

Q&A

VRC 2023-2024: Over Under

Tagged: G17

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 Over Under 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 Over Under 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.

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628: G17 clarification

16-Jul-2020

G17

When a robot is stuck/tipped over, a student is allowed to retrieve their robot and place it back into ANY legal starting position. However, if they place their robot into their alliance partners starting position, they would be violating the 6-feet of distance required by many local health departments. Can teams be asked to only return their robot to THEIR starting position?

Answered by committee

The August 14th Game Manual Update will include information on permissible game modifications to allow for better compliance with social distancing guidelines. The update will also include a process through which an Event Partner can request an event accommodation that is not covered by the Game Manual, in order to comply with local health department guidelines.

579: Broken piece of robot touching scored object

26-Feb-2020

G17

If a piece of the robot breaks off and that piece contacts a scored object, it would remain scored, right?

<G12> Keep your Robot together. Robots may not intentionally detach parts or leave mechanisms on the Field during any Match. If an intentionally detached component or mechanism affects gameplay, the Team may be Disqualified at the Head Referee's discretion. Note: Parts that become unintentionally detached from the Robot are no longer considered to be part of the Robot and can be either left on the Field, or collected by a Driver (utilizing <G17>)

! [img] (https://events.vex.com/storage/markdown/uploads/szH5KJ8KsHds8PjsTymGpy5Hxmg8loq1vCxbR6G.j

Answered by committee

Thank you for quoting a relevant rule and providing a photo of the scenario in question. We would also like to reference the definition of Scored:

Scored - A Game Object is Scored if it satisfies one of the following conditions, and is not touching a Robot

A Cube is Scored in a Corner Goal if any part of it is contacting a Corner Goal of the same color as the Cube. See the definition of Corner Goal for specific details. Note: A maximum of one (1) Cube may count for points per Corner Goal

<G12> states that *"Parts that become unintentionally detached from the Robot are no longer considered to be part of the Robot"*. Thus, the Cube in the photo appears to meet all the conditions of being Scored in a Corner Goal, and would be considered Scored.

569: Let us not miss the opportunity to learn from the discussion of Strategically moving Game Elements

23-Feb-2020

G17 RSC5

Many have asked about the rule change post 518 (<https://events.vex.com/VIQC/2019-2020/QA/518>) which was Answered by the Game Design committee ~2/12/20 and speaks to moving 'controlled' game elements by hand in Programming Skills Match.

- Whether you agree or disagree with this ruling, I think we can all agree that the experience with this rule change can lead to many positive changes going forward.
1. Consider changing '<G18> This manual will have three scheduled updates.'
 - I think we'd all agree that if there is a major rule change, such as allowing Strategic moving of Game elements in 1 or more aspects of the game, then we'd ask that Game Design Committee revise the Game Manual ideally at planned break in the season (e.g. January 15th or another date as 4th planned Update to Game Manual?).
 - The alternative is students, mentors and event partners trying to interpret the Q&A, which are numerous and may have potentially conflicting answers?
 2. When possible the Q&A should be more clarifying <G19> The Q&A system is an extension of this Game Manual.
 - I think we'd all agree that since the Q&A is an extension of the game manual, then the Questions as well as the Answers from the Game Design Committee should be clarifying to current and related past questions.
 - Part of the challenge to interpreting post 518 was that there were earlier questions and answers from the Game Design Committee, related to rule G17 (<G17> Handling the Robot mid-match is allowed under certain circumstances.) that may appear contradictory (Strategically moving cubes 'possible Disqualification' 329: Strategically moving cubes LEGAL 392) or at least required different assumptions about what part of competition was being discussed (Driver Skills, Programming Skills and/or Teamwork).
 - 329 <https://events.vex.com/VIQC/2019-2020/QA/329>
 - 392 <https://events.vex.com/VIQC/2019-2020/QA/392>
 3. Dates in both Q&A may be helpful acknowledging <G19> The Q&A system is an extension of this Game Manual.
 - I think we'd all agree that if Q&A is extension of the game manual, then both the Questions as well as the Answers from the Game Design Committee should be dated.
 - Dated because, the absence of dating leads to further uncertainty ◦ Was the Answer to 392 really 5 months old or more recent? ◦ Did the Answer to 329 before or after 329 which supersedes which may depend which is older? ◦ Does any of this ambiguity make Q&A more 'student centered'?
 4. Q&A should more fully consider non-native speakers of English when responding in Q&A
 - If there is a new ruling that creates a need for definition (controlled), then shouldn't this definition be worded in a student-centered verbiage and included within the Q&A and ideally within the Game Manual?
 - Answer to post 471 was that "We cannot provide a strict definition for "controlled"
".<https://events.vex.com/VIQC/2019-2020/QA/471>
 - If controlled couldn't be easily defined then we'd ask the game design committee to either change to more simple concept like 'contacting', rather than controlled. Or even better revisit the Q&A to seek out way to clarify the game to avoid this issue.
 5. Consider adding or consulting Q&A Frequent users to your Game Design Committee.
 - Allot of the frustration related to 518 could have been avoided if Game Design Committee. Looked for Solutions in the Q&A ◦ Solution: Please create a legal position for game objects being controlled by robots during autonomous. <https://events.vex.com/VIQC/2019-2020/QA/455> ◦ There are countless follow-up questions about what represents a 'legal position for game objects' including: OK to reattached to robot? OK to stack on top of other cubes?
 6. Soccer (aka football OUS) is the Worlds game for a variety of reasons including the rules of soccer are simple for any young person to understand.
 - As VEX/REC strive to be even more student centered, then the Game Design Committee should seek to simplify rules wherever possible, in particular in the Q&A.
 - For example 'Drivers' refers to the student operating the robot in all 3 aspects of the game (Driver Skills, Programming Skills and/or Teamwork), which may be worth redefining if the 'Drivers' are allowed to do different tasks depending on the different parts of the game as proposed by post 518 and related Q&A.

