

Q&A

VRC 2021-2022: Tipping Point

?????: G18

Welcome to the official VEX Robotics Competition Question & Answer system, where all registered teams have the opportunity to ask for official rules interpretations and clarifications. This Q&A system is the only source for official VRC Tipping Point rules clarifications, and the clarifications made here from the Game Design Committee (GDC) are considered as official and binding as the written [Game Manual](#) itself.

Please review the [Q&A Usage Guidelines](#) before posting. This system is only intended for specific VRC Tipping Point rules questions.

- For event, registration, or other competition support questions, please contact your [REC Foundation Manager](#).
 - For VEX technical support, contact support@vex.com or sales@vex.com.
- For game questions, suggestions, or concerns outside of specific and official rules questions, contact GDC@vex.com.

844: Robot with mobile goal on a balanced platform before game ends

16-Aug-2021

G18

In the event a robot is carrying a mobile goal climbing up to the platform and making it balanced 10 seconds before the end of a match. The robot and mobile goal stays on the balanced platform waiting for the game to end with no other interruption. The robot is using a motor to hold the mobile goal while it stays balanced on the platform. After the game ends, the motor is no longer in 'hold' mode to hold the mobile goal and thus 'drop' the mobile goal on the platform due to lack of power to the motor. This causes a motion on the platform and makes the platform to tilt and the robot and mobile goal slide down. This whole thing may takes a few seconds after the game ends. In scoring the match, will the robot and mobile goal count as scored on balanced platform or not?

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Please review the [Q&A Usage Guidelines](#) before posting, specifically point 3, "Quote the applicable rule from the latest version of the manual in your question". Often, you'll find that by quoting the rule, you'll answer your own question

Rule G18 reads as follows, with a portion bolded for emphasis:

<G18> It's not over until it's over. Scores will be calculated for all Matches immediately after the Match ends, **once all Scoring Objects, Field Elements, and Robots on the field come to rest.**

In the hypothetical scenario you are describing, this "come to rest" moment does not occur until the Platform has tilted and the Robot has slid down. Therefore, they would be scored based on where they came to rest; therefore, the Platform would not be considered Balanced.

80: Minor Field Damage Clarification

A question from one of my team members:

<G18> Replays are allowed, but rare. Replays are at the discretion of the Event Partner and Head Referee, and will only be issued in the most extreme circumstances.

<R3> The following types of mechanisms and components are NOT allowed:

- a. Those that could potentially damage playing field components.
- b. Those that could potentially damage other competing robots.
- c. Those that pose an unnecessary risk of entanglement.

<S1> Be safe out there. If at any time the Robot operation or Team actions are deemed unsafe or have damaged any Field Elements or Game Objects, the offending Team may be Disabled and/or Disqualified at the discretion of the Head Referee. The Robot will require re-inspection before it may again take the field.

In the quarterfinals of a local tournament yesterday, the red alliance ran into a low flag in autonomous in such a way that it pivoted past 90 degrees (which isn't supposed to happen). Red also passed the center line in autonomous and blue scored more points. Here is a recording of the incident.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12NUL5WUIM0Lj3L41kPdXv0H2qCM06qZx/view?usp=sharing>

After some discussion, the head referee ruled that the damage to the field was too severe to continue playing the match. So, they reset the flag, told the four teams to reset their robots, and restarted the match. This time, red won the autonomous period, and then they ended up winning the match by 3 points (the winner of autonomous was match affecting).

I understand that the head referee's decision is final and that the calls for replays are made at their discretion. But in the same situation in the future, what is the correct call? Is the match replayed? Is the match continued with blue winning autonomous? Is the red robot disqualified or disabled?

Thank you!

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First - as you noted, replays are always an option at the discretion of the Head Referee and Event Partner. Once a decision to replay has been made, the previous match is no longer relevant in any Match Affecting determinations, should they arise. Decisions made at an event by a Head Referee are final, and cannot be overturned by Q&A post after the event.

In this specific instance, for crossing the Autonomous Line, the Red Alliance would have been assessed an <SG3> violation and the Autonomous Bonus would have gone to the Blue Alliance.

In the future, over-rotating a Flag does not need to be cause for a replay. However, if done intentionally or repeatedly, it could be considered a violation of <S1>. Thus, <G10> may apply:

<G10> Rules still apply in the Autonomous Period. Any infractions committed during the Autonomous Period that are not Match Affecting, but do affect the outcome of the Autonomous Bonus, will result in the Autonomous Bonus being automatically awarded to the opposing Alliance.

- a. Teams are responsible for the actions of their Robots at all times, including during the Autonomous Period. Any infractions committed during the Autonomous Period that are Match Affecting can result in a Disqualification, if warranted by the rule.

