



ROBOTICS EDUCATION &
COMPETITION FOUNDATION

VRC Qualifying Criteria

2018-2019



2018-19 VEX Robotics Competition Championship Qualifying Criteria



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2018-19 VEX Robotics Competition Championship Qualifying Criteria



OVERVIEW

VRC teams must meet the following criteria to qualify for participation in the 2018-19 VEX Robotics Competition State, Regional, Provincial, and National Championships.

This Criteria will have scheduled updates on **August 15, 2018** and **January 15, 2019**. The January update will only include the additional spot allocations and add more spots to the award table if necessary.

EVENT CRITERIA

VRC official qualifying events (Tournaments and Leagues) must meet the following criteria:

Registration

The following registration requirements must be met for events to be qualifying.

1. Listed as a VRC event with online registration hosted on RobotEvents.com.
2. Comprised of teams that have completed their 2018-19 VRC Team registration. Teams will not be able to register for events until their Team Registration is completed and paid via credit card, check, or purchase order.
3. Required to have at least 16 registered teams. League Ranking Sessions may have less than 16 teams participating, if the league has the required 16 registered teams.
4. Tournament Manager results must be uploaded within 48 hours of event completion.
5. RobotEvents.com registrations and payments must be completed before any event. The Event Partner must mark teams as **Paid** on RobotEvents.com for any team that pays the Event Partner directly. This includes payment by trades and deals allowed by the Event Partner. The Event Partner does not have to accept direct payments and can require all teams to pay through Robot Events.
6. If a Tournament has fewer than 6 organizations registered, no organization may have more than 33% of the total number of registered teams. Organizations are defined by the location of the hosting school or group. Having multiple team numbers or listing different names when a group meets together does not constitute a separate organization. However, each school in a district is recognized as a different organization and should have their own set of team numbers.
7. Event Partners will be permitted to host 1 event without organizational or team percentage registration restrictions given that they host another equal sized or greater event the same season in the same program following all registration restrictions.

Dates and Deadlines

Qualifying events must abide by the following dates and deadlines:

1. Held between **June 1, 2018**, and two weeks prior to the State/Regional/Provincial/National Championship event for which they will qualify.
2. **Posting Deadline:** Official Qualifying Tournaments and Leagues must be posted on RobotEvents.com by **October 1, 2018** and be open for registration at least 8 weeks in advance of the event.
3. All State/Regional Championship events within the US must be held no later than **March 10, 2019**. All Provincial/Regional/National Championship events outside of the US must be held no later than **March 3, 2019**.

Rules and Guidelines

Qualifying events must follow the rules and guidelines in these documents and manuals:

1. Official Game Manual including tournament/alliance selection guidelines.
2. Judge Guide and judging rubrics.

Note: In order for an event to award an Excellence Award, the event must also offer a Design award.

Leagues

Leagues should follow these guidelines:

1. Leagues are encouraged to have multiple unique match play dates; the required minimum is 3 Ranking Sessions and a Final League Championship Session.
2. Leagues that have fewer than 6 organizations registered, might earn fewer spots than Tournaments of equal size to keep the balance of teams having the opportunity to qualify for the State/Regional/Provincial/National Championship.

Robot Skills

Robot Skills at events should follow these guidelines:

1. Tournaments and Leagues with 24 or more teams registered, must offer Driving and Programming Skills Challenge Matches. Skills Challenge Matches are highly recommended for all events.
2. Any event offering the Robot Skills Challenge must offer both Driving and Programming Skills Challenge attempts to attending teams. The recommended maximum number of matches is 3 of each skill.
3. Skills Challenge scores for all official qualifying events will be included in the World Skills Standings on RobotEvents.com.
4. Skills-Only Events are not qualifying events and will not have their results uploaded to the World Skills Standings. These are for practice only.

Note: From time to time, the REC Foundation may make an exception to one of these criteria to better support a growing State/Province/Region/Nation. For more information, please contact your REC Foundation Regional Support Manager.

