



## 2026 DBF Contest Fly-off Information

The DBF Fly-Off weekend, hosted by Textron Aviation, will be held at Textron Aviation Employees’ Flying Club in Wichita, KS. Maps of the facility are included at the end of this document. Local information for visitors, including hotels, can be obtained from <https://www.visitwichita.com>.

**Date:** 16-19 April 2026

**Location:**

**Textron Aviation Employees’ Flying Club  
10335 E Central, Wichita KS 67206**

**Emergency Communication:** In case of urgent or emergency communication needs or the threat of inclement weather during the contest weekend, the DBF committee will send an email to the official team email on record. Please assure that your contact email for your team is up to date. In addition, all urgent or emergency communications will be shared via multiple social media outlets as shown below as well as updates on the competition. Be sure to connect with the following (#AIAA):

Discord: <https://discord.gg/bjMzgEWtsT>

Facebook: @aiaa, @aiaadbf

Instagram: @aiaaerospace

X: @aiaa

LinkedIn: @aiaa

**Schedule:** The schedule for the 2026 Fly-Off weekend is listed below.

**Fly-Off Entry Fee:** **NEW THIS YEAR – ALL teams must pay the Fly-Off entry fee prior to participating in the competition using the [entry fee link](#). Payments must be received by April 6, 2026.**

**Security/Visitor Access:** The contest fly-off site is private property and participants must follow all posted rules. The contest is not a public event, and we would prefer to keep the number of outside visitors to a minimum. **ALL attendees – students, advisors, pilots, volunteers, guests, etc. - must register to attend using the [on-line form](#) on the DBF website.** Be sure to check-in at registration once you arrive on-site to pick up your DBF t-shirt and wrist band.

**Cameras:** Personal cameras will be allowed at the contest site. **Photos of any item or location on the contest site that is not a part of the DBF competition is strictly prohibited.**

**Facility:** Teams will have access to the Flying Club Hangar, and a battery charging tent will be available outside of the hangar. Parking is restricted to areas shown on the map below. Trailers may be secured and left overnight if pre-coordinated with Textron ([EFeltrop@txtav.com](mailto:EFeltrop@txtav.com)). **NOTE:** Textron Aviation is not responsible nor liable for any trailers or their contents left in the parking lot overnight.

**Battery Safety:** Battery charging will only be allowed in the charging tent outside of the hangar regardless of battery type. This will be strictly enforced. For lithium-based batteries, teams must bring the required unaltered, commercially procured charging sacks with them for both charging and storage as specifically required in the rules. Teams may not leave charging batteries unattended.

**NO SMOKING: This is a non-smoking facility, and it will be strictly enforced. You must leave the Textron facilities, which means exit the parking lot, to smoke.**

**Volunteer Pilots:** Volunteer pilots will be available at the contest fly-off. There will be two sign-up sheets at the check-in table, one is for teams needing a pilot and the other is for pilots who are willing to fly for other teams. It will be up to both parties to get together, the contest officials are not involved.

**Tech Inspection: **New This Year:**** Tech Inspection will include a check-in area when called. A third member should accompany the two members with the airplane as stated in the rules. This third team member will present the signed pre-tech and first flight sheet and the video demonstrating straight and level flight of the airplane to be inspected. Once approved, the third team member will then present the batteries and banner(s) for tech inspection while the other two members will move to a tech inspection station with the inspector. This will allow the battery and banner checks to be done in parallel to the airplane inspection and reduce the total time a team spends in tech inspection.

**Live Scoring:** Live scoring will be available immediately after the Pilot's Briefing on Friday morning using the link <https://aiaa.org/dbf/competition-information/2026-dbf-competition-scoring>. The report scores will be shown once it is live.

**Live Stream:** Follow this year's competition via live stream! The livestream will be broadcast on the AIAA YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/@AiaaOrg](http://www.youtube.com/@AiaaOrg)) beginning Friday morning. Be sure to share the link with friends and family so they can follow the action.

**DBF Social Event:** This year's social event is hosted by the AIAA Foundation and will be held at the Kansas Aviation Museum. Access to the museum will be by bus **only** from the Textron Aviation Employees' Flying Club parking lot. Students will have full access to tour the facilities. Dinner will be provided.

**Food:** On-site food availability is planned via "food-truck" type vendors. Teams are responsible for paying for their own food. There are no vending machines on-site.

