2026 American Society of Civil Engineers® Concrete Canoe Competition™

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



September 2, 2025

Subject: Request for Proposals — 2025-2026 Concrete Canoe

To: ASCE Student Chapters and Concrete Canoe Teams

September is a time for new beginnings and change – it is the start of a new school year, leaf peepers begin their yearly migration to New England to see the foliage, and new concrete canoe rules are released.



The Committee on Concrete Canoe Competitions (C4) is pleased to present the following Request for Proposals for the 2025-2026 competition year. We welcome all eligible ASCE chapters to prepare submissions for an opportunity to become the next concrete canoe champion next June at the 2026 ASCE Civil Engineering Student Championships at Fairmont State University in Fairmont, West Virginia.

You may not know this, but C4 is comprised of dedicated volunteers who care deeply about this competition and its continued success. Most of us are former competitors. Two of our members met their spouses through concrete canoe. I bring this up to really drive this home: we care about this a lot, and we know you do too.

Every year, C4 holds a multiple days long workshop at the Society-wide finals. We review feedback from students, judges, and volunteers that we have collected throughout the year. We drill down on what is working and what isn't. Our discussions (fueled by your feedback) directly influence the changes we make each year.

Surprisingly, C4 received a significant amount of feedback this past year asking to make the competition harder. We have humbly honored this request. The changes within will throw a wrench into well-established systems, which I believe will be great for competition.

The changes listed below are not all-encompassing. As always, read this year's RFP completely and carefully to understand what you are being asked to produce. Some of the changes include: re-formatting the RFP to increase visual accessibility, overhauling the project proposal deliverables, increasing the "bite" of material compliance deductions associated with the Materials Notebook, placing a minimum freeboard design constraint on the canoe itself, re-introducing the calculations appendix, restricting the format of presentation slides, restricting the use of pigments and stains, tweaking the final product display, imposing a maximum unit weight requirement, and completely overhauling the scoring system. Finally, the society-wide finals will feature the return of the 3-person, 600-meter endurance slalom race. There's a lot of change to digest here.

C4's yearly workshop is also when we discuss the overarching theme for the next competition. This year, that theme is stewardship. C4 has always had a responsibility to be good stewards of this competition – to help guide and develop students, with kindness and compassion, into the next generation of well-rounded and ethical engineers. This responsibility coupled with your very passionate feedback and C4's drive to always do right by the students (even if you don't always agree with us), is what has inspired the changes you will read about within.

C4 expects students to be good stewards of the competition as well. It is expected that students will 1) help guide and develop the next generation of competitors for their programs and 2) demonstrate kindness and compassion, for all.

In short, good vibes only. Good luck to you all. I hope to see you in Fairmont, WV!

Sincerely,

COMMITTEE ON CONCRETE CANOE COMPETITIONS

Patrick T. Raistrick, PE, M.ASCE

Chair, Committee on Concrete Canoe Competitions

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INTRODUCTION

Since the early 1970s, ASCE student chapters have been building and racing concrete canoes. While designs and mixes have evolved, the tradition of teamwork, camaraderie, and spirited competition remains constant. All participants, including teams, associates, and volunteer judges, are expected to uphold and enhance this tradition.

Concrete Canoe Competition Objectives:

- Provide civil engineering students with hands-on experience and leadership skills in concrete mix design and project management.
- Highlight the versatility and durability of concrete as a construction material.
- Promote concrete technology and its applications to students, educators, and the industry.
- Raise awareness of ASCE's and national sponsors' commitment to civil engineering education.
- Showcase civil engineering as a vital and innovative profession to industry leaders and the public.
- Encourage lifelong ASCE membership among students, professionals, and faculty.

While the competition focuses on learning and gaining technical and social experience, students are on the brink of becoming practicing engineers, contributing to projects essential to society. Ethics, professionalism, civility, and respect are crucial to the competition's success, and ASCE expects all participants to adhere to these standards. ASCE is committed to maintaining the quality of this competition and improving future ones.

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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS (ASCE)



The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) is the oldest national engineering society in the United States. Founded in 1852 with 12 members, the Society was created to disseminate information among engineers building a young nation's roads, canals, bridges, and railroads.

Today, ASCE is a global organization with more than 160,000 members, including international members residing in 177 countries outside the United States. Individual professional engineers rather than companies or organizations hold membership. The members are organized geographically into ten regions, 106 sections, 160 branches, 130 Younger Member Groups, and 447 student chapters. Student Chapters sponsor meetings, educational outreach, symposia, student competitions, social events, and other activities to help future engineers better prepare for their careers. Numerous scholarships and awards are made available for deserving students of civil engineering, and a variety of Society-wide finals competition opportunities are held so students have a platform to compete with other students from around the world.

A Board of Direction governs the Society. The Board, which includes ASCE officers and representatives elected by the membership, establishes all policies for the organization. A staff of 250 implements the policies; most staff work at ASCE International Headquarters in Reston, Virginia.

For more information, visit http://www.asce.org.

R. JOHN CRAIG MEMORIAL AWARD

The concept of a society-wide competition has existed for many years. In the mid-1980s, Dr. R. John Craig, a professor at the New Jersey Institute of Technology and member of the ASCE Committee on Student Services (CSS), and other members of CSS began to formulate plans for more uniform regional competitions. They formalized a plan to study the feasibility of a national competition with finalists from each region.

In the spring of 1985, Dr. Craig first brought his grand vision of the National Concrete Canoe Competition™ to ASCE. He was instrumental in bringing delegates from all over the country to meet one auspicious day in New York City at the ASCE National Headquarters executive conference. During this meeting, the feasibility of conducting a national competition was discussed, preliminary rules were prepared, and a formal recommendation to proceed was drafted.

In the fall of 1985, the preliminary rules were presented to the CSS. During the next year, discussions regarding sponsorship were conducted with Master Builders, Inc. and ASCE Headquarters. After almost two years of CSS debate, while meeting at the fall 1987 ASCE National Convention, the Educational Activities Committee (EdAC) adopted the preliminary rules. It established a standing task committee to implement the rules and requirements.

In the winter of 1987, just as the first National Competition was in sight, Dr. Craig was diagnosed with a rare inoperable brain tumor. He passed away just two months before his dream came to fruition. In June of 1988, the first National Concrete Canoe Competition™ was held in East Lansing, Michigan, hosted by Michigan State University.

In the spring of 1989, CSS approved the formation of a permanent subcommittee to ensure the continuation of the National Concrete Canoe Competition™. Through the efforts and dedication of individuals like Dr. R. John Craig, the National Concrete Canoe Competition™ has become a perennial favorite event for tens of thousands of students.

In that spirit, ASCE has dedicated the Coed Sprint Race as a memorial to the teamwork and dedication of Dr. R. John Craig. It is our distinct honor to present the *R. John Craig Memorial Award* to the school that best exemplifies the spirit and cooperative ideals of the Competition by placing first in the Coed Sprint Race each year.

MIKE CARNIVALE, III, SPIRIT OF THE COMPETITION AWARD

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) presents the Mike Carnivale, III, Spirit of the Competition Award to the team that best exemplifies the values of camaraderie, teamwork, professionalism, and FUN! This award honors the legacy of Mike Carnivale, who was an integral part of the ASCE Concrete Canoe Competition for 20 years. As a passionate student competitor, dedicated volunteer, and former Chair of the Committee on National Concrete Canoe Competitions from 2004-2006, Mike made significant contributions to the competition.

Even after his tenure, he continued to support the event as a corresponding member, developing rules and guiding students until his untimely passing in 2022. In recognition of his enduring impact, ASCE is privileged to dedicate the Spirit of the Competition Award in his memory. This award serves as a tribute to Mike's passion, leadership, and unwavering commitment, and it is ASCE's distinct honor to present it to the school that best embodies these cherished values.

SPIRIT OF THE COMPETITION

The Committee on Concrete Canoe Competitions (C4) acknowledges and values the competitive spirit exhibited by teams participating in this event year after year. The drive to win stems from a deep understanding of the material, desire for innovative problem-solving, and crafting compelling messages. This intrinsic motivation is vital for advancing the industry in a world that continually demands creativity and uniqueness. However, it is essential that this competitive drive does not overshadow the commitment to learning, growth, and the development of well-rounded engineers and individuals. Therefore, C4 aims to define the Spirit of the Competition clearly by aligning it with the <u>ASCE Code of Ethics</u>.

Section 3.c: Engineers represent their professional qualifications and experience truthfully.

Throughout the nearly year-long competition, it is expected and understood that emotions can run high. Nevertheless, engineers are responsible for always presenting themselves as level-headed, fact-based, and unbiased toward any particular outcome. The task is to provide the best solution given the constraints and to calmly inform clients, teammates, and the public of any restrictions faced, opinions disagreed with, and limits on resources, including withdrawing from situations deemed unethical or not beneficial to the public being served.

Section 3.d: Engineers reject practices of unfair competition

Fairness, coupled with safety, serves as the foundation of this competition. C4 establishes rules and processes that allow each team, regardless of size or history, a fair opportunity to showcase their product. When individuals or teams violate the intent of the rules, the entire competition's foundation becomes unstable, and the trust established between C4, volunteer judges, and competitors erodes. It is recognized that teams invest significant time, energy, and passion into this competition. For that, C4 expresses gratitude and respect. Teams must reciprocate by trusting that C4 and volunteer judges perform each task and make each decision as fairly as possible.

Section 3.d: Engineers uphold the honor, integrity, and dignity of the profession.

Elements of this competition are founded on the principle that volunteer judges and C4 take a team's word at face value. As in industry, once trust is broken, it can be nearly impossible to revive. Teams should strive to always present themselves honestly and be willing, as C4 and volunteer judges are, to change opinions when presented with new information.

Section 3.e: Engineers promote mentorship and knowledge-sharing equitably with current and future engineers.

The community fostered at these competitions is important and unique. Competitors are expected to not only network with those around them but also to promote a culture of knowledge sharing with peers, volunteer judges, and C4, so that collective knowledge can be used to leave the competition, and in time, the industry, better than it was found.

The volunteer judges and/or C4 may take disciplinary action, including warnings, point deductions, or disqualification of a team or entry for the team's behavior, the team's faculty advisors, or any persons associated with the team that violates the Spirit of the Competition. The volunteer judges and/or C4 have the final authority on this matter.

1.0 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

1.1 Problem Statement

C4, as part of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), is considering the purchase of a concrete canoe design intended for regional lake and river transportation. To achieve this, C4 invites ASCE student chapters, referred to as "Teams", to respond to this Request for Proposals as described within. Interested teams shall:

- 1. **Develop and deliver a Proposal and Qualifications Package** detailing the project scope and what the team proposes for the Project (see *Section 5.4* for required components).
- 2. Develop and deliver a Technical Execution Package detailing the technical aspects of the team's proposal submission (see Section 5.5 for required components).
- 3. Construct a Project Prototype and Display aimed at educating C4 and the judges about the canoe's design, materials, fabrication process, and durability.
- **4. Deliver a Technical Presentation** that illustrates details about their team, design, processes, and/or materials chosen. Technical presentations are permitted to focus on specific elements of the project and/or provide an overview of the team's entire project.
- 5. Participate in a Performance Demonstration including 200- and 400-meter sprints with 180-degree turns and a 200-meter slalom course (600-meter endurance slalom at Society-wide) to demonstrate performance and prototype durability.

C4 prioritizes the canoe's innovative design, fabrication, aesthetics, and paddling performance (maneuverability and speed) over production costs. However, teams should aim to minimize costs where possible and provide realistic estimates for production by conducting research, design analysis, and material testing.

To ensure fairness, C4 has acquired judges to serve as a selection committee to identify the most qualified teams. Teams will first attend their student symposium for an initial evaluation. The top qualifying teams from each student symposium will be invited to the ASCE Civil Engineering Student Championships hosted by Fairmont State University in Fairmont, West Virginia in June 2026 for a final evaluation and award.

C4 encourages teams to collaborate with local ASCE professional Sections, Branches, and Younger Member Groups to enhance their project. ASCE and C4 will assist in making these connections and developing contacts.

1.2 Contextual Comments / C4 Commentary

Contextual comments will be presented throughout this RFP in the following format:

This is a sample of a contextual comment. It has a visually distinct style to help stand out against the RFP's requirements. These serve as commentary to help describe C4's intent behind certain sections. These comments are also used to place emphasis on certain statements. Don't skip reading these!

1.3 Request for Proposal (RFP) Documents

The following documents, as part of this RFP, will be provided to teams:

Table 1. Request for Proposal Documents

Document	Release Date
Request for Proposal (this document)	September 2, 2025
Mix Design & Material Compliance Template (MS Excel spreadsheet)	September 2, 2025
Detailed Cost Breakdown Template (MS Excel spreadsheet)	September 2, 2025
Materials Notebook Submittal Template (Folder Structure)	September 2, 2025
Hull Thickness/Reinforcement & Percent Open Area Template (MS Excel spreadsheet)	September 2, 2025
Request for Information Summary	Early February 2026

If major clarifications are needed, RFP addendums may be released. Release announcements would be posted at the following locations:

- 1. C4 Facebook page
- 2. ASCE Concrete Canoe website

1.4 Request for Information (RFI)

Requests for Information (RFI) are opportunities for teams to request clarifications regarding stated rules or to request that material be allowed as an approved equal to a required standard. RFIs will be submitted via the RFI Submittal Form link below. Teams are encouraged to be mindful of which sections are for C4 use only and which are for global release. Official responses will be posted to the C4 Facebook page. An RFI Summary will be aggregated and released in early February 2026.

RFI Submittal Form

The cut-off date for submitting an RFI is Monday, January 26, 2026.

Note: RFI responses from previous years do not carry over.

In the spirit of the competition, C4 does not provide "approved equal" determinations for materials or provide clarifications privately. Any RFI submitted will be made public so that all teams have the same information, a process that mirrors the engineering profession's standard procedure. For any "approved equals" a team might seek to use, they must either prove its compliance independently or submit it for public knowledge.

2.0 WEBINARS

2.1 Live Webinars

C4 will host live webinars during the academic year to engage and communicate with the teams and prepare them for success. Participation in these webinars is highly encouraged, but not mandatory. Registration information will be posted on the C4 Facebook page.

Table 2. Live Webinar Schedule

Live Webinar	Planned Date
Competition Kick-off, Design Considerations, & Requests for Information (RFI)	September 18, 2025
Concrete Mix Design Calculations	October 16, 2025
Material Compliance (Materials Notebook Submittal)	October 30, 2025

Live webinars are not intended to be all-encompassing design solutions. They are designed to familiarize teams with overall processes and terminology (particularly with the concrete mix design calculations and structural analysis webinars). C4's intent is to provide teams with enough context about a given topic for the teams to conduct their own research and develop their own strategies.

2.2 Previously Recorded Webinars

C4 has hosted additional webinars in previous years, and the content is still relevant, even if it does not apply directly to the current year's RFP. See below for a list of previously hosted webinars, with associated links for viewing.

Note: These previously recorded webinars were created with a previous RFP in mind. Remember that the requirements can change from one year to the next. As always, be sure to refer to and comply with the requirements of the current year's RFP.

Table 3. Previously Recorded Webinars

Previously Recorded Webinar	Link
	Concrete Canoe Proposal Writing Webinar
Proposal Format How-To	(https://players.brightcove.net/75114961001/SFtvStcMPG_default/index.html?videoId=6
	<u>315676301112</u>)
	Presentations 101 The Art of Persuasion
How to Give a Presentation	(https://players.brightcove.net/75114961001/SFtvStcMPG_default/index.html?videoId=6
	<u>321489682112</u>)
	A Guide to Infographics: The Art of Simplicity
Infographics	(https://players.brightcove.net/75114961001/SFtvStcMPG_default/index.html?videoId=6
	<u>342982537112</u>)
Structural Analysis	2024 Structural Analysis Webinar

3.0 ELIGIBILITY

It is expected that teams foster an inclusive culture and treat everyone with dignity and respect.

3.1 Registered Participants

A team can have up to 10 participants, with no more than 5 identifying as she/her/hers and no more than 5 identifying as he/him/his. Participants who identify as they/them/their or do not align strictly with either set of pronouns can choose to compete in either the men's or women's races and must stick with that choice for the entire competition. All participants must meet the requirements listed in *Exhibit 3 - Student Chapter and Participant Eligibility*. **No one is allowed to challenge a participant's gender identity.**

Only registered participants can represent the team in presentations, races, or other activities. Substitutions are allowed until on-site registration, except in special circumstances. Each team must designate two registered participants as captains.

Substitutions after on-site registration are possible for extenuating circumstances outside of a team's control (for example, illness, injury, etc.) at the judges' discretion.

Note: C4 strongly encourages students not to paddle if they have an injury and strongly encourages judges to find fair solutions for all participating teams in these scenarios.

3.2 Levels of Competition & Student Chapter Eligibility

There are two levels of competition: the ASCE Student Symposia and the Society-wide Finals Competition. The Society-wide Finals Competition will take place during the ASCE Civil Engineering Student Championships in June 2026 at Fairmont State University in Fairmont, West Virginia.

Teams can be invited to the Society-wide Finals Competition by placing as the top qualifying team at their assigned ASCE Student Symposia Concrete Canoe Competitions or as the host school of the Society-wide Finals Competition.

All qualifying teams must represent an ASCE Student Chapter and meet the requirements outlined in *Exhibit 3 – Student Chapter and Participant Eligibility*.

After each student symposium, ASCE will verify competition scores and the eligibility of each participating student chapter. Teams will only be invited to the Society-wide Finals Competition once eligibility is confirmed.

3.3 Available Wild Cards to Society-Wide Finals

When possible, in addition to the top qualifying team from each Conference, ASCE may select Wild Card teams through a random draw to compete in the Concrete Canoe Society-wide Finals. The Wild Card process was established to provide broader access to the Championships, allowing teams who might not otherwise have the chance to participate, to gain experience and learn from established competitors, thereby improving their skills for the future. To be eligible as a Wild Card team, the team must:

- Rank in the top third (1/3) of all Annual Student Chapter Reports,
- Submit a Statement of Interest, signed by the Department Chair and ASCE Faculty Advisor, and
- Finish in the top half (1/2) of their respective Symposium Competition.

No Conference may have more than one Wild Card team selected in a given year, and a team cannot be chosen as a Wild Card in consecutive years.

4.0 SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS & DEADLINES

Teams shall meet all submission deadlines listed below. Submissions not received by the deadlines or partial/incomplete submissions will be considered non-responsive and subject to a deduction. Symposia host schools shall not change or amend any of the submission requirements. If a host school does, teams are directed to only follow the requirements listed below. Refer to *Exhibit 1 – Summary of Important Dates/Deadlines*.

4.1 Conference/Team Folders

ASCE uses a submission platform called Cerberus Web Client. All digital competition deliverables must be submitted on this platform. Submissions outside of this platform will be considered non-responsive and will not be considered.

The main folder (link provided below) contains a sub-folder for each Student Symposium, and within each Symposium Folder is a folder for each school. Please note that these folders will only allow files to be uploaded and viewed, no file deletions will be permitted. Refer to Exhibit 2 – How to Navigate Folders and Upload Submissions for directions.

https://upload.asce.org/public/folder/drjhty1mmkqvmhvtqfm4dq/2026%20Concrete%20Canoe%20Submissions

4.2 Proposal and Qualifications Package

Proposal and Qualifications Package responses shall be uploaded to their respective folders <u>no later than</u> <u>5:00PM EDT (Eastern) Monday, November 3, 2025</u>. See *Exhibit 12 – Pre-Competition Submittals* for required templates and forms.

