



DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF
VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL
EDUCATION



18th INTERNATIONAL MEB ROBOT COMPETITION

CYBER SECURITY CATEGORY GUIDE

INTERNATIONAL MEB
ROBOT
COMPETITION



2026



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CYBER SECURITY CATEGORY COMPETITION RULES

1. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPETITION

1.1. Purpose

The frequency and impact of cyber attacks are increasing day by day, and cyberspace is being included as a front in conventional warfare between countries. With the development and spread of technology, the concept of "hybrid warfare" has become established in the literature, and digitalised systems have reached a level of power that will directly affect all possible areas of conflict, encompassing not only the military sphere but also educational, economic, psychological, industrial and cultural elements. These developments are becoming increasingly apparent both on a global scale and in Turkey specifically. In order to strengthen Turkey's digital presence, it is critically important to contribute to the development of qualified human resources in the field of cyber security and to enable young talents to express themselves to the extent of their competence.

Thoroughly examining current attack and defence methods, conducting practical studies, and strengthening Turkey's cyber power capacity are fundamental elements of national security in order to counter cyber attacks. In line with the vision of the National Competence Initiative put forward by the Presidency of Defence Industries of the Republic of Turkey, the "Capture the Flag Competition" will be held for the first time in the "Cyber Security" category at the International MEB Robot Competition.

1.2. Theme

The Capture the Flag Competition is a competition that measures participants' cyber security knowledge and skills, based on real attack and defence scenarios and the resolution of applied cases. Through these competitions, students have the opportunity to develop themselves in areas such as problem solving, analytical thinking, teamwork and technical knowledge use, and to develop different perspectives on events. The competition aims to enhance both the individual competencies of students and Turkey's cyber power capacity.



1.3. Participation Requirements and Team Structure

- a. All secondary school students (preparatory, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades) can apply to the competition in the Cyber Security category.
- b. Teams consist of a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of four (4) members.
- c. Multiple teams from the same school may participate in the competition.
- d. Each team participating in the competition must have one (1) advisor teacher. The advisors of the finalist teams must accompany their teams to the competition venue for the final stage, which will be held in person.
- e. Team members and the team advisor must be from the same school.
- f. The team advisor is responsible for establishing the team and monitoring the responsibilities of its members. Teachers from all disciplines may serve as advisors.
- g. The email address provided by the competitor on the membership form during registration must be verified. Otherwise, the application will be deemed invalid.
- h. Membership will be created on a platform where announcements will be made for the preliminary and semi-final rounds of the competition, and the competitions will be conducted here.
- i. If the names of the competitors and teams created are not deemed appropriate by the Executive Board, the right to disqualify the competitor or team from the competition and to change the name of the user/team belongs to the Organisation and Executive Board.

1.4. The Critical Importance of Reading the Guidelines

The Application and Category Guidelines are not merely technical guides but an integral part of the competition itself. Careful reading should be considered a fundamental skill of vital importance in modern engineering projects.

The scoring systems outlined in the guidelines detail the order and precision with which tasks must be performed.



As the competition process is dynamic, last-minute changes to the rules or applications may occur. Therefore, it is critically important that competitors do not settle for just a first reading but regularly follow the announcements on the International MEB Robot Competition website and the content in the Cyber Security category.

All teams applying to the Cyber Security category of the 18th International MEB Robot Competition must read the Application Guide (accessible from the "Organisation" menu at <https://robot.meb.gov.tr>), which contains the competition application and general rules for the category.

2. COMPETITION AREA

The competition will be held in a closed sports hall with all competitors together. Each team will be provided with a table area, chairs, an electrical connection and a Wi-Fi connection. In case of possible internet disruptions, competitors are advised to bring their own cellular data connection requirements.

3. COMPETITION FORMAT AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

3.1. Application Process

- a. Applications are submitted via www.robot.meb.gov.tr. If more teams apply than the specified number, an online preliminary round will be conducted for the teams.
- b. The fifty (50) teams with the highest scores from the preliminary round will advance to the semi-finals.
- c. The semi-final stage is conducted online.
- d. If any team or teams tie with the 50th team in the preliminary round, the other teams will also be invited to the semi-finals.
- e. The fifteen (15) teams that advance from the semi-finals qualify for the final competition.

