General regulations: Diploma Programme
I. General

Article 1: Scope
1.1 International Baccalaureate Organization (hereinafter together with its affiliates "IB Organization") is a foundation that has developed and offers four programmes of international education: the Primary Years Programme ("PYP"), the Middle Years Programme ("MYP"), the Diploma Programme ("DP") and the International Baccalaureate Career-related Certificate ("IBCC"). It authorizes schools (known as IB World Schools and hereinafter "schools") to offer one or more of these programmes to their students (hereinafter "candidates").

1.2 This document describes the regulations that apply to those schools that have been authorized as IB World Schools to offer the DP and is intended for schools, candidates and their legal guardians. When used herein the term "legal guardians" encompasses parents and individuals with legal guardianship of any candidate enrolled in the DP. If a candidate is of legal age, the school's duties towards legal guardians specified herein also apply towards the candidate.

1.3 The IB Organization has developed the DP as a pre-college/pre-university programme aimed at candidates in the 16–19 age range. It is implemented in the last two years of secondary education. The DP is designed to lead to "The Diploma of the International Baccalaureate" (hereinafter "IB Diploma") or "Diploma Programme Course Results" (hereinafter "DP Course Results") for subjects/elements forming part of the DP.

1.4 These regulations are intended as guidance for schools about their roles and responsibilities, and as information for candidates and legal guardians about the IB Organization and the DP.

Article 2: Role and responsibilities of schools
2.1 In addition to articles in these General regulations: Diploma Programme (hereinafter "general regulations") schools must comply with the Rules for IB World Schools: Diploma Programme, available in a separate document, as well as with the administrative requirements detailed in the Handbook of procedures for the Diploma Programme (hereinafter "handbook"), which is the handbook for DP coordinators and teachers and is supplied to schools by the IB Organization.

2.2 Because the IB Organization is not a teaching institution and does not provide teaching services to candidates, the DP is implemented and taught by IB World Schools. The schools are entirely independent from the IB Organization and are responsible for the implementation and quality of teaching of the DP, whether courses are provided solely in the classroom or by means of a combination of classroom-based and online courses offered by an IB Organization-approved online course provider.

2.3 Schools are responsible for informing candidates and legal guardians regarding the general characteristics of the DP and how the school implements it. Additionally, schools must inform candidates and legal guardians of the assessment services offered by the IB Organization and any restrictions or prohibitions that apply to the DP.

2.4 The IB Organization cannot guarantee that a school will remain capable and willing to implement the DP. Consequently, schools bear sole responsibility towards candidates and legal guardians if, for any reason, a school's authorization to implement the DP is withdrawn by the IB Organization or a school decides to terminate its authorization.

2.5 The IB Organization sets the curriculum and assessment requirements leading to the award of the IB Diploma or DP Course Results and is the sole organization entitled to award them. The IB Diploma or DP Course Results is awarded to candidates who have satisfied the assessment requirements in accordance with these general regulations and the administrative requirements detailed in the handbook. Schools must comply with the details, deadlines and procedures stated in the handbook for the relevant examination session.
Article 4: Equal opportunities statement

4.1 It is the practice of the IB Organization to make its programmes available to all students from IB World Schools. No student will be excluded by the IB Organization on the grounds of race, nationality or national origin, ethnicity, culture, gender, age, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, political beliefs, disability or any other personal characteristic as prohibited by law. Schools must implement their duties under these rules in a manner that enables this practice to be upheld.

4.2 It is the practice of the IB Organization to make its assessment available to all candidates from IB World Schools who have fulfilled the school's and the IB Organization's academic requirements and paid the required fees to register for an IB examination session. No candidate will be excluded by the IB Organization on the grounds of race, nationality or national origin, ethnicity, culture, gender, age, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, political beliefs, disability or any other personal characteristic as prohibited by law. Schools must implement their duties under these rules in a manner that enables this practice to be upheld. The IB Organization will make all reasonable efforts and/or accommodations, or as may otherwise be required by law, to enable candidates to participate in its assessments.

