



The Glove Standard

What your gloves must meet, how the camera proves it, and what to do if you cannot get them



One test settles almost every question. Wearing the glove, try to pick up a single sheet of paper lying flat on a surface. If that is easy, the glove is too thin. You perform this on camera, and a judge assesses what they can see rather than any measurement you claim.

Why there is a standard at all

The gloved half of your recording only means something if your gloves genuinely reduce dexterity. A signal that works bare-handed and fails in a bulky glove is not a signal system for space, and what gloves do to recognition is one of the findings this season exists to produce. The standard is written as a specification rather than a list of approved products, so a glove that meets it is eligible anywhere in the world.

The specification

Full-finger	All five digits fully enclosed to the fingertip. Fingerless and half-finger gloves are ineligible, as is any glove with a touchscreen opening or a cut-off finger.
Bulk at the fingertip	Approximately one millimetre of material or more. You are not expected to measure this — the functional test is the operative criterion.
Non-transparent	Skin, nail and finger position must not be readable through the material.
Snug fit	The glove moves with the hand. A glove loose enough to move independently adds motion that is not part of your signal.
Both hands, throughout	The same glove type on both hands for the whole gloved half of the recording. Gloves are never changed partway.

Not eligible

- Surgical, examination or disposable nitrile gloves.
- Liner gloves, or any glove sold as a base layer.
- Fingerless or half-finger gloves, and gloves with a touchscreen opening.
- Thin mechanic's or precision-grip gloves designed to preserve dexterity.
- Clear or translucent gloves of any kind.

What the camera has to show

The gloved half of your single unbroken take begins with three things, in this order. All of it happens on camera — no photograph, receipt or product name is submitted.

Step	What happens
1. Show the gloves	Hold both gloves up to the camera, long enough for a viewer to see what they are.
2. Put them on	On camera. You start the recording bare-handed and perform the ungloved set first, so the gloves go on in shot.

3. The paper test	Pick up a single sheet of paper lying flat on a surface, in frame. This is the dexterity check, and it is the criterion a judge actually assesses.
Then the gloved set	All five signals again, performed the same way as the ungloved set. No talking, no captions, no cuts.

Readers see the gloved and bare-handed passages shuffled together and are never told which is which, or even that two conditions exist. Neither half should be performed differently for the camera.

If you cannot meet the standard

Two different routes, and both are approved in advance and never retroactively. An approval carries a date, which you record on your entry form.

Equivalency	For when you are unsure whether a glove qualifies, or cannot source one meeting the standard where you live. Submit by Friday 8 January 2027; we answer within five working days.
Adjustment	For when a physical requirement makes a constraint impracticable. Adjustments preserve what is being measured — three seconds, no speech, one performer, both conditions — and are published in the FAQ so every entrant knows what was permitted.

This is a rule, not a favour. The standard is written to be met anywhere, and where it cannot be, the answer is an approved equivalent rather than an entry you are unable to submit. A challenge about communicating when the body is constrained would be a poor one if it excluded people whose bodies are constrained.

For teachers buying for a class

- One pair per team, not per student. A class of thirty in teams of four needs about eight pairs.
- Buy one pair first and run the paper test on it before you buy the rest. The test takes ten seconds and settles it.
- The cheapest option is the one that fails. Disposable nitrile is explicitly ineligible, so do not order from the science-department supply cupboard.
- Buy in October or November. A team that reaches January without gloves cannot record.
- Gloves are the only equipment cost in this challenge. There is no lab, no software, no travel.

Equivalency and adjustment requests: info@SpaceGamesFederation.com • **by Friday 8 January 2027**

Full Rules and Regulations, Section 8, at signalsofspace.org

Signals of Space is an Equal Space™ Challenge of the Space Athletics Academy®, a programme of the Space Games Foundation. Where anything here differs from the published Rules and Regulations, the Rules govern.

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