For real-world projects, project owners typically solicit interested parties to respond to a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). This happens before you begin work on any formal proposals/deliverables. RFQ responses help the Owner gauge interest in the project, evaluate the experience and qualifications of prospective bidders, and assess whether they meet other outlined requirements. The Proposal and Qualifications Package process described within is designed to emulate this real-world scenario.

4.3 Technical Execution Package, Mix Design Sheets, & Materials Notebook

For Student Symposia Competitions, submittals listed in Table 4 must be uploaded to their respective folders by the stated deadline. **No hard copies are required for ASCE Student Symposia.**

For Society-wide Finals Competition, digital versions of the submittals listed in Table 4 must be uploaded to their respective folders according to the instructions in the Letter of Invitation by the stated deadline. Six (6) bound hard copies of the Technical Execution Package must be received by the stated deadline, at the following address:

ASCE Student Programs 1801 Alexander Bell Drive Reston, VA 20191 Attn: Concrete Canoe

Table 4. Required Format and Deadlines for Competition Submittals

Submittal		Student Symposium	Society-wide Finals Deadline	
Name	Required Format	Deadline (Digital Submission)	Digital Submission	Hard Copies
Technical				
Execution	PDF			
Package		Thursday,	Wednesday,	Received no later
Mix Design	Event	February 12, 2026	May 13, 2026	than Wednesday,
Sheets	Excel	by 5:00PM EST	by 5:00PM EDT	May 13, 2026
Materials	Excel (for summary table)			
Notebook	and PDF (for MTDS)			

File names should follow the format: "School Name – Canoe Name – Document – Year" (e.g., "South Central Louisiana State University – Mud Dawg – Technical Execution Package – 2026").

Note: The school name must match across all submitted files. Failure to adhere to this format may result in a deduction in scoring.

Note: For both the Student Symposia Competitions and the Society-wide Finals Competition, the digital submission shall be considered the official and governing version of all required materials listed in Table 4. In the event of any discrepancies between the digital and hard copy submittals (where applicable), the digital version will take precedence. Any omissions, formatting issues, or inconsistencies in the digital files may result in scoring deductions, as determined by the judging panel.

5.0 PROJECT PROPOSAL DELIVERABLES

Each team shall provide their *Proposal and Qualifications Package, Technical Execution Package, Mix Design Sheets*, and *Materials Notebook*, which details their approach to meeting the requirements of the RFP solicitation as it pertains to the various areas related to the design and construction of the concrete canoe.

These four distinct deliverables shall be considered the team's Project Proposal.

Reference documents can be found at the link below:

https://upload.asce.org/public/folder/kin5_j1z70kn65puv1hhpw/AAA%20Reference%20Documents%20and%20Webinars

One of the greatest challenges in the engineering profession today is the art of stating a complex idea, solution, or decision simply. From city council meetings to public hearings, engineers are increasingly asked to address the society they work for in terms they can understand.

The setup of this RFP aims to aid each team in learning the importance of simple visuals and concise writing to help others understand complex technical material. The sections below are separated so that each portion of the report serves a different subset of people engineers can expect to interact with.

Table 5. General Requirements

Component	Requirement
Page Size	8-1/2 in x 11 in (unless otherwise specified below)
Margins	½ in on all sides (except for MTDS)
Font	Times New Roman, Arial, Calibri, or Aptos, 12 pt., normal width, single-spaced
Headings/Subheadings	Any legible font and size equal to or larger than body text
Headers/Footers	Within margins, any legible font and size equal to or larger than body text
Dividers	Optional for sections and appendices
Units	Report all dimensions in English units

5.1 Pictures, Figures, Graphics, and Infographics

Pictures, renderings, illustrations, graphs, figures, etc. are permitted and encouraged.

- No use of copyrighted or trademarked materials is permitted without written approval from the copyright or trademark owner.
- Items from publications must be properly referenced.
- Items developed and owned by the 2025-2026 team do not need to be referenced. Items developed and
 owned by a previous year's team (for example, photographs depicting a construction method) can be used if
 they represent what is being proposed for this submission and are properly cited in the proposal as previous
 teams' work.
- Hyperlinks and QR codes are not permitted.

5.2 Plagiarism

Plagiarism of any kind, intentional or unintentional, will not be tolerated and is grounds for disqualification.

Per Merriam-Webster, plagiarism is:

"To [use] and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own; to use (another's production) without crediting the source."

Submitted proposals may be screened for plagiarism at the discretion of the judging panel and/or the C4. If plagiarism is suspected, C4 shall make the final determination regarding disqualification, not the judging panel.

If it is determined that the team has plagiarized, the team will be disqualified from competition.

Additional guidelines related to plagiarism:

- All language included in the proposal, presentation, display, and any other incidental deliverables shall
 reflect work completed within the current academic year, unless otherwise referenced and properly cited as
 work completed in a prior year. This includes but is not limited to text, pictures, renderings, illustrations,
 graphs, figures, etc. Failure to properly cite work completed in a prior year will be considered plagiarism.
- The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) and natural language processing models (NLP), such as OpenAI's ChatGPT, is neither encouraged nor discouraged by C4. However, if such tools are used, all instances (including any images created by an AI program) must be clearly cited as work completed by the respective AI/NLP. Failure to cite these sources will also be considered plagiarism.

Framing the rules and regulations of this competition as a Request for Proposals is intended to provide teams with familiarity and experience with how the competitive bid process works in industry and for teams to articulate in plain language how the deliverables were created within the current academic year. It should be noted that while the framework is that of a competitive bid process, this is still an academic competition. As such, teams are expected to adhere to the principles of academic integrity.

By participating in the 2026 ASCE Concrete Canoe Competition, teams agree to adhere to the ethical publishing standards in ASCE Journals. As ASCE is a Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) member, all project proposals submitted to the C4 must follow the guidelines recommended by COPE and the requirements outlined above. ASCE reserves the right to publish any project proposal submitted during the competition exclusively and will not review or publish any proposal that violates the ASCE or COPE ethical guidelines.

Proper AI/NLP Citation Method

Citation of the AI and NLP shall be presented in the format provided below.

Format: Author. (Date). Name of tool (Version of tool). URL

Example Bibliography: OpenAI. (2025). ChatGPT (Mar 14 version). https://chat.openai.com/chat

Example In-Text Citation: (OpenAl, 2025)

Verification of Plagiarism

C4 will use an online plagiarism detection program that compares submitted documents against a comprehensive database of internet sources and academic work from all institutions. This program identifies similarities such as relocated sections of text, slight modifications to existing phrasing, or reuse of larger content blocks. Any verification of plagiarized content through this tool is grounds for disqualification as stated above.

5.3 Text Recycling

While text recycling may be permissible in some professional and industry contexts, it will not be allowed for this competition. It is expected that teams draft their own proposal each year that accurately attributes work done by the team and work done by others, including previous teams.

Text recycling is defined as:

Reusing an organization's writing from a prior deliverable without proper citation.

As such, participants must ensure that any reused content from past work is appropriately cited. C4 has provided documentation under separate cover offering guidance on how teams can avoid text-recycling and, if used, how to cite it properly.

Recycled text that lacks citation will result in no-proposal points being awarded.

Verification of Text-Recycling

C4 will use an online program designed to compare documents from the same team against one another to verify any potential cases of text recycling. This program analyzes the similarities and differences between the text that is inclusive of relocating a block of text within the document, minor revisions to a previously used sentence or paragraph, and wholesale recycling of text. Any verification of text recycling via this program will result in no proposal points awarded.

5.4 Proposal and Qualifications Package

The Proposal and Qualifications Package consists of four required components, all of which must be submitted by the deadline listed in Exhibit 1. These documents provide the foundation for evaluating each team's readiness to proceed with full proposal development.

The sections outlined below in Table 6 are expected to be in the order presented and contain all requested information described in the following subsections.

Table 6. Required Components & Page Restrictions for Proposal and Qualifications Package

Component	Page Limits and Size Requirement(s)
Letter of Intent and Qualification	See Form Template in Exhibit 11
Proposed Project Budget	1 page (8-1/2 in x 11) - See Exhibit 7
Proposed Project Schedule	1 page (11 in x 17 in)

All four components must be submitted in their required formats to be considered responsive. Missing or incomplete items may result in deductions as outlined in Section 10.

5.4.1 Letter of Intent and Qualification Form

A formal letter acknowledging the team's intent to participate, submitted using the template provided in *Exhibit* 11, that is accompanied by a fillable form (see *Exhibit* 11) that captures key team details, eligibility, and basic qualifications. Form responses shall include the following topic areas:

1. Project Scope (250 words max)

Outline the team's proposed scope and identify the anticipated technical challenges related to the design, testing, and construction of a concrete canoe. The submission should reflect a thorough understanding of the RFP and present a clear, structured plan for development of the canoe prototype with consideration for hull performance, structural capacity, material development, constructability, and lifecycle durability. Teams are expected to demonstrate a methodical approach grounded in engineering fundamentals.

2. Project Goals (300 words max)

Present the team's goals for both the canoe prototype and overall Team development. Goals should address technical performance, collaboration strategies, key development milestones, and proposed innovations. Clearly articulate how the proposed innovations or methods will deliver tangible value to the project.

3. Project Management Plan (250 words max)

Present the team's proposed project management scheme and planning process related to budget, schedule, scope, and risk management. List anticipated major milestone activities and how these were determined and will be achieved. Present the proposed critical path activities and describe how this critical path was determined. Identify anticipated hurdles that pose the most risk to critical path activities and how these hurdles affect the planning process.

4. Health and Safety Program (250 words max)

Summarize the team's proposed health and safety protocols during material testing and construction phases. Reference applicable university safety guidelines or department policies, and clearly describe how

these were reviewed, adopted, and implemented in the project setting. Include safety planning for equipment use, material handling, and lab access.

5. Quality Assurance/Quality Control Program (250 words max)

Define quality assurance and quality control. Discuss how the team proposes to use assurance and control independently and in conjunction as part of an overall QA/QC program related to all parts of the project scope as defined in this RFP.

6. Sustainability Overview (250 words max)

Using one or more of the three pillars of sustainability — social, economic, and environmental — discuss the team's proposed approach to sustainability. Provide specific examples of proposed practices or decisions that relate to the selected pillar(s) and describe their direct or indirect impacts.

7. Key Personnel Role Descriptions (250 words max)

Each team shall submit a Key Personnel section which will serve as a narrative introduction to the key roles your Team feels will be responsible for each aspect of the project. The purpose of this section is to communicate the technical strengths and leadership roles within the team prior to submission of the formal Team Organization Chart.

In industry, a narrative personnel section is often included in proposal packages to summarize key qualifications and project relevance before detailed resumes or org charts are reviewed in the final deliverable. This helps proposal reviewers quickly assess team competency and role alignment.

5.4.2 Proposed Project Budget

Submit an estimated proposed budget showing labor hours and material costs using the provided MS Excel template. This budget should correspond with the proposed scope and include engineering and testing hours, deliverable materials, and other major cost items. Budgets should be based on realistic assumptions and industry-representative rates as provided in the RFP reference documents.

In industry, project managers are expected to use their understanding of the scope and deliverables to accurately predict the labor hours required to complete a project. This estimation must strike a careful balance, ensuring enough resources are allocated to perform the work thoroughly, while also remaining competitive in pricing. Overestimating hours can make a bid noncompetitive, especially in a proposal phase where multiple firms are vying for the same work. Underestimating, however, can lead to budget overruns and lost profitability. This section is intended to help teams simulate this balance, practicing how engineers use scope clarity, past experience, and informed assumptions to produce a budget that is both realistic and competitive.

5.4.3 Proposed Project Schedule

Provide a proposed schedule outlining the team's timeline from issuance of the Request for Proposal solicitation to the competition. At a minimum, include key decision points, research, development, testing, and fabrication phases, along with technical execution package development milestones. The schedule should align with the proposed scope and demonstrate an understanding of dependencies and critical path items.

5.5 Technical Execution Package

The sections outlined below in Table 7 are expected to be in the order presented and contain all requested information described in the following subsections. The team can use less than the specified page limit in each section but the specified page limits should not be exceeded.

Table 7. Required Components & Page Restrictions for Technical Execution Package

Component	Page Limits and Size Requirement(s)	
Front Cover	1 page	
Cover Letter	1 page	
Table of Contents	1 page	
Infographic	1 page (11 in x 17 in)	
Team Organizational Chart	1 page (either 8-1/2 in x 11 in OR 11 in x 17 in)	
Opening Statement	2 nogo	
Project Evolution and Adaptations	2 pages	
Hull Design and Analysis		
Development and Testing	7 pages	
Construction		
Detailed Cost Breakdown	2 pages	
Construction Drawings	2 pages	
Updated Project Schedule	1 page (11 in x 17 in)	
Appendix A – Bibliography	No page limit	
Appendix B – Hull Thickness/Reinforcement	2 nodes	
and Percent Open Area Calculations	2 pages	
Appendix C – Example Design Calculations	4 pages	
Appendix D – Proposal and Qualifications	Page limit requirements as listed in Section 5.4	
Package		
Appendix E – Supporting Documentation	No page limit	
Back Cover (Optional)	1 page (if provided)	

5.5.1 Front Cover

A front cover is required for both:

- Student Symposium competitions, where no hard copies are requested, teams should include the digitized PDF of their cover as a single page.
- Society-wide finals competition, where hard copies are required, the front cover of hard copies shall be single-sided. The backside of the front cover shall be left blank.

5.5.2 Cover Letter

In an official response to the C4 Request for Proposal solicitation, the following statements will be included. By signing the Cover Letter, the team agrees that:

- The hull design, concrete mixture design, reinforcement scheme, and construction of the prototype canoe have been performed in full compliance with the specifications outlined in the Request for Proposal.
- Material Technical Data Sheets (MTDS) and Safety Data Sheets (SDS) have been reviewed by the team for completeness and compliance.
- The team acknowledges receipt of the Request for Information (RFI) Summary and that their submissions comply with the responses provided.
- The anticipated registered participants are qualified student members and Society Student Members of ASCE and meet all eligibility requirements (including names and ASCE Society Member ID Numbers).
- All text generation AI/NLP algorithm uses are properly cited within the respective document.

The letter shall be signed by at least one (1) team captain and the ASCE Student Chapter Faculty Advisor, certifying that the information presented in the Proposal and Qualifications Package, Technical Execution Package, Mix Design Sheets, and Materials Notebook is valid. The team captain and faculty advisor's phone number and e-mail address shall be provided.

5.5.3 Table of Contents

List the various sections and appendices of the *Technical Execution Package*, including appropriate page numbers. A list of tables and figures may be provided but is not required.

5.5.4 Infographic

C4 requests an infographic that will serve as a general overview for this project and will be included on the project display (Section 7.2.4).

To aid in each team's infographic, C4 offers the following definition: Infographics are graphic visual representations of information, data, or knowledge intended to present information quickly and clearly.

Rather than block text (paragraphs), this one-page maximum is expected to rely heavily on illustrations, lists/tables, icons, and other graphical content.

The infographic must include the following, along with any additional relevant information the team deems appropriate:

School's Student Chapter Profile:

 Brief history, activities, awards, and other relevant details your team feels should be highlighted for your chapter.

Team's Innovative Features:

- Unique approach to the problem statement.
- How the team addressed the client's requirements outlined in the RFP and defined in their project scope.
- Innovative items that are specific to your team

Prototype Specifications:

- Dimensions: Length, Width, Depth, Thickness, Weight.
- Composite flexural strength (specify the age of testing).
- All reinforcement used (primary and secondary, type and name).
- Any flotation used (type/name and density, if applicable).

Concrete Mixture Specifications:

- Density: Wet (plastic) and oven-dried unit weights (for each mix).
- Concrete slump/spread and air content (for each mix).
- Compressive and tensile strength (specify the age of testing for each mix).

All properties shall be reported in English units to the accuracies outlined in the industry standards (e.g., ASTM C39, C138, C109, and C496, as examples) and as outlined in the table below.

Note: These shall be used as the official properties used for any compliance checks.

Table 8. Material Properties & Reported Accuracy

Property	Reported Accuracy (to the nearest)
Strength	10 psi
Density (hardened concrete)	1 lb/ft³
Density (fresh concrete)	0.1 lb/ft ³
Slump, Spread	1⁄4 in
Weight	1 lb
Air Content	0.1%

5.5.5 Team Organizational Chart

Provide team member names, including descriptions of the roles, tasks, or areas in which they contributed at any time during the project. Include the year (Fr., So., Jr., Sr., Grad or 1st year, 2nd year, 3rd year, 4th year, etc. as applicable) for all members. Indicate team captains. As appropriate, list advisors, sub-consultants, and other pertinent individuals.

5.5.6 Opening Statement

Provide an opening statement that highlights your team's overall achievements that makes your project stand out from the rest. At a minimum, the Opening Statement shall include the following sub-components:

1. Goals

Include a brief summary of the original project goals or performance targets set in the proposal and qualifications package for major deliverables. Indicate whether these goals were met, exceeded, or revised and explain why.

2. Innovations

Describe any notable innovations or unique approaches developed by the team during the course of the project and how those innovations helped achieve the team's project goals or make the end product "better". These may include, but are not limited to:

- New materials or mix designs
- New or improved approach to material evaluation
- New or original structural or construction techniques
- Project management tools or communication strategies
- Iterative processes that significantly improved performance or quality

"Better" is relative. Innovations should be framed as a comparison of the team's previous processes, designs, and methods to the present. C4 wants to see you discuss how your efforts this year are moving the needle **for your team**. C4 is not looking for comparisons to other teams in this section.

5.5.7 Project Evolution and Adaptations

This section outlines the key changes, adaptations, and refinements made since the team's initial Proposal and Qualifications Package submission. It reflects how the team responded to emerging challenges and opportunities while maintaining alignment with client (C4) expectations.

At a minimum, teams shall provide concise updates on each of the following project elements discussed in the original Proposal and Qualifications Package (as applicable) and/or describe the biggest changes and deviations from the original proposal that were encountered during development of the prototype:

- Project Management (scope, schedule, critical path, milestones, resource allocations, procurement, etc.)
- Health and Safety
- Quality Assurance/Quality Control
- Sustainability

The intent behind this section of the Technical Execution Package is for teams to take a retrospective look at their initial planning efforts and provide meaningful commentary about how the team adapted when aspects of those plans did not go smoothly.

This section should not be a regurgitation of the Proposal and Qualifications Package.

5.5.8 Hull Design and Analysis

The Hull Design and Analysis subsection shall contain the following sub-components:

- 1. Present the team's holistic design process and approach, along with related performance objectives.
- 2. Discuss the final design selections including hull geometry, overall shape, structural elements, and other notable features or innovations. These design decisions should be supported by relevant data where applicable.
- 3. Justify how the design meets performance goals such as stability, maneuverability, turning, and straight-line speed, as well as any other relevant criteria or constraints. Consider how the defined race routes impact hull design priorities, including any trade-offs made between speed, stability, and maneuverability.
- **4.** Describe the impact that refinements/alterations to the hull design have on the overall final product. Consider the following for discussion in the design proposal: how do changes to the hull design affect structural analysis, development and testing, and/or construction.

