



OFFICIAL RULES SIGMACHALLENGE EDITION 2026

International Interdisciplinary STEM Competition for Students Aged 12–17

1. General Provisions

The SigmaChallenge is an interdisciplinary scientific competition for students aged 12 to 17, organized by SigmaCamp Brasil and Sistema ETAPA. The competition is educational in nature and aims to foster critical, creative, and connected thinking across multiple scientific disciplines.

SigmaChallenge 2026 is fully online, individual participation only, and open to students from any country. All official communications will be sent to the email address provided at registration and published on the website sigmachallenge.com.br.

2. Eligibility and Registration

2.1 Participation Requirements

Any student may participate in SigmaChallenge 2026 provided they meet all of the following conditions at the time registration opens:

- Be between 12 and 17 years of age;
- Be regularly enrolled in a primary or secondary educational institution (or equivalent in their country);
- Complete registration within the deadline established in these Rules;
- Agree to all terms set forth in these Rules.

There are no restrictions based on nationality or geographic location. Students of any nationality, whether residing in Brazil or abroad, may participate.

2.2 Age Groups

Participants are divided into three groups, which compete independently with their own winners and awards:

Group A	Students aged 12–13
Group B	Students aged 14–15
Group C	Students aged 16–17

The age considered will be the participant's age on January 10, 2027, the start date of ETAPA SigmaCamp 2027. If in doubt, the organizing committee may request proof of age.

2.3 Registration Procedure

1. Visit sigmachallenge.com.br and click 'Register Now'.
2. Fill in the form with your full name, valid email address, country, and phone number.
3. You will receive an email with a link to complete your registration and access the platform.
4. Once your access is active, your SigmaChallenge journey begins.

Registration is free and closes on September 13, 2026. Late registrations will not be accepted. As all participants are minors, registration must be completed or expressly authorized by a legal guardian, who by completing the registration declares they are aware of and agree to the terms of these Rules.

3. Stages and Competition Format

SigmaChallenge 2026 is structured in three progressive elimination stages, as described below:

Stage	Period	Format	Advancement
Stage 1 – Connect	May – August	Video lectures + quizzes + 60 multiple-choice questions (10 per subject)	Top scorers per age group
Stage 2 – Dive Deeper	July – August	12 open-ended interdisciplinary problems with written, reasoned responses	Best responses evaluated by the committee
Stage 3 – Speak	October	Individual online interview with the evaluation committee (in English for SigmaCamp candidates)	Finalists selected for awards

3.1 Stage 1 – Connect (May to August)

Stage 1 is the entry point to SigmaChallenge. Participants must:

- Watch short video lectures delivered by scientists and mathematicians from around the world, available on the platform at your own pace;
- Complete interactive quizzes after each lecture;
- Take the final exam consisting of 60 multiple-choice questions (10 per subject), covering: Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, and Linguistics.

The final exam allows only one attempt. The score is based on the number of correct answers, with no penalty for wrong answers. To advance to Stage 2, participants must meet two cumulative requirements: (a) have watched and completed the quizzes for at least 10 videos covering at least 3 different subjects; and (b) have achieved a score equal to or above the cutoff score defined by the organizing team. In the event of a tie at the cutoff, all tied participants advance.

3.2 Stage 2 – Dive Deeper (July to August)

Stage 2 requires reasoned responses to complex, interdisciplinary problems. Responses may be submitted in Portuguese or English. Participants who wish to be considered for an invitation to SigmaCamp programs (ETAPA SigmaCamp in Brazil and programs in the USA) must submit their responses in English. Participants must:

- Solve 12 in-depth problems spanning multiple disciplines;
- Write and submit detailed responses presenting reasoning, research, and conclusions;
- Be prepared to defend their solutions in Stage 3.

Responses will be evaluated by a committee of scientists and educators based on the criteria set out in Section 4. Top performers advance to Stage 3. In cases of high demand, the organization reserves the right to prioritize grading responses in descending order of Stage 1 scores until a sufficient number of submissions have been assessed. Eligible participants whose responses are not graded under this criterion will be notified.

3.3 Stage 3 – Speak (October)

Stage 3 consists of a brief individual online interview with members of the evaluation committee. The interview is conducted in Portuguese for all participants. For candidates seeking a SigmaCamp invitation, the interview will be conducted in English and will also assess scientific communication skills in the language. Participants must:

- Discuss their reasoning and problem-solving process from Stage 2;
- Present their ideas clearly and coherently;
- Demonstrate scientific communication skills — in English, for SigmaCamp candidates.

The interview will last approximately 10 to 15 minutes. Scheduling will be communicated by email with at least 5 business days' notice.

