

## HOWDY from the 2018 Operations Challenge Committee

The 2018 Texas State Championship will be held in San Antonio, Texas.

Enclosed are the "**RULES AND REGULATIONS**" for this year's competition. Please read the complete packet carefully. If you have any general questions, we will try to answer them for you. Specific details on the competition will be made available to you at the Pre-Competition meeting.

Keep in mind as you prepare for this year's competition that, education, teamwork, pride, and professionalism is what the Operations Challenge is all about. **Be prepared to demonstrate your team spirit, professionalism, and dedication.**

These events are not possible without the dedication of several individuals and all our sponsors. Please be sure to acknowledge the contribution of our sponsors when you see them out and about.

**Do not forget to recruit new teams! We can have as few as two people compete in as few as one event! There is no reason not to get someone from another municipality to join in on the action. We also have Joe King Memorial Funds available to defer travel expenses, as needed, for new teams.**

If you need any information or if we can assist in any way, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Jeff Sober  
WEAT Operations Challenge Committee Chair  
Cell: (214) 883-6263  
Email: [jisober@garverusa.com](mailto:jisober@garverusa.com)



***OPERATIONS CHALLENGE***  
***April 23-25, 2018***

***PROMOTING EXCELLENCE AND PROFESSIONALISM IN  
WASTEWATER OPERATIONS***

***RULES AND REGULATIONS PACKET***

## **SCHEDULES**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Start Time</b>	<b>Finish Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
Monday, April 23	8:00 AM	11:30 AM	Equipment Move In	Exhibit Hall
	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	Pre-Competition Meeting	220
Tuesday, April 24	8:15 AM	8:30 AM	Check In	220
	8:30 AM	9:30 AM	Process Control Test	220
	9:45 PM	2:45 PM	Laboratory Event	Exhibit Hall
	12:30 PM	1:00 PM	Boxed Lunch	Exhibit Hall
	9:45 PM	2:45 PM	Victaulic Exhibition Event	Exhibit Hall
	3:30 PM	5:00 PM	Texas Shoot Out	Exhibit Hall
Wednesday, April 25	8:45 AM	9:00 AM	Team Check In	Exhibit Hall
	9:00 AM	2:30 PM	Maintenance Event Safety Event Collection Event (see rotating schedule)	Exhibit Hall
	12:30 PM	1:00 PM	Boxed Lunch	Exhibit Hall
	3:15 PM	4:00 PM	Awards Ceremony	Best Tasting
	4:00 PM		Equipment Removal	Exhibit Hall

## **LOCATION**

Texas Water 2018  
WEAT/AWWA Joint Conference  
Austin Convention Center  
Austin, Texas

## **PURPOSE**

To recognize excellence and professionalism in wastewater treatment, operations, maintenance, laboratory, safety, and collection systems personnel.

## **DIVISIONS**

We will operate with two divisions: DIVISION I and DIVISION II. The events for each Division will be exactly the same (same rules, same judging criteria, etc.). Division II allows teams that have no prior knowledge of Operations Challenge to learn about the program.

In general, a Division I team is a team that has prior experience in Operations Challenge. A team is considered Division I if any of the following qualifications are met:

1. The Utility that the Team represents has competed in any Texas Ops Challenge Competition within three years.
2. The Team will compete in all five scored events.
3. The Team is a current WEF Division I team, or has been within the past five years.

Division I teams are required to compete in all of the events. Division I teams are the preferred Teams eligible to go to the WEF Nationals competition in October.

A Division II team is a team that meets the following qualifications:

1. Three of the four competing members have never competed in an Operations Challenge Competition.
2. The Team has less than four members.
3. The Team will compete in less than five scored events.

A Division II team is not required to compete in all the events. A Division II team can choose to compete in any number of events, including only one event. A Division II team is not eligible to advance to the WEF National competition. A Division II team can compete with two, three, or four members, plus an optional Coach.

## **NATURE OF THE COMPETITION**

All teams will compete in all events (depending on Division). Each event will be judged and scored separately against established criteria. The scores of all events will be totaled and the champion team will be selected based on the scores. The scores are a weighted average. The scoring system utilized is the same scoring system used at WEF Nationals, regardless of the number of teams competing. The scoring system assigns points from 100 points (first place in an event) to 25 points (last place in an event).