Answered by committee

Thank you for taking the time to write out this feedback; we will be sure to take it into consideration for future seasons.

In order to keep the Q&A system as organized as possible for all viewers, we do need to remind users of the [Q&A Usage Guidelines](#). For general feedback, further discussion of a previous ruling, or other messages that are absent of a specific question, please feel free to contact the GDC directly via GDC@vex.com.

543: G17, RSC5, & G7 request for official clarification before State & Worlds

8-Feb-2020

G7 G17 RSC5

I went back to the Q&A, and I am still not happy with the situation with moving a cube 7 feet across the board by hand during automatic programming attempts. Apparently neither are many other coaches, as I see continued questions going unanswered as recent as a day ago on the Q&A.

The Q&A does not give one clear-cut official answer either. In fact, not only does the Rules Committee appear to contradict itself on two occasions, it also appears to have misinterpreted the game manual rules in regards to what sub-sections and notes they were reading. This was pointed out in another post 6 days ago: <https://events.vex.com/VIQC/2019-2020/QA/530>. The post has not been answered. The absence of clear and ethical guidance on this issue has given wide berth to teams to move objects as part of a strategy in direct opposition to the spirit of the automatic challenge.

In one post answered by the Rules Committee 5 months prior <https://events.vex.com/VIQC/2019-2020/QA/329>, it states "The only reason that the referee would be "not happy" with the placement is **if the Team was using this rule to move a Cube into a position that was either strategically advantageous**, such as just barely outside of a Corner Goal, or Scored. Both scenarios **could result in a possible Disqualification if it is not rectified immediately** (i.e. if it was an accident)."

In a second post on the topic, also answered by the Rules Committee 3 months prior <https://events.vex.com/VIQC/2019-2020/QA/392>, it says the action would be legal, quoting RSC5's Note "Note: This rule only applies to Programming Skills Matches. Driving Skills Matches are still governed by <G17>, especially for strategic violations."

However, I believe the Rules Committee of that post misquoted RSC5, as the portion they quoted was bullet i. of sub-section D in RSC 5 which specifically and only addresses DRIVERS moving around the board (Note D RSC5). The preceding full ruling of RSC5 with note states:

"d. During a Programming Skills Match, Drivers may move freely around the Field, and are not restricted to the Driver Station when not handling their Robot.

i. An intent of this exception is to permit Drivers who wish to "stage" Robot handling during

Note: This rule only applies to Programming Skills Matches. Driving Skills Matches are

This note, **as nested within sub-section d**, should logically only pertain to sub-section d - not the entirety of RSC5. As such, I feel the note is not referring to the placement of game objects, but Drivers, as stated in the ruling.

I understand that nothing can be done about previous rulings on this. And yet, I feel this lack of attention by the Rules Committee has done tremendous damage to teams who worked hard to program while remaining true to the ethical spirit of the competition. Moreover, with State and World championships looming, I believe it highly important to have a straight-forward, full understanding of this ruling. I would also suggest whether allowed or not that this particular issue be addressed publicly by the State and World officials before competition so that all teams who have worked so hard to compete at these prestigious levels have an even playing field.

With so many coaches stepping up to question the moral nature of this matter, I would hope the RECF would maintain a stance in the future in the most ethical spirit of the game. As an elementary teacher passionate about teaching kids social/emotional skills especially in technological fields, I feel it is best we model what is morally good sportsmanship rather than teaching them to try to find loopholes - which in this case has led to arguing for a loophole that does not appear to be present. Please consider this a formal complaint.

Thank you for all your continued hard work, as well as your consideration in this matter,

Answered by committee

Thank you for taking the time to write out your position regarding this rule. We will take this feedback into consideration for future games or Game Manual Updates, but will not be modifying the previous Q&A responses or rulings. We feel that the following responses, as well as the rule as it is written, provide as clear of an explanation as is possible within the scope of the Q&A system:

<https://events.vex.com/VIQC/2019-2020/QA/530>

<https://events.vex.com/VIQC/2019-2020/QA/518>

<https://events.vex.com/VIQC/2019-2020/QA/434>

<https://events.vex.com/VIQC/2019-2020/QA/392>

[Q&A 329](#) did not specify whether the question was being asked for a Teamwork Challenge or Robot Skills Match. Our answer assumed that the question was referring to a Teamwork Challenge Match, since most questions do, and we apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Per the Q&A Usage Guidelines, this Q&A system is intended for specific ruling clarifications or questions. For general feedback, further discussion of a previous ruling, or other messages that are absent of a specific question, please feel free to contact the GDC directly via GDC@vex.com.

542: Delay in resetting robot during teamwork

8-Feb-2020

G17

<G17> Handling the Robot mid-match is allowed under certain circumstances. If a *Robot* goes completely outside the playing *Field*, gets stuck, tips over, or otherwise requires assistance, the *Team's Drivers* may retrieve & reset the *Robot*. To do so, they must:

- Signal the *Head Referee* by placing their VEX IQ Controller on the ground.
- Move the *Robot* to any legal *Starting Position*.
- Any *Game Object* being controlled by the *Robot* while being handled must be removed from the *Robot* and gently placed in a non-*Scored* position by the *Team*.
- Any *Game Objects* in the *Starting Position* may be moved out of the *Starting Position* and gently placed into a non-*Scored* position by the *Team*.

