



## Belden Innovate X – Case Competition Rulebook

(Draft – For Belden Internal + External Student Use)

### **1. Introduction**

Belden Innovate X is a national case competition organised by **Belden** to promote innovation, analytical thinking, and real-world problem-solving among students of technical institutes.

By registering and participating, individuals acknowledge and agree to abide by the rules listed in this document.

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### **2. Eligibility**

- Open to currently enrolled students from recognized engineering/technical institutes.
  - Participation is strictly in **teams of 3 members**.
  - All team members must belong to the same institute unless otherwise specified.
  - Each participant may be part of only one team.
  - Belden employees, interns, and apprentices are not eligible to participate.
  - Belden reserves the right to verify eligibility documents.
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### **3. Registration**

- Teams must register within the deadline communicated by Belden.
  - All information submitted during registration must be accurate.
  - Belden reserves the right to reject incomplete registrations.
  - No registration fee shall be charged
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### **4. Competition Structure**

#### **Round 1 – Case Submission (Online)**

1. A case/problem statement will be released to all registered teams.
2. Teams must:
  - Analyze the problem
  - Submit innovative and technically sound solutions
3. Deliverables must be submitted in the format specified (e.g., PPT/PDF).
4. Late submissions will not be accepted.
5. Evaluation criteria (indicative):
  - Understanding of the challenge
  - Innovation & originality
  - Technical feasibility
  - Business/scaling potential



- Research depth & justification
- Clarity of communication

6. Top teams will be shortlisted for the final round.

#### **Round 2 – On-site Final at Belden Facility (Bengaluru/Pune)**

1. Shortlisted finalist teams will be invited to a Belden facility.
  2. Teams will present their refined solution to a jury panel.
  3. Final round activities may include:
    - Presentation + Q&A
    - Team interaction
    - Site tour/networking
  4. Judging criteria (indicative):
    - Technical depth
    - Innovation & viability
    - Cost & resource efficiency
    - Implementation feasibility
    - Quality of presentation
  5. Winners will be announced onsite or subsequently communicated.
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#### **5. Team Rules**

- Any change in team composition after registration is not allowed.
  - A student cannot be part of more than one team.
  - Participants are responsible for arranging necessary resources for preparation unless specified otherwise.
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#### **6. Deliverable Guidelines**

- Format, templates, and submission instructions will be provided.
  - Submissions must follow:
    - File naming conventions
    - Page/slide limits
    - Data/references standards
  - Any form of late submission without written approval will be disqualified.
  - Work must be original and created exclusively for InnovateX.
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#### **7. Evaluation & Results**

- Entries will be evaluated by qualified internal/external experts appointed by Belden.

- Jury decisions at all stages are final and binding.
  - Belden reserves the right to not declare a winner if entries do not meet minimum quality standards.
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## 8. Intellectual Property (IP) & Usage Rights

- All submitted solutions, concepts, documents, and presentations become the exclusive property of **Belden**.
  - Participants grant Belden a **perpetual, worldwide, royalty-free, transferable license** to:
    - Use
    - Store
    - Modify
    - Develop
    - Publish
    - Commercialize
    - Implement
    - or share (internally/externally)  
any submitted ideas/materials without additional approval or compensation.
  - Participants waive any economic, proprietary, or royalty claims on their submissions.
  - Participants must ensure submissions do not infringe third-party rights.  
They will be responsible for any legal consequences of violation.
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## 9. Confidentiality

- Case content and related internal data provided by Belden must be treated as confidential.
  - Participants must not share, publish, or reproduce information in any public domain without written consent.
  - Breach of confidentiality may result in disqualification and legal action.
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## 10. Originality & Plagiarism

- Submissions must be original, unpublished work.
  - Plagiarism, fabrication, or use of protected materials without authorization is prohibited.
  - Belden reserves the right to reject or disqualify entries deemed plagiarized.
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## 11. Conduct

- Participants must maintain professionalism and respect towards fellow participants, judges, and Belden personnel.



- Harassment, discrimination, abusive language, or misconduct may lead to disqualification.
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## 12. Travel & Logistics

- Shortlisted teams traveling for the final may receive logistical support as permitted by Belden; specifics will be communicated later.
  - Participants are responsible for personal safety, luggage, and belongings.
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## 13. Prizes & Recognition

- Winning teams will receive prizes/certificates as specified.
  - Prizes are non-transferable and non-exchangeable.
  - Belden may offer internships/mentorship opportunities at its discretion (not guaranteed).
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## 14. Publicity & Media

- Belden reserves the right to use participant/team names, photographs, presentations, institute names, and competition recordings for marketing, publicity, or promotional purposes without additional consent/compensation.
  - Participants may be required to participate in promotional interviews/photos.
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## 15. Communication

- Official communications will be made to the registered email addresses of team leaders.
  - Participants are responsible for checking communications regularly.
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## 16. Modification / Cancellation

- Belden reserves the right to modify the competition structure, rules, timelines, or cancel the event at any stage.
  - Belden assumes no responsibility for costs incurred due to such changes.
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## 17. Liability

Belden will not be liable for:

- Travel or personal expenses (unless explicitly covered)
- Injury, loss, or damage suffered during the competition
- Technical errors, server failures, or data loss
- Delays or non-receipt of submissions due to technical issues

Participants assume full responsibility for risks associated with participation.

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## 18. Governing Law

- This competition shall be governed by applicable laws of the jurisdiction where Belden operates.
  - Any disputes arising shall be subject to the courts of that jurisdiction.
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## 19. Acceptance of Rules

By submitting registration or participating, participants and teams agree that:

- They have read and understood the rules
- They agree to be bound by all terms and conditions
- Decisions by Belden and judging panels are final

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## 20. Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) Requirement – Finalists

- Finalist teams invited to the Belden facility are **required to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA)** prior to accessing proprietary or confidential information.
  - The NDA will cover:
    1. Case details, data, and insights shared during the final round
    2. Any facility-related observations
    3. Conversations with employees, mentors, or jury members
  - Finalists must not disclose or reproduce such information in any form (oral, written, digital) without explicit written authorization from Belden.
  - Failure to sign the NDA will result in immediate disqualification from the competition.
  - Breach of the NDA may result in legal action under applicable law.
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## 22. Disqualification Guidelines / Triggers

Teams or individuals may be disqualified at any stage for:

- Plagiarism or copyright violation
- Providing false information during registration
- Submitting offensive, defamatory, or illegal content
- Breach of confidentiality or NDA
- Misrepresenting identity or academic status
- Violation of rules, submission requirements, or timelines
- Use of prohibited tools, purchased solutions, or external paid help
- Tampering with evaluation or attempting to influence judges
- Misconduct, harassment, discrimination, or unethical behavior
- Unauthorized communication with Belden officials beyond designated channels



- Belden reserves full rights to disqualify teams without explanation if violations occur.
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### **23. Code of Ethics**

All participants are expected to uphold the highest standards of ethics, honesty, and professionalism.

Participants shall:

- Ensure originality and integrity in all submissions
- Respect confidentiality and IP
- Maintain respectful communication with peers and organizers
- Avoid harassment, discrimination, intimidation, and hate speech
- Refrain from bribery, coercion, or attempting to influence jury decisions
- Abide by legal and academic standards of conduct

Any form of cheating, falsification, fraud, or unethical conduct will result in disqualification.