FAQ: 2020-2021 Design-Build-Vertical Flight Competition

Q: When does our team pilot need to be identified, and when do they need to hold the FAA Part 107 Drone Certification?  
A: This information must be submitted with the final team roster in February. Teams selected to participate in the competition will be given further instructions on this front.

Q: How many team members can we have?  
A: Teams are free to have as many students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels as they see fit. Teams will be limited, however, to bringing a maximum of 10 students to the fly-off competition in April. Additionally, teams are encouraged to seek out multiple faculty advisers to guide and support the team. The fly-off competition will be limited to a maximum of 2 faculty advisers.

Q: Can we add new team members after the initial proposal is submitted?  
A: Yes. Teams are welcome to adjust their unofficial team roster as they see fit. Teams will have to, however, submit an official team roster to VFS and ARL in February that will be used to clear up to 10 students and 2 faculty advisors for the competition fly-off in April. Teams can still have more students and advisers involved, and can make internal team changes throughout the year as they see fit, but the competition fly-off will be restricted to only those individuals that are included on the official team roster in February.

Q: What all counts towards the 20 lb. UAS Group 1 weight requirement?  
A: Everything. A vehicle will not be allowed to fly if it is over 20 lbs. This means that the aircraft, all systems, power sources, and any payloads are all counted against this 20 lb. requirement.