Article 5: Recognition of the IB Diploma

The IB Organization actively promotes wide recognition and acceptance of the IB Diploma as a basis for the exit of secondary/high school education and/or entry to courses at universities and other institutions of higher/further education, but the requirements of individual institutions and the relevant authorities of a country are beyond the IB Organization's control and subject to change. The IB Organization, therefore, does not guarantee recognition of the IB Diploma or DP Course Results, and does not accept responsibility for the consequences of any change in recognition practice by a university or other institution or relevant authorities in a country. Consequently, candidates and legal guardians bear the sole responsibility for verifying the entry requirements of the universities and other institutions of higher/further education to which they are interested in applying.

Article 6: Property and copyright in materials produced by candidates

6.1 Candidates produce materials in a variety of forms that are submitted to the IB Organization as part of the assessment requirements. These assessment materials (hereinafter "materials") include all forms of written work, audio and visual materials, computer programs and data and, in certain cases, may contain images or voices of the candidates.

6.2 Candidates retain copyright in all materials submitted for assessment purposes, but by submitting those materials, subject to article 6.4, candidates and their legal guardians thereby grant the IB Organization a non-exclusive, charge-free, worldwide licence, for the duration of the applicable jurisdiction's copyright protection, to reproduce submitted materials, to use the image and voice of the candidate where they appear on audio or video materials and to reproduce any musical performances in any medium for assessment, educational, training, commercial and/or promotional purposes relating to the IB Organization's activities, or to those related activities of which it approves. Such licences shall become effective from the date of submission to the IB Organization.

6.3 Where the IB Organization uses these materials for purposes other than assessment, it may modify, translate or otherwise change them to meet particular needs and will, in most cases, anonymize them before publication in print or in electronic form. If the purpose of the publication is to focus on work of a particularly high standard, then the candidate and school may be identified. In such cases, the IB Organization shall inform the school beforehand and the school shall inform the candidate.

6.4 Under exceptional circumstances a candidate and/or a candidate's legal guardian may withdraw the aspects of the licence relating to use of a candidate's work outside of an assessment context as referred to in article 6.3 for a specific piece of work. In such cases the IB Organization must be notified in accordance with the procedure described in the handbook. The candidate must submit a written notification to the school's DP coordinator who has the duty to inform the IB Organization by the due date set forth in the handbook. In these cases the IB Organization will use the material only for assessment purposes as defined in article 6.5.
organizational measures to protect candidate data against unauthorized or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction, damage, alteration or disclosure, and that they have taken reasonable measures to ensure the reliability of, and compliance by, any employees who have access to candidate data.

f. Candidate data may be used for the following purposes:

• registering candidates in the DP and administering the DP and its requirements for the candidate and school, including sensitive personal data if making determinations about assessment accommodations
• to provide DP support and services for the candidate and school, including website services and online forums, assessment services and accommodations, delivery of courses online to the candidate and assisting candidates and their school with providing information to institutions of higher education (such as universities and colleges or governmental authorities related to admission to institutions of higher education)
• research and statistical analysis related to the IB Organization's mission, including research on assessments and results and the effectiveness of the DP
• advertising and promotional purposes for the IB Organization (such as student and/or alumni networks and social media platforms)
• educational, training, commercial and other compatible purposes
• to engage in and process transactions with the candidate or school
• to fulfill statutory, regulatory, reporting and/or legal obligations.

g. To the extent required under data protection or privacy law applicable to them, schools undertake to fully and duly inform, and obtain the consent of, each candidate and/or their legal guardian, that the schools and/or the IB Organization may transfer candidate data outside of the country in which it was initially collected and to a country which may not have sufficient and adequate or comparable levels of data protection, in some cases to third parties, for the purposes discussed above. To the extent required under applicable law, the schools shall inform candidates about third parties to whom their candidate data may be transferred. With regard to the IB Organization, such third parties include schools, approved online course providers, institutions of higher education (such as colleges and universities or governmental authorities related to admission to institutions of higher education), ministries and departments of education, assessment service providers (such as examiners, moderators, third-party vendors, and other persons involved in the assessment process or any subsequent appeals), and other contractors of the IB Organization. Each school shall ensure that any transfers are done in compliance with requirements governing international and onward data transfers. Each school represents and warrants to the IB Organization that any candidate data transferred to the IB Organization by the school may be further transferred as described above without violating the privacy or data protection rights of any candidates.

h. Candidates or their legal guardians may inquire as to the nature of the candidate data processed about him or her by their school to the extent permitted under data protection or privacy law applicable to the candidate and their respective School.

