

Q&A

VRC 2021-2022: Tipping Point

Tagged: Event Management

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.

819: Platform Assembly

19-Jul-2021

Event Management

The most recent game manual "Updated Appendix A to allow shorter standoffs for Platform construction." In experimenting to make the platform leg stable and withstand a season's worth of play, we tried using the larger steel plates from Tower Takeover with great success. Would this be legal?

Answered by committee

Yes, this would be permissible.

814: GPS Field Code Strips for Qualifying Events

30-Jun-2021

Event Management

The Game Manual update on June 29 included the following modification of the competition field for the skills challenge

In Programming Skills Matches, the VEX GPS code strip must be installed on the field. This field modification will be recommended for all events beginning August 1, and required for all events beginning October 1.

1. If an event designates a field for both programming and driving skills challenges, can the GPS code strip stay on the field during driving skills matches?

2. If an event designates a field for both Skills Challenge and Competition Matches (such as allowing skills challenge before matches start), can the event keep the GPS code strip on the fields during qualification & elimination matches?
3. Can an event place GPS field code strips on fields for use only for competition?

If a GPS field code strip is present on a field, is a team always permitted to use it, even during competition matches?

Answered by committee

The note which is quoted in your question is only intended to address Code Strip requirements for Programming Skills Matches. There are no requirements set forth by the Game Manual for other types of Matches; that is to say, it is at the Event Partner's discretion, just as there is no requirement in the Game Manual for a field to be on the floor vs on a raised platform.

Hopefully, that context helps to explain the following answers.

1. If an event designates a field for both programming and driving skills challenges, can the GPS code strip stay on the field during driving skills matches?

Yes, although there is no requirement to do so.

2. If an event designates a field for both Skills Challenge and Competition Matches (such as allowing skills challenge before matches start), can the event keep the GPS code strip on the fields during qualification & elimination matches?

Yes, although there is no requirement to do so.

3. Can an event place GPS field code strips on fields for use only for competition?

Yes, although there is no requirement to do so.

If a GPS field code strip is present on a field, is a team always permitted to use it, even during competition matches?

Yes.

1064: Minimum height

16-Feb-2022

Event Management

This question is to address the height issue for future VEX years - not necessarily this year.

This is a follow up question on T17 from my previous question about a barstool. A 4'10" or 5'0" kid can technically see over a raised arena when looking horizontally. However, this student cannot see the entire field including floor tiles, rings, the other side of the platform) because of his/her height. Robots are in the way or the platform is in the way of viewing when driving a robot. His driving view is obstructed by the game elements and robots. Students that are taller do not have this issue.

When a middle school student is short (quite short), can a "minimum" eye level be recommended for future years in VEX robotics? If a student does not meet this minimum eye level, can a floor arena be provided or some other modification be considered?

In robotics, height should not be a factor in deciding a match - but for our teams, it is.

On one team, we have a 4'10" student that will not drive at state simply because of his height. His driving is clearly better on a floor arena vs. a raised arena simply because he has not had a growth spurt. His viewing is obstructed significantly when four robots are in the arena.

He does not have a "top down" type view of the arena.

Please consider modifying rules for short students to level the playing field in future years.

With respect,

Thank you for your time.

Answered by committee

Thank you for your feedback. As noted in the [Q&A Usage Guidelines](#) before posting, specifically note 1, "The Q&A system is for rules clarifications only". For game questions, suggestions, or concerns outside of specific and official rules questions, please contact GDC@vex.com.

1031: Students sitting on a barstool - raised field - Rule T17

3-Feb-2022

Tournament Structure Event Management

Hi,

I have three short students that may be driving at the VRC middle school state tournmanet in Ohio in March 2022 for their respective teams. On a raised field (2 feet), the students views are obstructed due to their short height. I am exploring options for the students to compete in a fair manner. 1. The students could sit (not stand) on a barstool, which raises the driver's height some - enough so the driver can fairly see the field without obstruction. 2. The students could compete on an arena that is not raised - I have fomally asked the EP for the state of Ohio to provide a field on the ground. 3. Perhaps there is another solution VEX has used in the past?

T17 - mFields may be raised or on the floor. Some tournaments may choose to place the playing field on the floor, or elevated off the floor (common heights are 12" to 24" [30.5cm to 61cm]). No Drive Team Members may stand on any sort of object during a Match, regardless of whether the field is on the floor or elevated." **Milford Robotics interpretation** - a bar stool would be an appropriate chair to sit (not stand) on to raise the height of the driver to a fair height.

Please advise.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Joshua

Answered by committee

No, this would not be permitted. We will be sure to clarify the intent of this note in T17 in a future Game Manual update.

1021: Tournament Scoring

27-Jan-2022

Event Management

Hi, What's the formula for scoring a team during an event? How are WP (win points?), AP (autonomous?), and SP (skills?) calculated? We're going to have an in-class tournament and when we post the rolling scoreboard I want to be able to explain how the system work. Also, I want to create incentive for doing autonomous. Thanks, Dan Harbold

Answered by committee

Please review the [Q&A Usage Guidelines](#) before posting, specifically point 1, "Read and search the manual before posting".

The most recent version of the VRC Tipping Point Game Manual can be found at the following link:
<https://link.vex.com/docs/21-22/vrc/tipping-point/Game-Manual>

The definitions of WP, AP, and SP can be found at the beginning of Section 4, "The Tournament". The ranking order can be found in rule T10.