QUALIFYING TEAMS TO STATE/REGIONAL/PROVINCIAL/NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

“Two ways to for teams to qualify”

Teams qualify for State/Regional/Provincial/National Championship one of the following ways:

1. All official local tournaments and leagues held at least two weeks prior to the State/Regional/Provincial/National Championship may qualify their top teams for the championship in the same State/Region/Province (details below).
2. Top Robot Skills Challenge scores listed on the World Skills Ranking within the state may qualify for State/Regional/Provincial/National Championship (details below).

QUALIFICATION DETAILS

Spots

Championship spots are allocated to events based on the following:

1. Teams are permitted to attend only one (1) State/Regional/Provincial/National Championship
2. State/Province/Country Championships are closed to teams outside of that State/Province/Country. Some regions may have States/Provinces that band together to hold a Regional Championship. When that is the case, only teams from that region may attend that Regional Championship.
3. The Spot Level is the number of qualifying spots an event is given to qualify teams to the Championship level. This Spot Level is dependent on the capacity of the Championship, the number of events leading up to Championship, and the size of the qualifying event. The REC Regional Support Manager will determine how many spots each event is given to fill the Championship event, categorizing events as Large, Medium and Small. More spots may be given to Large events and less spots to Small events. Events of the same size in the State/Region/Province/Nation should expect to have the same number of spots.
4. Once the Spot Level is determined for each event, the qualifying awards are based on the following chart, with either one (1) or (2) Excellence Awards being given.
5. If there is an out-of-state/region/province/nation team, or a team that double qualifies from the event (not from previous events or other methods), that spot will go to the next highest unqualified team on the Robot Skills ranking at that event. There is no look-back to previous events to see if a team has previously qualified. These spots will be filled by the Regional Support Manager.
6. Spot levels must follow the order of priority found in the table below.

Spot Level	Excellence Award	Tournament Champions	Design Award	Robot Skills Champion	Tournament Finalists	Semi Finalist	Amaze, Think, Innovate, Build, Create**
1 Spot	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 Spots	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
4 Spots	1	2	1	-	-	-	-
5 Spots	1	2	1	1	-	-	-
6 Spots	1	2	1	-	2	-	-
7 Spots	1	2	1	1	2	-	-
10 Spots	1	2	1	-	2	4	-
11 Spots	1	2	1	1	2	4	-
12-16 Spots	1	2	1	1	2	4	1-5

* If the Event is giving 2 Excellence Awards, simply add 1 to the Spot Level for the additional Excellence Award, in which case there would be a Middle School Excellence Award and High School Excellence Award given.

** Priority is given to Awards listed in order, starting with Amaze and ending with Create.

Awards

Awards at qualifying events are determined based on the following criteria:

1. If no Excellence Award is given, only the two (2) Tournament Champions will qualify to the State/Province Championship event.
2. Events that offer the Excellence Award will give one (1) Excellence Award when there is only one (1) grade level registered to the event, OR when there are less than ten (10) teams from one grade level registered two (2) weeks prior to the event.

3. Events that offer the Excellence Award will give two (2) Excellence Awards when the event is a blended event of both middle and high school teams with at least ten (10) teams from each grade level registered two (2) weeks prior to the event.

Robot Skills

Top Robot Skills Challenge scores will be used to fill the remaining capacity of the State/Region/Province/Nation Championship event. Top Robot Skills Challenge teams are listed in Robot Events on the World Skills Standings page. The team(s) that will be invited, will be determined based on their scores after the last official VRC event in the state/region/province/nation. If there is remaining capacity due to teams not accepting the invite, the capacity will either be lowered, and the event will be closed, or teams will be invited from the wait list.

Dates and Deadlines

Teams that qualify for State/Regional/Provincial/National Championship, on or before, **February 1, 2019**, will have two weeks to register and pay by credit card, check or PO for the State Championship. Teams that qualify on or after **February 2, 2019**, (or qualified for a Championship that is less than three weeks away) will have one week to register and pay by credit card, check or PO for the State Championship.

VEX WORLDS QUALIFICATION

The number of qualifying spots a State/Regional/Provincial/National Championship will allocate for VEX Worlds is based on the percentage of VRC teams the state had last season in relation to the total number of teams in the program from that previous season, separated by Middle and High School. The same chart found above is used to show which awards at a State/Regional/Provincial/National Championship Tournament will qualify for the 2019 VEX Robotics World Championship based on how many spots the state has been allocated.