The information below is for general discussion only; the individual data packet for each event sets the actual rules and requirements. Shall any information in this document disagree with the event packet/rules, the event packet/rules will take precedence. Each event is subject to modifications until the day of the event. The event rules will be communicated through the following means:

1. Texas Water Website (Competitions Page)
2. WEAT Website (Operators Page)
3. Emails from Ops Challenge Committee

Five separate competitive events are scored for the Overall prize. These events include:

1. **Pump Maintenance:** The purpose of this event is to test the knowledge and skill of each team to respond to maintenance issues.
2. **Collection System:** Teams will be required to cut out a section of an 8-inch PVC sewer pipe with water flowing through it, drill and install a 4-inch service saddle in the replacement pipe, cut and install the replacement section with couplings. Programming of an automated sampler is required.
3. **Safety:** Teams will be required to rescue a downed co-worker from a simulated manhole. Team members will set up a retrieval system, two members will perform a permit required confined space entry, place retrieval harness on the downed co-worker and remove him from the manhole.
4. **Process Control:** Teams will solve problems from up to eight types of operational wastewater technologies. The selected types will be announced at the Pre-Competition Meeting.
5. **Laboratory:** Perform all steps of an Alkalinity/Ammonia profile analysis using Thermo Orion meters and test kits.

Each event will be timed separately and all team members are expected to participate. Further details, such as supplied equipment specification, equipment to be supplied by competitors, and examples of judging criteria is supplied in each events rules packet.

## **SPONSORS**

This year's sponsors are:

### **Event Sponsors**

Maintenance Event	CP&Y
Safety Event	Carollo Engineers
Process Control	Freese and Nichols
Laboratory	Hartwell Environmental
Collection Systems	AECOM
Exhibition Event	Victaulic
Electrical Event	Gupta and Associates, Inc.
Texas Shoot Out	Environmental Improvements
T Shirt Sponsor	Garver
Awards Ceremony	Stantec MWH Global

## **AWARDS FOR TEXAS DIVISION I TEAMS**

Awards are provided as follows:

### **Overall Champion Team:**

- Opportunity to represent Texas at the National WEF Conference (WEFTEC) in October 2018 in New Orleans, LA
- Entry fee and travel expenses, paid by WEAT
  - Daily Per Diem, as determined by WEAT
  - Hotels
  - Air Fare
- First Place Trophy Plaque
- Team Jackets

### **Overall Second Place Team:**

- Opportunity to represent Texas at the National WEF Conference (WEFTEC) in October 2018 in New Orleans, LA
- Entry fee and travel expenses, paid by WEAT
  - Daily Per Diem, as determined by WEAT
  - Hotels
  - Air Fare
- Second Place Trophy Plaque
- Team Jackets

### **Overall Third Place Team:**

- Opportunity to represent Texas at the National WEF Conference (WEFTEC) in October 2018 in New Orleans, LA
- Entry fee and travel expenses, paid by WEAT
  - Daily Per Diem, as determined by WEAT
  - Hotels
  - Air Fare

### **Overall Fourth Place Team:**

- Opportunity to represent Texas at the National WEF Conference (WEFTEC) in October 2018 in New Orleans, LA

- Entry fee and travel expenses, paid by WEAT
  - Daily Per Diem, as determined by WEAT
  - Hotels
  - Air Fare

(If State Operations challenge budget will allow)

**Overall Fifth Place Team:**

- Opportunity to represent Texas at the National WEF Conference (WEFTEC) in October 2018 in New Orleans, LA
- Entry fee and travel expenses, paid by WEAT
  - Daily Per Diem, as determined by WEAT
  - Hotels
  - Air Fare

(If State Operations challenge budget will allow)

**AWARDS FOR OUT OF STATE AND DIVISION I TEAMS**

Awards are provided as follows:

**Overall Champion Team:**

- First Place Trophy Plaque

**Overall Second Place Team:**

- Second Place Trophy Plaque

**The Awards Ceremony will be held following the events for the day and will be presented in the Exhibit Hall Competition Area.**

**Winners of Each Event:**

- First Place Custom Trophy for the event

**Each Team Member:**

- Commemorative Texas Operations Challenge T-shirt and ten hours of general training credits from the TCEQ.