This rule is intended so *Teams* can fix damaged *Robots* or help get their *Robots* "out of trouble." It is not intended for *Teams* to use as part of a strategy to gain an advantage during a *Match*, including via moving *Game Objects* per parts c and d above. If a *Head Referee* sees *Teams* strategically exploiting this rule, they may be *Disqualified* from said *Match*.

Is it OK if there is a delay for < G17 >b?

For example, a robot is completely inoperable in the field and is in the way of the other bot trying to score. The team sets down their controller and picks up the robot. They hold onto the robot until there are just a couple of seconds left in the match to stay out of the way of the other bot trying to score.

Would this be legal?

Answered by committee

G17 does not specify a limited window of time given to a Team to repair their Robot, with the following caveats:

- At a minimum, the Robot must have actually met one of the criteria listed in G17 ("goes completely outside the playing Field, gets stuck, tips over, or otherwise requires assistance").

- There are some scenarios where a Head Referee could interpret taking an extended amount of time as a strategic exploit. Debating how much is an acceptable window of time, or what contextual situations would be considered strategic, is missing the intent of G17 and the role of a Head Referee's judgment call. We would advise Head Referees to give Teams the "benefit of the doubt" when a Robot is legitimately damaged or otherwise requires assistance.
- Any scenario where a Team has coerced another Team to utilize G17 as a tactic to "stay out of their way" would likely lead to a G1 and/or Code of Conduct investigation.

The explicit scenario described in your question would be legal, as the snapshot description implies that the Robot was indeed damaged beyond repair.

537: How to Referee the unintentional shifting of cubes while strategically placing cube with RSC5 rule

5-Feb-2020

G9 G17 RSC5

With RSC5 allowing teams to move cubes to a 'strategic' position in Programming Skills, the most common place to move the cube is along the wall, inside a Blue/Red cube.

<RSC5> A Team may handle their Robot as many times as desired during a Programming Skills Match. b. Any Game Objects being controlled by the Robot while being handled must be removed from the Robot and gently placed in a non-Scored position by the Team.

As a Skills Referee, how do we handle the situation when a team uses RSC5 to move a cube in between the wall and a Blue/Red cube, but unintentionally bumps/moves/shifts the position of the cube that was already there.

1. Would this fall under G9 where "Drivers are prohibited from making intentional contact with any Field Element, Game Object, or Robot during a Match, except for the allowances..". It is match effecting, it determines whether a team can get 10 more points, moving them up/down in the rank. If so, how do we decide to warn or DQ in this situation.
2. If no warning or DQ, then what do we do about the cube that was shifted? Leave it? Move it back?
3. Or do we do nothing. Just ignore that the students unintentionally shifted game elements while they strategically place a cube?
4. Or do you have other insight in how to handle this?

Can you help me give a skills referee direction in how to handle this specific situation for an upcoming State Championship?

Answered by committee

We believe this question is answered in [this similar Q&A](#), specifically the following portion:

It is impossible to issue a blanket ruling that would encompass all hypothetical states of the field / Cubes. That said, any interaction between a Driver and a Game Element (that is not being reset per G17) would be considered a violation of G9.

Regarding your questions 2, 3, and 4, it should be handled as any other G9 violation would be handled.

Violations of this rule will result in a warning for minor offenses that do not affect the Match. Score affecting offenses will result in a Disqualification. Teams who receive multiple warnings may also receive a Disqualification at the Head Referee's discretion.

Note: Accidental contact may result in a warning, Disqualification, or Disablement at the Head Referee's discretion.

530: Is it 'legal' to Strategically Move Game Objects 7 feet across the board in Programming Skills Matches when resetting the robot and the Game Object(s) that had been 'controlled by the robot'?

2-Feb-2020

G17 RSC5

The proposed programming strategy was shared by a student at our 1/31/2020 team meeting at which time the student also reported the proposed strategy to Move Game Objects 7 feet across the board had been also confirmed as 'legal' by unnamed VEX/REC contact.

At 2/1/2020 competition others students on our team observed and questioned the local Skills Judge who ruled the strategy outlined below was 'legal' when another team was using it to Strategically Move Game Objects 7 feet across the board in Programming Skills Matches.

The proposed programming strategy is to:

1. Program the robot to pick up and 'control' 1 or 2 Blue cubes and then stop
2. Reset the robot to legal starting position on opposite side of board [RSC5a]
3. Reset the Game Objects 'controlled by the robot' (1 or 2 Blue cubes) into non-scored position [RSC5b]
4. The non-Scored position though is 7 feet across the board and directly adjacent to Blue Corner Goal [appears to be inconsistent with G17 'not intended for Teams to use as part of a strategy to gain an advantage during a Match, including via moving Game Objects']
5. Program the robot push the 1 or 2 Blue cubes into the Blue Corner Goal and then stop
6. Repeat steps 1-5 listed above except these steps will be done for Red Cubes

There have been at least 2 posted responses 'Answered by Game Design Committee' on this topic of Strategically Moving Game Objects which appear to differ either in interpretation of the rules or distinction between Driving (not legal) and Programming (Legal) to Strategically Move Game Objects 7 feet across the board.

