



## Frequently Asked Questions Updated 3/21/2013

The Robotics Education and Competition (REC) Foundation offers the following introductory answers to the most frequently asked questions about the 2013 VEX Robotics Competition (VRC) World Championship. If you have additional questions, please contact us at [support@robotevents.com](mailto:support@robotevents.com).

### **VRC World Champion (WC) Registration and Payment**

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**Q: Is there a multi-team discount for the VRC World Championship?**

A: No. There is not a multi-team registration discount for the 2013 VRC World Championship. Registration is per team.

**Q: When is payment due for the VRC World Championship?**

A: Teams that qualify before February 1, 2013, will have 4 weeks from the date that they qualified, to register and pay for the VRC World Championship. Teams that qualify between February 1, 2013 and March 1, 2013 will have 2 weeks from the date that they qualified, to register and pay for the VRC World Championship. Teams that qualify after March 1, 2013 will have one week from the date that they qualified, to register and pay for the VRC World Championship. All teams must submit payment for their VRC World Championship registration no later than March 8, 2013. If a team has not paid for their registration by March 8, 2013 (March 15, 2013 for any teams that qualified during the weekend of March 9, 2013) their registration will be cancelled without notice.

**Q: What is the 2013 VRC World Championship cancellation policy?**

A: VRC World Championship registration cancellations must be received by March 4, 2013 in order to receive a full refund. All cancellations must be emailed to [support@robotevents.com](mailto:support@robotevents.com) with the team number and the contact information for the team's contact. Teams that cancel on March 5, 2013 or after will not receive a refund for their registration fee.

**Q: Can teams register for the 2013-2014 VRC season while at the 2013 VRC World Championship?**

A: Yes, teams will be able to register for the 2013-2014 VRC season at the 2013 VRC World Championship, starting Saturday, April 20, 2013. Teams not attending the VRC World Championship can also register online for the 2013-2014 VRC season by visiting [www.robotevents.com](http://www.robotevents.com).

## **VRC World Championship Preparation**

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### **Q: How can I best prepare my team for the 2013 VRC World Championship?**

A: There are several online resources that teams should consult while preparing for the 2013 VRC World Championship. Teams should visit the following resources:

[VEX Forum](#)

[VEX Forum & Support Page](#)

[VEX Sack Attack Manual and Awards Appendix](#)

### **Q: How does my team participate in the Parade of Nations that will occur during the opening ceremony on Friday?**

A: Each team attending the VRC World Championship must send one representative to participate in the Parade of Nations that will occur during the opening ceremony on Friday, April 19, 2013. Prior to arriving at the VRC World Championship, teams should decide who will be their representative at the Parade of Nations. Teams will be provided with exact ceremony instructions during registration.

## **Travel, Accommodations and Attractions**

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### **Q: Is it better to fly into John Wayne airport or LAX?**

A: John Wayne Airport is roughly 15 miles from the Anaheim Convention Center and the hotels for the 2013 VRC World Championship. John Wayne Airport is serviced by 11 commercial airlines and is the most convenient option for VRC World Championship attendees.

LAX is roughly 42 miles from the Anaheim Convention Center. VRC World Championship attendees are responsible for booking their own transportation to/from the airport, and it is important to calculate the airport transportation costs into your trip.

### **Q: Do any of the hotels provide transportation to and from the airport?**

A: Teams will be responsible for making their own transportation arrangements from/to the airport. Airport transfer transportation options are listed on the GET Travel VRC World Championship travel page. Teams traveling together in groups of 6 or more people should contact the transportation services directly about a group discount.

### **Q: How does a team make hotel reservations for the 2013 VRC World Championship?**

A: The REC Foundation has worked with GET Travel to create a one stop shop VRC World Championship travel website. This year's travel website provides a convenient location to find the following:

\*\*Over 20 hotel options in one location

\*\*Airport transfer options

\*\*Specially priced entertainment options including Disneyland parks, Knotts Berry Farm and several attractions near the Anaheim Convention Center and in southern California

\*\*Educational offerings through Disney's Youth Education Series Program

The site also has valuable information about travel insurance, team fundraising, and more. Visit the official [2013 VRC World Championship travel website](#) to make arrangements for your team.

