



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 student authors on a paper must be AIAA University or High School Student Members.
 - All authors must be identified by their high school or university status as a High School, Undergraduate Student or Graduate Student in the footer on the first page of the paper.
 - All authors must be identified as either an AIAA High School or University Student Member.
 - 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.
- A submission to the High School, Undergraduate, Team, or Graduate categories shall consist of both a written paper and an oral presentation.
- 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 Student Branch Staff Liaison, 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 primary author on one paper in any category (high school, undergraduate, team, or graduate).
- 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 a 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 while they are completing their doctoral coursework. Doctoral candidates who have completed their coursework and are focused solely on their dissertation are not eligible for competition.
- The primary concept of a paper must be the work of the 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 head judge 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 faculty mentors may be listed as a co-author on the student paper; however, the student must be listed as the first author. Faculty 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. Post-doctoral students are considered faculty mentors.
- The status of all authors (high school, undergraduate, graduate, faculty) must be clearly identified on the submitted paper. Responsibility for entry into the proper category (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 student authors may prepare and/or present a paper.
 - Papers prepared jointly by an undergraduate and a graduate student will be scored in the Graduate category.
- The Team paper can have 3 or more student authors (high school, undergraduate and graduate), and up to two listed faculty mentors. At least 50% of the team must be undergraduate student authors. All submitting and presenting 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 using the rubric provided within the judging system.
- 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 using the rubric provided at the Regional Student Conference.
- Oral judges shall have no insight into scores awarded by the technical judges.
- Paper judging will close at least 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 presentation 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.
 - 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.
- Written comments from both the technical 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 judge's 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.

Competition Prizes and Awards

- Undergraduate, Graduate, and Team Categories have three prizes each:
 - First: \$500
 - Second: \$300
 - Third: \$250
- The High School Category has three prizes each:
 - First: \$100
 - Second: \$75
 - Third: \$50
- 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 may opt to publish 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.