



**ONTARIO MINE RESCUE
DISTRICT AND PROVINCIAL COMPETITIONS**

RULES GOVERNING

2026



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1.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1.1 Chief Judge

For District competitions, the role and responsibilities of Chief Judge shall be carried out by the Mine Rescue Officer (**MRO**) in charge of that district. For Provincial competitions, the role and responsibilities of Chief Judge shall be carried out by the Chief Mine Rescue Officer, Workplace Safety North. The Chief Judge is responsible for the drafting, preparation and execution of all aspects of the Provincial Competition. All area or task judges, volunteers and support personnel are under the direction of the Chief Judge from the period beginning prior to setup of the scenario floor and ending following tear-down. All scoring sheets are to be submitted by area or task judges to the Chief Judge for final review and scorekeeping. Any scoring disagreements that cannot be resolved between area or task judges related to the interpretation of actions, procedures or rules will be decided by the Chief Judge. *The Chief Judge at both the District and Provincial Competition is responsible to ensure the safety of each competing team. If, at any time, the Chief Judge determines that a team can not safely complete the scenario as designed, the team Captain will be asked to have his/her team get out of oxygen and the team will be stopped from completing the remainder of the scenario. The team will also receive the full value of the demerits from the incomplete portion of the competition, as well as procedure penalty valued at 25 demerits.*

Example Scenarios:

1. *Obvious injury to team member that would result in a team being recalled to surface without completing their current task*
 - a. *Captain will be stopped*
2. *Team and/or Captain exhibiting mental or physical exhaustion causing unsafe decisions*
 - a. *Captain will be warned by Chief Judge and given 20 minutes to correct the team actions or behaviour prior to being stopped*
3. *Team member(s) out of oxygen due to an operator error or apparatus fault prior to completing the problem as timed*
 - a. *Team is expected to inspect the apparatus and correct the issue if possible. If the fault is beyond a field fix, timeout will be called temporarily to notify the Chief Judge. Team member will complete the remainder of the scenario with their mask disconnected. If upon later inspection the error was the fault of the Competition setup, no further penalties apply. If the error was the fault*



of the team member, the team will receive the full value of the demerits from the incomplete portion of the competition as if the team had been recalled to surface, as well as a procedure penalty valued at 25 demerits.

1.2 Mine Rescue Officer

Prior to the Provincial Competition, Mine Rescue Officer will act under the direction of the Chief Judge to either train mine rescue teams in preparation for the competition or help prepare the competition scenario. The MRO is responsible for ensuring a point of contact is established between competing teams and the Chief Judge prior to the competition, for the purposes of forwarding preparatory information if required. MROs are responsible for communicating to the Chief Judge any requests for information outside of the standard information sent to competing teams. Any MRO that participates in the training and preparation of Provincial competition teams is prohibited from seeking or learning details regarding the working or judging of the competition prior to official judges meeting. Any MRO that is made aware of such details prior to the official judges meeting, a situation that would present an unfair advantage to the team they have trained, must disclose this information to the Chief Judge prior to the competition. Failure to do so may result in demerits applied to the competing team.

MROs may be assigned as lead judges or coordinators in competition areas of responsibility. MROs are to coordinate industry judges in their area of responsibility and assist in the interpretation of Ontario Mine Rescue Policies and Procedures.

1.3 Judge

The selection of area judges and coordinators are determined by invite only and roles are assigned by the Chief Judge. Typical provincial judge and coordinator invitations include, but are not limited to; district competition runner-up captain; industry technical experts; WSN and Ministry of Labour personnel; mine rescue supplier and sponsor partners. Judges must attend the official judges meeting prior to the team competition. Following the official judges meeting, judges are prohibited from communicating with members or affiliates of the competing teams. Sharing information with teams following the judges meeting may result in the removal of the judge from scoring and/or demerits applied to competing teams



1.4 Briefing Officer

The Briefing Officer (**BO**) must be trained in Ontario Mine Rescue Policies and Procedures and hold a valid Briefing Officer certificate, but need not be an active mine rescue volunteer. The BO will not be required to perform any tasks under oxygen. The BO may, however, be involved in elements of the competition outside of the duties of briefing and monitoring an active mine rescue team, including the initiation of an emergency response scenario and timed tasks.

