

Mine Rescue Contest Questions submitted for posting:

Category: General Information for Conducting 2009 Mine Rescue Contests

Rule No.

1: Date posted: 3/23/2009

Q: Several teams now have 12 members and would like to enter 2 teams into competition. Could local contest directors allow only 6 members per team so long as means were provided to supply a patient?

A: Local Contest Directors can allow this if they so choose. However, if the patient is an employee of the same company/mine as the team, he/she would be required to be in the lock-up with the team. Additionally, the "patient" would be required to have had a physical examination to assure fitness to wear an apparatus, where required in the contest, to comply with Part 49.

The patient should not be allowed to assist more than one team as this could have the appearance of impropriety.

The National Rules state, "Each team shall be comprised of a minimum of seven persons (five working team members, a briefing officer, and a patient) and shall be limited to a maximum of ten persons. In the event of an emergency, the Contest Director may exempt a team from the seven person minimum, and allow only the replacement of a patient," **Rules Governing 2009 Mine Rescue Contests, Rule No. 1.**

As the above question does not appear to constitute or represent an emergency, this will not be allowed at the National Contest.

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Q: Is the patient required to be a trained "apparatus wearer"?

A: Compliance with Part 49 states: "Each mine rescue team shall consist of five members and one alternate, who are fully qualified, trained, and equipped for providing emergency mine rescue service.", **§ 49.12(b).**

There are no specific requirements for Part 49 training of the Nos. 7 through 10 members, described in the National Rules. However, the "patient" would be required to have had a physical examination to assure fitness to wear an apparatus, where required in the contest.