



# World Rescue Organisation



## Extrication Challenge Guidelines – WRC 2026 - Brazil

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## 1. Foreword

The World Rescue Challenge (WRC) is an event managed by a host country/organisation on behalf of and under the auspices of the World Rescue Organisation (WRO). These guidelines take precedence over local or organisational arrangements, though it is recognised that some local adaptation may be required.

These guidelines are such that an event can take place with as much uniformity as possible across the various organisations that make up the WRO. Even though local arrangements will be such that the disciplines contained in this document may require minor amendments. This can only be achieved with the WRO Executive Committee's (EC) consent.

## 2. Definitions

The term “**organisers**” hereafter will mean the WRO as the official organisers of the WRC. The term “**Host**” hereafter will mean the agency(s) or organisation(s) hosting any challenge.

## 3. Introduction

Emergency services personnel are increasingly being challenged by more complex and technically difficult rescues and medical interventions than ever before.

The objective of the WRO Extrication Challenge is to promote and encourage the development of the most up to date extrication and trauma skills of emergency services responders of all types. This will enable them to deal successfully with the vast range of casualty centred incidents.

Participating teams will be assessed on their lifesaving capabilities and technical and command skills in three (3) different road traffic collision-based scenarios.

Teams will also be assessed on their technical and command skills in road traffic collision-based Technical Challenge – The results of the Technical Challenge will be announced separately and will not affect the World Rescue Challenge results.

## 4. The Mission

To provide a platform for emergency services personnel of all types from around the world to come together and enhance and develop competence levels in road traffic collision response.

## 5. Criteria for Participation

Participants must be competent in road rescue/vehicle extrication and currently be members of an emergency service or formal emergency response team who provides road rescue/vehicle extrication services within the community.

Teams require authorisation from their service and their host WRO member organisation. Teams must provide and wear PPE that complies with regional standards.

Teams who are participating as national winners from rescue organisations of the WRO or nominated from their peak body will attract priority in securing a place.

All other independent teams will secure a place subject to consideration of the WRO EC. The EC will base the decision for participation upon key criteria which may include, but not be limited to:

- Where entry fees are submitted with application forms on a 'first come' basis.
- The maximum number of teams the event can support.
- A balance between participating countries.
- The introduction of new countries and organisations.

The decision of the WRO EC will be final although every effort will be made to accommodate as many as possible.

## **6. Code of Conduct**

It is incumbent upon everyone involved in the management or participation within the WRC to always apply the principles of fairness and dignity to all people. The WRO will not condone inappropriate behaviour or discrimination and will act swiftly to prevent it.

All participants are reminded that they are not only representatives of their own Service but also represent their countries and the Rescue community as a whole and are to conduct themselves accordingly.

Everyone is accountable for their actions.

All assessors, officials, and WRO members are professional/experienced rescuers or managers of rescue organisations who seek to deliver a fair and unbiased event. An appropriate degree of reciprocated professional respect is expected from all participants.

Fair play and respect is expected of all participants and their teams during their evolutions and as spectators.

All participants are requested to respect the equipment of other teams, the equipment provided by the event management and the facilities provided at the challenge venue and accommodation.

Participants, assessors, logistics team members, internal assessors or anyone involved in the running of the event whose general health may give cause for concern under the influence of alcohol or any other substance during the challenge or any associated workshops, lectures etc. will be expelled and barred from further entry.

Participants are not to canvass any assessor, official or WRO member.

Assessors, officials, pit crews and WRO members will declare any interest in a particular team to the WRO Extrication Lead.

Both, the Opening and Closing ceremonies, are formal functions and appropriate uniform or corporate wear is to be worn. Dress may be relaxed at the discretion of the organisers and due notice will be given.

Participants are expected to be smartly dressed whilst in the Challenge venue, it is preferred that work wear be worn to tour the site, however this can be relaxed to casual wear, so long as it is smart and approved by the team manager.

Full protective clothing will be worn in the Challenge area, this may be relaxed during 'preparation and make up' at the discretion of the WRO Extrication Lead or other persons authorised by the WRO.

It is accepted that the evenings events perform an important part of the socialising aspect of the Challenge, participants are again reminded to behave in a manner befitting their Service and Rescue Organisation and have due regard to non-service persons who may share the same facilities.

