Welcome and thank you for participating in the Jennie D Blake remote skills event. Covid-19 has brought on a Brave New World for all of us. I am an experienced event partner with over 35 events held in my time, but this will be the first Virtual event I've ever run. I intend to outline all of the things you will need to know in order to be successful in our event, however there is a good chance there is something I will not cover. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

We would like to welcome all of the out-of-state teams as well as our state teams! Many of you have never attended an event at Jennie D Blake, so just a quick bit of information. We are a very small rural school with less than 50 students found in the Lakes region of New Hampshire. Our events have a history of being fun and very low-key. Our intention is to have a celebration of the accomplishments of the students. Therefore we want to make sure if there are any questions during the tournament they are brought up by the students and addressed to the head referee, Kyle Mitchell. We want to be totally transparent and completely fair. This also means - to be fair to all the game rules need to be followed and the referee's final decision will be final. We have a RECF certified referee for the event.

Game rules are available at:
https://content.vexrobotics.com/docs/viqc-rise-above/GameManual-12012020.pdf
Be sure to see: Robot Skills Challenge Format Options .....page 28

Also note: the setup of game elements is different for the skills events.

Note: Some *Risers* (highlighted below) will start *Skills Matches* while resting on top of the VEX IQ pieces that make up a *Goal*. This applies to (5) Orange *Risers*, (3) Teal *Risers*, and (3) Purple *Risers*).

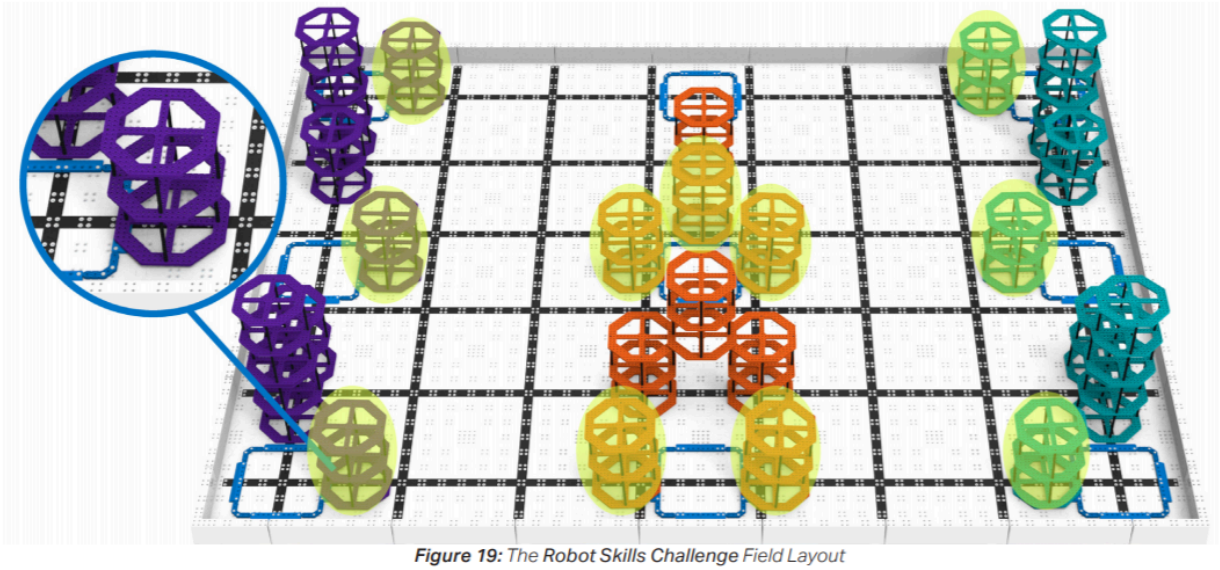


Figure 19: *The Robot Skills Challenge Field Layout*

We will be using the Zoom platform for the video aspect of the competition. If you are unfamiliar with Zoom you can sign up at https://zoom.us/ and they have a great help section, https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us . If the main contacts for the team would like to set up a practice meeting prior to the event please just contact me and we can do that.

The Zoom meeting information is as follows:

Topic: Jennie D Blake Robotics Live Virtual Skills Event
Time: Jan 23, 2021 08:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83105279189?pwd=bUU3NUJnZkFYZjh4MmdkVlkvb0dwUT09

Meeting ID: 831 0527 9189
Passcode: robot

Teams are welcome to participate in the Zoom meeting all day to watch the other teams do their skills run. It is important for teams to be ready when it's their time slot to start running their skills.

I sent a Google sheet to the team's main contact and gave them edit rights so they can sign up for a time for each team. Schedule team skills time.

> ***To Team Main Contact:*** *As a main contact you have been set as an editor for this sheet. Please be aware you have all edit rights to the sheet, so please do not delete anything - only add your teams into the time slot which is convenient for you. For instance we have 3243A, 3243B, 3243C, and 3243D. In our case 3243A would only be able to sign up for 1 time slot, B 1 time slot, C 1 time slot, and D 1 time slot. Having the team sign up for time slots allows you to either group all your teams together or you can spread them out throughout the day - whichever works best for you to meet Health guidelines. I anticipate we will have some flexibility during the day so if this format does not work for you or something happens during the day and you cannot make your slot, just contact us and we'll do the best we can to accommodate you.*

We ask that mentors/advisors go through the inspection checklist sheet prior to the event and every robot be inspection ready for their time slot. An event representative will do a quick run-through of the inspection checklist at the beginning of their allotted time prior to letting the team complete their skills runs. Inspection checklist.

We ask that teams stay muted with their camera off unless they are doing a skills run. Teams can use the chat feature or raise hand feature to indicate they are ready for a run.

While the team is completing the Skills run it is VERY important that the camera view shows all of the field and it is held steady by placing on a table, tripod, or other stationary platform. After the skills run the head referee may ask for the camera to be moved or a secondary device like a tablet or cell phone running the Zoom event be moved around to show different aspects of the field to ensure the scoring of the match is accurate.

The referee will score the match, however, we asked that the teams also fill out a score sheet.

It is our intention to share a screen with the match time being shown from our tournament manager server, so teams will be able to keep track of the match. As a backup, please have the VEX IQ Hub application loaded on a device in case timing needs to be done at the local site.

Hopefully this will answer most of your questions. There is also a Rise Above Remote Skills Tips presentation.

We look forward to seeing you on January 23rd and don't hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions.

David Kelly, Event Partner

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