

## **WEF Operations Challenge**

### **COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS**

During the development of WEF Operations Challenge, a common concern voiced by many challenge teams (and their Member Association representatives) has been that there should be divisions in the competition. These concerns were based upon the perception that larger municipalities and/or heavily funded teams typically compete at a different level than some of the smaller dispersed locals. WEF has been concerned with this situation and has discussed possible solutions. Based upon the success of our previous experience we will continue to have two divisions: Division 1 and Division 2. Both divisions will compete head-to-head in all five events. There will be no difference in the division apparent to the spectators of the Challenge. At the completion of the competition, teams will be sorted according to division and ranked based upon score.

Division 1 will consist of any returning team that was in the top nine overall winning positions in Division 1 the previous year or that placed in the top three of any individual event. It will also include any returning team that competed in the previous year's Division 2 competition and placed in the top three positions overall. A *returning team* is defined as any team that includes at least three (3) members from a team that competed in the previous year's WEF Operations Challenge.

All other previously competing teams and any new competitors would be in Division 2; however, any team in Division 2 which desires to compete in Division 1, will be allowed to do so. Declaration for moving from Division 2 to Division 1 **MUST** be made prior to the competition. A minimum of ten (10) teams will be needed to maintain Division 1.

Trophies/plaques will be awarded for BOTH divisions as follows:

- Overall Competition 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams
- Each of the five (5) events 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams

This means that there will be a total of thirty-six (36) trophies/plaques awarded.

It is the purpose of this division structure that a greater number of teams, from small or large systems, well-funded or barely so, will be able to compete within their chosen Division on a more equal basis.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

1. Teams must enter through a Federation Member Association (MA) or recognized Operator Association (OW). All four members must be WEF *Active* or *PWOD* members.
2. A maximum of 40 teams will be accepted for the 2013 competition. *Please submit your registration promptly.*

3. Each MA may enter a total number of teams equal to the number of director seats that the MA has in the Federation's House of Delegates (i.e, one or two depending on the MA size). Each recognized OA may enter one team only.
4. Entries from Mas and OAs will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis until the 40-team maximum is reached between June 1<sup>st</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup>.
5. Teams must be composed of no less than two and no more than four members.
6. Teams must be composed of the same individuals for all five events.
7. Members of a team may come from the same employer or from multiple employers.
8. Individual team members must meet the qualifications described below, and work within the geographical boundaries of the pathway MA or OA.
9. If at the conclusion of the registration period there are fewer than 40 teams signed up, additional "at-large" spots will be available until the 40 team maximum is reached. These teams must still be endorsed by their Member Association and meet all other criteria. If the total number of teams requested at-large spots exceeds the number of available spots, determination will be made by random drawing.

## **QUALITIFACATIONS**

Individual team members will be current WEF members, presently employed full time by a responsible operating water resource entity or agent. Further they must be actively employed in the operations and maintenance of the collection, treatment, industrial pretreatment, or laboratory facilities provided for them and in the field on a routine basis.

The intent is that team members will be those actually involved in wastewater collection, operations, laboratories, industrial pretreatment, distribution, or maintenance functions. Individual entrants will be checked for compliance with this intent and the requirements in item VII.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

This code of conduct describes the behavioral expectations for all individuals participating in Operations Challenge. This set of guidelines encourages a commitment to ethical and professional behavior by all participating parties.

TEAM MEMBERS shall pledge to:

- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with a judge or event coordinator and use the process for filing a protest where disagreements arise.
- Control your emotions at all times
- Place the safety and welfare of all participants above all else.

- Emphasize the spirit of Operations Challenge as an educational and positive networking opportunity.
- Treat all participants as you like to be treated, do not take unfair advantage of another team or situation for the benefit of your team.

JUDGES and EVENT COORDINATORS shall pledge to:

- Be consistent, objective, and courteous when making decisions.
- Be knowledgeable and supportive of rules and penalties.
- Condemn unsportsmanlike or unprofessional behavior.
- Emphasize the spirit of Operations Challenge as an educational and positive networking opportunity.
- Encourage and promote improvements to events to enhance Operations Challenge.
- Never argue with a team member or captain, use the process for responding to protests where disagreements arise.

SPECTATORS shall pledge to:

- Respect and support judges, event coordinators and all team members.
- Demonstrate professional and good sportsmanlike behavior through positive support for all participants through all aspects of the competition.
- Emphasize the spirit of Operations Challenge as an educational and positive networking opportunity.

Participants deemed to be in violation of the code will be cautioned. Participants that receive a second caution **will be ejected from the competition**. Their team will be required to complete the competition with only the remaining team members. Enforcement will not be limited to conduct while competing, and all spectators are expected to comply as well.

Violations include but will not be limited to throwing equipment or clothing, outbursts of profanity, disrespectful treatment of volunteers, and commentary regarding judging or team performance.