

Dear Electrathon Teams,

In an effort to simplify and streamline the braking competition, we ask that teams voluntarily mount a brake light visible to either side of the vehicle in sunlight conditions on the centerline of the front axle. This light may be permanently mounted or removable after the braking competition. It must use the same switch normally used to activate the brake light. This is to more easily verify that the driver is not braking before the front wheel(s) cross the braking line. This is an evaluation of this concept and not a requirement for Spring 2009. Please inform me if your team will participate in this. If successful, it may be required for 2010. If anyone has another suggestion for how to verify braking does not begin too soon, please let me know.

Thanks,

Sara

Sara,

I am wondering if a piece of masking tape indicating the start line would work. If it is peeled then they started to brake too early or is this the way it is already done?

Just a thought

Damon

Thanks Damon,

We currently put the tape down and it's still difficult to tell when the braking actually begins. Some vehicles wheels lock up which tears the tape; others don't. It depends on how hard they're pushing.

We will continue to put the tape down as the braking line but need a better indicator of when the brakes are actually applied.

Sara,

Barneveld will be participating in the new braking rule proposal. I believe this is a great idea. It should really help the judging of this event. The problem with the tape is once the front tires cross the tape the driver can brake....the rear tire can actually be sliding before the tape and is on many of the cars. We'd be replacing the tape every run.

Duane

Wild Rose will also participate with the additional brake light.

Sara,

At this point I will say my kids will also install a front brake light for you. It will be a temporary mount so it can be taken off for the competition but it shouldn't be hard to do.

Jay

I wanted to bring this discussion up again to confirm that the following schools will be having a front brake light on their vehicles (as well as on the back), to be used during the Braking Competition:

Ashwaubenon  
Barneveld  
Wild Rose

Did I miss anyone? Are any other teams interested in participating in this experiment?

Thanks,  
Sara

Electrathoners

Columbus will also put the brake light in on a removable bracket.

Thanks

Jason Faust

One other thought, to help the drivers hit the spot consistently isn't there a way to have some sort of ribbon or something that the drivers could hit and give them a better visual indication of where they are on the braking tape. Kind of like marathoners crossing the finish line?

Thanks

Jason Faust

Where would you hit the ribbon though consistently on the car? Generally speaking the nation goes off where the front wheels are when they cross the line. So a ribbon hitting the front of the car or the role cage would not be a consistent measureable distance from vehicle to vehicle.

I could see picking up a role of red duct tape for the line versus grey...

Jesse Domer, Watertown High School