World Investment Competition 2025 Rulebook

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1. Overview

WIC 2025 at a Glance

◆ A global demo investment competition hosted by JPSI, Japan's student-led investment community, that brings together student investors and traders from around the world.

◆ Teams of three compete over a three-month period, with each member managing $1,000,000 in U.S. equities.

2. Registration & Team Composition

◆ To participate, each team must register with exactly three students.

◆ Teams will compete as one unit, with results calculated as the sum of the individual portfolios of all three members.

3. Timeline

◆ Kickoff: December 1, 2025 (Monday) 23:00-24:00 JST (Held via Zoom)

◆ Trial Trading Period: December 1 – December 14, 2025

◆ Opening Ceremony: December 14, 2025 (Sunday) 20:00-21:00 JST (Held via Zoom)

◆ Trading Period: December 15, 2025 – March 13, 2026 (3 months)

◆ Closing Ceremony: TBD (Held via Zoom, date and time subject to scheduling)

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4. Rules and Regulations

4.1 Registration

➢ Eligibility: Students at the high school, university, or graduate level

➢ Fairness: Each student investment community may register only one representative team

➢ Participation Fee: $100 per team (Payment must be made in U.S. dollars; participants are responsible for any currency conversion fees.)

➢ The team leader is responsible for making the payment on behalf of the team via PayPal.

4.2 Trading

➢ Eligible Market: Trading is permitted in U.S. equities, ETFs, and options

➢ Portfolio: Each participant is assigned an individual $1,000,000 virtual portfolio

➢ Team Performance: Calculated as the combined total asset value of the three individual portfolios

➢ Duration: Trading is conducted over a three-month period (December 15, 2025 – March 13, 2026)

➢ Trading System: All trades must be executed using demo trading accounts provided by Interactive Brokers Securities

➢ Trading Platform: Participants must install the Interactive Brokers Trader Workstation (TWS) on their PC and use the account distributed on December 1, 2025 to conduct all trading activities.

➢ Stock Price Restriction: Trading in stocks priced at $1.00 or below is prohibited. This restriction is not enforced by the system; participants are responsible for monitoring and complying with this rule.

4.3 Margin & Leverage

4.3.1 Account Type

All participants are provided with a Reg T Margin Account. This account type allows leverage trading and short selling under U.S. Federal Reserve Regulation T rules.

4.3.2 Margin Requirements

Long Positions (Buying Stock)

Requirement	Rate	Max Leverage
Intraday Initial Margin	25%	4x
Intraday Maintenance Margin	25%	4x
Overnight (Reg T End of Day)	50%	2x

Short Positions (Short Selling)

Requirement	Rate	Max Leverage
Intraday Initial Margin	30%	~3.3x
Intraday Maintenance Margin	30%	~3.3x
Overnight (Reg T End of Day)	50%	2x

Note: Although the theoretical maximum is ~3.3x based on 30% margin, the system limits short leverage to 2x to reduce margin call frequency.

Example 1: Leverage Calculation

With a $1,000,000 portfolio, you can purchase up to $4,000,000 worth of stock during trading hours (4x leverage). However, you must reduce your position to $2,000,000 or less by the end of the trading day to meet the 50% overnight requirement.

4.3.3 Overnight Requirements

Under Regulation T, all positions held overnight must meet the 50% margin requirement. This is checked at 15:50 ET (Eastern Time) each trading day.

Example 2: Intraday to Overnight Transition

Time	Position	Margin Required	Your Equity	Status
10:00 AM	Buy $3,000,000 stock	$750,000 (25%)	$1,000,000	✅ OK
3:50 PM	Still holding $3,000,000	$1,500,000 (50%)	$1,000,000	❌ Margin Violation

In this scenario, you must either sell $1,000,000 worth of stock before 3:50 PM ET, or face automatic liquidation.

4.3.4 Liquidation (Forced Selling)

Important: IBKR does not issue margin calls. There is no warning email or phone call before liquidation. If your account fails to meet margin requirements, positions are automatically liquidated immediately.

Automatic liquidation occurs when your account fails to meet margin requirements. There are two main triggers:

Trigger 1: Maintenance Margin Violation

If your Net Liquidation Value falls below the maintenance margin requirement, liquidation may occur immediately in real-time.

