

**LONDON MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY
PRIZE REGULATIONS: PÓLYA PRIZE**

I. GENERAL

1. In 1986 the London Mathematical Society instituted a Pólya Prize in memory of Professor G. Pólya, who until his death in 1985 had been a member of the Society since 1925 and an Honorary Member since 1956. The Pólya Fund established for this purpose came from a generous donation to the Society from Mrs. Pólya in memory of her husband.
2. The award of the Pólya Prize shall be considered by the Council of the Society, in those years not numbered by a multiple of three.
3. The Prize shall be awarded in recognition of outstanding creativity in, imaginative exposition of, or distinguished contribution to, mathematics within the United Kingdom.
4. No person shall be eligible to receive the Prize more than once, and the Prize may not be awarded to any person who has previously received the De Morgan Medal.
5. Any amendment to these Regulations for the award of the Prize must be made at a regular meeting of Council at which the proposed amendment must receive the support of an absolute majority of those present at the meeting, whether voting or not, in order to take effect.

II. PROCEDURE FOR THE AWARD OF THE POLYA PRIZE IN YEAR x

1. In October, year $x - 1$, the Council of the Society shall appoint a Prize Committee consisting of from three to nine members of the Society, at least one of whom is not a member of its Council, and shall invite one of them to act as convenor; normally the Committee shall have at least one member on each other Prize Committee appointed, and any number of the Prize Committees may have identical memberships.
2. The December year $x - 1$, *Newsletter* shall contain:
 - (a) an outline of the regulations and arrangements for the award of the Prize;
 - (b) an invitation to members of the Society to submit their views confidentially in writing to the President by a date in year x not later than 31st January.
3. The Committee may seek opinions from other mathematicians on candidates and their work in and influence on and general service to mathematics.

4. The President and the members of the Prize Committee shall be ineligible for the award of the Prize in years of awards for which they serve.
5. The Committee shall normally present its unanimous written report to the May meeting of the Council of the Society. This report shall consist of either:
 - (a) a recommendation that the Prize be not awarded that year or:
 - (b) a recommendation of one and only one name for consideration as prizewinner, accompanied by a detailed citation. If the Committee fails to reach a unanimous decision, the Prize shall not be awarded that year.
6. At the meeting of Council, there shall be a discussion of the report followed by a ballot which must be secret if any member of Council requests it. No award shall be made unless supported by an absolute majority of the members of Council present at the meeting, whether voting or not. The failure of Council to approve the recommendation of 5(b) shall be regarded as equivalent to a decision that the Prize be not awarded that year. At its discretion, the Council may, instead of a ballot, refer the matter back to the Committee for further consideration, and request a further written report to be presented to the June Council meeting, when a ballot shall be held as previously described.

In the event that the Prize has not been awarded by the October meeting of Council in any year, the Prize shall not be awarded that year.

7. The decision of the Council shall normally be announced to the June meeting of the Society, and in the next *Newsletter* after that.

III. AWARD

1. The winner of the Pólya Prize shall be given a Diploma signed by the President and the General Secretary of the Society together with such a sum of money as shall have been determined by the Council of the Society.

Last amended 21 June 2002