USEMO Guidelines for Problem Authors

United States Ersatz Math Olympiad

Last updated 2 March 2025

Ersatz Math Olympiad
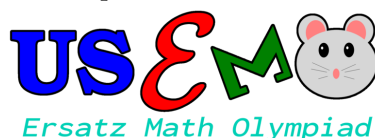
If you'd like to propose a problem to the USEMO, please follow these guidelines.

1. *Eligibility*: we accept problem proposals from anyone, but with two caveats:
   - Obviously, submitting a problem forfeits your right to participate, if you were otherwise eligible.
   - We give preference to submissions from those who have completed high school, though we'll still consider problems from high school students anyway.

2. The deadline for the receipt of problems is **May 10**. The date is printed explicitly on the USEMO website.

3. Submissions must be **emailed in TEX format to `usemo@evanchen.cc`**. In addition, every submission is required to have the following information in the body of the email:
   a. A list of any other *authors* of the problem, who should be credited with the proposal in the solutions packet.
   b. A disclosure of everyone else who has seen the problem. This includes (but isn't limited to) friends or collaborators you have mentioned the problem to, as well as any previous contests that this problem was sent to.
   c. An estimation of the difficulty of the problem (say, "IMO 1 level").

4. Submissions must **contain a full solution**.

5. If possible, please follow Evan's LaTeX style guidelines, which you can read at `https://web.evanchen.cc/latex-style-guide.html`.

6. See `https://web.evanchen.cc/upload/submission-template.tex` for a LaTeX template that you can use. Not required, but appreciated on my end.

7. **Submissions which are not used are returned to you** at the conclusion of the USEMO event they were proposed for; you can then submit them to any other contests which take them. Obviously, they should not be submitted elsewhere before the USEMO takes place!

Finally, a couple hints about supply and demand. We are almost always short in *easy* problems, and in *algebra and number theory*. Moreover, the USEMO has a major grading bottleneck, which means that problems with shorter easy-to-grade solutions are more likely to be chosen. Happy proposing!