1. Initial response to question about Driving match: 'could result in a possible Disqualification'
<https://events.vex.com/VIQC/2019-2020/QA/329>
2. More recent response about Programming match: 'legal within RSC5, which supersedes G17 for Programming Skills Matches' <https://events.vex.com/VIQC/2019-2020/QA/392> There are other Q&A, which include videos (<https://events.vex.com/VIQC/2019-2020/QA/518>) and which are also seeking clarification from Game Design Committee about 'legally' Moving Game Objects.

Though noting that can be done to clarify past rulings about Strategically Moving Game Objects at past competitions, it would be particularly helpful to teams and event partners to clarify the 'legality' of Strategically Moving of Game Objects for future Driving and/or Programming matches and Teamwork competitions.

Answered by committee

[Q&A 392](#) explicitly refers to a Programming Skills Match. As noted in <RSC1>, standard Game rules only apply during Skills Matches if there is no RSC rule to clarify a change. In this case, <RSC5> supersedes <G17>.

<RSC1> All rules, scoring, and field layouts from previous sections apply to the Skills Matches, unless otherwise specified.

<RSC5> A Team may handle their Robot as many times as desired during a Programming Skills Match.

a. Upon handling the Robot, it must be immediately brought back to any legal Starting Position.\

i. Driver may reset or adjust the Robot as desired from this position, including pressing buttons on the Robot Brain or activating sensors.

b. Any Game Objects being controlled by the Robot while being handled must be removed from the Robot and gently placed in a non-Scored position by the Team.

c. Any Game Object in the Starting Position may be moved out of the Starting Position and gently placed into a non-Scored position by the Team.

d. During a Programming Skills Match, Drivers may move freely around the Field, and are not restricted to the Driver Station when not handling their Robot.

i. An intent of this exception is to permit Drivers who wish to “stage” Robot handling during a Programming Skills Match to do so without excessive running back and forth to the Driver Station.

Note: This rule only applies to Programming Skills Matches. Driving Skills Matches are still governed by <G17>, especially for strategic violations.

[Q&A 329](#) did not specify whether the question was being asked for a Teamwork Challenge or Robot Skills Match. Our answer assumed that the question was referring to a Teamwork Challenge Match, since most questions do, and we apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

529: G17 It is not intended for Teams to use as part of a strategy to gain an advantage during a Match, including via moving Game Objects per parts c and d above.

2-Feb-2020

G17 RSC5

<G17> Handling the Robot mid-match is allowed under certain circumstances. If a Robot goes completely outside the playing Field, gets stuck, tips over, or otherwise requires assistance, the Team's Drivers may retrieve & reset the Robot.

According to the answer from Game Design Committee, the question below is legal. "A robot starts by turning and lifting a red cube. The team picks up the robot and cube and places the bot in the other starting position and places the cube next to its scoring zone on the other side of the field. The robot then pushes the cube in." <https://events.vex.com/VIQC/2019-2020/QA/392>

However at the bottom section of G17, it says: This rule is intended so Teams can fix damaged Robots or help get their Robots “out of trouble.” It is not intended for Teams to use as part of a strategy to gain an advantage during a Match, including via moving Game Objects per parts c and d above. If a Head Referee sees Teams strategically exploiting this rule, they may be Disqualified from said Match.

We need a clear answer for this.

There is a similar question but no answer yet and there is the YouTube link which made a lot of teams and referees confused. <https://events.vex.com/VIQC/2019-2020/QA/518>

Answered by committee

As noted in <RSC1>, standard Game rules only apply during Skills Matches if there is no RSC rule to clarify a change. Q&A's [518](#) and [392](#) refer to Programming Skills Matches, in which <RSC5> supersedes <G17>.

<RSC1> All rules, scoring, and field layouts from previous sections apply to the Skills Matches, unless otherwise specified.

<RSC5> A Team may handle their Robot as many times as desired during a Programming Skills Match.

a. Upon handling the Robot, it must be immediately brought back to any legal Starting Position.\

i. Driver may reset or adjust the Robot as desired from this position, including pressing buttons on the Robot Brain or activating sensors.

- b. Any Game Objects being controlled by the Robot while being handled must be removed from the Robot and gently placed in a non-Scored position by the Team.
- c. Any Game Object in the Starting Position may be moved out of the Starting Position and gently placed into a non-Scored position by the Team.
- d. During a Programming Skills Match, Drivers may move freely around the Field, and are not restricted to the Driver Station when not handling their Robot.
- i. An intent of this exception is to permit Drivers who wish to “stage” Robot handling during a Programming Skills Match to do so without excessive running back and forth to the Driver Station.

Note: This rule only applies to Programming Skills Matches. Driving Skills Matches are still governed by <G17>, especially for strategic violations.

518: G17 c. Any Game Object being controlled by the Robot while being handled must be removed from the Robot and gently placed in a non-Scored position by the Team

31-Jan-2020

G17

c. Any Game Object being controlled by the Robot while being handled must be removed from the Robot and gently placed in a non-Scored position by the Team

This rule is intended so Teams can fix damaged Robots or help get their Robots “out of trouble.” It is not intended for Teams to use as part of a strategy to gain an advantage during a Match, including via moving Game Objects per parts 3 and 4 above. If a Head Referee sees Teams strategically exploiting this rule, they may be Disqualified from said Match.