1.5 Captain

The captain is responsible for ensuring his or her full competing team attends the written exam, team scenario and any additional competition related tasks at their scheduled time. During the team scenario, it is the responsibility of the captain to ensure the information communicated to both the BO and judges is clear, honest and accurate. During the competition, the captain must disclose any perceived safety violations, unmanageable risks, or injuries within the team to the area judge or coordinator at the earliest opportunity. Failure to do so may result in demerits applied to the team for unrealistic and unnecessary risks taken during a simulation exercise.

1.6 Technician

Competing Technicians are responsible to attend the written exam, team scenario and technician competition. During the team scenario, the competing Technician is under the direction of the competing team BO or Captain until instructed by the Technician Judge otherwise. Competing Technicians need not be an active mine rescue volunteer but must hold a current Technician certificate and have completed annual technician refresher training within the previous 12 months.

2.0 COMPANY REQUIREMENTS

A mine or mines wishing to enter a team in the District Mine Rescue Competition shall make its intentions known to the Mine Rescue Officer at least one month prior to the date set for the competition.

It is recognized that small, new, or decommissioning operations may not be able to support a full mine rescue team for competitions and in these instances 2 or more mines could combine to enter a team in the district competition.

- 2.1. Each team shall be composed of six team members who may be required to take part in the competition in any capacity. Each team requires two additional team members, one person trained in Ontario Mine Rescue, holding a valid BO Certificate, will be required for each team to act as Briefing Officer (**BO**). One



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Equipment Technician will be required for each team. The Technician must have completed the three-day basic technician course and be in possession of a valid Technician certificate.

- 2.2. A team member must be the holder of an Ontario Mine Rescue Introductory Mine Rescue Certificate, an employee and a bonafide member of an active rescue roster of the mine entering the competition.
- 2.3. Any mine interested in entering a team, must provide a full team, including the Equipment Technician. The team member designated as the Technician must have completed the three-day basic technician course and be in possession of a valid Technician certificate. The competing Technician cannot be assigned “double duty” for any other role on the teams competing list (e.g. #2 position is also the Technician). Depending on the competition scenario, the Technician may have tasks to complete while the team is performing other aspects of the competition and these events may take place simultaneously.
- 2.4. Each competing team member, excluding the Briefing Officer and Technician, must present a medical certificate showing capability of performing strenuous work under oxygen, dated not more than twelve months prior to the competition. Medical certificates must be submitted during the scheduled written exam. The absence of a valid medical certificate will result in that team member being disqualified from the competition.
- 2.5. Competing teams will be notified of the location and time at which they are to report. Competing teams should be properly dressed for the occasion with personal protective equipment; hard hats, work gloves, medical examination gloves, chin straps, mine rescue belt, link line, lamp pouch and safety boots. Lamps will be provided for teams at the district or provincial competition. Anything other than the above-mentioned items found or used during the competition will be taken away and result in demerits being applied. (2 per item)
- 2.6. The team winning the Ontario Mine Rescue District Competition shall be eligible to compete in the Ontario Mine Rescue Provincial Competition, and shall be comprised of its original members, including the Briefing Officer and Technician,



provided that a substitution may be made due to illness or removal from the district of a team member. Any substitute shall be an employee and a team member from the same mine and/or company who competed in the Ontario Mine Rescue District Competition.

