2025 Botball Fall
Game Review

Contents

Revision History

Version 1.0 – Initial Draft

Version 1.1 – Fix score sheet to accurately reflect game board areas

Version 1.2 – Fix Botguy described position

Contributors

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Numerous KIPR staff members and KIPR Community Members

Director's Note

Botball Community,

We are super excited for our Botball tournaments occurring in 2025! I am grateful to our dedicated staff and team of volunteers who contributed an incredible number of hours putting together this year's game. We started planning this before GCER in the summer of 2024 and have put in months of effort to get to this point. I hope that this year's lunar game theme is motivating and challenging and that you are as excited as we are here at KIPR about this year's game! Good luck!

Respectfully,

Steve Goodgame

KIPR Executive Director

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This Year's Game

In the fall game this year you will be simulating robots working in a kitchen! Robots will need to gather ingredients, put them on stoves and ovens to cook, and divvy out the ingredients equally.

Water puddles need to be cleared off the floor into drains to make way for the robots moving around the kitchen. Robots have a narrow space in their kitchen to prepare meals and will need to use precise driving to move around the kitchen, taking things from storage to preparation areas.

The purpose of the fall game is to give teams a chance to start preparing some of their skills for the full game in the spring.
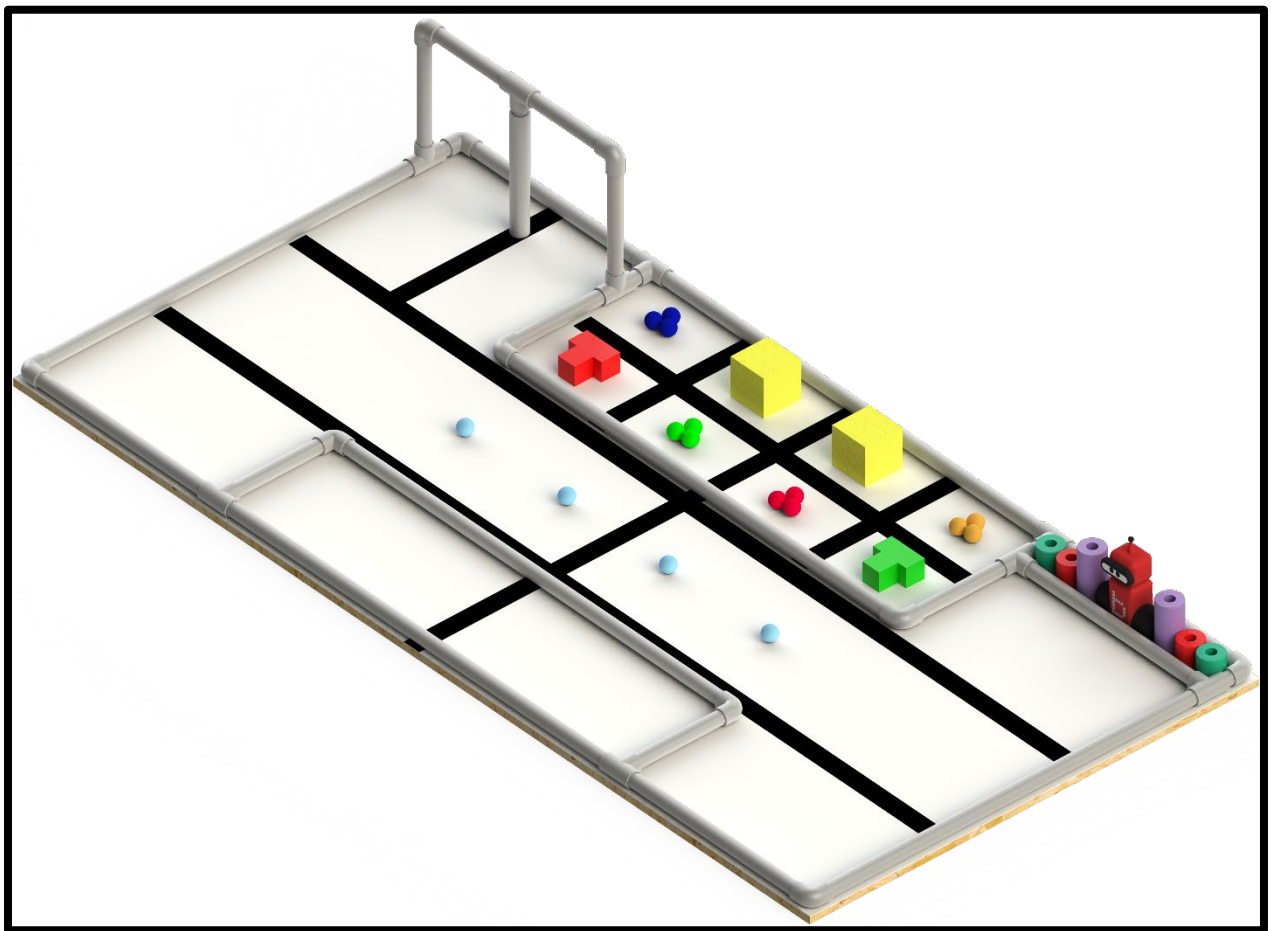

Figure 1 - Game Overview

Game Board Areas

Official game board specifications are on the Team Homebase. All tournament boards and game pieces will fulfill the following specifications within +/- 0.25" or up to 1% of the specification.

The fall game board is played on an 4' X 8' field, which is half of an official Botball game table. The game board is composed of two 4' x 4', reusable modules whose surfaces are pebble grain white fiberglass reinforced plastic panel (FRP). A fully assembled fall game board will be ~4' x 8'. A panel channel or black or white duct tape is used to close exposed seams where modules abut.

The game board is separated into defined areas for each team. Teams competing in the virtual tournament can run on the same 4' x 8' board or they can build two half boards and press them together in the middle.