If comparisons are made to previous years, be sure to quantify the comparison to ensure proper understanding from the judges.

- 5. Present the team's structural analysis and detail the methods chosen for determining the following:
 - All load cases and highlight the governing load case(s)
 - Free-body diagram for the governing load case(s)
 - Minimum Required Strength: Maximum compressive (σ_c), tensile (σ_t), and punching shear stresses multiplied by any applicable Factors of Safety (FS) or Load Factors (LF). Provide justification and discussion for any applied FS or LF.
 - Critical section moment of inertia (I_x) and location of neutral axis.
 - Analysis methods used to calculate the hull's freeboard under four-person loading (see Section 6.2 for additional information)
 - If FEA or other 3D analysis is used, a discussion comparing the 2D analysis and FEA/3D analysis results and their differences is required.
- **6.** Example Calculations for the design and analysis shall be included in Appendix C. The calculations shall be performed in digital format no handwritten calculations shall be submitted in the Appendix. The use of programs such as, but not limited to, MathCAD®, Matlab® and Microsoft Excel™ to perform repetitive, routine calculations is allowed. The example calculations shall include at a minimum the following:
 - Hull Freeboard calculations
 - Structural calculations for the 2D analysis, which provide backup for the maximum moment and shear for the governing load case(s) with and without FS, LF, etc.
 - Moment of Inertia calculation
 - Maximum stress calculations
 - Hull punching shear (Per ACI)

Note: Failure to include all requested components of the Hull Design and Analysis sub-section as well as the requested example calculations in Appendix C will result in a deduction.

5.5.9 Development and Testing

Present the team's approach to planning, developing, researching, and testing the mix design and reinforcement selection to meet the requirements of this RFP. Additionally, present the development, research and testing of other materials to be used in canoe fabrication (i.e. mold materials, stains, sealers, pre/post tensioning elements. etc.) and how your team decided to use these specific materials. Refer to standard test methods where appropriate. Sustainable products should be highlighted in any materials being used. At a minimum, teams shall provide the following:

1. Relating to Mix Design Selection:

- Identify and present the team's process in developing trial mixes and the reasons for altering each trial mix (i.e. structural properties, workability, weight, etc.)
- Quantitative test results of mixtures tested and selected.
- Concrete and mix constituents considered and selected.
- Physical properties and composition of the proposed aggregate sources, including specific gravity, absorption, and particle size.
- Admixtures tested and their effects on concrete properties/behavior.

2. Relating to Reinforcement Selection:

- Primary (and secondary if applicable) reinforcement considered, tested, and used, and layering scheme
 chosen and determined by composite testing results. Provide detailed reasoning behind the
 reinforcement selections made and layering scheme chosen, including composite test results.
- Discuss any pre/post tensioning elements used and discuss the reasoning for using them.

3. Relating to Other Materials or Methods Used in Fabrication:

- Discussion of the research, testing and selection of other materials used in the canoe fabrication.
- New or innovative ideas, materials, and methods implemented in developing the concrete composite and the impacts on budget, schedule, and safety.

4. Composite Mix Design Conclusions

- Discuss the composite mix (reinforcement and concrete mix) in terms of stress (shear and bending) and compare it to the structural analysis performed for the anticipated forces and required design stresses.
- Provide the Demand-to-Capacity Ratio(s): Relate the minimum required strength to the concrete mix design's actual strength (as determined via testing), expressed as a percentage. Discuss how any reserve capacity (capacity above and beyond the minimum required strength) in the mix design is justified.

C4 would like to see elaboration behind the process of how you came to conclusions on the materials selected for the creation of your final product. Additionally, the new or innovative ideas, materials and methods implemented can be team specific year to year and comparison discussion should be made as such.

5.5.10 Construction

Describe the construction process and include new or innovative ideas implemented in the construction of the mold and canoe construction and their impacts on budget, schedule, and safety. Additionally, elaborate on the QA/QC measures implemented throughout the construction of the canoe. Include, at a minimum, the following sections. Sub-bullets are provided for reference.

1. Mold Development

- Material selection and rationale for mold formwork
- Fabrication techniques and geometry accuracy
- Reusability or sustainability considerations

2. Concrete Batching and Placement

- Batch sizing, pre-batching (if applicable), and order of operations
- Placement sequence and techniques to minimize cold joints, segregation, or air entrapment

3. Reinforcement Placement

- Detail the placement process, including how reinforcement was positioned within the mold and secured to maintain location during concrete placement.
- Explain the integration of reinforcement with the concrete mix, including layering schemes and the sequence of placement to ensure bond development and prevent shifting or segregation.
- If applicable, describe any post-tensioning procedures, including tendon layout, anchorage locations, timing of tensioning, and method used to apply force.

4. Curing Process and Demolding Process

- Curing duration and method (e.g., wet cure, curing compound)
- Demolding procedure and timing

5. Concrete Finishing

- Surface treatments, grinding, sanding, or polishing
- Application of graphics or visual enhancements
- Use of pigments, stains, or sealers

Remember the wise words of Fred R. Barnard "a picture is worth a thousand words".

5.5.11 Detailed Cost Breakdown

Following the completion of the full-scale prototype, each team shall submit a Detailed Cost Breakdown comparing actual resource use to the estimates provided in the *Proposed Project Budget* submitted in the Proposal and Qualifications Package. This Section shall include:

- A side-by-side comparison of estimated vs. actual engineering hours, broken down by task area (e.g., project management, hull design, structural analysis, mix testing, mold construction, etc.).
- A comparison of material cost estimates vs. actual expenditures, including testing supplies, mold fabrication, and concrete materials.
- A narrative discussion of any significant deviations (typically more than 15%) between the estimated and actual values. Teams must explain the cause of these differences and identify what planning or assumptions contributed to under- or over-estimation.
- A brief summary of lessons learned and how the team might adjust future budgeting efforts to improve cost accuracy.
- One page shall be used for the discussion and one page shall be used for the table(s).

All values shall use the labor rates, material assumptions, and formatting conventions provided in Exhibit 7 – Detailed Cost Breakdown.

Outsourcing:

If any part of the canoe fabrication or final display is outsourced, clearly note this in the detailed cost breakdown as outsourced labor.

C4 and the selection panel (judges) place value on work completed by the teams themselves. While outsourcing is not prohibited, teams should be advised that outsourcing significant portions of the project may affect judges' scoring.

Ensure all costs are itemized and clearly documented in the detailed cost breakdown.

5.5.12 Construction Drawings

Present isometric, elevation, plan, and typical composite cross-section views of the canoe and mold with all applicable dimensions in each view, bill of materials, and other details which would be needed to construct the canoe. Additional sections and details may be added to present construction techniques. Provide any relevant specifications as deemed essential by the team.

These drawings should be detailed so that the team's product is reproducible by a future manufacturing company.

Construction drawings are a key component of the evaluation as C4 solicits teams to provide a design we can then hand over to a manufacturer to build. These drawings should provide the key features and pertinent information for the canoe fabrication to occur with the drawings being the primary source of information provided to the construction team. Construction drawings used to construct a bridge or building would be pertinent real-life examples.

5.5.13 Updated Project Schedule

Each team shall submit an Updated Project Schedule in graphical format, showing a direct comparison between the Proposed Project Schedule submitted during the initial qualifications phase and the actual timeline followed through prototype completion. Clearly distinguish between proposed and actual timelines using separate bars, shading, or visual indicators.

Narrative explanation of deviations or delays shall be included in the *Project Evolutions and Adaptations* section and is not required within the schedule itself but is intended to be discussed in previous sections.

5.5.14 Appendix A - Bibliography

ASTM and other industry standards, technical software, and any previously published material, including previous design papers for prior RFP submittals and sources referenced when performing calculations, must be properly cited, as applicable. Any professionally acceptable reference style can be used if the reader can use the citation to find original information sources.

5.5.15 Appendix B – Hull Thickness/Reinforcement and Percent Open Area Calculations

Present the measurements and calculations of the reinforcement thickness and hull thickness for the various canoe elements (i.e., walls, ribs, gunwales, thwarts, and bulkheads) and percent open area (POA) as applicable, using the provided template as a reference.

5.5.16 Appendix C – Example Design Calculations

This section may be in either portrait and/or landscape orientation. The calculations shall be performed in digital format – no handwritten calculations shall be submitted in the Appendix. The use of programs such as, but not limited to, MathCAD®, Matlab® and Microsoft ExcelTM to perform repetitive, routine calculations is allowed. Provide detailed, step-by-step required example calculations (showing all relevant equations, variables and inputs including proper units) for the following scenarios:

Hull freeboard calculations under four-person loading;

- Structural calculations for the 2D analysis which provide backup for the maximum moment, shear of the governing load case(s) with and without FS, LF, etc.;
- Moment of Inertia calculation;
- Maximum stresses calculations; and
- Hull punching shear (Per ACI)

At a minimum, the following shall be provided in the calculation: list of all assumptions (cite references as applicable), free body diagram with all relevant point and distributed loads and their respective values and cross-sectional properties including applicable dimensions. The cross-sectional properties of the representative section are to be approximated by hand calculations (i.e., the use of exact values from programs such as AutoCAD are not permitted).

5.5.17 Appendix D - Proposal and Qualifications Package

Appendix D should include all original parts of the initial Proposal and Qualifications Package submitted in November. No other documentation should be provided in this appendix.

5.5.18 Appendix E – Supporting Documentation

Appendix E is to be included if the team uses Exhibit 10 – Durability and Repairs (if applicable) and other documentation as directed by C4. It cannot be used by the team to include any additional information not specifically requested by C4.

5.5.19 Back Cover

A back cover is not required for either PDF and hard copies of the Technical Execution Package. However, should a team choose to include one:

- For Student Symposium competitions, where no hard copies are requested, teams should include the digitized PDF of their back cover as a single page, with no need to include a blank page.
- For the Society-wide Finals competition, where hard copies are required, the front cover of hard copies shall be single-sided. The front side of the back cover shall be left blank.

5.6 Mix Design Sheets

Each team shall provide <u>one</u> Microsoft Excel file with a worksheet (tab) for <u>each</u> mix design utilizing the template located in the link provided in section 5.0. Mixtures that differ in only color will be considered as one mixture, and one worksheet shall be provided. In this case, it should be clearly noted on the table or worksheet name that the color of the mix varies.

No rows, columns, or text in cells with no background color shall be deleted or altered from this provided format. Failure to adhere to this will result in penalties. The team is only to input values in the blue cells and only equations in the orange cells as noted in the legend.

Proficiency in Excel and other Microsoft tools is crucial for engineers, who use these skills daily for tasks like cost estimates and schedules required by various agencies and developers. To foster this skill and streamline the judging process, C4 provides an Excel file template; however, output formulas are not included and must be developed by the team. Teams must apply their knowledge of Excel functions and formatting to correctly input equations and calculations, simulating the real-world process of project submission and reducing discrepancies.

5.7 Materials Notebook

The Materials Notebook is used to provide detailed information about the materials used in the canoe prototype. It is separate from the Technical Execution Package and must include all materials' specifications for compliance verification by judges and C4.

Please note that the Materials Notebook will be submitted using a new format, aimed at reducing the level of effort for teams to compile, and reducing the amount of time it takes for judges/C4 to conduct compliance reviews. This new format is detailed below.

5.7.1 Components

- Completed Mix Design & Materials Compliance Table (one Microsoft Excel file per team)
- Technical data sheets for each material

5.7.2 Submission Requirements

1. The Materials Notebook shall be submitted using the template format provided. Teams shall complete the Mix Design & Materials Compliance Table excel file for each material used.

Note: Web links and QR codes shall not be accepted.

2. PDFs of technical data sheets for each material shall be saved to its corresponding folder. For example, a MTDS for *Type I Portland cement* should be saved in the folder named "01_Cementitious Materials".

Note: Sheets should offer technical details, not promotional content.

3. Submitted MTDS for all materials shall be clearly named in a manner that identifies the manufacturer and product. For example, "Lehigh - Type I Portland Cement - MTDS.pdf".

Note: Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are not a substitute for Technical Data Sheets.

- **4.** Submitted MTDS shall verify compliance with specific standards (e.g., ASTM). Highlight the relevant ASTM standard on the datasheet.
 - **a.** If no technical data sheet is available from the manufacturer, provide a certification letter on company letterhead.
 - **b.** Teams are required to clearly highlight the relevant specification or standard (e.g., ASTM number, VOC content) directly on the PDF for each material to demonstrate compliance.
- **5.** Provide PDFs of basic technical information for materials lacking specific requirements. For example, printouts from store websites or packaging showing material properties are acceptable.

For questions about datasheets or products, submit an RFI to C4 or refer to *Exhibit 4 – Materials Notebook* for additional information.

If a team fails to provide clear compliance documentation, such as missing data sheets, incomplete MTDS tables, absent PDF highlighting, or if a material is determined to be non-compliant or not previously approved by C4, a deduction will be applied as noted in the Final Product Prototype score.

6.0 CANOE HULL DESIGN PROTOTYPE

Teams shall analyze and design a canoe hull to establish the minimum required concrete properties. After development and testing, the team will construct a full-scale canoe prototype of their proposed design ahead of their Student Symposium.

6.1 Dimensional Constraints

There are no length, width, or depth constraints for the canoe.

6.2 Design Constraints

The canoe must maintain a minimum 6-inch freeboard under four-person loading such that the entire school name and canoe name remain fully visible above the waterline when the canoe is fully loaded with all four coed race paddlers. This visibility requirement corresponds to the existing lettering specification in Section 6.7, which requires letters to be 4 to 6 inches tall and located above the waterline.

Compliance shall be verified during co-ed race staging. Teams are required to prove compliance in the Technical Execution Package by showing calculated freeboard under full coed loading conditions (as described in Section 5.5.8).

Should the judging panel or C4 observe that any portion of the school or canoe name is submerged under coed loading, a 30-second penalty will be applied to that team's Coed Sprint race time.

Note: Policing of this requirement by any persons other than the judging panel or C4 is in direct conflict with the spirit of the competition and will not be tolerated. This requirement is intended for teams to engineer the solution to a specific constraint, not for teams to weaponize the constraint against one another during races.

6.3 Canoe Material Components

The Final Product Prototype shall be constructed with components that are categorized under and comply with **Concrete, Reinforcement,** or **Flotation** requirements presented herein. All flotation and reinforcement must be encased in concrete.

Exclusions: lettering, sealers, stains, damage repairs (tape), and flotation needed to pass flotation test.

6.4 Gunwale

The gunwale will be finished to prevent injury to the paddlers (i.e., no exposed reinforcement or sharp edges.) Foam pipe insulation may be used as gunwale protection and may be secured with tape.

6.5 Concrete Materials, Mixtures, and Reinforcement

Concrete mixtures shall comply with the specification in *Exhibit 5 – Technical Specifications for Concrete and Reinforcement*.

6.6 Flotation

In the event a canoe becomes submerged, canoes should be designed and constructed to pass the flotation test by the buoyant design of the canoe. Flotation material shall be limited to within 3 feet of the bow and stern sections and encased in concrete. The 3 feet restriction is measured from the outermost tip of the bow and stern to the innermost concrete plane of the bulkhead as visible at the competition site.

6.6.1 Flotation Test

The canoe must pass a flotation test where it should float generally horizontal near the water's surface within 2 minutes after being filled with water. The test focuses on the canoe's ability to stay buoyant, not the exact depth it floats at. The goal is to ensure the canoe does not sink and can be easily retrieved if submerged, ensuring safety before the race. Teams are responsible for handling and submerging the canoe by any means (e.g., filling it with

water, tilting it, or pushing it down). Gunwale caps are not allowed during the test but can be added afterward. If the canoe does not pass the test on the first try, it will receive a deduction on the Final Product Prototype score.

6.6.2 Additional Flotation

If a canoe does not pass the flotation test, teams shall be required to add additional flotation materials until the canoe does pass the test to the satisfaction of the judges and/or C4. Any added flotation shall be below the gunwale line. Gunwale caps shall not be permitted to serve as flotation material. If flotation is added at the Student Symposium Competition, it shall be removed for the Society-wide Competition. At the Society-wide Competition, the canoe will be evaluated in the flotation test as if it was the first time undergoing the flotation test.

If a team fails the flotation test at a Student Symposium Competition, they will be re-assessed at the Society-wide competition if they qualify. This is a re-testing of the canoe as it was designed and intended to be delivered at the Student Symposium Competition and does not allow teams to "repair" their canoe to pass the flotation test before the Society-wide Competition.

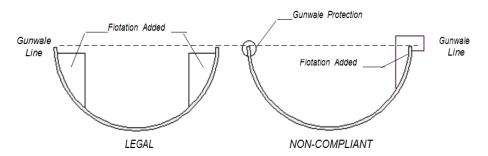


Figure 1. Gunwale Example

6.7 Finishing & Aesthetics

6.7.1 Canoe & School Name

The school and canoe names must be clearly displayed on both sides of the canoe, above the waterline, with individual letters between 4 and 6 inches high. Recognized abbreviations from the school's official website are acceptable, but the name must be at least 5 characters long.

The method for creating the names must follow the graphics guidelines in Section 6.7.2, except for adhesive lettering. Adhesive lettering is allowed, but only for the school and canoe names.

6.7.2 Graphics

Graphics created with coloring agents or pigments integrally mixed within the concrete mix design can be of any size and used as desired, provided they meet ASTM C979.

Powdered dyes mixed with water or other liquids are allowed, following the manufacturer's instructions, and applied with a limit of two (2) coats maximum.

Commercially available transparent stains formulated for concrete are permitted if they have a VOC content of 350 g/L or less. The VOC's compliance shall be based on adherence to the manufacturer's specifications for dilution and application as shown in the Materials Notebook.

Acid stains may include thickeners formulated for acid stains if the combination does not exceed VOC limit specified above. Glitter, particulate material, and other additives are not permitted. Stains cannot be diluted with water, acetone, or other mediums.

Stains can be applied to both the inside and outside of the canoe, with the following restrictions:

- 1. Stains are not permitted to be applied to concrete that has been colored using an integral dye.
- 2. The stain must not form a membrane/coating on the concrete.
- 3. The stain must not hide or obscure the concrete.
- **4.** The application of stains shall be limited to a maximum of two (2) coats, following the manufacturer's recommended procedure for application.

C4 and the selection panel (judges) value visible concrete. Teams' lightweight concrete mixes should be the highlight of the final product, not hidden or obscured by layers of stain.

6.7.3 Concrete Sealers

Only clear, non-pigmented concrete sealers may be applied to the canoe. The sealer may be either:

1. silane- or siloxane-based penetrating sealer with a VOC of less than or equal to 350 g/L,

OR

2. liquid membrane-forming compound for curing and sealing compliant with ASTM C1315 requirements (there are no VOC requirements with this option)

Post-manufacturer additives such as glitter or other particulate material are not permitted. The application of sealer to any portion of the canoe shall be limited to a maximum of two (2) coats, following the manufacturer's recommended procedure for application and thickness.

For the purpose of this competition, there are two main types of sealers, which C4 presents above. It's imperative that the team understand what they are using to ensure compliance. While there are many resources, the link below provides a neatly organized table to aid in selecting appropriate sealers. https://www.concretenetwork.com/products-sealer/comparison.html

6.8 Durability and Repairs

Canoes should be durable enough to survive the rigors of the Student Symposium Competition, the Society-wide Finals Competition, and transportation to and from the various events. Following the completion of the slalom races and the preliminary sprint races, all canoes shall be removed from the water, assembled in a commonplace or a location specified by the head judge, and inspected by the judges and/or C4 members for durability (judges score) and use of tape as a repair (deduction). *Exhibit 9 – Durability & Repairs*, discusses in detail the criteria for assessing durability.

