

STEM RACING JAPAN – Terms & Conditions

Preamble

These Terms and Conditions for STEM RACING JAPAN (hereinafter, the “Terms”) set forth the rules governing STEM RACING JAPAN, which is exclusively operated in Japan by the General Incorporated Association STEM Academy under its authorized rights (hereinafter, “STEM RACING JAPAN Administration”).

All teams, individuals, educational institutions, and other parties participating in competitions, events, programs, and certification processes organized or co-organized by STEM RACING JAPAN Administration (hereinafter, “Participants”) must comply with these Terms and may not dispute any decisions made based on them.

The Terms may be amended as needed through announcement on the official STEM RACING JAPAN website. Amendments become effective one week after publication.

Article 1 (Purpose)

STEM RACING JAPAN Administration promotes the development of STEM and STEAM education with the following objectives:

1. Promotion of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) education.
2. Supporting young people in developing interest in STEM and STEAM fields through inquiry-based and hands-on learning.
3. Fostering creativity, problem-solving skills, and logical thinking abilities.
4. Encouraging cross-disciplinary skills such as design, marketing, project management, public speaking, and business planning.
5. Cultivating non-cognitive skills such as teamwork, leadership, and presentation ability.
6. Developing globally minded individuals with international perspectives.
7. Nurturing creativity, a spirit of challenge, and teamwork through project-based learning.
8. Expanding learning opportunities outside traditional classrooms and contributing to diversified next-generation education.
9. Promoting ethics and social responsibility through fair play and sportsmanship.
10. Strengthening connections with international educational networks, including participation in overseas competitions and World Finals.
11. Ensuring fair and transparent competition operations for regional, national, and international pathways.
12. Maintaining the integrity, consistency, and brand value of STEM Racing Japan, including appropriate use of branding and partnerships.

Article 2 (Participant Obligations)

Participants must follow the instructions of STEM RACING JAPAN Administration and comply with the following:

1. To comply with the technical regulations and all other rules separately established by STEM RACING JAPAN Administration in connection with competitions, events, programs, and various certification procedures.
2. Completion of registration procedures, documentation, and deadlines.
3. Respectful conduct toward officials, judges, other participants, spectators, and all stakeholders.
4. Avoidance of cheating, falsification, and intentional rule manipulation; upholding fair play.
5. Prohibition of unauthorized use of others’ designs, text, or data.
6. Respect and non-infringement of intellectual property gained through team activities.
7. Commitment to teamwork and collaboration inside and outside the team.
8. Avoidance of discrimination, harassment, and bullying.
9. Maintaining appropriate behavior and public communication.
10. Refraining from defamation or inappropriate posts online or on social media.

11. Commitment to developing perseverance, leadership, and a spirit of challenge.
12. Understanding the educational purpose of STEM RACING and valuing cooperation, responsibility, and creativity.
13. Viewing the competition not only as a place to win but also as a place for learning and growth.
14. Coaches and guardians must respect student autonomy and ensure safety without excessive intervention.
15. Immediate reporting of any incidents or disputes to the Administration, and following instructions calmly and responsibly.
16. Avoiding conduct that disrupts public order during competitions or online.
17. Following the privacy policy and guidelines regarding photography and recording.
18. For school-based entries: the school serves as the responsible body, ensuring supervision, safety, and rule compliance.
19. Educational institutions must cooperate with information requests from the Administration when necessary.

Article 3 (Exclusive Rights to Host Competitions)

STEM RACING in Japan may be operated solely and exclusively by STEM RACING JAPAN Administration, based on the authority established for such purpose within Japan. No party may organize any competition, event, program, or certification procedure under the STEM RACING name within Japan without the prior, explicit, and written consent of STEM RACING JAPAN administration.

Article 4 (Types of Competitions)

1. Official STEM RACING competition types include:
 - World Finals
 - Continental Finals
 - Asian Finals
 - National Finals
 - Regional Finals
 - In-School / Community Competitions
 - Primary Competition
2. STEM RACING JAPAN Administration solely and exclusively hosts:
 - Continental Finals
 - Asian Finals
 - National Finals
 - Regional Finals
 - Primary Competition
3. STEM RACING JAPAN Administration shall have the authority to organize exhibition races, demonstration events, and other special programs of educational value that are independent from the official competition structure. These events shall not affect the selection process for the World Finals or any other higher-level competitions.
4. Educational institutions or organizations may host In-School / Community Competitions only with prior explicit written authorization from the Administration.
Required reporting includes:
 1. Venue and scheduled dates
 2. Competition outline
 3. Logos, emblems, characters, figures, packaging, and other works used for postings, websites, printed materials, and other creations. Furthermore, STEM RACING JAPAN Administration may issue directions for the selection of representative teams to participate in Continental Finals, Asian Finals, National Finals, and Regional Finals, held in connection with school or community competitions (In Schools • Community Competition).