- Start Boxes
- Stoves
- Oven
- Cup Dispenser
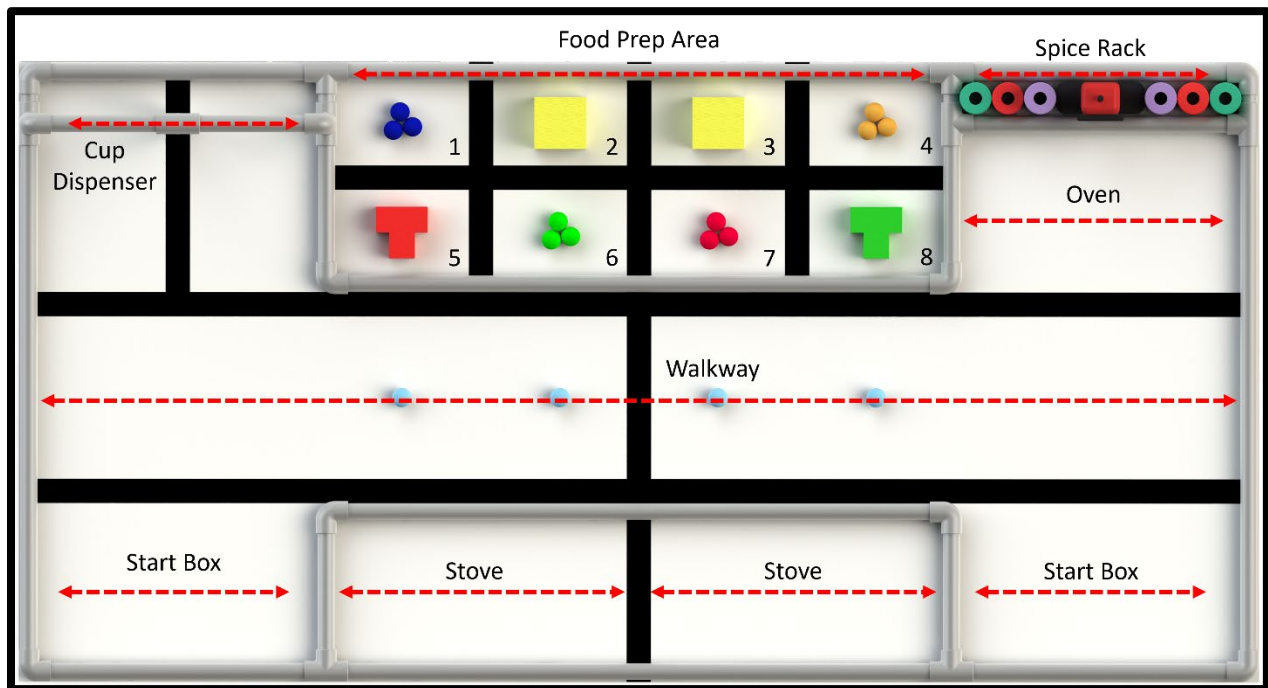- Food Prep Area (1-8)
- Spice Rack
- Walkway

Figure 2 - Game Areas

Starting Boxes– A team's *Starting Boxes* are the areas of the game table as delineated by the **inside edges** of the surrounding PVC and tape with a virtual height of 16" and are situated on the outside corners of the board.

Stoves – A team's *Stoves* are the surface of the game table as delineated by the **inside edges** of the surrounding PVC and tape and sits between the two starting boxes on the edge of the table.

Oven – A team's *Oven* is the surface of the game table as delineated by the **inside edges** of the surrounding PVC and tape and is situated right below the top right corner of the board.

Cup Dispenser – The PVC pipe that drops down on the left side of the table and holds six 2" long 1-1/4" PVC pipes on it and sits in the top left corner of the side.

Food Prep Area – A team's *Food Prep Area* is the surface of the game table as delineated by the **inside edges** of the surrounding PVC in the center of the board as well as the tape lines inside it. The *Food Prep Area* is divided into 8 sections, numbered left to right and top to bottom.

Spice Rack – A team's *Spice Rack Stove* is the surface of the game table as delineated by the **inside edges** of the surrounding PVC and is situated in the top right corner of the board.

Oven – A team's *Stove* is the surface of the game table as delineated by the **inside edges** of the surrounding PVC and tape and is situated in the top right corner of the board.

Walkway – A team's *Walkway* is the long area of the game table as delineated by the **inside edges** of the surrounding PVC and tape that divides the *Start Boxes* and *Customer Counter* from the rest of the board.