Each school undertakes that a candidate or their legal guardian may direct their requests to the school in accordance with their local legal requirements. Schools may not generally make requests from the IB Organization for candidate data on behalf of a candidate. In the event that the IB Organization receives a request regarding candidate data from a candidate or their legal guardian, each school undertakes to provide the IB Organization with full cooperation and assistance.
8.10 An interdisciplinary subject meets the requirements of two groups through a single subject. In accordance with article 8.4, a further subject must then be chosen to meet the requirement of six subjects for the IB Diploma. The additional subject may be chosen from any group, including one already covered by the interdisciplinary subject. An interdisciplinary subject can contribute to the award of a Bilingual IB Diploma.

8.11 A school-based syllabus (hereinafter “SBS”) may be designed by a school according to its own needs and teaching resources and is developed in consultation with and approved by the IB Organization. A SBS may only be offered at standard level. Only schools that have already entered candidates for two DP examination sessions may offer a SBS. The syllabuses have to be approved by the IB Organization before teaching can commence and are subject to periodic review. Subject to the appropriate group criteria being satisfied, a SBS may be authorized as an alternative to a subject in groups 2, 3, 4 or 6. In such circumstances an individual candidate may use the subject to fulfill the requirements of either group, but not both. No candidate may be registered for more than one SBS, or for a SBS and a pilot subject for the IB Diploma. A SBS cannot contribute to the award of a Bilingual IB Diploma.

8.12 If the special conditions of entry into an institution of higher/further education require an IB Diploma candidate to have completed subjects different from that specified in the current handbook, a candidate may be allowed to make a reasonable substitution on presentation of appropriate university admissions documentary evidence to the IB Organization by the DP coordinator at the candidate’s school. This is referred to as a “non-normal” diploma and the combination of subjects must be authorized by the IB Organization.

Article 9: Diploma Programme Course Candidates

9.1 Candidates who study and are assessed for subjects, but choose not to take the entire IB Diploma, are referred to as Diploma Programme Course Candidates (“DP Course Candidates”). The subjects chosen are referred to as DP courses and may include the core requirements of theory of knowledge, the extended essay and/or completion of a CAS programme. DP Course Candidates receive Diploma Programme Course Results (DP Course Results). The grades for theory of knowledge and the extended essay will be recorded on the DP Course Results and the completion of CAS, if appropriate.

9.2 With regards to DP core requirements, a DP Course Candidate may register for more than one extended essay in the same session. An IB Diploma Candidate may register for a second extended essay as a DP Course Candidate, if this is required for exceptional reasons. No candidate, regardless of their registration category, is permitted to register for theory of knowledge or the CAS programme more than once in the same session.

9.3 Any subject or core requirement taken by a DP Course Candidate cannot subsequently contribute to the award of an IB Diploma.

9.4 The regulations and procedures that apply to IB Diploma Candidates in respect of theory of knowledge, the extended essay and CAS, also apply to DP Course Candidates.

Article 10: Response languages

10.1 Candidates must write their examinations and other forms of assessment in subjects in groups 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the DP in English, French or Spanish as the response language. (In specified subjects, German is available as a response language.) Assessed work in theory of knowledge and the extended essay must also be presented in English, French or Spanish, except that an extended essay in a group 1 or group 2 subject must be written in the language of the subject chosen. An extended essay in Latin or classical Greek (group 2) must be written in English, French or Spanish.

