafter: **Teams**) shall consist of three (3) to four (4) competitors.

2. Each Team shall designate one member as its representative (hereinafter: the **Representative**) when submitting the application.

3. A competitor may be a member of only one Team.

4. Individual participation is not allowed.

5. After the beginning of the competition phase, no changes to Team composition shall be permitted except in extraordinary circumstances and only with the written consent of the Organizer.

Article 6

1. The maximum total number of competitors participating in Delta is one hundred (100).
2. The Organizer determines, based on the maximum number of competitors, the maximum number of Teams and the distribution of available places.
3. The Organizer may reject or waitlist Teams once the maximum capacity has been reached.

Article 7

1. Participation requires submission of an application via the official application form on the Delta website or other channels designated by the Organizer.
2. The Organizer shall publish the application period, requirements and selection criteria on official communication channels.
3. The Organizer may extend or shorten the application period or introduce additional selection stages with prior public notice.

Article 8

1. Participating Teams shall be identified by their Team name.
2. The Team name must comply with standards of appropriateness and respect and is subject to Organizer approval.
3. The Organizer may require a Team to change an inappropriate or confusing Team name.

Article 9

1. By participating in Delta, competitors agree to the processing of personal data necessary for the organization and execution of Delta, including:
    a) publication of names of winning Teams and members,
    b) use of photographs and recordings from official activities,
    c) sharing of CVs and relevant application data with Partners only in accordance with partnership agreements between the Organizer and the Partner and subject to the competitor's right to object.
2. Detailed conditions for processing personal data shall be set out in the official privacy notice.
3. Competitors may exercise rights under applicable data protection law as described in the privacy notice.

Article 10

1. No registration fee is required for participation in Delta.
2. For foreign competitors, the Organizer shall secure accommodation at the Hotel Westin from 10 April 2026 to 12 April 2026 (the duration of Phase 2 – the competition phase of Delta).
3. Details regarding accommodation shall be communicated in writing to accepted foreign competitors.
4. Food and beverages during the official programme shall be provided to all competitors as determined by the Organizer.

Article 11

1. Delta 2026 shall be held in Zagreb, Republic of Croatia.
2. The educational phase (Phase 1), taking place from 7 April 2026 to 10 April 2026, shall be held at a venue to be confirmed by the Organizer and announced prior to the start of Delta. The competition phase (Phase 2), taking place from 10 April 2026 to 12 April 2026, shall be held at the Hotel Westin.
3. The Organizer may change dates or venue in justified circumstances such as force majeure, public health measures or security concerns.

Article 12

1. Delta consists of:
   a) **Phase 1 — Education Phase (7–10 April)**: includes lectures, workshops and educational activities,
   b) **Phase 2 — Networking and Competition (10–12 April)**: includes networking activities and the two-day competition.
2. The detailed timetable shall be published on official channels and may be updated as necessary.
3. The Organizer may introduce additional preparatory or social activities before, during or after Delta.
4. Participation in educational activities during Phase 1 is not mandatory but is strongly recommended, as these activities provide important preparation for the competition phase. All lectures will also be made available online to ensure that competitors who cannot attend in person may still follow the educational content.

Article 13

1. Detailed competition rules, including permitted tools, task descriptions, submission requirements, evaluation criteria and disqualification grounds, shall be announced on site at the beginning of the competition phase (hereinafter: the **Competition Brief**).
2. The Competition Brief may be issued orally and/or in writing; where discrepancies occur, written instructions prevail unless the Organizer states otherwise.
3. Competitors must familiarise themselves with the Competition Brief and comply fully with all instructions.
4. The Organizer or Jury may issue binding clarifications as needed.
5. Failure to comply with the Competition Brief or with subsequent clarifications may result in sanctions, including warnings, score reductions or disqualification from the competition.
6. The Organizer, in consultation with the Jury, shall determine the appropriate sanction in light of the severity and circumstances of the violation. Decisions adopted under this Article are final and not subject to appeal.

Article 14

1. The Jury is composed of qualified individuals appointed by the Organizer, including academic experts, representatives of eligible Partners and other persons with relevant expertise.
2. Partners may appoint a representative to the Jury only if their sponsorship tier includes the right to Jury representation, as determined and published by the Organizer. Partners whose sponsorship tier does not include such rights shall not appoint Jury members under any circumstances.
3. Members of the Organizer, including the Head of the Scientific Committee, may serve on the Jury provided that no conflict of interest exists.
4. In competition components where submissions are evaluated anonymously, Jury members shall have no access to the personal identities, universities or Teams corresponding to those codes until evaluation is completed. Anonymous evaluation shall be considered sufficient to eliminate conflicts of interest for the purposes of this Ordinance.
5. In cases where a Jury member believes that a conflict of interest may exist in a non-anonymous competition component, the member shall immediately disclose the potential conflict to the Organizer and shall recuse themselves from evaluating the affected Teams.
6. Decisions of the Jury made in accordance with this Ordinance and the Competition Brief are final and are not subject to appeal.