**DBF Gold Sponsors:** In addition to our Premier sponsors Textron Aviation and RTX, the AIAA Foundation and the DBF Organizing Committee would like to welcome the following Gold Sponsors for the 2026 competition year:



## DBF 2026 Tentative Flyoff Schedule

### Thursday, April 16

- 1000 Teams will be given access to the facility.
- 1200 Tech inspection opens. Tech Order will be in the same sequence as the Flight Order which will be e-mailed to teams as outlined in the rules. See the rules regarding how Flight Order is determined.

Be sure your **Pre-Tech and First-Flight Certification** form (available on the website) is completed, signed, and with you as you will need to present it to enter Tech inspection. You must also bring an in-flight video with you as required in the rules.

- 1400 Ground Mission opens. [Note: Teams are eligible to sign up and conduct the Ground Mission once they have completed Tech Inspection. Teams must sign up and will be called in order of sign up.]
- 1800 Social event opens at the Kansas Aviation Museum (bus transportation begins at 1745).
- 1800 Tech Inspection and Ground Mission closes.
- 1800 All students/advisors/guests must be off the hangar and airport premises.
- 1830 Gate to hangar and airport secured for the night.
- 2030 Social event at the Kansas Aviation Museum ends.

### Friday, April 17

- 0700 Gates opened to teams and judges.
- 0800 **Mandatory** Pilot Briefing. Final details on flight mission procedures and rules will be presented during the briefing. It is essential that all teams attend the briefing so they are aware of all procedures and requirements **before** they come to the flight line for their flight(s).
- 0830 (Approx) Flight Line will open following the Pilot Briefing. Flight Order will be determined according to the rules.
- 0830 (Approx) Tech inspection will re-open following the Pilot Briefing. Tech Order will continue from prior day.
- 1800 Flight line closes (you must be IN THE AIR by this time for the flight to be counted).
- 1900 All students/advisors/guests must be off the hangar and airport premises.
- 1930 Gate to hangar and airport secured for the night.

### Saturday, April 18

- 0700 Gates opened to teams and judges.
- 0800 **Mandatory** Pilot Briefing. Final details on flight mission procedures and rules will be presented during the briefing. It is essential that all teams attend the briefing so they are aware of all procedures and requirements **before** they come to the flight line for their flight(s).
- 0830 (Approx) Flight Line will open following the Pilot Briefing. Flight Order will continue from prior day.
- 0830 (Approx) Tech inspection will re-open following the Pilot Briefing. Tech Order will continue from prior day.
- 1800 Field closed for contest flights (you must be IN THE AIR by this time for the flight to be counted).
- 1800 Tech Inspections and Ground Mission closes.
- 1900 All students/advisors/guests must be off the hangar and airport premises.
- 1930 Gate to hangar and airport secured for the night.

## **Sunday, April 19**

- 0700 Gates opened to teams and judges.
- 0800 **Mandatory** Pilot Briefing. Final details on flight mission procedures and rules will be presented during the briefing. It is essential that all teams attend the briefing so they are aware of all procedures and requirements **before** they come to the flight line for their flight(s).
- 0830 (Approx) Flight Line will open following the Pilot Briefing. Flight Order will continue from prior day.
- 0830 (Approx) Tech inspection will re-open following the Pilot Briefing. Tech Order will continue from prior day.
- 1700 Field closed for contest flights (you must be IN THE AIR by this time for the flight to be counted).
- 1700 Ground Mission closes.
- 1730 Awards presentation.
- 1900 All students/advisors/guests must be off the hangar and airport premises.
- 1930 Gate to hangar and airport secured.

During DBF, AIAA will also be hosting a series of Meet-Ups focused on connecting, collaborating, and building a stronger community.

