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Foundation



Frequently Asked Questions

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The REC Foundation offers the following introductory answers to Frequently Asked Questions about 2020 VEX Robotics World Championship. Information can also be found on the [VEX Robotics World Championship](#) and the [Plan Your Visit](#) pages. If you have additional questions, please email vexworlds2020@roboticseducation.org.

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REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

Q: Is there a multi-team discount for VEX Worlds?

A: No. Registration is conducted on a per team basis.

Q: When is payment due?

A: All payments for VEX Worlds must be made by March 25.

Q: What is the cancellation policy?

A: VEX Robotics World Championship registration cancellations must be received by March 16, 2020, 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. Teams that cancel on March 17, 2020, or after will not receive a refund for their registration fee.

Q: Can teams register for next season while at VEX Worlds?

A: Yes. VRC and VEX U teams will be able to register for the 2020-2021 season at VEX Worlds starting Saturday, April 25, 2020. VEX IQ Challenge teams will be able to register for the 2020-2021 season starting on Tuesday, April 28, 2020. Teams not attending the event can also register online for the 2019-2020 VEX IQ Challenge, VRC, and VEX U season by visiting RobotEvents.com.

PREPARATION

Q: How can I best prepare my team for VEX Worlds?

A: Teams should consult the following online resources:

- [VEX IQ Challenge Squared Away One Page Description](#): Single-page overview of the current VEX IQ Challenge game.
- [VRC Tower Takeover One Page Description](#): Single-page overview of the current VRC game.
- [Tips for VEX IQ Challenge Teams to Prepare for Events](#): Tips to help teams before, during, and after events (VEX IQ Challenge).
- [Things I Wish I Knew Before Attending VEX Worlds](#): A list of important things to know before taking part in VEX Worlds.

Q: How will REC Foundation staff know who is representing my team in the Parade of Nations?

A: Parade of Nations participants will wear a wristband provided to them in the team's registration packet. Only students wearing the appropriate wristband will be allowed to check in and participate in the parade. Further instructions will be included in the registration packet.

Q: When is the deadline to submit nominations for the Inspiration All-Stars Award?

A: Submissions for this year's Inspiration All-Stars Award closed on January 2, 2020.

TRAVEL ACCOMMODATIONS AND ATTRACTIONS

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

A: [Click here](#) to make hotel reservations for the VEX Robotics World Championship.

Q: Which airport is the closest to the Kentucky Exposition Center?

A: Louisville Regional Airport (SDF) is one mile from the Kentucky Exposition Center. Event attendees are responsible for booking their own transportation to and from the airport. We recommend calculating airport transportation costs into the budget for your trip. In addition, teams may consider flying into another airport close to Louisville, such as Cincinnati (CVB), Indianapolis (IND), 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: Some hotels have a shuttle service; however, teams are responsible for making their own transportation arrangements to and from the airport. Hotels that provide shuttle service will be noted within the initial hotel description.

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

A: Many of the hotels will have free shuttle service to and from the KEC on competition days. Check back soon for the Shuttle Schedule.

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, please have the team's primary contact fill out [this form](#) which will include the following information:

- Team info such as number, school/organization, and contact details
- Names, birth dates, and passport country/number for every team member (including adults traveling as mentors or chaperones)

Note: 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: Do all teams get a parking pass?

A: All teams will get one parking pass valid for the duration of the event. Teams will receive parking passes at registration during check-in. Purchase additional parking passes at the following links.

- [VRC/VEX U](#) — April 22-25
- [VEX IQ Challenge](#) — April 26-28

Parking passes may also be purchased at the ticket booth immediately inside the glass doors of the Workman Lobby.

Q: What are the parking costs for KEC?

A: All teams will get one parking pass valid for the duration of the event. Teams will receive parking passes at Registration during check-in.

There are two options for purchasing your Parking Passes while attending the VEX World events April 24-30. You may purchase parking passes **online at a reduced cost from ParkMobile** ([VRC/VEX U](#) — April 22-25; [VEX IQ Challenge](#) — April 26-28) or purchase parking passes once you reach the Kentucky Exposition Center.

