Questions about the Competition
Read and study all of the competition documents including this document to help your team understand this competition and its rules and requirements.
All of the competition documents are related, meaning that you must read every document in order to coordinate all of the pieces and ensure your teams’ compliance.

Why should my team ask a question?
Your team’s understanding and interpretation of these documents are like executing any “competitive” work project. Therefore, it is important that teams understand the competition and its documents. Questions help the judges provide clarity to all the teams as appropriate and improve this competition and its documents.

How should my team ask a question?
Line numbers have been provided in most competition documents (see the Rules for example). Please include the appropriate line numbers to refer to the content that your team has questions about.
Line numbers allow the judges to pinpoint your question and provide a relevant answer. If no line numbers are available, then include a limited screen capture for reference to help the Judges understand and answer your questions.

How and when are questions answered?
Please submit your questions as soon as practical and not after the deadline explained further below.
When a question is received, the judges will decide if the question is a Competition question or a Team question.
Every Competition and Team question will be answered by e-mail to the Team Contact and no later than 14 days after submittal.

What are Competition questions?
Competition questions are relevant to all teams (e.g. clarification of rules, submittal documents, etc.).
Competition questions must be submitted by February 15, 2023 for a response.
Competition questions submitted after this date will not be answered.
Competition questions and answers will be posted to the Competition webpage so that all teams have the same information.
In order to communicate all Competition questions and answers in a timely manner, they will be compiled on a monthly basis, amended to this FAQS document, and then the updated document re-posted according to these dates:
– November 23, 2022
– December 21, 2022
– January 25, 2023
– February 22, 2023
The updated FAQ document can be accessed at the same FAQS link on the Competition webpage.
FAQ’s

Each time this document is posted the link name will reflect the date that it was posted.
No team will be identified in the posted document.
Questions will be posted exactly as they are received.
See Line 113 for an Example FAQs, Questions and Answers as of November 1, 2022.

What are Team questions?
Team questions are relevant to that team only (e.g., clarification of team registration, contact email, etc.).
Team questions should be submitted by March 23, 2023 for a response.
Team questions submitted after this date will be received but may not be answered.
Team questions will not be posted to the website.

Why are the questions responded to in the manner that they are answered?
Judges provide answers that are very typical, similar, and consistent for all teams.
No questions are answered with an intent to give any team an advantage.
Questions are usually answered by citing the competition documents (for example “see the Rules”).
The answers also usually cite the competition documents’ relevant subheadings, line numbers, and or paragraph/sentence numbers.
General questions receive general answers.
Ask specific questions to get specific answers.
Some questions are answered with “Judges will not answer.”

Why are some questions answered with “Judges will not answer”?
Some of the reasons that questions are answered with “Judges will not answer” are as follows:
1. Judges will not answer questions about rules from previous competitions because those rules do not apply to the current competition.
2. Judges will not answer questions that are phrased as an implied question or that ask if a team understands a rule correctly or not.
3. Judges will not answer questions that ask for permission to do something or for their opinion on what a team wants to do. (For example: questions that include phrases such as “we plan on doing this ...” or “we want to do this ...” or “what do you think ...” or “can we do this ...”)
4. Judges will not answer questions that are outside of the scope of the competition documents. If something is not stated in the competition documents, then there is nothing against what you want to do. In other words, permission is given to do whatever you want to do unless the competition documents state otherwise.
5. Judges will not answer questions that are your team’s decision. Understand that there may or may not be competition documents (rules) that are either for or against your team decision and the judges will not answer.
6. Judges will not answer if they don’t want to answer incorrectly, or with an answer to cause more questions, or with an answer that changes the established competition documents.
7. Judges will not answer Competition questions that were submitted after the deadline of February 15, 2023.
Judges are not required to identify the reason for “no answer” responses (i.e., one of the reasons listed above). If the team still needs an answer, then consider rephrasing and resubmitting “no answer” questions. Please keep and use the appropriate email trail for the judge’s context and keep aware of the question type for submittal deadlines.

**How do we submit our questions?**

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

students@concrete.org

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

Address to: Rachel Belcher

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

**Example FAQs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions and Answers as of November 1, 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>221101-01 Q What will the questions and answers look like in this PDF document?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>221101-02 Q Why are the questions numbered?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A The questions are numbered to allow the judges to refer to previously answered questions. For example: See Answer to Question 221101-01.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>221101-03 Q Why are there no Competition questions in this FAQS PDF document?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**End Example FAQs**
### Questions and Answers as of November 23, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>221123-01</th>
<th>Q</th>
<th>Where to find the ACI Mix Design for the Concrete Bowling Ball Competition?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td>There is no ACI Mix Design. Refer to the Rules lines 113-115. Also, consult with your Faculty Advisor before asking further questions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>221123-02</th>
<th>Q</th>
<th>Is there a clear way to understand the screenshotted table that is in Excel?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td>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 &quot;Team Acronym&quot; 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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

End of Update November 23, 2022

### Questions and Answers as of December 21, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>221221-01</th>
<th>Q</th>
<th>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: &quot;other ball materials cannot be a concrete material or a fiber reinforcement&quot;, 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?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td>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 😊😊).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

End of Update December 21, 2022
### Questions and Answers as of January 25, 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q</th>
<th>We have a question regarding the ACI contest, we want to know if we can use a combination of synthetic fibers of different length?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Please see Rules lines 131-133.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

End of Update January 25, 2023

### Questions and Answers as of February 22, 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q</th>
<th>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!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>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. Introduction to the Fiber-Reinforced Concrete Bowling Ball Competition), as well as lines 70-89 of the FAQS document.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q</th>
<th>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?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>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. <strong>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.</strong> For all other teams, the original submittal deadline of March 2 still stands.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

End of Update February 22, 2023

**End of Updates**