6.9 Official Weigh-In

At the Society-wide Finals, canoes are subject to an official weigh-in with the measured weight compared to the weight reported in their Technical Execution Package infographic.

7.0 PROTOTYPE DISPLAY AND EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP

Teams will have the opportunity to showcase their canoe on display, alongside a Project Display highlighting the processes, materials, and a cross-section of the canoe representing its construction (canoe and mold). This prototype display enables teams to present their results to the judges and share their insights with other teams, fostering a collaborative environment aligned with ASCE values. Non-compliance with the following requirements may result in penalties.

Table 9. Restrictions on Prototype Display

Component	Requirement
Project Display	The display must fit within a 4-foot wide by 8-foot long by 7-foot high space.
Dimensions	
Display Design	Displays must be designed for judging from the front only (not a walk-around).
Self-Supporting	Displays must be self-supporting. Nothing can be taped, mounted, or attached to surrounding
	trees, walls, doors, floors, etc.
No Electronic Devices	Displays cannot include electronic devices such as laptops, lighting, sound or video
No Electronic Devices	equipment, radios, loudspeakers, or any noise-creating devices.
No Sponsor-Related	Sponsor lists, logos, or related items are not allowed in the display.
Items	
No Scents	Using scents from humidifiers or open-flamed candles is prohibited.

7.1 Elevator Pitch

During the judges' evaluation of the Final Product Prototype, teams will have the opportunity to deliver a brief, live pitch highlighting the element they are most proud of or their favorite aspect of the canoe. This could be a construction technique, material innovation, aesthetic feature, or any other standout element the team wishes to showcase. This pitch is intended to educate judges on the process or technical reasoning behind the team's approach. Props are encouraged, provided they comply with the requirements outlined in Table 9.

Judges may ask brief follow-up questions after the presentation to clarify techniques or understand the team's decision-making process.

In practice, engineers are often called upon to explain complex work clearly and quickly to clients, executives, or the public. Whether delivering a big-picture summary or diving deep into a single technical topic, this exercise prepares teams to think critically about what matters most and how best to communicate it. Creativity in format and delivery is encouraged, as long as the presentation remains focused and informative.

Remember though, judges will generally have less than 10 minutes total to evaluate the entire Final Product Display, including the canoe, cross-section, materials, and other required components. While the pitch itself is not timed, teams should be mindful that the time they use to present reduces the time available for judges to assess other parts of the display.

7.2 Requirements

Alongside the canoe prototype, the Project Display is where a team will showcase their approach to the design, research, testing, and construction. At a minimum, teams must include the following:

7.2.1 Design Process

Teams must present information and data that clearly highlight their Proposal's strengths. This includes elements of:

- The hull design process;
 - o Ex: Show how the hull design was conceptualized, refined, and finalized
- Research, testing methods and results; and
 - o Ex. Describe the research conducted and the test procedures used

- Construction techniques and details.
 - Ex. Explain how the canoe was built, including materials, methods, and innovations

To present these elements, teams shall adhere to the following guidelines.

- Use images, photos, graphs, sketches, tabular formats, and/or physical elements where appropriate to ensure clarity of intent.
- Items used to adhere to requirements outlined in 7.2.4 are not eligible for inclusion in showcasing the design process.
- All methods of presenting the required elements will be labeled.
- All examples should be of the team's specific process or results generic content is not acceptable

All elements should aide in educating other teams, judges, and the general public of the team's design approach, construction methods, research, and testing during throughout the competition.

While the product display table can be themed with the rest of the final product display pieces, its purpose is to inform. Think of this space as an additional canvas to tell the story of your design that may not have made it into your proposal or your presentation. Remember that you have these three methods to convince the judging panel that you have the most thought-out, thoroughly designed, and appropriately functioning canoe for their use.

7.2.2 Canoe Cross-Section

A full-scale model cross-section of the canoe, representing both raw and finished stages, must be displayed alongside the canoe. The cross-section should illustrate the concrete casting, finishing, and reinforcement techniques, and must include the mold. All elements must be labeled. The cross-section, including any stand, should fit within a 4-foot wide by 4-foot long by 7-foot high space, separate from the main product display.

The entire cross-section display is intended to fit inside the dimensions listed above. Consider those dimensions to be an invisible box that the team cannot exceed. It will be within the judge's purview to either not judge anything outside of the box or dock overall product display points as they deem fit should the team not contain the product display within limits.

7.2.3 Canoe Stands

The canoe should be displayed on stands that raise it approximately 4 feet off the ground. The underside of the canoe must be visible for inspection. The ends of the canoe do not need to be at the same height, but the 4-foot height is approximate to ensure judges can inspect all areas of the canoe. If judges cannot see the inside of outside of the canoe without the use of a stand, they are not required to include those elements in their scoring.

The height requirement intends to allow judging to occur from a generally upright standing position. The judges shouldn't be required to climb a step stool or kneel to get a full view of the entire canoe. The 4' list height is an approximate value to aid the students in planning their display to accomplish this intent. It will be up to the judges if this intent is achieved.

7.2.4 Required Information and Samples

As part of the display, the following items should be included:

- Samples of aggregates, cementitious materials, and fibers in transparent, labeled containers. The samples should be large enough to clearly showcase the materials.
- Individual sample(s) of each aggregate and composite sample(s) of aggregates blended in the same proportions as used in the concrete mixtures. Composite blends should only include aggregate.
- Concrete cylinders from each mixture (3 or 4 inches in diameter), split into two halves.
- Raw reinforcement samples, including mesh, grids, strips, tendons, and bars, representative of the materials used in the canoe.
- Individual sample(s) of each cementitious material and any fibers used in the concrete mixtures.

- One hard copy each of the Technical Execution Package, Mix Design & Material Compliance Sheets, and the Materials Notebook.
- Infographic from the Technical Execution Package, displayed for viewers.

Additionally, the following items should be readily available for compliance checking:

- Seats/Mats for measurement verification.
- Life jackets and paddles.
- [Society-wide Finals only] Concrete cylinders (unbroken, 3 or 4 inches in diameter) for each concrete mixture used, prepared according to ASTM C39. These cylinders should be oven-dried and represent the inplace density, color, consistency, and composition of the concrete used in the canoe.

8.0 TECHNICAL PRESENTATION

Each team will deliver a **5-minute presentation**, followed by a **7-minute question and answer (Q&A) session with a panel of judges**. The judges will evaluate the presentation based on the content presented during this timeframe.

8.1 Presentation Focus

The presentation should emphasize the key aspects of the canoe's design, construction, and technical features. It should succinctly summarize the major elements of the project, with the goal of convincing the judges why your team's design and prototype are the best choice.

Recall this is a hypothetical scenario to provide an end goal for the RFP and the competition. The presentation intends to go beyond simply informing the audience of what you did and how you did it. Ultimately, the presentation should persuade the judging panel why they should select your prototype. The presentation is not intended to be a word-for-word regurgitation of the Technical Execution Package.

8.2 Presentation Format

Presentations must be prepared and delivered using one of the following industry standard platforms:

- Microsoft PowerPoint
- Google Slides
- Apple Keynote

Presentations must be able to run without internet connectivity. Teams are responsible for ensuring that all media, animations, and embedded content function properly offline.

If the judging panel believes that a team's presentation is not in an approved format, they reserve the right to review the presentation and apply score deductions at their discretion.

Teams should test their presentations in advance to confirm conformance to these rules.

This requirement is intended to encourage technical competence in organizing, drafting, and formatting a professional engineering presentation. The approved platforms are widely used by both public and private sector clients. Engineers are routinely expected to communicate their ideas clearly and effectively using these tools when presenting to clients, stakeholders, and the general public.

Online platforms, such as Canva, while visually appealing, often automate much of the thematic and structural work. As a result, they limit the opportunity for team members to develop and demonstrate their own skills in presentation design and technical communication – skills that are essential in professional practice.

By using industry standard software and building presentations from the ground up, teams gain valuable experience that mirrors realworld experience.

8.3 Language

All presentations are to be presented in English.

8.4 Presentation Order

The order of presentations will be randomly selected and provided to teams by the host school. Presentation order shall be considered final at the beginning of on-site registration. Presentations, including the Q&A session, will be open to the public.

8.5 Equipment

The host school will provide access to electrical outlets, a projection screen, and a projector. Teams must bring any additional equipment they need.

8.6 Presenters

Any registered team members signed in at registration may participate in the presentation, including speakers and those managing the computer or projector. At least two team members must speak during the presentation. Any registered team member may take part in the Q&A session.

The presentation must be live; pre-recorded speech will not be permitted.

Handouts or other materials intended to be given to the judges will not be permitted.

8.7 Question and Answer Section

After the presentation, teams will differentiate themselves by answering questions from the judges, demonstrating their knowledge of the presentation and Technical Execution Package.

9.0 CANOE PROTOTYPE PERFORMANCE DEMONSTRATION

Each team will have the chance to showcase their canoe's racing capabilities, handling performance, seaworthiness, and durability through a series of races. These races will assess straight-line speed and turning abilities under various loading conditions. The events include:

Student Symposia Competitions:

- Women's 200-meter Slalom (2 persons identifying as she/her/hers)
- Men's 200-meter Slalom (2 persons identifying as he/him/his)
- Women's 200-meter Sprint (2 persons identifying as she/her/hers)
- Men's 200-meter Sprint (2 persons identifying as he/him/his)
- Co-ed 200-meter Sprint (2 persons identifying as he/him/his and 2 persons identifying as she/her/hers)

Society-wide Finals Competition:

- Women's 600-meter Endurance Slalom (3 persons identifying as she/her/hers)
- Men's 600-meter Endurance Slalom (3 persons identifying as he/him/his)
- Women's 200-meter Sprint (2 persons identifying as she/her/hers)
- Men's 200-meter Sprint (2 persons identifying as he/him/his)
- Co-ed 400-meter Sprint (2 persons identifying as he/him/his and 2 persons identifying as she/her/hers)

The quantity of races held and overall length of each race will be dependent upon site-specific restrictions beyond C4's control. While every effort should be made to complete all the races as described, variations/alterations may need to occur. Any variations in the race format should be clearly communicated to team captains with as much notice as possible.

9.1 Demonstration Course

9.1.1 General Requirements

The canoe's bow must remain at the front throughout each race, regardless of turns or finish buoys. The racecourse lanes will be marked with different colored buoys. The alignment, distance, spacing, and turns of the Slalom and Sprint courses must adhere to Exhibit 8 – *Race Regulations and Safety*, though adjustments may be made based on site-specific conditions.

9.1.2 Student Symposia and Society-wide Finals Competition

For all Student Symposia competitions, all sprint races shall be 200 meters. For the Society-wide Finals competition, the co-ed sprint race will be increased to 400 meters. For the Society-wide competition, the 200-meter slalom course will be replaced with a 600-meter endurance slalom course.

9.1.3 Slalom Course (200-meter and 600-meter)

Student Symposia Competitions: The course consists of seven buoys, staggered 5 meters apart transversely, with longitudinal spacing of 10 meters and 20 meters between the third and fourth buoys. The course involves slalom turns over the first 100 meters, followed by a 180° turn, and 100 meters straight back.

Society-wide Finals Competition: The slalom section (first 100-meters) will be similar to the Student Symposia Competitions, with site-specific adjustments. Following the slalom section, there will be a 500-meter endurance leg.

9.1.4 Sprint Course (200- and 400-meter)

Student Symposia Competitions: The sprint course is a straight 200 meters with 100 meters out, a 180° turn, and 100 meters back. The co-ed sprint race will also be 200 meters.

Society-wide Finals Competition: The co-ed sprint race will be 400 meters, consisting of two laps of the 200-meter sprint course.

9.1.5 Lane Requirements

Lanes shall be no narrower than 15 meters. See Figure 2 for additional information.

Note: The slalom race return path is around the buoy for lane 5. This provides adequate space to prevent interference between a team heading away from the starting line and a team returning to the finish line. This reduces the time it takes to run the slalom race at both Student Symposia and Society-wide Finals by allowing the next team to start before the previous team finishes the race. The host school can also choose other layouts for the return path that allow the next team to start before the previous team finishes so long as there is adequate space to prevent interference between a team heading away from the starting line and a team returning to the finish line.

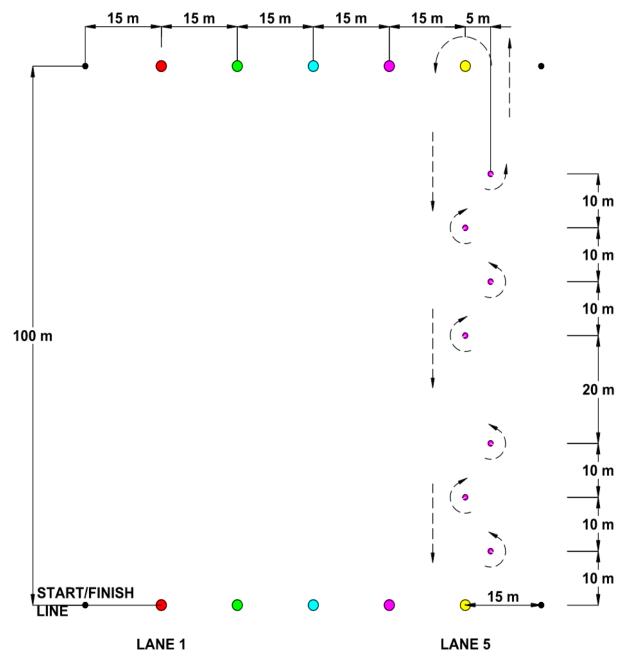


Figure 2. Example Racecourse Layout

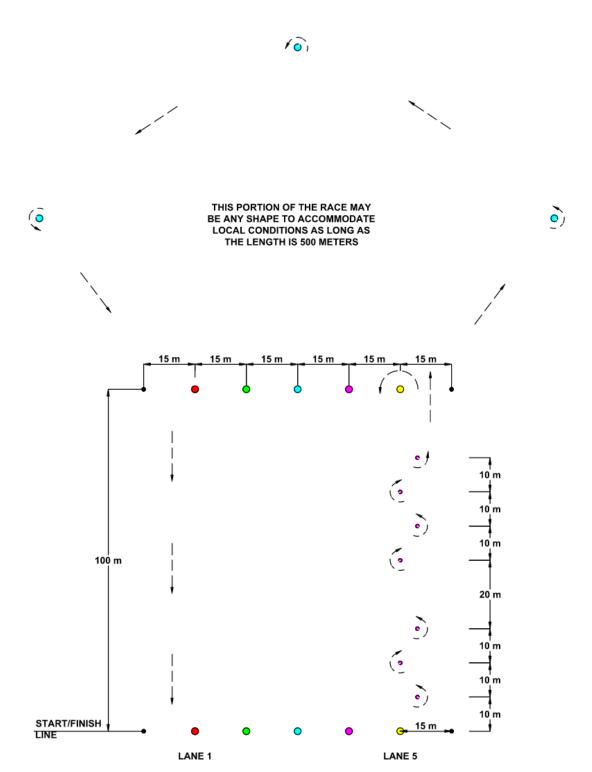


Figure 3. Example Endurance Slalom Racecourse Layout

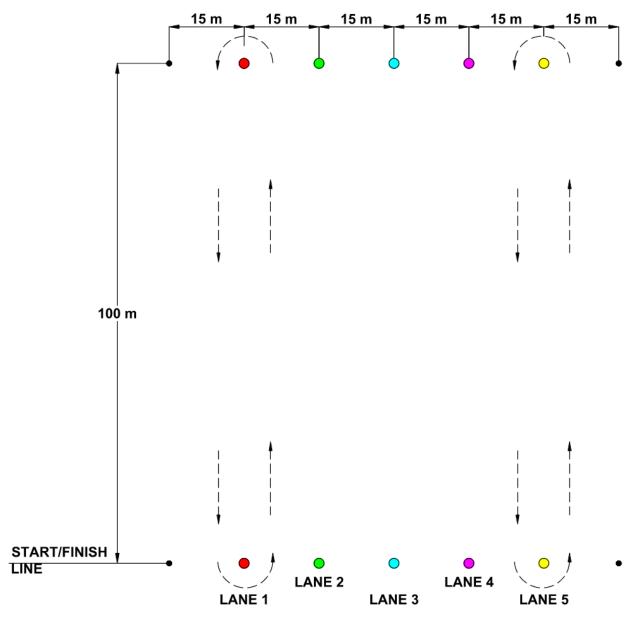


Figure 4. Example Sprint Racecourse Layout

- End of Section -

10.0 EVALUATION

The evaluation of the teams will be divided into four (4) categories, as described below in Table 10:

Table 10. Point Breakdown by Category

Category	Maximum Points
Project Proposal	30
Technical Presentation	25
Final Product Prototype	25
Race Demonstrations	20 (across five events)
Total Possible	100

If none of the race events take place, the overall competition score will be based solely on the technical components (Project Proposal, Technical Presentation, and Final Product Prototype), with a maximum score of 80 points.

10.1 Evaluation Panel

Each event will be evaluated by a panel of 3 to 5 judges. C4 aims to have the same judges assess all portions of the competition. If different judges evaluate each portion, C4 will consider the competition invalid and will not extend an invitation to the Society-wide Finals Competition to teams from that student symposium. In exceptional cases, C4 may request details about the evaluation panel to assess the competition's validity and may still consider inviting the team to the Society-wide Finals Competition.

10.2 Scoring Method

The Evaluation Panel awards points to each team within the allowable range for each category, using the Evaluation Forms in *Exhibit 10*. The points assigned by individual judges are referred to as *raw scores*.

Converting Raw Scores into Rankings

Raw scores for each judge in each category are then converted into individual judge rankings.

For example, in the Project Proposal category, a judge may award from 0 to 200 points as a raw score. These points are then converted into rankings (1st place, 2nd place, etc.) for that judge's results so that each judge has unique rankings for each team. From this point forward, these individual, unique rankings are used in lieu of a judge's raw scores.

The average ranking across all judges (where lower is better) for each team is then calculated as:

$$avg_{judgerank} = \sum (J_1 + J_2 + ... + J_N) \div N$$

Where:

- J_i = Rank given by Judge i
- **N** = Total Number of Judges

Converting Rankings to Points

Once average ranks are calculated, they are converted into points using the following steps:

1. Find the ranking difference from the best score

The difference between a participant's average ranking and the best (lowest) average rank is calculated as:

This shows how far a team is from the top performer.

2. Find the score ratio

This ratio normalizes the participants rank difference on a scale from 0 to 1. The top performing team will have a score ratio of 1.

$$score_{ratio} = (avg_{judgerank} - min_{rank}) \div (max_{rank} - min_{rank})$$

Where:

- min_{rank} = Best (lowest) average rank
- max_{rank} = Worst (highest) average rank

3. Calculate points lost (scaled to competition element matrix)

The proportion of points lost is calculated by multiplying the score ratio by the maximum possible points. The maximum possible points will differ based on the competition element per Table XX above:

$$points_{lost} = max_{points} \times score_{ratio}$$

4. Determine final awarded points

Finally, the awarded points are determined by subtracting the points lost from the maximum:

The team with the best (lowest) average rank receives the full points for the category. Other teams receive proportionally fewer points based on their ranked distance from the top performer.

