



June 4-8, 2024
Springfield, Ohio

www.solarsplash.com

News of UPS Battery Center **SOLAR SPLASH® 2024**

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BIG Rule Changes Coming in 2024!

Teams that have been to SOLAR SPLASH previously will notice some changes in the Event in 2024. The last major Rule changes were made in 2012 - we don't take Rule changes lightly! Here are some of the reasons that we are implementing these changes:

1. We have heard from you over the years that you would like more competition time on the water as well as some free time on the water.
2. We would like to move toward having the boats more like “real” boats where you aren't adding and removing things every time you go on the water for a different event.
3. We would like to cut down on the number of batteries teams have to buy and/or ship.

The highlights of the Rule changes are listed below. The details are in the Rules, which are posted [on the website](http://www.solarsplash.com) as a PDF file and in a booklet-printable PDF form as well. Returning teams as well as rookie teams are responsible for reading and following the Rules carefully. If your team has any questions regarding the Rules, contact Headquarters by email at HQ@solarsplash.com.

Here are the highlights of the Rule changes, in no particular order:

1. Registration will be from 8-noon on Tuesday. All teams must be on-site and registered by noon.
2. There will be no swim test. Skippers will be weighed and ballasted, if necessary, at registration. The Skipper's Waiver will include a statement testifying to the Skipper's ability to swim.
3. All teams are required to be inspected (mechanical and electrical) on Tuesday. Re-inspection, if needed, must be completed by noon on Wednesday.
4. Wednesday will be free time on the water (after mechanical, electrical, and on-the-water inspections are completed). At 3 pm on Wednesday, we will run the first round of Sprints.
5. There will be no more Qualifying. The free time on the water will give teams the opportunity to test things out without the pressure of being timed and earning points.
6. The 100 Qualifying points from previous years will be shifted to the Slalom, which will be run twice, once each on two different days.

7. Sprints will still be run three times and Endurance twice. But the Endurance will be on Thursday and Friday afternoons. This splits the events into different days, which helps to weather-proof us better in the event of a bad weather day.
8. Boats will be allowed **just one** set of batteries (still 100 lb. of lead-acid), but the allowed solar power is increasing from 480W to 720W. The solar panels **stay on the boat in all events**. At least 360W of solar panels must be on the boat. The remainder may remain on shore.
9. Teams will be penalized if non-team members, e.g. faculty, are seen working on the boat.
10. The Slalom course will be laid out differently from previous years.

Dates for the 2024 Event

The dates for SOLAR SPLASH 2024 will be Tuesday through Saturday, June 4-8, 2024. The venue will once again be Champions Park Lake at the Clark County Fairgrounds in Springfield, Ohio. Reserve the dates on your calendar now!

Springfield is located in the southern part of Ohio, about 20 miles east of the Dayton airport on I-70. You can see a travel map, the site location, and other travel information by clicking on the "[Travel and site information](#)" link on the Splash website menu at www.solarsplash.com.

Are You Preparing for 2024? Keep Us in the Know!

If you're planning to enter in 2024, send us an email now so we can get the contacts between us firmly in place and get your team listed on the webpage as a SOLAR SPLASH 2024 competitor. Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Splash Headquarters Address and Contact Point is:

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Entry Form, the Early and the Regular Entry Fee, and Dates

The [Entry Form](#) for the competition is found on the website. The Entry Fee covers the opening night dinner, lunches Tuesday through Saturday for all participants, and an afternoon ice cream treat each day. The early fee is \$900 if you get your Entry Form in by Tuesday, **January 16, 2024**, and pay no later than February 29, 2024. Entry forms received after January 16, 2024, will pay the full \$1200 entry fee, which is due when the entry form is submitted, and must be received no later than April 15, 2024. Entering the competition by submitting the Entry Form is a commitment to pay the entry fee and participate in the event.

Top Five 2023 Technical Reports Available

The top 5 Technical Reports from the 2023 Splash are available for downloading by going to the "[Technical Reports](#)" page on the Splash website menu. Reading these reports and seeing

the boats and equipment provides a wealth of technical information, plus they demonstrate how to structure a highly rated report!

Major Dates/Deadlines for This Year:

- Tuesday, January 16, 2024: Last date for “Early Registration” (getting the Entry Form in!) at the lower \$900 Entry Fee. After this date the Entry Fee is \$1200.
- Thursday, February 29, 2024: Early Registration \$900 Entry Fees due.
- Monday, April 15, 2024: Last date for receipt of the Entry Form to register for SOLAR SPLASH 2024, and last day to pay the \$1200 Entry Fee.
- Monday, April 29, 2024: Last date to submit the Technical Report without a points penalty.
- Tuesday, May 28, 2024: Video presentation submissions due by 5 pm EDT.
- Tuesday, June 4, 2024: First day of the Competition. Registration opens at 8:00 am, and all teams must be on-site and registered by noon.
- Wednesday, June 5, 2024: Innovation Award submissions due, noon Eastern Time.