

1. When will GC distribute the Standard Operating Procedure Manual?

The Team Standard Operating Procedure is currently scheduled to be completed and available to teams by late January 2004. Critical information that is available prior to then will be provided to teams via emails, newsletters, other letters, or our website.

2. What are the size, shape and ingress/egress parameters of assembly areas at DARPAtech, QID, Race Departure Area, the Checkpoint Area Parking Waypoint and the Arrival Waypoint allocated to our team?

Exact details of the QID, Start Area, and Finish Areas will be provided by January 2004. DARPA will attempt to accommodate teams in ways similar to SCORE events. If your team has specific or unique needs at any of these areas, please submit requests to grandchallenge@darpa.mil.

Teams will no longer be required to attend or bring their vehicles to DARPAtech.

There will no longer be a Checkpoint or Checkpoint Area. The total route length will be less than the published maximum distance to the Checkpoint Area (approximately 210 miles).

3. How many characters are in the vehicle number?

The Vehicle Identification Number will be exactly two digits.

4. Are the following RDDF Format Assumptions correct?

1. Each waypoint is described in a single line, ending with CRLF.

Yes.

2. The waypoint location is exact; waypoints are situated on a grid with spacing of .1 meters.

Yes. Decimal degrees with seven decimal places equals approximately 0.1 meter.

3. Only the Maximum Crossing Time can be null (#####).

Yes.

4. There will be a minus sign on the longitude value.

Yes.

5. Waypoint number, Lateral Boundary offset, & Speed Limit are integers.

The waypoint number and speed limit will be integers. The lateral boundary offset will be a floating point number.

6. A twenty-four hour clock is used for Maximum Crossing Time.

Yes.

7. If a Maximum Crossing Time is less than the previous such time, it is valid to add 12 (twelve) to it.

N/A

5. Will GC make the “Maximum Crossing Time” relative to “Start Time”?

No. The Maximum Crossing Time associated with Phase Line Waypoints will be absolute. It will be very conservative, including time for predicted delays. Challenge Vehicles not passing the Phase Line Waypoint by the time specified in the RDDF should NOT disqualify themselves and should proceed until E-stopped by a judge.

6. Once the Challenger receives their RDDF CD, can they distribute it to their team using a web connected laptop PC?

Yes. Once the RDDF CD is given to the teams, it can be considered public information.

7. How will the Checkpoints be identified as waypoints in the RDDF CD?

There will no longer be a Checkpoint or Checkpoint Area. The total route length will be less than the published maximum distance to the Checkpoint Area (approximately 210 miles).

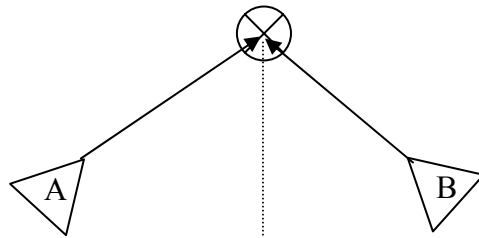
8. What are the General Right-of-Way rules?

A variation of nautical rules would be appropriate. Specifically:

- A vehicle with the right-of-way can also be referred to as the “stand-on” vehicle.
- A vehicle that does not have the right-of-way can also be referred to as the “give-way” vehicle. The give-way vehicle should yield to the stand-on vehicle.
- In a crossing situation, the vehicle on the right has the right-of-way and is the stand-on vehicle.

- In a crossing situation, if the give-way vehicle must turn to yield to the stand-on vehicle, that turn should be to the right.
- In a head-on situation, both vehicles are considered give-way vehicles and should veer right to avoid a collision.
- In an overtaking situation, the vehicle being overtaken has the right-of-way and is the stand-on vehicle.

For example, in the situation below, vehicle B would be the stand-on vehicle, therefore vehicle A, as the give-way vehicle, should yield as necessary to avoid a collision. If vehicle A needs to turn, it should turn to the right.



9. Can one waypoint be directly behind the previous one?

No, but turns greater than 90-degrees are possible.

10. Does DARPA have a blanket agreement with the Bureau of Land Management to permit all GC Challengers access to existing touring routes and OHV areas, for example the “Mohave Road”?

No. DARPA will only have an agreement covering GC teams during the day of the Challenge.