



## 2024 National Energy Finance Challenge Competition Rules

1. The National Energy Finance Challenge (the “NEFC”) is hosted by the Energy Finance Group, a student organization at The University of Texas at Austin’s McCombs School of Business. The event starts with a keynote speech and networking session **Thursday, October 24th, 2024**, and is followed by the case competition on **Friday, October 25th, 2024**. The competition will be in person and held at Robert B. Rowling Hall.
2. Each school may enter up to three teams of at least three members and no more than five members. Team members must be currently enrolled as full time MBA students. Teams must have a minimum of two first-year students.
3. The actual members of the team may not change after Monday, October 14, 2024. Team members may be removed after this date, so long as the minimum number of three are present for the competition. New members may not be added.
4. The Case will be distributed at approximately 9:00 AM (CST) **Friday, October 18th, 2024**, via email to each team. Teams will be able to work through the weekend to prepare their case analysis and presentation materials. Each presentation must be submitted in PowerPoint slide format (.PPTX). Please use standard (4:3) slide sizing to be compatible with the presentation monitors. Presentations are due no later than **5:00 pm (CST) Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**, to the tournament chair via email. Confirmation will be sent to each team upon receipt of the documents. No changes to the presentation will be allowed after the deadline on Sunday evening. You will have to share the presentation from your computer, and the presentation will be verified to be the exact one sent on Sunday.
5. While working on the case solution, outside assistance is NOT acceptable. This includes utilizing nonregistered team members or plagiarizing documents. Procuring such assistance is prohibited and will result in disqualification from the competition. The presentation submission should be composed entirely by registered team members and represent their own ideas and analysis. Upon submission of the case solution, your team may (and is encouraged to) seek presentation feedback from outside parties, but keep in mind you may not make changes to your PowerPoint presentation.
6. Questions that arise after the case has been distributed should be submitted by email. They will only be answered via email to all teams if the judges deem the answer critical to a team's ability to solve the case AND the case does not contain enough information for the teams to solve the issue themselves. When in doubt, make an assumption, state it, and move on with your presentation.
7. Each team should select a name which provides no reference to their school, mascots, etc. Neither school logos nor any other school references are to be included on the team’s presentation materials. This includes PowerPoint presentations, slides, posters, clothing and documents. No verbal references of school affiliation can be made to the judges during a team’s presentation.



8. During the week of 10/21/2024, Teams will be assigned a presentation slot and emailed their specific schedule in advance. Assignments will be randomized. The first presentation of the preliminary round will begin at 9:00 am (CST) on Friday.
9. Each presentation will be strictly limited to 40 minutes in length—30 minutes for student presentation and 10 minutes for questions from judges. Judges will also be asked to give feedback to each team on the presentation during the last five minutes of question and discussion. These timing guidelines will be enforced by the designated room host to ensure the competition remains on schedule. Appropriate timing will be an evaluation criteria and sufficient practice is recommended to make the best use of your presentation time. No guests will be allowed to attend the preliminary presentations.
10. We strongly encourage every team member to participate with a speaking part in the presentation. Full and balanced participation will be evaluated by the judges.
11. Preliminary round judges will select team(s) from each presentation room to advance to the final round. In the afternoon there will be a final round of presentations between the top teams from the preliminary groups. The decisions made by the judges are final. Cash awards to the winning teams will be distributed via US Mail after the competition.
12. Teams will not be allowed to attend other presentations during the preliminary round. All participants may attend the final round presentations (except finalists who have yet to present). The final round will be open to other interested parties (faculty, parents, friends) if they choose to attend.
13. At the conclusion of the final round, winners will be announced. All students and judges are expected to be present for the awards ceremony. Furthermore, for participants that do not show up to scheduled events and do not have other extenuating circumstances with prior notification, may be subject to team penalties or disqualifications.
14. Business professional dress is required on presentation day. Attire for the Thursday night reception will be business casual.
15. Failure to comply with these regulations may result in team penalties or disqualification from this competition and future competitions.