Can you clarify how this is legal? I have a first-year coach asking me and it appears the team is intent on moving the parts to gain and advantage. <https://youtu.be/IVpE1isiEJw>

Answered by committee

Please see the following related Q&A's:

<https://events.vex.com/VIQC/2019-2020/QA/392>

<https://events.vex.com/VIQC/2019-2020/QA/434>

<https://events.vex.com/VIQC/2019-2020/QA/455>

While we were not at the event referenced in the video and cannot confirm with absolute certainty, the title of the video mentions that it is a Programming Skills Challenge run. Therefore, there are no illegal actions being performed, in accordance with the Q&A's linked above.

392: Programming reset while touching cube... Strategically...

24-Oct-2019

RSC5 G17

RSC5 A Team may handle their Robot as many times as desired during a Programming Skills Match. b. Any Game Objects being controlled by the Robot while being handled must be removed from the Robot and gently placed in a non-Scored position by the Team.

In other words, there is no rule against strategically placing the cube, it can be placed on any non-scored position by the team.

So are the following legal during a Programming Skills Match?

#1: A robot starts by turning and lifting a red cube. The team picks up the robot and cube and places the bot in the other starting position and places the cube next to its scoring zone on the other side of the field. The robot then pushes the cube in.

#2: A team is going to score the green cube on the platform and it gets off course. The team then resets the bot before it drops the cube. They reset the bot and put the cube back in its original position and give it another go.

Answered by committee

So are the following legal during a Programming Skills Match?

#1: A robot starts by turning and lifting a red cube. The team picks up the robot and cube and places the bot in the other starting position and places the cube next to its scoring zone on the other side of the field. The robot then pushes the cube in.

#2: A team is going to score the green cube on the platform and it gets off course. The team then resets the bot before it drops the cube. They reset the bot and put the cube back in its original position and give it another go.

Yes, these are both legal within RSC5, which supersedes G17 for Programming Skills Matches. Please also see RSC5's Note, which states the following:

Note: This rule only applies to Programming Skills Matches. Driving Skills Matches are still governed by <G17>, especially for strategic violations.

354: Returning Game Elements Back to Field

9-Sep-2019

G10 G17

This year game elements that leave the field during the match are not returned to the field per rule <G10>.

If a robot is still holding onto a cube or ball but it touches the floor outside of the field can the team still bring this element back into the field as long as it never left contact with the robot?

Would a team be able to utilize <G17> to handle their robot and put the cube/ball back into play, or should this cube/ball be considered to have left the field?

Answered by committee

Would a team be able to utilize <G17> to handle their robot and put the cube/ball back into play, or should this cube/ball be considered to have left the field?

In the future, please quote the applicable rules from the Game Manual so that future visitors can have a better understanding of a question's context.

G10 states the following, with a portion bolded for emphasis:

<G10> Keep Game Objects in the Field. Game Objects that leave the Field during a Match will not be returned. "Leaving the Field" means that a Game Object is outside of the vertical projection of the Field Perimeter **and no longer in contact with** the Field, Field Elements, other Game Objects, or **Robots**.

G17 states the following, with a portion bolded for emphasis:

<G17> Handling the Robot mid-match is allowed under certain circumstances. If a Robot goes completely outside the playing Field, gets stuck, tips over, or otherwise requires assistance, the Team's Drivers may retrieve & reset the Robot. To do so, they must:

- a. Signal the Head Referee by placing their VEX IQ Controller on the ground.
- b. Move the Robot to any legal Starting Position.
- c. **Any Game Object being controlled by the Robot while being handled must be removed from the Robot and gently placed in a non-Scored position by the Team.**
- d. Any Game Objects in the Starting Position may be moved out of the Starting Position and gently placed into a non-Scored position by the Team.

This rule is intended so Teams can fix damaged Robots or help get their Robots "out of trouble." It is not intended for Teams to use as part of a strategy to gain an advantage during a Match, including via moving Game Objects per parts c and d above. If a Head Referee sees Teams strategically exploiting this rule, they may be Disqualified from said Match.

Per G10, as long as the Game Object was still in contact with a Robot, then it has not "left the field". Therefore, G17c can be utilized to return the Game Object to a non-Scored position.

329: G17 Position of game elements after handling robot

11-Aug-2019

G17

When a robot claw is entangled in the cube, and the driver puts the robot back in a legal starting position, where should they put the cube? Just next to the starting position? or where the cube was before they picked up the robot as long as it is non-scored position? Should the referee adjust the position of the cube if he/she is not happy with the placement by the driving team?

<G17> Rule G17: Handling the Robot mid-match is allowed under certain circumstances. If a Robot goes completely outside the playing Field, gets stuck, tips over, or otherwise requires assistance, the Team's Drivers may retrieve & reset the Robot. To do so, they must: a. Signal the Head Referee by placing their VEX IQ Controller on the ground. b. Move the Robot to any legal Starting Position. c. Any Game Object being controlled by the Robot while being handled must be removed from the Robot and gently placed in a non-Scored position by the Team. d. Any Game Objects in the Starting Position may be moved out of the Starting Position and gently placed into a non-Scored position by the Team.

Answered by committee

Thank you for quoting the game manual.

To your first question,

where should they put the cube?

The answer can be found in G17c, quoted below for reference:

G17c: Any Game Object being controlled by the Robot while being handled must be removed from the Robot and gently placed in a non-Scored position by the Team

This means *any* non-Scored position, so both examples you provided would be appropriate options. However, remember be mindful of the rest of G17 beyond what you quoted in your post:

This rule is intended so Teams can fix damaged Robots or help get their Robots "out of trouble." It is not intended for Teams to use as part of a strategy to gain an advantage during a Match, including via moving Game Objects per parts 3 and 4 above. If a Head Referee sees Teams strategically exploiting this rule, they may be Disqualified from said Match.

