INTERSTENO

International federation for information and communication processing

2026

Regulations for the 24th International keyboarding competition by Internet

Registration from Monday, February 16th to Friday, April 17th   2026
Contest   from Friday, March 13rd   to Monday, April 27th 2026
No extension of deadlines will be granted.

In addition to the world championships conducted every two years during the World Congress, in March/April of each year Intersteno conducts an international keyboarding competition over the Internet. The goal is to foster proficiency in the use of the keyboard and to engage young people in fair and healthy competition with their peers all over the world.

The contest can be done with a traditional PC keyboard but also with a chord keyboard where more than one key can be struck simultaneously.

Article 1 – Kind of competition and age categories

The contest consists of ten minutes of text entry, using special free software available on the website www.intersteno.org (in Taki and Zav formats).

This competition is open to students from public, private schools or associations and for seniors who register through their Intersteno National group.

Results are ranked according to the following age categories:

- **children**: up to 12 years (born in 2014 or after),
- **pupils**: 13-16 years (born in 2013, 2012, 2011 or 2010),
- **juniors**: 17-20 years (born in 2009, 2008, 2007 or 2006),
- **seniors**: older than 20 years (born in 2005 or earlier).

To qualify competitors must perform within the following limits:

Category	Min. char/minute	Max. errors
Children	150	1,00 %
Pupils	180	1,00 %
Juniors	200	1,00 %
Seniors	240	0,50 %

Article 2 – Conduct of the competition

Public and private schools and associations are primarily responsible for conducting the competition for students within their schools. In addition, Intersteno National Groups are entitled to conduct a competition for students and seniors.

These organizers should appoint an individual teacher or tutor to assist in conducting the competition.

In countries where no Intersteno National Group is fully active, the Jury president may, at her discretion, designate an organization and/or teachers/tutors to conduct the contest.

The organizers are responsible for ensuring that the competitions have been carried out in a fair way. Intersteno National Groups coordinate and control the fair conduct of the competition within their own territory and are therefore entitled to visit the schools and associations and observe activities during the competitions.

The competitors shall compete in the premises designated by the local organizers, primarily their school rooms.

Article 3 – Competition forms and training

- **Mother tongue**: Competitors indicate one of the languages they participate in as their "mother language" and **it is compulsory to compete in this language**.

- **Multilingual**: competitors take part in 2 or more of the 18 available languages on the Taki & Zav software.

Only one attempt per language is allowed.

If several national versions of one language are available (*for example German and German for Switzerland*), or if the languages are very similar (*Croatian, Serbian, Bosnian, Montenegrin*) the competitor may use only one of these language versions.

If the competitor has used both Zav and Taki Software for one language, the second attempt will not be listed. Nevertheless, competitors may use both software formats as long as they are used in different languages.

Training exercises for each language, in both software formats, are available free of charge on **www.intersteno.org** (*Competition / Internet contest / Training*).

Article 4 – Evaluation and ranking

Points and mistakes are counted as per the rules for the Text Production world championship and for each error, 50 penalty points will be deducted from the total of points. Additional information and examples are given at the end of these rules.

Result lists are updated in real time. The results list includes results for each competitor, regardless of the technology used, which will be indicated by short forms abbreviations (KB = keyboard; CK = Chord keyboard). Unsuccessful competitors are shown in the general results list. Separate results lists will be released for each competition form: mother tongue / multilingual competition. Each list will be divided into the 4 age categories set out in art.1. The multilingual results list will show the languages and the points for each of them. The sum of these points will determine the place. In any language where the competitor has not successfully qualified, either because of speed or accuracy, the number of points for that language is set to 0.

These lists will include only the names of competitors who have successfully qualified and who have paid their registration fee in a timely manner. For students, the name of their school will appear on the lists & for seniors, it will be the name of the national group. Please write this in the shortest form (max. 30 characters).

Article 5 – Medals and certificates

All successful competitors will receive an Intersteno certificate, which will be sent in .pdf to the Intersteno National Group, or to the organizing School or Association if no National Group is available. Medals are awarded to the three highest ranking competitors in each age category only the year with a congress. A certificate of participation will also be sent in .pdf to any teacher who has registered competitors.