Trigger 2: SMA (Special Memorandum Account) Violation

SMA is a credit line used to track Reg T compliance. IBKR checks your SMA balance at 15:50 ET each trading day. If your SMA is negative at this time, your positions will be liquidated to restore compliance.

Example 3: Liquidation Scenario

This scenario proceeds in three stages:

1. **Morning: Buy $2,000,000 stock**
   Your Equity: $1,000,000 / Position Value: $2,000,000 / Margin Required: $500,000 (25%) — Status: OK
2. **Afternoon: Stock drops 30%**
   Your Equity: $400,000 / Position Value: $1,400,000 / Margin Required: $350,000 (25%) — Status: Still OK
3. **Stock drops 40% in total**
   Your Equity: $200,000 / Position Value: $1,200,000 / Margin Required: $300,000 (25%) — Status: Liquidation

When your equity ($200,000) falls below the maintenance margin requirement ($300,000), IBKR will automatically sell a portion of your holdings to restore the margin balance.

4.3.5 Important Notes

➢ **Negative Cash Balance is Normal**: In a margin account, your cash balance may show negative when using leverage. This indicates borrowed funds and is a standard feature, not an error.

➢ **Short Selling Cash Increase**: When you short sell, the sale proceeds are credited to your cash balance. However, this cash is held as collateral and cannot be used freely until the position is closed.

➢ **Short Selling Risk**: With short positions, if the stock price rises, not only does your loss increase, but your maintenance margin requirement also increases. This double effect makes short selling higher risk.

➢ **Available Funds vs. Buying Power**: "Available Funds" shows what you can use for new trades. "Buying Power" shows the maximum value of securities you can purchase with leverage. These are different from your cash balance.

➢ **Monitor Your Positions**: Always be aware of the time (especially approaching 15:50 ET) and your margin utilization to avoid unexpected liquidation.

4.4 Reports

4.4.1 Point Allocation

- Total: 100 points
- Mandatory Final Report: 80 points
- Optional Monthly Reports: 20 points

4.4.2 Submission Requirements

➢ Format: PDF (A4)

➢ Language: English

➢ Length: No specified length requirement

4.4.3 Mandatory Final Report

The mandatory final report must be submitted by March 10, 2026, and should cover the three-month trading period (December 2025 – March 2026). The report must consist of the following three sections:

1. **Investment Approach Overview**: Outline your overall investment approach, strategy, and methodology during the three-month period.
2. **Key Investment Decisions**: Describe the most important investment decisions made during the competition period, including the rationale and thought process behind each decision.
3. **Performance Analysis & Learning**: Analyze your portfolio performance and reflect on what you learned from the trading experience, including successes, failures, and key takeaways.

4.4.4 Optional Monthly Reports

Teams may submit monthly reports during the competition period (December, January, February) to document their progress, strategy adjustments, and insights. These reports are optional but can earn up to 20 points total.

- **Content**: Monthly reports should primarily outline your investment strategy for the upcoming month. You may also include progress updates, strategy adjustments, and key insights from the current month.
- **Submission**: Monthly reports must be submitted by the 22nd of each respective month.

4.5 Prohibited Activities

➢ Latency Arbitrage: Exploiting delays between real-time accounts and third-party delayed price feeds

➢ Use of Insider Information: Engaging in trades based on non-public, material information

➢ Market Manipulation: Any attempt to distort market prices or trading volume, including coordinated or deceptive trading practices

➢ Other Misconduct: Any activities deemed to undermine the fairness or integrity of the competition

Penalty:

Violation of any of the above prohibited activities, if confirmed by the organizers, will result in immediate disqualification from the competition and forfeiture of all prize eligibility.

5. Assessment

Reports will be evaluated by two distinguished judges with deep expertise in investment strategy and portfolio management.

Judge Mr. Nobuhiko Shimura

A seasoned investment strategist and portfolio manager with over 25 years of experience across Japan, the UK, and global markets. Mr. Shimura has provided expertise in equity investment, asset management, and financial advisory, working with both institutional and individual investors. His career includes roles such as Chief Strategist at First Partners Inc., Founder & CEO of Skye Investment Management Corporation, and Visiting Scholar at Stanford University's Asia-Pacific Research Center. Mr. Shimura's track record encompasses bottom-up global equity analysis, high-volume trading operations, and the integration of AI and ETF strategies. He is a certified Investment Management professional and the author of "How the World's Wealthy Are Making Returns."

