



PRESENTED BY **NORTHROP GRUMMAN**
Foundation



Frequently Asked Questions Updated 04/02/2015

The Robotics Education & Competition (REC) Foundation offers the following introductory answers to the most frequently asked questions about the 2015 VEX Robotics World Championship. If you have additional questions, please contact us at support@robotevents.com.

VEX Robotics World Championship Registration and Payment

Q: Is there a multi-team discount for the World Championship?

A: No. There is not a multi-team registration discount for the 2015 World Championship. Registration is per team.

Q: When is payment due for the World Championship?

A: Teams that qualify before February 1, 2015, will have 4 weeks from the date that they qualified, to register and pay for the World Championship. Teams that qualify between February 1, 2015 and March 1, 2015, will have 2 weeks from the date that they qualified, to register and pay for the World Championship. Teams that qualify after March 1, 2015, will have one week from the date that they qualified, to register and pay for the World Championship. All teams must submit payment for their World Championship registration no later than March 15, 2015. If a team has not paid for their registration by March 15, 2015, their registration will be cancelled without notice.

Q: What is the 2015 World Championship cancellation policy?

A: World Championship registration cancellations must be received by March 3, 2015, in order to receive a full refund. All cancellations must be emailed to support@robotevents.com with the team number and the contact information for the team's contact. Teams that cancel on March 4, 2015, or after will not receive a refund for their registration fee.

Q: Can teams register for 2015-2016 season while at 2015 World Championship?

A: Yes, teams will be able to register for the 2015-16 season at the 2015 World Championship, starting Saturday, April 18, 2015. Teams not attending the World Championship can also register online for the 2015-16 VEX IQ, VRC and VEX U season by visiting the 2015 VEX Robotics World Championship Pages:

[VEX IQ Elementary School Division](#)

[VEX IQ Middle School Division](#)

[VRC Middle School Division](#)

[VRC High School Division](#)

[VEX U Division](#)

2015 VEX Robotics World Championship Preparation

Q: How can I best prepare my team for the 2015 World Championship?

A: There are several online resources that teams should consult while preparing for the 2015 World Championship. Teams should visit the following resources:

[VEX Forum & Support Page](#)

[VEX IQ Awards Appendix](#)

[VEX IQ Forum](#)

[VRC Skyrise Manual](#)

[VRC Awards Appendix](#)

[VEX IQ Highrise Manual](#)

[VEX IQ STEM Research Project](#)

[VEX U Skyrise Manual](#)

Q: How does my team participate in the VRC Parade of Nations that will occur during the opening ceremony on Thursday?

A: Each team attending the VEX World Championship must send one representative to participate in the Parade of Nations that will occur during World Championship. Prior to arriving at the VEX World Championship, teams should decide who will be their representative at the Parade of Nations. Teams will be provided with exact ceremony instructions during registration.

Travel, Accommodations and Attractions

Q: What is the closest airport to the 2015 VEX Robotics World Championship?

A: Louisville Regional Airport (SDF).

SDF is one mile from the Kentucky Exposition Center. World Championship attendees are responsible for booking their own transportation to/from the airport, and it is important to calculate the airport transportation costs into your trip. In addition, teams may consider flying into another airport close to Louisville, such as Cincinnati (CVB) or Lexington (LEX). Please note that transportation options are limited from these airports.

Q: Do any of the hotels provide transportation to and from the airport?

A: Teams will be responsible for making their own transportation arrangements from/to the airport. Airport transfer transportation options are listed on the World Championship information page under the "Travel" tab. Teams traveling together in groups of 6 or more people should contact the transportation services directly about a group discount. Please navigate to https://sandollarlimo.com/resform_event2015.php to directly book your discounted Airport Transfers.

Q: How does a team make hotel reservations for the 2015 World Championship?

A: The REC Foundation has worked with many hotels to create a one stop shop [World Championship travel website](#). This year's travel website provides a convenient location to find the following:

- Over 40 hotel options.
- Several hotels offer free airport transfer shuttles. Please refer to the official World Championship housing page for details on which hotels have airport shuttles.
- There will be a dedicated and free shuttle bus loop to and from the 2015 VEX Robotics World Championship from many of the discounted hotels during all 4 days of the event.

Q: Will transportation be provided from the various hotels to the Kentucky Exposition Center?

A: Transportation to/from many hotels in the area will be provided for at no cost on a dedicated shuttle bus during all 4 days of the event. Please visit the World Championship hotel page to see which hotels will be on the shuttle routes.

