

VEX TEXT

Overview

VEX TEXT is a feature that allows teams to be alerted to upcoming matches using SMS text messages delivered directly to team members' phones. VEX TEXT can complement queuing announcements and queue runners to help ensure teams report to the competition fields on time.

The VEX TEXT feature may be used by any official VEX Robotics Competition event. Each team at a VEX TEXT-enabled event is allowed to subscribe up to 3 mobile phone numbers to receive the text message notifications. For each match, the subscribed team members will receive 2 alerts, one 20 minutes prior to the match and one 10 minutes prior.

Note - In order to use the VEX TEXT feature, the computer running the Tournament Server needs to be connected to the Internet while the event is underway. Additionally, a separate computer with Internet access will be required at the Pit Admin or Registration table in order to sign teams up for the VEX TEXT system.

Setup Procedures

There are a few necessary steps that need to be taken to set up the VEX TEXT feature. Before you begin, make sure the computer hosting the Tournament Manager is set to the correct time and date. If the time and date are not correct, you could end up sending out incorrect match notifications. This will cause confusion and annoyance for the participating teams at your event, so please be sure to verify this prior to setting up VEX TEXT. Additionally, make sure the computer is able to access the Internet before you begin.

Next, your event must be listed on RobotEvents.com and the relevant information filled in on the General Setup page. Your Pit Admin or Team Registration table should be equipped with a laptop with Internet access. From there, you can access the VEX TEXT Control Panel at <http://admin.vexscores.com>. Select your event from the dropdown and enter your Tournament Password (this is the password you configured on the General Setup wizard page).

Note - Do not attempt to use the computer running the Tournament Manager to sign teams up for VEX TEXT. Use a separate computer with Internet access. No software installation is required on the signup computer since the signup process is done using a website only.

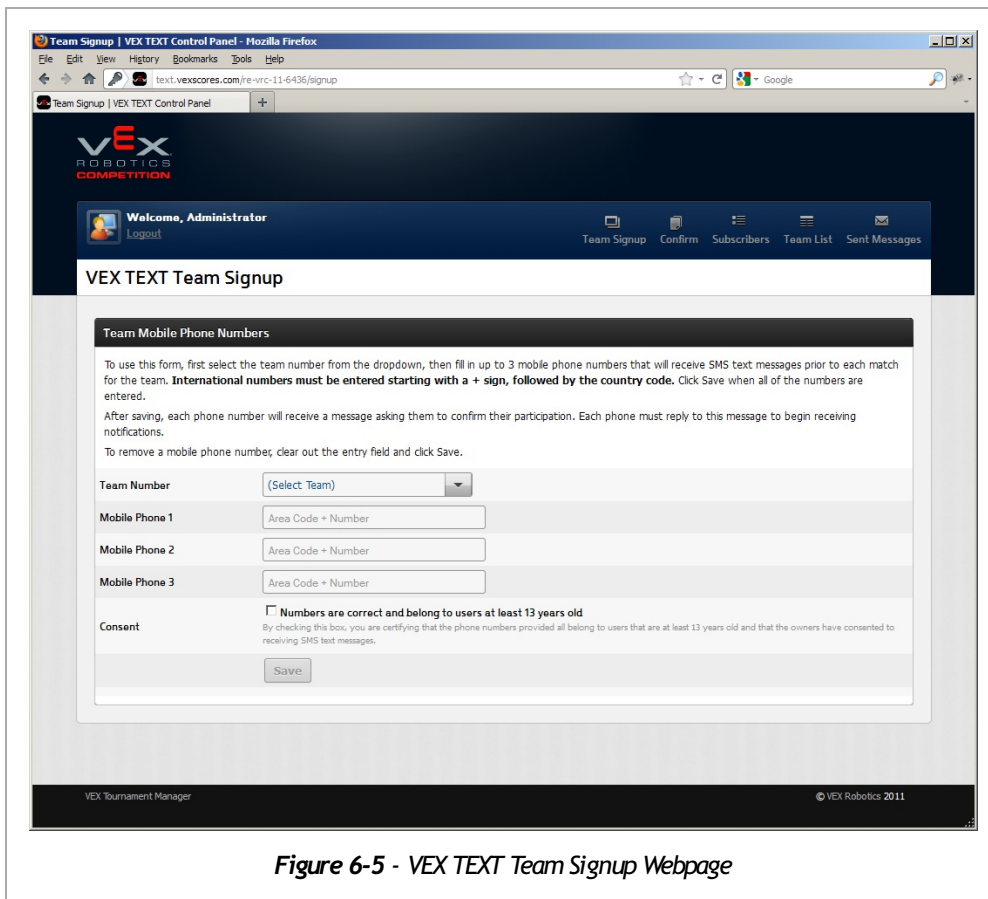


Figure 6-5 - VEX TEXT Team Signup Webpage

After logging in to the admin.vexscores.com website, you will be presented with the Team Signup page (Fig. 6-5). Select the team number from the dropdown and enter up to 3 mobile phone numbers which will receive text messages for the team specified. Then, click the checkbox indicating that the numbers are correct to the best of your knowledge and that you have confirmed that all phone numbers belong to users at least 13 years old. After that, click Save. Once you successfully save the numbers, a text message will be sent to each number asking them to confirm the registration (this is to avoid sending a large number of unwanted SMS messages to a mistyped phone number). If the phone number is from the United States, the user can confirm their number by replying and putting the word "YES" in the message. Alternately, users can confirm their number by visiting <http://text.vexscores.com/confirm> themselves, or Pit Admin can confirm the number by clicking the Confirm link at the top of the VEX TEXT Control Panel website. To confirm a number using any of these web-based methods, you will need to provide the confirmation code that was sent in the initial text message sent to the user. Make sure that the user received this message and you get the confirmation code from them before you confirm their number.

The final step necessary to use VEX TEXT is to enable text messages in the Tournament Manager Main Window. Select the *Tools* ⇒ *Text Messages* menu option and check the box to enable text messages. Make sure you enable this check box at least 30 minutes before the first match to ensure that text messages for the first few matches go out on time. The Text Messages window will show information about text messages as they are sent, so it is a good idea to leave this window open during your event.

Note - If you shut down the Tournament Manager and restart it at a later time, text messages will be disabled and you will need to re-enable them. This is a safety feature to prevent accidentally sending out text messages at the wrong time. Also note that if you suspect anything is not right with the VEX TEXT system you can shut it down by unchecking the Enable box.