

Regional Student Conference Rules

The fundamental objective of the AIAA Regional Student Conferences is to provide 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 professional members serving as judges, with the primary intent of providing qualitative feedback on the quality of their work.

Student Paper Conference Rules

- A university student in good standing at their institution who is also an AIAA student member is eligible to submit a paper to the Regional Student Conference.
- A student member ID number will be required for the paper and at the time of online registration to ensure that the student is a current dues-paying member.
- A submission to the Undergraduate, Undergraduate Team, or Masters categories shall consist of both a written paper and an oral presentation.
- Students must present in their region, unless the Student Branch has been granted permission, through the petition process, to participate in different Regional Student Conference.
- 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 AIM Student Paper Conference nor can he or she 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 an undergraduate or Master's student is eligible for competition (No PhD Work).
- 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 Judging Chairman 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 or any paper - they may be acknowledged at the end of the paper.
- One faculty advisor may be listed as a co-author on the student paper; however, the student must be listed as 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.
- The status of all authors (undergraduate, Master's, faculty) must be clearly identified on the submitted paper. Responsibility for entry into the proper category (undergraduate, Master's, 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 Master's category, no more than two student authors may prepare and/or present a paper.
 - Papers prepared jointly by an undergraduate and a Master's student will be scored in the Master's category.
- The Undergraduate Team paper can have 3 to 10 total student authors (undergraduates only), and one listed graduate student or one listed faculty advisor.

- 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.
- Papers must be submitted by the presenting author to the AIAA Competition Admin site by the date established by the conference organizer.

Competition Judging Rules

- The head judge cannot be from the host university. The head judge may not judge papers, either technically or orally.
- Technical and Oral judges can be any AIAA professional member in good standing as long as he/she is not a university/college faculty member from the host university. Additionally, no faculty member may participate in judging the technical or oral competition if there is a paper or papers entered into the corresponding category of competition from their institution. University/college faculty members shall declare their institutional affiliation before judging to avoid conflicts of interest.
- Technical judges shall evaluate papers on the basis of technical content, originality, and practical application. A total of 500 points can be awarded.
- All technical judges' scores shall be summed and an average score derived which will be the technical score given the paper.
- Technical judging will close one week prior to the first day of the Regional Student Competition.
- Technical, on-line judges may not act as an on-site oral judge.
- All oral judges' scores shall be summed and an average score derived which will be the oral presentation score given the paper.
- The final score shall be the sum of the technical score and the oral score. The maximum possible score is 1000. 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.
- 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 shall have no insight into scores awarded by the technical judges.
- 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) technical scores and 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 Managing Director (Member and Community Engagement) or the AIAA Executive Director.

Competition Prizes and Awards

- Undergraduate, Masters, 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 given.
- 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.
- First place winners in the Undergraduate, Team and Master's categories are invited to compete in the International Student Paper Conference in January at the SciTech Forum. Only basic, non-technical modifications may be made to original paper. Papers progressing to the International Student Paper Conference will be subject to AIAA copyright rules and may not to be presented or published anywhere prior to the International Student Paper Conference.
- Only one author from the winning paper is funded by the Foundation to travel to the International Student Paper Conference. Details regarding the International Student Paper Conference will be provided to all first-place winners.

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.