Game Piece

Scoring Pieces

- 1 – *Botguy*
- 2 – *Entrees* (Yellow Cubes)
- 2 – *Salt* (Green Pool Noodles)
- 2 – *Pepper* (Red Pool Noodles)
- 2 – *Oil* (Purple Pool Noodles)
- *Small Sides*
  - 3 – *Mushrooms* (Blue Poms)
  - 3 – *Brussel Sprouts* (Green Poms)
  - 3 – *Beans* (Red Poms)
  - 3 – *Potatoes* (Orange Poms)
- *Large Sides*
  - 3 – *Sweet Potatoes* (Red Cubes)
  - 3 – *Asparagus* (Green Cubes)
- 4 – *Water Puddles*
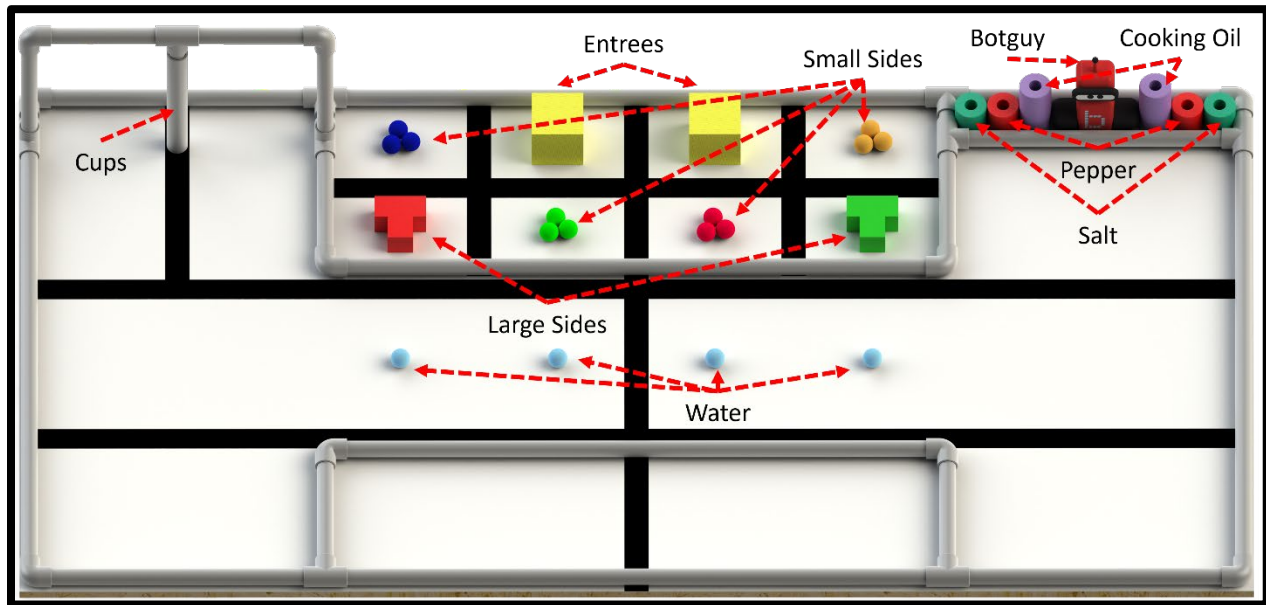- 6 – *Cups* (2" long 1-1/4" PVC Pipes)

Figure 3 - Game Pieces

Starting Positions

- *Botguy* – Will be placed in the middle of the *Spice Rack* between each set of pool noodles.
- *Entrees* – Will be placed, roughly centered, in areas 2 and 3 of the *Food Prep Area*.
- *Salt* – Will be placed in the *Spice Rack* at the ends of the row.
- *Pepper* – Will be placed in the *Spice Rack* 2nd from the ends of the row.
- *Oil* – Will be placed in the *Spice Rack* closest to *Botguy* in the center of the row.
- *Mushrooms* – Will be placed, roughly centered, in area 1 of the *Food Prep Area*.
- *Brussel Sprouts* – Will be placed, roughly centered, in area 6 of the *Food Prep Area.*
- *Beans* – Will be placed, roughly centered, in area 7 of the *Food Prep Area*.
- *Potatoes* – Will be placed, roughly centered, in area 4 of the *Food Prep Area*.
- *Sweet Potatoes* – Will be placed, roughly centered, in area 8 of the *Food Prep Area*.
- *Asparagus* – Will be placed, roughly centered, in area 5 of the *Food Prep Area*.
- *Water Puddles* – Will be placed, roughly centered, in the *Walkway*, one each lined up and roughly centered on each of the four columns of the *Food Prep Area*.
- *Cups* – Will start on the *Cup Dispenser*.

Score Sheet

Areas	Itemized Points			Multipliers	Totals
1. Start Box					
Robots Not Switched	#_____	X 5	=_____	Botguy	
Robots Switched	#_____	X 100	=_____	X 2	
		Subtotal	=_____		
2. Walkway					
Water in Drains	#_____	X 20	=_____	Botguy	
No Objects (Except Botguy)	#_____	X 20	=_____	X 2	
		Subtotal	=_____		
3. Stove A					
Types of Food	#_____	X 20	=_____	Complete	
Sizes of Food	#_____	X 25	=_____	Meal	
Seasonings	#_____	X 25	=_____	X 3	
Cups with Small Sides Inside	#_____	X 30	=_____	Seasoned	
Botguy	#_____	X 75	=_____	X 2	
		Subtotal	=_____		
4. Stove B					
Types of Food	#_____	X 20	=_____	Complete	
Sizes of Food	#_____	X 25	=_____	Meal	
Seasonings	#_____	X 25	=_____	X 3	
Cups with Small Sides Inside	#_____	X 30	=_____	Seasoned	
Botguy	#_____	X 75	=_____	X 2	
		Subtotal	=_____		
5. Oven					
Types of Food	#_____	X 20	=_____	Complete	
Sizes of Food	#_____	X 25	=_____	Meal	
Seasonings	#_____	X 25	=_____	X 3	
Cups with Small Sides Inside	#_____	X 30	=_____	Seasoned	
Botguy	#_____	X 75	=_____	X 2	
		Subtotal	=_____		
				Side A Total	

Scoring Rules

1. **Black Tape Rule:** Any game pieces touching any *Drain* (Black Tape), do not score, excluding water.
2. **General Scoring Rule:** A game piece must touch the surface of the scoring area to score, except game pieces following the *Volume Rule*.
3. *Volume Rule:* To score in a *Cup* some part of a game piece must break the volume of the scoring area.
4. **Multiplier Rule:** Multiplying game pieces may only multiply one game area. More than one multiplying condition may apply to an area (i.e. Complete Meal, Seasoned) and the multiplying conditions will both multiply the base score for the area.
5. **Meal Rule:** A meal may be considered complete if it has at least three different ingredients from the *Food Prep Area* in the *Stove* or *Oven*. Three of the ingredients must at least be an *Entrée, Large Side*, and *Small Side*. Meals may have up to 6 sides.
6. **Seasoning Rule:** For a meal to be fully seasoned, there must be one of each color of noodle in the area. Meals may still be partially seasoned.
7. **Start Box Switch Rule:** To receive points for a switched robot in a start box, the robot must have moved into a start box that is different from the one it started in. To score a robot in general in a start box, it must only be touching the surface of the game table inside that start box.
8. **Highest Scoring Rule:** A game piece can only score in one scoring area and will be scored as if it is in the highest scoring area, as determined by base score without multipliers. A game piece that acts as a multiplier will only multiply in the area that results in the greatest increase in base points for an area.
9. **Robot Rule:** For the purposes of scoring, a robot is defined minimally as a KIPR Robot Controller with at least two motors connected to it. A robot with 2 controllers counts as a single robot.
10. **Final Scoring Rule:** The score is determined by final object location, not by how it got there. Judges will wait until any scoring objects still in motion have come to rest before scoring a game.