10.3 Evaluation Scoring

Table 11 below demonstrates how this system works with a 30-team competition.

Table 11. Evaluation Point Breakdown

-	-	avg_judge_rank	final_rank	rank_diff	score_ratio	points_lost	points_awarded	points_awarded
Number of Schools	School	Average Judge's Rank (Lower is Better)	Final Ranking Position	Ranking Difference from Best Score	Score Ratio (to Max Points)	Points Lost (Scaled to 30 Max)	Points Awarded (Eq for Example)	Points Awarded (Eq for Scoresheet)
1	Aqua Avengers	1.95	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.00	30.00
2	Bow Before Us	268	2	0.73	0.03	0.79	29.21	29.21
3	Buoy Scouts	3.47	3	1.52	0.06	1.65	28.35	28.35
4	Canoephoria	401	4	2.06	0.07	2.24	27.76	27.76
5	Channel Surfers	480	5	2.85	0.10	3.09	26.91	26.91
6	DriftHustlers	5.23	6	3.28	0.12	3.56	26.44	26.44
7	Hull Yeah!	613	7	4.18	0.15	4.54	25.46	25.46
8	Lake It or Leave It	7.88	8	5.93	0.21	6.44	23.56	23.56
9	Liquid Legends	8.79	9	6.84	0.25	7.43	22.57	22.57
10	Oar ∃se	9.19	10	7.24	0.26	7.86	22.14	22.14
11	Oarade Crew	9.75	11	7.80	0.28	8.47	21.53	21.53
12	Paddle Patrol	10.34	12	8.39	0.30	9.11	20.89	20.89
13	Paddle Powered	11.71	13	9.76	0.35	10.60	19.40	19.40
14	Paddle Punishers	12.50	14	10.55	0.38	11.45	18.55	18.55
15	Rapid Rascals	13.77	15	11.82	0.43	1283	17.17	17.17
16	River Rebels	14 62	16	12.67	0.46	13.76	16.24	16.24
17	$\hbox{Row Hard or Hoat Home}\\$	15.35	17	13.40	0.48	14.55	15.45	15.45
18	Rudder Madness	16.84	18	14.89	0.54	16.17	13.83	13.83
19	Splash Tactics	17.48	1 9	15.53	0.56	16.86	13.14	13.14
20	Stream Dream	18.26	20	16.31	0.59	17.71	12.2 9	12.29
21	Stroke of Luck	19.07	21	17.12	0.62	18.59	11.41	11.41
22	Team Glide Tide	20.05	22	18.10	0.66	19.65	10.35	10.35
23	The Eddy Outlaws	21.42	23	19.47	0.70	21.14	8.86	8.86
24	The Hoat Pack	22 16	24	20.21	0.73	21.94	8.06	8.06
25	The Rowgues	23.63	25	21.68	0.78	23.54	6.46	6.46
26	The Stern Chasers	24 94	26	22.99	0.83	24.96	5.04	5.04
27	The Wet Bandits	26.80	27	24.85	0.90	26.98	3.02	3.02
28	Tip No More	27.11	28	25.16	0.91	27.32	2.68	2.68
29	Wake Warriors	28.39	29	26.44	0.96	28.71	1.29	1.29
30	Wavemakers	29.58	30	27.63	1.00	30.00	0.00	0.00

In this example, *Aqua Avengers* achieved the best average rank (1.95) and earned the full 30 points. *Wavemakers* had the worst average rank (29.58), resulting in zero points for this category. All other teams received points scaled proportionally between these two extremes.

Note: In previous years, the scoring breakdown for this same scenario would have awarded the second-place team Bow Before Us only 27 points, regardless of their performance scores being neck-in-neck to the top performer.

The ranking-based scoring process ensures that every team's effort is recognized and that results are determined by relative performance rather than raw scores alone. Instead of awarding points only to the top ten teams—and leaving many teams with zero points for the entire competition—this method scales points proportionally across all competitors.

This means that a team placing 15th, for example, still earns points that contribute meaningfully to their overall score, reflecting the real value provided to the client and the competition. Even if a team does not finish near the top, their work is acknowledged in the final standings, which rewards consistent efforts and placement by the team.

In addition, this system minimizes the impact of differences in scoring style between judges. Because final points are determined by rankings relative to other teams within each judge's scores, no judge's personal scoring style can disproportionately influence the results.

By combining proportional scoring with judge-style neutrality, the ranking-based method produces a more balanced, equitable, and representative outcome—ensuring that all teams receive credit for the value they contribute.

10.3.1 Summary of Deductions / Disqualification

Deductions may also be referenced in other sections of this document and/or the scoring sheets. It is highly suggested that the judges contact C4 regarding situations that may not be covered to determine the appropriate course of action.

10.3.2 Deductions

The Deduction Scorecards determine a deduction unit that is entered into the electronic scoresheet to adjust the final scores for each judge for each school. Each deduction unit is calculated as 1% of the difference between the highest team's pre-deduction score and the lowest team's pre-deduction score for that specific portion of the competition. This calculation is done separately for each judge.

10.3.3 Disqualification

Teams may be disqualified (DQ) from the competition for the following:

- Failure to meet student eligibility requirements
- Violations under the Spirit of the Competition or under the Ethics and the Competition
- Sportsmanship and interference requirements
- Failure to follow safety rules
- Plagiarism

10.4 Deduction Resolution

During the competition, judges and/or C4 will notify team captains of any deductions assessed. Team captains may then either address these deductions by resubmitting, if eligible, or appeal them if they believe the deductions were improperly applied, as outlined in sections 11.4.1 and 11.4.2. Both actions require a written response to the judges for review, and only designated team captains are authorized to revise, resubmit, or appeal deductions.

If a team chooses to appeal or resubmit, the team captains must submit a completed Deduction Scorecard (with signature), Final Product Prototype Revise and Resubmit Form, Appeals Form, and any supporting documentation by the specified deadline to the Head Judge or C4 member. The judges will review the appeal, make a final decision, and inform the team captains. Once the decision is communicated, no further appeals will be permitted.

Figures 3 and 4 below outline the procedures for handling the revise and resubmit and appeals process, including the responsibilities of team captains, judges, and C4. Judges' decisions after review are final, with no further appeals allowed. Judges may consult with C4 for guidance and to ensure proper deduction procedures are followed. C4 will not accept any resubmissions or appeals beyond the Student Symposium Competition, nor will it overturn the deductions decided by Student Symposium judges.

10.4.1 Revise and Resubmit

Deductions that are marked "Revise and Resubmit" on the deduction score card are eligible to be reevaluated by the judges using the Final Product Prototype Revise and Resubmit Form through the Team Captain. All supporting documentation must be included with the form at the time of resubmission, clearly indicating the revisions made. The Revise and Resubmit Process is further outlined below in Figure 5.

The "Revise and Resubmit" process is designed to simulate the submittal procedures commonly used in industry, offering teams an educational opportunity to correct errors or provide missing materials. However, please note that a "nuisance" deduction will be applied if deductions are rescinded upon resubmittal, to account for the additional time and effort required for reevaluation.

10.4.2 Appeals

Any deduction may be appealed if a team believes it was applied inappropriately by submitting an Appeal Form through the Team Captain. All supporting documentation must be included, clearly indicating the perceived error or explaining any extenuating circumstances.

Any appeals related to eligibility for advancement to Society-wide Finals competition must be initiated by a student chapter leader or team captain in disagreement with a ruling related to their own team within seven days of notification of ineligibility and received through student@asce.org with subject line: ASCE 2026 Competition Eligibility Appeal. This email will initiate a request for an appeals form. The form will be used to explain the appeal.

Appeals regarding any other part of the competition should be presented to the head judge during competition or emailed to concretecanoe@asce.org prior to the start of the awards ceremony.

The Appeals Process is further outlined below in Figure 6.

The appeal process is designed to address errors in applying deductions or to account for genuine extenuating circumstances. However, the "Revise and Resubmit" process is intended to minimize the need for appeals, as appeals are rare in industry. Please note that appeals based on personal dissatisfaction, misinterpretation of the rules, or claims that contradict objective evidence will not be considered valid grounds for an appeal.

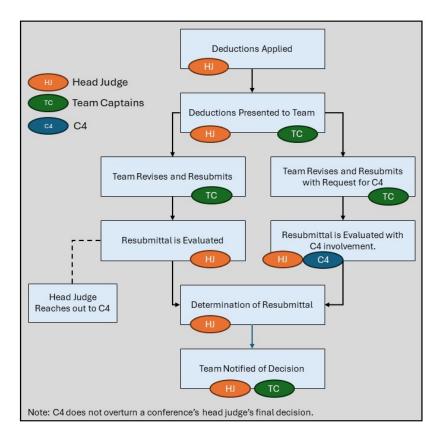


Figure 5. Revise and Resubmit Process and Assignments

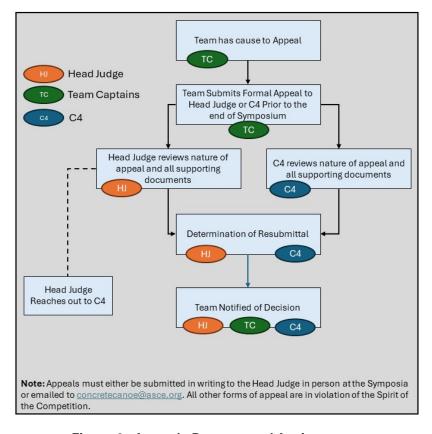


Figure 6. Appeals Process and Assignments

10.4.3 Tiebreaker (Final Overall Standings)

Ties in the final standings for the competition overall shall be broken. In such cases, a tie-breaking score, TBS, shall be calculated according to the following formula:

Where:

- **DPP** = Project Proposal event points for a given judge
- OPP = Technical Presentation event points for a given judge
- FPP = Final Product Prototype event points for a given judge
- NOJ = number of judges
- RP = unmodified race points

The calculation of the TBS shall not change the standings for team placement in any given technical scoring part. Of the teams tied for the overall winner or second place, the team with the highest TBS shall be awarded the place in contention.

If a tie still exists for first and/or second place after the tie-breaking scores have been determined, then the judges shall determine the overall winner for the competition position. The judges may base their decision on whatever criteria they deem appropriate.

The judges' criteria and decision shall be final and may not be appealed.

- End of Section -

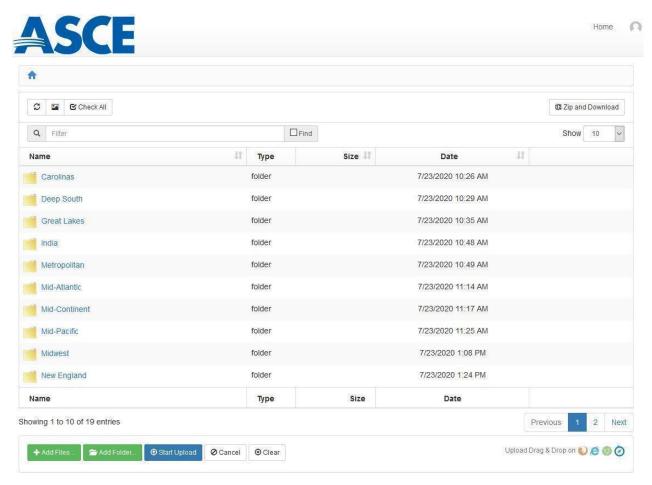
EXHIBIT 1. SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES

Table 12. Summary of Dates & Deadlines

Item	Date
Issuance of 2026 Request for Proposal Solicitation	September 2, 2025
Webinar: Welcome Kick-Off; RFI Overview & MTDS Example	September 18, 2025
Webinar: Concrete Mix Design Calculations	October 16, 2025
Webinar: Material Compliance (Materials Notebook Submittal)	October 30, 2025
Deadline for Submission of Proposal and Qualifications Package	November 3, 2025
Last Day to Submit RFIs to the C4	January 26, 2026
ASCE Student Chapter Annual Reports/Dues Deadline	February 1, 2026
Issuance of RFI Summary	On or about February 2, 2026
Technical Execution Package, Mix Design Sheets, and Materials Notebook Deadline (Student Symposia Competitions)	February 12, 2026
ASCE Student Symposia Competitions	March to Late April 2026
Technical Execution Package, Mix Design Sheets, and Materials Notebook Deadline (Society-wide Finals)	May 13, 2026
2026 ASCE Society-wide Finals, hosted by Fairmont State University, Fairmont, West Virginia	June 25-27, 2026

EXHIBIT 2. HOW TO NAVIGATE FOLDERS AND UPLOAD SUBMISSIONS

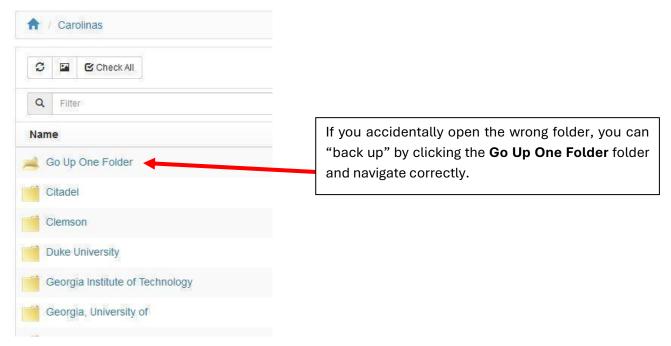
When you first arrive at the upload site, you will see folders labeled for each Student Conference:



Locate your Student Conference and click the folder to open it. If you don't see the name of your Student Conference, click the page navigation to move to the second page:



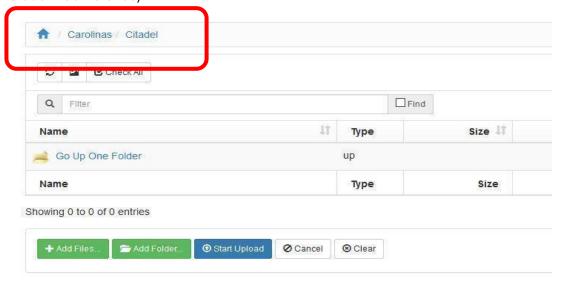
When you click the folder for your Student Conference, you will see a list of the Student Chapters assigned to that Conference:



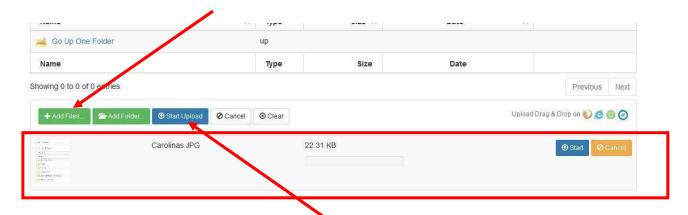
Locate the folder for your Student Chapter and click to open it. If you don't see the name of your Student Chapter, click the page navigation to move to the second or third page:



When you have opened the folder for your Student Conference and Student Chapter, double-check that you are in the correct location before you begin uploading your files (In this case, **The Citadel** – within the **Carolinas** Student Conference):

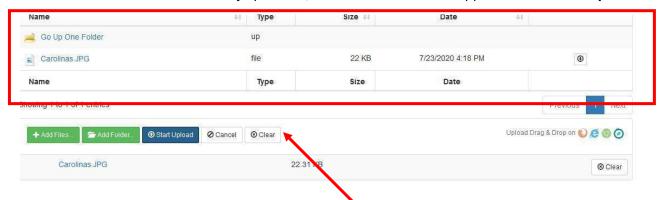


When you have confirmed that you have navigated correctly to the proper folder, you can either click the **+Add Files** button and then browse to find the files to upload or drag and drop files to the area directly below the **+Add Files** button.



The selected (or dragged and dropped) files will appear in the upload area. To upload the file into the folder, click **Start Upload.**

When the file has been successfully uploaded, the name of the file will appear under the Go Up One Folder folder



To clear the uploaded file from the upload area, click **Člear.**

Need help?

If you uploaded a file to the wrong folder, or want to replace an uploaded file with a corrected version, **s**end an email to <u>concretecanoe@asce.org</u> and ask that the incorrect file be deleted. Include both the location (folder path) and **exact name** of the file you want deleted. (Files cannot be moved – you will have to upload the file again to the correct folder after it has been deleted). If you cannot locate a folder for your school, please contact us at the same address for assistance.

EXHIBIT 3. STUDENT CHAPTER AND PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

The purpose for student competitions is to provide student members career-enrichment opportunities to gain hands-on, practical experience and leadership skills. Competitions are an important and special opportunity to showcase the engineering and professional skills of student teams. As such, mutual respect is required for all stakeholders, including competitors, judges, hosts, and guests. Invitations to the Student Symposia and the ASCE Student Civil Engineering Championships/Society-wide Competition Finals are a privilege, not a right. Failure to act professionally can result in sanctions, disqualifications, and loss of invitations. Please note that the requirements for eligibility for Society-wide competition finals are more stringent than the requirements for participation at the student symposia competitions.

REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS

Registered participants (for both Symposia and Society-wide Competitions) shall meet all the following requirements:

- 1. Be an undergraduate student during the 2025/26 academic year (August 2025 to June 2026). Students do not need to be enrolled during the entire year (e.g., students graduating in December, or students not in school during the fall term but in school for the spring term.) Students that graduate during the academic year and have begun graduate studies during the same academic year are eligible to compete;
- 2. Be members of an ASCE Student Organization in good standing;
- 3. Be Society Student Members of ASCE. ASCE student membership numbers shall be required upon registration
- 4. Have contributed to the design and construction of the concrete canoe during the current academic year.

STUDENT CHAPTER ELIGIBILITY FOR STUDENT SYMPOSIUM COMPETITIONS

The following qualifications are required of all ASCE Student Chapters to compete at the Student Symposia Competitions:

An ASCE Student Chapter must:

- 1. Be in good standing with ASCE:
 - a. Have paid their annual dues, as received by ASCE, no later than the start of their Student Symposium.
 - **b.** Have submitted their student chapter full Annual Report or EZ Annual Reporting Form **no later than February 1, 11:59 p.m. EST.**

STUDENT CHAPTER ELIGIBILITY FOR SOCIETY-WIDE COMPETITIONS

The following qualifications are required of all ASCE Student Chapters in order to advance to the ASCE Society-wide Competition Finals:

An ASCE Student Chapter must:

- 1. Be in good standing with ASCE:
 - a. Have paid their annual dues, as received by ASCE, no later than February 1, 2025 11:59 p.m. EST
 - b. Have submitted their student chapter's <u>full Annual Report</u>, no later than February 1, 2025 11:59 p.m. EST and have received a minimum score of 25 points out of a possible 100. Student Chapters that submit an EZ annual reporting form do not qualify to advance on to competition finals; and

- 2. Attend and participate in their assigned Student Symposium as shown through their school's:
 - **a.** On-time attendance and active participation by a member of the ASCE Student Chapter at the Student Symposium Business Meeting.
 - **b.** Participation in the Student Symposium Paper Competition, including submission and presentation by a member of the ASCE Student Chapter. Note that any papers/presentations created for any other competition do not count as an entry into the Student Symposium Paper Competition.

Note: Invitations to Student Symposia and ASCE Student Civil Engineering Championships/Society-wide Competition Finals are a privilege, not a right. Failure to act professionally can result in letters of reprimand, mandatory behavior management plans, and loss of invitations to further competition for individual institutions and/or entire conferences.

