

World Rescue Organisation



Trauma Challenge Guidelines – WRC 2026 – Brazil

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Contents

1. Foreword	5
2. Definitions	5
3. Introduction	5
4. The Mission	5
5. Criteria for Participation	5
6. Code of Conduct	6
7. Team Membership, Communications and Translations	7
8. Injury	7
9. Pit Access	8
10. Insurance	8
11. Registration	8
12. Assessors and Appeals:	8
13. Assessment Sheets	9
14. The Benchmarks	9
15. The Challenge	9
16. Scenarios	10
17. Scenario Aims and Class Objectives	10
18. Prop Positioning and Relocation	12
19. Tools and Equipment	12
Airway & Breathing Equipment	12
Circulation Equipment	12
Disabilities	13
Diagnostic equipment below	13
Exposure Equipment	13
Spinal & Pelvic Care	13
Trauma Equipment	13
Diagnostic & Personal safety equipment	13
20. Team Presentation at Challenge	14
21. Breakdown of Scenario	14

22.	<i>Assessment of Performance</i>	15
23.	<i>Debriefing</i>	15
24.	<i>Personal Protective Equipment</i>	15
25.	<i>Challenge Safety</i>	16
26.	<i>Timing</i>	16
27.	<i>Casualties</i>	16
28.	<i>Non-attendance of Team</i>	17
29.	<i>Information</i>	17
30.	<i>Documentation</i>	17
31.	<i>Team Leaders and Medics Briefing</i>	17
32.	<i>Determination of Results</i>	17
33.	<i>Awards</i>	18
34.	<i>Disqualification</i>	18
35.	<i>Participation in the Learning Symposium and Workshop</i>	19

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 with this document may require minor amendments. This can only be achieved with consent of the WRO Executive Committee (EC).

2. Definitions

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

3. Introduction

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

The objective of the World Rescue Organisation Trauma Challenge is to promote and encourage the development of the most up to date 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 assessment, diagnosis and treatment capabilities during the trauma based scenarios.

4. The Mission

To provide a platform for emergency services personnel of all types from around the world to come together, to enhance and develop competence levels in trauma care.

5. Criteria for Participation

Participants must be competent within the field of casualty care and currently be members of an emergency service or formal emergency response team who provide casualty care within the community.

Teams require authorisation from their service and their host WRO member organisation.

Teams, which 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, organisations.

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

6. Code of Conduct

It is incumbent upon each individual involved in the management or participation within the WRC to apply the principles of fairness and dignity to all people at all times. 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 they also represent the Rescue Services as a whole, and are to conduct themselves accordingly.

Each individual is accountable for their actions.

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

Fair play and good sportsmanship 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 Trauma 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 organizers and due notice will be given.

Participants are expected to be smartly dressed whilst in the Challenge venue, it is preferred that working rig 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 Trauma Lead.

It is accepted that the evenings events perform an important part of the socializing aspect of the Challenge, participants are again reminded to behave in a manner befitting their Service 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 two (2) 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 Trauma Lead, a team may substitute a team member in the case of an illness or injury.

If, during a scenario, a team member is injured and has to withdraw, the team, if able, may continue until they finish, or 'Time' is called.

In addition, in the case of the medical competency, it is expected that team medics will be competent in all appropriate medical interventions and procedures within their scope of practice and qualifications and approved by their own organisation to do so.

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 Trauma Lead who will ensure that any interpretation is accurate and reflects the performance of the team.

It is possible that each team member may have 1 interpreter each, however this must be prearranged with the Trauma Lead to effectively manage personnel and space in the pit.

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.

8. Injury

If, during the challenge, an accident or injury occurs to a team member, casualty, spectator or any other person, that affects the running of the scenario, the injury will be

advised to the organisers and hosts as an authentic occurrence. The WRO Trauma 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. The delay or ceasing of that scenario will be at the discretion of the Assessors in that pit.

The WRO Director of Operations is to be advised immediately.

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 presentation of the appropriate pass or other approved means. Appropriate PPE must be worn.

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 an official entry form, accompanied by the prescribed fee, which will be determined by the WRO from year to year. 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).

Registration of arrival will take place prior to the challenge. (See timetable)

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.

12. Assessors and Appeals:

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

Each WRC requires the best and most qualified assessors from WRO Member Organisations. The WRO will seek a balance is maintained 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 Trauma Lead will, where possible, facilitate 'shadow' assessing. In the first instance, shadow assessors will primarily be from the host country in order that experience can be gained and the development of their own rescue

organisation can be progressed.

Assessor teams will comprise of at least 2 persons assessing team performance.

