Summit Competitions General Rules

Competition handbook • Substantive rules preserved from version 1.1

1 COMPETITION OVERVIEW

These common rules apply to the Startup, Business Consulting and Corporate Strategy challenges. Each student enters only one competition. This common handbook is supplemented by the self-contained event handbooks, which include their event-specific requirements.

Saturday, May 29, 2027 • 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. ET • Maryland venue and address to be announced. Lunch is served; no breakfast. Contact mcba@mc-ba.com for questions, forms and entry instructions.

2 EVENT OVERVIEW

Competition	Team	Format
Startup	1–4	Screened entry; one live pitch up to 10 minutes + 5-minute Q&A
Business Consulting	1–3	30-minute prep; 7–10-minute presentation + 3–5-minute Q&A; top 3 final on new case
Corporate Strategy	1–3	Same timings as Consulting; top 3 final on new scenario with curveball at 15 minutes remaining

Milestone	Date
Entries open	January 1, 2027
Startup submission deadline	March 15, 2027, 11:59 p.m. ET
Startup accepted teams announced	April 15, 2027
Case registration and final roster/substitutions	May 15, 2027; cutoff time/time zone unconfirmed
All competitions at the Summit	May 29, 2027

WHO MAY COMPETE. Each competitor must be an active MCBA member on the registration deadline and Summit day; be enrolled in high school (grades 9–12) or a recognized equivalent; and be at least 13. A member under 18 needs a parent or legal guardian who has agreed to the MCBA Terms and signed the competition consent form.

ENTRY AND TEAM LIMITS. Each student may join only one team in one Summit competition. Cross-school and cross-chapter teams are permitted. Name one captain as MCBA's contact. Solo entrants and teams use the same rubric without adjustment for team size.

EXCLUDED PARTICIPANTS. Case/scenario writers, reviewers and anyone with advance access; judges and investor-panel members; and MCBA officers involved in running the competition they would enter may not compete. MCBA may request eligibility proof; an ineligible member may cause disqualification.

3 COMPETITION GUIDELINES

REGISTRATION. The captain registers through an MCBA account. Entry is complete only when MCBA confirms it by email. Provide the full roster, each member's school and grade, signed consent and media forms for members under 18, and all event materials. MCBA may cap entries; the event's selection method applies, or first-come registration if none is stated.

TICKETS. Every competitor needs a valid Summit ticket. Competition entry has no separate fee. A ticket does not guarantee Startup acceptance. Published prices: $32 through December 31, 2026, 11:59 p.m. ET; $124 from January 1, 2027, 12:00 a.m. ET. Sales opening date is unannounced as of November 2, 2026.

PURCHASING. Published route: free MCBA account → Academy → My MCBA → Summit → Stripe checkout when sales open. One ticket per account admits one person. The code is shown on the ticket page and emailed after payment. Earned referral credit reduces the checkout price.

ROSTER CHANGES. Email MCBA for substitutions by May 15, 2027. After that date, members may be dropped but not added; at least one original member must remain. Notify MCBA promptly of withdrawal. Withdrawing does not refund the Summit ticket.

CHECK-IN AND ACCESS. Check in at the competition desk by your assigned time. Each member shows a ticket code and photo ID or school ID. Schedules, room assignments and heat draws published before or on Summit morning are final. Dress: business professional or business casual. Request accommodations at registration; MCBA makes reasonable accommodations and shares only necessary details with judges.

AUTHORITY AND CHANGES. The Event Rulebook controls over the General Rules; General Rules control over Guidelines, which are advice and create no requirement or penalty. MCBA Terms control on eligibility, conduct, payments, privacy and awards to minors. Rules are published before entries open. Later rule changes carry a new version and date, are posted and emailed to registered teams. MCBA may change format, schedule or venue, or cancel; registered teams are notified by email. Public Rules Q&A answers affecting all teams are binding.

INTEGRITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY. All work must be the team's own. General coaching before the Summit is allowed; outsiders may not write, build or present any part of the entry. Do not share, discuss or post case/scenario content outside the team until MCBA announces results. Misrepresentation, plagiarism and prohibited help are academic dishonesty.

CONDUCT. Treat everyone respectfully. Harassment, discrimination, bullying, intimidation and threats are prohibited. Spectators must be silent and may not record without MCBA permission; event-specific judges-only presentation rules still apply. Silence and put away devices in competition rooms unless the Event Rulebook permits them. Depending on severity, MCBA may warn, deduct points, disqualify or remove a person. Removal and account action follow MCBA Terms sections 4 and 17.

4 PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

Startup permits disclosed AI preparation and its submitted deck; teams may bring prototypes/samples and use a live demo on their own device within a 2-minute changeover. Case challenges prohibit electronic devices, AI, internet and advance notes/templates; only the packet, MCBA-provided writing/flip-chart supplies and one basic/scientific calculator per member are permitted. Calculators may not be graphing, programmable or internet-connected. Presentations are to the judging panel only. Each event handbook states the complete restrictions and mandatory content.

5 JUDGING AND EVALUATION

JUDGES AND SCORING. MCBA recruits qualified business professionals, investors, educators and volunteers, and briefs them on the rubric. A judge may not score relatives, current students, employees or anyone with a financial relationship; MCBA reassigns the team. Each judge scores independently out of 100; the team score is the judges' average. After the event-specific tie category, a remaining tie goes to a head-judges vote. Scores and judging opinions are final. Written feedback is provided after the Summit.

PROCEDURAL APPEALS. Only procedural errors may be appealed, including timing, arithmetic or incorrect rule application; judges' scores and opinions may not. The captain submits a written appeal to the Competition Director within 30 minutes of the round ending or before results are announced, whichever is earlier. The Director and one MCBA officer uninvolved in the round decide; their decision is final.