10.2 Candidates may be permitted to write their examinations and other forms of assessment in languages other than English, French or Spanish for certain IB projects in groups 3 and 4, theory of knowledge and the extended essay. If the conditions detailed in article 13 are met, this will lead to the award of a
Article 12: Grades
Performance in each subject is graded on a scale of 7 points (maximum) down to 1 point (minimum). Performance in theory of knowledge and the extended essay are each graded on a scale of A (maximum) to E (minimum). The CAS requirement is not assessed. For the IB Diploma, a maximum of 3 points is awarded for combined performance in theory of knowledge and the extended essay. The maximum total DP points score is 45.

Article 13: Award of the IB Diploma
13.1 All assessment components for each of the six subjects and the additional Diploma requirements must be completed in order to qualify for the award of the IB Diploma, except under the conditions stipulated in articles 18 and 19 of these regulations.

13.2 The IB Diploma will be awarded to a candidate provided all the following requirements have been met.
   a. CAS requirements have been met.
   b. The candidate's total points are 24 or more.
   c. There is no "N" awarded for theory of knowledge, the extended essay or for a contributing subject.
   d. There is no grade E awarded for theory of knowledge and/or the extended essay.
   e. There is no grade 1 awarded in a subject/level.
   f. There are no more than two grade 2s awarded (HL or SL).
   g. There are no more than three grade 3s or below awarded (HL or SL).
   h. The candidate has gained 12 points or more on HL subjects (for candidates who register for four HL subjects, the three highest grades count).
   i. The candidate has gained 9 points or more on SL subjects (candidates who register for two SL subjects must gain at least 5 points at SL).

13.3 A maximum of three examination sessions is allowed in which to satisfy the requirements for the award of the IB Diploma. The examination sessions need not be consecutive.

Article 14: Form of the results
14.1 Successful IB Diploma Candidates will receive an IB Diploma and a document entitled "Diploma Programme (DP) Results" listing the total IB Diploma points score, the subject grades, confirmation of the completion of all CAS requirements and any points awarded and individual grades for the combination of theory of knowledge and the extended essay.

14.2 A Bilingual IB Diploma will be awarded to a successful candidate who fulfills one or both of the following criteria:
   a. completion of two languages selected from group 1 with the award of a grade 3 or higher in both
   b. completion of one of the subjects from group 3 or group 4 in a language that is not the same as the candidate's group 1 language. The candidate must attain a grade 3 or higher in both the group 1 language and the subject from group 3 or 4.

14.3 An IB Diploma Candidate who fails to satisfy the requirements for the award of an IB Diploma will receive DP Course Results indicating the grades obtained in individual subjects, together with results in theory of knowledge and the extended essay, and confirmation of the completion of all CAS requirements, as appropriate.

14.4 DP Course Candidates receive Diploma Programme Course Results (DP Course Results) indicating the results obtained in individual subjects and the core requirements, as appropriate.
17.4 If a candidate needs inclusive assessment arrangements, the DP coordinator must make such arrangements and, where appropriate, request authorization for inclusive assessment arrangements from the IB Organization according to procedures stated in the handbook.

17.5 If the inclusive assessment arrangements authorized by the IB Organization are considered inappropriate for a candidate by a school, a candidate or the candidate’s legal guardian(s), the DP coordinator may request a re-evaluation of the candidate’s needs to decide whether the authorized arrangements are appropriate. A first re-evaluation of the arrangements will be undertaken by the IB Organization staff who authorized the arrangements. If the first re-evaluation does not then meet with agreement from the school, a second re-evaluation will be undertaken jointly by persons with appropriate qualifications, one an IB Organization employee not involved in the original decision and one who is not an employee of the IB Organization. No further re-evaluations are possible after the second re-evaluation. The IB Organization must receive any re-evaluation request from the DP coordinator within one month of the coordinator having received initial confirmation of the authorized inclusive assessment arrangements or the result of the first re-evaluation request, as appropriate.

17.6 If a candidate is granted inclusive assessment arrangements (and these are properly implemented by the school), candidates and/or their legal guardian(s) are not entitled to claim that they are affected by adverse circumstances in the event that assessment results following such arrangements are not at levels desired and/or anticipated by candidates. The authorization of inclusive assessment arrangements is the sole accommodation by the IB Organization for candidates with learning support requirements.

