



NSW STATE ROAD CRASH RESCUE CHALLENGE

STRONGER TOGETHER



TRAUMA CHALLENGE RULES

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Version – February 2024 Reviewed by RCRC Technical Group	
Section	Changes
Section 2. Team membership	Returning Champions strongly encouraged to change team members
Version – February 2025 Reviewed by RCRC Technical Group	
Section	Changes
Section 1. Definitions	Redefined the term Organisers
Section 9. Appeals and Complaints	Rewritten to clarify process
Section 19. Challenge safety	Command “STOP”, remove “STILL” or “FREEZE”
Section 25. Determination of Results	Countback removed, ties allowed

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1. Definitions

The term “Organisers” hereafter will mean the NSW Road Crash Rescue Challenge Organising Group, collaboratively led by Fire & Rescue NSW and the NSW State Emergency Service.

2. Team membership

Each team will consist of 2 members.

At the discretion of the Chief Assessor, a team may substitute a team member in the case of illness or injury, except during a scenario. If, during a scenario, a team member is injured and must withdraw, the team, if able, may continue until they finish, or ‘Time’ is called.

Team members may only participate if they can demonstrate competency in pre-hospital emergency care by holding, as a minimum, the APSTP Unit of Competency PUAEME002C ‘Manage injuries at emergency incident’, or equivalent.

In addition, in the case of the medical competency, it is desirable that team medics will be competent in the administration of oxygen to PUAEME003C ‘Administer oxygen in an emergency situation’, or equivalent.

The Medics will be assessed at First Aid level.

The winning team from any one year may return as ‘defending champions’ in the following year without having to change their team membership. Should that team win two years in a row, it is strongly recommended they change 50% of their membership before participating in the third consecutive year.

3. Accident Injury or Illness

If, during the challenge, an accident, injury or illness or injury occurs to a team member, casualty, spectator or any person, which affects the running of the scenario, the injury will be advised to the Organisers as an authentic occurrence (i.e. ‘No duff’). The Chief Assessor, Assessor or Safety Officer will immediately instigate competent medical attention to the situation via the local provider or crew on standby at the site. The delay or ceasing of that scenario will be at the discretion of the Assessor Panel Leader in that pit. The Challenge Coordinator is to be advised immediately.

4. Pit access

The pit area will be off limits to all persons unless authorised by the Organisers. Authorised persons will be admitted entry only by accreditation pass or other approved means.

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5. Insurance

Adequate Workers Compensation and or Injury Insurance for the participating teams will be the responsibility of that team's Service, Agency or "Employing Organisation". A letter and/or insurance certificate confirming adequate coverage of the team will be required one month prior to the event.

6. Registration

Team application and registration for this challenge can only proceed on the official entry form supplied. As part of the process of registration teams must confirm that all members of the team comply with the requirements of rules 2 and 18 of this Challenge.

All extrication challenge team entries will be guaranteed entry into the Trauma Challenge. Should more teams register for the challenge than there are places in the program, preference will be given to applications on the following criteria:

- A FRNSW team that has previously participated in a Firefighter Championships Association event.
- A NSW SES team as determined by the agency.
- A team from another NSW rescue agency or a team from outside NSW to fill vacant positions, up to a maximum of 22 teams.

Registration of arrival will take place prior to the challenge. (See timetable for further information).

Teams that are unable to participate in the challenge must notify the Organisers in writing of their decision to withdraw, or they will be deemed to be a 'No show' and be disqualified.

7. Assessors

A Chief Assessor will be appointed to co-ordinate all the Assessor panels for all challenge events and resolve any disputes. Two medical assessors will be appointed by the Organisers to assess the Trauma Challenge.

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8. Assessment sheets

Teams participating in the Trauma Challenge will be assessed using the Trauma Challenge medical guidelines and scoresheets available on the Challenge web site.

The assessment sheets will remain the property of the Organisers and will not be available for viewing or scrutiny by any unauthorised persons. Assessors will complete the assessment sheet during the scenario and confirm their scores in ink prior to the team debrief. No further amendments to the assessment sheets will then be made. Score sheet summaries for each team will be made available to that team after the conclusion of the challenge.