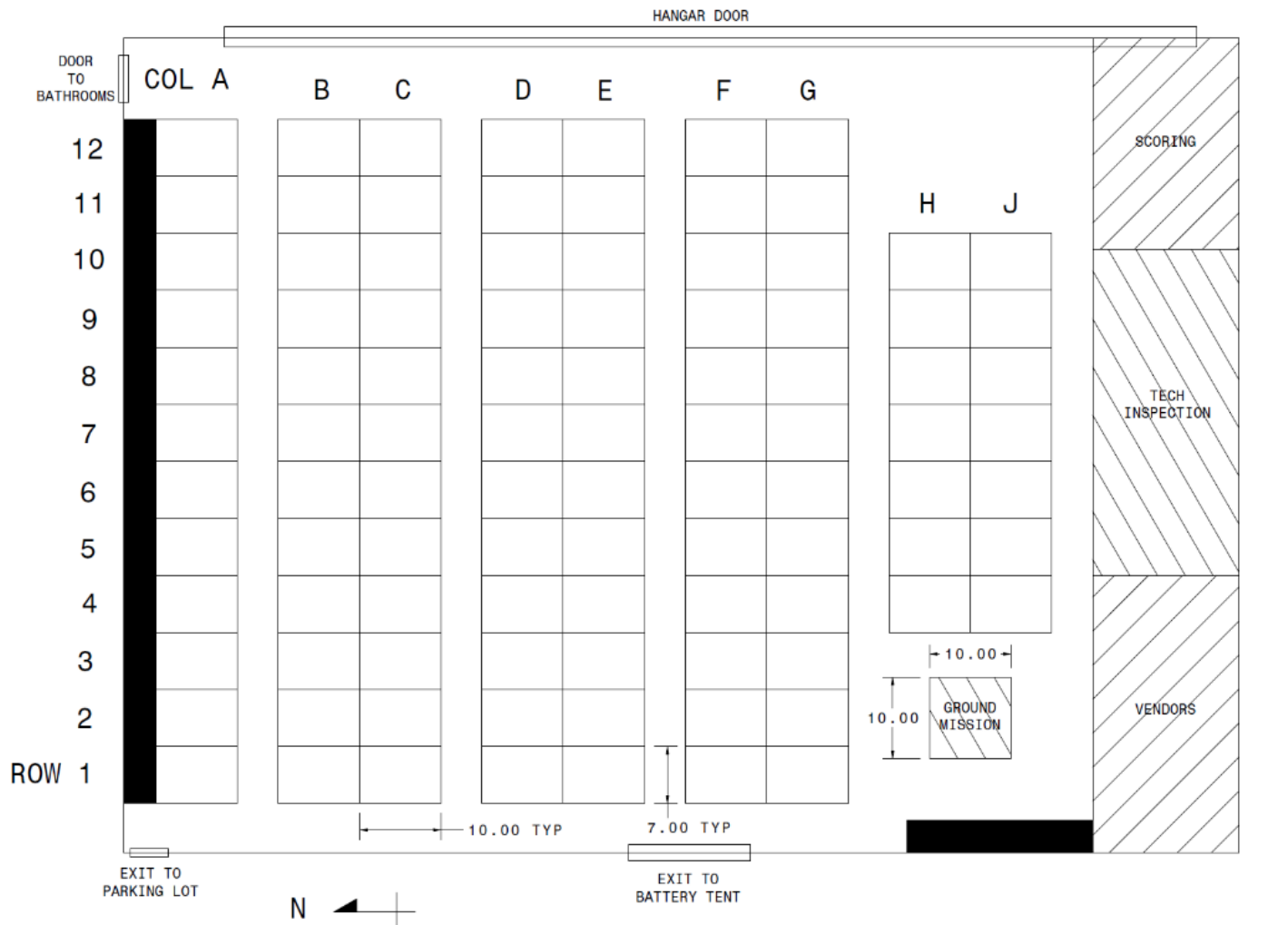
- **Student Branch Chairs Meet-Up**  
Friday, April 17 | 10:00–10:30 AM  
Coffee Truck (onsite)
- 
- **Faculty Advisor Meet-Up**  
Friday, April 17 | 10:30–11:00 AM  
Coffee Truck (onsite)
- 
- **Starting an AIAA Student Branch Info Session**  
Thursday, April 16 | 4:00–5:30 PM  
Wichita Marriott ([RSVP HERE](#))

We look forward to connecting with you!

## Hangar Layout and Team Space Assignments

Teams will be assigned a space at the fly-off inside the hangar. Each team will be assigned a space upon arrival. The spaces are shown below and will be marked. Teams are required to stay within the boundaries of their assigned space. There are a large number of teams and students in attendance and cooperation and respect of other teams' space is necessary. There is no limit on the number of students that may attend for each team, but be aware that the spaces have a limited size (approximately 7' x 9') and for teams with a large team attendance, not all students will be allowed to occupy the space at one time. Volunteers will be available to assist teams with their assigned space.

**NOTE: Teams will not be allowed to bring their airplane and equipment into the hangar or to occupy the spaces until a space number has been assigned. DBF officials and volunteers will be available when the entry gate is opened each morning to assign spaces and coordinate getting teams to their spaces. Once you have an assigned space, that space is yours for the duration of the competition. Rushing in to try and get a specific space will not be allowed. Only one person from each team should be in line to enter until a space is assigned.**



# DBF 2026 Flyoff Location

Textron Aviation Employees' Flying Club