4. Evaluation Criteria

4.1 Stage 1

Stage 1 is evaluated solely on the number of correct answers in the 60-question final exam. Only the score obtained in this exam counts toward qualification for Stage 2. The video-lecture quizzes serve exclusively as a prerequisite: they are required to advance but do not contribute to the score. To advance to Stage 2, participants must have watched and completed the quizzes for at least 10 videos covering at least 3 subjects, and achieved a score at or above the cutoff. The cutoff score will be defined by the organizing team based on available grading capacity for Stage 2. In the event of a tie at the cutoff, all tied participants advance to Stage 2.

4.2 Stage 2

Each of the 12 problems will be scored from 0 to 10 points, for a maximum total of 120 points in Stage 2 (2 problems × 6 subjects × 10 points).

Responses to the 12 open-ended problems will be assessed by the committee according to the following criteria:

Accuracy and precision	Scientific and mathematical validity of the solutions presented
Reasoning and method	Clarity and coherence of the problem-solving process

Interdisciplinarity	Ability to connect knowledge across different disciplines
Originality	Creative approaches and novel perspectives
Substantiation	Appropriate use of evidence, references, and argumentation

Stage 3 serves exclusively as an elimination step for eligibility to SigmaCamp programs conducted in English; it does not affect the final ranking or the awarding of medals and merit certificates.

The evaluation committee's decision is final and binding, with no right of appeal regarding Stage 2 and Stage 3 results. In cases of high demand, the organization reserves the right to grade responses in descending order of Stage 1 scores and is not obligated to assess every submission received.

4.3 Stage 3

The interview will be evaluated on the following aspects:

- Command of the content and solutions presented in Stage 2;
- Clarity and objectivity in communication;
- English proficiency (listening and speaking) — assessed exclusively for SigmaCamp candidates;
- Capacity for reflection and learning from one's own process.

4.4 Final Ranking

The final ranking of SigmaChallenge 2026, including the distribution of medals and certificates, is determined exclusively by the score obtained in Stage 2. The Stage 1 score qualifies participants for access to Stage 2 only and is not added to the final score. Stage 3 is an elimination step solely for the purpose of eligibility to SigmaCamp programs conducted in English.

5. Awards and Recognition

Each age group (A, B and C) will have its own independent winners and awards. Certificates and invitations will be issued digitally and sent to the registered email address. The awarding of medals and certificates (Gold, Silver, Bronze and Honorable Mention) is independent of the language used in responses. Invitations to SigmaCamp programs are conditional on English proficiency, as detailed in Section 5.1.

Certificate	Criterion	Additional Prize
Gold	Top performers per age group	Invitation to ETAPA SigmaCamp + invitation to SigmaCamp programs in the USA
Silver	Second tier of qualifiers	Invitation to ETAPA SigmaCamp + invitation to SigmaCamp programs in the USA
Bronze	Third tier of qualifiers	Invitation to ETAPA SigmaCamp
Honorable Mention	Fourth tier of qualifiers	Invitation to ETAPA SigmaCamp
Participation Certificate	All participants who complete Stage 2	Digital certificate of participation

In addition, the top three participants in the overall ranking will receive airfare and travel insurance to attend one of the SigmaCamp programs in the United States. Passport issuance and visa application costs are not included and remain the responsibility of the participant and their legal guardians.

5.1 SigmaCamp Invitations

To be eligible for a SigmaCamp program invitation, participants must: (a) submit Stage 2 responses in English; and (b) complete the Stage 3 interview in English, demonstrating scientific communication skills in the language. Failure to meet these requirements results in ineligibility for SigmaCamp, without prejudice to the participant's score or merit certificates. Eligible finalists with the best overall performance may receive an invitation to one or more of the following programs, based on their age group and ranking:

- ETAPA SigmaCamp 2027 – Valinhos, SP (Brazil), January 2027 — Groups B and C (ages 14 to 17);
- SigmaCamp (Connecticut, USA) – August 2027 — Groups A and B (ages 12 to 15);
- SigmaNext (Connecticut, USA) – August 2027 — Groups B and C (ages 14 to 17);
- SigmaWest (California, USA) – June 2027 — Groups A and B (ages 12 to 15).

SigmaCamp invitations do not automatically cover transportation, accommodation, or visa costs, unless expressly stated by the program organizer. Legal guardians of participants under 18 must formally consent to participation.

Note: Participation in SigmaChallenge 2026 may qualify students for SigmaCamp events not yet scheduled, to be held in 2026 and/or 2027, according to criteria defined by the organization. Additional awards from partners may also occur throughout the competition.