Questions regarding eligibility should be directed to student@asce.org.

QUALIFIERS

The Society-wide competition host school has the choice of competing in the current year or deferring their entry until the following year. The Society-wide host school must compete at their respective Student Symposium competition the same year they intend to compete in the Society-wide finals.

Student Symposia competitions are required to meet certain standards. To earn an invitation to the Society-wide ASCE Concrete Canoe Competition, a student team shall qualify through participation in its assigned Student Symposium competition. There must be at least three (3) eligible ASCE Student Chapters that are official members of the Conference participating in the concrete canoe competition to constitute a qualified Student Symposium competition. In addition, the Student Symposium competition must be hosted by a school that is an official member of the Conference. Only one (1) team from any given school can compete in a Student Symposium competition.

Official Guest Teams

ASCE Student Chapters hosting symposia may invite Official Guest teams, which are teams from Region 10 that have an official ASCE Student Chapter not yet assigned to any Student Conference. Official Guest teams are eligible to place and receive awards at the student symposium competition and be invited to the Society-wide competition finals (if they meet the other requirements, including eligibility requirements). Official Guest teams may compete in only one student symposium per year. ASCE Student Programs shall be notified by the ASCE Student Symposium host of an Official Guest team prior to the start of the student symposium via email to student@asce.org.

Exhibition Teams

A university group that is in the establishment phase of becoming an ASCE Student Chapter may request to compete at their potential future ASCE Student Symposium as an exhibition team. If the student symposium host grants permission, the exhibition team may compete.

An ASCE Student Chapter team wanting to enter a competition that is NOT being hosted at their assigned student symposium, may request to compete at another ASCE Student Symposium as an exhibition team. If the student symposium host grants permission, the exhibition team may compete.

An ASCE Student Chapter team wanting to enter a competition that is being hosted at their assigned student

symposium but has circumstances that prevent participation at their assigned student symposium, may contact ASCE Student Programs (student@asce.org) with a description of the circumstances to explore options.

The exhibition team will be scored but shall not be ranked or win awards at the student symposium competition. The exhibition team will not be eligible to advance to Society-wide finals competition based on competition placement.

Conference assignments are listed in the ASCE Official Registrar at https://www.asce.org/about-asce/official-register, and symposium host chapters are listed at https://www.asce.org/communities/student-members/conferences.

ETHICS AND THE COMPETITION

According to the ASCE Code of Ethics, Canon 5, "Engineers shall build their professional reputation on the merit of their services and shall not compete unfairly with others."

In the context of this contest, "unfair competition" may include conduct such as the following:

- Failure to provide proper credit for past teams, plagiarism, or any other false statements concerning the source of material used in the contest;
- Taking other people's designs, artwork, or other creative content without permission (for an overview of Intellectual Property Laws, including Trademark and Copyright, visit http://fairuse.stanford.edu/overview/introduction/intellectual-property-laws/); and
- Any false or malicious statements about other teams, members, or others involved in the contest.

EXHIBIT 4. MATERIALS NOTEBOOK EXAMPLE

MATERIALS COMPLIANCE TABLE EXAMPLE

Below is a screenshot of the combined Mixture Design and Materials Compliance Table Template. Teams should enter data for the mix design on the lefthand portion of the table, which will be completed similarly to years past.

HYDRAULIC CEMENT						HYDRAULIC CEMENT			
Component	Specifc Gravity	Volume (of)	Amount (lbs)			MTDS Provided?	Material Compliant?	Requirement Satisfied? (for offical's use only)	Officals Comments Only
Enter Cement				Total C=	lbs				
Enter Cement									
Enter Cement									
HYDRATED LIME							HYDRATED LIME		
Hydraulic Lime									
		SCM/PC	OZZOLAN						SCM/POZZOLAN
SCM/POZZOLAN				Total CM =	lbs				
SCM/POZZOLAN				c/cm =					
SCM/POZZOLAN				Hydraulic Lime/cm=					
SCM/POZZOLAN									
SCM/POZZOLAN				cwt =					
SCM/POZZOLAN									

This year, in an effort to streamline the materials compliance process, C4 has added materials compliance checks directly into the template. Teams should select "Yes", "No", or "N/A" in the drop-down lists for "MTDS Provided?" and "Material Compliant?" columns for each material used.

Note: Additional entries can be added to the template by copying a given row and inserting the copied cells.

Note: Teams should verify that they have included the required MTDS in the provided folder structure to be uploaded as part of the Materials Notebook submission before selecting "Yes" from the drop-down lists.

	HYDRAULIC CEMENT						
MTDS Provided?	Material Compliant?	Requirement Satisfied? (for offical's use only)	Officals Comments Only				
			HYDRATED LIME				
			SCM/POZZOLAN				

	HYDRAULIC CEMENT						
MTDS Provided?	Material Compliant?	Requirement Satisfied? (for offical's use only)	Officals Comments Only				
	▼						
Yes No							
N/A							
			HYDRATED LIME				
			SCM/POZZOLAN				

The completed entry for material compliance will look as follows:

	HYDRAULIC CEMENT						
MTDS Provided?	Material Compliant?	Requirement Satisfied? (for offical's use only)	Officals Comments Only				
Yes	Yes		*				
			HYDRATED LIME				
			SCM/POZZOLAN				

Be mindful of the next two columns marked for official use only. Do not make entries into these columns.

In addition to materials used in the mix design itself, additional rows for primary reinforcing, sealers, stains, flotation, and other materials have been added to the template below the mix design calculations to capture the material name and material compliance status of all other materials used in the construction of the canoe. These fields are to be filled out in the same manner as the fields above. Please see the screenshot below for reference.

Component		MTDS Provided?	Material Compliant?	Requirement Satisfied? (for offical's use only)	Officals Comments Only
[Material Name from Manufacturer]	OTE: PRIMARY REINFORCING IS PROVIDED FOR MATERIAL COMPLIANCE CHECKS ONLY. PRIMARY REINFORCING IS NOTTO BE INCLUDED IN MIX DESIGN CALCULATIONS.	Yes	Yes	¥	
Enter Primary Reinforcing					
Enter Primary Reinforcing					

MTDS COMPLIANCE REVIEW EXAMPLE

The following demonstrates a simple compliance review using MTDS (Material Technical Data Sheet) documents. According to the RFP, the fibers must meet the criteria specified in *Exhibit 5 - Technical Specifications for Concrete and Reinforcement*. Though this is a simple example, it can be used for all of the team's submittals to aid the judges and C4 in verifying compliance. Should a team encounter a product data sheet that does not provide the appropriate standard, they should follow the process in section 5.7.2.



PRODUCT DATA SHEET

Sika® Fibermesh®-150

MICRO-SYNTHETIC MONOFILAMENT FIBER

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Sika® Fibermesh®-150, micro-reinforcement system for concrete—100 percent virgin homopolymer polypropylene multifilament (monofilament) fibers with e3® patented technology containing no reprocessed olefin materials. Specifically engineered and manufactured in an ISO 9001 certified manufacturing facility. Sika® Fibermesh®-150 is desinged to control plastic shinkage and settlement cracking in concrete. Sika® Fibermesh®-150 was previously SikaFiber PPM.

USES

Sika* Fibermesh*-150 act mechanically by supporting the aggregate within the concrete with multidimensional fiber network and developing a uniform bleed system. The fiber does not affect the curing process chemically and does not absorb water. The Sika* Fibermesh*-150 can be used in all types of concrete applications to control plastic shrinkage and settlement cracking. Typical applications include:

- Slabs on ground
- Residential applications: side-walks, driveways, decks, curbs
- Precast elements,
- Overlays / toppings
- Stucco
- Shotcrete
- Roads / Pavements
- Bridge Decks

CHARACTERISTICS / ADVANTAGES

- · Reduces plastic shrinkage cracking
- · Reduces plastic settlement cracking
- · Improves impact, shatter and abrasion resistance
- · Enhances durability
- · Promotes uniform bleed and reduces bleed water
- Inhibits and controls the formation of intrinsic cracking in concrete
- · Increases cohesion and reduces segregation
- Reinforces against abrasion
- · Reduces freeze/thaw damage

APPROVALS / STANDARDS

- Sika® Fibermesh®-150 is UI/UIc certified and approved for usage in floor-ceiling D700, D800, D900, G229, G243, G256 & G514 series designs.
- Comples with European Standard EN 14889-2:2006
 Fibres for Concrete Part 2: Class Ia and carries the CE marking
- Complies with ASTM C1116/C1116M, Type III fiber reinforced concrete and therefore ASTM D7508

Product Data Sheet Sika® Fibermesh®-150 November 2019, Version 01.01 021408021010000056 Contextual Comment: On this product data sheet, the required standard is clearly defined by the manufacturer. Highlighting the required specification, as shown, helps the reviewer, the team's client, to easily verify compliance.

EXHIBIT 5. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR CONCRETE AND REINFORCEMENT

Each concrete mixture developed shall comply with this section's requirements. The use of pre-packaged or pre-mixed concrete, mortar, or grout is not permitted. Bondo®, epoxy or similar materials are not permitted as materials in the concrete mix, reinforcement installation, placements or connection and shall not be in any way present in or on the canoe before, during, or after casting.

Teams shall develop a reinforcement scheme using materials that meet percent open area (POA) requirements with the total thickness of the reinforcing layers is equal to or less than 50% of the total thickness of the reinforced composite, and the reinforcing materials do not have post-manufacturer applied coatings that enhance the properties of the reinforcement.

REQUIREMENTS

Composite Thickness – the ratio of the total measured thicknesses of the primary reinforcement to the total thickness of the canoe wall or structural element at any point in the canoe shall not exceed 50%. All canoe elements, including but not limited to, the hull, ribs, gunwales, thwarts, bulkheads, etc., and the connections of structural elements to the canoe wall are subject to this rule.

Number of Concrete Mixtures – limited to a total of three (3) concrete mixture designs, while any given mixture(s) can be produced in a multitude of colors.

Primary Reinforcement – All primary reinforcement shall be covered in concrete. All materials not part of a concrete mixture or a flotation material shall be classified as reinforcing material and shall comply with the specifications outlined below.

Maximum Unit Weight - All concrete mixture designs shall have an oven-dried unit weight less than 80.0 PCF.

MATERIALS

Cementitious Materials, Alternative Supplementary Cementitious Materials (ASCM), and Pozzolans

Any commercially available inorganic cementitious binder—whether hydraulic, non-hydraulic, or a combination of both—is permitted. These materials must comply with the relevant ASTM standards as indicated in the submitted MTDS documentation.

Material Specifications:

- The maximum amount of hydraulic cement (c) in any concrete mixture must not exceed 40% (by mass) of the total cementitious materials (cm) content (i.e., the c/cm ratio must be less than 0.40 for any concrete mixture).
- Hydrated lime may be used but is limited to 5% (by mass), and the combined total of hydraulic cement and hydrated lime must not exceed 40%. While hydrated lime is permitted, quicklime is not allowed in the canoe's construction.
- Any type (or combination) of hydraulic cement may be used, provided it meets the following ASTM standards:

Cementitious Materials	ASTM
Hydraulic Cement (c)	C150, C595, C1157, or C845
Coal Ash	C618 (Class C or F)
Metakaolin, Calcined Clay, Ground Pumice, Pumicite, or Volcanic Ash Natural Pozzolan	C618 (Class N)
Slag Cement	C989 (Grade 80 minimum)
Silica Fume	C1240
Hydrated Lime	C207 (Type S or N) or C821
Ground-Glass Pozzolan	C1866
Blended supplementary cementitious material	C1697

Alternative Cementitious Materials and Pozzolans: Alternative cementitious materials and pozzolans evaluated under ASTM C1709 provisions are also allowed.

Aggregates: Any natural, manufactured, or recycled aggregate is permitted, provided the proportioning meets the following requirements:

• The total aggregate volume must constitute at least 35% of the total volume of any concrete mixture, regardless of the source.

Aggregate Gradation Requirements: While no specific limits are imposed on gradation, it must be reported.

- Teams must conduct a sieve analysis and provide a particle size distribution table for each individual aggregate as received, as well as for the composite aggregate used in each mix, following ASTM C136.
- If aggregates are sieved and recombined into a specific distribution, this must be clearly stated in the report, along with the original gradation as received and the final composite aggregate from all sources.
- The particle size distribution and table must be tested and created by the team (not provided by the aggregate supplier) and included in the team's aggregate product information in their Materials Notebook.

Fibers: Fibers shall meet the requirements of ASTM C1116 and be considered as secondary reinforcement and dispersed within the concrete matrix. Other fibers may be considered if approved by the C4 prior to use.

Admixtures: Admixtures must comply with the following ASTM standards, as specified in the submitted MTDS documentation:

Admixtures	ASTM
Water-Reducing & Set-Control	C494
Air-Entraining	C260
Coloring Admixture/Agents & Concrete Pigments	C979
Specialty Admixtures	C494 (Type S)
Latex Emulsions	C1438

Latex Emulsions: Latex emulsions can be used in either re-dispersible powder form or as a liquid formulated for use with hydraulic cements that meet ASTM C1438 Type II requirements. They must be accounted for in mass and volume calculations during mixture proportioning to ensure proper concrete yield. While latex emulsions can be added to concrete mixtures, they cannot be used as bonding adhesives. Other bonding adhesives (ASTM C1059) are prohibited. When used, latex emulsions are limited to a solid powder or dehydrated liquid equivalent of no more than 100 lb/yd³ of concrete.

Prohibited Materials: Epoxy resins, curing agents, asphalt emulsions, or similar materials are not considered specialty admixtures and are strictly prohibited.

Solids Content: The solids content of dyes and powder admixtures must be included in the determination of total solids content. Contributions from other admixtures can be disregarded.

Curing Compounds – concrete may be cured using a liquid membrane-forming compound (ASTM C309 and/or ASTM C1315) or a C4-approved equivalent. Any curing compound applied is limited to a maximum of two coats following the manufacturer's procedure for application and thickness.

Concrete Sealers – See section 6.7.3 for Concrete Sealers

Integrally Colored Concrete and Stains – See section 6.7.2 for concrete coloring agents, pigments, and use of concrete stains

Mesh and Grids: All materials used as primary reinforcement must have sufficient open space to allow for mechanical bonding with the concrete composite, as measured by their percent open area (POA). Solid mats or plates used for reinforcement are not allowed. Pre-impregnated (pre-preg) materials containing resins that require heat for polymerization are also prohibited. Solid mats and plates are defined as materials needing additional bonding agents or post-manufacturing perforations to prevent delamination due to insufficient open space for mechanical bonding.

The minimum percent open area (POA) of any layer of reinforcing material is 40%. The determination of the POA is obtained by the following equation:

where:

- **Area**_{open} is the total open area (i.e., the area of the apertures)
- Area_{total} is the total area of the reinforcement specimen

Modification and Fabrication: Teams may modify a mesh by removing strands as needed to achieve the required POA. Teams are also permitted to fabricate meshes or grids by placing (weaving, tying) materials in their "as-received" condition. Once fabricated, materials cannot be treated (e.g., by applying coatings or heat).

As-Received Condition: "As-received" refers to commercially available, off-the-shelf products directly accessible to consumers without modification by a third party. For example, fiberglass can be used in its original form, but having a third party modify it into a grid and then considering it "as-received" is not allowed.

Strands, Tendons, and Bars – are materials less than ½ inch wide used to make a reinforcement grid or used in pre- or post-tensioning. When used individually, they must meet thickness requirements but are not subject to percent open area. Grids consisting of strands, tendons, and bars are subject to thickness and percent open area requirements.

Bearing Plates and Fasteners – used for pre- or post-tensioning of tendons are permitted and are not subject to the thickness or percent open area requirements. The location of the bearing plates is limited to within 2 feet from the bow and stern sections. The thickness of any bearing plate itself is limited to ¼ inch.

EXHIBIT 6. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR CONCRETE MIX DESIGN

This exhibit offers guidelines and tips to help teams understand how to complete the concrete mix design table accurately.

- Under the categories "Cementitious Materials," "Aggregates," "Fibers," and "Admixtures," specify the names of the constituents used. Use commercial (trade) names if they clearly identify the product.
- Provide absorption and moisture content values for aggregates, to the nearest 0.1%.
- In the "Specific Gravity" column, list the specific gravity (dimensionless) for the cementitious materials,
- Aggregates, fibers, and water. For aggregates, include both Oven Dried (OD) and Saturated, Surface Dry (SSD) values. Two or three decimal places are sufficient.
- Report the weight of liquid admixtures in lb/gal.
- The values in these tables are provided for mathematical example purposes only.
- Do not use the mixture proportions shown as a basis for achieving the required fresh (e.g., slump, air content) and hardened (e.g., strength) concrete characteristics for the competition.
- Specific gravity values are generalized and should not be referenced for your design calculations. This document is not intended as a reference for your mix design values.

Example Reporting: The following is a step-by-step example for reporting final concrete mixture proportions and verifying their theoretical and mathematical correctness.

Ensure that the reported unit weight is measured and that the values consider the relative yield (Ry).

Proposed Mixture Proportions

Type I/II Cement	400 lb SG = 3.	15
------------------	----------------	----

Fly Ash (Class C) 250 lb, SG = 2.93

Blast Furnace Slag 250 lb, SG = 2.85

Fibers, Nylon 5 lb, SG = 0.92

Fibers, PVA 3 lb, SG = 1.40

w/cm ratio 0.50

Expanded Shale, aggregate 600 lbs (dry), Abs = 13%, SG_{dry} = 1.55 (ASTM C330 compliant)

Pumice, aggregate 550 lbs (dry), Abs = 17%, SG_{dry} = 1.59 (ASTM C330 compliant)

Admixtures: 6 fl oz/cwt HRWR Admixture (47% solids by weight, 8.5 lb/gal)

20 fl oz/cwt Liquid Dye (50% solids by weight, 10.0 lb/gal)

Design Unit Weight (wet) 99.55 lb/ft³

Design Air Content 11.3%

ABSOLUTE VOLUME METHOD

The absolute volume of a given material is computed by dividing the mass of the material by its absolute density, which is the specific gravity (SG) times the density of water (62.4 lb/ft³), as shown by:

Absolute Volume = $mass / (SG \times 62.4)$

Example: How much volume does 400 lbs of portland cement occupy given that SG = 3.15?

$$= 400 / (3.15 \times 62.4) = 2.04 \text{ ft}^3$$

In a batch of concrete, the sum of the absolute volumes of cementitious materials, aggregate, fibers, water, solids from admixtures and air, gives the volume of concrete produced per batch. The above equation can be used to determine the volumes of the various constituents and populate the table.

Please note that there are several specific gravities reported for aggregate, depending on the condition that they are in, such as dry (SG_{OD}) and saturated, surface dry (SG_{SSD}). **The values are different** as one is obviously in the dry state and the other considers the water that is required to bring the aggregate to the SSD condition, and it can be shown that it is a function of absorption. For example, it can be shown that for the shale ($SG_{OG} = 1.55$; A = 13%), the SG_{SSD} is 1.75.

The volume that the aggregate occupies between the conditions, however, can be shown to be the same. That is, the volume of aggregate in the OD condition determined by taking the amount of aggregate in the OD condition divided by SG_{OD} is equal to the volume of aggregate in the SSD condition as determined by taking the amount of aggregate in the SSD condition divided by SG_{SSD} .