**Q: Is there a GET Travel registration stipend being offered again this year?**

A: The REC Foundation was able to negotiate very competitive hotel prices for the 2013 VRC World Championship and as a result, there will not be a GET Travel registration stipend. Teams will notice that accommodation prices for this year are not per person, and in many cases, the hotels will allow up to four people per room for the same price. This year's accommodations are also located either across from the competition venue or within a short walking distance, which eliminates the need for daily transportation to and from the competition venue. What is more, many of the hotels include breakfast and/or internet as part of their rate. In general, teams will experience much lower hotel costs and enjoy the convenience of staying closer to the competition venue.

**Q: Will transportation be provided from the various hotels to the Anaheim Convention Center?**

A: If your team is staying at the Anaheim Marriott, Hilton Anaheim, Clarion or the other recommended hotels within walking distance of the Convention Center, transportation is not necessary as these hotels are adjacent to the Anaheim Convention Center where the VRC World Championship is being held.

Transportation to/from the hotels in the area will not be provided this year. Several hotels with special rates for the VRC World Championship attendees are located within walking distance to the Anaheim Convention Center.

**Q: If one of our team members volunteers during the VRC World Championship, does our entire team qualify to receive the volunteer hotel room rate for the VRC World Championship?**

A: VRC World Championship volunteers will receive an extra room discount that is only for one room. The volunteer discount cannot be applied to all of the rooms booked for the team. Individuals interested in volunteering during the 2013 World Championship should visit the [volunteer website](#).

**Q: How do international teams request VISA and invitation letters?**

A: The REC Foundation is happy to provide VISA and invitation letters to teams. In order to process VISA and invitation letters, teams must complete two simple steps. First, the team should register and pay for the 2013 VRC World Championship. Next, the team contact should email the following information to [support@robotevents.com](mailto:support@robotevents.com): team name and team number, the names and passport numbers of all team members and mentors, and the address of the VISA/Embassy office. All VISA/invitation letter

requests should be submitted to the REC Foundation by January 31, 2013 to ensure proper time for processing. Requests submitted after January 31, 2013 will be processed as soon as possible, but may take between 2 to 3 weeks.

Please note that the REC Foundation will not produce a separate letter for each team member. Instead, the foundation will produce a letter for the entire team and attached the list of team members and mentors.

**Q: Are there any attraction and meal discounts available to the VRC World Championship attendees?**

A: Yes. There are several discounts available to VRC World Championship attendees. Attraction and meal discounts are listed on the GET Travel VRC World Championship page, <http://www.gettravel.com/vexroboticschampionship/>

**Q: Where should buses transporting a large number of spectators go to drop off passengers?**

A: Charter buses, school buses and other large vehicles should use the transit plaza entrance located off West Street.

**Q: Where can we find directions to the Anaheim Convention Center?**

A: Directions to the Anaheim Convention Center can be found at <http://meetings.anaheimoc.org/sites/default/files/page/103358/files/directions-to-acc.pdf>

## **Drayage and Shipping Instructions**

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**Q: How does the robot shipping work with the drayage company?**

A: Robot shipping details can be found at [http://marketing.ges.com/kits/22/1304/600130/PIT/22-1304-600130\\_PIT.pdf](http://marketing.ges.com/kits/22/1304/600130/PIT/22-1304-600130_PIT.pdf)

**Q: What is the best way to ship our robot and/or robot batteries to the event?**

A: There are a variety of ways that robots and batteries can be shipped to the 2013 VRC World Championship. It is suggested that this year's competitors review the suggestions that were discussed on last year's World Championship discussion forum, <http://www.vexforum.com/forumdisplay.php?f=364>.

## **Event Schedule**

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**Q: When will the agenda for the 2013 VRC World Championship get released?**

A: The preliminary agendas have been posted on RobotEvents. These agendas are subject to change but will give teams a pretty good idea of the tournament's schedule.

**Q: Will the practice fields be available on Wednesday, April 17, 2013?**

A: Yes, the practice fields will be available starting at 1:30 PM PDT on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 to teams who have passed inspection.

**Q: When will division structures be released?**

A: The division lists will be released at 12:00 PM EDT on Monday, April 15, 2013. Please visit the respective VRC World Championship page on RobotEvents to find the division lists.

**Q: When will match schedules be released?**

A: Teams will receive the match schedules in their registration packets upon arrival. One copy of the match schedule will be placed in the registration packet.