## 7. Team Membership, Communications and Translations

Each team will consist of six (6) members, one of whom must be designated team leader and one as medic/first responder. A team member can only participate in the event upon the approval of a principal manager from the organisation they are representing.

All personnel will be allowed to participate in all classes. At the discretion of the WRO Extrication Lead, a team may substitute a team member in extreme circumstances.

Teams may use radio communications as long as they do not interfere with the host's radio frequencies and comply with local spectrum management agencies. It will be the team leader's responsibility to supply an assessor with an additional radio in order that communications can be monitored.

The team is responsible for the provision of language interpretation where English is not the predominant language used during the event. The team will need to discuss the issues and methods of achieving this with the WRO Extrication Lead who will ensure that any interpretation is accurate and reflects the performance of the team.

**Any interpreter used will be asked any relevant question by the Assessor and they will not be permitted to coach or assist the team in any way.**

It is possible that a team can have up to a maximum of 3 interpreters in a pit – Command x 1 Medical x 1 and Technical x 1. However, this must be prearranged with the Extrication Lead before attending the event.

## 8. Injury

If, during a scenario, a team member is injured and must withdraw, the team, if able, may continue until they finish, or 'Time' is called. The delay or ceasing of that scenario will be at the discretion of the Command Assessor in that pit.

The situation will be advised to the organisers and hosts as an authentic occurrence. The WRO Extrication Lead, Scenario Assessors or Safety Officer, will immediately instigate competent medical attention to the situation via the local provider or crew on standby at the site. They will record the necessary information.

The WRO Director of Operations is to be advised immediately and the incident will be investigated.

## 9. Pit Access

The pit area will be off limits to all persons unless authorised by the organisers. Authorised persons will be admitted entry only with a pass or other approved means and must be wearing appropriate PPE.

## 10. Insurance

Adequate insurance for third parties (or equivalent) and or Injury Insurance for the participating teams will be the responsibility of that team's Service, Agency or "Employing Organisation". Adequate insurance cover will be confirmed and accepted by the team in their entry form.

Nevertheless, the host organisation should supply third party liability insurance.

## 11. Registration

Team application and registration for this Challenge can only proceed on the WRO website. As part of the process of registration, teams must confirm that all members of the team comply with the requirements of rules 5 (Criteria for Participation).

Teams that are unable to participate in the challenge must notify the organisers in writing of their decision to withdraw, or they will be deemed to be a 'No show' and be disqualified. Teams that withdraw less than 28 days before the first official day of the challenge will forfeit their entry fee.

### At the Venue

Teams will present themselves for registration, prior to the Opening Ceremony at a time and venue designated by the host.

Teams will have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the tools and equipment layout at the venue, prior to the Captain's meeting at a time and venue designated by the host.

## 12. Assessors and Appeals:

Assessors are selected from member organisations of the WRO, through the WRO Director of Operations and the WRO Extrication Lead.

Each WRC requires the best and most qualified assessors from WRO Member Organisations. The WRO will seek to maintain a balance between the various WRO member organisations and the host. The WRO will seek that rotation of assessors is applied in order that experience is spread, and individuals are not repeatedly assessing each year.

During the event the WRO Extrication Lead will, where possible facilitate 'shadow' assessing.

Assessor teams will comprise of at least 4 persons assessing team performance in, Command, Technical and Medical disciplines.

All Assessors must be qualified to participate in a WRC and nominated by a WRO affiliated rescue organisation.

### Appeals

The WRO Extrication Lead will investigate and resolve any disputes.

The team leader of any team that has a grievance or dispute must report it in writing to the WRO Extrication Lead within one hour of completing the scenario concerned on the day. Official forms are available on request from the Extrication Lead.

All appeals in respect of performance and associated scoring will be heard by the WRO Extrication Lead who will, where required, investigate or discuss the issue with any involved Assessors and Internal Assessors and whose deliberation is final.

In the interest of professionalism and time management, each team has a maximum of 4 appeals they can lodge over the Challenge. This process will be monitored and managed by the Director of Operations.

In the event the findings of the WRO Extrication Lead is further challenged, all findings will be presented to representatives of the WRO EC for their deliberation in an impartial and neutral way.

