Newsletter 01

RCJ Soccer - Newsletter 01

Welcome to the RoboCupJunior 2025 championship in Salvador, Brazil! Congratulations for making it to the RoboCupJunior world championship. We're looking forward to meeting you and seeing what you have come up with.

Please read these newsletters carefully, **even if you think you are familiar with the procedures** because some details have changed and we don't want you to have any bad surprises.
Sometimes we have to change plans, particularly the schedule. We try to minimize this and we will let you know **through these newsletters** if anything we have told you needs to be changed.

We will be sending out a couple Newsletters before the competition and **daily updates** during the event. The newsletters (and in the future schedules, results etc.) can be found here or, on the RoboCupJunior Soccer Discord Server & Channel for Correspondence.

In this newsletter:
- A To-Do-List for you to best prepare for the competition
- Event overview
- Scoring Rubrics and Awards Document
- New TDP Form
- Communications Module for SuperTeam games

RoboCup Preparation Checklist v1.0

We have put things you need to do to have a successful competition into a checklist that you can use to make sure you have everything that will be required for successful participation at RoboCupJunior. If we make any updates to the list we will let you know via these newsletters. You can find the checklist here.

Note the v1.0 - we will update the checklist as needed and inform you about updates in these newsletters.

Event Overview - Details Below

We are currently finalising the Event Schedule and cannot release it yet, please expect it to come included in Newsletter 02. Unlike many other tournaments the international RoboCupJunior Soccer tournament includes a number of **aspects other than games in the final scores**. Please **read rules and awards criteria** (available below the rules at junior.robocup.org/soccer/ on your league page) carefully to make sure you are prepared to get all the possible points. There will be:

- SuperTeam games where multiple teams contribute one robot each to a 5 vs 5 robot game on the big fields. You will also be **required to implement** remote start and stop for your robot using communications modules provided on site (see SuperTeam rules for details).
- Interviews (in groups of three teams) where teams present their robots and design decisions to each other and the judges. **See Award Criteria** on the website for information on what information to prepare and what kind of questions to expect.
- A dedicated time slot for the poster session which is always a good opportunity to get in touch with other teams, discuss designs and techniques and brainstorm ideas for enhancements. It is therefore **mandatory to bring an A1 printed copy of your poster** to the competition that explains the design decisions going into your robot.
- Technical Challenges: Various tasks, some classics described in the rules, some only published after most matches are played, to which you will have to come up with **creative on-the-spot solutions.**

Scoring Rubrics

As you may have already seen this year's scoring rubrics have seen significant formatting changes. If you want to make sure you get as many points as possible give them a read and if you have any questions or anything isn't clear don't hesitate to ask on the forum so everybody can see the answers to all of the questions there.

Key points:

- Teams will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
    1. Individual Gameplay Tournament (Maximum of 30 Points)
    2. Technical Documentation Paper Form (TDP Form) (Maximum of 8 Points)
    3. Poster Design & Presentation (Maximum of 5 Points)
    4. Group Team Interview (Maximum of 5 Points)
    5. Sportsmanship (Maximum of 3 Points)
    6. Documentation and Community Contribution (Maximum of 5 Points)
- Addition of a Community Award
    - The community award is presented to the team that contributes the most to building and fostering a sense of community throughout the competition. Either through passing on their knowledge to other teams, helping others with any arising problems, or overall just being a pleasure to be around.
- Change of previously new Design Document to a Google Form based Technical Description Paper (TDP)
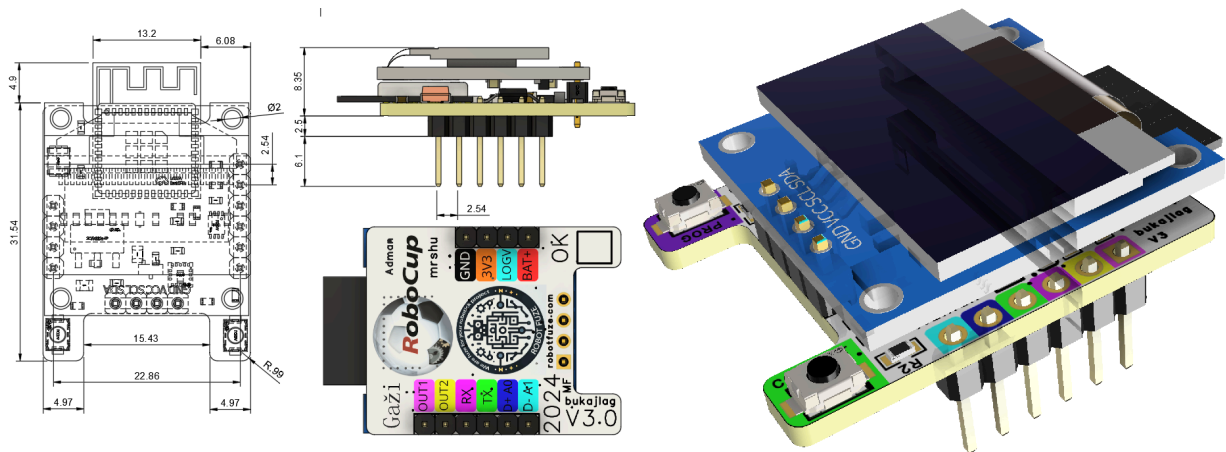
TDP Form

This year we have replaced the Design Document with a Technical Description Paper Form (TDP Form). This documentation item is structured as a Form to help segment the work to each of the team members. As the TDP Form is created through Google Forms, it (hopefully should) save your progress as you complete it, allowing you to work on it over the next month. **Note the TDP Form is due on Sunday, 13th of July**.

Please find the TDP Form here

Note that if you submit multiple times, **we will only mark the latest submission**. If you have any questions with the TDP Form, reach out to us via Discord or the Forum.

Communications Module

To make RCJ Soccer SuperTeam games more manageable for referees and to bring a simple and robust way of robot to robot / robot to referee communication, we would like to introduce these modules.
After the testing in Bangkok 2022 and Bordeaux 2023 we decided to make the use of these modules for SuperTeam **mandatory** for all teams.

Every team will be able to get these modules at the competition.

There will be a **mandatory** technical inspection for all the teams so we can ensure that every robot is able to start/stop using this communication module.

For information on how to use them please read this repository:

https://github.com/robocup-junior/soccer-communication-module

Your robot must fulfill these requirements for superteams:
- **Must** be able to power this module for the whole duration of the games

- **Must** have mounting place for this module so screen is visible and can be easily connected/disconnected
- **Must** be able to start/stop using GPIO signal at any time using this module

If you have any questions regarding the communications module, reach out via the forum or email.

Questions? Suggestions? Other feedback?

If you have general questions please ask them on Discord or the forum (junior.forum.robocup.org) so that everybody can see all questions and answers. If you have questions very specific to your situation you can always email us at robocupjunior-soccer@robocup.org.

Join official discord channel for more
https://discord.com/invite/45pxMQY4nJ