**Q: Do teams need to schedule a time to participate in the skills challenges?**

A: No. The skills challenges will be open for Round 1 from 4:00-6:00 PM PDT on Wednesday, April 17, 2013. The rest of the skills challenge schedule will be posted as we get closer to the event.

**Q: How many times can each team participate in the skills challenges?**

A: Teams may complete each skills challenge a maximum of (3) three times.

**Q: My team won't be attending the VRC World Championship, but we would like to host a new game unveiling party. Will the new game unveiling be webcast live and when?**

A: Yes, the new VRC game unveiling for the 2013-2014 season will be webcast live from the VRC World Championship on Friday evening at 5:30 PDT. The webcast URL to stream the new game unveiling live, in addition to a number of other announcements pertaining to next season, is available via – <http://www.robotevents.com/championship/>.

## **Event Details**

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**Q: Do the teams need to remove all of their equipment from the competition hall each night?**

A: The event venue is secured at night, and there will be security onsite, HOWEVER, the REC Foundation and VEX Robotics encourage teams not to leave valuables in the pits. The REC Foundation and VEX Robotics assume no liability for belongings left in pits and explicitly note that anything left in the building unattended, is left there at the owner's risk. This especially applies to small, valuable items like computers and cameras. You need to decide yourself if you want to leave your robot in the pits or not.

We expect that some teams will carry their robots back and forth to the venue. Since the hotels are close to the competition venue, it will be very convenient for teams to transport items back and forth.

**Q: When will the event layout be released?**

A: The 2013 VRC WC layout will be released no later than 2 weeks prior to the event.

**Q: What will be present in each team's pit?**

A: VRC teams will be provided with a 10' x 10' pit that will have a 6-foot table, 2 chairs, electricity, a trash can and a team sign. The pit will have an 8-foot drape behind it and a 3-foot drape along the side. The college division pits will be 15' x 10' to accommodate

for the two robots per college team.

**Q: Where will teams be able to purchase snacks & meals during the competition?**

A: The Anaheim Convention Center has food and snack outlets within the venue and there are several food outlets in the adjacent hotels, the Anaheim Marriott or Hilton Anaheim. There are also several food and snack options conveniently located within walking distance to the Anaheim Convention Center.

A link to a sample concession menu can be found at [http://content.robotevents.com/docs/VRWC/2013/2013\\_VRWC\\_FoodMenu.pdf](http://content.robotevents.com/docs/VRWC/2013/2013_VRWC_FoodMenu.pdf). The schedules for the specific concession stands will be provided to teams during registration.

Teams can also pre-order lunch through the Anaheim Convention Center by visiting: [http://content.robotevents.com/docs/VRWC/2013/2013\\_VRWC\\_FoodOrderForm.pdf](http://content.robotevents.com/docs/VRWC/2013/2013_VRWC_FoodOrderForm.pdf)

**Q: Can teams bring food into the Anaheim Convention Center (ACC)?**

A: Due to the rental terms of the ACC, teams are not allowed to bring outside food into the Anaheim Convention Center.

**Q: If I have food allergies, can I get an exemption to bring food into the Anaheim Convention Center?**

A: Aramark, the food service provider for the ACC, has the capability to accommodate most food allergies. If you have a food allergy and would like specific information about how the ACC can accommodate you, please send an email to [support@robotevents.com](mailto:support@robotevents.com)

**Q: Will the VRC World Championship be webcast and where can the webcast be found?**

A: Yes, the 2013 VRC World Championship will be webcast. The webcast URLs for all of the divisions will be listed on the World Championship page on RobotEvents by April 3, 2013.

**Q: How are teams assigned to the different divisions?**

A: Teams are randomly assigned to the divisions. It should be noted that teams from the same organization/school will be split across the divisions.

**Q: Our school/club has multiple teams, will they all be in the same division?**

A: No. Teams from the same school/organization/club will be split across the various divisions.

**Q: When will robot inspection be open?**

A: The robot inspection area will open at 1:00 PM PDT on Wednesday, April 17, 2013. After Wednesday, robot inspection will be open for the duration of the competition.

**Q: When will my robot be inspected?**

A: Your robot must be inspected before your first match. The inspectors will mark your robot to denote that it has passed inspection, and referees will look for those inspection marks before allowing you to play. In addition, referees and inspectors may require re-inspection of your robot at any time during the event. There is no official re-inspection of robots before elimination matches, but inspectors may spot check robots at this time.