WATER

Based on the final w/cm ratio, the amount of water is simply computed using the total amount of cementitious material in the mixture

$$Water = w/cm x cm$$

Example: How much water is needed for 900 lbs of cm using a w/cm of 0.50?

$$Water = w/cm \times cm$$

The water that is computed from the w/cm ratio is the water that is needed to hydrate the cementitious materials (cm). It is not used to condition the aggregate to the SSD condition.

The water (w) comes from three sources – water from the aggregate (if there is "free" water then the value of this is positive; if the aggregate is drier than the SSD condition, then the value is negative), water from the admixtures, and additional batch water, and is expressed as (or a rearrangement of this equation):

$$W_{batch} = W - \left(W_{free} + \sum W_{admx}\right)$$

Compute Free Water from Aggregates

With the values previously obtained for the aggregates, the total moisture content, free moisture content and the amount of moisture available, can be computed for each aggregate using the following three equations:

$$MC_{total} = \frac{W_{stk} - W_{od}}{W_{od}} \times 100\%$$

$$MC_{free} = MC_{total} - A$$

$$w_{free} = W_{OD} \times \left(\frac{MC_{free}}{100\%}\right)$$

Aggregate	W _{oD}	Abs (%)	W _{SSD}	MC _{total}	MC _{free} (%)	W _{free}
Aggregate #1	600	13	678	8	-5	-30
Aggregate #2	550	17	643.50	12	-5	-27.5

Combined, the aggregates have -57.50 lb of free water

What does this mean? In this case it means that the aggregates are drier than the SSD condition. So, if you added the amount of water computed above (450 lbs to get your 0.5 w/cm ratio), the aggregate would want to soak up 57.5 lbs of it to get to the SSD condition. So, in the end, your w/cm ratio is no longer 0.5. However, we must deal with water from other sources as well. See below.

Compute Water from Admixtures

The water in the various admixtures can be found from the following equation:

Water in admixture = dosage x cwt of cm x water content x (1 gal/128 fl oz) x (lbs/gal of admixture)

From liquid dye

[20 fl oz/cwt x 8.30 cwt] x [(100% – 50% solids)/100] x (1 gal/128 fl oz) x (10 lb/gal) = 6.48 lb

From HRWR

 $[6 \text{ fl oz/cwt } \times 8.30 \text{ cwt}] \times [(100\% - 47\% \text{ solids})/100] \times (1 \text{ gal}/128 \text{ fl oz}) \times (8.5 \text{ lb/gal}) = 1.75 \text{ lb}$

Total water from all the admixtures is then 8.93 lb.

Compute Batch Water

We have computed water from two of the three sources – the aggregate and the admixtures. Based on this example, we ended up having no "free" water from the aggregate (if fact, you were in a deficit).

Since we know the amount of water needed to hydrate the cm (450 lb) based on the w/cm ratio chosen, the batch water can be computed by:

$$w_{batch} = w - \left(w_{free} + \sum w_{admx}\right)$$

$$= 450 lbs - (-57.5 + 10.34) = 497.16 lb$$

The volume of water, to hydrate cm only, $(SG_{water} = 1)$ is then

$$= 450 / 62.4 = 7.21 \text{ ft}^3$$

SOLIDS (from liquid admixtures)

Typically, the proportional volume of the solids included in the liquid admixture is so small in relation to the size of the batch that it can be neglected. The exclusion to this includes latex admixtures and dyes (both liquid and in powder form) which can have substantial volumes.

- For the competition, only dye solids (in the liquid medium) are to be accounted for.
- Disregard the contribution of solids from other admixtures.
- If you have a powdered admixture (i.e., it is not in a liquid medium), then use the absolute volume method as previously shown.

The solids content can be computed in a fashion like the water content from admixtures

Solids in admixture = dosage x cwt of cm x solid content x (1 gal/128 fl oz) x (lb/gal of admixture)

Based on the weight of the admixture (in lb/gal) and the percentages of water and solids within it, one can determine the SG of the solid particles (SG of water is taken as 1.0) as follows:

- If the liquid dye is 50% water by weight, the weight of water is 6 lb (0.50 x 12 lb)
- The weight of the solids is 6 lb (in a gal of admixture).
- The volume of water is then (6 / 62.4) to obtain 0.0962 ft³.
- Solids volume is 0.0375 ft³. Note: 1 gal = 0.13368 ft³.
- The unit weight of solids is then 6 lb / 0.0375 ft³ = 160 lb/ft³ and therefore its SG is determined to be 2.56.

From liquid dye

 $[20 \text{ fl oz/cwt } x \text{ 9 cwt}] \times [(50\% \text{ solids})/100] \times (1 \text{ gal}/128 \text{ fl oz}) \times (12 \text{ lb/gal}) = 8.44 \text{ lb}$

From HRWR

 $[6 \text{ fl oz/cwt } x \text{ 9 cwt}] \times [(47\% \text{ solids})/100] \times (1 \text{ gal}/128 \text{ fl oz}) \times (8.5 \text{ lb/gal}) = 1.90 \text{ lb}$

DENSITIES, AIR CONTENT, SLUMP and RATIOS

Now that all the amounts have been determined, the respective volumes can be computed so that theoretical densities and air content can be found.

Mass of Concrete (M) – The mass of concrete is the sum of all masses of the constituents in the mixture – cm, fiber, aggregate, water and admixture solids:

$$M = Amount_{cm} + Amount_{fibers} + Amount_{aggregate} + Amount_{water} + Amount_{solids}$$

 $M = 900.00 + 8.0 + 1321.50 + 450 + 8.44 = 2687.84 \text{ lb}$

Absolute Volume of Concrete (V) – The absolute volume of concrete is the sum of all the constituents in the mixture. This is based on zero air content.

Note: This value has to be less than 27 ft3 (1 yd3).

$$V = Volume_{cm} + Volume_{fibers} + Volume_{aggregate} + Volume_{water} + Volume_{solids}$$

 $V = 4.81 + 0.12 + 11.75 + 7.21 + 0.05 = 23.941 \, \text{ft}^3$

Theoretical Density (T) – is the density of concrete with no air in it and is the mass of concrete (M) divided by the absolute volume of concrete (V):

$$T = M/V$$

 $T = 2687.84 \text{ lb} / 23.91 \text{ ft}^3 = 112.27 \text{ lb/ft}^3$

Measured, or Anticipated, Density (D) – the density of concrete obtained from cylinders, cubes, etc. in the plastic (wet) state (i.e., immediately after casting). 99.55 lb/ft³

Air Content – The air content is computed by comparing the theoretical density (no air) to the measured density (D) or using the absolute volume methods:

Air content from theoretical density:

$$Air content = (T - D) / Tx 100$$

 $Air content = (112.27 - 99.55) / 112.27 x 100 = 11.3\%$

Air content from a absolute volume method:

Air content =
$$(27 - V) / 27 \times 100$$

Air content = $(27 - 23.941) / 27 \times 100 = 11.3\%$ (check)

The value of the air content should be checked using the absolute volume method (you should come up with the same answer. If you do not, then there is an error someplace).

Note: If the measured density is higher than the theoretical density, the result would be a negative air content. This is not possible.

Cement-Cementitious Materials Ratio

The c/cm ratio is a calculated value: 400 lb c / 900 lb cm = 0.444

Water-Cementitious Materials Ratio

The w/cm ratio is a calculated value: 450 lb / 900 lb cm = 0.50

Slump – measured value (in inches).

AGGREGATE PROPORTIONING

Aggregate - Concrete Ratio (Volumetric) - Per EXHIBIT 5 - Technical Specifications for Concrete and Reinforcement, "Regardless of source, the total aggregate volume shall be 30% (min.) of the total volume of any concrete mixture."

Aggregate Ratio (%) =
$$V_{aggregate} / 27 \times 100\%$$

 $(11.75 / 27) \times 100\% = 43.5\% > 30\% (OK!)$

EXHIBIT 7. DETAILED COST BREAKDOWN

In addition to the breakdown below, teams will have access to an example Excel file to serve as a template, located at the link provided in Section 5.0. It is expected that teams only use this template as a reference. Teams should update the template to match current market costs, their specific labor hours, and materials. For the sections below, teams shall include hours, as applicable, for each of the project sections listed below:

- Project Management
- Analysis and Design
- Development and Testing
- Mold Construction
- Canoe Construction
- Proposal Preparation
- Presentation Preparation
- Display Preparation

LABOR COSTS

Total billable Direct Labor (DL) shall be calculated using the Raw Labor Rates (RLR). Labor Hours spent on the project (HRS), and the multipliers for Direct Employee Costs (DEC), and Profit (P).

The formula for Direct Labor (DL) is as follows:

$$DL = [\Sigma (RLR \times HRS)] \times (DEC) \times (1+P)$$

Each team shall develop a Table of Billable Direct Labor Rates for the classifications of personnel used in the project.

Direct Employee Costs (DEC) are those costs associated with employee taxes, benefits, insurance, and vacation. A multiplier of 1.50 shall be used to calculate the Direct Employee Costs.

A **Profit Multiplier (P)** of eighteen percent (18%) shall be applied to labor.

EXPENSES

Expenses (E) shall include both materials costs and other project direct expenses not specifically covered. Total expenses shall be calculated using the Materials Costs (MC), Direct Expenses (DE) and Markup (M).

The formula for Expenses (E) is as follows:

$$E = (\Sigma MC + \Sigma DE) \times (1+M)$$

Materials Costs (MC) shall be determined using current materials rates.

Direct Expenses (DE) shall include, but are not limited to, costs of outside consultants and other direct expenses related to the fabrication of the canoe.

A Markup (M) of ten percent (10%) shall be applied to both material costs and direct expenses.

LABOR AND MATERIAL RATES

Raw Labor Rates (RLR)

Role	Rate
Principal Design Engineer	\$50/hour
Design Manager	\$45/hour
Project Construction Manager	\$40/hour
Construction Superintendent	\$40/hour
Project Design Engineer (P.E.)	\$35/hour
Quality Manager	\$35/hour
Graduate Field Engineer (EIT)	\$25/hour
Technician/Drafter	\$25/hour
Laborer/Technician	\$25/hour
Clerk/Office Admin	\$20/hour

In the situation where one person acts to serve in multiple functions, raw labor rates shall be applied according to the task being performed.

Outside Labor Costs

Role	Rate
Outside Consultants	\$200/hour

An outside consultant shall be defined as anyone contributing to the project that is not a student as previously defined.

EXHIBIT 8. RACE REGULATIONS AND SAFETY

GENERAL

The race demonstration of canoe prototypes will consist of seven types of races:

- 1. (Student Symposia Only) Women's Slalom (2 persons identifying as she/her/hers)
- 2. (Society-wide Finals Only) Women's Endurance Slalom (3 persons identifying as she/her/hers)
- 3. (Student Symposia Only) Men's Slalom (2 persons identifying as he/him/his)
- 4. (Society-wide Finals Only) Men's Endurance Slalom (3 persons identifying as he/him/his)
- 5. Women's Sprint (2 persons identifying as she/her/hers)
- 6. Men's Sprint (2 persons identifying as he/him/his)
- 7. Co-ed Sprint (2 persons identifying as he/him/his and 2 persons identifying as she/her/hers)

RACE RULES

Race Commitment: Teams must make good faith efforts to start and finish all races. Should issues arise that compromise the canoe's structural integrity or paddlers' safety, teams should use sound judgment to determine the safest course of action.

Consistent Participation: The same registered individuals must participate in both the preliminary and final heats of any race.

Injury and Substitution: If a paddler is injured after the preliminary race, a substitute must replace them. The substitute must be one of the original 5 registered team members of the same gender and cannot paddle. If the required number of paddlers of the required gender cannot be provided, substitutes of another gender may be used but cannot paddle.

Safety Gear: Closed-toed water shoes are highly encouraged as a safety precaution.

Race Formats:

- Slalom & Endurance Races: Timed single event against the clock.
- All Other Races: Include timed preliminaries and finals. The top five canoes advance to the grand final, and the next five advance to the petite final based on preliminary times. Points are awarded based on final race times. If finals cannot be conducted or the host school decides before the competition starts that separate finals heats will not be run, preliminary times will be used as final times.

Sprint Races:

- If a team qualifies for a final but cannot start, the team does not receive points, and their slot is given to the team with the next best preliminary sprint time.
- If a team starts a final sprint race in a canoe deemed race-worthy by the judges but does not complete the race, they receive points for finishing last in that final event.

Incomplete Events: If all race events cannot be completed (e.g., slalom races completed but sprint races not), only the scores from completed races will be counted in the overall competition score. Scores will not be adjusted to account for any races that were not held or completed.

STUDENT SYMPOSIUM EVENTS

Race Setup: Depending on the number of entrants, host schools may decide to have grand and/or petite finals for the various sprint races. The host school shall inform all teams of the race setup prior to the competition.

Lane Position and Heat Assignments: Lane positions and heat assignments will be randomly selected before the competition begins and provided at on-site registration. A diagram or map of the course layout will be provided to participants. Sprint course turn direction (left/right) will be determined before the races.

Interference: If lane interference or collisions occur, paddlers must immediately STOP, hold paddles above their heads, and discontinue racing. The team captain should communicate the interference claim to the head judge.

- Affected teams may be allowed to rerun the heat after a minimum of 10 minutes, and times from the rerun will be used as the official time for the heat.
- Teams that willfully interfere with another team or fail to adhere to course boundaries resulting in interference may be disqualified.
- Teams that do not stop, raise paddles, and continue to race immediately cannot claim interference and will not be granted a rerun opportunity.

EQUIPMENT

Paddles: Single-bladed paddles are required and may be straight-bladed or bent. Spare paddles are permitted in the canoe during the race demonstration.

Seats and Mats: Seats must not exceed 20" x 20" x 20". Mats must not exceed 20" x 30" x ½" thick. Seats and mats can be used together by one paddler, or knee pads may be used.

Fixed Paddler Restraints: Straps, seatbelts, Velcro®, suction cups, or any items that attach the paddler to the canoe or interfere with safe egress are not permitted. The judges or C4 may prohibit any restraints deemed unsafe.

Slip-Resistant Materials: Non-skid tape or other slip-resistant materials are not permitted.

Spray Skirts: Post-construction devices that prevent water from entering the canoe, such as spray skirts, are not permitted.

RACE POINTS & PENALTIES

Buoy Negotiation: To successfully complete a race, the bow of the canoe must cross the finish line with the same number of paddlers (in or touching the canoe) as when the race started. Teams may swim their canoe to the finish line and receive a time only if they have navigated the final turn of the race.

Did Not Finish (DNF): If a canoe cannot complete a race but is seaworthy enough to continue, the team receives a DNF (zero points). If other circumstances arise, judges will contact C4 to determine if a DNF is applicable.

A team's ability to re-race following a DNF will be determined by competition judges and evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Description of Infraction	Penalty
Canoe crosses the finish line in wrong lane	30 seconds
Sprint: Turn buoy(s) not properly negotiated	DNF
Slalom: Missed buoy	30 seconds per buoy
Slalom: Bypass buoys to save time	DNF

SAFETY

Safety is the highest priority. Behaviors that cause and/or increase the risk of personal injury will not be tolerated. Judges and student symposium hosts, including the Safety Officers, are empowered to stop or prohibit an activity which is deemed to be hazardous, or to postpone an activity until the hazard is rectified. All participants are responsible for complying with all campus/venue protocols and procedures, including those deemed necessary for public health purposes.

Powered Rescue Boats: At least one, preferably two, powered rescue boats must be on the water during all races. If unavailable, races will not occur. The rescue boat must cover the entire perimeter of the paddling area before races begin.

Weather and Water Conditions: Races will not occur if sustained winds exceed 25 mph, wave heights exceed 1 foot, or water temperature is \leq 35°F and/or combined air and water temperatures \leq 85°F. If temperatures are between 85°F and 120°F, races may proceed at the discretion of the safety director, provided there is a warming area within 200 feet of the canoe/boat loading zone with a temperature > 75°F and two powered rescue boats are present.

Lightning: If lightning is detected within 15 miles, races will be suspended until 30 minutes have elapsed since the last recorded strike.

Unsafe Entries: Any entry deemed unsafe by the judges will not be allowed to race unless corrective measures are taken. If repairs are needed, the judges may allow rescheduling for a later heat, but before the next event.

Safety Director: A safety director will oversee activities, especially near the starting and docking areas, and is responsible for stopping activities involving safety rule violations. They will also brief paddlers on hazards before and during the competition.

Paddler Safety: All paddlers must be competent swimmers and wear a US Coast Guard-approved Type I, II, or III Personal Flotation Device (life jacket) at all times during competition or practice. Wetsuit buoyancy pads are not substitutes for Coast Guard-approved life jackets.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY REFERENCES

Following are a couple references to documents from the American Canoe Association (www.americancence.org) for further reading and planning race day safety.

American Canoe Association. Best Practices for Paddlers and Paddlesport Programs [PDF document] URL: www.americancanoe.org/resource/resmgr/sei-educational_resources/best_practices.pdf

American Canoe Association. Cold Water Survival [PDF document]: https://www.usps.org/eddept/files/cold_water_survival_aca.pdf

EXHIBIT 9. DURABILITY AND REPAIRS

The Canoe Prototype's durability will be assessed based on its performance during competition events, transportation, and general handling. This evaluation will occur after the slalom and preliminary sprint races. Canoes will be removed from the water for durability inspection by the judges. Team captains must be present and provide any Damage/Accident Report and written permission from the Judges/C4 for any tape already applied. Unauthorized tape will incur a 25-unit deduction. Tape used for securing gunwale protective caps/coverings or additional flotation material for flotation tests is exempt. Team captains will be notified verbally of any deductions. Judges' and C4 members' decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

Judging Criteria: Judges will score each canoe from 0 to 10 for durability on the Final Product Prototype Score Card. Considerations include the frequency and severity of microcracks, structural cracks, tape repairs, seaworthiness, and damage to aesthetic elements. Damage from race collisions will not affect the durability score.

REPAIRS

During Competition: Repairs during the competition can only be made with tape. Any type of tape is allowed, but using tape for repairs will result in an automatic deduction. Tape used for securing gunwale protective caps/coverings or additional flotation material does not incur a deduction. If damage occurs due to a collision, tape repair deductions do not apply. Teams must file a Damage/Accident Report with the judges or C4 and receive written approval before applying tape. Each instance of tape application requires separate permission.

Between Competitions: If the Canoe Prototype is damaged between the Student Symposium and Society-wide Finals, teams may patch, repair, or refinish it after submitting and receiving approval for a Repair Procedures Report. For extensive damage, a Reconstruction Request must be submitted. The Repair/Reconstruction request, C4 decision, and supporting documentation must be included in Appendix C in the Project Proposal.

To request a Repair Procedures Report or Reconstruction Request, email concretecanoe@asce.org. The report or request must be completed and signed by the team captain(s) and ASCE Student Chapter Faculty Advisor, and received by the C4 within 7 business days of the damage.

The report or request must include details on the cause and extent of damage, proposed repairs (methodology, materials, and damage area), enabling the C4 to decide on approval. Repairs must use the original construction materials and methods, and reconstruction must match the original design, materials, and concrete mixture. Repairs or reconstruction cannot begin until written approval is received from the C4.

Refinishing, including sanding, minor repairs, and sealers, is considered a repair. Reapplication of letters is not considered a repair.