3.2. Competition Stages

The competition progresses in a three-stage structure. The distribution of questions and their corresponding points for each stage are provided under this heading in the Question Distribution and Scoring section.





3.2.1. Preliminary Round

- a. All students who meet the preliminary round application criteria may participate.
- b. The preliminary round will be conducted online.
- c. Competitors' knowledge of the subject area will be tested in this stage.
- d. The questions will be multiple-choice.

3.2.2. Semi-Final

- a. The 50 teams with the highest scores in the preliminary round will qualify for the semi-final.
- b. The semi-final stage will be conducted online.
- c. Competitors will be expected to solve problems using machines at this stage.
- d. The question types will be "jeopardy".

3.2.3. Final

- a. The 15 teams with the highest scores from the semi-finals will qualify for the final.
- b. The final stage will be conducted in person.
- c. Contestants will be expected to solve machine-generated questions at this stage.
- d. The question types will be designed as "jeopardy" as in the semi-final.

3.3. Scoring System and Evaluation

Categories	Preliminary Round Question/Points		Semi-Final Question/Points		Final Question/Points	
Web	5	250	6	1800	2	850
Reverse Engineering	5	250	4	1400	2	850
OSINT	5	250	4	1000	1	350
Mixed	-	-	4	1150	1	1000
Network	5	250	3	950	1	350
Mobile	5	250	3	650	2	850
Artificial Intelligence	5	250	2	550	2	950
Cryptology	5	250	2	550	1	350
IoT	5	250	-	-	1	350
Steganography	5	250	2	700	1	500
Blockchain	5	250	-	-	1	500
Script	5	250	2	700	1	350
TOTAL	55 S.	2,750 P.	32 S.	9,450 P.	16 pcs.	7,250 P.





3.4. Race Duration and Break Usage

The preliminary and semi-final stages will be held online for 24 hours; the final stage will be held in person for 8 hours without interruption. There will be no break period.

4. ETHICAL AND OTHER RULES

4.1. Disqualification and Penalty Situations

- a. During the final stage, competitors may not leave the competition area. Competitors who leave their desks to use the toilet may not take any technological devices with them. Competitors acknowledge and declare that officials have the right to conduct a body search if deemed necessary. If any type of technological device is detected by the officials, the competitor and their team will be disqualified. If the competitor does not allow a body search despite all good faith efforts, they and their team will be disqualified.
- b. It is strictly forbidden for competitors to share information or cooperate with other teams; if detected, the competitor's team will be immediately disqualified.

4.2. Appeal Procedure

Appeals regarding questions in the preliminary and semi-final stages may be made in writing within 24 hours by logging into the robot.meb.gov.tr accounts. Any potential appeals during the face-to-face final stage may be reported immediately to the referees present on site.

4.3. Warnings and Ethical Rules for Competitors

- a. Participants must bring a portable computer with an Ethernet port/wireless network adapter to the competition. The operating system must be installed and functioning on their computers. We will not provide any computer support to the competing students.
- b. Competitors may participate in the competition with their desktop computer (including the case, monitor, and all components) if they wish. In this case, it is the competitor's responsibility to bring enough power strips to meet the additional electrical needs.
- c. To participate in the competition, each participant must register individually. Those who register accept the accuracy of the information in advance. If incorrect





information is detected, the participant and their team will be disqualified from the competition. Even if they have achieved a ranking, their ranking prizes will be revoked.

d. If a situation is detected that violates this guide and the conditions of the International MEB Robot Competition, the team will be disqualified from the competition. If a violation is determined as a result of a non-compliant situation or a complaint, the prizes won will be cancelled. Legal proceedings will be initiated against those who use the prizes for unjust enrichment.

4.4. Safety Precautions

Please ensure the reliability and security of any electronic devices you bring with you.

4.5. Authority of the Competition Organising Committee

The Organising Committee reserves the right to add additional questions during the semi-final and final stages based on the progress of the competition. The right to modify the variety of questions and the scoring system within the categories outlined in the "Scoring System and Evaluation" section is reserved.

5. COMMUNICATION

5.1. Question Submission and Announcement Tracking Channel

You may ask questions related to the competition by visiting robot.meb.gov.tr, selecting the relevant category in the messages section, and submitting your query.