If the match had not been replayed, then the over-rotated Flag would have been considered in any Match Affecting determinations (i.e. if the Match ended up being within the point value of one over-rotated Flag).

662: Win Point Clarification

4-Oct-2020

G18

We came across this situation this weekend at practice with some other teams. During Autonomous Period Red side COMPLETED their Home Row but crossed the Autonomous line. They lost the Autonomous bonus but we still awarded them the WIN POINT for completing a row.

What is the official ruling on this situation if it happens during an official tourney?

I couldn't find this situation in my search: <G18> It's not over until it's over. Scores will be calculated for all Matches immediately after the Match ends, once all Balls, Field Elements, and Robots on the field come to rest.

The determination of the Autonomous Bonus will occur for all Matches immediately after the Autonomous Period ends, after all Balls, Field Elements, and Robots come to rest.

The determination of any Autonomous Win Point(s) will occur for all Matches immediately after the Autonomous Period ends, after all Balls, Field Elements, and Robots come to rest.

- One (1) WP is awarded at the end of the Autonomous Period for any Team in an Alliance earning the Autonomous Win Point.

An Autonomous Win Point is awarded to any Alliance that completes a Connected Row using their Alliance Home Row at the end of the Autonomous Period. A point bonus is awarded to the Alliance that has the most points at the end of the Autonomous Period.

Section 2 The Game

An Autonomous Win Point is awarded to any Alliance that completes a Connected Row using their Alliance Home Row at the end of the Autonomous Period.

Section 4

Tournament Definitions

Autonomous Win Point - One (1) Win Point (WP) given to an Alliance that has completed their Alliance Home Row at the end of the Autonomous Period. Both Alliances can earn this WP if both Alliances complete their Alliance Home Row.

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Yes, this is a correct interpretation. The applicable rules (other than the definition of Autonomous Win Point, as quoted) would be G11 and SG2.

<G11> All rules still apply in the Autonomous Period. Any infractions committed during the Autonomous Period that are not Match Affecting, but do affect the outcome of the Autonomous Bonus, will result in the Autonomous Bonus being automatically awarded to the opposing Alliance. a. Teams are responsible for the actions of their Robots at all times, including during the Autonomous Period. Any infractions committed during the Autonomous Period that are Match Affecting can result in a Disqualification, if warranted by the rule.

<SG2> Stay on your side in Autonomous. During the Autonomous Period, Robots may not contact the foam tiles or Balls which are on the opposing Alliance's side of the Autonomous Line. Robots may not contact the Goals that are in the opposing Alliance's Home Zone. Violations of this rule will result in the Autonomous Bonus being awarded to the opposing Alliance. Intentional, strategic, or egregious violations, such as intentional contact with an opposing Robot while completely across the Autonomous Line, will result in a Disqualification.

This was a violation of SG2 (and potentially G11), which provide guidance for how the Autonomous Bonus should be awarded. However, the Autonomous Win Point and the Autonomous Bonus are scored independently of each other.

195: Loose leaning Poles

21-Dec-2018

G18

http://youtu.be/Oj_IK7WX9sg

The attached video shows a leaning/loose pole at our last competition. This is the beginning of the match with the starting center flags in the neutral position. The leaning and loose swinging of the pole cause most attempt to turn the middle and upper flags to flip all the way back against us. In the video you can clearly see the pole at rest leaning toward red, then swing forward and back causing the weight of the flags to swing them back against us. This does not occur coming from the other side, in fact, just a glancing hit would turn the flag from the other side.

Does this inequity constitute a field malfunction and justify a reply (assuming it was match affecting)? If so, is it permitted to request that poles be straightened and/or better secured before a match?

Thank you-

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The REC Foundation has released a document that provides some guidelines for what should and should not constitute a replay. This document should not be used as an absolute list of what is and is not allowed, but helps to frame the spirit of the rule and guide EP's / head referees in their decision. It can be found here:

<https://www.roboticseducation.org/documents/2018/10/vrc-replay-criteria.pdf>

The document includes the following item:

Field elements detaching or moving beyond normal tolerances.

Field tolerances are defined by <G17>, partially quoted here for reference:

<G17> Be prepared for minor field variance. Field Element tolerances may vary from nominal by ± 1.0 ". Game Object tolerances and weights may vary from nominal by ± 0.25 " and 10 grams respectively. Game Object placement at the beginning of Matches may vary from nominal by ± 1.5 ". Teams are encouraged to design their Robots accordingly.

It is impossible to retroactively issue a blanket ruling on a specific event that has already occurred, but in general, it will be the Head Referee and Event Partner's responsibility to determine if a given field is set up within spec. If you have a concern about a field's construction, you are always welcome to discuss it with the Head Referee and/or Event Partner, but it will be at their discretion to determine if the field in question is within tolerance. Teams should be prepared for, and design their Robots to accommodate, minor field variances.