## 13. Assessment Sheets

The score sheets will remain the property of the WRO and will not be available for viewing or scrutiny by any unauthorised persons. A summary of each teams scores will be made available to that team after the conclusion of the Challenge.

The final score sheet summaries will not be subject to discussion following issue.

## 14. The Benchmarks

- Develop a Safety-First attitude amongst all rescuers.
- Emphasise casualty, rescue personnel and scene safety.

- Encourage higher and more proficient levels of road traffic collision response.
- Create a broader spectrum of medical and trauma principles, rescue techniques and incident command.

## 15. The Challenge

Each team consisting of six members will compete and be assessed in three scenarios over a four-day period.

Each team is allocated a maximum of 20 minutes for assessment and treatment at three scenarios

The team will be assessed in the following areas:

- Incident command
- Technical rescue
- Medical assessment and treatment of casualty

The extrication teams will be afforded a 'hot' debriefing immediately following their scenario, with a scoresheet summaries post-challenge.

**It must be noted that the assessors' decision is final, and all participants are asked to respect that decision.**

## 16. Scenarios

There will be a bank of scenarios controlled by the WRO. The exact scenario delivered to each team in each class will remain confidential.

The organisers will determine the sequence in which the teams participate prior to the challenge to ensure that there is a reasonable time between scenarios.

## 17. Scenario Aims and Objectives

The road rescue / extrication challenge is designed to meet the following outcomes:

- Replicate road rescue/extrication scenarios that emergency response crews may be called to attend.
- Create an environment where:

Teams can demonstrate a range of techniques and options to extricate casualties.

Team performance can be analysed over a series of rescue/extrication scenarios.

Learning and education in all facets of vehicle extrication is promoted.

Participants will leave being able to perform more competently at road scenes,

exercising current techniques in vehicle extrication and casualty centred treatment.

**Scenario Descriptor:**

Scenario	Team Objectives	Time	Complexity (Guidelines only)
<b>Vehicle upright position</b>	To demonstrate casualty centred first responder care with a high level of regard for safety of all personnel.	Up to 20 min	<b>At least Two</b> live casualties requiring triage, assessment, treatment and extrication.  This may include the use of props.
<b>Vehicle lateral position</b>	To demonstrate casualty centred first responder care with a high level of regard for safety of all personnel.	Up to 20 min	<b>At least Two</b> live casualties requiring triage, assessment, treatment and extrication.  This may include the use of props.
<b>Vehicle overturned position</b>	To demonstrate casualty centred first responder care with a high level of regard for safety of all personnel and casualty triage.	Up to 20 min	<b>At least Two</b> live casualties requiring triage, assessment, treatment and extrication.  This may include the use of props.

**18. Prop Positioning and Relocation**

Props may be positioned in pits to represent field objects, road furniture or other vehicles on the road. Every effort will be made by the organisers and hosts to ensure the realism of these props. This means that if the object is intended to be fixed and immovable, it will be placed in the scenario in such a way as to make it immovable and/or, as the following code will be used:

- **Red cross** – CANNOT BE MOVED OR CUT

If the host's Logistics Manager is unable to create an equitable scenario a simulated immovable object may be used. Additional vehicles may also be used as props to reflect other road users. If safe to do so, these prop vehicles may be moved using safe and appropriate techniques.

**19. Tools and Equipment**

Each scenario will have access to a full set of Edraulic tools and access to hydraulic, electric and hand tools as required depending on availability provided by the hosts and sponsors.

A degree of flexibility in the availability of equipment must be acknowledged due to the location of the event, sponsorship deals and availability. Therefore, a definitive list of available items will be finalised prior to the Challenge commencing. A list of equipment that will be available can be viewed at [www.wrescue.org](http://www.wrescue.org).

The organisers, with the host, will arrange to provide a range of makes and models of rescue tools which will ensure as much as possible of the equipment listed in the organisers recommended equipment list is provided for each pit. Teams may have access to hydraulic, electric and/or battery-operated equipment. Every effort will be made by the hosts and the organisers to ensure that the preferred make of hydraulic tools is available for each team, but this is not guaranteed.

The organisers, with the host, will supply a comprehensive selection of equipment.