3.0 ONTARIO MINE RESCUE (WSN) RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1. Ontario Mine Rescue Officers will provide all mine rescue equipment including breathing apparatus and instruments necessary to conduct the Ontario Mine Rescue District or Provincial Competitions. In the District Competition, tools, stretchers, brattice material, lumber, etc., may be furnished by the committee in charge, and the field may be laid out under the direction of the Chief Judge. In the Provincial competition, the lead judges will be responsible for the field requirements according to specifications provided by the Chief Judge, and that the required tools, etc. are available.
- 3.2. District Competitions may be held prior to the date set for the Provincial Competition that is suitable to the Mine Rescue Officer.
- 3.3. An Ontario Mine Rescue District Competition may only be scheduled if there are 2 or more teams registered to compete from the Emergency Response District. If, due to inadequate registration, it is decided that a District Competition cannot be conducted, teams from such a District still wishing to compete will be given the opportunity to join a neighboring District Competition.
- 3.4. Personnel competent in Ontario Mine Rescue policy and procedure shall perform the judging of Ontario Mine Rescue District Competitions. Sufficient judges must be provided such that, if possible, all competing teams may be examined in as short a time as possible. The Chief Judge (Mine Rescue Officer) will determine each judge's assignment.
- 3.5. All registered Ontario Mine Rescue District Competition teams will be eligible for up to 3 on-site training days with an Ontario Mine Rescue Officer. All District Competition winning teams will then be eligible for up to an additional 5 on-site



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training days with a Mine Rescue Officer in preparation for the Ontario Mine Rescue Provincial Competition.

- 3.6. All background information, i.e., mine plans, normal operating and emergency procedures will be made available to competition teams prior to the Ontario Mine Rescue District and Provincial Competitions.
- 3.7. A schedule of demerits has been drawn up to cover the field tests and standard team procedures and the judges will be given the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the schedule prior to the competition.
- 3.8. A reliable person must be appointed to reset the field layout after each team has competed, so that it will be identical for each team.
- 3.9. Teams who are waiting their turn to compete should be placed in a location where they will be unable to observe the assignment area or communicate with anyone other than a designated official. Any attempt made by members of teams yet to compete to observe the field or obtain information pertaining to the Ontario Mine Rescue District or Provincial Competition will result in a penalty for the team, up to and including the possibility of disqualification at the discretion of the Chief Judge. Any person that attempts to assist/influence a team by providing information related to the competition will result in penalties applied to the team, up to and including disqualification at the discretion of the Chief Judge.
- 3.10. At the Provincial Competition pre-meeting all probable errors expected in the team assignment areas will be listed in advance on a sheet with demerit marks shown. Any serious error encountered during competition that was not listed should be discussed by the task/area lead judges evaluating each team's performance immediately following their performance. Interpretation and demeriting of unforeseen serious errors must be reviewed and approved by the Chief Judge. (Demerits, etc. will be reviewed during the set up and judges meeting)



- 3.11. When possible, the Chief Judge may judge in the Team Procedures area for determination and interpretation of major demerits.
- 3.12. Care should be taken to ensure that all Specific demerits cover the “**ACTION**” by the competitors and the Team Procedures Demerit Sheet covers the “**QUALITY**” OF THE ACTION.
- 3.13. The Chief Judge shall have final oversight on the interpretation and demeriting of the actions of the competing teams. The judgment of the Chief Judge may supersede the evaluation of the area lead judge and will be recognized as the final ruling in the event of a disagreement regarding the application of demerits.
- 3.14. Members of the team and technician winning the Ontario Mine Rescue Provincial and/or District Competitions will be presented with a certificate in recognition of their achievement.

4.0 COMPETITION FORMAT

The competition will be divided into three parts as follows:

4.1 Provincial Competition Order of Competing

To achieve the goal of rewarding competing teams for their hard work and having a biased free method of choosing provincial Competition competing order, the team with the best District MCQ score will have first choice at picking their position of competing at the Provincial Competition. Second best score chooses second, third best score chooses third and so on.