All Assessors must be qualified to participate in a WRC and nominated by a WRO affiliated rescue organisation. Assessor teams will be formed for each challenge class. Each Assessing team will assess all teams attempting one class only; this ensures that each team demonstrates their skills before each of the Assessing teams.

Appeals

The WRO Trauma Lead will co-ordinate with the Assessors and resolve any disputes.

The team leader of any team that has a grievance or dispute must report it in writing to the WRO Trauma Lead within one hour of completing the scenario concerned on the day.

Trauma Teams will be required to complete a participant appeal form. A QR code will be provided.

All appeals in respect of a technical performance and associated scoring will be heard by the WRO Director of Operation, and if required representatives of the WRO EC who will, where required, investigate or discuss the issue with any involved assessors and internal assessors.

Any allegations of unfair assessment will be investigated thoroughly by the WRO Trauma Lead and /or WRO Director of Operations who will present their findings to representatives of the WRO EC for their deliberation in an impartial and neutral way.

13. Assessment Sheets

The assessment sheets will remain the property of the WRO and will not be available for viewing or scrutiny by any unauthorised persons. Score sheet summaries for each team will be made available to that team after the conclusion of the challenge.

The final score sheet summaries are not subject to discussion follow 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 casualty centred trauma care.
- Create the broader spectrum of trauma principles and techniques.

15. The Challenge

Each team consisting of two members will compete and be assessed in three scenarios during the four days.

Each team is allocated 14 minutes for assessment and treatment and a further one minute for patient handover in the case of the Standard and Complex Trauma Scenario.

Each team is allocated 18 minutes for triage, assessment and treatment and a further

two minute for patient handover in the case of the Triage Trauma Scenario.

The scores for Standard and Complex Trauma Scenario will be evaluated from which the overall trauma challenge winner will be identified. The scores of the Triage Scenario will be evaluated from which the overall triage challenge winner will be identified.

The trauma teams will be assessed in the following areas:

- Scene assessment & Initial casualty contact
- Triage, where necessary
- Assessment and Management of injuries
- Treatment of casualty
- Preparation for transport
- Patient handover & Communication

Each team will be afforded a 'hot' debrief immediately following their scenario, with a score sheet summaries post-challenge.

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

Marks will be awarded for each scenario in each category. The highest combined score will determine the order of places in each category and for the awards.

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. It is envisaged that the following classes will be compulsory for a host to administer on behalf of the WRO.

The scenario duration will be:

- **Standard Trauma** (at least one live casualty) - Fifteen-minutes
- **Complex Trauma** (at least two live casualties) - Fifteen-minutes
- **Triage Mass Casualty** (At least eight live casualties) – Twenty Minutes

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

17. Scenario Aims and Class Objectives

The trauma challenge is designed to meet the following outcomes:

- Replicate trauma scenarios that emergency response crews maybe called to attend.
- Create an environment where:
 - Teams have the opportunity to demonstrate a range of techniques and options of casualty centred care.
 - Team performance can be analysed over a series of trauma scenarios.
 - Learning and education in all facets of trauma care is promoted.
 - Participants will leave being able to perform more competently at trauma

scenes, exercising current techniques in casualty centred treatment.

During the scenario the team can require assistance from at least one bystander

Scenario Descriptor:

Scenario	Team Objectives	Time	Complexity (Guidelines only)
Standard Trauma	To demonstrate casualty centred first responder care with a high level of regard for safety of all personnel.	15 min	<p>At least One live casualty requiring assessment and treatment.</p> <p>This may include the use of props.</p> <p>A comprehensive handover must be given to the Trauma assessor within the time allocated.</p>
Complex Trauma	To demonstrate casualty centred first responder care with a high level of regard for safety of all personnel.	15 min	<p>At least Two live casualties requiring triage, assessment and treatment.</p> <p>This may include the use of props.</p> <p>A comprehensive handover must be given to the Trauma assessor within the time allocated.</p>
Triage Mass Casualty Incident	To demonstrate casualty centred first responder care with a high level of regard for safety of all personnel and casualty triage.	20 min	<p>At least Eight live casualties requiring triage, assessment and treatment.</p> <p>This may include the use of props.</p> <p>A comprehensive handover must be given to the Trauma assessor within the time allocated.</p>

18. Prop Positioning and Relocation

Props may be positioned in pits to represent field objects. 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. If it is not possible to create an equitable scenario, a simulated immovable object may be used. Clarification about the mobility of any prop can be sought from the Assessor at any stage during a scenario.

19. Tools and Equipment

A degree of flexibility in the availability of equipment has to be acknowledged due to sponsorship deals and availability. A generic list of equipment that will be available can be viewed at www.wrescue.org.

