

Proposal: Allowing Limited Cash Prizes in the ISC

Proposed amendment

Local organisers may charge an entry fee and award cash prizes. However, the total cash prize fund at any single ISC location may not exceed **EUR 300 or its equivalent in local currency**.

The prize fund and its distribution must be announced before the competition. Cash prizes may be awarded on the basis of the local results confirmed by the Local Controller and do not require prior approval by the Central Controller.

Justification

The current prohibition on cash prizes should be reconsidered for the following reasons:

1. **Some countries actively promote solving through regular competitions and entry fees.** Where participants are required to pay an entry fee, it is reasonable to allow part of the collected money to be returned to them in the form of prizes.
2. **A modest prize fund can encourage participation.** Small cash prizes may make the event more attractive, support local solving activity and encourage new participants without changing the character of the ISC.
3. **The principal risk is created by exceptionally large prizes, not by every monetary award.** The Fujairah incident demonstrated the risks associated with an unusually large financial incentive. A limited total prize fund of no more than EUR 300 is fundamentally different and should not, by itself, create a significant incentive for dishonest play.
4. **A clear limit provides a reasonable compromise.** It permits local organisers to develop and promote solving while preventing the ISC from becoming a competition driven by substantial financial rewards.

Submitted by: Arvydas Mockus Central Controller, ISC 2026