

COhMBBC 2021 - Frequently Asked Questions

Bridge-Related:

1. How do we know if our bridge is less than or equal to 100g? If you only use the materials provided in the competition kit it should not weigh more than 100g, however, it is the responsibility of the team to weigh it on their own to confirm the weight if they are concerned.
2. Am I allowed to build the truss 13.5 inches long, so it overlaps onto the table? Yes, provided the truss does not press against the sides of the table for extra strength.
3. Can we fortify underneath the bridge? Yes, with the provided materials you can fortify your bridge in any way you would like within the limits of the specifications.
4. Are we under a time constraint to build the bridge? No, this year as we cannot build in person, we are waiving the time limit for building.
5. If we cut off part of the flat piece of road bed, are we allowed to incorporate that in our design? Could we use the 3 inches or so as reinforcement for the bolt and plate? Yes, you can use all materials provided in any way you would like within the limits of the specifications.
6. If we are satisfied with our practice bridge can we submit that as our competition bridge? Yes, you can submit either of the bridges you build, provided they follow all requirements.
7. Are we allowed to cut notches in the wood pieces to interlock them? Yes, you can attach the pieces any way you would like if you are only using the provided material.
8. The rules say the bridge must be 100 grams, but the sample rubric says 900 grams. What is the weight limit of the bridge? 100 grams is the limit for the bridge weight.
9. Where can I find the instructions or specifications? All specifications are listed on the event website: <https://www.abcdcoh.org/cohmbbc.html>

General:

1. Is the drop off time good for any day the week previous to the competition, or just the day before? Currently we are only planning on accepting bridges on February 19. If this date does not work for your team to drop off their bridge, please email COhMBBC@gmail.com to request an alternate drop of day and time. Please provide 2 choices and we will let you know which one we can accommodate.
2. If we send our designs in early, will you look them over and point out flaws? No, all judging on the design of the bridge will be done Saturday morning, prior to testing.
3. Is the coach/chaperone still not able to coach during the building of the submitted bridge? Yes, the coach should **not** offer any assistance in the building of the bridge.
4. How will you know if teams were not coached during the building? We are relying on all participating teams to use proper engineering ethics and follow the guidelines for the competition since building cannot be done in person.
5. When will testing be done? If I have multiple teams, can they get a block of testing spots together? Testing will occur on Saturday, February 20th. We will try to schedule to accommodate chaperones with multiple teams, however, due to COVID protocol, only the team members and their chaperone whose bridge is being tested at that time can be in the room to watch testing.

6. **When and where do we drop off the bridge?** Drop off will be at the office of TRC (781 Science Blvd Suite 200, Gahanna, OH 43230) between the hours of 9:00am to 6:00pm. If this drop off time does not work for you, please contact us to schedule a time to drop off the bridge.
7. **Do the coaches/chaperones get a T-shirt?** Yes, an email will be sent out shortly requesting shirt sizes for all team members and chaperones.
8. **Do students need to be present for the drop off?** No, students do not need to be present for the drop-off. It is just a drop off so that we can have all the bridges for the loading event on Saturday. On Saturday, if we are permitted to have gatherings and your teams feel comfortable viewing the loading of their bridge in person, each team will be invited back to the loading event location at a specific time slot to view the load testing of their specific bridge.
9. **If students aren't needed in person, would chaperones be necessary?** Chaperones are to oversee the team during their bridge building since they will be using tools and will need to be present with the team if the team decides to view the loading event in person.
10. **Are there other events for the drop off day?** No, the day is just to drop off the bridge, so we have all bridges before the loading event on Saturday.
11. **Why are lunch or breakfast provided on Saturday if the testing of the bridges is online?** The loading event will be presented on Zoom and all teams will be sent a registration email so that they can register to view the loading event. They can tune in just at their appropriate bridge time slot or watch the entire day of loading. On Saturday, if we are still allowed to have gatherings and your team feels comfortable viewing the loading of their bridge in person, each team will be invited back to the loading event location at a specific time slot to view the load testing of their specific bridge. At that time, we will have either breakfast food or lunch food available if that does not violate any COVID policies in place at the time of the event. Each team can only be present for their event loading time slot so that we can limit the number of people gathering at one time.