Q: How do international teams request Visa and invitation letters?

A: The REC Foundation is happy to provide Visa and invitation letters to teams. In order to process Visa and invitation letters, teams must complete two simple steps. First, the team should register and pay for the 2015 World Championship. Next, the team contact should email the following information to support@robotevents.com: team name and team number, the names and passport numbers of all team members and mentors, and the address of the Visa/Embassy office. All Visa/invitation letter requests should be submitted to the REC Foundation by January 31, 2015, to ensure proper time for processing. Requests submitted after January 31, 2015, will be processed as soon as possible, but may take between 2 to 3 weeks.

Please note that the REC Foundation will not produce a separate letter for each team member. Instead, the foundation will produce a letter for the entire team and attach the list of team members and mentors.

Q: Are there any attraction and meal discounts available to the World Championship attendees?

A: Yes. There are several discounts available to World Championship attendees. Attraction and meal discounts are listed [on the World Championship Microsite](#). Attendees wishing to take advantage of these discounts need to show a World Championship wristband or REC Foundation wristband. These wristbands will be given to team members and attendees during registration.

Q: Where should buses transporting a large number of spectators go to drop off passengers?

A: The transportation drop off is being re-developed. Please check back in January for any changes.

Q: Where can we find directions to the Kentucky Exposition Center?

A: Directions to the Kentucky Exposition Center can be found [here](#).

Drayage and Shipping Instructions

Q: How does the robot shipping work with the drayage company?

A: Robot shipping details will be available no later than the second week of January 2015.

Q: What is the best way to ship our robot and/or robot batteries to the event?

A: There are a variety of ways that robots and batteries can be shipped to the 2015 World Championship. It is suggested that this year's competitors review the suggestions that were discussed on last year's [World Championship discussion forum](#).

Q: If we choose not to use the drayage and/or shipping options, can we bring carts to haul our materials into the convention center?

A: Please use the shipping and drayage options when possible, but teams with carts that have rubber tires or wheels will be allowed to transport their materials to their pit space. Teams using carts with metal or wooden wheels will not be permitted to pull or push the cart through the exposition center. In summary, any wheels that could damage the floors of the exposition center will be turned away at the door.

Event Schedule

Q: When will the agenda for the 2015 World Championship get released?

A: The preliminary agendas have already been posted at RobotEvents.com. These agendas are subject to change but will give teams a good idea of the event schedule.

Q: Will the practice fields be available on Wednesday, April 15, 2015?

A: Yes, the practice fields will be available starting at 1:30 PM EDT on Wednesday, April 15, 2015, to teams who have passed inspection.

Q: When will division structures be released?

A: The division lists will be released Tuesday, April 14, 2015. Please visit the respective [World Championship page](#) on RobotEvents.com to find the division lists.

Q: When will match schedules be released?

A: Teams will receive the match schedules in their registration packets upon arrival. One copy of the match schedule will be placed in the registration packet.

Q: Do teams need to schedule a time to participate in the skills challenges?

A: No. The skills challenges will be open for Round 1 from 3:00-6:00 PM EDT on Wednesday, April 15, 2015. The rest of the skills challenge schedule will be posted as we get closer to the event.

Q: How many times can each team participate in the skills challenges?

A: Teams may complete each skills challenge a maximum of (3) three times.

Q: My team won't be attending the World Championship, but we would like to host a new game unveiling party. Will the new game unveiling be webcast live and when?

A: Yes, the new VRC/VEX U and VEX IQ game unveiling for the 2015-2016 season will be webcast live from the World Championship on Friday evening. The webcast URL to stream the new game unveiling live, in addition to a number of other announcements pertaining to next season, is available via the [World Championship page](#).

Event Details

Q: Do teams need to remove all equipment from the competition hall each night?

A: The event venue is secured at night, and there will be security onsite, HOWEVER, the REC Foundation and VEX Robotics encourage teams not to leave valuables in the pits. The REC Foundation and VEX Robotics assume no liability for belongings left in pits and explicitly note that anything left in the building unattended, is left there at the owner's risk. This especially applies to small, valuable items like computers and cameras. You need to decide yourself if you want to leave your robot in the pits or not. We expect that some teams will carry their robots back and forth to the venue. Since the hotels are close to the competition venue, it will be very convenient for teams to transport items back and forth.

Q: When will the event layout be released?

A: The 2015 World Championship layout will be released no later than 2 weeks prior to the event.

Q: What will be present in each team's pit?