6. Official Schedule 2026

The dates below constitute the official calendar for SigmaChallenge 2026. All dates may be changed at any time, with prior notice by email to registered participants and publication on the official website.

Period	Event / Stage
March 2026	Registration opens
September 13, 2026	Registration closes; Stages 1 and 2 end
May 11 – September 13, 2026	Stage 1 – Connect (video lectures, quizzes, multiple-choice exam)
July 15 – September 20, 2026	Stage 2 – Dive Deeper (open interdisciplinary problems)
October 10, 2026	Stage 2 results announced
October 10–20, 2026	Stage 3 – Speak (individual online interviews)
October 31, 2026	Final results announced and awards
January 2027	ETAPA SigmaCamp – Valinhos, SP
June / August 2027	SigmaCamp / SigmaNext / SigmaWest – USA

7. Rights and Responsibilities

7.1 Participant Responsibilities

- Provide accurate information at registration and be accountable for any inaccuracies;
- Keep the registered email active and monitored; the participant is responsible for missing communications due to incorrect data or spam filters;
- Complete all exams and problems individually and independently, without assistance from third parties or unauthorized tools;
- Attend the Stage 3 interview punctually at the scheduled time;
- Conduct themselves with integrity, respect, and ethics in all interactions with the platform, the organization, and other participants.

7.2 Academic Integrity

Any form of academic dishonesty is strictly prohibited, including:

- Use of generative artificial intelligence or any automated problem-solving tools;
- Sharing questions, answer keys, or responses with other participants during the competition stages;
- Misrepresentation of identity or personal data.

Any confirmed violation will result in the participant's immediate disqualification, without prejudice to other applicable measures. The organization reserves the right to request identity verification at any time.

7.3 Participant Rights

- To receive clear communications regarding deadlines, criteria, and results;
- To have their personal data processed in accordance with the Brazilian General Data Protection Law (LGPD) and applicable legislation in their country of residence;
- To submit an appeal regarding administrative matters (registration, platform access) within 5 business days of the event in question.

7.4 Organization Rights

- To modify dates, formats, or criteria, with prior notice to participants;
- To prioritize grading of Stage 2 responses in descending order of Stage 1 scores in cases of high demand, without being obligated to grade all submissions received;
- To disqualify participants who violate these Rules or the platform's terms of use;
- To use the names, schools, and countries of award recipients for competition publicity purposes, while protecting sensitive personal data;
- To cancel the edition in cases of force majeure, without any obligation for financial compensation.

7.5 Intellectual Property

All problems, educational materials, video lectures, and questions used in SigmaChallenge 2026 are the intellectual property of SigmaCamp Brasil and Sistema ETAPA. Reproduction, distribution, or publication of any competition material without prior written authorization from the organization is strictly prohibited.

8. Data Protection

Personal data collected at registration (name, email, country, phone number, and date of birth) will be used for the management and execution of SigmaChallenge 2026, related communications, and the organization of SigmaCamp events held by competition partners, for participants who qualify for such programs. The organization commits to:

- Not sharing data with third parties without consent, except as required by law;
- Storing data with appropriate technical and organizational security measures;
- Deleting data upon conclusion of the event, unless legally required to retain it.

To exercise rights of access, correction, or deletion of data, the participant (or their legal guardian) must send a request to the organization's official email address available on the website.

9. Final Provisions

Participation in SigmaChallenge 2026 implies full reading, understanding, and acceptance of these Rules. Cases not covered herein will be resolved by the organizing committee, whose decision will be final.

The competent jurisdiction for resolving any disputes arising from these Rules is the courts of the City of São Paulo, SP, Brazil, with express waiver of any other jurisdiction, however privileged it may be.

These Rules take effect on the date registration opens and remain in force until the announcement of final results and the close of the 2026 edition.

10. Version Control

The revision history of these Rules is recorded below. The version in force is always the most recent one published on the official website.

Version	Date	Changes
1.0	May 12, 2026	Initial version of the Rules.
2.0	July 24, 2026	Correction of age eligibility ranges for SigmaCamp programs (Section 5.1). Stage 2 start date changed to July 15, 2026 (Section 6). Addition of airfare and travel insurance awards for the top three participants in the overall ranking (Section 5). Clarification of the evaluation criteria (Section 4). Addition of the Version Control section.
3.0	July 24, 2026	Schedule update: registration and Stage 1 close on September 13, 2026; Stage 2 runs through September 20, 2026; Stage 2 results announced October 10, 2026; Stage 3 interviews held October 10–20, 2026 (Section 6).