



AIAA Regional Student Conference Rules

The fundamental objective of the AIAA Regional Student Conferences is to provide AIAA University and High School Student Members with an educational experience that prepares them for their future as practicing aerospace engineers. Students attend and present their technical work as they would at an AIAA Forum. In addition, they establish relationships, learn from others, and hone their communication skills. Their work, both written and oral, is evaluated by qualified professionals serving as judges, with the primary intent of providing feedback on the quality of their work. Additionally, all students for AIAA Foundation-sponsored categories will have the option to publish their paper with AIAA. Regionally supported categories may have the opportunity to publish their paper (if category paper aligns with the AIAA Foundation-sponsored categories).

Student Conference Rules

- AIAA University and High School Student Members in good standing at their institution are eligible to submit a paper and present their work at a Regional Student Conference.
 - All Contributing Student Authors on a paper must be AIAA University or High School Student Members.
 - All authors must be identified as either a Contributing Student Author or Mentor and by their high school or university status as a High School Student, Undergraduate Student, Master's Student, Doctoral Student, or Faculty Member in the footer on the first page of the paper. Contributing Student Authors must be identified as either an AIAA High School or University Student Member. (Example: ¹Undergraduate Student, Department of Aerospace Engineering, AIAA University Student and Contributing Student Author)
 - At the time of online registration an AIAA member number will be required to receive the member registration rate for the conference.
 - Any student may attend the Regional Student Conference but may be subjected to a higher registration fee if they are not AIAA members.
- For all student competition categories, a substantive portion of the work represented in the submission must have been performed by the Contributing Student Authors.
 - Contributing Student Author – A student who made a substantive intellectual or technical contribution to the work being presented, including but not limited to conceiving, designing, conducting, analyzing, documenting, or presenting the research, project, or study. Contributing Student Authors are responsible for the content of the submission and shall be listed as Contributing Student Authors on the paper.
 - Mentor Author – An individual whose primary role is to provide guidance, supervision, technical advice, educational support, resources, or project oversight to the Contributing Student Authors. A Mentor Author generally possesses a higher level of academic standing, educational attainment, professional experience, or technical expertise than the Contributing Student Authors. Examples include, but are not limited to, a master's student mentoring undergraduate students, a doctoral student or postdoctoral researcher mentoring high school or undergraduate students, or a faculty member mentoring students at any level. Mentor Authors may be listed on the paper as a Mentor Author in



recognition of their contributions and mentorship but shall not be considered Contributing Student Authors.

- A submission to the High School, Undergraduate, Team, or Graduate categories shall consist of both a written paper and an oral presentation. At the discretion of the organizing Region, a poster presentation may be substituted for the oral presentation requirement for any competition category, provided that all submissions within that category are evaluated using the same presentation format (either poster presentations or oral presentations, but not both), and such substitution is approved in advance by the Regional Deputy Director of Education, the Student Branch Committee Chair, and the AIAA Staff Director of Regions and Sections.
- Regions which choose to create/sponsor their own categories (such as open topic, poster, Student Branch activity, etc.) are responsible for providing financial support through regional funds or conference sponsorship (any other financial support except AIAA Foundation sponsorship).
- Students must present in their region, unless the Student Branch (as a whole) has been granted permission, through the petition process, to participate in different Regional Student Conference or an individual exception has been approved by the AIAA Staff Director of Regions and Sections, the Student Branch Committee Chair, the Deputy Director Education of the Region the student resides in, and the Deputy Director of Education for the region hosting the conference the student wishes to participate in. If the petition by the Student Branch or individual student is approved through the petition process, the Student Branch or individual in the conference is entitled to full participation in the Regional Student Conference.
- Students may be authors on multiple papers but can only be a Contributing Student Author on one paper in any category (high school, undergraduate, or graduate). Students may be Contributing Student Author on more than one paper in the team category.
- Students may only present their work at one AIAA Regional Student Conference per year.
- A student may not enter the same paper in more than one AIAA Student Conference, nor can the student present a paper which has been presented in a conference sponsored by another society, another region, or if it has been accepted for publication.
- Only the work completed as a high school, undergraduate or graduate student is eligible for competition. (Early) Doctoral students are eligible to participate as a Contributing Student Author in the Graduate Category while they are completing their doctoral coursework. Doctoral candidates who have completed their coursework and are focused solely on their dissertation may not participate in the competition as a Contributing Student Author.
- The primary concept of a paper must be the work of the Contributing Student Author(s) listed. Papers that result from co-op, internship, and sponsored research must include an acknowledgement statement specifying contributions of other participants in the project. The Judging Chair reserves the right to establish that the work is, in fact, the work of the author(s) listed.
- No Industry personnel are allowed to be co-authors on any paper—they may be acknowledged at the end of the paper.
- Up to two Mentor Authors may be listed as co-authors on the student paper; however, the Contributing Student Author(s) must be listed before the Mentor Authors. Mentor co-authors may not present the paper or answer questions about the paper at the student competition, nor are



they eligible to receive prize money. Violations of this rule will be subject to the paper being disqualified.

