Student Steel
Bridge Competition
2021 COVID-19 Virus Action Plan
A. Purpose

The AISC Student Steel Bridge Competition is dedicated to ensuring the safety and welfare of all participants. As we navigate the planning of 2021 SSBC Regional Events during the current coronavirus crisis, we have developed a matrix plan for decision making in the coming months. This action plan is intended to ensure SSBC Hosts and participants are informed about AISC’s decision-making process so they can plan accordingly.

These recommendations do not supersede or replace any applicable university, local, state, regional, or federal health guidelines or requirements, which should be adhered to by all teams. Each team should conform to the guidelines and requirements that apply to them and should routinely monitor any changes to these guidelines and requirements.

We are all in this together, and the situation requires that each and every one of us take personal responsibility for the health, safety, and welfare of ourselves, our family members, and our colleagues and peers in the competition environment. AISC will continue to monitor the situation, consult with you, and make adjustments as warranted (including potential cancellation of events).

B. Competition Format

The 2021 AISC Student Steel Bridge Competition (SSBC) will be held in its traditional in-person format with an on-campus event organized by a Regional Event Host School, if and only if conditions are safe to do so. AISC is also offering an optional Supplemental Competition this year to accommodate schools that are unable to fabricate a bridge due to university or local restrictions. This will be a design-only competition.

All teams have the option to compete in either or both formats. Rules for both the SSBC and the Supplemental Competition will be released August 2020.

Student Steel Bridge Competition

In-Person

With the same structure of previous SSBC events, the competition will have the design, build, and testing components as part of an on-campus event organized by a Regional Event Host School.

Competing from campus

If a team is unable to travel to an SSBC Regional Event, or if their SSBC Regional Event is canceled, teams will have the option to compete in the SSBC from their university if local conditions are safe. Teams will enter this competition by a video submission. This competition will be organized by AISC, rather than the Host School. It will include a build and testing component. AISC will release guidelines for competing from campus in November 2020.

- Student teams competing at an in-person Regional Event will not be judged against student teams competing from their campus. Teams competing from campus will be part of a separate region, competing only against other teams that are also participating from their respective campuses.
- If a Regional Event is cancelled, all teams in the region (including teams that previously planned to compete from campus) will compete against each other according to the Compete From Campus guidelines.

Supplemental Competition

The SSBC Supplemental Competition is a separate competition from the SSBC. It will consist of a design product only, judged based on a report and video presentation. There will be no building and testing component to the competition. AISC will organize the Supplemental Competition at the regional and national levels.
C. Team Decision Matrix

Your team may use the following decision tree to determine how you will participate in the 2021 SSBC.

1. Is your team able to fabricate a physical bridge? [NO] → Participate in the Supplemental Competition
   [YES] → Is your team able and willing to travel to an in-person Regional Event? [NO] → Participate in the SSBC: Compete from Campus*
   [YES] → Participate in the SSBC: In-Person**

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* SSBC: Compete from Campus participants may also participate in the Supplemental Competition.

** SSBC: In-Person participants may also participate in the Supplemental Competition. Additionally, if a team’s in-person SSBC Regional Event is cancelled, they will have the option to compete from campus.
### D. Event Cancellation Decision Matrix

The 2021 SSBC Events will move forward as an in-person competition format, unless the following matrix points are met:

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<th>An SSBC Regional Event will be canceled if:*</th>
<th>1. University or local public health restrictions bar the Regional Event Host from holding the event.</th>
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<td>2. 75% or more of the region votes to cancel, in a regional vote organized by the Regional Event Host.</td>
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<td>3. Four or fewer teams can attend the in-person Regional Event  or</td>
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<td>More than 75% of the teams in the Region will participate from campus or in the Supplemental Competition only.</td>
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| SSBC National Finals will be canceled if:* | 1. University or public public health regulations do not allow the National Finals Host to hold the event. |

*AISC will make every effort to hold these events but reserves the rights to cancel SSBC Regional Events and National Finals at any time.

### E. Important Dates

**Friday, October 30 | Pre-Registration Deadline**

Pre-registration for the 2021 competition will open in August 2020. During registration, AISC will ask teams to indicate whether they intend to compete in the SSBC, the Supplemental Competition (design only), or both. All teams must pre-register by October 30 in order to participate in either competition.

**Monday, November 15 | Decision Date #1**

AISC will evaluate the pre-registration data in accordance with the decision matrix and in discussion with the Host School to determine if SSBC Regional Events will move forward as an in-person competition or if they will be canceled. If a Regional Event is canceled, teams may choose to compete from campus. AISC will announce its decision on November 15.

**Friday, January 15 | Decision Date #2**

All in-person Regional Events will be re-evaluated using the decision matrix to determine if the event will move forward as an in-person competition, if the Regional Event will be canceled with teams competing from their individual campuses, or if only the Supplemental Competition will take place (cancelling the SSBC entirely). AISC will announce its decision on January 15.
F. Finances

Stipends
- The $500 SSBC Team Stipend will be issued after November 15 to any teams that have indicated, on their pre-registration form, that they will participate in the AISC Student Steel Bridge Competition (either in-person or on campus).
  - Teams are advised not to make any purchases until after Decision Date #1 on November 15.
  - Teams participating in the Supplemental Competition only will not receive a team stipend.
  - Teams that are issued a stipend after November 15 may keep the stipend, even if their in-person Regional Event is canceled at a later date or they are no longer able to participate in the SSBC due to university restrictions.

- Hosts of Regional Events that are not canceled as of January 15 will receive the $2,500 Host Stipend.
  - Hosts are advised not to make any non-refundable financial commitments until after Decision Date #2 on January 15.
  - Hosts of Regional Events canceled before January 15 will not receive a Host Stipend.
  - Hosts that are issued a Host Stipend after January 15 may keep the stipend, even if their event is canceled at a later date.

Sponsorships
AISC will not charge or invoice any sponsors until Decision Date #2 on January 15. Sponsors of canceled Regional Events will not be charged but will still receive some sponsor benefits, as circumstances allow.

G. Safety Guidelines
AISC requests that teams do not gather in person during the fall semester. Teams should conduct all meetings virtually. Please reference our ‘Strategies for Working Remotely as a Team’ document for further guidance.

H. Host Planning
Where possible, the SSBC will have the design, build, and testing component as an on-campus, in-person event with social distancing regulations in place. These social distancing regulations should be considered when the 2021 Regional Event host is planning and determining event feasibility.

These regulations will require Hosts to:
- Limit attendance to judges and build team members only. No spectators, visitors, or sponsors will be allowed.
- Mandate that everyone in the venue wear masks at all times, when and if social distancing is not possible.
- Stagger competition times, so only one team competes at a time.
- Provide only boxed meals. No buffets or banquets, please.
- Hold the Captains’ Meeting, the Participant Forum, and the Awards Ceremony virtually.
- Combine aesthetics judging and the main competition into one event.
- Follow additional health and safety measures recommended by local and university officials.