Article 15

1. Submitted solutions shall be evaluated in accordance with the criteria, procedures and weightings set out in the Competition Brief.
2. Evaluation may consist of automated scoring, Jury-based assessment or a combination thereof, as defined in the Competition Brief.
3. Where applicable, evaluation shall be conducted anonymously using coded identifiers, and Jury members shall not have access to the identities of competitors during the evaluation process.
4. The Organizer shall take reasonable measures to ensure objectivity, impartiality and consistency in evaluation, acknowledging that certain elements may inherently involve expert judgment.
5. Decisions of the Jury made in accordance with this Ordinance and the Competition Brief are final and not subject to appeal.

Article 16

1. Teams qualifying for final presentations shall prepare and deliver a presentation within the specified time limit.
2. Presentations shall be delivered only by Team members who participated in the competition.
3. The language of presentation shall be English unless the Organizer explicitly allows another language.

Article 17

1. All competitors shall conduct themselves professionally, respectfully and collegially throughout Delta.
2. Discrimination, harassment, intimidation or inappropriate behaviour is strictly prohibited.
3. The Organizer may remove any competitor or Team whose behaviour violates these provisions.

Article 18

1. It is strictly prohibited to:
    a) plagiarize or present as one's own work materials not created by the Team except where explicitly permitted,

b) unlawfully use confidential or proprietary information of third parties,

c) attempt unauthorized access to systems, data or infrastructure used in Delta,

d) sabotage or hinder the work of other Teams.

2. The Organizer may suspend a Team under investigation for violations.

3. Proven violations may result in warnings, score adjustments, disqualification or expulsion.

Article 19

1. All rules regarding permitted and prohibited resources, including the use of software tools, external materials, datasets, libraries and online resources, shall be defined in the Competition Brief. Competitors must comply fully with these rules.

Article 20

1. Winning Teams are selected based on evaluation results under this Ordinance and the Competition Brief.

2. The Jury determines the ranking for awarding prizes.

3. Results shall be publicly announced at the closing ceremony and on the official Delta website.

Article 21

1. The Organizer shall establish a prize fund for the best-ranked Teams.

2. The prize structure shall be announced before the beginning of the competition phase.

3. The Organizer may modify the prize structure for justified reasons, provided such modifications do not unfairly disadvantage Teams that have already applied.

Article 22

1. Monetary prizes shall be paid in euros (EUR) in accordance with applicable Croatian legislation.

2. Tax treatment of prizes shall be determined under applicable Croatian tax law; mandatory withholdings may apply.

3. For foreign competitors, prizes may be transferred in gross amounts unless mandatory withholding applies.

4. Monetary prizes are normally transferred to the Representative unless otherwise determined by the Organizer.

Article 23

1. Each Team that submits a solution may receive a certificate of participation.
2. Teams qualifying for final presentations may receive a special certificate.
3. Members of highly ranked Teams may receive certificates indicating placement.
4. The Organizer may issue additional certificates at its discretion.

Article 24

1. Unless otherwise specified, intellectual property rights in solutions remain with the Team members who created them.
2. By submitting a solution, Teams grant the Organizer a non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free licence for:
   a) organizing and documenting Delta,
   b) promoting Delta and future editions,
   c) preparing reports, publications and educational materials.
3. Partners wishing to collaborate further with a Team must negotiate separate agreements.
4. Teams are responsible for ensuring that their solutions do not infringe third-party intellectual property rights.

Article 25

1. Amendments to this Ordinance shall be adopted by the Organizer and enter into force on the specified date.
2. In case of unclear provisions or discrepancies, the Organizer is authorized to interpret this Ordinance and adopt final decisions.
3. The Organizer shall notify competitors of amendments through official channels.

Article 26

1. Following the competition, a list of placements and rankings may be published without disclosing detailed individual scoring.
2. No appeal is permitted against the placements, rankings or lists except in the limited cases where the Organizer determines that a manifest error has occurred.
3. The Organizer's decisions regarding publication of results are final.

Article 27

1. This Ordinance enters into force on the day of its publication on the official Delta website and applies to Delta 2026.
2. Matters not expressly regulated by this Ordinance shall be governed by applicable Croatian law and the internal acts of the Organizer.
3. The Organizer shall ensure public accessibility of this Ordinance for the duration of Delta.

Place and date of adoption: December 1st, 2025 .....