Important things to know regarding Parking at the Kentucky Exposition Center:

- Best deal for parking passes is to purchase them online at a reduced cost.
- When purchasing parking passes online, you can print your parking pass or download the ParkMobile Android or Apple App. KEC will accept the parking passes on your phone.
- There are no fees when purchasing parking passes online. For example, the \$8.00 Single Day, Single Use pass will only cost \$8.00 and nothing more.
- At the gate a Single Day, Single Use parking pass is good for any one day, for one-time parking. If you leave and come back to KEC on the same day, you will have to pay the “at the Gate” \$10 parking fee again.
- An “In/Out parking pass” allows you to come and go as often as you need to each day, with no additional charges.
- You may only purchase a Single Day, Single Use pass at the KEC Gates. Multi-Day passes are not available for sale at the KEC Gates but are available for upgrade to an in-out or multi-day pass at designated areas inside KEC.
- You are able to upgrade a Single Day, Single Use parking pass at one of the designated upgrade stations located at KEC. All upgrade costs will be based on the “At the Gate” pricing and not the online pricing.
- Online parking passes will remain available for sale throughout the VEX Worlds event
- All parking pass sales are final, and no refunds will be given for any reason.
- The on-site ticket booth is located inside the glass doors of Workman Lobby. If a team has more than one vehicle, additional vehicles will need to pay for parking.
- Parking is free on Wednesday, April 22, and Sunday, April 26.

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

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

Q: We have a team member that needs special accommodations. Who do I contact to ensure their needs are met?

A: Please notate the special accommodations that are needed in your team’s registration survey and email your request to vexworlds2020@roboticseducation.org.

Q: Where can charter busses park that bring people to the KEC each day?

A: Charter or school busses enter through KEC Gate 1. Turn right after entering and then proceed to lot E-1 to park.

ROBOT & EQUIPMENT SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

Q: Can teams ship equipment and robots directly to VEX Worlds?

A: Yes, but there are some very specific instructions that must be followed in the following Competitor Kits, and all shipments must be sent through the event's show decorator, Fern. Contact Fern at (502) 367-0254 with any shipping questions.

- [VEX IQ Challenge Competitor Kit](#)
- [VRC and VEX U Competitor Kit](#)

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

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

Note: Teams are advised to check with hotels to see if they have the capability to receive large packages.

Q: Where should teams dispose of batteries?

A: Instead of disposing of batteries in the regular garbage, teams and parents should visit Pit Admin and drop off their batteries for disposal.

VEX IQ CHALLENGE AGENDA & EVENT-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Q: When will the Agenda for VEX Worlds be released?

A: [Click here](#) for the 2020 VEX Robotics World Championship Agenda. Please note that since this agenda is tentative, times may vary from 15-30 minutes.

Q: Will the practice fields be available on Sunday, April 26?

A: Yes, the practice fields will be available starting at 12:00 p.m. EDT on Sunday, April 28, to teams who have passed inspection.

Q: What is the height of the VEX IQ Challenge fields?

A: VEX IQ Challenge fields are raised by 18".

Q: When will Division lists be released?

A: Division lists will be released in the weeks prior to the event.

Q: How many times can each team participate in the Skills Challenges?

A: Teams may complete each Skills Challenge (Driver & Programming) a maximum of 3 times for Driver and 3 times for Programming for 6 total skills runs. On the last day of the Skills Challenges, teams will only be permitted to run 1 of each type of skills if they have any remaining runs.

Q: When will Robot Inspection be open for VEX IQ Challenge?

A: Inspection opens at 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 26. All robots will need to be inspected no later than 8 p.m. on Sunday, April 26.

Robots must be inspected before the team's first match and must be inspected before using the practice fields. Inspectors will mark the robot to denote that it has passed inspection, and Referees will look for those inspection marks before allowing 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.

