

ÜberBots



Avon High School
Robotics
Team
Handbook
2009 – 2010 Season

2009-2010 Handbook Contents

Section 1: Introduction to the Robotics Program	3
1.1: Introduction to FIRST	3
1.2: About the ÜberBots	3
1.3: Proposed 2008-2009 Calendar	4
Section 2: Team Structure and Procedures	4
2.1: Leadership Positions Qualifications and Duties	5
2.2: Officers	5
2.3: Election Procedures	5
2.5: Selecting an Area to Participate in	6
2.6: Robot Design Process	7
2.7: Other Decision Making	7
2.8: Expenditures	7
2.9: The Competition Team	8
2.10: Fundraising & Financial Obligations	8
Section 3: Expectations	9
3.1: Enjoy Yourself . . . Learn & Experience Science & Technology Teamwork!	9
3.2: Academic Standing	9
3.3: Group Participation	9
3.4: Attendance	9
3.5: Acceptable Behavior	9
3.6: Self-Motivation	10
3.7: Meeting places	10
3.8: Communication	10
3.9: Parent Support Group	11
3.10: What Students Receive	11
3.11: Failure to follow the Handbook	12
3.12: Parental Involvement	12
3.13: Trips	12
3.14: Recruitment	12
Section 4: Agreements	12
4.1: Internet Use	12
4.2: Events outside the Program	13
4.3 Snow Days during Robotics Functions	13
4.4: Transportation with Adult Mentors	13
4.5: Publicity	13
4.6: Volunteer release	13
Section 5: Medical Release Form	14
Section 6: ÜberBots Team Handbook Agreement	16

Section 1: Introduction to the Robotics Program

1.1: Introduction to FIRST

The *FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition is a national contest founded by Dean Kamen in 1992. In 2009, *FIRST* reached well over 200,000 students, while The *FIRST* Robotics program included over 45,000 high school students on 1800 teams at 44 regional events throughout the US, the UK, the Netherlands, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, and Israel. In addition, the *FIRST* program and its supporting universities, institutions and corporations awarded almost ten million dollars in scholarships to its participants. The competitions are high-tech spectator sporting events; the result of lots of focused brainstorming, real-world teamwork, dedicated mentoring, project timelines, and deadlines. It is an opportunity for the students of Avon High to work closely with engineers and business professionals from local businesses to get a hands-on, inside look at the real-world competitive environment. At the heart of the program, the 'six intense weeks', students and engineers work together to brainstorm, design, construct and test their "champion robot". With only six weeks, all jobs are a critical part of the process. The teams then compete in a spirited, no-holds-barred tournament complete with referees, cheerleaders and time clocks. To learn more about this nation-wide program, please go to www.USFirst.org.

The partnerships developed between Avon High School and businesses provides an exchange of resources and talent, highlighting mutual needs, building cooperation, and exposing students to new career choices. The result is a fun, exciting and stimulating environment in which all participants discover the important connection between classroom lessons and real world applications.

Each year, the competition is different, so returning teams always have a new challenge to look forward to. However, the details are kept secret until the unveiling at the Kickoff Event in the first week of January. This provides a high level of excitement as everyone sees the new challenge for the first time and ideas immediately begin forming in people's minds.