Spots

VEX Worlds spots are allocated based on the following:

1. On **January 1, 2019**, additional spots will be allocated to regions that have higher-than-average growth to re-balance spot levels due to these additional teams. Teams added after January 1, 2019, will not be considered in this re-balancing allocation of spots.
2. When inviting teams from the World Skills Standing, the Middle School Spots will be given to Middle School teams, and High School Spots will be given to High School Teams.
3. At least one official VRC event must take place in a state/region/country to receive a spot.
4. Spot allocations for each State/Regional/Provincial/National will be given to that number of different teams.
5. If all spots could not be given away, or if a team qualifies multiple times, there will be spots that need to be re-allocated. Remaining middle school spots will be given to middle school teams and remaining high school spots will be given to high school teams. The highest, unqualified team on the Robot Skills Challenge Score from the World Robot Skills Standings, from that region will get the spot and be determined after the last State/Regional/Province/Nation Championship in that region. Scores from the State/Regional/Province/Nation Championship will be included on the World Robot Skills Standings for consideration in this process.

Registration

The following details about event registration effect VEX Worlds qualifications.

1. While many States/Regions/Provinces will continue to host events open to High Schools and Middle Schools, referenced as “blended” events, many States/Regions/Provinces will have championship events for high school and middle school teams separately. Please be sure to check RobotEvents.com for a complete listing of events and more information.

2. States that have more than one assigned Middle School World Championship spot should make every attempt to hold separate Middle School and High School Championship events. If the only option is to host a blended event, the middle school spots can only go to middle school teams. The high school spots can be won by middle school or high school teams.
Note: This could result in some of the Middle School spots being awarded to the Top Middle School Robot Skills teams. The top Middle School Robot Skills Score team(s) would be determined after the final Championship Event in that State/Region.
3. Payments by Credit Card, Check or Purchase Order must be received by **March 27, 2019**.

Dates and Deadlines

VEX Worlds qualifications are held for teams for a limited time from the date of the event at which they qualified. Teams that qualify before **February 1, 2019**, will have three weeks to register. Teams that qualify on or after **February 1, 2019**, will have one week to register.

Awards

States that have only one assigned Middle School World Championship spot may give that qualifying spot to the Middle School Excellence Award winning team at a blended State/Regional Championship.

Note: Please contact your REC Foundation Regional Support Manager for additional information regarding qualifying events, qualifying spots, growth considerations, and any other questions.

World Robot Skills Standings

Teams will no longer be invited from the World Robot Skills Standings unless it is to award a spot to a team based on a Double Qualification scenario as described in the previous section.

Signature Events

The REC Foundation is excited to announce that a series of Signature Events, from around the world, will begin enabling teams to earn an invitation to directly attend the VEX Robotics World Championship. The intent of these special events is to promote cross-regional and international play and provide teams with an additional opportunity to qualify for the World Championship. During the 2017-2018 Season, the following events were selected to pilot this new opportunity:

- 2017 Hawaiian Electric Companies ECUH Pan Pacific VEX IQ Championships
- 11th Asia-Pacific Robotics Championship 2017
- 2017-18 Asia Open VEX Robotics Competition – High School
- Kalahari Classic – VEX IQ Challenge and VRC

REC Foundation Event Partners are encouraged to submit their 2018-19 event for consideration as a Signature Event, if they meet the requirements below:

1. No more than 75% of teams participating can be from single state/province/nation (as defined by the spot allocation table above)
2. A minimum of 3 state/province/nations (event regions) must be represented at event (as defined by the spot allocation table above)
3. Events must be posted by **October 1** of the competition season
4. Event applications must be received by September 1st of the competition season. Ask your Regional Support Manager for a copy of the application.
5. The primary event partner applying for event designation must have served as a primary event partner for an official tournament previously
6. The event must not be held during the same date range (within one week) as another regional/state/provincial/national championship in the expected attendance area
7. The event must satisfy all other “official event” requirements listed on page 1 of this document
8. The event must not have any other World Championship spots and must not be designated as an official state/regional/national championship.

Additional considerations for selection include:

1. Other applications in your geographic area will be considered alongside
2. Economic impact on projected teams in attendance
3. Evaluation of probable teams vs. posted capacity
4. Events will be evaluated on a rolling basis, please submit your events for consideration as early as possible, beginning on **June 1, 2018**.