AWARDS. Awards may be below the advertised maximum or withheld if no entry earns them. Awards to members under 18 are paid through a parent/guardian; required tax information may be requested. Team cash is split equally unless all members and guardians of minors agree in writing otherwise. Required prize paperwork must be completed within 60 days of notice or the prize is forfeited. Event-specific Startup grant terms also apply.

OWNERSHIP AND MEDIA. Teams own their ideas, plans and materials; MCBA takes no ownership. Entry permits MCBA to store submissions, share them with judges and announce team/venture names and a short description in results. Judges/panelists are asked to keep entries confidential but do not sign NDAs; do not disclose trade secrets you are unwilling to show. MCBA may photograph/record sessions for educational, promotional and marketing use. Send media opt-out requests in writing in advance; reasonable accommodation is attempted. A minor's guardian may request an opt-out or removal of a published image at any time.

TICKET TERMS AND PRIVACY. Tickets are nonrefundable and nontransferable. Cancellation by MCBA earns a full refund; rescheduling carries the ticket forward. Spent referral credit returns on a refunded ticket. The early-bird checkout closes at the price switch or 31 minutes after opening, whichever is later. Stripe handles payment; MCBA does not receive card numbers. MCBA collects limited program/account/progress/payment information to operate and improve services and communicate. The Terms state that only MCBA administrators see member data and student data is not sold. Contact MCBA for privacy/data requests. Participation is voluntary and attendees assume normal event risks.

6 PENALTIES AND DISQUALIFICATION

A team not present when called forfeits its slot; MCBA may, but need not, provide a later slot. The case Event Rulebooks specifically reduce prep by up to 5 minutes of lateness, and forfeit a round for more than 5 minutes unless rescheduled. Ineligible members may cause disqualification. Conduct/integrity penalties may include a warning, point deduction, disqualification or removal. Event handbooks state every event-specific deduction and disqualification condition.

TENTATIVE SUMMIT PROGRAM

Tentative program (ET): 9:00–9:45 registration/expo; 9:45–10:15 expo/networking; 10:15–11:30 round 1/workshops; 11:30–12:30 lunch/networking; 12:30–1:45 round 2/workshops; 1:45–2:30 speaker panel; 2:30–3:30 expo/finals; 3:30–4:15 keynote/panel; 4:15–5:00 awards. Sessions may overlap. Startup has one pitch round, not a final. Assigned competition times govern participation; the agenda remains subject to change.

INFORMATION AWAITING CONFIRMATION

Awaiting MCBA confirmation: venue/address and travel/access arrangements; final agenda and team times/rooms; named Competition Director and day-of contact; registration/upload destination, file-size limits and consent/media forms; May 15 cutoff time/time zone; meal/allergen and chaperone details; active-membership interpretation if needed; later binding Q&A or awards updates. Ask MCBA directly. Guest checkout, email-account linking, judge-contact collection and a $50 judge no-show fee are not confirmed in the current published attendee rules/terms and are not imposed here.

Rule source: MCBA Summit official General Rules and applicable Event Rulebook, version 1.1, November 2026. Logistics/Terms snapshot: November 2, 2026. Source links are for updates; essential instructions are included here. mc-ba.com/competitions/summit • mc-ba.com/terms • mcba@mc-ba.com

EVALUATION CRITERIA ACROSS THE THREE EVENTS

Each competition is scored independently out of 100. These are separate score sheets, not a combined 300-point event. MCBA has supplied no performance-level bands. Use the stated criteria and category maxima.

STARTUP CHALLENGE

Category and assessment	Max.	Score
Innovation: Something new or meaningfully better than what customers use today	20	
Market and opportunity: A real customer with a real need; a sensible market estimate; evidence from customers	20	
Feasibility and team: The team can build and run this; a clear plan for the next 12 months	20	
Financial realism: Sensible costs, pricing and projections; a clear use of funds; a credible path to sustainability	20	
Pitch and Q&A: Clarity, structure, confidence; direct, honest answers to hard questions	20	
TOTAL	100	

Tie category: Feasibility and team. Remaining tie: head-judges vote.

BUSINESS CONSULTING CHALLENGE

Category and assessment	Max.	Score
Problem identification: Finds the root problem, not only the symptoms; frames the client's question clearly	25	
Analysis and use of data: Uses the case exhibits accurately; does the key math; draws sound conclusions	20	
Recommendations: Specific, realistic and tied to the analysis; says what to do, who does it and why	25	
Implementation, risks and metrics: Clear next steps and timeline; names key risks and how to measure success	10	
Delivery and structure: Logical flow; clear speaking; useful flip charts; good use of time	10	
Questions and answers: Direct, well-reasoned answers that defend or sensibly adjust the recommendation	10	
TOTAL	100	

Tie category: Recommendations. Remaining tie: head-judges vote.

CORPORATE STRATEGY CHALLENGE

Category and assessment	Max.	Score
Clarity and decisiveness of strategy: One clear choice, stated early; the team commits rather than hedges	20	
Use of data and competitive insight: Uses the scenario's financials and market data accurately; understands rivals and the company's advantage	20	
Trade-offs and resource allocation: Works within the budget and constraints; explains what is given up and why	20	
Risks, contingencies and adaptability: Names the main risks with backup plans; in the final, responds well to the curveball	10	
Execution roadmap and measures: Realistic milestones, owners and measures of success	10	
Delivery and executive presence: Confident, organized and persuasive; speaks like leadership	10	
Board defense: Holds a sound position under pressure; adjusts sensibly when a challenge is fair	10	
TOTAL	100	

Tie category: Trade-offs and resource allocation. Remaining tie: head-judges vote.