1.2: About the ÜberBots

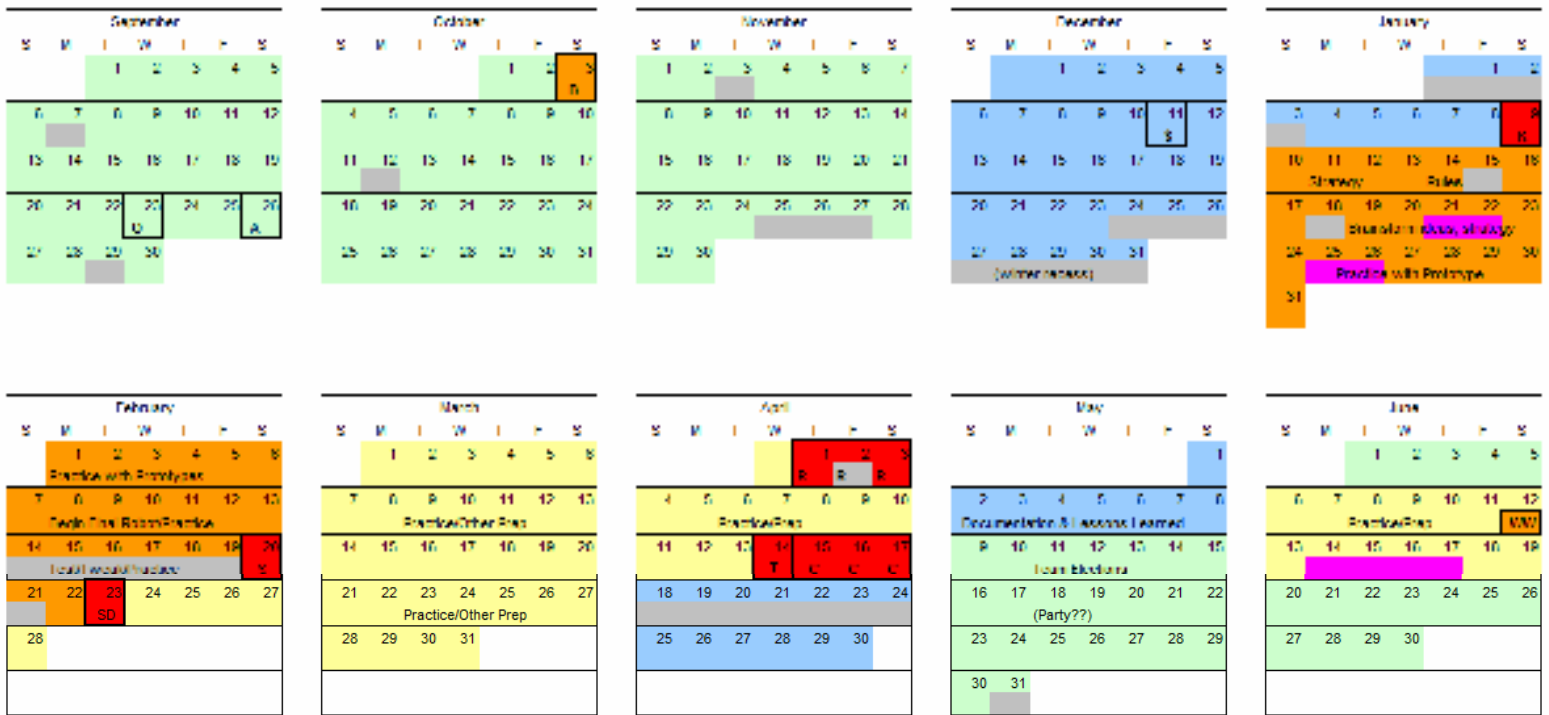
In the fall of 2002, a group of students from Avon High School initiated a robotics team, thus commencing their dynamic relationship with the *FIRST* Robotics program. Our team has undergone various changes over the years since its founding, including our sponsors, our name, and our leaders. In terms of knowledge, teamwork, leadership, and community activities, we've come a long way.

Team 1124 was initially named "The Cheetahs" after our primary sponsor, Cheetah Learning. Though they are no longer one of our sponsors, they will always remain part of team 1124's heritage. By 2004, the team had increased our sponsorship to include companies like UTC Fire and Security (previously Chubb). Along with the sponsor changes came a name change; in fall 2004 The Cheetahs became the ÜberBots, meaning "super robots". As our experience increases, all our team dynamics keep getting better. In 2003's "Stack Attack" competition, team 1124 ranked 9th and was eliminated in the quarterfinals. "Raising the Bar" in 2004 brought a ranking of 27th place and no participation in the elimination rounds. By 2005, we had made it all the way to the quarterfinals again, getting eliminated then. Our "Triple Play" seeding match rank was 10th. In 2006, we decided to "Aim High", and we won the UTC New England Regional with alliance partners team 177 and team 176. For the 2007 competition season, we did it again! Not only did we "Rack 'n' Roll" our way to the top of the UTC Connecticut Regional, winning with alliance partners team 195 and team 558; we also seeded third in the Newton Division at the Championship Event (held in Atlanta Georgia), ending up Division Finalists. In 2008, facing high expectations, the team went into "Overdrive" to seed first and win the Connecticut Regional for the third straight year. Their momentum carried onto Atlanta, where we were seeded third and ultimately made our way to the world Finals on the vaunted Einstein field. In 2009, coming off an incredible season, a much younger ÜberBots team was left to pick up the loss of 12 seniors. Responding quickly to the adversity the ÜberBots started off strong winning their preseason event in Suffield. However, they were not able to keep up with the high level of play they faced at the CT Regional. This loss ended their three-year reign on top. However, in the weeks after the regional prior to Atlanta, The ÜberBots made several changes. By the time Atlanta came around the ÜberBots had a new drive team, a modified robot, and many more hours of driving experience under their belts. They went on to be ranked and make it to the quarterfinals of their division, Galileo before being eliminated by the eventual National Champion. The ÜberBots look to pick up where they left off and continue to rebuild back up to the top in 2010.