9. Appeals and Complaints

Appeals

The team leader of any team that has a grievance or dispute must report it in writing to the Chief Assessor within one hour of completing the scenario concerned on the day.

All appeals in respect of a technical performance and associated scoring will be heard by the Chief Assessor who will, where required, investigate or discuss the issue with any involved assessors and whose deliberation is final.

All allegations of unfair assessment not relating to technical performance will be investigated thoroughly from all perspectives by the Chief Assessor who will present their findings to the Organisers Appeals Committee for their deliberation. The Organisers Appeals Committee will consist of 5 key members of the Organisers.

Complaints

The team leader of any team that has a grievance or dispute in relation to witnessing an occurrence in a scenario must report it in writing to the Chief Assessor within two hours of witnessing it.

All allegations will be investigated thoroughly from all perspectives by the Chief Assessor who will present their findings to the Organisers Appeals Committee for their deliberation. The Organisers Appeals Committee will consist of 5 key members of the Organisers.

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10. Scenarios

Scenarios will involve one or more live casualties and may include 'willing' role-players. Willing role-players are available to assist the trauma team with activities such as casualty handling and other support tasks under the direction of the trauma team. However, they should be treated as 'untrained' personnel.

Some scenarios that involve activities such as cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) will include the use of appropriate manikins.

Scenarios will not involve extrication requiring the use of rescue tools.

11. Scenario Aims and Objectives

Each team will participate in one (1) trauma scenario over the course of the challenge.

The objective is to demonstrate skills associated with:

- Scene assessment
- Triage
- Diagnosis
- Initial stabilisation/treatment
- Handover to a medical professional

12. Props

Props may be positioned in the pit to represent the environment in which the incident occurred. Where additional hazards exist for the purposes of the scenario, these will be clearly labelled (e.g., live power cables). However, teams should not assume that no signage means no hazards.

Requests to neutralise hazards should be directed to the assessors during the scenario.

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13. Medical Equipment

The Organisers will provide a range of equipment; however, teams are also welcome to bring their own medical kits. Where a team brings their own, this will be a substitute for the equivalent item provided by the Organisers.

Equipment may include:

Item	Quantity
Kit bag (including BP cuff & stethoscope) and replacement items	2
Long board with accessories (safety belts)	1
Scoop stretcher/basket stretcher with accessories (safety belts)	1
Cervical collars	2
Oxygen kit and cylinders	2
Non – re-breather masks	1 per team per event
Defibrillator/Monitor/Simulator	1
Thermal blankets	2 per team per event

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14. Team presentation at Challenge

Teams are to present themselves at the designated reporting location well ahead of the published time they are required.

Prior to competing teams will undertake a fixed period (at least 10 min) in controlled isolation to prevent them accessing information about the previous team's scenario and provide sufficient time to check the available kit.

Each evolution consists of:

- Isolation (at least 10 minutes)
- On scene (15 minutes which includes 2 min to handover to an appropriate health professional)
- Debrief (10 minutes).

While in isolation, the use all electronic devices are prohibited by team members.

15. Breakdown of scenario

At the conclusion of their scenario, each team must help in the breakdown of the tools and equipment and assist the pit team in reorganising items ready for the next scenario. This may be varied at the discretion of the Organisers subject to the number of personnel in the pit crew available to break the scenario down.

16. Assessment of performance

A panel of qualified Assessors will assess each team's performance. The parameters assessed are detailed in the Assessor's Guidelines and on the Challenge Assessment Sheets. Teams are encouraged to strive for the standard of excellence described in all areas.

Teams should note that Assessors are briefed to assess a team's performance on what they see and hear, not what they expect to see and hear. Teams are urged not to 'play up' to the Assessors by giving a running commentary of what they might do under certain conditions, but to do what they would normally do if they encountered the same scenario on the road. Teams may ask assessors for an update on the vital signs of their casualty or their findings from medical investigations (e.g. are pupils equal and reactive?).

17. Debriefing

Following each scenario, the Assessor panel will conduct a short debrief with each participating team. The debrief is designed to provide a learning opportunity for all involved. To that end teams are encouraged to have their reserve or manager take notes or video the discussion. Subject to approval by both the team leader and the Assessor panel leader, observers are welcome in any debrief.

