

To all competitors and faculty advisors:

An emerging trend has come to the attention of the Baja SAE National Rules Committee, that of teams using suppliers to bend, notch, and complete other preparation work for tubes prior to the welding of the frame. The committee would like to remind teams of Rule A.5.1:

A.5.1 - Student Created

The vehicle and associated documentation must be conceived, designed, manufactured and fabricated by the team members without direct involvement from professional engineers, faculty or professionals in the off-road and racing communities.

Purchasing tubes that are bent and notched from an outside supplier, including but not limited to those that supply the off-road and racing communities, is considered a violation of A.5.1.

Furthermore, we have been informed that some teams are receiving professional engineering support. In these cases, that is considered an egregious violation of A.5.1 and any teams found to have receive this type of support will face severe penalties.

Due to this emerging trend, the committee will add clarification to Article 5 in Part A for the 2023 season. We would like to use this letter to clarify some examples of acceptable and what is a violation of the rules in Article 5.

The following examples are acceptable:

1. Front steering upright and integrating it into the design
2. Drive shaft from a supplier and modifying the length or mixing and matching for splines
3. EDM custom gears for gear box

The following example is not acceptable*:

1. Tubing cut and bent that is used in the frame

Any teams that are reusing a frame from a previous year that is not compliant with the rules above should submit a rules question.

Finally, we will be adding additional processes to the cost catalog for outsourced fabrication.

*Teams that do not have access to equipment are allowed to outsource. Teams must provide a letter stating lack of access to equipment and declare each member outsourced on an additional roll cage documentation page that will be released for the 2023 season.