Tournament Code of Conduct

Introduction: This document details the Massapequa Robotics Tournament Code of Conduct that applies to all Massapequa sponsored and co-sponsored events. This code of conduct grows out of Massapequa's principles of "Honor by Design" which focuses on the well-rounded education of all our students. It grows out of our belief that competition and collaboration should have **equal** emphasis and that well rounded teams compete fairly with sportsmanship **and** are willing to lend a hand to other teams in need.

Massapequa and its many volunteers understands the tremendous commitment teams make to their robotics programs, both in terms of time and resources. We strive to develop events that honor your commitment. We work to be as fair as possible. However, at times decisions may be made that you disagree with. At these times we ask you keep in mind that our decisions are guided by the principles articulated above.

Adult* Involvement: Whether teachers, mentors, coaches or parents, adults are often the key to helping develop successful robotics teams. Encouragement and facilitating are the keys to healthy adult involvement. Throughout the build season the exact amount of adult hands-on involvement varies by each team, depending upon the team's age and experience. We encourage all adults to always allow the students to do as much as possible. When you are not at a Massapequa tournament your involvement is up to you. When at a Massapequa sponsored event or co-sponsored event the line of adult involvement is drawn much more clearly.

Field Engineering: No adult should be working on a robot, building/fixing. (Very limited exceptions are detailed below.) Violations will result in removing that team from consideration for all judged and partially judged awards. Awards are to be given to students, not adults. Repeated and egregious offenses may result in disqualification of matches or disqualification from events.

Programming: No adult should be programming a robot. (Very limited exceptions are detailed below.) Violations will result in removing that team from consideration for all judged and partially judged awards. Awards are to be given to students, not adults. Repeated and egregious offenses may result in disqualification of matches or disqualification from events.

Notification of Adult Involvement: Under no circumstances would we want to put another team in the position of feeling responsible for notifying tournament officials of excessive adult involvement, nor do we want an environment where teams are in any way uneasy around each other. Therefore it is viewed as inappropriate for any team member to notify tournament officials of such observations. This is something that will be handled by tournament officials only. Take care of your team in a positive and constructive manner and our tournament officials will take care of the rest.

Rare Exceptions: In rare cases, those involving younger grade school teams, where safety is involved or instruction/education is critical to allowing these young/less experienced teams to compete, some venues will set aside a designated "Safety" or "Help" zone. If deemed critical by an adult team leader hands on assistance may be given to a team IF at least one student team member is present and the student(s) are allowed to do as much as physically possible. All such assistance must be performed within the "Safety" or "Help" zone. Adults should NEVER work on a robot without a student present or outside a designated "Help" zone.

On the Field: For those programs that allow adults to be at the fields we strongly encourage teams to send only students. If this is not possible then proper adult behavior is to stay in the background as much as possible. The center of attention should always be on the students. Adults who are overly assertive when on the field may be asked to refrain from further on field appearances.

Dispute Resolution: If a situation arises where you feel a rule has been violated, or you need clarification on a ruling we encourage you to ask a referee and feel free to escalate to the head referee if you would like. That is what they are there for. If rare cases you may feel you need/want to escalate your request to the event partner. That is certainly your right to do so. However keep in mind that it should indeed be rare. Massapequa and their Event Partners should be happy to hear you out. We do expect however that once a ruling has been made it is accepted without additional argument/complaint.
Here are the requirements for issuing a protest or getting a ruling clarification:

- A student(s) must present the issue. The initial request for clarification or issuing a complaint may not be initiated by an adult.
- Adults are encouraged to participate but should restrict their comments/input to a minimum.
- Students must be present throughout the conversation.
- Team members engaging in argumentative or disrespectful behavior will be looked upon unfavorably.
- Adults engaging in argumentative or disrespectful behavior will be looked upon most unfavorably. Such behavior by team members, students or adults, may result in exclusion from all judged awards, disqualification from matches, removed from alliance selection, disqualification from the tournament and/or being removed and/or banned from current and/or future Massapequa sponsored events.

Qualification Does Not Equal Invitation: In cases where excessive adult involvement has been observed by tournament officials, or argumentative or disrespectful behavior has been engaged in by team members, students or adults, Massapequa and the event partners may at its sole discretion ban such teams from future Massapequa sponsored or co-sponsored events. This ban will be decided after the tournament is over and will be the result of post event wrap-up conversations that take place at Massapequa events. This ban will not be team specific but rather will include all teams from that program. (i.e. We will not differentiate from team 9999A and 9999B. All 9999 teams will be subject to the ban.) Therefore qualifying for a Massapequa event does not guarantee an invitation. We expect this to be a very rare occurrence. However if you find that you have qualified for a Massapequa event AND your event partner has uploaded their results and you still have not received your anticipated invitation please feel free to contact us and we will be happy to discuss your team's/program's status.

Acceptance and Acknowledgment: Some but not all Massapequa events may require signed acceptance and acknowledgment of this code of conduct. However whether this additional step is taken or not we thank you in advance for your adherence to this code as we all work together for the common goal of educating our future leaders in science and engineering.

*Adults are deemed as anyone older than the age/grade limit of program the team is enrolled in. For instance a Vex IQ team members may only be 8th grade and younger. Therefore a 9th grader would be considered an adult. A VRC team member may only may only be 12th grade and younger. Therefore a college student would be considered an adult.