So, this addresses the second part of your question regarding what the Referee should do:

Should the referee adjust the position of the cube if he/she is not happy with the placement by the driving team?

No, the referee should not adjust the Cube themselves. The only reason that the referee would be "not happy" with the placement is if the Team was using this rule to move a Cube into a position that was either strategically advantageous, such as just barely outside of a Corner Goal, or Scored. Both scenarios could result in a possible Disqualification if it is not rectified immediately (i.e. if it was an accident).

Referees are there to help the teams, so if a referee sees that a team is about to violate this rule, then the referee may caution the team to ensure that no rules are violated.

This answer was edited in February 2020 to include the following note:

This question did not specify whether it was being asked with regard to a Teamwork Challenge or Robot Skills Match. Therefore, the answer above assumes that the question was referring to a Teamwork Challenge Match, since most questions normally do. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

2621: Scoring on Another Team's Mobile Goal with Ladybrown

12-Mar-2025

G17 SG6

Hello GDC!

Teams more and more have been trying to score on mobile goals that are being held by other teams, sometimes doing this while already in control of a mobile goal.

[<G17>](#) says teams are not allowed to use scoring objects "as gloves", but the red box also says this shouldn't be taken to an extreme.

At what point does scoring on a mobile goal with a lady brown while already in control of a mobile goal become a violation of SG6?

Relevant rules: [<SG6>](#), [<G17>](#)

Thank you for your time! :D

Answered by committee

At what point does scoring on a mobile goal with a lady brown while already in control of a mobile goal become a violation of SG6?

Please review the [Q&A Usage Guidelines](#) before posting, specifically point 2, "Read and search existing Q&As before posting." We believe our answer to Scenario B in [Q&A 2520](#) addresses your question.

That said, we can expand a little bit on our guidance from that question. Scoring a Ring on a Mobile Goal while in Possession of another Mobile Goal isn't automatically an [<SG6>](#) Violation, but if a Robot continues to hold onto the Ring after it's clearly Scored on the Mobile Goal they risk an [<SG6>](#) Violation if the Robot's actions would then move the 2nd Mobile Goal (and the Robot that's Possessing it) in a preferred direction or prevent the Robot or Mobile Goal from moving.

Any interaction with a Mobile Goal while already in Possession of another Mobile Goal is a dangerous strategy, with an inherent risk that a judgment call by the Head Referee may not be in your favor. To quote a head referee from this season, "If you have a mobile goal, pretend you're the Titanic and other mobile goals on the field are icebergs. If you touch one, it could sink you."

2595: Follow-on to 2544: SG7 & SC8: Forcing Loss of AWP

2-Mar-2025

G1 G13 G17 SG7

Looking for clarification to answers to 2544: SG7 & SC8: Forcing Loss of AWP.

While at a tournament this weekend, prior to start of match R1 appeared to program a new auton to their robot. At the start of auton period, R1 drove in a straight line crossing the auton line and going all the way over to the Blue side while pushing red and blue rings with it and stopping near the field wall disrupting the auton of B1. Referees deliberated for a while and ultimately gave auton bonus to Blue but no win point for Blue and no disqualification for R1. The crossing appeared intentional to deliberately impact B1 from achieving winpoint bonus. Not getting winpoint caused B1 to drop from 1st place to 3rd place in qualifications (this was B1's last quals match) and changed the dynamic of alliance selection. Questions: If intentional, is there any situation where Referees replay autonomous period? Can referees ask to see autonomous code to make determination if intentional? Seems as if G1, G13c, G17, as well as SG7 would apply. R1 losing auton bonus was consequence of crossing, but B1 was essentially penalized by not having opportunity to finish match auton to try to complete the requirements for winpoint. Believe some additional rule clarification is needed for this type of situation/action or to discourage this.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GW44S5ESwdY&t=22684s> Match 91 at the 6 hr 17 second mark

Answered by committee

If intentional, is there any situation where Referees replay autonomous period?

Match Replays, as described in rule <T7>, are warranted when Matches are negatively affected by field faults or game rule issues. Rule Violations by Teams are not situations that should result in Match Replays, and should instead be handled through Major and/or Minor Violations as appropriate.

Can referees ask to see autonomous code to make determination if intentional?

No. The referee's judgment call must be made based on the context of the Match and the event. Based on your description, the Head Referee could reasonably have considered Robot R1's actions as an intentional, strategic, or egregious Violation and given them a Disqualification for the Match based on the 2nd Violation Note for <SG7>, although that decision can only be made by the Head Referee.

Note: This guidance may be expanded or revised in the April 2, 2025, Game Manual update for the VEX Robotics World Championship.

2529: Clarification on Interfering with an Autonomous Routine by a "Ring Rush" <G17>, <SG8> and <SG7>, Q&As 2066 and 2421

12-Feb-2025

G17 SG7 SG8

In a "Ring Rush" a robot (let's say a blue robot for clarity) rapidly goes toward the eight rings on the autonomous line -- gameplay elements intended to be utilized by either Alliance during the Autonomous Period. The robot pushes the top two red rings off the two lower blue rings so they can intake the two blue rings. In doing so, the blue robot pushes the four rings on the top of the stack (two blue and two red) into or further into the opposing alliance side. These rings can travel at least one ring diameter into the red side of the field. See photo sequence for clarification.

