15th Hippo the Contest Regulations

Introduction

Hippo is organising the 15th edition of Hippo English Without Borders – the Contest (hereinafter "the Contest"). The Contest is open to students aged 6–19 from around the world. Participants take their tests at an approved Hippo venue. These include state schools and other schools within the formal education system, private schools, and venues arranged by country coordinators.

Hippo and its aims

Hippo English Without Borders – the Contest is an international event that promotes the English language, encourages students worldwide to test their knowledge, and inspires teachers to collaborate. It brings young people together, helping them develop a shared sense of belonging and showing how they can live and grow as part of a global community. Its main aim is to encourage friendship, mutual understanding and healthy competition among young learners of English around the world.

By taking part, students can measure their English proficiency against international standards and become familiar with examinations. Participating schools also gain insight into their students' English proficiency, helping them encourage further progress.

1 Eligibility and categories

1.1 Eligibility

Participants compete in 12 categories: seven regular and five special. Categories are based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Students in lower grades than those shown in the tables may also enter a category if they feel prepared for its level. The age limit is 19, or beyond this age while students are still in high school.

Children, family members and relatives of organisers, coordinators or anyone involved in organising the Contest are not eligible to compete.

1.2 Regular and special categories

Bilingual students may compete only in special categories. For the purposes of the Contest, students are considered bilingual if they were born in an English-speaking country, or if they have lived and attended school in an English-speaking country for at least three of the past five years. This definition also includes students living in a non-English-speaking country who attend an English/American international school or a specialised school. Hippo reserves the right to disqualify bilingual students who enter a regular category through another school, as well as any of the schools described above that applies as a regular school.

Special categories are intended for students considered bilingual under these regulations, as well as students attending international schools or schools where at least 50% of subjects are taught in

English. This does not apply in countries where English is the only official language, such as the UK. The required percentage of the curriculum taught in English may be revised in agreement with country coordinators. These students may compete in one of the five special categories. Baby Hippo and Little Hippo students compete in the regular categories even if they meet the definition of bilingual above.

Hippo reserves the right to check a school's curriculum, language of instruction and number of English teaching hours. Students who register in a regular category when these regulations require them to enter a special category will be disqualified.

1.3 CEFR levels

Category	CEFR Level Preliminary	CEFR Level NF & Finals	Category	CEFR Level Preliminary	CEFR Level NF & Finals
BABY HIPPO*	CEFR Pre A1 YL	CEFR A1 YL			
LITTLE HIPPO	CEFR Pre A1 YL	CEFR A1 YL			
HIPPO 1	CEFR A1 YL	CEFR A2 YL	HIPPO S1	CEFR A1	CEFR A2
HIPPO 2	CEFR A1	CEFR A2	HIPPO S2	CEFR A2	CEFR B1
HIPPO 3	CEFR A2	CEFR B1	HIPPO S3	CEFR B1	CEFR B2
HIPPO 4	CEFR B1	CEFR B2	HIPPO S4	CEFR B2	CEFR C1
HIPPO 5	CEFR B2	CEFR C1	HIPPO S5	CEFR C1	CEFR C2

*Baby Hippo and Little Hippo examinations have the same level of difficulty in every round, but the two categories have separate ranking lists.

1.4 School grades and category allocation

The category tables below reflect the usual relationship between school grade and age in each education system and are divided into two groups: countries where children normally start primary school at age six and countries where they normally start at age seven. Grade 1 means the first year of primary education and excludes kindergarten, reception and preparatory classes; subsequent numbers refer to successive grades in the country's education system.