The organisers and the host will not be responsible for any damage or loss of any equipment as a result of participating in this event.

With reference to large tool allocation teams will be limited to the following items for each of the classes:

- One Large jaw operating cutting device
- One large spreading device
- One ramming device, with extensions as provided by manufacturers
- One small cutting device e.g. pedal cutter (If ALL suppliers can provide)
- Stabilisation devices e.g. Weber Rescue Stabfast, Holmatro V-Strut or similar.

**In the unlikely event that Edraulic tools are unavailable, teams will be provided with Hydraulic tools that are dependent on the supplier.**

Teams are expected to supply their own consumables (e.g. PPE, respiratory protection medical gloves etc.). Hosts are asked to ensure they have sufficient stock to re-supply teams, but this should not be assumed by participating teams.

The following items of equipment are prohibited:

- Knives that do not have a locking and shatter proof blade.
- Knives for which the blade is not sheathed when not in use.
- Hack saw blades that are not bi-metal construction (i.e. shatter proof)

The hosts' local rules may apply in the prohibition of certain items of equipment, and should this be the case all teams will be informed prior to the Challenge.

N.B. All team members should make themselves familiar with any tool that they may use at the WRC.

The organisers insist that tools should only be used by people competent in their operation.

### **Allowed tools.**

Teams may bring a limited number of tools and/or equipment for use in any of the pits. These items should be available for all other teams to use from the first until the last

scenario of the Challenge in all pits or in a specific pit.

Engineering certification and test records must be produced for any tool or piece of equipment intended for use by a team that is likely to bear load or be put under mechanical stress. The Director of Operations decision on tool and equipment suitability will be final.

These tools should be presented at a meeting organised by the WRO Director of Operations and all teams 2 months prior to the WRC event.

### **Personal Equipment**

All the additional equipment has to fit in a “EUROBOX” with the following measurements (600 mm length, 400 mm width and 320 mm height). Additional equipment does not include any form of power tools or items of equipment that will be used to bear a load.

All these items, tools and personal equipment will be scrutinised by a WRO nominated person at a time and place determined by the organisers/hosts, prior to the commencement of the WRC.

Items supplied in the tool area, which perform a similar function to equipment that teams introduce, will be removed. This is to ensure that teams bringing additional equipment do not gain a quantity advantage.

## **20. Team Presentation at Challenge**

Teams will present themselves at a location (team registration) nominated by the hosts, and specified during the Team briefing, at the time indicated on the timetable (thirty minutes prior to their designated run off time).

Any items the team identifies as missing or unserviceable from the medical bag are to be brought to the attention of the Pit/Logistics Manager before the team leaves isolation. The Pit/Logistics Manager will be responsible for resolving the issue and communicating the outcome to the team while they are in isolation.

In the isolation room there will be pictures with the display layout of tools in the designated Pit.

The use of any communication device is prohibited by team members

The team will be taken to the challenge pit once their scenario has been staged.

## **21. Breakdown of the Scenario**

At the conclusion of their scenario, each team must help in the safe removal of any Internal Assessors still in position and breakdown of the tools / equipment and assist the pit team in reorganising items ready for the next scenario. This may be varied at the discretion of the Hosts subject to the number of personnel in the pit crew available to break the scenario down.

## 22. Assessment of Performance

A team of qualified Assessors will assess each team's performance. The parameters assessed are detailed in the Guidelines and on the Challenge Assessment sheets. These are based on international best practices within the WRO's agreed format following liaison and agreement from partner rescue organisations. To that end teams are encouraged to strive for the standard of excellence described in all areas.

Teams should note that Assessors are briefed to assess a team's performance on what they see and hear and what the team does.

Teams are urged not to 'play up' to the Assessors by giving a running commentary of what they might do under certain conditions, but to do what they would normally do if they encountered the same scenario in real life. For the team Medic verbalising procedures, treatments, equipment placement, vital signs etc will not deem to be done unless of equipment failure, equipment availability or the assessors explicitly agree during the scenario.

Copies of all the assessment scoresheets and guidelines in use each year are available on the WRO website.

## 23. Debriefing

Following each scenario the assessor team will conduct a short debriefing which is intended to provide a learning opportunity for all involved. To that end, teams are encouraged to have their manager or any other support person take notes or video the discussion, subject to approval by both the team leader and the Command assessor.