Article 18: Candidates affected by adverse circumstances

18.1 Adverse circumstances are defined as those beyond the control of the candidate that might be detrimental to his or her assessment performance, including severe stress, exceptionally difficult family circumstances, bereavement or events that may threaten the health or safety of candidates. The same circumstances may affect a group of candidates or all candidates within a school. Adverse circumstances do not include:

a. shortcomings on the part of the school at which the candidate is registered, including, but not limited to, errors, mistakes, or negligence of a school with respect to registration of candidates, timeliness of requests for inclusive assessment arrangements or consideration of adverse circumstances, implementation of authorized inclusive assessment arrangements, and requests for extensions under article 18.2

b. the failure of candidates to improve performance despite receiving authorized inclusive assessment arrangements.

18.2 Where a candidate or group of candidates is affected by adverse circumstances prior to the submission of early components (for example, the extended essay, theory of knowledge essay or internal assessment marks/sample work), an extension to the submission deadline may be authorized by the IB Organization upon receipt of the required documentation (available in the handbook) from the school. An extension must be formally authorized by the IB Organization and is the only possible accommodation that can be offered.

18.3 Any application for special consideration in cases of adverse circumstances must be submitted to the IB Organization by the school’s DP coordinator on behalf of the candidate(s). The application must be received within 10 calendar days of the completion of the final assessment component of the subject concerned and must be supported by a statement written by the DP coordinator as well as by appropriate evidence.

18.4 If the IB Organization accepts that the performance of a candidate has been affected by adverse circumstances, the IB Organization may, at its discretion, give special consideration to the case, provided that this would not give an advantage in comparison with other candidates. If a candidate's
c. duplication of work—this is defined as the presentation of the same work for different assessment components and/or DP core requirements

d. misconduct during an IB examination (for example, taking unauthorized material into an examination, behaviour that disrupts the examination or distracts other candidates, or communicating with another candidate)

e. any other behaviour that gains an unfair advantage for a candidate or that affects the results of another candidate (for example, falsifying a CAS record, disclosure of information to and receipt of information from candidates about the content of an examination paper within 24 hours after a written examination via any form of communication/media).

Article 21: Investigating cases of suspected academic misconduct

21.1 If questions arise about the authenticity of a candidate's work before submission for assessment, the situation must be resolved within the school. If possible academic misconduct (for example, plagiarism, collusion) is identified after a candidate's work has been submitted to the IB Organization for assessment, the school's DP coordinator must inform the IB Organization as soon as possible. For work that is internally assessed, "submission" refers to the deadline by which teachers' marks must be submitted to the IB Organization. For work that is externally assessed, other than the scripts from the written examinations, "submission" refers to the candidate signing the declaration of authenticity for their work.

21.2 When a school, an examiner or the IB Organization establishes evidence to suspect academic misconduct by a candidate, the school will be required to conduct an investigation and provide the IB Organization with statements and other relevant documentation concerning the case. If a school fails to support the investigation into possible academic misconduct, no grade will be awarded to the candidate in the subject(s) concerned.

21.3 If the IB Organization notifies a school that a candidate is suspected of academic misconduct and that the IB Organization has the intention of initiating an investigation, at the discretion of the head of school it is permissible for the candidate to be withdrawn from the session or from the subject(s) in which academic misconduct may have occurred. However, at the discretion of the IB Organization the investigation into the suspected academic misconduct by the candidate may still proceed and a decision be reached on whether to uphold or dismiss academic misconduct. If a candidate is withdrawn from a subject no mark for that subject may contribute to the award of a grade in a future examination session.

21.4 Candidates suspected of academic misconduct must be invited, through the school's DP coordinator, to present a written statement that addresses the suspicion of academic misconduct. If a candidate declines to present a statement, the investigation and decision on whether the candidate is in breach of regulations will still proceed.

21.5 The majority of cases of suspected academic misconduct will be presented to a sub-committee of the Final Award Committee. The sub-committee will normally comprise IB Organization staff, school representatives, and chief/deputy chief examiners, but any group or combination of these persons may make decisions on cases subject to the approval of the Final Award Committee. The sub-committee will be chaired by the chair or vice-chair of the Final Award Committee, or a chief examiner nominated by the vice-chair.

