

VEX Robotics Competition Nothing But Net – Appendix C

Appendix C – The Programming Skills Challenge



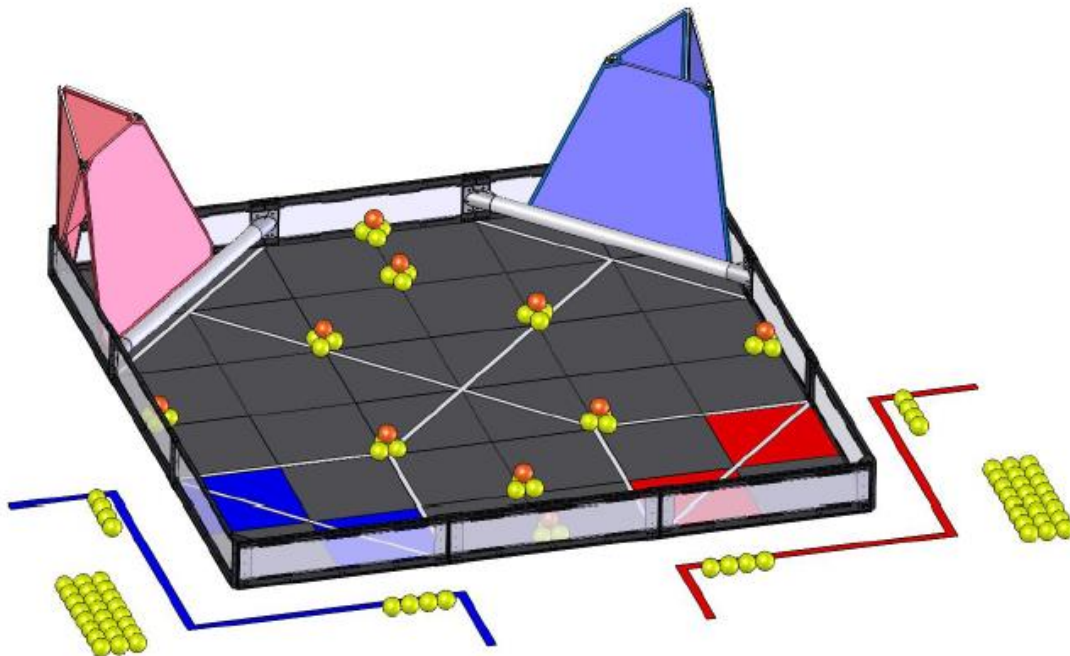
Overview

This section describes the Programming Skills Challenge of *VEX Robotics Competition Nothing But Net*.

Please note that the Programming Skills Challenge may not be offered at all tournaments. Please check with your local event organizer, or www.robotevents.com for more information.

Programming Skills Challenge Description

In this challenge teams will compete in sixty (60) second long matches in an effort to score as many points as possible. These matches will be autonomous, with limited human interaction. The playing field will be set up identically to that of a normal *VEX Robotics Competition Nothing But Net* tournament match.



Note: The Robot Skills Challenge and the Programming Skills Challenge use the same field setup!



VEX Robotics Competition Nothing But Net – Appendix C

Programming Skills Challenge Definitions

Please note that all definitions from “The Game” section of the manual apply to the Programming Skills Challenge, unless otherwise specified.

Programming Skills Match – A *Programming Skills Match* consists of a sixty (60) second *Autonomous Period*. There is no *Driver Controlled Period*. Teams can elect to end their run early, however this will count as an official run.

Programming Skills Load – The sixty (60) *Balls* that *Student Drive Team Members* of each *Alliance* may load onto the designated *Alliance Starting Tiles* or into their *Robots* during the *Programming Skills Match*.

Programming Skills Preload – The four (4) *Balls* each team may place on the field such they are touching its *Robot*, not touching any grey foam tiles, and fully within the field perimeter prior to each *Programming Skills Match*.

Programming Skills Challenge Rules

Please note that all rules from “The Game” section of the manual apply to the Programming Skills Challenge, unless otherwise specified.

