Final Rules of the Contest
– Fast Times at Estabrook Hall –
The 4-Meter National Drags

Thursday, 4/13 is competition day! This should be a very exciting event and a great way to celebrate the end of your first year engineering studies.

Thursday is a double elimination tournament to demonstrate how well your team has constructed a rubber band powered dragster according to the rule and material restrictions you have been given. The brackets have been distributed and posted so each team should know the starting time for their first run. The races are scheduled every two minutes, as there could be as many as 30 races occurring during our 75-minute time slot for each section. Reminders, race day rules, and clarifications:

- Double elimination means you keep racing until you lose twice or emerge the winner. Because there is no slack in the schedule, there will be a winner and loser for every scheduled race. The winner will cross the finishing line ahead of the other car. If neither car crosses the finish line, the car that went the farthest down the track will be declared the winner. Not being ready on time, a false start, or breakdown on the starting line will all count as a loss. If both cars are disqualified, one will be declared the winner by coin-flip. Please note that each team will have a minimum of three attempts to demonstrate their vehicle (two races and a demonstration run next Tuesday, 4/18).

- Your “surprise” feature does not have to function on every run of your vehicle, although your vehicle must be complete (including surprise) on race day.

- You need to develop a pit crew mentality prior to the race. Each team member should know his or her responsibilities prior to Thursday. The set-up of the car, placement, and release of the vehicle should be practiced prior to race day. You can see from the schedule that the faster you can prepare your car for a run, the better off you are. The typical turn around time between runs for your car will be 8 minutes.

- Start signal will be an audible signal, a countdown and then a buzzer.

- At the end of Thursday, we will have determined section champions for sections A, B, C, and D. Your vehicles will be put on your shelf in Room 13 and will be unavailable to you over the Easter weekend. Room 13 will re-open Tuesday morning, 4/18 at 8 am.

- On Tuesday, 4/18, during your recitation section, each team will be given 5 minutes to explain what they think are the best features of their vehicle and perform a demonstration run on the track. This is when we will take a team photo with your vehicle and evaluate your “surprise” feature. PowerPoint is neither requested or desired for this demonstration/presentation, concentrate your efforts on your written report.

- Final reports are due either in your recitation sections, or you may turn them into the main EF office by 4 pm Tuesday, 4/18. Re-read the project specification and make sure you know everything that is expected and the grading distribution. Your final written report should demonstrate a lot of what we have been trying to emphasize this semester about the design process. You should have a good start on these reports with your preliminary report and your notebook materials as you constructed your vehicle.

- And finally, since everyone will be asking, your instructors are declaring a “tournament of champions” to determine the EF 152 class champion – 4 pm Estabrook Atrium, 4/18. Be there! Good luck to everyone!