21.6 Decisions of the sub-committee are made on behalf of and under the supervision of the Final Award Committee. After reviewing all statements and evidence collected during the investigation, the sub-committee will decide whether to dismiss the suspicion of academic misconduct, uphold it, or ask for further investigations to be made. If the sub-committee is unable to reach a decision then the case will be referred to the Final Award Committee.
22.5 An appeal does not include a re-mark, re-moderation or any form of report on the assessment or moderation of candidates’ work. A request for appeal against a candidate’s grade will only be considered if the school presents new evidence demonstrating that standard procedures in deriving the grade may not have been correctly followed by the IB Organization.

22.6 No legal representation acting on behalf of either the candidate or IB Organization is permitted during a stage one or stage two appeal process.

**Article 23: Stage one appeal**

23.1 A stage one appeal is a reconsideration of the case by senior assessment officers of the IB Organization who were not directly involved in making the original decision. The reconsideration will take into account information given in the written submission from the school acting on behalf of the candidate. The reconsideration will determine whether procedures were correctly applied when arriving at the decision or result(s) awarded. After the reconsideration is complete, the head of school will be notified whether the stage one appeal has been denied (disallowed) or upheld (allowed), with summary reasons for the decision.

23.2 In order to be considered for a stage one appeal, the request for appeal must:

   a. have the support of the head of school
   b. be submitted by the head of school (or the DP coordinator) on behalf of the candidate
   c. be received by the IB Organization within two months from the issue of results or the date when the decision being appealed was made, whichever is the later
   d. contain a full description of the grounds for appeal and any new facts invoked
   e. include an account of how these regulations and/or the procedures defined in the handbook may not have been correctly applied by the IB Organization.

23.3 If the senior officers accept the stage one appeal, the head of school may be asked for any information or evidence that is deemed useful. Neither the candidate nor a representative of the candidate is permitted to be present during a stage one appeals process. The senior officers will render their decision, in principle, within one month from the date the IB Organization receives the request for appeal.

24.1 Permission to appeal will only be granted where the candidate was found in breach of regulations and new evidence has been brought to the attention of the IB Organization. Appeals are only granted in relation to the decision on academic misconduct; no appeals against the level of penalty applied are permitted. New evidence must be outlined in detail in the appeal request form. The form is available from and must be returned to the IB Answers service.

24.2 On receipt of the appeal, senior IB Organization officers and the chair (or vice-chair) of the Final Award Committee will determine, using only the information in the appeal request form and any accompanying documents, whether there are sufficient grounds for appeal. If a stage one appeal is not permitted, no further appeal is possible.

24.3 If a stage one appeal is determined to be necessary, the case will be heard by members of the sub-committee of the Final Award Committee. No person determining whether there are sufficient grounds for a stage one appeal or members of the sub-committee will have been involved in making the original decision.

24.4 Neither the candidate nor a representative of the candidate is permitted to be present during a stage one appeals process. The sub-committee will render its decision, in principle, within one month from the date the IB Organization receives the request for appeal.
Article 27: Arbitration
Any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of, or in relation to, these general regulations, including the
interpretation, validity, breach or termination thereof, shall be finally settled by arbitration by the Geneva
Chamber of Commerce in accordance with the Swiss Rules of International Arbitration of the Swiss
Chambers’ Arbitration Institution ("Rules") in force on the date when the notice of arbitration is submitted
in accordance with such Rules. The number of arbitrators shall be one, the seat of the arbitration shall
be Geneva and the arbitral proceedings shall be conducted in English. The parties hereby agree to use
information technology systems and electronic communications to the extent permitted in conducting any
arbitral proceedings.

Article 28: Entry into force and transitory rules
This version of the general regulations shall come into force on 1 September 2014 for May session Schools
and applies to all candidates registered for the May 2015 session onwards, or 1 January 2015 for November
session schools and applies to all candidates registered for the November 2015 session onwards. The IB
Organization may amend these general regulations from time to time. Each amended version applies to
candidates starting the DP after the date of entry into force of the amended version.