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 personal equipment of the teams as a result of participating in this event.

The following equipment will be standard **in each pit** during the WRC 2026.

One kit for the Standard and Complex Trauma Scenario

Two kits for the Triage Mass Casualty Scenario

All teams must use this equipment.

Teams may select appropriate equipment from the trauma kit bags supplied.

Airway & Breathing Equipment

- 1 x Set Oropharyngeal Airways
- 1 x Set Nasopharyngeal Airways
- 1 x Manual Suction unit
- 1 x Electric Suction unit (maybe contained in the pit)
- 1 x Pocket Mask
- 1 x Disposable BVM (Adult)
- 2 x 99% - 100% Non-Rebreathing Disposable Adult Mask
- 1 x 99% - 100% Non-Rebreathing Disposable Child Mask
- 1 x Medical Oxygen Cylinder (Maybe empty)

Circulation Equipment

- 2 x CAT Tourniquet
- 1 x Defibrillator
- 2 x Quick-Clot (Z-fold haemostatic dressing)

Disabilities

Diagnostic equipment below

Exposure Equipment

1 x Blanket

Spinal & Pelvic Care

1 x Longboard / CombiCarrier

1 x Scoop stretcher

2 x Cervical collars (Adjustable)

1 x Pelvic binder

1 x Vacuum Mattress

Trauma Equipment

10 x Gauze Pads, different sizes

12 x Elastic wrap bandages, different sizes

8 x Sterile gauze bandages, different sizes

4 x Triangular bandages, different sizes

2 x Adhesive tape

1 x Chest Seal

1 x Set Trauma splints, SAM-splints or similar

1 x Set vacuum splints

1 x Body Fluid Spillage Kit

Diagnostic & Personal safety equipment

Disposable non-sterile gloves

1 x Protective glasses

1 x Stethoscope

1 x Sphygmomanometer

1 x Pulse Oximeter

1 x Blood glucose meter

1 x Body temperature thermometer

1 x Pupil torch

1 x Scissors / Tuf Cut Shears

1 x Pen

1 x Adhesive Tape

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

Team members may carry individual Diagnostic and Personal safety equipment from the list.

Items supplied in the trauma bag, 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. Introduced equipment must be of similar size shape and purpose.

Teams wishing to introduce their own equipment not included on the WRO Equipment list, should present it to the Trauma Lead at the team briefing to gain approval. Approval cannot be given on the day of the challenge. The additional equipment has to be marked with the team's name and be made available for all teams throughout the all the challenge days from the first to the last scenario. Teams wishing to use this additional equipment must inform the equipment coordinator. The additional equipment will be placed at the pit entrance. The WRO Trauma Lead may require the team introducing additional equipment to present on the correct use of the equipment at the conclusion of the team briefing.

The hosts local laws and 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.

All team members should make themselves familiar with any equipment that they may use at the WRC. All teams will have an opportunity to review all equipment on the day of team registration.

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 (usually thirty minutes prior to their designated run off time). Once the team present, they are to remain there until they are escorted to the isolation area out of sight of the pit to allow for the staging of their scenario. During the isolation time the team can do their equipment inspection.

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

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

While in isolation, the use of mobile phones, smart watches and other devices which may allow transmission of messages or pictures is prohibited by team members. All electronic items are returned after the scenario. It the teams responsibility to reclaim any equipment. If a team member requires to retain any electronic device for auditory, visual or medical reasons this will be facilitated with prior notice to the WRO Trauma Laed.

21. Breakdown of Scenario

Only for the extrication challenge.

22. Assessment of Performance

A panel of qualified Assessors will assess each team's performance. The parameters assessed are detailed in the Assessor's Guidelines and on the Challenge Assessment Sheets and Guidelines. 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 actually does. The assessors will apply the applicable score to what is done or not done. Verbalising procedures, treatments, equipment placement, vital signs etc will not be deemed to be done unless of equipment failure, equipment availability or the assessors explicitly agree during the scenario.

The decision of the WRO Trauma Lead concerning any assessment or conduct will be deemed to be final.

Each team will be evaluated in the following areas:

- Scene assessment & Initial casualty contact
- Triage where necessary
- Assessment and Management of injuries
- Treatment of casualty
- Preparation for transport
- Patient handover & Communication

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

23. Debriefing

Following each scenario in each class the assessor team managing that class will conduct a short debrief with each participating team and is designed 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 assessor.