**ELIGIBILITY (DIVISION I)**

1. A maximum of 10 teams will be accepted for the 2018 competition.
2. Entries will be accepted on a first come first served basis until the maximum is reached.
3. Teams must be composed of no less than four members.
4. Teams must be composed of the same four individuals for all five events.
5. Members of a team may come from the same employer or from multiple employers.
6. Individual team members must meet the qualifications described below.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

Individual team members will be persons actively employed by a responsible operating wastewater entity or its agent, at a facility site on a day-to-day basis. Furthermore, they must be actively employed in the operations/maintenance of the collection system, treatment facility, or laboratory facilities provided for them.

The intent is that team members will be those actually involved in wastewater operations, laboratories, pretreatment, or maintenance functions. Individual entrants will be checked for compliance with this intent.

## **JUDGING**

- Each event will be scored by the time required to perform the event, plus timed penalties for procedural and safety violations. The final time, adjusted for penalties, will be converted to a "point" score. The best time for each event is worth 100 points, and the worst time for the event is given a score of 25 points. The points awarded for team finishes between first and last place are based on a weighted average of their score versus the overall difference of the two outlying scores.
- Judges will be trained volunteers from the WEAT membership and sponsors. Judges cannot compete or assist teams. Judges from the same employer as the team or team member will abstain from judging their "home" team.
- Teams will compete concurrently in each event. There will be one or more judges per team per event, with a separate head judge for each event.
- Team captains will be informed of their teams infractions immediately following the completion of their event. However, they will not be told of their overall penalty time. This information will be made available upon written request after the competition.
- Disagreement with a judge's ruling will be handled as follows:  
The team captain will speak with the event judge; any team member wanting to communicate with a judge must do so through his team captain in order to reduce confusion. All team members except for the Captain are required to leave the event area while a challenge to the judge's decision is being made. Failing resolution with the event judge, a team may petition the Event Coordinator, for the particular event in question to act as an arbitrator. Any protest of the Event Coordinator's decision must be made immediately, in writing to the Chair of the Operations Challenge Committee. Attempts will be made to settle the protest as soon as is practical. There will be a fifteen (15) minute time limit for protest. Protest will not be accepted after fifteen (15) minutes past completion of event being protested. It is requested that throughout this process courtesy and professionalism be extended to all parties involved. Failure to render courtesy to judges and event staff can result in penalty time being assessed to, or disqualification of, the offending team.

## **EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES**

The Water Environment Association of Texas and its conference exhibitors will supply all equipment required for the competition except for calculators, tape measures, and personal items such as safety shoes, gloves, safety glasses and hard hats as specified in the specific event rules. The contestants must supply these items.

## **COMPETITION TIMING**

Each team will be allowed 20 minutes for each event from the time the team is scheduled to start. This includes a maximum of 5 minutes, prior to the competition of the event, for the team to make preparations for that event. Teams will be expected to assist event coordinators and judges in resetting the event for the next team as required.



## **VICTAULIC EXHIBITION EVENT** **John Kauffman Memorial Event**

Victaulic has stepped forward to be a major supporter of our Texas Operations Challenge Program. We will hold an exhibition event on the first day of competition after the lab event. The event will be a timed race to see which team can assemble a pipe tree with grooved couplings in the fastest time. The competition will utilize Victaulic's C31 style Grooved 4-inch couplings. Each Ops Challenge Team will participate by running the event as a team. The event will be judged based on raw time. The lowest time wins.

Awards and prizes will be given to the first, second, and third place teams.

This competition has no bearing or influence on the standard Operations Challenge Competition, and the results are not included in the final scores. This competition is designed to provide a friendly, competitiveness atmosphere among our teams. Victaulic has provided a generous donation to the program for this opportunity.

## **TEXAS SHOOT OUT**

The Texas Shoot Out is a race to see who can saw cut an 8-inch PVC pipe in the fastest time possible. This is an individual event. The lowest time wins. New this year, individuals can race head to head against a friend or competitor.

