

TEAMS Policies & Competition Rules

Competition Site

- The TEAMS competition must take place in-person. It is the coach's responsibility to secure a space in which to host the competition locally (i.e., school classroom, gymnasium, library, neighboring school, collegiate host site). This space must adhere to your school's student safety protocols.
- Teams from different schools may compete together. It is up to the discretion of the coach to reach out to other TEAMS coaches to coordinate competition date, time, location and manage the event.
- Teams may compete at a college or university. Permission must be granted by the collegiate host site to compete at their location.

Registration Fees and Deadlines

- Online registration opens in August, and all schools must register through TSA.
- The deadline for registration is January 9, 2026.
- Registration fees are determined by TSA. Registration fees are non-refundable and all payments are submitted directly to TSA.
- Payments may be made with a credit card, check, or purchase order.
- Coaches will have access to their online account and competition resources only *after* payment or school purchase order has been received for the registration amount.
- Registration payment or school purchase order must be received by TSA no later than January 9, 2026.
- Teams will be allowed to compete only if full payment or an official school purchase order that covers full registration has been received prior to the start of the competition (January 14, 2026).
- TEAMS payments are non-refundable and non-transferable regardless of status of in-person instruction at the time the competition takes place (January 14 - February 18, 2026).

Cancellations

- TEAMS payments are non-refundable and non-transferable regardless of status of in-person instruction at the time the competition takes place (January 14 – February 18, 2026).

Competition Materials

- Digital files of the written competition materials will be provided by TSA in the TEAMS coach account. Each team coach is responsible for printing the required materials prior to the start of the competition.
- A list of materials needed to complete the design/build challenge will be provided to all participants. Each coach is responsible for providing the materials to their team(s).
- The multiple choice exam will be administered through an online testing system. A digital copy of the exam will be provided by TSA in the TEAMS coach account. This copy may be printed by the team coach and distributed to each team by the proctor at the start of the competition. Answers must be submitted through the online testing system.

Participation Levels

- Students must compete at the appropriate level.
- Middle school TEAMS participants are in 6th – 8th grade; fifth grade and ninth grade students may participate at a middle school if they are housed in the building within the middle school.
- High school TEAMS participants are in 9th - 12th grade.

Team Composition

- All teams must be affiliated with a school, and the team contestants must be enrolled at the school.
- Teams must consist of 2–4 students.
- Students are limited to competing on one team at both the state-level and national-level competitions.
- All teams from the same school must participate on the same day.

Coach Requirements

- The primary TEAMS coach must be a faculty member at the participating school.
- The secondary coach may be a non-faculty member (such as a parent) and may act as the lead coach with approval from the school.
- If coaching more than one team, all the coach's teams must participate on the same day.
- The team coach must monitor the competition. A competition proctor(s) may be recruited to assist with the event but is not required.
- Coaches may *not* assist participants in any way during the competition.

Competitions

- The multiple choice exam must be completed within 60-minutes.
- The internet may only be utilized to access the competition testing system during the multiple choice exam portion of the competition.

Scores

- Teams have three days after their competition date to protest the multiple choice exam and must do so by submitting a protest form to TSA for deliberation and response. Protest forms are available in the coach online account.
- The Essay, Design/Build, and Mathematical Modeling components may *not* be protested, and scores are considered final.
- Scores resulting in a tie will not be broken when determining state rankings.