

# PROBLEM PROCEDURES FOR ACHILLES= HEEL



Prior to the scheduled time of competition, one or more team members will bring their structures and vehicle to the weigh-in site. A Weigh-In Judge will weigh the structure and confirm that a 2-inch opening exists through its entire length. The Judge will make the appropriate measurements for height of the structure, check the thickness of wood and examine it for artificial strengthening. The vehicle will make the required number of runs down the ramp to meet the specifications of the problem. Penalties, if any, will be noted at this time. If time permits, the team may make corrections. After filling out the weigh-in check lists, the Weigh-In Judge will seal, mark, and store the Structure and Vehicle in team-supplied containers or paper bags until approximately 25 minutes before the scheduled competition time. Stored structures and vehicles may be picked up only by a team member(s) and carried to the competition site. The coach and remaining team members will report to the competition site 20 minutes before the team's scheduled time with the props, membership sign and anything else needed for the long-term problem solution.

At the staging area, the Staging Area Judge will remove the weigh-in checklists and direct the team to take the structure and vehicle from the containers. The Material Values Form, Outside Assistance Form and team clarifications will be collected and given to the Problem Judges. Two Style Forms (three at World Finals) are given to the Style Judges. The team informs them whether Style will continue after the structure is crushed. The coach and all seven team members should be present in the staging area while the Staging Area Judge goes through a list of procedures and answers any questions the team may have. The team is reminded that it has 3 minutes to clear the staging area of all items after time begins. After this is completed, the coach and non-performing team

members (if any) will be directed to leave the staging area and informed if any special seating has been arranged for them.

If an adult assistant is used in Division I or II, he or she must be identified in the staging area and will remain with the team throughout the long-term solution. When all is ready, the Staging Area Judge will direct the team's attention to the Timekeeper. After the Timekeeper says "Begin," the team will have 8 minutes for site setup, Style and weight placement.

In Division I, the adult may assist in placing individual weights in excess of 20 pounds. At least one team member must be physically involved in the placement of these weights. In Division II, the adult may assist in placing individual weights in excess of 40 pounds.

The only people allowed inside the testing area during the competition are the team members and the judges. In Division I and II, the adult assistant may also be present. Style may take place before, during and/or after the structure breaks.

Competition will end when (1) Style has been completed and the structure has broken or (2) the 8-minute time limit has expired. All wood from the broken structure and the vehicle must be placed in paper bags and returned to the weigh-in site by a designated judge. The team must clean up the testing site.

The Judges will meet with the coach and all team members to discuss the solution to the problem. The structure and vehicle may be inspected again at the weigh-in site. Unless otherwise indicated, the Head Judge will present the coach with the long-term scoresheet and review any penalties. The coach then has 30 minutes from the time posted on the sheet to question any technical aspect of the long-term score.

-- Dan Semenza,  
*International Problem Captain*