Awards and prizes will be given to the first and second place individuals in the following categories:

1. Operations Challenge Competitors
2. Female Open Division
3. Male Open Division
4. Utility Management Division

## CONTACTS

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Competition Chair	Jeff Sober	<a href="mailto:jsober@garverusa.com">jsober@garverusa.com</a>	214.883.6263
Competition Coordinator	Heather Wootton	<a href="mailto:hawootton@garverusa.com">hawootton@garverusa.com</a>	817.829.0290
Competition Coordinator	Matt Jalbert	<a href="mailto:jalbertm@trinityra.org">jalbertm@trinityra.org</a>	
PWO	John Bennett	<a href="mailto:bennetti@trinityra.org">bennetti@trinityra.org</a>	817.822.5673
Maintenance Event Coord.	Jared Schmerse	<a href="mailto:jschmerse@cpyi.com">jschmerse@cpyi.com</a>	972.365.6266
Laboratory Event Coord.	Mary Evans	<a href="mailto:mevans@premiermagnesia.com">mevans@premiermagnesia.com</a>	903.245.6316
Process Control Coord.	Susan Hier Linda Saladino	<a href="mailto:kioho@aol.com">kioho@aol.com</a> <a href="mailto:linda.saladino@tceq.texas.gov">linda.saladino@tceq.texas.gov</a>	512.825.2466
Safety Event Coord.	Mike Young	<a href="mailto:Youngm@trinityra.org">Youngm@trinityra.org</a>	214.876.1479
Collection Systems Coord.	David Briggs	<a href="mailto:BriggsDC@cdmsmith.com">BriggsDC@cdmsmith.com</a>	512.771.7591
Exhibition Event Coord.	Matt Gallo	<a href="mailto:Matt.gallo@victaulic.com">Matt.gallo@victaulic.com</a>	916.517.2679
Texas Shoot Out Coord.	Grace Sober	<a href="mailto:GDSober@lan-inc.com">GDSober@lan-inc.com</a>	214.765.8731

**WEAT Operations Challenge 2018  
Team Entry Form**

**(Please Type or Print Neatly)**

**Utility:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Team Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Team Member/Captain:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DL #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Day Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Team Member:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DL #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Day Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Team Member:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DL #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Day Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Team Member:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DL #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Day Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Optional Coach Designation**

The individual below is designated as "coach" and will receive all mailings sent to the Captain.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DL #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Day Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 3. Entry Fee**

Enclosed is a team entry fee of \$ **400.00** for each five member team. Roster members over five (any stand-by competitors) must pay an extra \$80.00 per person over 5. Please understand that this entry fee does not cover travel or hotel expenses of team members. No teams will be allowed to participate until this fee is paid in full. CALL for entry fees for Division II teams less than four members.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Team Captain/Manager/Supervisor

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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For WEAT Use Only	\$Received	Date Received	Check #
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**Water Environment Association of Texas  
Operations Challenge 2018**

**This form is required for each team member competing in the Texas Water 2018 Operations Championship.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, will participate in the Texas Water 2018 Operations Championship competition. I acknowledge that while participating in any and all events, which make up the Operations Championship, I will encounter the risk of injury or accident. I hereby accept and assume all such risks and danger incidental to my participation in the 2018 Operations Championship. I agree that Texas Water 2018, the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT), American Water Works Association, Texas Section, Operations Championship Committee, Operations Challenge Sponsors, and any and all suppliers of products and equipment for Texas Water 2018 Operations Championship are not liable for any injuries I may sustain resulting from any and all such risks and danger. I hereby release, acquit and discharge Texas Water 2018, the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT), American Water Works Association, Texas Section, Operations Championship Committee, Operations Challenge Sponsors, and any and all suppliers of products and equipment for the Texas Water 2018 Operations Championship from all claims and demands of whatever nature, actions and causes of action, damages, cost, loss of service, expenses and compensations on account of or in any way growing out of personal injuries and/or property damage having already resulted or to result at any time in the future as a result and by reason of my participation in the Texas Water 2018 Operations Championship.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**This form must be completed by each team member**

Please bring a copy of this form to the pre-competition meeting.

**Failure to do so will result in disqualification from the event.**

**Water Environment Association of Texas  
Operations Challenge 2018  
T-shirt Order Form**

Team Utility: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Member Name (**Please Print**)

T-shirt Size  
(S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL)

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Team Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Size

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Team Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Size

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Team Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Size

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
Team Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Size

5. \_\_\_\_\_  
Coach

\_\_\_\_\_  
Size

Please return completed form with your Team Entry Form and payment to:

Attn: Julie Nahrgang  
Executive Director  
Water Environment Association of Texas  
1825 Fortview Road, Suite 108  
Austin, Texas 78704  
Phone: 512-693-0060 Fax: 512-693-0062  
Email: [julie@weat.org](mailto:julie@weat.org)  
Website: [www.weat.org](http://www.weat.org)