

CTF Hackathon — Official Candidate Guidelines

Admission Assessment for Cyber Security Program

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL CANDIDATES

This Capture the Flag (CTF) competition is a formal admission assessment. Participation requires full compliance with the rules below. **All activity on the assessment network and server is logged and monitored.** By participating, you agree to the conditions outlined in this document and in the **Consent Form for IP Tracking and Activity Monitoring**, which you must read and sign prior to receiving your access credentials.

Violations of these rules will result in **automatic disqualification**, regardless of your performance on the challenges.

SECTION 1: DO'S

1.1 Conduct Expectations

- Arrive at your assigned physical location at the designated time, with a valid photo ID for verification.
- Sign the **Consent Form** before the event begins. This form acknowledges that your activity during the assessment will be tracked and reviewed.
- Remain at your assigned seat/location for the duration of the competition unless given explicit permission by an on-site proctor.
- Treat proctors and event staff with professionalism. Raise concerns through proper channels (see 1.4).

1.2 Technical Setup Requirements

- Use only the machine and credentials assigned to you at your location.
- Confirm your system is connected to the designated competition network before the event starts.
- Verify your login credentials with a proctor immediately upon arrival; report any access issues right away.
- Keep only the tools and software pre-approved for the competition open on your machine. Close unrelated applications before the event starts.

1.3 Accessing the Server

- Each of the 4 locations has a dedicated access point to the in-house CTF server. Use only the access details provided to your specific location by event staff.
- If you encounter technical errors or cannot reach the server, immediately notify your on-site proctor.

1.4 Legitimate Problem-Solving

- All flags must be obtained through your own independent analysis, reasoning, and technical skill.

- You may use the tools, utilities, and references pre-approved for the competition on your assigned machine.
- Each participant will be provided with a pre-configured Kali Linux / Linux environment containing all the essential tools required for the CTF – including Burp Suite, SQLMap, ExifTool, Wireshark, Nmap, Netcat, and other relevant utilities. If a challenge appears broken or ambiguous, raise it with a proctor rather than guessing.

1.5 Communication Protocols

- All questions regarding challenges, technical issues, or rule clarifications must go through the official communication channel announced at the start of the event (e.g., designated proctor, help desk, or announcement board).
- Do not communicate with other candidates about challenge content, solutions, or hints during the competition.
- Direct all non-technical concerns (health, emergencies, logistics) to on-site staff immediately.

SECTION 2: DON'TS

2.1 Conduct and Integrity

- Do not use any unauthorized tool, resource, application, or external assistance not explicitly approved for the competition.
- Do not access the open internet, personal cloud storage, email, messaging apps, or any external website not explicitly whitelisted for the competition.
- Do not collaborate, communicate, or share information with other candidates, whether in person, electronically, or through any intermediary.
- Do not bring or use unauthorized devices at your workstation.
- Do not impersonate another candidate or allow another person to compete on your behalf.
- Do not remove, copy, photograph, or transmit challenge content outside the assessment environment.
- Do not misrepresent your results or tamper with the scoring system in any way.

2.2 Consequences of Violations

- **Any violation of the rules above will result in automatic disqualification.**
- Disqualification decisions are final and will be recorded as part of your admission assessment record, communicated to the program admission committee.