

1 ***Questions about the Competition***

2 Read and study all of the competition documents including this document to help your team
3 understand this competition and its rules and requirements.

4 All of the competition documents are related, meaning that you must read every document in
5 order to coordinate all of the pieces and ensure your teams' compliance.

6
7 ***Why should my team ask a question?***

8 Your team's understanding and interpretation of these documents are like executing any
9 "competitive" work project.

10 Therefore, it is important that teams understand the competition and its documents.

11 Questions help the judges provide clarity to all the teams as appropriate and improve this
12 competition and its documents.

13
14 ***How should my team ask a question?***

15 Line numbers have been provided in most competition documents (see the Rules for
16 example).

17 Please include the appropriate line numbers to refer to the content that your team has
18 questions about.

19 Line numbers allow the judges to pinpoint your question and provide a relevant answer.

20 If no line numbers are available, then include a limited screen capture for reference to help the
21 Judges understand and answer your questions.

22
23 ***How and when are questions answered?***

24 Please submit your questions as soon as practical and not after the deadline explained further
25 below.

26 When a question is received, the judges will decide if the question is a *Competition* question
27 or a *Team* question.

28 Every *Competition* and *Team* question will be answered by e-mail to the Team Contact and no
29 later than 14 days after submittal.

30
31 ***What are Competition questions?***

32 *Competition* questions are relevant to all teams (e.g. clarification of rules, submittal
33 documents, etc.).

34 *Competition* questions must be submitted by **February 15, 2023** for a response.

35 *Competition* questions submitted after this date will not be answered.

36 *Competition* questions and answers will be posted to the Competition webpage so that all
37 teams have the same information.

38 In order to communicate all *Competition* questions and answers in a timely manner, they will
39 be compiled on a monthly basis, amended to this FAQS document, and then the updated
40 document re-posted according to these dates:

41 – November 23, 2022

42 – December 21, 2022

43 – January 25, 2023

44 – February 22, 2023

45 The updated FAQ document can be accessed at the same FAQS link on the Competition
46 webpage.

47 Each time this document is posted the link name will reflect the date that it was posted.

48 No team will be identified in the posted document.

49 Questions will be posted exactly as they are received.

50 See Line 113 for an Example FAQs, Questions and Answers as of November 1, 2022.

51

52 ***What are Team questions?***

53 *Team* questions are relevant to that team only (e.g., clarification of team registration, contact
54 email, etc.).

55 *Team* questions should be submitted by March 23, 2023 for a response.

56 *Team* questions submitted after this date will be received but may not be answered.

57 *Team* questions will not be posted to the website.

58

59 ***Why are the questions responded to in the manner that they are answered?***

60 Judges provide answers that are very typical, similar, and consistent for all teams.

61 No questions are answered with an intent to give any team an advantage.

62 Questions are usually answered by citing the competition documents (for example “see the
63 Rules”).

64 The answers also usually cite the competition documents’ relevant subheadings, line numbers,
65 and or paragraph/sentence numbers.

66 General questions receive general answers.

67 Ask specific questions to get specific answers.

68 Some questions are answered with “Judges will not answer.”

69

70 ***Why are some questions answered with “Judges will not answer”?***

71 Some of the reasons that questions are answered with “Judges will not answer” are as follows:

- 72 1. Judges will not answer questions about rules from previous competitions because
73 those rules do not apply to the current competition.
- 74 2. Judges will not answer questions that are phrased as an implied question or that ask if
75 a team understands a rule correctly or not.
- 76 3. Judges will not answer questions that ask for permission to do something or for their
77 opinion on what a team wants to do. (For example: questions that include phrases such
78 as “we plan on doing this ...” or “we want to do this ...” or “what do you think ...” or
79 “can we do this ...”.)
- 80 4. Judges will not answer questions that are outside of the scope of the competition
81 documents. If something is not stated in the competition documents, then there is
82 nothing against what you want to do. In other words, permission is given to do
83 whatever you want to do unless the competition documents state otherwise.
- 84 5. Judges will not answer questions that are your team’s decision. Understand that there
85 may or may not be competition documents (rules) that are either for or against your
86 team decision and the judges will not answer.
- 87 6. Judges will not answer if they don’t want to answer incorrectly, or with an answer to
88 cause more questions, or with an answer that changes the established competition
89 documents.
- 90 7. Judges will not answer *Competition* questions that were submitted after the deadline of
91 **February 15, 2023**.

92

93 Judges are not required to identify the reason for “no answer” responses (i.e., one of the
 94 reasons listed above).
 95 If the team still needs an answer, then consider rephrasing and resubmitting “no answer”
 96 questions.
 97 Please keep and use the appropriate email trail for the judge’s context and keep aware of the
 98 question type for submittal deadlines.

