

Student Launch 2026

Frequently Asked Questions

(Updated: *Sept. 30, 2025)

***Student Launch Timeline Change**

Preliminary Design Review (PDR) Packages will be due from teams no later than 8:00 am CT on Monday, November 3, 2025. Preliminary Design Review (PDR) Presentations will take place from Monday, November 10 – Friday, November 21.

Q: Can the payload be housed in the nosecone and still meet requirement 4.4.1?

A: Yes, the payload can be housed in the nosecone while still meeting requirement 4.4.1. While the requirement states that "The HAUS enclosure shall not incorporate or rely on the structural airframe (including couplers) of the launch vehicle to meet requirement 4.4," the nose cone and its connected "shoulder coupler" are specifically permitted for this purpose. This is because the shoulder is considered a coupler joining the nosecone rather than a traditional coupler joining two airframe sections together. Therefore, using the nosecone to house the payload does not violate requirement 4.4.1.

Q: Is the Launch-At-Home option still available for the 2026 NASA Student Launch project year?

A: For the 2025-2026 challenge year, teams participating in Student Launch will be required to complete their final competition launches at Bragg Farms in Toney, Alabama, on the official launch day, currently scheduled for April 25, 2026. The choice to complete a final competition Launch-At-Home from a local NAR or TRA sanctioned field (per section 6.2 of the NASA Student Launch Handbook Rules) is no longer an option.