Article 6 – Misuse of software

Intersteno is a worldwide community of motivated people who voluntarily organize and participate and take part in fair, open and healthy competitions.

Intersteno uses the Internet to conduct this contest, to make using the Internet a positive and productive experience and to make participation accessible to competitors throughout the world.

When registering for this competition, students, seniors, teachers, and organizers agree to respect all applicable policies, regulations, and laws governing the use of computers and telecommunication networks in their local jurisdictions.

Any attempt to manipulate procedures, interfere with software operations, or engage in hacker activity will lead to automatic disqualification from the current competition and possibility of being banned from any future participation in the competition.

Offences which are in violation of laws may result in the restriction of computing privileges and will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

Article 7 – Responsibility

The Jury president is the authority in the interpretation of these rules and for any decisions needed for the good management of this competition; ex. modifying points or number of mistake when the automatic counting is not correct. If a teacher notices this kind of error, he may send an email describing the error.

Article 8 – Schedule, fees, and payments

For the schedule (dates of registration and competition), please refer to the first page of these rules.

Please pay the participation fee (i.e. € 5 for the competition in mother tongue and € 7 for multilingual, regardless of the number of languages chosen) to the person responsible in your school/association: he/she will forward the total amount to the national delegate, who will make a global transfer for the country to the Federation.

Other competitors will find useful payment information on **www.intersteno.org**. To non-Europe countries we suggest transferring payments using PayPal.

Appendix - Counting points and mistakes

Raw number of points

The raw number of points depends on the number of characters of the text produced.

The value of each character can be 1, 2, 3 or 4 points: it depends on the number of keys used to get it with a standard keyboard and a table of "points per characters" has been defined for each language, based on the official keyboard used in the country.

This means that the raw number of points depends on the language as well when a country has several official languages (Belgium, Switzerland, or when the same language is official in countries using different keyboard configuration or punctuation rules.

For example, in Dutch (BE), 2 points are counted for the "point punctuation" but only 1 point in Dutch (NL).

When competitors compete in multilingual, the points are not counted according to their nationality, but the language typed. In the above example, competitors from Wallonia get 2 pts for the "point punctuation" in Dutch (BE) and French (BE) but only 1 pt for English even if they are still using 2 keys.

Strokes for omitted words are not counted. Strokes for superfluous words are not counted as well. Example: *role in this effort → role in this big effort* = 19 pts.

Counting mistakes

Before the computers, one mistake was counted per six characters. This has changed with automatic evaluation and the software counting from space to space. Now, it is **one mistake per word**, like in these 2 examples: *particularly* written *particulerly* or *partixularli*, it remains 1 mistake.

But, as some languages, like German, Finnish, Hungarian and even Dutch sometimes use very long words with 20 or more characters, we are counting **2 mistakes** when one **long word** contains 2 mistakes and if **more than 10 correct characters** are **between**. For example, in this long German word (20 char.) *Nichtregierungsorganisationen*, we will count 2 mistakes: *Nachtregierungsorgranisationen*.

Like in Text production, the **punctuation sign** following a word is considered as **part of the word**. So only one mistake in these 2 examples: *environmental, → enviromental* → or *zon en maan → zon en maan, .*

When a word is missing, regardless of the length of the missing word, 1 error is counted AND strokes not typed are not counted.

When a **whole line** or big part of the text is **omitted**, only **one mistake** is counted regardless of the length of the missing part of text AND strokes for this missing part are not counted.

Only **one mistake** regardless of the length of the **additional text part typed**. Additional strokes made by typing superfluous words are not counted into the brutto total.

Change of punctuation and **related change** of capital letter to lower case and vice versa is counted as 1 mistake. Example: *levels of governance. To ensure* has been written *levels of governance, to ensure*, only one mistake is counted.

One mistake for the **change of ending/gender/tense** like in the following examples: (1) *council works → councils work* or (2) *the council of administration works → the councils of administration work*.

One mistake for a **change of word order**. Examples: one mistake for *digitalization and automation* becoming *automation and digitalization* or *negative effects* written *effects negative*.

In case of repeated errors, **maximum 5 errors** are counted for multiple used ENTER, shift keeping pressed or multiple double spaces.