** The REC Foundation will consider many different factors when determining which events will be selected to receive World Championship spots. Application submission does not guarantee selection as a Signature Event, and not all eligible events will be selected.*

Overview

Below are the Current VRC World Championship spot allocations for each Region. In January, this table will be updated, and a few spots will be added to regions that have well-above average growth, to re-balance the allocations based on team registration numbers as of January 1, 2019.

Region	Country	High School Spots	Middle School Spots	Total Spots
	Australia	3	1	4
	Bahamas	1	1	2
	Bahrain	3	1	4
	Bermuda	0	1	1
	Brazil	1	0	1
	Cambodia	1	0	1
Alberta	Canada	3	1	4
British Columbia	Canada	8	1	9
Ontario	Canada	13	1	14
Quebec	Canada	1	0	1
Saskatchewan	Canada	1	1	2
	Chile	1	0	1
	China	22	14	36
	Colombia	3	1	4
	Egypt	1	0	1
	Ethiopia	1	0	1
	France	1	0	1
	Germany	1	1	2
	Guatemala	1	1	2
	Hong Kong	3	1	4
	Indonesia	1	0	1
	Ireland	3	1	4
	Japan	3	1	4
	Kazakhstan	1	1	2
	Lebanon	3	0	3
	Liberia	0	1	1
	Macau	1	1	2
	Malaysia	1	1	2
	Mexico	18	1	19

Region	Country	High School Spots	Middle School Spots	Total Spots
	New Zealand	6	1	7
	Panama	1	0	1
	Paraguay	1	1	2
	Philippines	1	0	1
	Puerto Rico	4	1	5
	Russia	3	1	4
	Saudi Arabia	1	1	2
	Senegal	1	0	1
	Singapore	3	1	4
	South Korea	3	1	4
	Spain	1	1	2
	Syria	1	0	1
	Taiwan	1	1	2
	Thailand	1	1	2
	Tunisia	1	0	1
	Turkey	1	0	1
	Uganda	1	0	1
	United Arab Emirates	3	1	4
	United Kingdom	8	1	9
	Vietnam	1	0	1
Alabama	United States	7	1	8
Alaska	United States	0	0	0
Arizona	United States	7	3	10
Arkansas	United States	6	3	9
Armed Forces Pacific	United States	1	0	1
California	United States	40	12	52
Colorado	United States	3	1	4
Connecticut	United States	4	1	5
Delmarva	United States	3	1	4
District of Columbia	United States	1	0	1
Federated States of Micronesia	United States	1	0	1
Florida	United States	15	3	18
Georgia	United States	15	3	18
Hawaii	United States	4	1	5
Idaho	United States	3	1	4
Illinois	United States	10	3	13
Indiana	United States	11	1	12

Region	Country	High School Spots	Middle School Spots	Total Spots
Iowa	United States	3	1	4
Kansas	United States	4	1	5
Kentucky	United States	9	3	12
Louisiana	United States	4	1	5
Maine	United States	4	1	5
Maryland	United States	11	3	14
Massachusetts	United States	10	3	13
Michigan	United States	14	4	18
Minnesota	United States	9	3	12
Mississippi	United States	4	1	5
Missouri	United States	3	1	4
Montana	United States	3	1	4
Nebraska	United States	10	3	13
Nevada	United States	4	1	5
New Hampshire	United States	5	1	6
New Jersey	United States	7	1	8
New Mexico	United States	3	1	4
New York	United States	15	1	16
North Carolina	United States	4	1	5
North Dakota	United States	3	1	4
Ohio	United States	17	3	20
Oklahoma	United States	5	3	8
Oregon	United States	6	1	7
Pennsylvania	United States	12	3	15
Rhode Island	United States	1	1	2
South Carolina	United States	6	3	9
South Dakota	United States	3	1	4
Tennessee	United States	8	3	11
Texas	United States	29	8	37
Utah	United States	5	1	6
Vermont	United States	1	1	2
Virginia	United States	12	6	18
Washington	United States	10	3	13
West Virginia	United States	3	1	4
Wisconsin	United States	6	1	7
Wyoming	United States	1	1	2