For Example:

The team with the Best overall District MCQ score will have the opportunity of picking any one of the following spots:

Wednesday June 10, 2026

Thursday June 11, 2026

1:

5:

2:

6:

3:

7:

4:

8:



The team with the second-best score will choose from the remaining 7 available spots and so on.

In the event of a tie between the MCQ scores of the winning District teams, the lowest total of the #6 demerits will determine which team receives first pick between the teams that have tied.

4.2 Theory Examination

4.2.1 Team MCQ

The exam will be written by the following team members and counted in the overall District and Provincial Competition score: Captain, #2, #3, #4, Vice-Captain and #6.

Additionally, #7 can write the test and it will be scored; however, it will not be counted towards the overall District or Provincial competition score.

20 multiple-choice questions based on the 2021 Handbook of Training in Mine Rescue and Recovery Operations (Reprint 2022 – inside cover) will be presented to each team member. Candidates will have a choice of four possible answers; however, all questions will contain one correct answer only. Questions found to contain errors or misprinted information will be removed from scoring for all competitors. All questions and answers will have both Imperial and Metric measurements available for reference. Answers are to be indicated by shading in pencil the circle over A, B, C or D on the answer sheet, if an answer needs to be changed, it must be fully erased with the eraser provided. Questions not answered or answered incorrectly will receive 1/2 demerit. A 20-minute time limit will apply and will be indicated to the competitors. Questions are selected between Chapters 1 to 13 (inclusive).

4.2.2 Briefing Officer MCQ

The exam will be written by the team Briefing Officer and counted in the overall District and Provincial competition score.

20 multiple-choice questions based on the questions selected between chapters 1 to 13 (inclusive) from the 2021 Handbook of Training in Mine Rescue and Recovery Operations (Reprint 2022 – inside cover). Candidates will have a choice of four possible answers; however, all questions will contain one correct answer only. Questions found to contain errors or



misprinted information will be removed from scoring for all competitors. All questions and answers will have both Imperial and Metric measurements available for reference. Answers are to be indicated by shading in pencil the circle over A, B, C or D on the answer sheet, if an answer needs to be changed, it must be fully erased with the eraser provided. Questions not answered or answered incorrectly will receive 1/2 demerit.

A 20-minute time limit will apply and will be indicated to the competitors.

4.2.3 Technician MCQ

The exam will be written by the team Technician and will be counted towards the teams overall District and Provincial Competition score. The Technician's MCQ score may also be used as an additional method of a tie breaker for either the District or Provincial Competition, if required.

20 multiple-choice questions based on the questions on the current Technicians Manual and chapter 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13 from the 2021 Handbook of Training in Mine Rescue and Recovery Operations (Reprint 2022 – inside cover). Candidates will have a choice of four possible answers, however all questions will contain one correct answer only. Questions found to contain errors or misprinted information will be removed from scoring for all competitors. All questions and answers will have both Imperial and Metric measurements available for reference. Answers are to be indicated by shading in pencil the circle over A, B, C or D on the answer sheet, if an answer needs to be changed, it must be fully erased with the eraser provided. Questions not answered or answered incorrectly will receive 1/2 demerit. A 20 minute time limit will apply and will be indicated to the competitors.

Example:

Date

These answers are acceptable:

(1) Circle completely filled in

(3) First attempt completely erased and another circle is completely filled in

11 A B C D

12 A B C D

13 A B C D

14 A B C D

15 A B C D

16 A B C D

17 A B C D

18 A B C D

19 A B C D

20 A B C D

These answers are not acceptable:

(12) Outer edge is circled, will not recognize and be deemed incorrect

(14) "X" is placed over selection, will not recognize and be deemed incorrect

(17) Multiple answers selected, will be deemed incorrect



4.3 Fresh Air Base Operation

The team will be escorted to a location from which the problem field cannot be observed. The team assignment will dictate the required equipment to be field tested. The judge of the team captain shall be in charge of this operation and there shall be a judge for each team member.