Judge Mr. Yasuji Yamanaka

Mr. Yamanaka is the founder of Ascendant Inc., Director (Compliance Officer) of Trilogy Inc., and Representative Director of the Financial Literacy Association of Japan. He formerly served as Director at UP-FRONT Inc., Deputy General Manager at Nikko Citi Trust Bank, and VP & Manager (proprietary trading) at Bank of America. With extensive practical experience and compliance expertise, he is widely active in both Japan's capital markets and global markets.

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6. Prizes and Awards

With a team participation fee of $100, participants have the chance to win prizes and benefits totaling $15,000 in value. Prizes are provided in the form of equivalent products and services, rather than cash.

6.1 Award Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for any award, teams must fulfill all of the following requirements:

➢ Payment of participation fee by the designated deadline

➢ At least one team member must attend both the Opening Ceremony and Closing Ceremony (held online via Zoom)

➢ Submission of the mandatory final report by March 10, 2026

6.2 Four Award Categories

The competition recognizes outstanding performance across four distinct award categories, each highlighting different aspects of investment excellence.

6.2.1 Overall Performance Award (Team)

Evaluated solely based on investment performance (the percentage change in the team's combined portfolio value during the competition period; reports are not included in the evaluation)

1st Place:

- Round-trip airfare for 3 team members to Japan
- A one-year paid TradingView Premium account
- Dinner with representatives from sponsoring company Webull Securities

2nd Place:

- A one-year paid TradingView Premium account

3rd Place:

- A six-month paid TradingView Premium account

6.2.2 Report Award (Team)

Evaluated solely based on reports (the mandatory final report, optional monthly reports, and actual portfolio management).

Assessments will be conducted fairly and from multiple perspectives by two experienced judges with backgrounds at major securities firms.

Prize:

- Round-trip airfare for 3 team members to Japan
- Dinner with judges Mr. Nobuhiko Shimura and Mr. Yasuji Yamanaka

6.2.3 Most Valuable Player Award (Individual)

Presented to the individual who achieves the best performance (excluding the overall winning team).

Prize:

- Round-trip airfare for 1 person to Japan
- Invitation to a party hosted by Forward Investment Club, a student investment community at Waseda University, Japan

6.2.4 Options Trading Award (Team)

Granted by Webull Securities Co. Ltd. to the team who demonstrated excellence in options trading, evaluated based on both options trading performance and the quality of each team's report on their options trading strategies.

Prize:

- Dinner with representatives from sponsoring company Webull Securities

Note: This dinner is a networking opportunity, not a sales or business solicitation. Information about the attending Webull representatives will be shared with winners in advance.

6.3 Prize Details

6.3.1 Airfare

- JPSI will procure tickets on your behalf based on the date and time specified at least 3 months in advance.
- Extremely high seasons, such as peak travel periods, may not be accepted.
- Other methods of ticket procurement are not accepted due to the involvement of sponsoring companies.

6.3.2 Award Variations

Each award category is distinct and recognizes different aspects of investment excellence. To ensure fairness, no team or individual may receive more than one award.

7. Communication Hub

During the competition period, all official announcements from JPSI will be communicated through WhatsApp groups. This includes regular performance rankings, important updates, schedule changes, and responses to participant questions.

Participants must join the official WhatsApp group and check it regularly to ensure they receive all necessary information.

8. Sponsors

8.1 Interactive Brokers Securities (IBKR)

A leading online brokerage firm offering institutional-level trading infrastructure and access to global markets.

For WIC 2025, Interactive Brokers Securities (IBKR) supports the competition by providing demo trading accounts and professional-grade trading systems.

8.2 TradingView Inc.

One of the world's leading charting and trading platform, trusted by over 100 million traders and investors worldwide.

For WIC 2025, TradingView Inc. provides all registered participants with premium account access and full use of its advanced charting tools during the competition period. Additionally, top-performing teams will receive extended premium subscriptions as prizes.

8.3 Webull Securities Co. Ltd.

A fast-growing U.S.-based digital trading platform offering commission-free trading in stocks, ETFs, and options.

For WIC 2025, Webull Securities Co. Ltd. sponsors the Options Trading Award and additionally supports the competition through venue and facility arrangements.