**Q: How many qualification matches will we play?**

A: This will be dependent on the final number of teams participating in the 2013 VRC World Championship. The REC Foundation is working hard as the schedule is finalized, to ensure each team will get 9 or 10 rounds of qualifying matches.

**Q: Will all the pits be in one space?**

A: The team pits will be in Halls A, B, and C of the ACC. The Halls are connected and the pits will be organized by division.

**Q: Do you still need more volunteers?**

A: Yes. Individuals interested in volunteering during the 2013 VRC World Championship should visit <http://robotevents.com/volunteer/> and complete the online volunteer form. A description of the volunteer opportunities can be found [here](#).

**Q: If I have a robot that is running on crystals, will my robot work during the 2013 VRC World Championship?**

A: The 2013 VRC World Championship will not be configured to handle robots running on crystals or VEXNet conversion kits, only VEXnet on the VEX Cortex Microcontroller will be supported.

**Q: Are safety glasses required during the VRC World Championship?**

A: All volunteers, drivers and coaches must wear eye protection while in the competition field areas or around the practice fields. Teams demonstrating robots to Judges or guests must also wear eye protection. Eye protection in the pits will be left up to the discretion of individual team coaches, but we strongly recommend that eye protection be worn by anyone working on a robot, cutting materials, or in the vicinity of a working robot. When in doubt, get the glasses out and put them on.

**Q: Is there a dress code for the 2013 VRC World Championship?**

A: Students should consult with their team mentor or coach. All attendees must wear closed toe shoes during the event. Otherwise, there are no specific dress code restrictions. Attendees are reminded to dress comfortably and appropriately, and to avoid loose hanging clothes if they are going to work with tools in the team pit area.

**Q: Do middle school VRC teams have to compete in the middle school division(s) or can they choose to play in the high school division?**

A: Middle school VRC teams must compete in the middle school division during the 2013 VRC World Championship.



**Q: Can high school students who are taking college courses compete in the college division?**

A: The robot drivers in the VEX Robotics College Competition must be enrolled in a post-secondary school and cannot be enrolled in a secondary educational institution. Anyone may serve as a VRCC coach.

**Q: How will the Excellence Award winner be decided this year?**

A: Please refer to the VRC Sack Attack Awards appendix, located [here](#).

**Q: Will there be AC power at the field for our VEX Joystick power supply?**

A: During the VRC World Championship, teams will be provided with VEXNet Joystick Power Adapters (<http://www.vexrobotics.com/276-1701.html>) at the fields so drivers can plug in their Joysticks and ensure they have good power during a match.

**Q: Will the competition officials use anti-static spray on the fields this year? What is the spray that will be used?**

A: Yes, it is normal practice to use an anti-static spray at a competition of this size. This spray or something similar may/will be used to spray the tiles during the VRC World Championship: <http://techspray.com/product-info.php?pld=43&query=static&search=1>.

**Q: What is the suggested format for the engineering notebook?**

A: The Engineering Notebook requirement for the Design Award has no specified format. Each notebook should be created through a concerted effort by a team to document their design decisions. Teams should start their notebooks early and update them often in order to fully display the team's progress during the competition season for the judging team.

**Q: What is the robot inspection Fast Pass?**

A: Donate an experienced volunteer to help at inspections and your team will get a free pass to the robot inspection express line! Just get a volunteer to help out with inspections Wednesday afternoon (3:00 PM --7:00 PM PDT). One inspection pass (one robot) per volunteer.

## **Merchandise Sales**

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**Q: Will VEX Robotics have its on-location store where we can buy spare parts again this year?**

A: There will be a VEX Robotics store at VRC World Championship. Please note that there is no guarantee for how long the inventory will last. Please plan ahead and bring a good supply of spare parts with you.

**Q: What other merchandise will be sold during the 2013 VRC World Championship?**

A: As in past years, there will be a 2013 VRC World Championship shirt sold with the list of attending teams on the back. The t-shirt vendor will have other customizable apparel available for sale. Teams can order VRC World Championship apparel before



the event by visiting

<http://www.promoplace.com/ws/ws.dll/Pres?UID=31080&AC=451617>

**Q: Can teams bring items to sell from their booths during the VRC World Championship?**

A: No. Teams may not sell items from their pit or on the grounds of the Anaheim Convention Center.