** **Steve Goodgame**

 **Executive Director**

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March 30, 2020

To all our team coaches and participants,

The COVID-19 virus situation is continuing to impact everyone and we continue to take it very seriously. Your safety, the safety of all our participants and their families, is our primary concern; but we also feel compelled to continue to provide educational support during these challenging times. To this end we are taking the following actions:

* Events during April and May are being postponed.
* With most schools closing the physical school for the remainder of the year, we will continue to monitor the situation and, if conditions allow, we will work to reschedule events.
* We will continue to accept and review documentation submissions, providing feedback.
* Our KISS IDE is now available online at IDE.KIPR.org so that you can write and compile code. If you have access to the curriculum you can do programming activities.
* We will put up free resources and activities that take advantage of the online IDE.
* We continue to work on a robot simulator and will post this online once completed.

Our teams and coaches are what make our program great and we truly appreciate the numerous hours and hard work put into this season by our students, coaches and mentors. Botball and JBC teams are made up of exceptional students and we truly love to see their strategies and solutions to the challenges and Botball game.

Event Postponement

We are still monitoring the situation and possible issues with the Global Conference on Educational Robotics (GCER), currently scheduled for late July (20th -24th) in St. Augustine, Florida. No decision has been made at this time.

Postponed upcoming events include:

April Events

* Greater D.C. Regional Botball Tournament and Junior Botball Challenge, Annandale, Virginia
* Laguna Acoma STEM Day, Grants, New Mexico
* San Jose Junior Botball Challenge Day, Milpitas, California
* Northern California Botball Tournament, San Jose, California
* Tulsa Junior Botball Challenge Day, Tulsa, Oklahoma
* Junior Botball Challenge Workshop, Round Rock, Texas
* New Mexico Regional Botball Tournament and Junior Botball Challenge Day, Los Lunas, New Mexico
* Deming Junior Botball Challenge, Deming, New Mexico:
* Idaho Regional Botball Tournament and Junior Botball Challenge, Eagle, Idaho
* Greater St Louis Regional Botball Tournament, Edwardsville, Illinois
* Texas Regional Botball Tournament and Junior Botball Challenge, Houston, Texas
* Greater Los Angeles Regional Botball Tournament and Junior Botball Challenge, Burbank, California

May Events

* New England Regional Botball Tournament and Junior Botball Challenge, Lowell, Massachusetts
* Colorado Regional Botball Tournament and Junior Botball Challenge, Colorado Springs, Colorado
* New York & New Jersey Regional Botball Tournament, Rahway, New Jersey
* Hawaii Regional Botball Tournament, Mililani, Hawaii

Documentation Production

With school closings for the remainder of the year in many districts, it is impossible for coaches and teams to work on their robots. If possible, teams should continue to complete and submit their documentation as time and conditions allow. We will accept all submissions as they are submitted.

Running robot code on a KIPR demo robot.

We are willing to have teams or students submit code that we could run and video (Zoom, Skype, Google Hangout) on our demo robot. This would be limited to Junior Botball Challenge robots and mats for now until we can get back into the office where our Botball game table is set up. If you are interested in trying this, please email info@kipr.org and we will work out the details.

Our office is officially closed until the 14th of April, however you can reach us by email or phone 405-830-6685 at any time. Please let us know what we can do to help.

We appreciate you and want you to stay well.

Best,

Steve Goodgame

Executive Director