Straw Towers to the Moon Activity—Competition Rules

**Description**
Competitors build the tallest possible towers using only plastic drinking straws and tape.

**Event preparation:** Practice for competition
**Grade level:** Grades K-3 (determined by oldest member)
**Team size:** 1-2 students per team
**Maximum number of entries:** Unlimited

**Materials**
M.1 50 non-bendable plastic drinking straws (provided at the competition)
M.2 1 meter of masking tape (provided at the competition)

**Competition Rules**
R.1 Only the provided materials, described in M.1 and M.2, may be used.
R.2 Competitors have 30 minutes to build their towers. Towers may be rebuilt any number of times during the construction period, but no work may occur after.
R.3 Towers must be free standing, only touching the flat surface they are built upon.
R.4 Any straw touching the flat surface may be taped to the surface.
R.5 Tape may not be used as “rope” or to reinforce the straws outside of straw-straw joints.
R.6 Straws may be bent or fitted inside each other, but they may not be cut.
R.7 Students may stand on desk chairs to aid construction.
R.8 When requested, or after 30 minutes, the judges measure perpendicularly from the flat surface to the highest part of a straw. Judges also record the number of unused straws. Only one judge measurement is permitted.

**Scoring and Awards**
S.1 Awards are given for the tallest towers.
S.2 In the case of a tie, the tower with the fewest numbers of straws wins.