



2025-26 DBF Q&A#2

#	Question	Graphics
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does "rigging" (Refer to the first and ninth answers in Q&A #1) include rigid rods/bars attached to the leading edge for tow line attachment, or are all rigid rods prohibited regardless of location? * Can the banner have a vertical dowel/tube at the leading edge to keep the banner rigidly unfurled as part of the rigging? * Can a external structure for rigidity be attached to the banner/ towing line? * Can a portion of the rigging and/or tow line be a solid or rigid component? 	
	Answer: Rigging <u>attached</u> to the leading edge of the banner may be rigid components.	
2	<p>During ground mission, is retractable landing gear permitted to be retracted as part of achieving flight configuration, or must the landing gear remain extended throughout the whole ground mission time?</p>	
	Answer: The flight configuration for the ground mission does not include requiring the landing gear to be retracted if implemented. All ground mission work will be on the landing gear on the ground.	
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * May the passenger compartment bulkheads and floor have access panels to allow access to other parts of the aircraft while not in flight configuration? * The rules require passengers and payload to be in distinct compartments. Is it permissible to implement a solid floor separating the passenger compartment from the payload compartment, with a normally closed, openable door solely for maintenance and inspection access, provided the door is closed during flight and is not part of the restraint system? * Can the passenger compartment be removed to access electronics or other compartments of the plane through the same hatch/door that would otherwise only provide access to the passenger compartment? 	
	Answer: Yes but the access panels must be closed and secure prior to entering the staging box or before starting the ground mission and cannot be opened during staging or the ground mission.	
4	<p>If there is significant damage to a wing half/section, can a replacement copy of the damaged wing half/section be installed to the original fuselage as a repair or will this be considered a new aircraft?</p>	
	Answer: The required repairs will be defined in tech inspection after damage occurs. If a component is damaged beyond repair, it will be at the discretion of the tech inspector whether or not a copy of the component may be used or if a new component must be constructed.	
5	<p>Confirming MCU are allowed on the aircraft during competition flight, whether it be for on-board data recording or flight stabilization. Just no commercial off the shelf (COTS) flight controllers or GPS systems</p>	
	Answer: Microcontrollers may be used in flight stabilization and data collection sub-systems as long as this can be verified in tech inspection.	
6	<p>Is telemetry broadcasting from the pilot's RC controller allowed? As in telemetry goes form receiver -> pilot transmitter -> out UART to esp32 to broadcast to flight crew watching?</p>	
	Answer: Telemetry may only be broadcast between the airplane receiver and RC controller.	



2025-26 DBF Q&A#2

#	Question	Graphics
7	<p>If a multiwing configuration is employed how will the wingspan be determined for RAC and the five foot maximum b limit?</p> <p>Answer: The measurement will be the maximum distance between outboard wing tips on each side of the airplane.</p>	
8	<p>* What tools are permitted during ground mission? (including power tools, manual/powered banner-folding devices, or a stand to elevate the aircraft)</p> <p>* Before the GM, is the plane landing gear allowed to rest on top of blocks?</p> <p>Answer: Tool selection is up to each team. Landing gear must be on the ground at all times for staging and ground mission.</p>	
9	<p>* Is plastic sheeting an acceptable material for the banner?</p> <p>* What defines a fabric? Can the banner material be a thin plastic film?</p> <p>* Can the banner be made of a solid material that is not a woven fibrous fabric; for example, the plastic or mylar sheeting used in 2020?</p> <p>Answer: No.</p>	
10	<p>Do both the banner towing/release mechanism AND stowing/deployment mechanism have to be attached as part of the GM timed mission if they are separate mechanisms?</p> <p>Answer: All components for stowing, deploying and releasing the banner are considered a single sub-system and cannot be installed prior to starting the GM.</p>	
11	<p>Are teams required to keep the banner dimensions which are declared on the design report and submitted with the configuration drawings?</p> <p>Answer: Banner dimensions are not required as part of the configuration drawings. If they are included, the banners presented to tech inspection do not need to match the drawings.</p>	
12	<p>* If two different length banners are submitted for tech inspection, does the same length banner need to be used for GM and M3?</p> <p>* If two banners of different lengths are approved in tech inspection, must the banner used in the GM have to be the banner used during M3?</p> <p>Answer: No.</p>	
13	<p>* If the banner's length can not be fit into the 10 foot by 10 foot GM box, will the excess be allowed to lay outside of the box? Can the ground crew step out of the box to fold the excess banner material?</p> <p>* How will banners that are longer than 10 ft when completely unfolded be accommodated for ground mission?</p> <p>* If the laid out banner does not fit within the 10ft x 10ft GM box, how should teams expect this situation to be handled?</p> <p>Answer: If the banner exceeds the size of the staging or mission box, judges will allow teams appropriate accommodations for the excess banner length.</p>	
14	<p>What can be used to sewn the banner material? Can fishing line be used as thread?</p> <p>Answer: There's no restrictions on thread materials. The thread material may be selected for strength or other properties, but cannot be used to add stiffness to the banner itself.</p>	



2025-26 DBF Q&A#2

#	Question	Graphics
15	Can stiff wire be sewn into the fabric banner for rigidity? Answer: No.	
16	Can a fabric be reinforced in areas for structural rigidity, like starching a material, or adding epoxy? Answer: The fabric may not be altered for the sole purpose of increasing stiffness. Applying a solid background color of paint or ink to the full banner for the logo is not allowed. The logo must be discernable against the original banner fabric color.	
17	Can internal components of the banner towing and release mechanism be installed prior to GM (e.g., bolt holes, mounting hardware, servos, clips, bolts, etc)? Answer: Only permanent features like holes and mounting tabs can be in place prior to starting the GM.	
18	* Is there a maximum number or size of slits permitted in the banner? * Are there any limits on the amount, size, shape, or location of the slits a banner can have? Answer: There is no limit to size, shape, or number of slits as long as no material is removed from the banner (no holes). The university logo must be legible and as stated in the rules: tearing or fraying of the banner, including slits, is not allowed.	
19	Does the receiver battery switch need to follow the same placement rules as the motor fuses? Answer: No.	
20	May the rigging and/or tow line for the banner be pre-attached to release and deployment mechanism for GM? Answer: Yes.	
21	Is the propulsion system fuse housing required to be commercial off the shelf? Answer: No.	
22	Must the tow line and/or rigging be identical between the two tech-inspected banners? Answer: No.	