For more detailed information on our team history, please visit our website at www.ÜberBots.org.

1.3: Proposed 2008-2009 Calendar

We can't wait to keep up our growth and success for the 2009-2010 season. The team currently meets throughout the school year. There will be team meetings during the school breaks and other days when school is not in session. The current (proposed) 2009 – 2010 calendar is below:



Key:	Energy/Activity Level	Key Dates
	Low	RB Robotics Begins
	Guarded	OS Official Start of Season
	Elevated	A Avon Day
	High	B Bash at the Beach
	Severe	\$ Money Due Date
	School Closed	K Kick-Off
	Exams	S Scrimmage
		SD Ship Date
		R Connecticut Regional Competition
		T Travel Days
		C Championship
		WW Where Is Wolcott? (Predicted)
		O Open House

In the fall time frame (green, typically meeting once or twice per week) the ÜberBots spend most of their time building the team, creating and establishing operational norms so that they perform at their peak during the 'six intense weeks' (orange, typically meeting 4 days a week, plus some weekend time) which typically start the first full week of the new year. The competition (red, 3 days) typically is held on a Thursday, Friday & Saturday, resulting in the students having the obligation to make up any missed school work. In addition to local regional competitions, there are 4 other weeks of regional competitions and a championship competition that we may or may not attend.

Section 2: Team Structure and Procedures

The team constantly strives to updated and improve its team structure. Late in the 2005-2006 season, the team (students) decided what positions and duties they believed would be helpful in running the team. At the end of the 2006-2007 season this structure was refined, eliminating the positions of Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer and adding the position of Public Relations. This resulted in our current team structure:

2.1: Leadership Positions Qualifications and Duties

President (2009-2010: Matt Bedard)–

Qualifications: Must be team member for at least two years; must possess good public speaking skills and organizational skills. Must attend Avon High School

Duties: Schedules, organizes, and presides over team meetings and leadership team meetings; represents team where singular presence is required.

Vice President (2009-2010: Ketaki Shashank)–

Qualifications: Must be team member for at least one year; must have good organizational skills. Must attend Avon High School

Duties: Assists the President and assumes duties of the President in his absence, Has a good relation with the team and is in charge of taking advice from team and relaying it to president.

Public Relations (2009-2010: Kelsey Starr)–

Qualifications: Must be team member for at least one year; must possess good public speaking skills. Must attend Avon High School, and must be very organized.

Duties: To preside over and join together spirit committee, fundraising team and press team. Also responsible for sponsor relations and letters.

Treasurer (2009-2010: Ben Henry)–

Qualifications: Must be team member for at least one year; must possess good financial/mathematical skills; must possess good communications skills; must have knowledge of spreadsheet or financial software. Must be a good public speaker and have great organizational skills. Must also attend Avon High School

Duties: Works with adult mentor and team president. Keeps accurate record of receipts and disbursements. Maintains team budget and reports on such at team meetings.

Secretary (2009-2010: Connor McCrudden)–

Qualifications: Must be team member for at least one year; must possess good organizational skills; must possess knowledge of word processing software and have Internet access. Must attend Avon High School

Duties: Takes accurate minutes of all team meetings and disseminates such to team members and parents/guardians through either mass emails, the online wiki, or the website forums. Also responsible for documentation of team procedures along with the official attendance

2.2: Officers

All officers must agree to be present at all team meetings within reason and will serve a term of one year beginning with the first team meeting in September. Re-election is possible. (While nominated and selected later in the 2009-2010 season, the new officers will assume their responsibilities as soon as they are announced at the end of the season. This time is needed to gain the buy-in of the students as well as develop the roles and responsibilities.