Countries with a school starting age of six. Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hong Kong SAR - China, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Macau SAR - China, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Taiwan - China, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Venezuela, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

REGULAR CATEGORIES	
Grade	Hippo Category
1 - 2	BABY HIPPO
3 - 4	LITTLE HIPPO
5 - 6	HIPPO 1
7	HIPPO 2
8 - 9	HIPPO 3
10 - 11	HIPPO 4
12 - 13	HIPPO 5

SPECIAL CATEGORIES	
Grade	Hippo Category
1 - 2	BABY HIPPO
3 - 4	LITTLE HIPPO
5 - 6	HIPPO S1
7	HIPPO S2
8 - 9	HIPPO S3
10 - 11	HIPPO S4
12 - 13	HIPPO S5

Countries with a school starting age of seven. Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Guinea, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Niger, Poland, Serbia, South Africa, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

REGULAR CATEGORIES	
Grade	Hippo Category
1	BABY HIPPO
2 - 3	LITTLE HIPPO
4 - 5	HIPPO 1
6	HIPPO 2
7 - 8	HIPPO 3
9 - 10	HIPPO 4
11 - 13	HIPPO 5

SPECIAL CATEGORIES	
Grade	Hippo Category
1	BABY HIPPO
2 - 3	LITTLE HIPPO
4 - 5	HIPPO S1
6	HIPPO S2
7 - 8	HIPPO S3
9 - 10	HIPPO S4
11 - 13	HIPPO S5

Both date of birth and school grade are required when registering candidates. The .soa platform permits registration only in accordance with the tables above, in the candidate's designated category or a higher category. Where registration closes in one school year and the examinations take place in the next, candidates must be registered according to their grade at the time of registration.

Students who competed in the Hippo 2026 World Finals cannot compete in the same category in Hippo 2027.

2 Venue approval registration and fees

2.1 Venue approval and school responsibilities

Schools of any type and in any country can participate. Schools enrolling a group of candidates must host the Preliminary Round, including in countries that accept individual registrations.

Schools wishing to participate must apply through their country coordinator. If no coordinator is appointed in their country, schools must contact Hippo directly at venue@hippo-thecontest.org to request venue approval. Where a coordinator's contact details appear on the *Join Us* page of the Hippo website, all venue approvals must be obtained through that coordinator.

Each participating school must appoint a staff member as its Contest coordinator and contact person, and provide their details in the Venue Approval Form. The school coordinator is responsible for registering students and ensuring that all Contest examination regulations are followed.

2.2 Candidate registration

Once a venue is approved, the school will receive login details for the Hippo Online Platform at www.soa-htc.org. Schools must register candidates by entering the required information. Registration deadlines vary by country; candidates and participating schools should contact their country coordinator for details. No changes can be made after the registration deadline.

Entries must use Latin letters only (A–Z, without language-specific characters). A date of birth and school grade are required for every candidate, so coordinators must have this information ready before starting registration. Category allocation follows Section 1.4.

The system automatically assigns each candidate a number. Candidate lists remain available so that schools can print the Preliminary Round attendance registers. School coordinators must print these registers and check that all candidate details are correct.

2.3 Individual registration and participation fees

Some countries accept individual registrations. Candidates should contact their country coordinator to check whether this option is available. Where individual registrations are accepted, candidates will be assigned to the nearest approved venue.

The participation fee is paid once per student and covers all Contest rounds except the Continental Round – Qualifiers and the Play-Off Qualifiers. Schools should contact their country coordinator for details of fees and deadlines. The list of participating countries and coordinators, together with country-specific information, is available on the *Registrations* page of the Contest website.

3 Contest stages dates and venues

The Contest has four stages: the Preliminary Round, the National Finals, the Continental Round – Qualifiers / Play-Off Qualifiers, and the World Finals. Candidates who do not qualify for the World Finals have the opportunity to participate in the Continental Round – Qualifiers or the Play-Off Qualifiers (see Sections 7 and 8).

3.1 Preliminary Round and National Finals dates

The first two rounds take place on different dates in different countries and regions. Hippo sets the dates for each region, taking local school calendars and national holidays into account when selecting suitable dates for participating countries.

All official dates are published on the *Join Us* page at www.hippo-thecontest.org. Participants can click on their country or region on the map to view the dates that apply to them.

The first two rounds are scheduled across the following three areas.

Area 1 Europe

Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czechia, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Türkiye, and Ukraine.

Preliminary Round: 19 – 20 February 2027 or 26 – 27 February 2027
National Finals: 19 – 20 March 2027 or 26 – 27 March 2027

Area 2 Africa, Greater Middle East and Central Asia

Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Botswana, Egypt, Ghana, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Morocco, Nigeria, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe.