Tie Breakers & Special Scoring Conditions

If one team never breaks any border of the *Starting Box*, including the 16" ceiling of the start box, then they lose the round. If both teams break the boundary of their *Starting Box* and one team's robot does not shut down their motors or does not stop commanding their servos to move at the end, then they lose the round. In the case of a tie score, a team wins if none of the above conditions apply and they are the:

1. Team with *Botguy* in their *Oven* area.
2. Team with *Botguy* in their *Stove* area.
3. Team with most robots back in *Starting Boxes.*
4. Team with the highest number of *Cups* removed from the *Cup Dispenser*.
5. Team with *Botguy* anywhere on their side, not in the *Food Prep Area*.
6. Team with the fewest *Water Puddles* in the
7. Team with the robot (defined by the KIPR Robot Controller power switch) closest to *Botguy.*

Game Play

Fair Play and Spirit of Botball

Botball is about the development of **student** skills. Once a team enters the pits with their robots, we require that the **robots not leave the pits** for any purpose until the conclusion of the tournament or suspension of play for the day. Adults are not allowed into the pits, except to help teams carry in equipment as they arrive in the morning. All adults accompanying a team should understand that responsible Botball mentorship **does not include** working on the robot entries or programming the robot entries for the students but **does** allow for appropriate mentor guidance of the team. **Teams hosting a tournament at their school must check their robots into the pit area at least one-hour prior to the start of the seeding rounds.**

Spirit of Botball: This is a 100% student-driven experience.

Students know this, and adults know better!

Mentors, parents, adults, or other non-students who wish to actively participate in the construction, programming, testing, or documentation of a robot are invited to participate in other activities such as the KIPR Aerial.

Filming of Robots

Botball competitions are public events and as such, filming of robots while they are on official game tables in either practice or competition mode is allowed by any member of the public in attendance including parents and other team members.

The use of team members to shield, block, or hinder the public from filming the robots is not allowed and against the Spirit of Botball. Team members are encouraged to observe from the "Pit" side of the competition barriers and not from the public audience side.

For parents, coaches, and other team stakeholders, likewise they should not shield, block, or hinder the public from filming the robots and it is against the Spirit of Botball.

Team T-Shirts

Botball teams are encouraged to design and wear their own Botball competition t-shirts. Graphics must be family and school appropriate and not explicit or suggestive of inappropriate content. If teams are wanting to wear their shirts to the table, it is recommended that the shirts contain mostly neutral colors so as not to potentially confuse any cameras on robots at the table.

Practice

Teams are permitted to send up to 4 team members to the practice tables. Teams will have 3-5 minutes at the table to practice before being asked to wrap up. Teams should reset the table before departing.

Teams are permitted to bring a laptop, tablet, or other programming device to the table to conduct code changes unless otherwise not permitted by KIPR at the tournament. Teams are allowed to bring a mouse to the table to interface with the KIPR Robot Controller. Teams are allowed to bring a Create dock with them to the table if needed. Teams are asked to stay at their practice table and to not go to other tables to observe other team's robots during their practice round.

Pit Area

Only students are allowed in the Pit Area. All robots and any other kit components must enter from the pit area and cannot be handed to a team over the barrier between the game tables and audience or the Pit Area and audience.

Entry to the Pit Area

Teams may not hide robots under boxes or sheets or otherwise shield them from viewing once they have entered the pit area.

On-Deck

Entry to the On-Deck

Only the current year's kit materials that total up to a single kit are allowed in the on-deck area. The intent is that teams do not bring up multiple sets of robots to the game table to choose which ones they will play. In the event that a robot is swapped while on-deck for another robot, then that team will be disqualified for that round. If this is observed by the on-deck manager, then he or she will inform the Head Judge who will then enforce the disqualification for the round.

Inspections

Tournaments may have a robot inspection prior to teams entering the on-deck area. This is dependent on KIPR staff or volunteers who are available to execute the process. Inspectors will have a parts list on hand and may reference it as documentation if they determine there is a violation.

The objective is to verify that teams have no illegal parts present on their robot or independent structures. If a team is found to have an illegal part, then a couple of scenarios can play out. If a team has a timeout card available, they may take one to take their robot or independent structure back to their pit to

remove the illegal part. If a team does not have a timeout card, then the robot or independent structure with illegal parts will be disqualified for that round. Please see the Timeout Card section for further information.

If any parts where added or modifications made to the robot during the time out period the head-judge may ask to have the robot or independent structures inspected for any parts violation once it re-enters the game table.

In the Spirit of Botball, teams that notice part violations or construction violations on other teams' robots should inform the team or the head judge prior to any competition rounds. Encouraging other teams to challenge part violations prior to or during competition rounds is not in the Spirit of Botball.

Setup – Before Hands-Off

Up to two students from a team may bring the team's robot(s) to the tournament table and perform the setup. Switching out members at the table is allowed at the discretion of the head judge. If at any point during or after setup, a team is observed with a laptop near the game table and appears to be reprogramming their robot, then the team may be disqualified by the Head Judge. If a wait_for_light function needs to be uncommented or added to code, a student may ask the Head Judge to observe them while it is added back in at the Head Judge's discretion.