2.3: Election Procedures

The adult coach shall request nominations from the voting members (a valid election is only held when 75% of the team has completed their vote) either after the Connecticut Regional or the Championship Event in Atlanta (if we go). Each team member may nominate one person for each position (self-nominations are allowed). Seniors may nominate and vote, but may not be nominated. The adult coach will review the candidates and ask them for acceptance of their candidacy. A series of meetings and debates will be held at the end of May; elections will then be held the last week of May. Only student team members are allowed to vote (members are defined as students from the most recent season). The winners of the election will be notified during the first week of June. Officers shall serve a one year term, though re-election is possible. New officers shall assume their duties as soon as the elections are completed and the management team is announced.

2.4: Areas to participate in

The team offers a wide range of areas in which students can participate. Each area offers its own unique challenges and rewards, and students will often be assisted by skilled mentors. Such areas include (but are not limited to):

Fundraising - Plans and organizes fundraisers for the team

Publicity – Responsible for team flyers, writes newspaper articles, communications with the community,

Spirit - Responsible for team's overall appearance, including t-shirts designs, signs and other accessories, keeps spirits up at competitions and keeps a positive feeling. Arranges and coordinates for food and refreshments for our weekend build sessions, and assists with our end of year banquet activities. Also works toward achieving the regional DaimlerChrysler Team Spirit Award.

A/V – takes pictures, records video with both cameras and video feed at competitions, and documents the team's activities

Safety Captain – Helps ensure safe behavior by team members, and safe conditions in our build room, at all times

CAD – Models the current year's prototypes and robot, working closely with the mechanical team to create an effective robot. Also works toward submitting material to achieve the Championship Autodesk Award.

Mechanical Team – Brainstorms, designs, fabricates, assembles and maintains the robot

Electrical Team- works with the mechanical team to design and implement the electronics of the robot

Programming - Programs the robot control interface and autonomous mode

Rules/Updates – Team experts on current year rules. Keeps fully updated copies of the competition manual

Drive Team – Team members selected to participate in the competitive activities at the Competitions.

Members of this group will consist of Drivers, Coaches, and the Human Players. Members of the Competition Team can come from any of the sub-teams. Team also works closely with the various sub-teams ensuring bi-directional feedback.

Competitive Assessment / Strategy – Formulates game strategy and reviews matches, scouts opponent robots to benefit strategy, working closely with drivers and human players. This team is also responsible for developing the autonomous operating mode of the robot, working closely with Programming. It is expected that this group will also work very closely with the Rules Team.

Website - Maintains and updates the team website and works toward achieving the regional Website Award.

2.5: Selecting an Area to Participate in

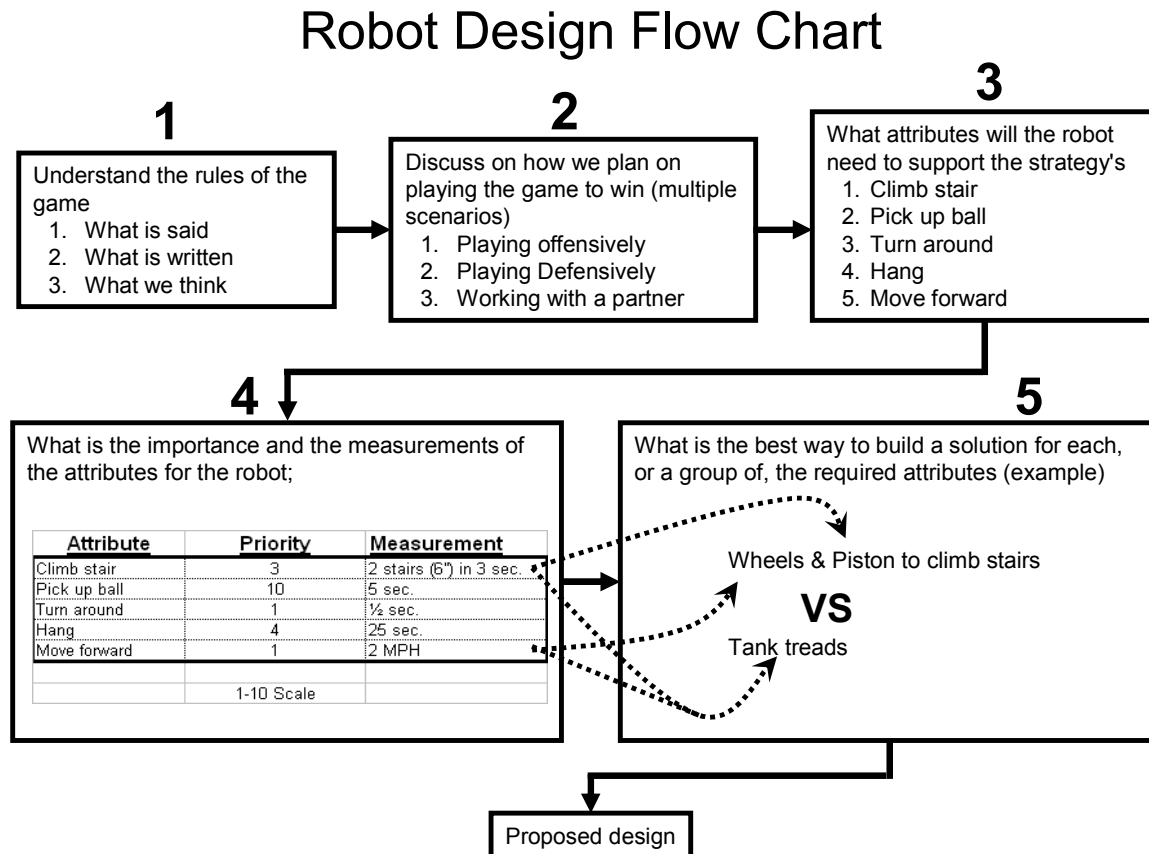
During the months of September through December students are welcome to explore all aspects of the team. After this period, students typically select one of the above areas as a major area to work in. Though it is suggested that each student remain working in the area of his/her selection, it is not required. For the remainder of the season (January through April), students will participate in the area of their selection. They will be allowed to vote and make decisions in their major area, but not in others. The elected student officials will ensure communication between the major sub-teams to ensure synchronized and smooth operations.

