

Random RACES

COACHES AND OFFICIALS PROBLEM



A. The Problem

Your problem is to design, build, and operate a device that will launch tennis balls towards a target in order to move it down a course and across a finish line in a race. Entries will be teamed together to race two targets down the course and compete in advancing rounds.

B. Limitations

1. The Device:
 - a. must be original, however, it may include commercially produced parts.
 - b. may be operated by as many people as you wish, but remember, everyone assisting with a particular device constitutes one entry. That is, each device is considered an entry no matter how many people assist with the device.
 - c. is allowed launch tennis balls in any way except through the use of AC current. Each entry will have the opportunity to launch three standard tennis balls. Launched balls cannot be retrieved until the end of the round. Entries must provide 3 standard tennis balls. The tennis balls:
 - (1) must not be altered to change their properties, such as making them heavier, larger, smaller, etc. Each tennis ball should be marked so it is easily retrieved and returned.
 - (2) may have materials added/attached to them provided they do not alter the properties of the tennis ball. If materials are added they must not be used or designed to alter the level of impact the device has on the target. For example, an item that bursts on impact is not allowed but a string attached is allowed.
 - d. must fit through a standard doorway.
 - e. must be safe in its design. If it is judged to pose potential harm to anyone or the competition site, it will be prohibited. See the *2013-14 Odyssey of the Mind Program Guide*.
2. The Targets:
 - a. will be 4' x 4' wheeled objects provided by the tournament director. These will be approximately 3" above the floor.
 - b. must be moved only by tennis balls launched from the devices.

- c. will race to cross the finish line first. If neither target crosses the finish line the one that travels farthest from its starting line will be the winner and the devices on that team will advance.

3. The competition site:
 - a. will have two setups – one for each team of devices. Each side will have a target approximately 19' away from its Launch Line.
 - b. Each team will start out with five entries on each side. The teams will be RANDOMLY selected for each round.
 - c. All devices and the team members assisting with them must remain behind the launch line when attempting to move the target.

C. The Competition

1. You will be assigned a number when you register at the competition site.
2. When your number is announced you must move to your assigned Launch Line with your device and any people who are assisting with the device.
3. A judge will blow a whistle to indicate that it's time to launch and again when it is time to stop.
4. Whatever side pushes the target across the Finish Line first will advance to the next round. To cross the Finish Line the target must break the plane of the line. If neither target crosses the Finish Line see B2c.
5. Qualifying rounds will run as needed, with finalists advancing at each stage. Teams will be regrouped and reassigned between rounds.
6. Each round will last 60 seconds or until a Target crosses the Finish Line. If time ends when the target is still moving, it will be judged wherever it stops; however, when time ends, you must stop launching tennis balls.

D. Awards

1. Trophies will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.
2. A trophy will be awarded to the team with the most outstanding STYLE. In this problem, Style will be awarded to the entry that has the most creative/popular visual effect when it launches one or more of its tennis balls. Every contestant is eligible, even those who place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd.



Coaches Competition Registration Form
Friday, May 30 at Hilton Coliseum

Coaches & Officials Competition at 8 p.m. (or immediately after Graduation – participants should report to Hilton Coliseum at 7:45 p.m.)

Participant's Name and State:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

If coach, membership name and number: _____

Return this form by **April 26, 2014** to: Odyssey of the Mind World Finals, c/o CCI, 406 Ganttown Road, Sewell NJ, 08080 or fax to: **(856) 256-2798**.