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18. Personal Protective Equipment

All competing team members will always during the challenge wear suitable clothing and personal protective equipment as approved by their agency. As a minimum, suitable turn out gear, coveralls, safety boots, eye protection (in the form of safety glasses).

In keeping with occupational health and safety work practices, teams are required to supply and use their own latex gloves, and other consumable personal protective equipment supplies.

N.B. Teams may only wear protective clothing that has been authorised by their Service or Agency. This personal protective equipment must meet with an approved standard, e.g., Australian Standards Association (ASA), National Fire Protection Authority (NFPA), Occupational Health & Safety Authority (OHSA) or similar international organisations. If the protective clothing to be worn in the challenge is not the same as normally worn for operational turn outs by a team, then a letter confirming it is authorised for use is required from the head of the Agency or Service at the pre challenge team briefing.

19. Challenge safety

Where the command “STOP” or where a whistle is blown, ALL members of the team will immediately stop their actions. This command indicates that a safety problem exists. Time will be stopped until the safety issue is rectified. Once addressed the Assessor Panel Leader will give the instruction for the team to continue and the clock will re-commence.

If there are any other safety stoppages during the same evolution, the time will not stop, and the team will have to rectify the situation while the clock continues to run.

The above safety calls can be made by any of the Assessors or Safety Officers. If the problem cannot be rectified the Chief Assessor may disqualify the team or cancel the evolution.

20. Timing

Assessors will be responsible for accurate timing of the scenario. The Assessor Panel Leader will call “time” when time has elapsed. Alternatively, the team leader will call “time” before the available time has elapsed, when the casualty has been treated, and the Team Leader believes the team has completed the scenario.

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21. Casualties

Live people and manikins will be used in this Challenge.

Teams will be expected to assess the casualties for injury and provide treatment consistent with the injuries they find and their skills. Specific consideration should be given to maintaining the dignity of the casualties in this public training environment. Casualties will be wearing a black base layer of clothing which should be treated as a skin layer.

Manikins will be used to represent live or deceased persons. Deceased manikins will be clearly identified.

22. Non-attendance of team

In the event of a 'No Show' by any registered team at their appointed time for equipment inspection, the Organisers may disqualify them.

23. Information

The Organisers reserve the right to use all information that may be obtained from the Challenge and its participants for educational purposes.

24. Team Briefing by the Organiser's Medical Specialist

A briefing will be held at a time to be notified prior to the Challenge. It is mandatory for all teams to attend. Team managers may also attend if a team has someone nominated to this role.

Some or all members of the following groups may also attend the briefing:

- Organisers members.
- Special guests, including representatives of other agencies.
- Others at the discretion of the Event Coordinator.

25. Determination of Results

The Organisers will determine the prizes to be awarded from year to year. Determination of results will be based on the following criteria:

- Rankings will be allocated for each assessor in such a manner that the team that scores the highest score from an assessor will be given a 'rank score' equal to the number of teams in the challenge. The team that scores the next highest score from that assessor will be allocated a 'rank score' one less and so on. The team that scores the lowest from that assessor will be allocated a 'rank score' of 1.
- Rank scores for each team from the different assessors will be added together.

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Where two or more teams are tied for any place the category of award will be declared a dead heat and no prize at the next level down will be awarded (i.e. if a dead heat for winner, no 2nd prize).

26. Disqualification

Any team or team member that does not adhere to these rules or brings disrepute upon the Challenge may be disqualified.

Any matter concerning the possibility of a team disqualification or a matter bringing the Challenge into disrepute will be heard by a committee made up of the Chief Assessor and two other members from the organising body. Any decision made by this group will be final.

Spectators or team supporters may barrack and encourage teams in the spirit of fair play; however, any “coaching”, including calling time remaining, from the spectators or team supporters will result in a “STOP” being called, but the clock will continue to run. The Assessor panel leader will give a warning to the offending person or persons. Any subsequent coaching call will result in time being called on the participating team.

27. Participation in the Learning Symposium

The intent of the NSW State Road Crash Rescue Challenge is to explore, develop and promote best practice in the delivery of integrated road rescue services and patient care. To this end the challenge each year includes a learning symposium the day before the challenge. To ensure maximum learning opportunity by all participants, attendance by teams competing in the Trauma Challenge at the symposium is strongly encouraged.

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