The assessors will not entertain any aggressive or confrontational behaviour during the debrief and may call an end to the debrief if they feel that the team or any team member has become aggressive or confrontational. The WRO Trauma 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

All competing team members will, at all times, during the challenge, wear suitable clothing and personal protective equipment as approved by their agency. As a minimum,

suitable clothing, coveralls, safety boots, gloves (both medical and work), eye protection (in the form of safety glasses) etc. **Teams members arms and legs must be fully covered by appropriate clothing.** Teams will need to wear and use appropriate helmets during the challenge.

All competitors are responsible for providing their own PPE, including medical gloves and eye protection.

In keeping with occupational health and safety practices, teams are expected to supply and use their own medical gloves, masks and other consumable personal protective equipment supplies.

25. Challenge Safety

Where the command “**FOR REAL**” or where a whistle is blown, ALL members of the team will immediately stop their actions. This command indicates that a safety issue exists. Time will be stopped until the safety issue is rectified. Once addressed the Assessor will give the instruction for the team to continue and the clock will recommence.

If there are any other safety stoppages during the same evolution, the time will not stop and the team will have to rectify the situation while the clock continues to run.

The above safety calls can be made by any of the Assessors or Safety Officers. If the problem can't be rectified the WRO Trauma Lead may disqualify the team or cancel the evolution.

If the scenario has to 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.

With the use of live Internal Assessors there is always the risk of unexpected reactions to confined spaces, noises, personal inactions etc. 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 any unexpected reaction by the Internal Assessor, we ask the team to respect the actions of the Assessors and Organisers to resolve the issue.

26. Timing

Assessors in each pit will be responsible for accurate timing of the scenario. The 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. Casualties

Live casualties will be used at all World Rescue Challenges.

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.

28. Non-attendance of Team

In the event of a ‘No Show’ by any registered team at their appointed time for registration, the organisers may disqualify them from that class.

The organisers may substitute another team, in the event of a team ‘No Show’.

29. 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.

30. Documentation

Documentation will be provided by the Host on receipt of notification of interest to participate. Documents must be completed and returned, together with the full entrance fee, to the WRO.

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

31. Team Leaders and Medics 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 leaders and team medics to attend. Other team members may attend for the provision of interpretation to the Team Leader or Medic.

32. Determination of Results

Determination of results will be based on the following criteria:

Each Assessing Discipline score, for each scenario type (‘Standard’ or ‘Complex’ or ‘Triage’) will result in a ranking, i.e. the highest score within Standard, will be ranked first, equating to 1 point.

The ‘Count Back’ process for the **Triage Scenario** will be conducted as follows:

- The highest overall score will be declared the winner
 - If still tied, the highest Triage score will be declared the winner
 - If still tied, then the highest Patient Assessment score will be declared the winner
- If still tied, then the WRC Triage Trauma Challenge will be declared a ‘dead heat’.

A team’s overall scenario WRC Trauma Challenge score will be the combined ranking points, i.e. where a team finishes first in Standard (1 point), eighth in Complex (8 points), their total team score for the WRC Trauma Challenge is 9 points.

The ‘Overall Best Trauma Team’ will be decided by the lowest combined ranking points

across the Standard and Complex categories. In the event of two teams being tied overall a 'Count Back' process will be undertaken to establish the final overall ranking.

The 'Count Back' process will be conducted as follows:

- The highest combined score from both disciplines will be declared the winner
- If still tied, the highest complex score will be declared the winner
- If still tied, then the highest standard score will be declared the winner
- If still tied, then the WRC Trauma Challenge will be declared a 'dead heat'.

33. Awards

The organisers will determine the prizes to be awarded from year to year. Each year the WRO Committee recognises 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.

The awards for WRC 2026 will be made to the teams in the following categories of the Challenge:

- World Trauma Challenge Champions:
 - Top Overall Team – 1st place
 - Top Overall Team – 2nd place
 - Top Overall Team – 3rd place
- Standard Scenario:
 - 1st, 2nd and 3rd place
- Complex Scenario:
 - 1st, 2nd and 3rd place
- Triage Mass Casualty Incident Scenario
 - 1st, 2nd and 3rd place (for both teams involved)

34. Disqualification

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

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 Trauma Lead the WRO Director of Operations and two other members from the EC. Any decision made by this group will be final.

Spectators or team supporters may encourage teams in the spirit of fair play; however, any "coaching", including calling time remaining, from the spectators or team supporters will result in a "Freeze" being called, but the clock will continue to run. Any Assessor will give a warning to the offending person or persons. Any subsequent coaching call

will result in time being called on the participating team.

35. Participation in the Learning Symposium and Workshop

The intent of the WRC is to explore, develop and promote best practices 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 opportunities for all participants, attendance at the symposium and participation in the workshop is recommended.