ITE International Collegiate Traffic Bowl

Summary of Substantive Revisions to Competition Rules and Instructions for 2027

Background

The **ITE Collegiate Traffic Bowl Committee** annually reviews the Traffic Bowl Program competition rules. The following summarizes the substantive revisions and clarifications for the **2027 Grand Championship, District, and Section Traffic Bowl tournaments**.

Revisions to Student Teams and Participant Eligibility

New Provision for 2027

- Teams composed of students from **two or more schools** may compete in a District or Section Traffic Bowl as a combined multi-school team, provided that **none of the represented schools has won its District or Section Traffic Bowl during the previous two years**.

Clarifications

- To be eligible to compete, each team member **must be enrolled as a full-time student at the university they represent** and **must be a current International ITE member**, either as a **student member or professional member**. In addition, each team member **must be under 30 years of age as of August 1, 2027** and therefore **must have been born on or after August 1, 1997**.
- A student who received an undergraduate or graduate degree during the academic year from **August 2026 through June 2027** may participate as a member of their school's team, provided the student meets all other eligibility requirements, including the age requirement.
- If a member of a team that qualifies for the Grand Championship is unable to participate, the team shall substitute an alternate from the same school who meets all eligibility requirements. At least **50% of the team participating in the Grand Championship must consist of members who competed for the team at the District competition**.
- The same substitution requirements apply to an alternate team selected to represent a District. If a member of the selected team is unable to participate in the Grand Championship, an eligible alternate from the same school shall be substituted. However, at least **50% of the team participating in the Grand Championship must consist of members who competed for that team at the District competition**.

Revisions to Competition Categories and Clue Resources

Changes for 2027

- The most recent revision of the **U.S. Department of Transportation Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), 11th Edition with Revision 1, December 2025**, will be used as a reference source for competition categories and clues. The MUTCD is available online and as a free PDF download from the Federal Highway Administration.

Clarification

- The **Ontario Traffic Manual, Books 1 through 19**, published by the **Ontario Traffic Council**, is used as a reference because it provides a representative source for the application of traffic control devices in Canada and is available online at no cost.

Revisions to Game Play

Changes for 2027

- The rules have been revised to allow for **audio and video clues** and to provide greater clarity regarding clues that are not read aloud.
- For categories that include clues featuring **abbreviations, acronyms, graphics, letter scrambles, audio, or video**, the Emcee will not read the clue aloud. Teams may press their response buttons or begin writing their responses as soon as the clue is displayed or presented. These categories will be identified to participants at the beginning of the match and again when the category is introduced during play.

Clarifications

- For a **writing category**, once the clue has been displayed and read, **all teams will have 12 seconds** to write their response in the form of a question on a card or dry-erase board using a thick-tip pen. With three seconds remaining, the Emcee will begin a verbal countdown: **"3…2…1…pens down!"**
- With respect to **response phrasing**, if a response is correct but **not phrased in the form of a question**, no points will be deducted, and the response will be accepted. **There will also be no penalty for incorrect grammar.**

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