Article 5 (Co-Hosting)

1. Educational institutions, corporations, and other organizations that support the objectives of Article 1 may co-host Continental Finals, Asian Finals, National Finals, Regional Finals, Primary Competitions, Exhibition Races, and other related events only upon obtaining prior, explicit, and written consent from STEM RACING JAPAN Administration.
2. In the case of co-hosting such events, methods for using logos, emblems, characters, figures, packaging, and other works in postings, websites, printed materials, and other creations, as well as specific roles and allocation of responsibilities, shall be determined individually through consultation between STEM RACING JAPAN Administration and the co-hosting partners. However, co-hosting shall not affect any technical regulations, rules, or eligibility requirements separately established by STEM RACING JAPAN Administration.
3. For co-hosting World Finals and Continental Finals, the STEM RACING JAPAN Administration will make reasonable efforts to liaise with the STEM RACING International Headquarters.

Article 6 (Competition Divisions)

1. Category divisions:
 1. Primary Class
 2. Entry Class
 3. Development Class
 4. Professional Class

Separately from the official class structure (1–4) above, the STEM RACING JAPAN Administration may, for the purposes of domestic promotion, public outreach, and the provision of educational value, establish its own categories within Japan (hereinafter, the “Japan-Exclusive Classes”). The Japan-Exclusive Classes shall have no bearing on, nor shall they influence, the selection process for higher-level competitions, including but not limited to the World Finals.

2. Team divisions:
 1. Educational Institution / Organization Category
 - Teams composed solely of students who belong to or are enrolled in the same educational institution or organization.
 - Teams that use, or appear to use, the name of a specific educational institution or organization.
 2. Independent Team Category (Independent Team)
 - Teams that do not fall under item 1 above.
 - Teams that do not use the name of any specific educational institution or organization.
3. STEM RACING JAPAN shall make the final determination as to which category or classification a team belongs to, and all participants must comply with such determination.

Article 7 (Eligibility)

1. Eligibility requirements:
 1. Age
 - Primary Class: 6–12
 - Entry / Development / Professional Classes: 11–19
 - The eligibility requirements for the Japan-Exclusive Classes shall be separately determined by STEM RACING JAPAN in accordance with the purposes of promotion and public outreach.
 2. Team Composition
 - A team shall consist of 3 to 6 official competition members as determined by STEM RACING JAPAN or the STEM RACING International Headquarters.
 - In addition to the official competition members, support members (7 or more additional members) may be registered. However, support members are not allowed to participate in the competition.
 - Support members shall wear uniforms or distinguishable attire different from those of the official competition members.
 3. Consent
 - Written consent required from a guardian, teacher, or mentor over 18.

4. Payment
 - Competition fees must be paid by the specified deadline.
2. Final eligibility decisions are made by the Administration or the International Headquarters and are binding.

Article 8 (Participation Fees)

1. Participants shall pay the participation fees determined by STEM RACING JAPAN Administration at the time of each event, taking into consideration factors such as event scale, operational costs, accommodation arrangements, and the presence or absence of sponsors. Payment shall be made in the manner prescribed by the Administration.
2. With respect to participation fees for the World Finals, participants shall comply with the decisions and requirements set by the STEM RACING international headquarters.
3. All participation fees are non-refundable for any reason once payment has been made.

Article 9 (Suspension or Revocation of Eligibility)

1. If STEM RACING JAPAN Administration determines that a participant has engaged in any of the following acts, the participant's eligibility to take part in any event shall be immediately suspended for a specified period. If the event has already commenced or concluded, all results shall be annulled and any awards shall be revoked.
 1. Violations of technical regulations or any applicable rules.
 2. Fraudulent registration by the participant or related parties (including false information regarding name, age, affiliation, sponsors, or partnerships).
 3. Obstruction of event operations or engaging in disruptive behavior.
 4. Significant failure to meet submission deadlines.
 5. Acts that compromise fairness or neutrality (such as improper collaboration between teams or interference with other teams).
 6. Non-compliance with Article 3
 7. Any other conduct that STEM RACING JAPAN deems inappropriate, including but not limited to violations of laws or regulations, violence, bullying or other serious misconduct within schools or communities, or acts clearly contrary to Article 1
2. Even if, pursuant to the provisions of Article 1, a participant's eligibility is suspended, the participant's results are nullified, or any commendation is revoked, the so-called "lack of justiciability" shall apply, and the participant shall be precluded from initiating any legal remedial proceedings, including but not limited to the filing of lawsuits, petitions for mediation, or applications for arbitration, before any legal dispute resolution body.
3. The suspension of participation eligibility pursuant to this Article shall have no bearing whatsoever on any future eligibility to participate after the suspension period has ended.

Article 10 (Liability)

STEM RACING JAPAN Administration shall bear no responsibility for any accidents, incidents, or disputes arising among participants or related parties in connection with any competitions, events, programs, or certification procedures that it organizes or co-organizes, except in cases resulting from the intentional misconduct or gross negligence of the Administration.

Article 11 (Enforcement)

These Terms shall take effect upon publication on the official STEM RACING JAPAN website.