

# Q&A

## VRC 2023-2024: Over Under

Tagged: T9

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](mailto:support@vex.com) or [sales@vex.com](mailto:sales@vex.com).
- For game questions, suggestions, or concerns outside of specific and official rules questions, contact [GDC@vex.com](mailto:GDC@vex.com).

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### 2280: <T9> Ending timeouts early + further clarification

10-Nov-2024

T9

[<T9>](#)

As per <T9>

Each Elimination Alliance gets one Time Out. Each Alliance may request (1) Time Out during the Elimination Bracket. The Time Out will be served at the time of the Alliance's next upcoming Match. Alliances must request their Time Out between Elimination Matches, as permitted by the Head Referee and Event Partner; they may not use their Time Out during a Match, for another Alliance's Match, or after they have been eliminated.

The definition of Time Out

A single break period no greater than three minutes (3:00) allotted for each Alliance during the Elimination Bracket.

Based on T9, I wanted to seek further clarification on a few scenarios:

1. Is it possible for a team to end a timeout early? The definition of time out specifies "No greater than", indicating that time out's can be ended early, I just wanted to confirm whether this interpretation was correct. If this is not correct, does this imply that time outs when granted by an Event Partner / Head Referee can be for a duration less than 3 minutes, based on the circumstances of the event?
2. If a timeout can be ended early, are teams allowed to strategically call a time out so that their opponents begin making changes to the robot / re-pumping pneumatics etc, than immediately cancel the timeout so the opposing alliance is at a disadvantage? Would both alliances need to agree for a timeout to be ended early?

3. The wording of T9 indicates that teams must Time Outs must be permitted by the Head Referee and Event Partner. Does this mean in the interest of time, for an event running 1-2hrs behind schedule, that Time Outs can be declined by an Event Partner / Head Referee? Or are all teams guaranteed the right to a time out, regardless of the current status of an event?

#### Answered by committee

1. Is it possible for a team to end a timeout early? 2. If a timeout can be ended early, are teams allowed to strategically call a time out so that their opponents begin making changes to the robot / re-pumping pneumatics etc, than immediately cancel the timeout so the opposing alliance is at a disadvantage? Would both alliances need to agree for a timeout to be ended early?

A Time Out can be ended early, but only if agreed to by both Alliances and the Head Referee.

3. The wording of T9 indicates that teams must Time Outs must be permitted by the Head Referee and Event Partner. Does this mean in the interest of time, for an event running 1-2hrs behind schedule, that Time Outs can be declined by an Event Partner / Head Referee? Or are all teams guaranteed the right to a time out, regardless of the current status of an event?

An Alliance's Time Out request should never be denied if the Alliance legitimately needs extra time. This will be better reflected in the December 3 update to the game manual.

## 1534: <T9> Time Out Limitations

6-Jun-2023

T9

<T9> Each Elimination Alliance gets one Time Out. Each Alliance may request one (1) Time Out during the Elimination Bracket between Elimination Matches, as permitted by the Head Referee and Event Partner. Alliances may not use their Time Out during a Match.

1. Can an Alliance request a Time Out before the first Elimination Match?
2. Can an Alliance request a Time Out when the next Elimination Match is not theirs?
3. If the answer to #2 is yes, can an Alliance request a Time Out when they've already been eliminated?

#### Answered by committee

Thank you for your questions. Although the final determination of whether any Time Out will be granted should be made by the Head Referee and Event Partner based on the context of their event, we can provide some clarification on the intent of rule [<T9>](#) and when Teams can request Time Outs.

1. Can an Alliance request a Time Out before the first Elimination Match?

Yes, although the expectation would be that this would only be necessary if the request is being made by an Alliance who is playing in that Match.

2. Can an Alliance request a Time Out when the next Elimination Match is not theirs?

Yes, but the Time Out will not begin until that Alliance's next Match is scheduled to start.

3. If the answer to #2 is yes, can an Alliance request a Time Out when they've already been eliminated?

