

Terms and conditions

Goethe-Institut competition

Award of Excellence 2025/26

“Sportsclub Culture in Germany”

goethe.de/stepintogerman

November 20th, 2025 to March 15th, 2026

1. Introduction

Participation in the 2025/26 Award of Excellence (AoE) competition is possible online from November 20th, 2025 Midnight to March 15th, 2026 23:59 (PT).

2. Eligibility

High School and Middle School students in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean are eligible to participate. Each student can participate only once.

Multiple entries may result in disqualification.

Persons who

(i) provide false information regarding their personal data or

(ii) make unlawful statements or statements contradicting the competition rules or

(iii) manipulate or otherwise misuse electronic devices created for the competition are excluded from eligibility to participate.

Staff of the Goethe-Institut e.V. and their relatives will be excluded from participation in the competition.

3. How to Enter

Participants need to listen to the podcast “Sportsclub Culture in Germany” and respond to ten multiple choice questions.

Selection of Winners

Students with the highest points win. There will be one winner each in the USA, in Canada and in Mexico. If there are multiple participants with the same score, the winner will be determined by raffle. The winners will be announced on our websites. By participating, participants expressly agree to these Official Rules.

Participation in the competition and the likelihood of being selected are not dependent on the purchase of goods or utilization of services.

4. Prizes

The three participants with the best results each win a course for teens in Germany for one person. The courses for teens take place in summer 2026. The scholarship encompasses the language course, accommodations, meals, full-time supervision, day trips, a recreation program, medical and accident insurance, and the travel expenses.

The Award of Excellence will be granted to the schools of these students.

5. Data Protection

The Goethe-Institut complies with statutory data protection regulations.

Participants agree to the storage, processing, and sharing by the Goethe-Institut of the data they supply in the context of participating in the competition.

Data will not be disclosed to third parties for other purposes.

Participants are free at any time to retrieve information concerning which of their data the Goethe-Institut has stored.

6. Disclaimer

Participants may at any time revoke their consent to such data being stored and consequently withdraw their participation in the competition. The relevant address for such purposes is:

Goethe-Institut San Francisco, 657 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94105, Attn: “Award of Excellence”.

7. Winner Notification and Acceptance

The winners will be notified by the Goethe-Institut via email and announced on the Goethe-Institut websites. Participants who do not win will not be notified.

If a winner fails to respond to the address specified in the notification and acknowledge the prize within three days of notification, the entitlement to the prize is forfeited

without substitution and the participant in the next rank moves ahead in order of winners.

No cash substitution for prizes is permitted.

Entitlement to a prize cannot be transferred.

Mailed forms will not be accepted.