Time Limits:

Standard Equipment (including Kestrel)	-	5 minutes
MX6	-	No Time Limit
BG4	-	10 minutes
MSA G1	-	5 minutes
Carevent	-	5 minutes
Standard Stretcher	-	5 minutes

Upon completion of the field tests, including the written report, the team captain will report to field test coordinator judge.

Time exceeding allowed time for Field Tests would have demerits applied at one point per minute or any portion of a minute with no maximum. While these time limits are critical to ensure a sense of urgency is demonstrated when preparing equipment in the Fresh Air Base, it is essential that emergency response equipment is thoroughly checked for faults or defects prior to use.

In the event of any equipment problems, the team member is to notify a judge of the possible issue. If determined that a legitimate defect is present, the judge will pause the timer for the equipment field test in question until the issue is resolved. If such time loss is directly responsible for a team going overtime, an allowance will apply. In the event of an individual equipment issue, the remainder of the team is to carry on with their tests.

4.4 Team Assignment

Depending on the competition scenario, the Briefing Officer (**BO**) may be apart of a task (non-breathing apparatus) or the Briefing Officer Judge may take the BO into a separate room and begin providing information relevant to the competition scenario. An electronic device (laptop or tablet) will be provided to the Briefing Officer, along with the login credentials to be used for the competition. Paper copies of mine plans and a copy of a narrative or record of events that have taken place up to that point may be made available to the Briefing Officer, however this is not guaranteed depending on the scenario. The Briefing Officer may ask any question of the judge, and any reasonable question will be answered; but a sense of urgency must prevail.



Care should be taken that the judge remains available for these questions for exactly the same length of time in each case. Sufficient time will then be allowed for the Briefing Officer to study the mine plans and the narrative.

The Briefing Officer must present their intentions to the Briefing Officer Judge for review prior to briefing the team. The Briefing Officer Judge will determine if the specific task or assignment outlined by the Briefing Officer is aligned with the working of the problem and meets the required criteria to be presented to the team. If the intentions presented contain serious misalignments with the working of the problem, the Briefing Officer Judge will (in consultation with the Chief Judge) present instructions to the team's Briefing Officer outlining corrections to the team assignment. This is done to ensure that each team receives the same necessary information required to be judged fairly during the scenario. Demerits will apply in the event of instruction from the Briefing Officer Judge.

The Briefing Officer will present their plan of action to the team and answer any questions, if possible, until the team captain gives the order to either move to an advanced Fresh Air Base or to get under oxygen. During this time, it may be necessary depending on the problem, for the team to perform any or all of the following:

1. Test any additional equipment or breathing apparatus that may be used by team or patient.
2. Captain to indicate to Briefing Officer that the team is prepared; synchronize watches and move on to the Fresh Air Base if it is located at any other point.
3. The captain will, at his/her discretion, order team to "get under oxygen", check personnel, equipment and pressures, and proceed with the team assignment.
4. The Briefing Officer and Team Captain using strict realistic time limits for team travel and location of communication points will establish the route of travel. The only marking required by the captain will be for turnaround locations and guidelines will be used where required. The Briefing Officers demerits will be applied under communications on the specific problem.
5. Upon completion of the assignment, the Briefing Officer Judge will inform the Briefing Officer that the problem is complete. The Briefing Officer will then instruct the captain to get the team out of oxygen.



6. After removal of apparatus, the Briefing Officer and the Team Captain will be allotted 15min to write and submit a written report, together with the level plans and other data that may be requested. The report and post-incident recommendations must be derived from, and match, the communications, and findings of the team.
7. The team will then service their apparatus in order to prepare it for future teams or for storage. This process will be observed and judged accordingly.
8. Smoke, visor shields and/or curtains will indicate smoke conditions. Ventilation flow and velocity, chutes, manways, raises, etc., will be communicated by the Chief Judge or by posted signs. Heat will be indicated by the Chief Judge verbally or by simulation.
9. Air quality in all areas explored must be determined.