Q: Is my VEX IQ Challenge team eligible for the Excellence Award at Worlds?

A: VEX IQ Challenge teams must have been awarded the Excellence Award at an event that qualifies teams directly to VEX Worlds during the current competition season to be eligible for Excellence at VEX Worlds.

Teams must submit their Engineering Notebook at check-in on Sunday to be considered for the Excellence Award at VEX Worlds.

The primary contact for each eligible team should receive an email the week of March 30, 2020. All team interviews in VEX IQ Challenge are conducted by Judges in the team pit area.

Excellence candidates are also eligible to submit a STEM Research Project video through the VEX Awards system by Friday, April 3, 2020. The VEX Awards system can be found at: www.robotevents.com/vexawards.

Q: Do I have to sign up separately for the STEM Research Project submission?

A: Eligible teams will submit an online video submission through the VEX Awards system at www.robotevents.com/vexawards. Teams must have been awarded the STEM Research Project Award or the Excellence Award at an event that qualifies teams directly to VEX Worlds during the current competition season to be eligible to submit an online video presentation for VEX Worlds. Teams that are eligible to submit STEM Project Videos for VEX Worlds will be notified in the month prior to Worlds.

Q: Should my team bring their notebook if they are not eligible for the Design or Excellence Award at VEX Worlds?

A: Yes, your team should keep their notebook in their pit area to show judges who may be interested in looking at your notebook during the event.

Q: What is the suggested format for the Engineering Notebook for VEX IQ Challenge?

A: Teams may wish to use the Robotics Engineering Notebook supplied by the REC Foundation as their notebook. Additional notebooks are available for purchase [here](#).

For more information on Engineering Notebooks visit the following links:

- [Sample VEX IQ Challenge Design Notebook](#)
- [Team Design Notebooks and Team Journals](#)

Q: Is my VEX IQ Challenge team eligible to submit their notebook for the Design Award at Worlds?

A: VRC teams must have been awarded the Excellence Award at an event that qualifies teams directly to VEX Worlds during the current competition season to be eligible for Excellence at VEX Worlds.

Teams must submit their Engineering Notebook at check-in on Wednesday to be considered for the Excellence Award at VEX Worlds.

The primary contact for each eligible team should receive an email the week of March 30, 2020. All team interviews in VRC are conducted by Judges in the team pit area.

Q: When and where will Engineering Notebooks for VEX IQ Challenge be returned to the teams?

A: Engineering Notebooks will be returned to Pit Administration for teams to pick up on Tuesday.

Q: When and where will Engineering Notebooks for VEX IQ Challenge be returned to the teams?

A: Engineering Notebooks will be returned to Pit Administration for teams to pick up on Tuesday, April 28.

Q: What is the VEX IQ Challenge Robot Skills Challenge Queue FASTPASS?

A: Teams that donate a volunteer to help as a Judge for an entire day or more will get a FASTPASS to the Robot Skills Challenge queue. Click [here](#) for rules and additional information.

VRC/VEX U AGENDA & EVENT-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Q: When will the agenda for VEX Worlds be released?

A: [Click here](#) for the 2020 VEX Robotics World Championship Agenda. Please note that since this agenda is tentative, times may vary from 15-30 minutes.

Q: Will the practice fields be available on Wednesday, April 22?

A: Yes, the practice fields will be available starting at 12:00 p.m. EDT on Wednesday April 22, to teams who have passed inspection.

Q: What is the height of the VRC and VEX U fields at VEX Worlds?

A: VRC and VEX U fields at VEX Worlds are raised by 24".

Q: When will division lists be released?

A: Division lists will be released in the weeks prior to the event.

Q: When will match schedules be released?

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

Q: How many times can each team participate in the Skills Challenges?

A: Teams may complete each Skills Challenge (Driver & Programming) a maximum of three times for Driver and three times for Programming for 6 total skills runs. On the last day of the Skills Challenges, teams will only be permitted to run one of each type of skills if they have any remaining runs.