Preliminary Round: 20 – 22 March 2027
National Finals: 24 – 26 April 2027

Area 3 Asia Pacific

Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong SAR - China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Macau SAR - China, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan - China, Thailand and Vietnam.

Preliminary Round: 20 – 22 March 2027
National Finals: 24 – 26 April 2027

Area 4 Americas

Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Venezuela.

Preliminary Round: 25 – 26 June 2027
National Finals: 16 – 17 July 2027

National Finals venues will be selected according to the locations of the qualifying students.

3.2 Qualifiers and World Finals

Continental Round – Qualifiers locations and arrangements are set out in Section 7. Play-Off Qualifiers arrangements are set out in Section 8. World Finals dates, venue and participation arrangements are set out in Section 9.

4 Examination delivery and administration

4.1 Online examinations

For both the Preliminary Round and the National Finals, schools may choose online or paper-based examinations.

Schools will receive login details and instructions on accessing the examinations. Tests must be taken at an approved Hippo venue, although invigilation may be carried out remotely. Separate regulations apply to remote invigilation.

4.2 Paper based materials and security

Preliminary Round tests must be delivered to the approved venue two days before the Contest date and remain sealed until the examinations begin. Materials must be sent back on the first working day after the Preliminary Round and arrive within five working days, unless the country coordinator specifies a different deadline. The return address will be provided with the materials. If it is missing, schools must contact their country coordinator for instructions. Materials received after the applicable deadline will not be marked.

Contest tests must not be opened before the examination date. School coordinators may open the outer parcel to check that all materials have arrived, but the envelopes containing the tests must remain sealed. These must be opened in front of the students immediately before the Preliminary Round tests begin.

4.3 Schedules and inspections

Each approved venue sets its examination start times according to the number of participants in each category. Venues must send their schedules to the country coordinator three working days before the Contest date to allow for possible inspections. The Contest Examination Regulations apply throughout the Contest, and Hippo reserves the right to inspect venues at random. Where National Finals examinations are delivered online, the country coordinator must facilitate remote observation by a member of Hippo staff if requested.

4.4 Answer sheets and candidate identification

Reading answers are marked using an OMR scanner, so answer sheets must be completed correctly and in pen. A sample OMR form is available on the Hippo website. If a form is completed incorrectly, for example with a missing or incorrect candidate number, or cannot be read by the scanner, Hippo reserves the right not to mark it if the candidate's identity cannot be established.

4.5 Suspected malpractice

Where malpractice is suspected in an online examination, Hippo reserves the right to re-test candidates using a parallel test invigilated by Hippo staff.

5 Preliminary Round

5.1 Test format and scoring

The Preliminary Round consists of two multiple-choice tests: a reading comprehension test and a Hippo Use of English test. Question counts, marks and maximum test times are shown below.

Sample tests are available on the Contest website. Each question has one correct answer, and no marks are deducted for incorrect answers. Rankings are based on the combined total score from the two tests.

Answers to both the Reading and Use of English tests must be recorded on an OMR answer sheet.

5.2 Questions marks and test times*

CATEGORY	READING QUESTIONS	READING TIME	USE OF ENGLISH QUESTIONS	USE OF ENGLISH TIME
BABY HIPPO	30 questions (1 point each)	20 min	20 questions (1.5 points each)	20 min
LITTLE HIPPO	30 questions (1 point each)	20 min	20 questions (1.5 points each)	20 min
HIPPO 1	30 questions (1 point each)	30 min	20 questions (1.5 points each)	20 min
HIPPO 2 & S1	34 questions (1 point each)	30 min	20 questions (1.5 points each)	20 min
HIPPO 3 & S2	34 questions (1 point each)	30 min	20 questions (1.5 points each)	20 min
HIPPO 4 & S3	34 questions (1 point each)	40 min	20 questions (1.5 points each)	30 min
HIPPO 5 & S4	40 questions (1 point each)	45 min	20 questions (1.5 points each)	30 min
HIPPO S5	40 questions (1 point each)	45 min	20 questions (1.5 points each)	30 min