99
 100 ***How do we submit our questions?***

101 Only the Team Contact can submit questions.
 102 Questions can be submitted by e-mail only.
 103 Questions should have an appropriate Subject line (as shown below) and sent to the following
 104 email address:

105
 106 students@concrete.org

107 Subject: QUESTION – Your school’s acronym – subject of question

108 Address to: Rachel Belcher

109
 110 A confirmation email will be sent back to the Team Contact when a question is received.
 111 Note – This email address (students@concrete.org) should be used for any and all
 112 communication with ACI regarding a team’s participation in the competition.

113
 114 ***Example FAQs***

115

Questions and Answers as of November 1, 2022		
221101-01	Q	What will the questions and answers look like in this PDF document?
	A	The questions and answers will be numbered as follows: YYMMDD-NN. Where YYMMDD is the posted date (see Lines 41-44 of this FAQs document) and NN is a sequential number assigned to Competition questions as they are received from the teams.
221101-02	Q	Why are the questions numbered?
	A	The questions are numbered to allow the judges to refer to previously answered questions. For example: See Answer to Question 221101-01.
221101-03	Q	Why are there no Competition questions in this FAQs PDF document?
	A	This PDF document was completed before the Competition registration was opened. The judges have not yet received any questions to answer. This PDF document is to show all participants by example how the Competition questions will be answered.
End of Update November 1, 2022		

116
 117
 118

End Example FAQs

119
120**FAQ Updates**

Questions and Answers as of November 23, 2022		
221123-01	Q	Where to find the ACI Mix Design for the Concrete Bowling Ball Competition?
	A	There is no ACI Mix Design. Refer to the Rules lines 113-115. Also, consult with your Faculty Advisor before asking further questions.
221123-02	Q	Is there a clear way to understand the screenshotted table that is in Excel?
	A	Yes, it is an example only. The percentages, volumes, and values shown in the example are fictitious. They will not and should not make any sense relative to each other; except in the conversion from metric to Imperial and in the addition of the total % Volume. They are placeholders to show the teams where to fill out their submittal (which is the "Team Acronym" tab) and the number of significant digits that a team shall use for each entry. Also, consult with your Faculty Advisor before asking further questions.
End of Update November 23, 2022		

121
122

Questions and Answers as of December 21, 2022		
221221-01	Q	I'm contacting to address a concern regarding the rules we must follow about the mixture of the bowling ball. In the rules, it is not clearly stated whether or not we may use different types of fiber reinforcement in the same bowling ball. In line 145, it is stated that: "other ball materials cannot be a concrete material or a fiber reinforcement", but in the example submittal sheet more than one fiber reinforcement are listed. Are we allowed to utilize multiple fiber reinforcement materials in one ball?
	A	Yes, however all fiber reinforcements used must meet the requirements listed in the Rules lines 123-134. Initially, we wanted to answer this question as 'No answer' according to FAQs lines 80-83. However, on second thought, we realized the importance of the question because the competition is all about the fibers (and, of course, the students 😊).
End of Update December 21, 2022		

123
124

125

Questions and Answers as of January 25, 2023		
230125-01	Q	We have a question regarding the ACI contest, we want to know if we can use a combination of synthetic fibers of different length?
	A	Please see Rules lines 131-133.
End of Update January 25, 2023		

126

127

Questions and Answers as of February 22, 2023		
230222-01	Q	In lines 124-148, we did not find any specific mention on if the use of slag in the concrete mix was considered as an "Other concrete material" or if we could use it as a "Concrete Material" for our FRC mix design. If the use of slag in our mix is allowed, let me know at your convenience!
	A	There is nothing in the competition documents that addresses "Other concrete materials". The submittal has a section for "Other Ball Materials" which is for the use of inert materials in the bowling ball's composition. The use of any material in a bowling ball's composition is a question for a team's faculty advisor. Please review the text under "What does a Team do if they have questions about the competition?" on the ACI webpage for the competition (i.e. <i>Introduction to the Fiber-Reinforced Concrete Bowling Ball Competition</i>), as well as lines 70-89 of the FAQs document.
230222-02	Q	A registered team reached out to ACI – a natural disaster caused their university to close for an entire week. The schedule of casting in the lab was delayed as a result. Are you able to please grant them a one week extension?
	A	Because of Rules lines 60 and 62 the judges feel that it is within the intent of the Rules to be able to grant this team a one-week extension on the submittal deadline. For this team only, the submittal deadline is extended to March 9. If their submittal is not received by the March 9 deadline, the team will not be eligible for prizes. For all other teams, the original submittal deadline of March 2 still stands.
End of Update February 22, 2023		

128

129

130

End of Updates