

March 6, 2008

TEAM UPDATE #15

GENERAL NOTICES

Modifications to rules are highlighted in yellow.

Section 0 – Introduction

No changes.

Section 1 - Communication

No changes.

Section 2 – Team Organization

No changes.

Section 3 – At the Events

No changes.

Section 4 – Robot Transportation

No changes.

Section 5 - The Awards

No changes.

Section 6 – The Arena

No changes.

Section 7 – The Game

Based on questions that have come into the Q&A this week, FRC would like to make the following explanations of the intent behind some rules with the hope of eliminating any confusion that may be occurring.

Blocking in Hybrid

As stated in Section 7.1, the objective of *FIRST* Overdrive is to attain a higher score than your opponent by making counter-clockwise laps with your robot around the TRACK while moving large TRACKBALLS over and/or under the OVERPASS that bisects the TRACK. Certain rules were put into place to allow and encourage this to occur.

<G40> states in its first sentence that “ROBOTS shall not intentionally IMPEDE the

flow of traffic around the TRACK.” That is meant for the entire match. The rest of the rule goes on to define IMPEDING during the Teleoperated Period. Intentionally violating the first sentence of <G40> during the Hybrid Period is against the spirit of the rules.

Robots that come to rest AFTER they have completed some other actions in Hybrid Mode (e.g. crossed one or more lines, attempted to knock down the Trackball, etc.) in a position that might impede other robots will not be penalized. This is consistent with the revised rules, and our intent of the rule. It encourages them to do something during Hybrid Mode, without demanding that they have total field state knowledge. However, robots that intentionally establish a position designed to impede or block traffic WITHOUT doing anything else (e.g. they just drive forward and stop at the corner of the Lane Divider) will be given a yellow card.

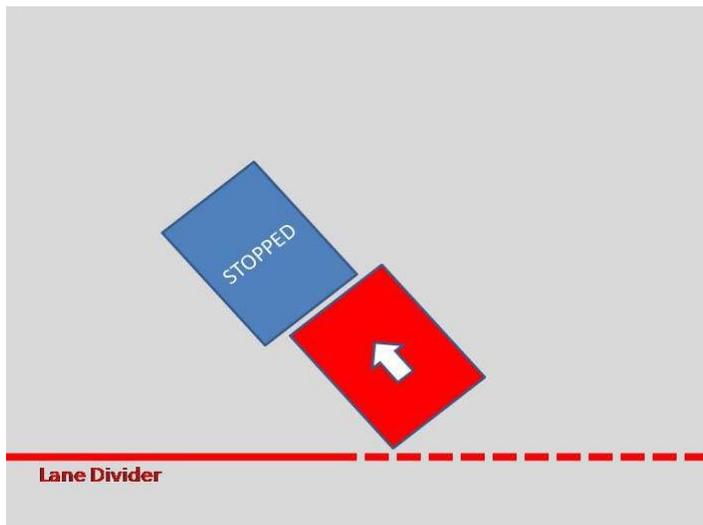
This is consistent with the previous Q&A answer we gave. We think there is enough distinction between the two alternatives that teams will understand the difference.

Please note that this is not a new interpretation, the following was stated in a Q&A answer on 1/24/08:

“Rule <G38> and Rule <G40> were modified to remove any concerns that teams may have about inadvertently impeding robots during the Hybrid Period. This was to avoid an unrealistic requirement that the robots be able to autonomously recognize and respond to "Bump To Pass" signals or identify and steer around stalled robots on the Track during the Hybrid Period. The purpose of these modifications is not to permit the intentional blocking of the Track during Hybrid Period. The accidental creation of obstructions on the Track during Hybrid Period may be unavoidable and will not be penalized. However, intentional strategies designed to block traffic during the Hybrid Period will not be permitted. This may be considered a Yellow Card offense.”

Impeding during a line cross

When a robot gets stuck between a Finish Line or Lane Marker and an opponent Robot, because they would have to incur a <G22> penalty by backing across the line in order to gain access to a free passing lane (see figure), that Robot is to be considered to be IMPEDED and not to have a free passing lane. Therefore <G40> and <G41> apply and a six-second count will be started on the Robot causing it to be stuck there. This will give the stuck Robot an opportunity to begin moving again six seconds later without having to incur a penalty.



Scoring first Finish Line Cross during Teleop

There have been a number of questions asked about why Robots that do not leave their Home Stretch during the Hybrid Period did not score points when they first crossed their Finish Line in the Teleoperated period. It has always been the intent of the GDC that Finish Line scoring in Teleoperated Period does not occur unless a Robot has crossed its opponent's Finish Line since the start of the Match. This is stated in <G07>, and was meant to apply to the Teleoperated period only. We acknowledge that the wording of <G07> can lead to a different interpretation and we apologize for not stating the intent more clearly. We want to assure all teams that our intent was for it to be called the way the scoring system currently scores it. In summary, all line crossings are scored in Hybrid; all own Finish Line crosses are scored in Teleoperated once a Robot has previously crossed its opponent's Finish Line during the Match and after every subsequent cross of its own Finish Line.

Section 8 – The Robot

No changes.

Section 9 – The Tournament

No changes.

Section 10 – The Kit of Parts

No changes.

***FIRST* Guidelines, Tips and Good Practices**

No changes.