

Assorted Referee Rulings

FLL *No Limits* Competition January 8, 2005

Q: Our pin has a wire that gets quite close to the food on the table, and we were wondering that if it was making contact at the end of the round by accident, if it would nullify the people food on the table?

A: In either case, no additional parts can be combined with the delivery to secure or contain it. Given that, since your wire was not part of the delivery and does nothing to secure or contain delivery, the wire is not an issue.

Q: What is considered “the robot”? Can they release a Lego ‘pull-back’ out of base or have the RCX release it?

A: The robot is the RCX and anything “built” on to it, so if you want to use the wind-ups, the robot would have to inch forward over the line, and then the robot would need to release the wind-up for it to be legal.

Q: What is considered “in the center basket”? When we put the ball in the basket, could it be caged in with Legos and drop the whole thing into the basket? If we managed to get 2 balls into the center basket, would we get credit (50 points) for each ball?

A: No. Only one ball per match can be worth 50 points. Breaking the plane is not enough, the ball must be completely inside the basket.

Q: Can we put an axle through the cat/dog food pieces to secure them?

A: Yes.

Q: Is storing the device with the pet food or any other deliverable attached to it outside base considered housekeeping (your ability to re-arrange things in your base)?

A: Yes, so it is legal.

Q: Can we snap the human food together inside the bowl when we deliver it?

A: Yes.

Q: Are we allowed to load deliverables onto a robot arm that will attach to the robot, while the robot is out of base and running?

A: Yes. The arm is not part of the robot until it is built on.

Q: Can we attach the ball holders (those provided in your base) together and add railings to hold the balls in the ball holders?

A: Yes. As long as the attachments are removed quickly after the match, and as long as the holders remain in tact, you may add holders to keep the balls in place.

Q: If we release a pull-back, (wind-up, spring-loaded, etc) and it will be in the way later, can we ask the refs to remove it?

A: Yes. This is a normal situation governed by the “Strategic Objects” and “Stray Objects” rules.

Q: What is the limit on the number of wires a robot may have?

A: There is no longer a limit on wire counts, as of '04.

Q: To get up the stairs, our robot deploys its own ramp in order to climb the stairs. Is this legal?

A: Because of the definition of 'the robot', once the ramp leaves the robot, it is no longer part of the robot. Thus, if the robot is not touching the mat or the lower steps, and it could stay on the top stair were the ramp suddenly removed, it is worth full points for the stair challenge.

Q: Housekeeping question: Can we be putting things into base while the robot is out running and scoring?

A: Yes. The Use of Hands In Base rule only has to do with the robot, not the other separate objects and prep work.

This is a strategy used to deliver the all the balls into the basket. The following are the appropriate rulings involved.

Q: Can we have a Strategic Object that can hold all eight balls and powered by a wind-up motor?

A: Yes.

Q: Before the beginning of the match, can we load all the balls into the Strategic Object?

A: Yes.

Q: At the beginning of the match, the robot and the Strategic Object are inside the base.

A: Okay.

Q: When the match starts, the robot leaves base with the strategic object.

A: Okay.

Q: The robot re-enters the base without being touched by the team.

A: Okay.

Q: The robot presses a trigger on the Strategic Object, causing it to start moving under its own wind-up power.

A: Okay.

Q: The robot is now no longer in contact with the Strategic Object.

A: Okay.

Q: The Strategic Object drives under its own power to the basket and dumps the balls, while the robot remains in base.

A: Okay.

Q: The 'robot' "can leave base with only one ball at a time", but could the robot *enter* the base and trigger a lever which starts a wind-up cart that holds more than one ball?

A: Yes.

Q: Is it legal to bring more than one RCX or more than one robot for a competition?

A: Yes. You may bring as many robots as you want, but only one (certified) robot can be used for any given match.

Q: Can you change your robot between rounds?

A: Yes. You could even alternate between two designs if you wanted to.

Q: Could we bring the robot back to base and switch it with another robot so that we wouldn't have to waste time switching parts on the robot?

A: Very much No. The materials rule restricts what you can bring to a *match*. Thus, while you may bring as many robots, RCX's, and motors as you wish, when you cross the line to begin a match, you must have only 1 RCX, 3 motors, etc.

Q: Could your robot on Team A take Team B's ball from the center and put in your own?

A: Yes. The center basket is *neutral* territory by design. The points are only counted at the end of the match. All teams have the same opportunity to make use of the neutral basket. It is the same as if Team A had simply beaten Team B to the hoop.