

Facilitating Team Formation

Problem Statement:

Students encounter several pain points while forming teams for case competitions, which can hinder their participation and overall experience. These issues include:

- 1) **Schedule Matching:** Struggles around availability and matching schedules with potential team members make it challenging to coordinate meetings and work sessions
- 2) **Competition Guidelines:** Difficulty in finding team members who meet specific competition guidelines, such as having a certain number of full-time MBAs or representation from at least three different schools
- 3) **Limited Skill Set Access:** Access to a limited pool of skills within the available network restricts the team's potential to excel in diverse areas of the competition
- 4) **Limited Outreach:** A limited number of people to reach out to for team formation reduces the chances of finding compatible and skilled team members

These pain points can ultimately lead to students opting out of participating in case competitions, thereby missing out on valuable learning and networking opportunities.

Solution:

Enable matching and team formation among interested students such that teams clear participation criteria, have common availability and have a comprehensive mix of skilled individuals across technical, communication, and other relevant areas.

Process:

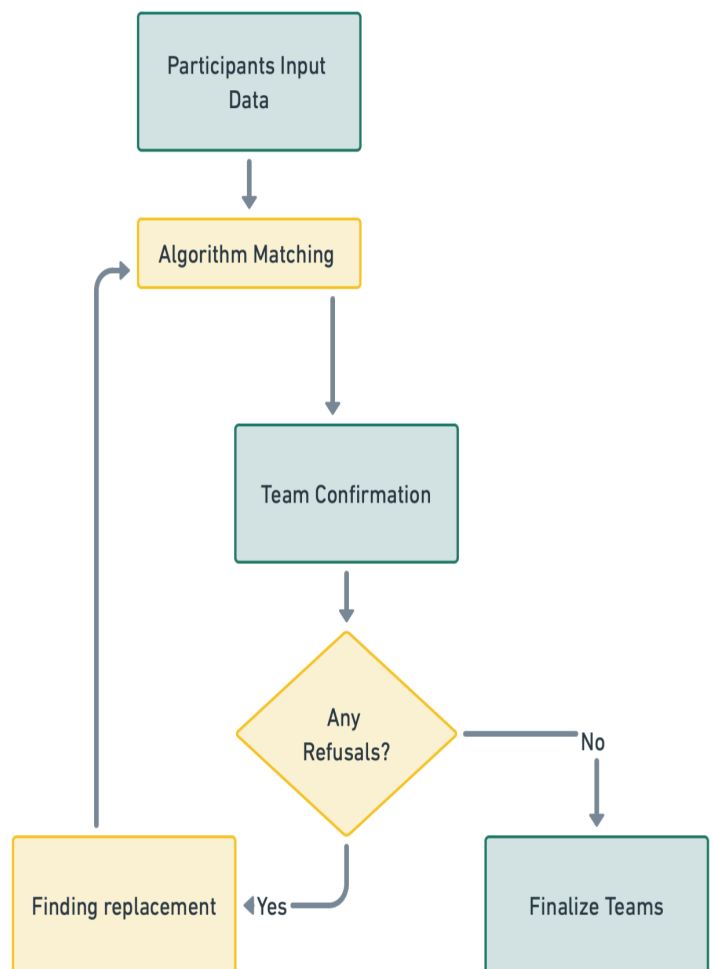
User Input: Participants input their data into the algorithm, including their skills, availability, and any specific requirements set by the competition guidelines.

Algorithm Matching: The algorithm processes the input data and generates best team out of multiple combinations based on the selected criteria. This ensures that each team has a diverse set of skills and compatible availability.

Team Confirmation: Once the team combinations are generated, a common email is triggered to all team participants, asking them to confirm their participation within 24 hours. This step is crucial to finalize the team formations and ensure commitment from all members.

Impact:

- 1) Reduce barriers to participation
- 2) Streamline formation process of a diverse team
- 3) Enhance overall experience for Marshall students in case competitions



Appendix:

A.1 User Input

Data collected through a online form with following questions,

S No	Question	Input Variable	Remarks
1	First Name	Text	
2	Last Name	Text	
3	USC Email id	Text	Layer of student verification
4	USC School	Marshall, Price, Dornsife, Viterbi	
5	Program	MSBA, MBA, MSGSCM, MSMarketing	
6	Case Competition Interest	MSBA Spring 2024, GMA Marketing, USC Health	
7	Availability	Checkbox with days - Monday to Sunday	Days when most free, please tick weekends if you are open to working on weekends
8	No. of people looking for	Numeric value	Incomplete teams should only have 1 person applying on their behalf An individual looking for team should select max allowed as number of people here
	Skill level	Numeric value	1 being beginner, 2 intermediate, 3 advanced
9	Technical	1 to 3	
10	Presentation	1 to 3	Includes Communication