**The number of questions per category indicated in these regulations is subject to revision to improve the assessment structure. Any changes, including corresponding adjustments to maximum scores, will be published on the official Hippo website one month before the relevant round date. The final examination structure and scoring arrangements will apply uniformly to all participants within the same category and round.*

5.3 Results and qualification for the National Finals

After the Preliminary Round tests have been marked, the top 20% of students who took the tests in each country will be invited to the National Finals. This percentage is calculated using only the candidates who were present; absent candidates are excluded. Any students with the same score as the last qualifying student within this 20% will also qualify. Country coordinators may divide their country into macro-areas; where this applies, the top 20% will be calculated for each macro-area rather than for the country as a whole.

Candidates must achieve a minimum score of 50% to qualify for the National Finals.

Ranking lists for all categories and the names of candidates qualifying for the National Finals will be published at www.hippo-thecontest.org within three weeks of the Preliminary Round.

6 National Finals

6.1 Test format and scoring

National Finals examinations are one CEFR level higher than those in the Preliminary Round. They consist of a reading test and a writing test with 30 questions and an essay. Baby Hippo and Little Hippo candidates do not write an essay.

Each question has one correct answer, except open-ended questions, where all valid answers will be accepted. No marks are deducted for incorrect answers. Rankings are based on the combined total

score from the Reading and Writing tests. Reading answers must be recorded on an OMR answer sheet, while Writing answers must be written in the test booklet.

The Writing test includes 30 questions and, except for Baby Hippo and Little Hippo, a free-writing task of 100–200 words, depending on the category. All questions are one level higher than in the Preliminary Round. Essays will be assessed only where two or more candidates have identical scores in both Reading and Writing, and/or where malpractice is suspected.

6.2 Questions marks and test times*

CATEGORY	READING QUESTIONS	READING TIME	WRITING QUESTIONS	WRITING TIME
BABY HIPPO	30 questions (1 point each)	30 min	30 questions (1.5 points each)	45 min
LITTLE HIPPO	30 questions (1 point each)	30 min	30 questions (1.5 points each)	45 min
HIPPO 1	40 questions (1 point each)	30 min	30 questions (1.5 points each) and essay	45 min
HIPPO 2 & S1	34 questions (1 point each)	30 min	30 questions (1.5 points each) and essay	45 min
HIPPO 3 & S2	34 questions (1 point each)	40 min	30 questions (1.5 points each) and essay	45 min
HIPPO 4 & S3	40 questions (1 point each)	45 min	30 questions (1.5 points each) and essay	45 min
HIPPO 5 & S4	40 questions (1 point each)	45 min	30 questions (1.5 points each) and essay	45 min
HIPPO S5	40 questions (1 point each)	50 min	30 questions (1.5 points each) and essay	45 min

**The number of questions per category indicated in these regulations is subject to revision to improve the assessment structure. Any changes, including corresponding adjustments to maximum scores, will be published on the official Hippo website one month before the relevant round date. The final examination structure and scoring arrangements will apply uniformly to all participants within the same category and round.*

6.3 Results and qualification for subsequent rounds

Ranking lists for all categories, together with the names of candidates qualifying for the World Finals and, subsequently, the Continental Round and Play-Off Qualifiers, will be published at www.hippo-thecontest.org within three weeks of the National Finals.

The number of finalists who qualify directly from the National Finals ranking lists will be proportional to the number of Preliminary Round participants in each country. To encourage a multicultural event, a wildcard will be awarded to the highest-ranked participant from each country without a finalist.

Winners of the Continental Round – Qualifiers and Play-Off Qualifiers will also qualify for the World Finals. Eligibility and participation arrangements for these additional qualification routes are set out in Sections 7 and 8.

7 Continental Round Qualifiers

7.1 Contest regions

For the Continental Round – Qualifiers, participants are divided into Contest regions (hereinafter "Regions"). These Regions have been established based on the number and locations of participants in previous editions of Hippo:

1. Continental Europe
2. Mediterranean Europe
3. Africa
4. Greater Middle East
5. Central Asia
6. Asia-Pacific
7. LATAM

A Continental Round will be organised where a region has at least 3,000 registrations in the 2027 edition. The highest-ranked students who have not qualified for the World Finals will be eligible to participate.