If damage is due to poor design or construction, the Reconstruction Request will be denied. If repairs or reconstruction are not allowed, the team must decide whether to compete with an unrepaired canoe in "good faith" or forfeit to the alternate concrete canoe team within their Student Symposium.

Teams granted permission to repair will receive a 25-unit deduction at the ASCE Student Civil Engineering Championships, and those permitted to reconstruct will receive a 50-unit deduction. The C4 reserves the right to waive these deductions on a case-by-case basis.

DAMAGE / ACCIDENT REPORT

School Name:
Canoe Name:
Date of Accident:
Location of Accident:
Type of Accident: () Collision with other canoe () Paddler fell out of canoe () Collision with inanimate object () Other:
Briefly Describe Circumstances of Accident:
Describe in Detail the Extent of Damage:
Team Captain's Signature:
Team Captain's Signature:
FOR COMPETITION OFFICIAL USE ONLY
Damage is due to accident outside the control of the paddlers? (Circle one) YES NO
Comments:
() Deduct 25 units from Final Product () Do Not Deduct 25 units from Final Product
Head Judge

REPAIR PROCEDURE REPORT

School Name:				
Prototype Name:				
Team Captain(s):				
Date of Request:				
Description of Cause:				
Description of Repair: Materials used in Repair: Description of Supporting Documentation:				
Provide a list of Supporting Documenta				
C4 Disposition				
Date:				
Request to Repair Canoe:	□ Granted	□ Declined		
Reason for Disposition:				

Filing this report does not guarantee the school will be granted permission to conduct repairs to their canoe. The ability to do so is a function of the reason for the request and the supporting documentation. Under no circumstances should a school consider a verbal disposition permission to repair their canoe. If the school is permitted to conduct repairs, that school will receive a 25-unit penalty for doing so, reducing the maximum final product points to 75 out of 100 units. This penalty may be waived at the discretion of the C4 on a case-by-case basis.

RECONSTRUCTION REQUEST

School Name:			
Prototype Name:			
Team Captain(s):			
Date of Request:			
Reason for Request:			
Description of Supporting Documentation Provide a list of Supporting Documentation			
C4 Disposition			
Date:			
Request to Reconstruct Canoe:	□ Granted	□ Declined	
Reason for Disposition:			

Filing this report does not guarantee the school listed above will be granted a Reconstruction Request. The ability to do so is a function of the reason for the request and the supporting documentation. Under no circumstances should a school consider a verbal disposition permission to rebuild their canoe.

If the school is permitted to reconstruct, that school will receive a 50-unit penalty for doing so, reducing the maximum final product points to 50 out of 100 units. This penalty may be waived at the discretion of the C4 on a case-by-case basis.

EXHIBIT 10. EVALUATION FORMS

The judges will fill out the scoresheets individually. The individual judges' scoresheets shall not be requested or given out during the competition. The judges will come to a consensus on the deductions applicable to each team and complete 1 deduction score sheet to be given to each team. See *Exhibit 10 - Durability & Repairs* for Damage/Accident, Repair, and Reconstruction Request Forms.

The following in this attachment include the evaluation forms to be used by the judges.

INSTRUCTIONS - DEDUCTION SCORECARDS

- 1. The Student Symposium/Society-wide Finals Judges will reach a consensus to determine any infractions committed by a team during the competition event.
- 2. Judges will record the unit value of each deduction in the "Deduction" column. The units for these deductions are standardized and cannot deviate from the prescribed values.
- 3. The Head Judge will tally the deductions and initial the tally. During the Society-wide Finals Competition, a C4 member may tally the deductions in place of the Head Judge; however, the determination of infractions will remain with the judges.
- 4. The total deductions may exceed 200 units.
- **5.** The Head Judge (or C4 member) will provide all team captains with forms detailing the deductions assessed against their teams. Teams with no deductions will also receive these forms to maintain transparency.
- **6.** Team captains must sign the form to indicate whether they agree with the infractions and deductions or wish to revise, resubmit, or appeal any of them. Teams that wish to revise, resubmit, or appeal will be given a reasonable period to review the rules, gather supporting documentation, and submit their responses. Teams should be prepared to substantiate their revisions or appeals.
- 7. The Head Judge (or C4 member) will specify the deadline for submitting the completed and signed form.
- **8.** Upon receiving the form, the judges will re-evaluate any revised or appealed infractions based on the supporting documentation and make a final decision. The Head Judge will record the final total deduction, sign the form, and inform the team captains of the decision. Once communicated, no further revisions or appeals will be accepted.
- **9.** All revisions and appeals must be completed before the Awards Ceremony. The final deduction tally will be recorded on both the paper and electronic score sheets, and will be ratified by the Head Judge. The Head Judge and the C4 will finalize and ratify the scores at the Final Competition.

Members of the C4 will be on-call and are available to provide guidance, clarification, and interpretation of the rules and regulations for the judges. During the competitions, teams can request that the judges contact C4 for rule interpretation via the appropriate Revise and Resubmit or Appeal form.

Project Proposal		30% of Overall Score	
School Name: Canoe Name:	Possible Points	Score (whole numbers)	
Proposal and Qualifications Package (Section 5.4)			
Project Scope (2 Points), Project Goals (4 Points), Project Management Plan (4 Points), Health and Safety Program (4 Points), Quality Assurance/Quality Control Program (4 Points), Overview of Team's Sustainability Practices (4 Points), Key Personnel Role Descriptions (4 Points), Proposed Project Budget and Schedule (4 Points)	30		
Technical Execution Package (Section 5.5)			
Infographic (Section 5.5.4) All required information presented, clarity of graphics, illustrations, pictures, etc (5 Points) Presentation enhances understanding and experience (5 Points)	10		
Team Organizational Chart (Section 5.5.5)	5		
Opening Statement (Section 5.5.6) Goals (5 points) Innovations (15 Points) - Note: this also applies to discussion of innovations throughout the deliverable	20		
Project Evolution and Adaptations (Section 5.5.7)	5		
Hull Design and Analysis (Section 5.5.8 & Section 5.5.16) Hull Design (10 points), Structural Analysis (10 points), Refinement and Iterations to Design (5 Points), Appendix C (10 points)	35		
Development and Testing (Section 5.5.9) Mix Design (10 points), Reinforcement Selection (10 points), Other Materials Discussion (5 points), Composite Mix Design Conclusions (5 points)	30		
Construction (Section 5.5.10) Overall Construction Process (5 points), Mold Development (4 points), Concrete Batching and Placement (4 points), Reinforcement Placement (4 points), Curing Process and Demolding Process (4 points), Concrete Finishing and Aesthetics (4 points)	25		
Detailed Cost Breakdown (Section 5.5.11) Comparison of estimated vs actual hours/costs (3 points), Comparison of materials costs estimated vs actual (3 points), Deviations and future budgeting discussion (2 points), Detailed Cost Breakdown Table (2 points)	10		
Construction Drawings & Specifications (Section 5.5.12)- Clarity & Ease of Understanding	10		
Mix Design Sheets (Section 5.6, Exhibit 5, Exhibit 6)			
General Compliance of Mixture to Proposal Specifications and completeness of Mixture Design Excel File (10 points), Correct Equation Inputs (all mixtures) (5 points)	20		
Subtotal	200		
Academic Judging – Project Pro	posal Total		

nnical Presentation 25% of O		verall Score
School Name:	Possible Points	Score (whole
Canoe Name:	Points	numbers)
Presenters		
Preparation Level (5 points) Confidence/Overall Demeanor (5 points)	10	
Presentation		
Quality of Audio/Visuals (10 points)	00	
Content (10 points)	30	
Professionalism (10 <i>points</i>)		
Judges' Questions		
Preparation/Expertise in Answers (30 points)	60	
Confidence Level (10 points)	00	
Conciseness of Answers (20 points)		
Subtotal	100	
Deductions:		Cirolo All that America
A. Failure to observe time limit: A penalty shall be assessed when the official tim	e exceeds 5	Circle All that Apply A
minutes 5 seconds (5:05). <i>15 units</i>		В
B. Sponsorship or commercialism violation: <i>15 units</i> C. Less than two (2) speakers: <i>15 units</i>		C
D. Failure to adhere to live presentation format: No Presentation Points		D
Academic Judging - Technical Presentat	ion Total	

Final Product Prototype			25% of Overall Score			
	SCHOOL NAME	Canoe Workmanship (40 pts max)	Cross-Section Workmanship (15 pts max)	Product Display (25 pts max)	Durability (20 pts max)	Total (100 pts max)
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						
22						
23						
24						
25						

FINAL PRODUCT PROTOTYPE

Below is a list of descriptions, guidelines, and things to consider while judging the Final Product Prototype. Note that these are not to be considered an "all-inclusive list." Ultimately, it is up to each individual judge to provide a score for each category and provide consistent scoring from school to school.

Canoe Workmanship – The intent of Canoe Workmanship is to evaluate the build quality of a canoe. Most items in this category are related to the construction of the canoe itself. Some things to consider include, but are not limited to:

- are there noticeable cold joints in the concrete?
- the "lumpiness" of the concrete
- the consistency of the wall thickness
- the consistency of concrete color(s)
- the consistency of concrete materials (i.e. are there clumps of fibers visible, are there other areas the concrete was clearly not mixed well, etc.)
- the consistency and "smoothness" of the finish
- is there is any cracking or micro-cracking
- is any reinforcement mesh visible
- if there is any concrete chipped off (either due to poor construction or mishandling of the finished canoe)
- are there any other general quality control issues?
- if there are noticeable voids/ "bug holes" in the concrete
- the intricacy of graphics
- how 'clean' the edges of the graphics are
- the execution of various techniques used for creating the aesthetics (i.e. colored concrete, sandblasting, 3-D elements, etc.)
- evaluation of the overall theme and how it fits with the aesthetics/graphics

Cross-Section Workmanship – The intent of the Cross-Section Workmanship is to evaluate how well the cross-section represents all the processes and materials used to fabricate the canoe. Some things to consider include, but are not limited to:

- is the cross-section full scale and is the mold shown
- is the cross-section representative of the construction process actually used;
- are all the layers of concrete shown and demonstrate the concrete casting process;
- are all the materials used shown (i.e. reinforcement, mold, graphics application, sealer, etc);
- are all the processes clearly labeled;
- if applicable, are there any components highlighting new or innovative processes;
- is the entire process from start to finish easy to follow

Product Display – The intent of the Product Display is to evaluate how creatively and effectively the display showcases the overall "big picture" of the entire canoe/cross-section/table display setup while incorporating all the required display items. Some things to consider include, but are not limited to:

- how the product display is organized and is it easy to find various components;
- are all the required sample items present and of <u>representative</u> size;
- are the items labeled and easy to read;
- if applicable, are there any components highlighting new or innovative processes;
- if there are more than the required items on the product display, do they help to provide insight to various tests or research performed during the project;
- are the product display, cross-section, and canoe stands effectively integrating the canoe theme
- is sustainability highlighted as relevant

Durability – The intent of the Durability category is to evaluate the canoe's ability to withstand the stresses and the rigors of the races. This category emphasizes both structural integrity and the team's attention to long-term performance. Some things to consider include, but are not limited to:

• Visible Damage: Have repairs been made before competition events, and if so, are they well-integrated or clearly patched?

- Structural Integrity: Does the canoe survive water entry, paddling, and racing without significant failure or loss of materials?
- Structural Integrity: Are any reinforcement systems (fibers, mesh, etc.) exposed after use?
- Resistance to Impact and Handling: Is the edge durability (gunwales, caps, etc) consistent, or do these areas show excessive chipping or fragility?
- Quality of Repairs: Do the repairs, if applicable, demonstrate a planned and thoughtful approach rather than reactive patching or all-encompassing taping?
- Overall Performance: Did the canoe maintain its intended functionality throughout the duration of races?
- Overall Performance: Was any damage catastrophic (e.g., structural failure), moderate (e.g., cosmetic cracking), or minor (superficial blemishes)?
- Longevity Considerations: Would the canoe reasonably survive extended use beyond competition?

Overall, durability judging should reflect not only whether the canoe "survived the races," but also how well it maintained structural performance, visual quality, and integrity throughout construction, transport, display, and competition.

DEDUCTION SCORE CARD

Project Proposal

Sch	ool:	
	Infraction	Deduction
Α	Use of plagiarized material	Disqualification
В	Use of text recycling	No Proposal Points
С	Project Proposal over specified number of pages (page(s)) × 10 units/page	Units
D	Technical Execution Package/Mix Design Sheets/Materials Notebook received late (≤ 7 calendar days)	30 Units
Е	Technical Execution Package/Mix Design Sheets/Materials Notebook received late (> 7 calendar days)	No Proposal Points
F	Failure to submit <i>Proposal and Qualifications Package</i> by deadline	10 Units
G	Failure to include all required sections and elements specified in the RFP, in order	10 Units
	TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	Units
FOR	ms shall have until (day/time) to either agree with the deductioneal and submit rationale. TEAM CAPTAINS ONLY We agree with the deductions applied to the Project Proposal We are submitting an appeal (see attached form)	ns listed above or to
 Tea	m Captain Team Captain	
Upo	COMPETITION OFFICIAL USE ONLY In review of the revised submission and any supporting documentation provided by the the deductions originally determined by the judges shall stand.	eam captain:
	The appeal was accepted	
The	total deduction for the Project Proposal is Points.	
		Head Judge

DEDUCTION SCORE CARD

FINAL PRODUCT PROTOTYPE

	Infraction	Deduction		
^	Canoe not built within current academic year; cannot race due to design or safety	No Final Draduct Daints		
Α	issues, or cannot complete preliminary sprint and endurance events	No Final Product Points		
В	Use of Bondo®, epoxy, or similar materials for construction or repairs	No Final Product Points		
С	Use of prohibited materials	No Final Product Points		
D	Use of more than 3 concrete mixtures	No Final Product Points		
Е	Flotation not within 3 ft of bow and/or stern or flotation not encased in concrete	10 Units		
F	Product display does not adequately show design process (7.2.1)	5 Units		
G	Product display does not include all required display components (7.2.4)	5 Units		
Н	Flotation Test PASS FAIL	50 Units		
Soc	iety-Wide Finals Only			
ı	Reported concrete oven dry unit weight compared to measured unit weight > 5 lb/ft ³	5 Units		
J	Measured weight of canoe not within the max of ±10 lbs or ±5% of the reported weight	15 Units		
Κ	School granted permission to repair / reconstruct canoe	REPAIR = 25 Units		
		RECONSTRUCT = 50 Units		
	ise & Resubmit Allowed			
L	Reinforcement thickness exceeds 50% of canoe thickness	No Final Product Points		
	Non-compliant or non-approved concrete mix, materials, admixtures, or finishing			
М	materials	Units		
N.	(infraction(s)) × 5 units/infraction	15 Haita		
N	Reinforcement does not meet Percent Open Area requirements	15 Units		
0	Nuisance Deduction: If Infraction L or M or N is rescinded by resubmittal TOTAL FINAL PRODUCT PROTOTYPE DEDUCTIONS	5 Units Units		
Teams shall have until (day/time) to either agree with the deductions listed above or to revise and submit or appeal with supportive documentation.				
 We agree with the deductions applied to the Project Proposal We are submitting an appeal (see attached form) We wish to revise and resubmit the following deduction (circle those that apply): L M N 				
Team Captain Team Captain				
Upon review of the appeal/revised submission and any supporting documentation provided by the team captain: ☐ The deductions originally determined by the judges shall stand ☐ The appeal was accepted ☐ The following deductions shall be rescinded (circle those that apply): L M N The total deduction for the Final Product Prototype is Points.				
		Head Judge		

REVISE AND RESUBMIT FORM

FINAL PRODUCT PROTOTYPE

Instructions: Completed forms must be submitted by a Team Captain to the Head Judge. Requests will not be considered once the competition has concluded. All decisions of the judges are final.

School Name:
Team Captain(s):
\square We wish to revise and resubmit the following deduction (circle those that apply): L M N
Briefly Describe Revision Presented for Resubmission: (Continue on reverse side if more space is needed).
Symposium Only] We formally request that the C4 member on-call be contacted in order to obtain an official interpretation regarding this matter.
Rules & Regulations Section(s) Referenced:
Team Captain's Signature:
Team Captain's Signature:

APPEAL FORM

Instructions: Completed forms must be submitted by a Team Captain to the Head Judge. Requests will not be considered once the competition has concluded. All decisions of the judges are final.

School Name:
Team Captain(s):
Area of Appeal:
Briefly Describe the Appeal: (Continue on reverse side if more space is needed).
[Symposium Only] We formally request that the C4 member on-call be contacted in order to obtain an official interpretation regarding this matter.
Rules & Regulations Section(s) Referenced:
Team Captain's Signature:
Team Cantain's Signature

EXHIBIT 11. PROPOSAL AND QUAILIFICATIONS PACKAGE

Letter of Intent (Page 1 of 1)

Dear C4,			
On behalf of theASCE Student Chapter, we are pleased to submit this Letter of Intent confirming our intent to participate in the 2025–2026 ASCE Concrete Canoe Competition. Our team is enthusiastic about the opportunity to contribute to this long-standing tradition of innovation, collaboration, and engineering excellence.			
We have carefully reviewed the 2026 Request for Proposals and Qualifications Package, Technical Execution Package, Mix deliverables. Our chapter is fully committed to meeting all con established by C4 and ASCE.	Design Sheets, Materials Notebook	, and ass	ociated
The Concrete Canoe Team vand dedication, guided by the principles of stewardship, safety, swe are confident that our team's technical knowledge, collabor both our proposal and our prototype canoe.	sustainability, and respect that are emp	hasized in t	the RFP.
We acknowledge that we have read the 2026 ASCE Society-wid understand the following (initialed by 1 team captain and ASCE I		st for Propo	osal and
Statements of Agreement			Advisor Initials
Teams must meet eligibility requirements outlined in Section 3.0 and Exhibit 3 to participate in the ASCE Student Symposium and Society-wide Competitions.			
Proposal and Qualifications Package must be uploaded to the ASCE se	erver by November 3, 2025, 5:00 p.m. ET.		
ASCE Student Chapter Annual Reports and dues are due by February 1	, 2026 for Society-Wide eligibility.		
The last day to submit a Request for Information (RFI) to the C4 is January 26, 2026.			
If using a theme, teams must consult their Faculty Advisor regarding potential trademark or copyright concerns.			
Teams are responsible for all information in this RFP, including addendums and Q&A posted on the ASCE Concrete Canoe Facebook Page.			
Teams must adhere to all deadlines, including submissions for the F Materials Notebook for both the Student Symposium and Society-Wide			
Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commit competition.	ment to advancing civil engineering edu	cation thro	ugh this
Sincerely,			
Team Captain (print)	Faculty Advisor (print)		
Team Captain (signature) Faculty Advisor (signature) Email:			

Qι	ialification Form (Page 1 of 4)			
(sch	(school name)			
Se	e Section 5.4.2 for required information for each topic area.			
1.	Project Scope (250 words max)			
2.	Project Goals (300 words max)			

datilication Form (Fage 2 of 4)		
school name)		
Project Management Plan (250 words max)		
Health and Safety Program (250 words max)		
·	Project Management Plan (250 words max)	

	Qualification Form (Page 3 of 4)
	(school name)
5.	Quality Assurance/Quality Control Program (250 words max)
6.	Overview of Team's Sustainability Practices (250 words max)

	(school name)
	Key Personnel Role Descriptions (250 words max)
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