<PSC1> At the beginning of each *Programming Skills Match*, the *Robot* must be placed such that it is touching any single *Alliance Starting Tile*, not touching any *Scoring Objects* other than those permitted by <RSC2>, and not touching any other foam field tiles.

<PSC2> Prior to the start of each *Programming Skills Match*, each *Robot* may use their four (4) *Balls* available as *Programming Skills Preloads*. A *Ball* is considered to be legally preloaded if it is touching the *Robot*, not touching any other grey foam tiles, and is fully within the field perimeter. Any unused *Programming Skills Preloads* become *Programming Skills Control Loads*. Please note, the twelve (12) other *Preloads* that would be used by other *Robots* in a normal *Match* are available as *Programming Skills Loads*.

<PSC3> In a *Programming Skills Match*, all *Goals* and *Alliance Starting Tiles* are considered to be the same color for purposes of any rules or definitions.

<PSC4> In a *Programming Skills Match*, *Programming Skills Loads* can only be loaded in the *Loading Zone* adjacent to where they started the *Programming Skills Match*.



VEX Robotics Competition Nothing But Net – Appendix C

Programming Skills Challenge Scoring

All scoring is the same as in a regular VEX Robotics Competition Nothing But Net match.

- A *Ball Scored* in a *Low Goal* is worth one (1) point.
- A *Bonus Ball Scored* in a *Low Goal* is worth two (2) points.
- A *Ball Scored* in a *High Goal* is worth five (5) points.
- A *Bonus Ball Scored* in a *High Goal* is worth ten (10) points.

Programming Skills Challenge Format

- The Programming Skills Challenge is an optional event. Teams who do not compete will not be penalized in either the main tournament, or the Robot Skills Challenge.
- Teams will play *Programming Skills Matches* on a “first come, first serve” basis, or by a method determined by the event.
- Teams will be guaranteed a minimum number of *Programming Skills Matches*, to be determined by the event organizers.
- Teams may also be limited to a maximum number of *Programming Skills Matches*, to be determined by the event organizers.

Programming Skills Challenge Rankings

- For each *Programming Skills Match* teams are awarded a score based on the above scoring rules.
- Teams will be ranked based on their highest *Programming Skills Match* score, with the team with the highest score being declared the *Programming Skills Challenge Winner*.
- In the case where two teams are tied for the highest score, the tie will be broken by looking at both teams’ next highest *Programming Skills Match* score.
- If the tie cannot be broken (i.e. both teams have the exact same scores for each *Programming Skills Match*), the next tie-breakers will be based on the following criteria in each team’s highest scoring *Programming Skills Match*. The tie-breakers are as follows (in order):
 - Number of points for *Bonus Balls* in *High Goals*
 - Number of points for *Balls* in *High Goals*
 - Number of points for *Bonus Balls* in *Low Goals*
- If the tie still isn’t broken, events may choose to allow teams to have one more deciding match or both teams will be declared the winner.



VEX Robotics Competition Nothing But Net – Appendix C

Programming Skills Challenge Heads-Up Match

The following method may be used to determine the Programming Skills Challenge Winner at certain events.

- The top two teams from the *Programming Skills Challenge* Rankings will advance to a final heads-up match.
- Each team will perform one (1) *Programming Skills Match*, with the 2nd place team performing first or with both teams performing simultaneously on separate fields.
- This *Programming Skills Match* will be a final opportunity for both teams to beat the high score posted in earlier rounds, if neither team beats or matches the previous high score, the holder of the previous high score will be declared the Programming Skills Challenge Winner.
- If one or both teams beat the previous high score, the team with the highest score in the “Heads-Up Match” will be declared the Programming Skills Challenge Winner.
- In the case of a tie for highest overall score, the tie will be broken by looking at the second highest score for both teams. (This process of looking at the next highest score will continue until the tie is broken, or all matches have been exhausted)
- If the tie cannot be broken, two winners may be declared, or a new match may be played.