A: VRC and VEX IQ teams will be provided with a pit measuring 10' x 10' that will have a 6' x 24" table (30" h), 2 chairs, electricity, a trash can and a team sign. The pit will have an 8-foot tall drape behind it and a 3-foot drape along the side. The VEX U pits will be 15' x 10' to accommodate for the two robots per university team.

Q: Can we bring additional spectators with us to the event?

A: Yes, we encourage teams to invite their school administration, parents, family, and interested supporters to attend with them. Admission for spectators will be free. Please note that information for spectators can be found on the [VEX Robotics World Championship page](#).

Q: Where will teams be able to purchase snacks & meals during the competition?

A: The Kentucky Exposition Center has food and snack outlets within the venue. A link to a sample concession menu has been posted on each World Championship page, or can be downloaded [here](#). The schedules for the specific concession stands will be provided to teams during registration. Teams are encouraged to pre-order snacks and meals by completing the order form located here: <http://www.roboticseducation.org/documents/2015/01/2015-vex-robotics-world-championship-pre-order-lunch-form.pdf>.

Q: Can teams bring food into the Kentucky Exposition Center (KEC)?

A: Due to the rental terms of the KEC, teams are not allowed to bring outside food into the Kentucky Exposition Center.

Q: If I have food allergies, can I get an exemption to bring food into the Kentucky Exposition Center?

A: Aramark, the food service provider for the KEC, has the capability to accommodate most food allergies. If you have a food allergy and would like specific information about how the KEC can accommodate you, please send an email to support@robotevents.com

Q: Will the World Championship be webcast and where can the webcast be found?

A: Yes, the 2015 World Championship will be webcast. The webcast URLs for all of the divisions will be listed on the [World Championship page](#) on RobotEvents.com by April 8, 2015.

Q: How are teams assigned to the different divisions?

A: Teams are randomly assigned to the divisions. It should be noted that teams from the same organization/school will be split across the divisions. While teams will be split into different divisions randomly, we expect that most pit areas will be in sequential order for VRC High School Divisions, VRC Middle Schools Divisions, VEX U, and VEX IQ.

Q: Our school/club has multiple teams; will they all be in the same division?

A: No. Teams from the same school/organization/club will be split across the various divisions.

Q: We have another team that we want to share a pit with. May we move into their pit and share the space?

A: No. Judges and other event staff looking for teams use the official pit map to locate teams. Judges are assigned to interview specific teams. Teams who have moved will not be interviewed. Teams should also realize that pit locations are organized by both team numbers and by division.

Q: When will robot inspection be open?

A: The robot inspection area will open at 1:00 PM EDT on Wednesday, April 15, 2015. After Wednesday, robot inspection will be open for the duration of the competition, but teams must pass inspection no later than 12:30pm on Thursday, April 16, 2015 in order to compete in all of their scheduled matches.

Q: When should I get my robot inspected?

A: Your robot must be inspected before your first match, and must be inspected before using the practice fields. The inspectors will mark your robot to denote that it has passed inspection, and referees will look for those inspection marks before allowing you to play. In addition, referees and inspectors may require re-inspection of your robot at any time during the event. There is no official re-inspection of robots before elimination matches, but inspectors may spot check robots at this time. Teams must have passed inspection no later than 12:30pm on Thursday, April 16, 2015.

Q: How many qualification matches will we play?

A: This will be dependent on the final number of teams participating in the 2015 World Championship. The REC Foundation is working hard as the schedule is finalized, to ensure each team will get 8 to 10 rounds of qualifying matches.

Q: Do you still need more volunteers?

A: Yes. Individuals interested in volunteering during the 2015 World Championship should visit <http://www.roboticseducation.org/vex-robotics-competitionvrc/world-championship-volunteers/> and complete the online volunteer form.

Q: If I have a robot that is running on crystals for the VRC or VEX U competition, will my robot work during the 2015 World Championship?

A: VEX Worlds Will Be VEXnet 2.0 Only Event! VEX Robotics will provide two VEXnet 2.0 keys in each of the team bags at the VEX Robotics World Championship. Therefore, teams will have at least one pair of VEXnet 2.0 keys for the event. If you have any questions about this aspect of the competition, please contact support@roboticseducation.org.

Q: Are safety glasses required during the World Championship?

A: All volunteers, drivers and coaches must wear eye protection while in the competition field areas or around the practice fields. While we always recommend the use of safety glasses, they are not required for VEX IQ participants. Teams demonstrating robots to Judges or guests must also wear eye protection. Eye protection in the pits will be left up to the discretion of individual team coaches, but we strongly recommend that eye protection be worn by anyone working on a robot, cutting materials, or in the vicinity of a working robot. When in doubt, get the glasses out and put them on.

