

Website Design and Webmaster Rule Reminders

- Teams are required to code an original website from scratch that contains just their solution to the design brief and no extraneous information. (See MS Rule B/HS Rule B)
- The rules require that the submitted website have a minimum of 3 pages. Thus, even though single page websites are popular right now, teams should likely play it safe and avoid that trend. (See MS Rule D/HS Rule E)
- Template engine websites/WYSIWYG editors are **NOT permitted**. This includes but is not limited to Wix, Weebly, Webs, Squarespace, Google Sites, and hosting company site builders (i.e. GoDaddy Website Builder). If your school/district has a website platform that teachers and clubs can use to build web pages, that is also **NOT permitted**. In general, if a tool lets you build a website by plugging content into areas in a pre-defined template or using a drag and drop editor instead of writing code **it is NOT permitted and should NOT be used!** (See MS Rule H/HS Rule I)
- Content management systems (CMSs), such as WordPress, Drupal, and Joomla, are allowed as long as pre-built templates/themes (such as the ones available for sale at TemplateMonster and ThemeForest or the ones that come pre-installed with the CMS) are not used. **If the website is developed using a CMS, a statement acknowledging that a CMS was used and affirming that the template/theme of the website was built by the team must be posted on the About section/page of the website. For example, "This website was built using WordPress. The template for the website is original and was built from scratch by members of team #####."** (See MS Rule G/HS Rule H)
- If you choose to use WordPress, it must be the WordPress.org version and not the WordPress.com version. The latter would be a violation under MS Rule H/HS Rule I
- Frameworks and libraries, such as Bootstrap, are allowed as long as pre-built templates/themes (such as the ones at <https://themes.getbootstrap.com/>) are not used. **If the website is developed using a framework/library, a statement acknowledging that a framework/library was used and affirming that the overall structure of the website was built by the team must be posted on the About section/page of the website. For example, "This website was built using Bootstrap. The overall layout, structure, and design of the website are original and were developed from scratch by members of team #####."** (See MS Rule G/HS Rule H)
- The website must contain a sources/reference page. **This is in addition to and not in lieu of the Copyright Checklist.** (See MS Rule D.1/HS Rule E.1)
- The Copyright Checklist is not optional. Even if the answer to all the questions on the Copyright Checklist is no, **it must be included in PDF format as a link on the website sources/reference page.** (See MS Rule D.4/HS Rule E.4)
- The Plan of Work Log is not optional and **must be included in PDF format as a link on the website sources/reference page.** (See MS Rule D.5/HS Rule E.5)
- Websites should be tested on multiple browsers (i.e. Chrome, Firefox, Edge, Safari) and should be compatible (responsive) on mobile devices. (See MS Rule E/HS Rule F)