In Q&A 2066 the committee said (with emphasis added):

Pushing a Ring (or Mobile Goal) that starts on your side **(or on)** the Autonomous Line to the other side could result in a <G17> Violation if that Ring or Mobile Goal interferes with the opponent's autonomous routine.

In Q&A 2421 the committee said:

Knocking over a stack of Rings that begins on the Autonomous Line is still legal even if it results in an opponent picking up the "wrong" color of Ring during the Autonomous Period. It's part of the risk described in rule [<SG9>](#) (assuming you meant [<SG8>](#) here). If you move an object all the way from your side to theirs and it clearly messes up their autonomous routine, it should probably be an [<SG7>](#) penalty and you should likely be ineligible to receive all or part of the Autonomous Bonus and/or an AWP.

Again, for the sake of clarity, assume that the four rings end up on the other side of the autonomous line a significant distance from where they started (as in the pictures). Question 1: What constitutes "messing up" or "interfering with" an opponent's autonomous routine to the level of an [<SG7>](#) violation? Obviously taking rings from them is okay, but is putting several rings from the autonomous line into their path interfering (assuming the opposing alliance robot goes to that part of the field)?

[<SG8>](#) c. says

Intentional, strategic, repeated, or egregious offenses may still be deemed a Violation of [<G12>](#) , [<G13>](#) , [<G14>](#) , [<SG7>](#) , [<G1>](#) and/or [<S1>](#) at the Head Referee's discretion.

Question 2: Since one of the incidental benefits of pushing those four rings into the opposing alliances side is that it does interfere to some degree with their autonomous routine, does that make it inherently intentional and/or strategic?

As a number of teams are using a mechanism that does this, a clarification of the legality of this would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you!



Answered by committee

As we said in our answer for [Q&A 2421](#), "Knocking over a stack of Rings that begins on the Autonomous Line is still legal even if it results in an opponent picking up the "wrong" color of Ring during the Autonomous Period. It's part of the risk described in rule [<SG9>](#)." Rushing to the Rings and making a mess of the stack to extract the Rings of your color is fine.

Messing up the stack to such an extreme that you interfere with opponent Autonomous routines that *aren't* trying to interact with those stacks should be considered a strategic or egregious offense and a Violation of rule [<SG7>](#) through [<G17>](#). The Team should not be eligible to receive any part of the Autonomous Bonus or an Autonomous Win Point.

2421: Ring Rushes in Relation to SG7 + G17 + SG8 and Q and A 2066

5-Jan-2025

G17 SG7 SG8

[<G17><SG7><SG8>](#)

Hi!

Q and A <https://events.vex.com/V5RC/2024-2025/QA/2066> asks a question regarding sending Rings from one side of the field to the other and those interfering with the opponents autonomous.

The response that was given was "Pushing a Ring (or Mobile Goal) that starts on your side (or on) the Autonomous Line to the other side could result in a <G17> Violation if that Ring or Mobile Goal interferes with the opponent's autonomous routine."

To me, this means means that if for example the Blue Alliance grabs the bottom Rings on their side of the autonomous line, from the middle stack on the Negative side (which are blue), but in the process slightly knocks over the Blue Rings on the top of the middle stack on the other side of the auton line, which the Red Alliance then intakes, then this would automatically be an autonomous win for Red. This is pictured in the photo below with 2145Z who is on the Red Alliance.



Would this be the correct interpretation of the rule? If so, what are teams supposed to do in order to not knock over the Rings, and at what point does <SG8>, which states "Engage with the Autonomous Line at your own risk. Any Robot who engages with Scoring Objects and/or Wall Stakes on the Autonomous Line should be aware that opponent Robots may also choose to do the same. Per <G11> and <G12>, Teams are responsible for the actions of their Robots at all times." come into play?

Another example I want to bring up is the Ring rush that was originally developed by our team, 360X. The Ring rush is designed to grab the both of the bottom Rings that start on our side of the autonomus line, but still touching it (those Rings are our color), before the other alliance is able to get to the stack. <SG8>, again regards engaging with the autonomous line, and the note in <SG7> which states "Note: Scoring Objects, Wall Stakes, and portions of the Ladder that contact or are positioned above the Autonomous Line are not considered to be on either side, and may be utilized by either Alliance during the Autonomous Period." essentially saying that either Alliance is allowed to grab any Rings from that stack. Thus, we have this Ring rush to ensure that we grab the Rings before the other Alliance gets to the stack and knocks it over, which is bound to happen even if all you are trying to do is get your own Rings, something permitted by <G17>.

A photo is attached here of the stack after the Ring rush:



I have a few questions related to this. First, is knocking over the stack like we did illegal (and thus an auton forfeit)? Second, if knocking over the stack is legal, but then the other Alliance intakes one of the Rings of our color, is that then illegal (and again, an auton forfeit)? Third, I have the same questions regarding the stack on the right in the video which starts completely on the other Alliances side of the auton line, and is not neutral in any sense.

And again, I pose the question, if the other team intakes the wrong color Ring as a result of us touching the middle stack, what are we supposed to do in order to get those Rings?

Answered by committee

There are a lot of questions in your post, and we're going to skip to your final set with the hope that you'll be able to use those answers to draw your own conclusions about the scenarios you describe. If you feel like we've missed something, please feel free to rephrase (briefly and concisely, please!) and repost.

I have a few questions related to this. First, is knocking over the stack like we did illegal (and thus an auton forfeit)? Knocking over a stack of Rings that begins on the Autonomous Line is legal.