Q: Will the new game unveiling be webcast live and when?

A: Yes, the new VRC/VEX U and VEX IQ Challenge game unveiling for the 2019-20 season will be webcast live from VEX Worlds.

Q: When will Robot Inspection be open for VRC?

A: Inspection open at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 22. All robots will need to be inspected no later than 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 23.

Robots must be inspected before the teams' first match and must be inspected before using the practice fields. 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.

Q: Should my team bring their notebook if they are not eligible for the Design or Excellence Award at VEX Worlds?

A: Yes, your team should keep their notebook in their pit area to show judges who may be interested in looking at your notebook during the event.

Q: Is my VRC team eligible to submit their notebook for the Design Award at Worlds?

A: VRC teams must have been awarded the Design or Excellence Award at a state/regional/provincial/national level championship event to be eligible for Design at VEX Worlds. The primary contact for each eligible team should have received an email the week of March 25 with instructions to submit their Engineering Notebooks during team check in on Wednesday, April 24.

Q: What is the suggested format for the Engineering Notebook for VRC?

A: Teams may wish to use the Robotics Engineering Notebook supplied by the REC Foundation as their notebook. Additional notebooks are available for purchase [here](#). For more information on Engineering Notebooks visit the following links:

- [Sample VRC Design Notebook](#)
- [Team Design Notebooks and Team Journals](#)

Q: When and where will Engineering Notebooks for VRC be returned to the teams?

A: Engineering Notebooks will be returned to Pit Administration for teams to pick up on Saturday.

Q: What is the Derby Festival Marathon and when does it take place?

A: Saturday April 25 at 7:30 a.m. is when the Derby Festival Marathon begins. The starting line will be at Main Street and Brook Street in Downtown Louisville and will end at Preston and Witherspoon Street. The finish line will close at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Q: What is the VRC Robot Skills Challenge Queue FASTPASS?

A: Teams that donate a volunteer to help as a Judge for an entire day or more will get a FASTPASS to the Robot Skills Challenge queue. [Click here](#) for rules and additional information.

GENERAL EVENT DETAILS

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

A: The REC Foundation and VEX Robotics encourage teams not to leave valuables in the pits, 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 to and from the venue. Since hotels are close to the venue it will be convenient for teams to transport items back and forth.

Q: When will the Event Layout be released?

A: Venue maps will be posted in the weeks prior to the event.

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

A: Pit areas for both VEX IQ Challenge and VRC teams will be 10' x 10' that will have a 6' x 30" skirted table (30" h), 2 chairs, 1 electrical outlet, a trash can and a team sign. The pit will have an 8-foot tall drape at the back and a 3-foot drape at the side.

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 into the event for spectators will be free. Parking fees will apply.

Q: Will nuts and peanuts be served in the KEC facility?

A: Yes, there will be tree nuts and peanuts served in the KEC facility.

Q: Is Kosher food available in the KEC?

A: Kosher meals must be ordered ahead of time through the venue's official catering service. Robbin Chapman with Levy Catering can be contacted at rchapman@levyrestaurants.com about Kosher meals.

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

A: No outside food is allowed in the KEC.

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

A: Levy, 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 vexworlds@robotevents.com.

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

A: All pre-orders for lunch conclude April 3. Pre-ordered lunches can be picked up at the entrance from North Hall into Freedom Hall, next to the small Fine Designs store.

For hours that concession areas and food trucks are open during VEX Worlds [click here](#).

Q: Will there be other food available near KEC?

A: Yes. There will be a Food Truck Village located next to the Crowne Plaza near the entrance to the Kentucky Exposition Center.

Q: Will VEX Worlds be webcast and where can the webcast be found?

A: Yes, the webcast links for all the divisions will be listed on the VEX Worlds events pages on RobotEvents.com prior to the event.

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 each Division.

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: Can we move to a different pit if it is not occupied? 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 use the official pit map to locate teams. Judges are assigned to interview specific teams. Teams who have moved will not be interviewed. Pit locations are organized by both team numbers and by Division.

