

Spaghetti Bridge Competition 2018

Rules and Conditions

The 2018 Transport and Main Roads Spaghetti Bridge Competition will open for registrations in February. If you would like to be added to our mailing list please email admin@telg.com.au.

Rules

1. The competition is open to school students from Year 7 to 12. Teams can consist of up to four students. Only one entry (bridge) per team is permitted. Schools can enter any number of teams.
2. The bridge must be constructed using commercially available spaghetti. No other form of pasta, such as fettuccine, is permitted. Tubular spaghetti, also known as bucatini, is not permitted. Spaghetti is a cylindrical form of pasta with a diameter not greater than 3mm, made from semolina or flour and water.
3. The bridge can be constructed using PVA/white glue, hot glue or super glue. Glue should be used to join the spaghetti only; **glue or any other material cannot be used to coat strands of spaghetti**. Two-pack epoxy glue is not permitted.
4. The bridge must include the supplied loading hook as close to the midpoint of the bridge as possible. The loading hook will be posted to each team after registration.
5. The bridge must have a deck that a toy car (typical matchbox car) could theoretically drive across.
6. The bridge must span at least 37cm. The only bridge support will be on horizontal surfaces each side of the clear 35cm span on the test rig, no thrust support from the vertical sides of the test rig can be used.
7. The total mass of the bridge including spaghetti, glue and loading hook must not exceed **300 grams**. If the bridge does exceed 300 g, then it will be tested, but it will be ineligible for a prize.
8. Registration must be received by TELG before midnight on Monday 30th July 2018. Registration will be via the TELG website.
9. Testing will occur in three locations in Queensland:
 - Brisbane North / Sunshine Coast @ St Eugene College, Burpengary, Friday 10 August 2018
 - Brisbane Central/South @ TAFE Brisbane, South Bank, Brisbane, Monday 13 August 2018
 - Townsville @ James Cook University, Sunday 19 August 2018Testing will take approximately 10 minutes per team and we encourage a member of the team and an accompanying responsible adult (teacher or parent) to attend. Photos and video of each bridge's test will be made available to each team after the event.

No bridges will be tested at times other than those listed above.
10. Teams do not have to accompany their bridge to the testing day, but it is highly recommended. If a team genuinely cannot attend a testing day, they are to organise with TELG to post the bridge, at the schools or teams cost, at least 1 week before the nominated testing day. It is the team's responsibility to ensure the bridge is packaged securely. TELG will take all care to safe guard the bridge once it has been received, but takes no responsibility if the bridge is damaged in transit or during the testing phase. Photos will be taken of the opening of the packaging when received.

Terms and Conditions

1. Each bridge will be weighed and inspected prior to and after strength testing (where possible). If the bridge exceeds the weight limit or consists of materials not listed in points 2 – 5 in the “Rules” it will be disqualified.
2. The bridge will not be interfered with while undergoing the strength test. The bridge will be tested to destruction.
3. The winning bridges will be ranked according to the size of the peak load carried during the strength test. In the event of a tie the lighter bridge will be ranked higher.
4. The prize money will be awarded to the school nominated on the school registration form. The prize is not transferable.
5. Prizes:
 - First Place - Largest Peak Load (across all three testing locations) - \$1000
 - Second Place (across all three testing locations) - \$500
 - Regional Prize (largest load in a region not already receiving first or second place) - \$250
 - Year 7 Winner¹ (if not receiving any of the above prizes) - \$250
 - Best "First Time School" team² - \$250
 - School Prize (most bridges tested from the one school) - \$250

Monies will be paid to the schools of the winning teams, upon receipt of a purchase order from the school. The schools can distribute the prize money as it sees fit. A representative from TELG or its sponsors can be available to present the cheque to the "winning" team on a School Assembly if desired. Contact TELG (admin@telg.com.au) to coordinate this.

6. By entering the competition each school and/or team agrees to participate in promotional activities. Media release forms will e-mailed to all participating teams, via the school coordinator.
7. The judges’ decision is final. The judges have the right to disqualify any bridge that, in their opinion, is in violation of the intent or letter of the competition rules. The judges have the right to accept any bridge that in their opinion is consistent with the rules.

¹ The “Year 7” prize is defined as the top-placing team, where at least 75% (or as close as possible) of the team are Year 7 students. The oldest member of the team can be in Year 8.

² The “First Time School” team is defined as a team from a school that has not participated in the competition since TELG took over the competition, in 2014.