

IOQM 2026: Action on malpractices

For the last few years MTA(I) has made it clear that it will not tolerate malpractice in the IOQM. Over the years we have refined our methods, and have several statistical indicators in our bag. We also rely on ground reports and internal review.

This year we will act not only on schools and centres but also on individual students not covered by school and center level flags.

What we see

A majority of schools participate honestly, in the spirit of the olympiad movement, but two concerning patterns have also emerged:

- **Cheating localized at the school level:** In some schools (*less than 1%*), there is an evident attempt to help some of their own students unethically. Most of the times this indicates a minor infraction, but sometimes it can affect cutoffs in the region -- typically the problem is more evident at centres with large commercial interests in regions which are also flagged by other exams.
- **A large systematic attempt across several related schools.** In a very few cases, a large systematic attempt to influence the examination is evident. Left unchecked, it would change the cutoffs significantly. This was observed *only in 1 cluster* of schools this year.

All together, *this affects less than 1% of students* who wrote the exam are flagged as offenders and this only affects a handful of regions - we strive hard to make sure that no other student is affected.

What the actions mean

Like every year we have categorised our action into two segments:

- **Banned:** Students who belong to the schools marked “Banned” cannot write RMO 2026 and are not eligible for any certificates. They can challenge the ban: for a process, see the end of the document.
- **Probationary:** Students who belong to the schools marked “Probationary” are also suspect. They can however give a declaration that they have not indulged in any malpractice to write RMO or receive certificates (if they clear the relevant cutoffs).

Additionally, some schools flagged internally are not named because they do not affect RMO qualifications. Any students who were flagged individually (less than fifty) are also not being named here. They will be written to, directly.

Students covered by these actions are excluded when the revised cutoffs are computed.

After these actions, the cutoffs in the regions affected are in line with 2024 and 2025, once allowance is made for the 5 marks of the annulled question and a general rise of about two marks this year.

Note: All affected students will be able to see their status once they login @ <https://ioqm.mtai.org.in/>

List of schools affected

Please find the list of schools acted on below. The list excludes individual students who have been acted on (less than fifty nationwide), or schools not affecting RMO cutoffs.

Schools marked “Banned”

School	Place	Pincode
Region 01 (Rajasthan-DL)		
Krishna Vidya Mandir Senior Secondary School	Alwar	301001
Region 10 (Rajasthan-RJ)		
TCI Senior Secondary School, Bhopawas, Hathnoda	Jaipur	303807
CLC Higher Secondary School	Sikar	332001
Region 25 (Andhra Pradesh-AP)		
Sri Chaitanya School	Visakhapatnam	530017
Sri Chaitanya EM High School, Ramnagar	Visakhapatnam	530016
Sri Chaitanya E.M. High School, Rajahmundry	East Godavari	533107
Sri Chaitanya EM High School	Vijayawada	521104
Sri Chaitanya EM High School	Vijayawada	520003
Region 26 (Telangana-TS)		
Meridian High School	Siddipet	502103
Nageshwara Rao High School	Hanamkonda	506004
Region 29 (Tamil Nadu-TN)		
Arka The Green School	Kanyakumari	629161
Dharani Vidhya Manthir Senior Secondary School, Mannargudi	Thiruvarur	614001

Schools marked “Probationary”

Region 6 (Kashmir-JK)		
Hanfia Model Higher Secondary School, Kreeri	Baramulla	193108
Region 26 (Telangana)		
Sri Chaitanya School	Karimnagar	505001

Region 31 (JNVs) & Region 32 (KVs)

A few KVs and JNVs have been flagged during the analysis. Each wrote at its own campus and in several cases cutoffs were not affected. Nevertheless, the corresponding schools are being written to directly and are being removed for the purpose of computation of any cutoffs.

Appeal Process for students of schools marked “Banned”.

We recognise that such a student belongs to a school where malpractice was statistically or otherwise identified, and may not personally have taken a part. Even though several of our indicators do flag individual students, we would allow students to appeal the ban if they are confident that they have been flagged incorrectly as follows

1. **Students must write to student.helpdesk@ioqm.mtai.org.in by 24 October 2026, 8 pm IST**, stating their intention to challenge the ban. This email is mandatory. Optionally, they can offer information about what happened at their school, so that we can consider their case meaningfully.
2. **Should they be eligible for RMO, the students MUST report for the examination with a duly notarised affidavit**, strictly in the format to be prescribed by MTA(I).
 - The affidavit shall require the students (or, where they are not legally competent to execute an affidavit themselves, their parents or legal guardians) to solemnly declare that they have not indulged in any malpractice in connection with IOQM 2026 and that they have truthfully disclosed all information within their knowledge that may have a bearing on the investigation into the conduct of the examination at the concerned school.
 - If the students are not eligible for RMO, they should inform us so at time of writing the said email, and they should physically submit the affidavit to the MTA(I) office at HBCSE, Mumbai.
3. MTA(I) will independently verify its records, examine the information and evidence available to it, and conduct such further inquiries as may be necessary to establish the facts. The student will be asked to testify and to provide additional information or clarification, and will be given an opportunity to explain any discrepancies or adverse findings. A final decision regarding the student's involvement in any malpractice, and consequently their eligibility to continue in the Olympiad programme, will be taken on the basis of the evidence and the outcome of this process. **Submission of the affidavit and email is therefore a necessary step for consideration of the student's case, not a guarantee of exoneration.**

Note: If a student is subsequently found to have made a false declaration, withheld relevant information, or indulged in any malpractice, MTA(I) will treat this as serious misconduct and pursue the student's permanent debarment from all Olympiads administered by HBCSE. MTA(I) will also seek to place the findings on record with other educational institutions, including IITs, NITs, IISc, IISERs, AIIMS, SPAs and other Institutions of National Importance, which may take appropriate action independently. Students and their parents or legal guardians must understand that a false declaration or deliberate concealment of information can have consequences extending far beyond the Olympiad programme.