The assessors will not entertain any aggressive or confrontational behaviour during the debriefing and may call an end to the debrief if they feel that the team or any team member behaves inappropriately.

The WRO Extrication Lead will be informed of such an event.

**It must be noted that the Assessors' decision is final, and all participants are asked to respect that decision in a professional and dignified manner.**

## 24. Personal Protective Equipment

When competing, all team members should supply and wear suitable rated clothing and personal protective equipment as approved and supplied by their own service.

As best practice WRO recommends that each team member.....

1. Wears safety glasses for primary eye protection throughout the scenario
2. Wears a helmet
3. Wears safety boots with toe and sole protection
4. Wears protective fire gear / coveralls covering arms and legs
5. Wears work gloves
6. Wear respiratory protection appropriate to the task they are undertaking

### **With reference to WRO best practice -**

Primary eye protection is the mandatory baseline.

A non-porous, full-face visor should be used as secondary face protection where adequate barriers are not in place or where the risk to the team member remains after proportionate controls have been exhausted.

With reference to respiratory protection, initially the team should control the hazard. If it is recognised that the respiratory protection worn by affected team members is not suitable to mitigate the hazard, team members within the hazard zone will be required to wear suitable particulate protection (supplied by their service) where residual inhalation risk remains after proportionate controls have been exhausted.

## **25. Internal Assessors - Safety**

Teams will be expected to assess the casualties for injury and provide treatment consistent with the injuries they find and their skills. Specific consideration should be given to maintaining the dignity of the casualties in this public training environment.

The casualties will be wearing an agreed colour base layer that will be considered as “skin” and may not be removed or cut.

With the use of live Internal Assessors there is always the risk of unexpected reactions to confined spaces, noises, personal inactions etc.

With the dynamic progression of the evolution, safety issues beyond control may arise, meaning a REAL EMERGENCY has occurred.

If identified any person can call the command “**FOR REAL**”.

If the command “**FOR REAL**” is called or a whistle is blown repeatedly, ALL members of the team will immediately safely stop their actions.

Time will be stopped until the safety issue is rectified.

The WRO Extrication Lead will be notified and will work with the Assessors to address the issue.

Once addressed, the Command Assessor will control the process for the team to continue and the clock will recommence.

If the scenario must be stopped due to a circumstance beyond the control of the team, the assessors, internal assessors or organisers, the clock will be stopped and when the issue has been resolved the scenario will be restarted.

All teams are asked to always respect the Internal Assessors and work with them to make everyone in the scenario comfortable and safe. If there are any unexpected reaction, we ask the team to respect the actions of the Assessors and Host to resolve the issue.

## 26. Timing

Assessors in each pit will be responsible for accurate timing of the scenario. The Command Assessor will call “time” or blow a whistle when time has elapsed. Alternatively, the team leader can call “time” before the available time has elapsed, when the Team Leader believes the team has completed the scenario.

## 27. Information

The organisers reserve the right to use any and all information, including but not limited to pictures and videos, that may be obtained from the WRC and its participants for educational purposes. The Director of Operations is available to discuss this with any persons who may have an issue.

## 28. Documentation

Documentation will be provided by the WRO on receipt of notification of interest to participate.

The entrance fee must be received before your team can be accepted as a participant in the WRC Extrication Challenge.

## 29. Captains Briefing

A briefing(s) will be held at a time to be notified prior to the WRC. These may include online meetings in advance of the WRC 2026.

It is mandatory for all team Captains and a medic to attend. Other team members are invited to attend, depending on capacity however questions will only be taken from the team Captains.

## 30. Determination of Results

Determination of results will be based on the following criteria:

Each team will be assessed, using common criteria, by a minimum team of four Assessors (with input from internal assessors) who will score the following areas:

- Incident Command and Control (Command),
- Physical Rescue and General Extrication Techniques (Technical), and
- Pre-Hospital Medical Care and Casualty Extrication (Medical – Interior and Exterior Assessors)

Points awarded per Assessing Discipline Sub-Section will be totalled and each Sub-Section added together to give an overall score for that Assessing Discipline. Each Assessing Discipline score, for each scenario type will result in a ranking, i.e. the highest score within Command, will be ranked first, equating to 1 point.