Second, if knocking over the stack is legal, but then the other Alliance intakes one of the Rings of our color, is that then illegal (and again, an auton forfeit)?

Knocking over a stack of Rings that begins on the Autonomous Line is still legal even if it results in an opponent picking up the "wrong" color of Ring during the Autonomous Period. It's part of the risk described in rule [<SG9>](#).

Third, I have the same questions regarding the stack on the right in the video which starts completely on the other Alliances side of the auton line, and is not neutral in any sense.

This example eliminates much of the safety a Robot should get from the divided Field in the Autonomous Period, and could reasonably be deemed an [<SG7>](#) Violation (via rule [<G17>](#) at the Head Referee's discretion).

Generally speaking, we believe that if you knock something off of the Autonomous Line to the other side and it's just an incidental part of normal gameplay, it shouldn't be a penalty. If you use an object from the Autonomous Line as a "glove" to break another rule (entanglement, tipping, damage, etc.), it probably should be. If you move an object all the way from your side to theirs and it clearly messes up their autonomous routine, it should probably be an [<SG7>](#) penalty and you should likely be ineligible to receive all or part of the Autonomous Bonus and/or an AWP. We hope this helps.

24: Hub on barrier possession question

12-Jun-2018

G17

When a hub is touching one of the barriers or the other beams that are attached to the floor, but not the floor, does it count as possessed?

I am especially interested in the case where a robot could be pushing two hubs into the building zone. If the robot approached the building zone in a perpendicular manner then they will both be off the floor for a moment as they are scored.

Answered by committee

In the June 15th Game Manual update, <G17> was revised to more clearly answer this question. Barriers are considered a Field Element, and are thus included in the allowance for "pushing" multiple Hubs.

Pushing, shoving, pulling, or plowing multiple Hubs along the Floor, field perimeter, or Field Elements (e.g. *Barriers*) is not considered a violation, as long as these Hubs remain in contact with the Floor.

2223: Stealing a Mobilegoal

24-Oct-2024

G16 G17

Is it legal to have a mechanism that is used to steal mobilegoal from the other team? More specifically, the idea is to grab into the opponent's mobilegoal while they are carrying it.

Answered by committee

There is no rule that prohibits this. However, if your Robot is in Possession of another Mobile Goal, the scenarios discussed in [Q&A 2184](#) will apply.

217: question on dragging the hubs

19-Jan-2019

G17

We have a robot like most where we pick one and drag 4 hubs. we are being told now at competition that if we drag 2 and they cross the blue bar at the same time it is considered both being lifted. Is this correct? If so what happens if you have one in the claw then you can not push or drag one over the blue while you have it. Please help

Answered by committee

It is always difficult to provide a blanket ruling on a hypothetical robot design based on a snapshot description. With that being said, let's take a look at G17, with a portion bolded for emphasis:

<G17> Hub control is limited. Robots may not directly or indirectly lift or hold more than one (1) Hub off of the Floor at a time. **Pushing, shoving, pulling, or plowing multiple Hubs along the Floor, field perimeter, or Field Elements (e.g. Barriers) is not considered a violation, as long as these Hubs remain in contact with the Floor.** However, if a Robot controls multiple Hubs that are not in contact with the Floor (such as pushing a Hub with two Hubs stacked on top of it), this would be a violation.

Provided that you can demonstrate / prove to a Head Referee that your mechanism keeps the Hubs in contact with the Floor and the blue Barriers as they cross, this should be legal. This concept is also covered in this similar Q&A post:

<https://events.vex.com/VIQC/2018-2019/QA/117>

2093: Clarification on SC7/G17 and Elevation with Assistance from Rings

7-Aug-2024

SC7 G17

[<SC7>](#) [<G17>](#)

Hello!

At our season opener we encountered a situation where a team managed to become high-centered on a ring whilst contacting the ladder, being off the ground and thus meeting all criteria of SC7: > a) The Robot is contacting the ladder > b) The Robot is not contacting any other Field elements, including the gray foam tiles. > c) The Robot is not contacting any Mobile Goals. > d) The Robot's lowest point is past that Level's minimum height from the gray foam tiles.

As the definition of a Field Element does not include game elements such as Rings, would this mean this robot if meeting all other points of SC7 is considered elevated? Additionally, G17 stipulates that

Scoring Objects may not be used to accomplish actions that would otherwise be illegal if they were attempted by Robot mechanisms

Would a robot becoming high-centered on a ring and achieving a Level 1 Elevation be considered in violation of G17 as the ring is acting as a "glove" to prevent them from touching the ground?

If the above is legal, are teams allowed to employ strategies to achieve Level 1 Elevations by sitting on rings?

Furthermore, as the team is now no longer contacting the level 0-1 plane, are the team now able to break the level 2-3 plane as a result of sitting on a ring?

Cheers

Answered by committee

Note: As of the January 28, 2025, game manual update, a Robot may be in contact with a Mobile Goal and still be considered as having Climbed to a Level. Portions of the rule quoted in the question no longer apply.

Contact with a Ring does not affect whether a Robot is considered to have Climbed to a Level as described in [<SC7>](#).

If the above is legal, are teams allowed to employ strategies to achieve Level 1 Elevations by sitting on rings?

There are no rules preventing this, therefore it is legal.

Furthermore, as the team is now no longer contacting the level 0-1 plane, are the team now able to break the level 2-3 plane as a result of sitting on a ring?

Yes.