Q: How many qualification matches will we play?

A: This will be dependent on the final number of teams participating in VEX Worlds. As the schedule is finalized, the REC Foundation is working to ensure each team will get 8-10 rounds of qualifying matches.

Q: Do you still need more volunteers?

A: Yes. Interested individuals should complete the online volunteer form at: <http://www.roboticseducation.org/volunteers/vex-worlds-volunteers/>.

If you have team members or adults on site who would like to volunteer at any time during the week, please see the Volunteer Registration Desk in the lobby.

Note: A typical volunteer shift is 4-6 hours.

Q: Are safety glasses required during VEX Worlds?

A: All volunteers, drivers, and coaches must wear eye protection while in the competition field areas or around the practice fields for VRC and VEX U. While we always recommend the use of safety glasses, they are not required for VEX IQ Challenge 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 demonstrating or working on a robot, cutting materials, or near 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: Are middle school VRC teams eligible to compete in the high school Division?

A: Middle school VRC teams must compete in the middle school Division during VEX Worlds.

Q: Is there a dress code for VEX Worlds?

A: Students should consult with their team mentor or coach. All attendees must wear closed toe and heel shoes during the event. Attendees are reminded to dress comfortably and appropriately and to avoid loose hanging clothes or hair if they are going to work with robots or tools in the team pit area. If any questionable items are worn to this event, please be advised that the event staff may ask the attendee to remove or alter their attire.

- Q: Are high school students who are taking college courses eligible to 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 [VRC 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 my team be able to construct our own pit space?**
- A: Teams are discouraged from “building” temporary structures in their pit 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: 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 have anything outside of their allotted pit area?**
- A: No, for the safety of everyone at the event, teams are not permitted to have any items outside of their 10’x10’ pit area per the Fire Marshall. Violators of this policy are subject to removal from the event, without possibility of re-entry.
- Q: Can my team bring noisemaking devices to the event?**
- A: Electronic noisemaking 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.
- 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 event. The Kentucky Exposition Center prohibits the possession or operation of airborne devices without prior approval.
- Q: Are hoverboards or other personal transportation devices allowed at the event center?**
- A: No personal transportation devices will be allowed in the Kentucky Exposition Center. This includes, but is not limited to: hoverboards, roller skates, scooters, bicycles, and skateboards. Such devices pose a danger to others and may be confiscated for the remainder of the event.
- Assistive medical transportation devices such as wheelchairs or Gould’s scooters that are rented onsite will be allowed.

Q: Can teams play with athletic balls, etc. in the building?

A: For the safety of all participants, and to abide by Kentucky Expo Center rules, we kindly ask that participants refrain from playing with athletic balls/objects while inside of the building.

MERCHANDISE SALES

Q: Will there be an on-location store selling spare parts?

A: Yes. Located in the East Hall A of the KEC next to Pit Administration. The REC Foundation Store will be open for teams looking for VEX Robotics parts while supplies last. Plan to bring an ample supply of spare parts with you. Orders cannot be placed online.

REC Foundation Store Hours	
Wednesday	12:00 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Thursday	7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Friday	7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday	7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Sunday	12:00 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Monday	7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Tuesday	7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Q: What other merchandise will be sold during VEX Worlds?

A: As in past years our apparel vendor, Fine Designs, will have customizable apparel available for sale. A variety of HEXBUG toys will be sold at the REC Foundation store inside the Kentucky Exposition Center.

Q: Will there be items available for sale online?

A: The official apparel provider for VEX Worlds is Fine Design. The [online store](#) is now open. There will be three locations at VEX Worlds to serve you.

Q: Can teams bring items to sell from their booths during VEX Worlds?

A: Teams may not sell items from their pit or on the grounds of the Kentucky Exposition Center. Teams may distribute free items such as pins, buttons, stickers, information flyers, etc. Food or beverage distribution, however, is prohibited.