A team’s overall scenario type and/or WRC Extrication Challenge score will be the combined ranking points, i.e. where a team finishes first in Command (1 point), eighth

in Technical (8 points) and fifth in Medical (5 points), their total team score for that scenario is 14 points. Should the same team score 12 points within the next scenario, their WRC Extrication Challenge score will be 26 points.

The 'Best Team' will be decided by the lowest combined ranking points across all categories.

In the event of two teams being tied in any scenario and/or WRC Extrication Challenge, etc. a 'Count-Back' process will be undertaken to establish the final overall ranking. The 'Count-Back' process will be conducted as follows:

- The Command Assessing Discipline, with the highest-ranking Incident Commander (IC) will dictate the winner, due to the IC's overall responsibility for the Health and Safety of the casualty(s) and emergency service responders, at any given incident,
- Should the above still result in a tie, the Medical Assessing Discipline will be compared, and if still tied the Technical Discipline will be compared,
- Should there still be a tie, the total scores for all Assessing Disciplines and scenarios will be added together, the highest total score will be declared the winner,
- If every criterion above is tied the scenario and/or WRC Extrication Challenge will be declared a 'dead-heat' and both teams will be awarded the same recognition.

### **31. Awards**

The organisers will determine the prizes to be awarded from year to year. Each year the WRO Committee recognizes the performances of the teams that compete. The effort and dedication that has been put in by team members and supporters towards this Challenge over many months shows the value of just such an event as this.

Awards will be made to the teams in the following categories of the Challenge:

- **World Extrication Challenge Champions:**
  - Top Extrication Team Overall – 1<sup>st</sup> place
  - Top Extrication Team Overall – 2<sup>nd</sup> place
  - Top Extrication Team Overall – 3<sup>rd</sup> place
  
- **Best RTC Team – Vehicle upright position**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place

- **Best RTC Team – Vehicle lateral position**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place
  
- **Best RTC Team – Vehicle overturned position**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place
  
- **Best Technical Team – 1<sup>st</sup> place**
- **Best Medic – 1<sup>st</sup> place**
- **Best Incident Commander – 1<sup>st</sup> place**
  
- **Technical Challenge Team**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place

## **32. Disqualification**

Any team or team member that does not adhere to these guidelines or brings disrepute upon the WRC may be disqualified.

Spectators or team supporters may encourage teams in the spirit of fair play; however, any “coaching”, including calling time remaining or scenario details, from the spectators or team supporters will not be viewed as fair play and will be managed by the Command Assessor in that pit.

Any matter concerning the possibility of a team disqualification or a matter bringing the WRC into disrepute will be heard by a committee made up of the WRO Extrication Lead, the WRO Director of Operations and two other members from the EC.

Any decision made by this group will be final.

### **33. Participation in the Learning Symposium and Workshops**

The intent of the WRC is to explore, develop and promote best practice in the delivery of integrated road rescue and trauma care services. To this end the Challenge may include a learning symposium and/or a practical workshop during the Challenge. To ensure maximum learning opportunity for all participants, attendance at the symposium and participation in the workshop is recommended.

### **34. The Technical Challenge**

As part of the continued development and evolution of the World Rescue Challenge, the WRO will introduce a new competitive discipline at the 2026 World Rescue Challenge in Rio de Janeiro: the Technical Extrication Challenge. The result of this challenge will have no direct impact on the scoring of the WRC and awards will be presented separately.

The Technical Extrication Challenge should be viewed not only as a competition event, but also as a developmental learning opportunity. It is intended to promote shared understanding, technical excellence, safe systems of work and consistency in rescue methodology at a global level.

Each participating team in the Technical Extrication Challenge will consist of three technical tool operators and one Incident Commander.

The Technical Extrication Challenge will consist of a single 20-minute scenario during which teams will be required to complete predetermined technical extrication tasks. The selected tasks will be chosen by the WRO, Director of Operations and their team and are designed to test a diverse range of technical rescue competencies relevant to contemporary extrication practice.

Guidelines and scoring for the Technical Challenge are in review and sign off stage and will be available on the WRO website.