7.2 Locations and attendance

The 2027 Continental Round – Qualifiers will take place in the following locations:

1. Jesolo Lido, Venice, Italy, for Europe and will include: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czechia, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Türkiye, and Ukraine.

2. Baku, Azerbaijan, for Africa, Greater Middle East & Central Asia and will: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bangladesh, Botswana, Egypt, Ghana, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Morocco, Nigeria, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe.

3. Bali, Indonesia, for Asia-Pacific and will include: Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong SAR - China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Macau SAR - China, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan - China, Thailand and Vietnam.

4. Online for LATAM countries and will include Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Venezuela and other countries in South America joining Hippo in 2027.

In regions with more than 3,000 registrations in the 2027 edition, the Continental Round – Qualifiers will be held exclusively in person. Online examinations will not be available in these regions.
In regions with 3,000 or fewer registrations, the Continental Round – Qualifiers will be held online.

7.3 Eligibility and booking

Invitations will be issued to the top 20% of students in each category within each country's macro-region, where applicable, or otherwise within the country. To be eligible, students must not have qualified for the World Finals and must have achieved at least 70% of the score obtained by the first-ranked student, as well as at least 50% of the maximum possible score.

Eligible students will be highlighted in yellow in the ranking lists published on the Results page of the official Hippo website. Places at Continental Round events are limited, and bookings will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

7.4 Examination and qualification for the World Finals

In both the Continental Round – Qualifiers and the Play-Off Qualifiers, candidates take a Hippo Test of English consisting of 30 open-ended Use of English questions, a crossword and a writing task. The writing task is marked only in the event of a tie, to determine the candidates' final ranking.

The first-place winner in each Hippo category in each Region will qualify for the World Finals.

7.5 Fees accommodation and programme

Students invited to the Continental Round must pay a participation fee. This covers insurance, merchandise provided on arrival, organised activities and examination materials.

Where applicable, an accommodation package will be offered through an exclusive service provider. Students and accompanying teachers or parents are responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs. Participants must arrange their own travel. Hippo will recommend accommodation options, and participants may choose either the proposed package or independent arrangements.

The three-day programme will be published on the Hippo website and social media channels. It will also be sent to participants and their families with the booking information.

8 Play Off Qualifiers

8.1 Format and locations

The Play-Off Qualifiers give additional participants an opportunity to qualify for the Hippo 2027 World Finals. They consist of an intensive five-day English preparation course held in person followed by a Hippo test on day six.

The locations of the 2027 Play-Off Qualifiers will be announced in due course.

8.2 Eligibility and booking

Students who qualify for the Continental Round – Qualifiers may choose to attend the Play-Off Qualifiers instead. The highest-ranked students who have not qualified for the World Finals, who are outside the top 20%, and who have scored more than 50% of the first-ranked student's points may participate in the Play-Off Qualifiers only; they cannot compete in the Continental Round. These students will be highlighted in orange.

Play-Off places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

If a student registers for both events and wins at the Continental Round, they may either use their Play-Off registration to attend a Hippo Summer Camp with a 15% discount or receive a refund.

8.3 Course supervision and package

Students must arrange and pay for their own travel. The package includes teaching, learning materials and accommodation. Lessons will be tailored to their needs and will include Hippo mock examinations.

Further details will be available on the Play-Off Qualifiers page of the Hippo website once the locations have been announced.

8.4 Examination and qualification for the World Finals

The Play-Off Qualifiers examinations will take place on the morning of day six. Candidates take the Hippo Test of English described in Section 7.4, with the writing task marked only in the event of a tie.

Winners of each Play-Off qualifier round will qualify for the World Finals.

9 World Finals

9.1 Dates and venue

The World Finals will take place in Italy, in late September or early October. The exact location and dates will be published in due course. Direct qualification and wildcard allocation are described in Section 6.3; additional qualification routes are described in Sections 7 and 8.