4.5 Timed Tasks

Periodically there will be a timed task in addition to a field assignment. These timed tasks can include such scenarios as: firefighting, first aid and special equipment use. The schedule for these assignments will be given to the team prior to the day of competition.

5.0 COMPETITION SCORING

5.1 Assignment Time

1. Assignment time will begin when the team and Briefing Officer enters the Fresh Air Base and will end when the last team member reports “out of oxygen”. The captain is to report the assignment completed. The assignment time taken by each team will be noted, and an average assignment time of competing teams will be calculated. The “Official Assignment Time Range” for the competition will be the average time of all competing teams plus or minus five minutes.
2. Overtime demerits will be applied for teams completing the assignment over the “Official Assignment Time Range” at the rate of one demerit per minute or any portion of a minute, over the “Official Assignment Time Range” with no maximum.
3. To qualify for Under-Time Merit Points (+ positive), a competing team must have better



than (or equal to) the average score in both the Specifics and Procedures evaluation categories. This rule applies to ensure teams are not rewarded for rushing at the expense of either strategy (Specifics) or quality (Procedures).

4. Under-Time Merit Points will be credited to teams completing the assignment under the “Official Assignment Time Range” at a rate of one merit per minute to a maximum of 10 merit points. This rule applies to ensure the reward for completing the scenario quickly does not outweigh any other critical knowledge or skills evaluation (Theory Exam, First Aid, Firefighting, etc.).

Assignment Time Example:

	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 5	Team 6	Team 7	
								Average:
Specific Demerits	-35	-25	-15	-15	-15	-20	-10	-19.3
Procedure Demerits	-25	-25	-15	-15	-15	-5	-25	-17.9
Time (Minutes)	260	190	235	210	215	215	250	225

Merits	DID NOT QUALIFY Specifics & Procedures	DID NOT QUALIFY Specifics & Procedures	DID NOT QUALIFY Time			DID NOT QUALIFY Specifics	DID NOT QUALIFY Procedures
Demerits	-30		-5	+10	+5		-20

Under Time Range Less than 220 **Merits Apply** Maximum = +10	Official Assignment Time $\leftarrow \frac{220}{-5} \quad 225 \quad \frac{230}{-5} \rightarrow$ **No Merits/Demerits Apply**	Overtime Range More than 230 **Demerits Apply** No Maximum
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5. **Technician Competition:** An overtime demerit will be applied for every five minutes over the Technician “Official Time” with no maximum. In the event of a tie between Technicians following the compilation of overall demerits, time is to be used as tiebreaker with the lowest time being declared winner.



- 6 Following completion of the scenario, 15 minutes will be allowed for the Team Captain and the Briefing Officer to complete a report of the team's assignments, findings, and recommendations.

5.2 Tiebreakers

1. Upon completion of the competition, if a tie is established following the totaling of demerits, the following tiebreakers shall be applied in order:
 - a) Total of Specific and Team Procedures demerits
 - b) Total of Fresh Air Base and Fire Fighting demerits
 - c) Decision of the Chief Judge

5.3 Competition Debriefing

1. District Competition – Each competing team must schedule their teams debrief to occur within 10 business days of the completion of the district competition. Competition booklets and scoring binders will be available for the team on the day of their debrief.
2. Provincial Competition – Each competing team will be allotted a 30 minute debrief session on the day following the awards ceremony / banquet. Debrief sessions are for summary purposes only, not for the discussion of scoring or interpretation of actions. Competition booklets will be available to the team on the day of their debrief. The order of debriefing sessions will follow the order of competing. All debrief sessions will be held at the Sudbury Mine Rescue Station, transportation will be made available if necessary. Teams who miss their allotted time slot will not be allocated a new time slot. Physical scoring binders will be shipped to the address provided by the team captains within 30 days of the completion of the competition. A confirmation call between the CMRO and Team Captain will be made to ensure the binder is received and no scoring sheets are missing.