Teams will have **90 seconds** to complete their setup and calibration. Teams will place their robot(s) within their *Starting Box(s)* as desired. Teams must position their light sensors to sense the lights that will be on the outside edge of the starting boxes and may not be moveable.

- Starting lights will be attached to the outside edge of the game table alongside the *Starting Box(s)*.
- The light position will stay stationary in one position and teams must adjust their sensor mounts to match the light setup on the game tables during practice runs This will prevent the possibility of non-starts due to moving the light after calibration
- Starting lights must either be aimed at the team's light sensors or at the floor and cannot be aimed so as to disrupt an opponent (judges' ruling).
- Starting lights may **not** break the vertical projection of the board inside its PVC boundary. This is for safety as robots do occasionally break the bulbs if they make contact.
- There are two connected starting lights for each team, so each KIPR Robot Controller can have its own starting light. Both lights will turn on and off at the same time and cannot be controlled individually.
- Teams cannot touch starting lights or any part of the table after Hands-Off.

Teams will greet each other and:

1. Visually inspect each other's robots before calibration. Inspection is limited to a maximum of 1 minute unless a specific part violation challenge (refer to parts challenges under Challenges section) is made. Teams are encouraged to utilize the parts lists provided on the Team Homebase for each of their robots to ensure they won't have a robot's construction challenged. The parts list is also useful as documentation.

2. Teams must notify table judges **before the end of "Hands-Off"** if they believe the table is not set up

properly. When both teams are ready, each team positions/activates its robots and then – **Hands-Off**!

If judges determine a team is taking too long to calibrate, then they will issue a warning and set a timer for 60 seconds. A team that is not ready after the 60 seconds may be disqualified from the round. The maximum setup time, which may be extended at judges' discretion, is 90 seconds.

If it is observed by any judge that a team pulled a robot off of the table and swapped the robot out that was not in the on-deck area, then that team will be disqualified by the Head Judge.

Before the Game Begins – After Hands-Off

Once "Hands-Off" has been declared, the team members will position themselves so as not to block the view of the table by the audience. No part of a team's robot(s) may leave the *Starting Box(s)* until the round has begun. Movement is okay so long as the *Starting Box(s)* boundary isn't violated. If a moving violation happens, then the judges will call a fault on the team. Team members may not move the starting lights at any time after hands-off. A judge may move the light to avoid potential damage to a light. If a team receives a 2nd fault in a round, then they forfeit the round. Team members may not signal to their robots after "Hands-Off" to start their robots. If a team member at the table is wearing a shirt with large solid colors that are similar to game pieces on the table, they will be asked to crouch during the round if the robots are using cameras.

Depending on the light coming from outside sources at the tournament, a judge may have team members stand in front of their robot to block incoming light before the round starts to prevent accidental triggering of the light sensors.

Timeout Card

Each team will be given a single red Timeout Card that is labeled with their team's name and number when they register on-site. Only the team whose name appears on the card may use it. The card can only be used at an on-deck robot inspection if it is being used at the tournament or while that team is at the table before "Hands-Off". While a team is at the table, any time **before** "Hands-Off", a team may turn in their timeout card and get a 3-minute timeout. The team may spend that time in the pits or at the table, but not to practice at the table. However, the team may practice the starting light sequence. Only a single timeout per team is allowed for the entire tournament. Teams are advised to save their timeout card for the Double Elimination rounds, as Seeding rounds are the best 2 out of 3.

If your region has on-deck robot inspections and your robot is deemed to have an illegal part **during seeding rounds**, then you may use your time out card to take your robot to the pit to remove the part. If your region has on-deck robot inspections and your robot is deemed to have an illegal part **during double elimination rounds**, then your robot will be disqualified. It is highly recommended that teams carefully and meticulously review the parts on their robot prior to entering the inspection area. It is in the **Spirit of Botball** for teams to notify other teams and/or judges of observed violations by other teams.

If any parts were added or modifications made to the robot during the time out period the head-judge may ask to have the robot inspected for any parts violation once it re-enters the game table. Teams may not trade out robots or bring additional independent structures to the game table during a time out.

After the Game Begins – Lights On

Once the starting lights have turned on, the round counts unless a judge rules otherwise. At the start of the game, the starting lights turn on and robots are then allowed to leave the *Starting Box*.

The round lasts two minutes (120 seconds). The lighting sequence is:

- 0 seconds: lights turn on; robots can leave starting boxes
- 5 seconds: lights turn off
- 115 seconds: Lights turn back on and blink for five seconds
- 120 seconds: lights turn off; game over; robots must turn off motors and freeze/power down servos

End of Game

Robots must **stop driving their motors and stop servo <u>motion</u>** by the end of the round or that team will lose the round in all situations except against a team that does not break the boundary of a *Starting Box* (in Seeding, this condition will give a score of 0). Incidental motion from a servo holding a position under load is OK.

Scoring is based on the location of pieces at the end, not how the pieces got there. Scoring takes place when the round has ended and items have come to rest.

If all motion has stopped before 120 seconds, the judges may ask the teams if their robots are done and if so, then they may end the round at that time. Both teams must agree in order for this to end the round.

Final Scoring and Rulings

If your team does not agree with the score as calculated, then they must immediately notify the table judge(s) **before** leaving the table and **before** any items have been moved on the table. If they do not agree with the table judge's ruling, then they may ask to speak with the Head Judge. The Head Judge will spend no more than 5 minutes on the decision. Teams must initial the score sheet before leaving the table, signifying acceptance of the ruling. If they do not agree with the ruling, the Head Judge can sign for the team to progress the event forward.

There are no instant replays. No external videos will be used for scoring. If a team is unhappy with a judge's decision, then they should politely challenge it at once. **Challenges to scoring after the teams have signed the score sheet may <u>not</u> be considered.**

The head judge reserves the right to make rulings on specific rules or wording in the game review that will be in effect for the remainder of the tournament.