9.2 Accompanying persons accommodation and travel

All candidates may be accompanied by their English teacher or another English-speaking teacher from their school. The accompanying school representative is chosen by the school. Baby Hippo, Little Hippo, Hippo 1 and S1 candidates may be accompanied by one parent at no additional cost.

Parents wishing to accompany students in other categories must arrange and pay for their own travel and accommodation. The hotels accommodating students are reserved exclusively for Contest participants.

Three-day half-board accommodation will be provided for all candidates and one accompanying person per candidate. Participants are responsible for their own travel costs.

9.3 Programme

Finalists are expected to arrive the day before examinations begin. Examinations take place over two days, with the announcement of winners and awards ceremony on the evening of the second examination day.

The World Finals programme will be sent directly to finalists who have confirmed their attendance one week before the event.

9.4 Visa support and exceptional online participation

Hippo will support finalists with their visa arrangements.

Students who are unable to obtain the required visa in time to attend the World Finals may be offered an online examination session and invited to join the Awards Ceremony remotely. This exception applies exclusively to visa-related cases and is subject to documentary evidence: either an official visa refusal letter issued by the embassy or, if a decision is still pending, proof that the student's

passport has been submitted to the Italian authorities as part of the visa application process. Online participation will not be permitted under any other circumstances.

9.5 Examinations and ranking

At the World Finals, candidates take an examination covering all four language skills, provided by an internationally recognised awarding body, together with a 30-question Use of English test.

Sample tests and past papers are available at www.hippo-thecontest.org. World Finals examinations are one CEFR level higher than Preliminary Round examinations and at the same level as National Finals examinations.

10 Certificates and prizes

All Preliminary Round and National Finals candidates will receive a certificate of participation.

World Finals candidates who pass the tests will receive an internationally recognised certificate in English.

Further World Finals prizes will be announced closer to the event.

11 Processing and protection of personal data

As we organize HIPPO the Contest and events, we determine which data, including personal data, is processed, the purposes of the processing, and the means of processing within the context of HIPPO the Contest and associated events. Therefore, we are considered the data controller within the meaning of the General Data Protection Regulation of the European Union. More about the concept of the data controller, the data we process, and other relevant information concerning our practices related to data processing and data protection are available in our Privacy Policy available here.

For the organization and implementation of the Contest and for the purpose of realizing associated events, we engage other organizations and individuals to help us. These include the engagement of country coordinators and school coordinators. The country coordinators are organizations/institutions that support us in the organization and implementation of HIPPO the Contest and associated events in their countries with the necessary logistical measures. The schools with their appointed staff (school coordinators) also help with the implementation of the Contest at their locations as soon as they are approved. Both the country coordinators and the school coordinators process personal data for the purpose necessary for the organization of Hippo the Contest and associated events. In doing so, they should strictly follow our instructions
as they process personal data on our behalf. Therefore, the respective country coordinators and school coordinators are treated as data processors within the meaning of the European Union General Data Protection Regulation (entities processing personal data on behalf of the data controller).

In view of the fact that the country coordinators and school coordinators have the status of data processors, we have taken appropriate safeguards to comply with the relevant legal requirements, in particular with regard to the transfer of personal data and making data available. These requirements emphasize inter alia that whenever our data processors plan to engage third parties that will process personal data while assisting them in Hippo-related activities, they should seek our permission to do so. The same rules for data protection and data processing must apply to these third parties (as the case is with country coordinators and school coordinators). These rules are set out in the Data

Processing Agreement available here. Thus, this Data Processing Agreement forms a mandatory and integral part of each contract concluded between:

- us on one side and the appointed country coordinator and/or school coordinator on another,
- appointed country coordinator on one side and school coordinator on another,
- country coordinator and/or school coordinator on one side and any third party on another.

When collecting and processing data, including personal data, the country coordinators and school coordinators must duly observe national/local data protection regulations. If they identify a legal requirement from the domain of national/local data protection regulations that deviate from the European Union General Data Protection Regulation or any other legal requirement that could affect the lawfulness of the data processing, the processing must be stopped and addressed to the Hippo organization without undue delay.

12 Conditions for participation

By registering for the Contest, participants accept the rules and regulations set out in this document.

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