- The status and role as either a Contributing Student Author or Mentor Author of all authors (high school, undergraduate, graduate, faculty) must be clearly identified on the submitted paper. Responsibility for entry into the proper category (High School, Undergraduate, Graduate, Team) rests with the authors. Improper submissions that are identified and have not been corrected within two weeks of the competition will be disqualified.
- For the Undergraduate or Graduate category, no more than two Contributing Student Authors may prepare and/or present a paper. For the High School category, there is no limit on the number of Contributing Student Authors.
 - When a paper includes multiple Contributing Student Authors from different academic levels, the submission will be classified according to the highest academic level represented among the Contributing Student Authors. For example, a paper prepared jointly by an undergraduate student and a graduate student Contributing Student Author will be scored in the Graduate category.
- The Team paper can have 3 or more Contributing Student Authors and up to two listed Mentor Authors. At least 50% of the team must be undergraduate student Contributing Student Authors. All submitting and presenting Contributing Student Author(s) must be AIAA High School or University Student Members.
- Student Papers cannot exceed 11 pages single column (8.5 X 11) including acknowledgements, references, and appendices. Papers must comply with the [AIAA Meeting Paper format](#) (Use the Word Template). Deviations from this format may result in the paper being disqualified. Individuals or teams presenting more than one paper will not be eligible to win more than one award. All student papers must adhere to the [AIAA policy on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in AIAA Publications](#).
- Papers must be submitted by the presenting author to the AIAA online submission portal by the date established by the conference organizer.

Competition Judging Rules

- The head judge cannot be from the host university or be a university/college faculty member. The head judge will determine any tie breakers.
- Paper judges and Oral judges can be any qualified professional unless they are affiliated with the host university. Additionally, faculty members may not serve as a paper judge or oral judge in a category if there is a paper or papers entered into that category from their institution. Faculty members shall declare their institutional affiliation before judging to avoid conflicts of interest.
- Paper judges shall evaluate paper submissions for technical content, originality, and practical application. A total of 500 points can be awarded.
- Oral judges shall evaluate student presenters and papers on technical content, originality, practical application, knowledge of subject and delivery. A total of 500 points can be awarded.
- Oral judges are expected to participate on-site whenever possible. However, when circumstances warrant, judges may be permitted to evaluate oral presentations virtually. Approval for virtual judging is at the discretion of the Regional Deputy Director of Education, who shall determine



whether virtual participation is appropriate based on the needs of the competition and the availability of qualified judges.

- Oral judges shall have no insight into scores awarded by the paper judges.
- Paper judging will close one week prior to the first day of the Regional Student Competition.
- Paper judges may not serve as an oral judge in the same category.
- Both paper and oral judge scores will be averaged. The final score shall be the sum of the paper score and the oral score. The head judge will be responsible for calculating the final scores and will have two assistants, neither of whom has served as judges in any capacity, assist with overall scoring. The head judge has the authority to discard anomalous scores.
 - o In the event of a first-place tie, the oral scores will be given priority over the paper scores.
- Oral presentations will be limited to 20 minutes with 10 minutes available for questions. The total presentation time is 30 minutes.
- Each paper will receive a minimum of three (3) and max of six (6) paper scores and a minimum of three oral scores.
- Feedback from both the paper and oral presentation judges will be collated by the head judge and returned to the students as soon as possible.
- Numerical scores as well as final rank (beyond 1st, 2nd, 3rd) will be held confidential. Judges shall not disclose to faculty or students or other third parties either their own or other judges' numerical scores.
- No scoring data will be released without the express written consent and permission of either the AIAA Student Conference Committee or the AIAA Staff Liaison.
- Judges shall not state or imply in written or oral feedback to authors that a submission has violated the Ethical Standards for Publication of Aeronautics and Astronautics Research. Any concerns regarding potential ethical violations shall be communicated confidentially to the AIAA Director of Regions and Sections and the Student Branch Committee Chair for review and appropriate action.

Competition Prizes and Awards

- High School, Undergraduate, Graduate, and Team Categories have three prizes each:

First:	\$500
Second:	\$300
Third:	\$250
- There is no tie for first place.
- If there is a tie for second place the second and third place awards will be added together and divided evenly and no third-place award will be given, unless the region decides to pay for the additional award.
- Regions may also award cash prizes beyond the high school, undergraduate, graduate, and team categories, or include prizes for "honorable mentions".
- If there are three or fewer papers entered into any category, the number of prizes awarded will equal the number of papers presented. If only one paper is presented, the first award will be given.
- Students shall be asked, via the submission website, if they are willing to have their papers shared with others at the conference, in the region, and beyond. If they agree, the student papers can be made available to conference registrants, as well as sections and regions that are interested.



- Students have the ability to opt-in to publishing their paper with AIAA. Only high school and university students participating in the High School, Undergraduate, Graduate, Team Categories, and any other pre-approved regional-specific categories will be eligible to publish their papers. Students who opt-in will be required to fill out an AIAA Copyright Form prior to submitting their final paper. Papers will be published on AIAA's ARC a few months after the conference dates. Papers will be published directly from Student Conferences submissions (no changes will be allowed).

An AIAA Regional Student Conference does not create a contractual or fiduciary relationship between AIAA and any student or judge. Further, while judges are members and volunteers of AIAA, they are acting as independent persons in connection with AIAA Regional Student Conferences and not as agents of AIAA.