Spirit of Botball: Mentors, spectators, and team members should respect teams' and judges' final decisions. A head judge may overrule any previous rule or loophole that they believe to violate the Spirit of Botball.

Challenges

Challenges may only come from judges and only the four (two per team) members at the table. If either team wants to challenge the validity of the robots they are facing, they must bring it to the table judges' attention during the inspection period, and the Head Judge will come over. Teams should bring the list of parts to the table to aid in the inspection. Challenges must be specific. Teams are encouraged to have a parts list for each robot they bring to the table to minimize the likelihood of a robot's construction being challenged. There is a parts list on the Team Homebase, which can be used to specify which kit parts are allowed to be used for the robots at the table.

The Head Judge is the final arbiter of a challenge and can dismiss what they believe to be spurious or irrelevant challenges. **This includes challenges to robots and or parts that they deem to not provide any competitive advantage or are against the Spirit of Botball to the team.** An Example of against the **Spirit of Botball,** would be a team knowing about the issue and planning to challenge prior to the robot inspection at the game table. If the team knows prior to arriving at the table in the **Spirit of Botball** they will let the other team or a KIPR official know so that the team has the opportunity to correct the issue. Teams determined by the judges to be in safety or performance-changing violation will be given 60 seconds by the judges to make a correction, remove offending pieces, or take the robot off the table; otherwise, the robot must be removed for the round or the team can forfeit. A robot determined before the start of a round to be in a safety or performance-changing violation of the construction rules will not be allowed to play while in that state. A robot ruled to be unsafe for humans will not be allowed to run until modified.

If a team wants to execute a challenge, then they must wager their round. If the team that makes the challenge is correct, then they win the round, and the other team is disqualified for that round. However, if the team that makes the challenge is incorrect or deemed spurious by the Head Judge, they will be disqualified for that round and the other team will win. In the case that both teams wish to make a challenge, the one to approach the judge with the challenge first will be the determining challenge.

If a team notices that another team has a challengeable issue during seeding, another double elimination round, or any other time and is not facing that team, in the Spirit of Botball and fair play, they should inform the Head Judge so that the Head Judge may consult with the team.

Acknowledgements

The KIPR Robot Controller is a powerful device, but the use of threading can cause unpredictable results, such as the robot not stopping when utilizing the *shutdown in* function. Teams are encouraged to limit their use of threading and to make sure they take precautionary steps to stop their robot within the time limit of the game. If the robot fails to stop moving after the time limit, then it will result in a score of 0 for a Seeding round or a disqualification for a Double Elimination round.

Seeding Rounds

Seeding rounds take place before Double Elimination. There will be three Seeding rounds. The order in which teams appear in each round is set by tournament software and is the same for each round. In Seeding, a team plays the game unopposed, and the score for both sides counts, where your Seeding Round score is (*the score for your side*) + (*the score for the other side*). Note that Seeding scores are the **sum** of the entire

board and **teams are encouraged to cross sides and use the whole board for scoring during Seeding**.

Seed scores of less than 0 will be counted as 0. A team's Seed Score is the average of their best two Seeding rounds. The tableside used by a team for a Seeding round (the side from which the robots will start) is determined when teams arrive at the table and at the judges' discretion for their turn in a Seeding round.

A coach or team member must bring any concerns about the posted seeding round scores to the attention of the Head Judge before the bracketing for the double elimination rounds. Bracketing occurs within ~5 minutes of the completion of the last seeding round. Only math errors or incorrect placement of scores will be accounted for.

Double Seeding Rounds

Double Seeding will only be played at the Global Conference on Educational Robotics. Double Seeding consists of head-to-head Seeding rounds where teams get as many points as they can while still playing against another team on the table. No scores will be dropped in Double Seeding.

It is against the "Spirit of Botball" for teams to form coalitions and partnerships with other teams with the goal of collaborating to benefit only one team's score.

Double Elimination (DE) Rounds

A team is out of the Double Elimination tournament when it has lost two games. Initial matches are decided by KIPR tournament software using Seeding round scores. As the tournament progresses, the order of matches and table sides for the competing teams are determined using KIPR tournament software. The two teams play each other and the highest score at the end of the game wins, subject to tie breakers and special scoring conditions. The size of Double Elimination scores does not affect ranking, only wins and losses.

During a Double Elimination match, a team's Create chassis may not ever be entirely on the other team's side. During match play, the table judge, through observation, may decide that a robot is guilty of interference, and then disqualify the team for that round.

Alliance Matches

Logistics

At selected tournaments, if a team is eliminated from the Double Elimination tournament before the Finals of Double Elimination play, then that team may sign up to play in Alliance Matches. Alliance Matches will pair up two teams to play the game collaboratively with the goal of scoring the most points. Each team will bring one robot to the table to run simultaneously. The teams will place their robots in any of the *Starting Boxes* (i.e. both on the same side or split between the two sides).

Scoring

Alliance rounds will follow all of the same scoring rules as a regular Seeding round. The total Alliance score is (*Your side's score*) + (*Ally side's score*). The Alliance team with the highest combined score from a single run will win the Alliance Tournament. Alliance matches will be conducted until tournament officials

suspend play (usually when the final Double Elimination rounds are near complete).

Tiered Rounds

Logistics

At selected tournaments, if there are enough teams, then there might be a chance of breaking out the Double Elimination rounds into multiple tiers. The objective is to play against teams with similar performing robots. The number of tiers being used at any tournament will not be released to the teams or coaches prior to the release of the actual brackets.

Virtual Tournaments

Virtual Tournaments will require the team to have a competition game board that meets requirements, access to the internet and two cameras (one static to show the game board and one mobile for robot inspection and judges scoring questions) to participate. Some exceptions to rules related to game board setup may be accommodated by the head judge.

GCER

Logistics

At GCER, additional rounds, timeout cards, or other incentives may be given out to teams that participate in other events such as (but not limited to) speakers or paper talks.

