HUDSONVILLE ROBOTICS

Student Expectations

Our goal is to make a safe and fun environment for students to build and compete with Vex robots.

Hudsonville Robotics will continue to put heavy focus on engineering notebooks.
Part of the Vex process is for teams to maintain an engineering notebook. This notebook will be used to document the project scope, ideas, tests, successes, and failures. It is to be a continuous record of the team and the evolution of their robot. Activities should never be erased or removed.

Meetings

- Students are required to attend regularly scheduled team meetings.
- During team meetings students must document their plans in the engineering notebook *before* they start work on their robot.
- Students must remain with their team and in the robotics area.
- At the end of the meeting teams must document their results, clean up, and return loose parts to their specific containers.

Personal Responsibility

Our volunteers work very hard to give students opportunities to learn, compete, and enjoy the benefits of this program. We think that this is a privilege that can lead to education and career advancement later in life. With that privilege we also have expectations for our students.

- Students should show respect and courtesy to others during events and at the Robotics Center.
- All members of Hudsonville Robotics and those that support the program are required to follow Hudsonville Public School's code of conduct.
- Students are expected to follow any additional rules specified at a competition event.
- Students are required to wear their team shirt to League and Tournament events.
- We ask that students maintain a 2.75 GPA to participate and they should not attend meetings or events if it drops below 2.0.
- Personal items (cell phones, electronics, toys) may not be used for activities unrelated to Hudsonville Robotics. *Students should excuse themselves from the robotics area if they need to use their personal items.*
- Should a student become disruptive or a distraction to the team they may be asked to leave the robotics area.
- If a student continues to be disruptive at subsequent meetings we may choose to resolve the issue by requiring the student's parent to attend meetings or permanently removing them from the program.

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Team Responsibility

- Each student is a reflection of their team and the Hudsonville Robotics Program.
- Teams succeed and fail as a group.
- A team needs to make the best use of all of its members.
- Teams should design their robot so that it can be worked on by multiple students at the same time. See modularity information.
- Read the game manual and know the rules.
- The following are reasons why mentors may hold progress on a robot:
  - If we find that a team is not utilizing their notebook at each practice
  - If a team member is purposefully misplacing parts - not taking the time to put away a part in the right place.
  - If a team has a disorganized (messy) table or storage bin

Student Collaboration & Mentoring

- While this is competitive robotics we are focused on the learning process. Teams are encouraged to help one another.
- We expect that HS students should mentor MS teams, and MS teams should mentor ES teams.
- Share your knowledge - students that help other teams will often gain insight as they teach. Document in your notebook when you help others.

Parts and Equipment

- Tools, parts, and computers will be provided to students for the build and programming processes. Students may only use these items for robotics related activities.
- Robots may only be built with Vex approved parts.
- Each team will be issued a kit with the base components for one robot. Teams need to take care of this equipment and handle it properly. If teams are experiencing problems with equipment then bring it to the attention of a mentor.
- Additional motors, sensors, or control electronics must go through a mentor.
- All other parts are available on a first come, first serve basis.
- Teams may not horde parts.
- Teams may not take parts from other teams without permission.
- If teams need parts that are not in inventory they should fill out the online ordering form. The form needs to include the part number, quantity, team number and the name of the student requesting the part. www.hudsonvillerobotics.com/resources
- Submitting a request for parts does not guarantee approval.

Parts Cutting Policy

Note: We will be starting with the season with a no-cut policy. Teams should design their robot to fit using standard part lengths.

- Only VRC metal parts may be cut. IQ parts may not be altered.
- Parts in the Scrap Parts or Cut Parts bins under the shop table may be cut.
- Look first - many times the parts that you need are already in our inventory.
- Don't "make wood chips" - Don't cut a new part into little pieces or cut a small piece from a large part.
- Design in standard increment sizes - 5, 10, 15, 20, etc.
- Some robotic parts may be cut or modified to fit the team's robot design. Parts may only be cut with the permission of an adult mentor. Because the parts are expensive we ask that teams have a plan in place before cutting.
- Students must wear safety glasses and use tools in a safe manner when cutting parts.

Personal Equipment

Students may prefer to have their own safety glasses and we recommend that students have a personal thumb drive to save their robot programs. They may also want to keep a backup of their programs on their HPS Google cloud drive.

Hudsonville Robotics will provide all of the equipment necessary for the students to build and program robots based on the Vex Robotics model. Students may choose to use their own personal equipment (laptop, etc) but at their own risk. Hudsonville Robotics and Hudsonville Public Schools can not be held liable for theft, damage or loss of personal property. Parents should use discretion before allowing their student to bring a laptop to school or a tournament.

Student Centered Competitive Robotics

Hudsonville Robotics is a student centered robotics program. This means that student teams design, build, program, and compete with their robot. The role of the adult volunteers are to act as mentors, teachers, advisers, where we help teams overcome challenges. Adults should not be strategizing, designing, or otherwise contributing to the robot.

Students should listen to questions proposed by mentors as it might help them discover issues with their robot. Mentors are welcome to share STEM concepts with all teams.

At competitions it is the team's responsibility to communicate with inspectors, referees, and judges. The team should know the rules of the game and if they disagree with a referee then select one team member to calmly and professionally discuss their concern with the *head referee*.