HERC 2026 FAQ - ORR

Q: To give the detailed breakdown for the excursion performance we need certain distances in between each obstacle and task. Certain measurements are missing as well for obstacles.

A: *Due to the nature of the course construction being done by outside contractors, we don't have accurate information as to the distance between each obstacle. A time estimate for the overall length of the course (without obstacles) would be appropriate to use instead of a breakdown for each distance. Obstacle lengths, where not stated or able to be calculated via the handbook dimensions, are also variable year-to-year; teams should use an estimate or focus on specific/critical sections of the obstacle (e.g. the ascent section of the high butte).*

Q: Will additional team members attending be able to purchase meal tickets and T-Shirts?

A: *Meal tickets are not able to be purchased, but any leftover shirts are <u>usually</u> sold in front of the Hab building. This is not a guarantee that they will be there or what the selection of sizes might look like.*

Q: What portion of the 75 pages for the ORR report should be typed as opposed to being graphs, images, etc?

A: *In general, if it can be explained with a chart or table it is advisable to do so. Some sections will require text descriptions, but many areas can be explained easier with images/data. There is no set percentage, but try to avoid entire pages of text.*

Q: Can we still include links to things such as an image or two since they take a lot of space?

A: *This was never explicitly allowed, but we have clicked links in the past. For the ORR and all future reports, no links will be clicked on by the scoring team. This is*

to ensure the page limit is enforced, as well as ensuring that the data we receive on the due date isn't changed when we score the report.

Q: Can we change the presentation or do you want the submitted and presented presentation to be the same?

A: *You may update your presentation and are encouraged to do so with any updates since the document submissions, however, please send us the updated presentation 1-2 business days before your presentation time slot.*

Q: At the water task site, are the walls containing the liquid straight 4 inches down, or is there a slope?

A*: The walls are perfectly vertical with no slope.*

Q: What is the maximum length of the presentation?

A: *There is no maximum length rule for the presentation, but a good range is between 30 and 45 slides.*

Q: On the water sampling, it says you must collect the water and safely transport to end. Teams will analyze pH and report results. It says it does not need to be the water you analyze. I am a little confused about what water they will actually be testing. Do they need to bring water and test prior to the race? This part is a bit confusing.

A: *For both the soil and the liquid sampling tasks the answer will be the same. There is exactly one area (the task site) with the liquid/soil to be sampled and tested. The wording in the handbook is to say that teams are allowed to sample (collect) and test as independent actions within the task site. For example: a tube might be used to collect the liquid sample into an internal reservoir. The tube may also have a pH sensor on the end of it to collect that data. The exact sample collected would not then be the sample that is tested, but both are the same liquid at the task site.*

Q: If our RC and HP division teams have the same faculty advisor, can we list an additional official team member for one division?

A: *Even if your faculty advisor is the same for both teams, they need to be listed on the roster for both teams as the faculty advisor.*

Q: On the RC division, does the 2x2x2 area need to be clear of obstructions such as a temperature sensor inside the crew area?

A: *The crew area (2"x2"x2" area) does not need to be empty, it can contain the sensors necessary within that volume.*

Q: Can we calibrate our sensors before going through the course?

A: *You can calibrate for the local area, but the liquid, soil, and atmospheric samples will not be present for the course walk-through and you will not have access to them before your excursion.*

Q: Is the soil in the test area loose? Will it be piled up, or do we have to dig it up?

A: *The soil will be poured from a bag and not compacted further. It will not be in a pile, but evenly dispersed across the task site container shown in the handbook.*

Q: When you are talking about revisions, are you wanting us to specify changes just in this year's competition? Or do we include revisions from our last year's competition?

A: *Changes/revisions in the ORR are to be for the design presented at the DR and the as-built Rover for ORR. There should be no references to previous year rovers outside stating it is heritage design and/or as a means of providing relevant test/performance data.*

Q: For the RC division, can you please clarify how much sensor reading accuracy weighs into the score. Especially for CO_2 sensors or Soil Moisture sensors, is there a range of acceptable readings?

A: *There will be a generous range of acceptable readings dependent on the task. While pH should stay mostly stable throughout the day, the soil moisture and CO_2 will change between teams and the acceptable range of readings will reflect this.*

Q: If a team member or faculty member are unable to attend competition due to sickness, will that affect our ability to compete?

A*: This will not affect your ability to complete. If your faculty member is unable to attend, you should designate a substitute and let us know at check-in.*