Construction Rules

The official construction rules for the 2024 Botball Game consist of the latest revision of this 2024 Botball Game Review document and any updated game rules posted on the Discord FAQ. Posts on the 2024 Discord FAQ in the Game Rules Question area will be used to update the document and provide notice of any rule changes or adjustments.

Kit Rules

1. Sensors from the 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020-23 kit may be used as long as they don't exceed the type or number in the 2024 kit.

2. Robots may be constructed out of any or all of this year's kit parts except: the boxes, bags, wrapping or packing material, the chargers, download cables, wrenches, screwdriver and color stickers. Materials supplied at the workshop for creating your game board (e.g., Botguy, poms, etc.) are not part of the kit and cannot be used on your entry. The included camera is the only USB device that may be plugged into a robot during the game. **Consult the official parts lists for allowable kit parts!**

3. Small removable mounting dots/strips such as those produced by Glue Dots, UGlu and/or Scotch Brand Restickable Dots/Strips, blue tack (acquired at team's expense) may be used for construction purposes. They may not be exposed for sticking things otherwise in any manner. In particular, this means you may **not** use your mounting dots/strips to contact the game board, game elements, or the other team's entry. **Note that neither hot melt glue nor any other adhesives, other than removable mounting dots/strips, are allowed in robot construction.**

4. Mounting dots/strips are available at stores such as Home Depot, and online from vendors such as Amazon.

5. Judges may require excessive adhesive to be removed. Teams should always try to come up with a mechanical means for construction and only resort to using adhesive methods as a last resort.

6. Supplied servo accessories such as grommets, screws, washers, etc. may only be used to mount pieces to the servo horn.

7. Servos and motors may be mounted to structural pieces using the supplied machine screws.

8. Teams may trim the connector potting material as needed to ease insertion or mounting of sensors. Damaged pieces will be replaced at the team's expense.

9. Plastic servo horns may be trimmed as desired. Damaged pieces will be replaced at team's expense.

10. Teams are allowed to add the following pieces to their entry:

    a. Up to 100cm of thread, string or fishing line (maximum diameter 1mm, **non-metallic only**) may be used as desired except for offensive measures such as entanglement and entrapment.

    b. Paper (maximum 20#) so long as all the pieces can be taken from the **same single** standard US letter-sized (8.5" X 11") or A4-sized (210mm x 297mm) sheet. See rule 13.

    c. Standard 3/16" thick foam board as long as all the pieces can be taken from the **same single** standard US letter-sized or **#1**, A4 footprint. See rule 13.

    d. Up to 10 standard office rubber bands of maximum size #19 may be used (#19 is 3.5" x 1/16" x 1/32").

    e. Up to 10 Paper Clips, smooth, metal (between 1" and 1 ½" in length). Paper clips can be bent in any fashion but cannot be cut, broken or plugged into any wire or robot controller

f. Coins, up to 250 grams (~100 U.S. pennies) to be used as a counterweight only. Please be prepared to prove that it is within the legal weight limit if necessary. Coins may be rolled in wrappers, paper, or tape (up to two rolls) to make it easier to weigh.

11. If the team's entry uses paper and/or foam core board and it appears to be more than allowable or is hard for the head judge to determine the amount used, then the head judge **MAY** ask to see their template showing how the material being used was cut out of **ONE** 8.5" X 11" (or A4) paper sheet and one 8.5" X 11" (or A4) 3/16" foam core sheet. The paper/foam core board may only be held in place through the use of other kit parts (including removable mounting dots/strips detailed above if used as allowed for other kit parts). Team may remove the paper covering from either side of the foam board. **Paper and foam core board may only be black or white; only grayscale may be used for printing including official logos for sponsors of your team, or QR codes.**

12. Rubber bands may not be glued or melted. Rubber bands may be cut, but only a combined total of ten whole rubber bands or cut rubber bands may be used on a team's entry.

13. **The light sensors in the kit DO NOT require a light guide unless there is a lot of direct sunlight in the room.** Soda straws, paper, electrical tape and/or foil may be used as light guides for sensors (light guides may be shielded by using tape, but not in a fashion that is for structural purposes or for manipulation). Light guide materials are in addition to the allowable parts.

14. Teams are not allowed to shield robot sensors externally to their official entry (i.e., teams are not allowed to stand between their robots and the audience to keep the robots from sensing the audience). Teams should orient and calibrate the sensors on their robot appropriately so that this is not an issue. Teams using cameras may request that anyone whose attire includes significant color markings closely matching game object colors stand well back from the table.

15. Team are limited to ten (10) 4" white zip ties (included in the kit), and they may be used for any purpose. You may replace damaged ties with ones of equivalent size (black or white).

16. Lego parts cannot be physically modified. **Threading axle holes with screws will be allowed as an exception to this rule.**

17. Metal parts may not be cut or broken to a smaller size. Only **straps and plates** as listed in the kit may be bent if desired. **Brackets cannot be bent**.

18. Warning: At tournaments KIPR will not provide replacements for metal parts that have been altered or damaged. Replacements may be purchased from the online Botball Store.

19. Teams are limited to the number and size screws as follows: 20 -#8-32 quarter inch, 45 -#8-32 half inch, and 35 -#8-32 three-quarter inch screws. All #8-32 screws are black. There are 10 silver M3 x 14mm screws and ten silver M3 nuts. There is also #8-32 threaded rod: 10 - 1", 2 - 2", 2 - 3", and 1 - 6" long.

20. Teams are limited to using only 4' of the ABS plastic rods they receive. This may be cut into smaller pieces or have cuts made to the length of a piece. It may not be melted down. It may be heated to change how it is bent more easily though as long as it still retains the shape of the rod. Teams are able to buy more of this at their own expense. Some may have received up to 5'.