Q: Will all the pits be in one space?

A: The team pits will be in multiple Halls. The Halls are connected and the pits will be organized by division.

Q: Is there a dress code for the 2015 World Championship?

A: Students should consult with their team mentor or coach. All attendees must wear closed toe and heel shoes during the event. Otherwise, there are no specific dress code restrictions. Attendees are reminded to dress comfortably and appropriately, and to avoid loose hanging clothes if they are going to work with tools in the team pit area.

Q: Do middle school VRC teams have to compete in the middle school division(s) or can they choose to play in the high school division?

A: Middle school VRC teams must compete in the middle school division during the 2015 World Championship.

Q: Can high school students who are taking college courses compete in the VEX U Competition?

A: The robot drivers in the VEX U Competition must be enrolled in a post-secondary school and cannot be enrolled in a secondary educational institution. Anyone may serve as a VEX U coach.

Q: How will the VRC Excellence Award winner be decided this year?

A: Please refer to the [Skyrise Awards appendix](#)

Q: Will there be AC power at the field for our VEX Joystick power supply?

A: No, please be sure that your batteries are fully charged before each match.

Q: Will the competition officials use anti-static spray on the fields this year? What is the spray that will be used?

A: Yes, it is normal practice to use an anti-static spray at a competition of this size. This spray or something similar may/will be used to spray the tiles during the World Championship: <http://www.mouser.com/ProductDetail/Techspray/1726-QT/?qs=sGAEpiMZZMvJqaFk9Blivz97Mkiy9G9ySotD3j1hkLM%3d>.

Q: What is the suggested format for the engineering notebook?

A: Teams may wish to use the Robotics Engineering Notebook supplied by the REC Foundation as their notebook. Additional notebooks are available for purchase (<http://www.vexrobotics.com/vex/products/books/276-3023.html>). However, the Engineering Notebook requirement for the Design Award has no specified format. Each notebook should be created through a concerted effort by a team to document their design decisions. Teams should start their notebooks early and update them often in order to fully display the team's progress during the competition season for the judging team. Judges will be looking for documentation of the engineering design process and the use of project management, time management and teamwork.

Q: Will my team be able to construct our own pit space?

A: Teams are discouraged from "building" temporary structures in their pits spaces. Please feel free to bring stands to display information, however no structures stretching over the top of, or covering your pit will be allowed.

Q: What is the robot inspection Fast Pass?

A: Donate an experienced volunteer to help at inspections and your team will get a free pass to the robot inspection express line! Just get a volunteer to help out with inspections Wednesday afternoon (1:00 PM -- 7:00 PM EDT). One inspection pass (one robot) per volunteer.

Q: Can my team bring additional chairs to place in our pit area?

A: Yes, teams are permitted to bring small folding chairs, camp chairs, etc. into their pit space. Please remember that all items must fit comfortably within your pit space.

Q: Can my team bring noise making devices to the event?

A: Electronic noise making devices, such as sirens and megaphones, will not be permitted. Loud whistles and other devices designed to amplify noise are strongly discouraged and may be confiscated for the remainder of the event. Please remember to cheer for your team(s) in a manner that is polite and respectful of the other teams in attendance.

Merchandise Sales

Q: Will VEX Robotics have its on-location store where we can buy spare parts again this year?

A: There will be a REC Foundation store, selling VEX Robotics parts at the 2015 World Championship. Please note that there is no guarantee for how long the inventory will last. Please plan ahead and bring a good supply of spare parts with you.

Q: What other merchandise will be sold during the 2015 World Championship?

A: As in past years, there will be a 2015 World Championship shirt sold with the list of attending teams on the back. The t-shirt vendor will have other customizable apparel available for sale. Teams can order World Championship apparel by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/2015VEX>. A variety of HEXBUG toys will be sold at the REC Foundation store inside the Kentucky Exposition Center.

Q: Can teams bring items to sell from their booths during World Championship?

A: No. Teams may not sell items from their pit or on the grounds of the Kentucky Exposition Center. Teams are allowed to distribute free items such as pins, buttons, stickers, information flyers, etc. Food or beverage distribution is strictly prohibited.

Q: Can teams, spectators, or attendees use “drones” or other airborne items?

A: For the safety and comfort of all participants and attendees, no flying objects (including drones) will be allowed during the 2015 VEX Robotics World Championship.