



Mastercard Capture the Flag Series

Presented by the National Cybersecurity Consortium

2026 Series

Cyber Range powered by ENFOCOM

Mastercard Capture the Flag (CTF) Series, Presented by the National Cybersecurity Consortium Rules

All participants in any stage of the National Cybersecurity Consortium (NCC) Mastercard CTF series are expected to adhere to the following rules, as well as to the [NCC Code of Conduct](#):

1. All CTF teams must submit a registration form on the NCC website to express interest in participation in the Regional and/or the Final competitions.
2. All submitted team registrations will be considered for participation by the NCC. Only those accepted for participation will be contacted to complete registration.
3. All registration deadlines are posted on the NCC website, and that is the official source of these dates.
4. All participants must be enrolled at a wholly Canadian post-secondary educational institution.
5. Teams will only be permitted to register for the Regional CTF that corresponds to the core location of the post-secondary educational institution they are currently enrolled:
 - a. West – British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, Yukon
 - b. Central – Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Nunavut
 - c. East – New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador.
6. Each team must be made up of students currently enrolled from the same post-secondary educational institution.
7. All emails used in registration must be official post-secondary educational institutional email addresses belonging to the registrant.
8. Teams must be composed of a minimum of two (2) players and a maximum of four (4) players.
9. Capacity is limited by the host venues and cyber range. Limits on the number of teams that can participate are posted on the NCC website, and this is the official source of these restrictions.
10. A maximum of three (3) teams per post-secondary educational institution may participate, however, this restriction may be lifted at the discretion of the NCC if capacity allows. Teams will be accepted on a first-registered-first-served basis.



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11. Some personal information, including personal names and email addresses, will be shared with the Cyber Range host (ENFOCOM) for purposes of accessing the CTF Cyber Range.
12. On the day of the event participants must log into the Cyber Range (provided by ENFOCOM) to participate, using the log in provided via the registered email address connected to their specific post-secondary institution.
13. When logging in to the Cyber Range (provided by ENFOCOM), participants must also accept and fully adhere to the rules and regulations of the platform.
14. Participants must not consult with outside individuals for support during the CTF competition, but only with their registered teammates.
15. AI tools that are automated or agentic are not permitted as part of this competition. Participants must not use AI tools to generate, derive, and/or refine solutions. Participants must not use AI tools to write, debug, or optimize scripts, exploits, or code used to solve challenges. All code must be authored by team members.
16. All participants must connect using their legitimate network connection. Any method, including the use of services or tools, used to mask, alter, or obscure true network identity are not permitted as part of this competition. This also includes attempts to bypass monitoring, manipulate IP information, or anonymize traffic.
17. The judging of the challenge and the awarding of prizes will be final based on the scoring / points system as calculated within the host Cyber Range and a review of competition activities and player conduct. Judging and the awarding of prizes is at the discretion of the NCC as host and / or Mastercard in their sole opinion.
18. The Cyber Range (provided by ENFOCOM) and the CTF competition are provided in English, with limited French language support.



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19. Teams will compete for first, second, and third place at the three (3) Regional competitions and at one (1) Final competition. Each team member will be eligible to win the following prizes:

REGIONAL CTF (West, Central, East)

- 1st Place: First place team will be recognized in a closing ceremony on the day of the CTF with a presentation that includes Mastercard representatives. The winning team will be invited to compete in the National Final in Montreal, and the team will receive A) up to two (2) nights accommodation in Montreal; and B) up to \$500 CAD contribution for each team member towards travel to Montreal to take part in the National Final CTF. * The NCC understands that team members may not be able to self-fund travel expenses and the NCC will consider advancing funds for travel. The NCC requests winning teams contact the NCC for a case-by-case discussion.
- 2nd Place: Each team member will receive a \$50 CAD gift card.
- 3rd Place: Each team member will receive a \$25 CAD gift card.

NATIONAL FINAL CTF

- 1st Place:
 - \$500 CAD Mastercard gift card per team member
 - Omni Mont-Royal gift package
 - Lunch with Mastercard representative
 - If the winning team is participating onsite, each team member will receive an invitation to the NCC's Conference on June 18 and 19, 2026
- 2nd Place: \$100 CAD Mastercard gift card per team member
- 3rd Place: \$50 CAD Mastercard gift card per team member

20. Integrity is core to these competitions. Participants must act in good faith as part of the competition with a spirit of fair play. If a participant becomes aware of nefarious behaviour affecting the CTF, including but not limited to the use of automated or agentic AI tools, they are asked to report activities to the NCC.



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21. Additional explanations about these rules and other guidelines will be provided in the Cyber Range and in remarks at the start of competitions and are considered part of the rules and expectations for the CTF competitions.

22. NCC may modify these rules at any time, and any modifications will be effective immediately upon posting.

23. Mastercard does not assume any responsibility for the products and services offered under this Event. The products are sold and services are provided solely by the relevant vendors, under such terms and conditions as determined by such vendors, and Mastercard accepts no liability whatsoever in connection with such products and services. The products and services have not been certified by Mastercard and under no circumstances shall the inclusion of any product or service in this Event be construed as an endorsement or recommendation of such product or service by Mastercard.