21. Teams may use tape for **wire management** purposes only. This may include holding wire extensions in place to the piece they are extending, keeping wires in place on the controller, or keeping wires in place on the robot. Tape may in no way be used for construction purposes. If tape causes a piece to remain attached to the robot when it would normally not, it may result in a DQ for the round.

Robot Logistics

1. Each robot if named can only have a name (G-rated) approved by an adult team leader before the tournament.

2. Multiple processors (such as two KIPR robot controllers) may exist on a single robot.

   a. You may only use the Wombat controllers.

3. It is not necessary to use all the parts in a kit.

4. The *Starting Boxes* are 16" tall. A starting box is defined by the **interior edge** of the PVC and the **interior edge** of the black tape around the perimeter of the starting box.

5. All elements of a team's entry must be within the volume of a *Starting Box* at game start. A robot may not cross over the boundary between two *Starting Boxes* at the start.

6. After the game starts, robots are allowed to expand in size.

7. **While not always necessary,** starting light sensors may be shielded as demonstrated in the workshop slides and in the construction rules and neither sensor nor shielding may extend outside the *Starting Box*.

8. All independent structures not under computer control should be clearly marked with the team's number. Maximum label size is 1" diameter (Avery #5410), or you may use permanent marker directly on the structure. Teams may only run robots with their team number on them.

9. Robot teams can have a maximum of 4 independent structures on the game table at a time

   a. A team's entry, including any supplied game pieces, must fit in the *Starting Box* **without any external restraint** at game start (the *Starting Box* floor and border PVC is not an external restraint).

   b. Each structure must be large enough so that it does not, in the judge's opinion, constitute a jamming or entanglement hazard.

   c. Examples of structures include: robots, barricades, detachable baskets, etc.

   d. A team's entry can contain as many robots up to the structures limit as can be constructed from the parts in a single kit.

   e. Items intentionally ejected from a robot count as structures (judges judge intention); there are special rules regarding projectiles, discussed later.

   f. The ABS Plastic Rod **must** be permanently affixed to a robot (as defind by the *Robot Rule*) by at least one end of the rod. Using the ABS Plastic Rod in a gear-driven system for motion of a robot component counts as being affixed to the robot. The ABS Plastic Rod may **not** be used as a projectile (even tethered) or as an independent structure. If the Head Judge deems the use of the ABS Plastic Rod to be in violation of this rule, the offending team will be disqualified for the round.

10. No electrical modifications may be made to any KIPR robot controller, any sensors or any motors, except for substitution of batteries with one approved by KIPR.

11. No wire extensions may be used except those provided in the kit.

12. Offensive entanglement strategies that involve a robot and/or independent structure are not in line with the **Spirit of Botball** and may be subject to disqualification as determined by the Head Judge.

Safety

1. Human & Robot Safety:
   a. No untethered robot-launched projectiles, other than game pieces, are allowed.
   b. No tethered projectiles containing metal pieces are allowed.
   c. No metal pieces or wires are to be used in effectors that move or rotate at high speed.
   d. No metal protrusions are to be used that are likely to cause electrical or safety risks for other robots (including arms and projectiles).
   e. Judges will determine how safe a robot is. <u>Teams may alert judges to a potential safety or entanglement hazard, but judges will interpret whether or not a robot is safe, needs to be modified, or is not allowed to run</u>.

2. Electrical tape, either black or white, may be used to cover metal pieces that are deemed to otherwise be a safety risk to robots or humans. Judges might require this to be done at the game table. Note that tape is not allowed to be used for structural purposes.

3. If the Head Judge decides that a robot is not considered safe, then the robot will not be allowed to run until it has been modified or it will be removed from the table.

External Communication

1. No external communications (e.g., IR, Bluetooth, wireless, or semaphores) may be used during tournament play with the exception of robot to robot.

2. Teams found to be programming a robot while at the table or in the on-deck or area during rounds, excluding during the use of a timeout, will receive a DQ for the round.

3. The USB cables & chargers may not be used during game table tournament play with the exception of the create cable.

4. Communication between robots for your team's entry is allowed

5. Your robot controller may have WiFi turned on or off at the tournament.

6. Any teams found in violation of any communication hacking or tampering with another team's robots or equipment is in violation of the "Spirit of Botball" and may be disqualified from the rest of the tournament.

Teams found in violation of any communication rule may be disqualified from the tournament at the discretion of the Head Judge.

Overall Winner Calculations

A team's overall score is calculated as the sum of their Seeding, Double Elimination, and Documentation scores. During GCER, Double Seeding will be included in the overall score as well. Double Elimination tiers may be weighted based on the number of tiers at the tournament. At GCER, the Documentation score will only include the Onsite Presentation score while at GCER. During the fall game, only Seeding and DE will be included in the overall score. The overall score is between 0 and 2 for the fall game, 0 and 3 for regional tournaments, and 0 and 4 at GCER.

Documentation Scoring Formula

$$DocScore = \frac{3}{10}(Period1Doc\%) + \frac{3}{10}(Period2Doc\%) + \frac{1}{10}(Period3Doc\%) + \frac{3}{10}(OnsiteDoc\%)$$

Seeding Scoring Formula

$$SeedScore = \frac{3}{4}\left(\frac{n - SeedRank + 1}{n}\right) + \frac{1}{4}\left(\frac{TeamAverageSeedScore}{MaxTournamentSeedScore}\right)$$

Double Seeding Scoring Formula

$$DoubleSeedScore = \frac{2}{3}\left(\frac{n - DoubleSeedRank + 1}{n}\right) + \frac{1}{3}\left(\frac{TeamAverageDoubleSeedScore}{MaxTournamentDoubleSeedScore}\right)$$

Double Elimination Bracket Scoring Formula

$$DoubleEliminationScore = \left(\frac{n - DERank + 1}{n}\right)$$

Note: For all formulas n = Number of Teams at Tournament or in bracket
Note #2: Weighting and number of brackets will be released after Double Seeding rounds at GCER.