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To all our team coaches and participants,

COVID-19 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 and will continue to be our primary concern. We understand the challenges that distance learning has created and we hope that you are finishing out your virtual school year with success. We have been hard at work to help our participants who are working with their students virtually and adding features to our programs to help support you as the environment changes.

We are developing new features for our programs including:

- Python Language Curriculum
- STEAM-ArtBotics Curriculum
- Adding AI capabilities to the Wombat and accompanying curriculum
- A 2D simulator that will use the JBC mat(s) and the demo-bot robot
  - Currently the robot can move and actuate the servo arm.
  - In the coming weeks, we will be adding sensors and movement of game objects.
  - We are working on a 3D simulator with a target deployment before school starts in the fall.
- Improved Aerial Drone interface and accompanying curriculum

If schools do not open back up at the start of the school year, then the simulator and curriculum will give you an opportunity for distance learning to teach your students Computer Science through a virtual robot. We will continue to add features to the simulator as the summer progresses, and we welcome any feedback.

Botball and JBC teams are made up of exceptional students and we truly love seeing their strategies and solutions to the Challenges and the Botball game. For that reason, we will be using the same Botball game board for the 2021 season. Our Game Design Committee will potentially update game pieces, scoring values, and/or game piece starting positions. We will announce any updates in August 2020.

We have made the decision to cancel the 2020 Global Conference on Educational Robotics (originally scheduled for July 20-24 in St. Augustine, Florida). We are primarily concerned for your safety and we feel that this is the best decision given the current information we have.

We are making plans to hold a virtual summit for any interested Botball participants and coaches to be held sometime during the same week of July 20-25th. We will be providing more information on the summit in the coming weeks, but are expecting to have guest speakers, student paper submissions and a feedback session with thoughts on the upcoming season.

Our office is officially open given the latest guidance from the Governor of Oklahoma. However, we are operating with minimal in-office staffing, with most staff working from home to limit potential exposure. If there is anything we can do to help, then please feel free to reach out to me at any time. My cell phone number is 405-830-6685.

Best,  
Steve Goodgame  
Executive Director