

Skills Canada National Competition 2023
Mobile Robotics
Clarification Document

Intent and Spirit of the Game

Strategies aimed at preventing the opponent from playing the game are not permitted, as they are not in the spirit of fair play, and will not be permitted. Specifically, this means at no time is it acceptable to completely block the pathway holes in such a way that no balls are able to be shot through them.

In the same spirit of the game, completely blocking the mouth of the nets in such a way that no balls are able to pass through is not permitted. For example, sitting something in front of the mouth of the net blocking it completely will not be permitted. Also worth noting, this would be in violation of Section 6 (d) and in violation of the designated zones (as this would be considered an independent autonomous element). It is worth noting that robots are allowed to use defensive maneuvers to “block shots” from opponents.

Autonomous Elements

As a reminder to all teams, at no time is a robot permitted to intentionally drop pieces off of their robot. This includes autonomous robots, and also includes parts of the robot.

Included here are parts of the robot that remain somehow attached, but are no longer fully supported by the robot’s structure.

For example: Dropping one “anchor” for the end of a net, and driving the other end around while still attached to the robot, is not permitted.

Ball Handling

The hockey blade is the only surface which is permitted to intentionally shoot the ball. However, a team corrals the ball is up to them.

In the case where a team is corralling a ball with intentional pushing movements, and it drifts over to the other team’s side without being shot by the hockey blade, it will be ruled that violates the rules. Teams must be held responsible for their intentional movements, and therefore must be responsible for their corralling movements.

In the case where a ball is shot from the blade and unintentionally hits a robot and deflects from that robot, that would be considered not to be in violation.

The intent of the motion is a big thing here, and if they are chasing a ball that is bouncing around and they do not hit it with their shooting surface, not a big deal. If they are trying to actively control the ball and move it across the line without shooting it then it is a problem, and not permitted.

Shooting Mechanisms

Teams are not permitted to use a different shooting mechanism to shoot the ball in the direction of the blade for the purpose of ricocheting the ball off the blade. That is not an acceptable shooting mechanism.

For clarification: the surface of the plastic hockey blade must directly impart kinetic energy to the hockey ball which causes the ball to move in order for it to be classified as a shot. Any shooting mechanism which allows this transfer of energy will have a permitted shooting mechanism.

For example: A wheel-based shooting mechanism which shoots the ball at the blade, causing it to ricochet off the blade is not permitted.

If you are not sure if your shooting mechanism is permitted, please reach out to us.

Violations

If any rule violations are noted during the competition, the following escalation pathway will be followed:

During a match:

- 1) 1st Warning. In match warning when noticed.
- 2) 2nd Warning. In match when noticed, with the team clearly told the next occurrence is disqualification.
- 3) Disqualification of the match. The team will then be subjected to a discussion with the judges. The team will have to prove the violation is addressed before they are allowed to proceed in another match.

Not during a match (Practice time, inspection, or other)

- 1) Discussion with the team about the violation noticed with the judges.
- 2) Teams will not be permitted to proceed until the judges are convinced the violation is addressed.

Note: Depending on the severity of the violation, warnings may be skipped.