2.6: Robot Design Process

Decisions on how the robot is designed will be made by the Build Team. Any student may elect to be a member of the Build Team. This team will be encouraged to make their decisions after considering the voice of the entire team. The team utilizes the steps outlined below to ensure all input is heard and they are able to develop a winning strategy & robot.

Steps 1, 2 & 3 will be developed by the entire team using a KJ process. Full team participation is encouraged to ensure a rich diversity of concepts and ideas.

Steps 4 & 5 will be lead by the Build Team, once again reaching out for team buy-in as appropriate.



It is anticipated that an objectively based decision making process similar to the above will be used in other areas of the team as well, for example; in selecting t-shirt designs; logo choices; etc.

2.7: Other Decision Making

It should be clearly communicated that this is a competitive, learning environment and that not every idea by a student (or mentor or parent) may be realized. Based on the time and funding constrains, as well as the dynamics of the challenge, some decisions may be made with less than the 'entire team'. Mentors, at all times, are the responsible party to ensure that all decisions (including, but not limited to; Robot design, student participation levels, work group makeup) are made in the best interest the majority of the students and the team as a whole.

2.8: Expenditures

Any sub-team can elect to spend up to \$50 on incidental required items without advance notice or permission of the treasurer or mentors. All purchases over \$50 require notification and approval from the treasurer and a mentor before purchase. Estimates of anticipated purchases must include shipping and handling. In all cases, proper documentation of the purchase and receipts must be promptly remitted to the team Treasurer.

2.9: The Competition Team

The competition team will be picked once the robot is built. Anyone who wants to be on this team will be put on a list for a chance to practice with the robot. A team of judges (including a mentor) will watch these practices, and determine who is best suited for each role on the team. Judges will look for various characteristics of the team including if they listened to the coach, if there were any misunderstandings, etc. This process will go on for about 3 weeks, when the judges will select the competition teams.

Suggested requirements for competition team positions:

Coach: Must have been on the team for 1 year, and been to 2 competitions

Drivers & human player: Must have participated in at least one competition

Two teams will be chosen. The secondary team will (for the most part) work on fundraising (driving the robot at demonstrations), and the Primary team will drive at competitions, unless the Primary team wants a break, or has demonstrated that they can no longer operate at par in a competitive environment.

While these are the typical requirements of a drive team, the situation may vary from person to person; the final decision of the make-up of the competition team is the responsibility of the adult coach.

2.10: Fundraising & Financial Obligations

Students are required to participate in team fundraising activities throughout the year. Fundraising is an important obligation, as it not only helps the team to bring in necessary financial resources, but it also spreads awareness of our organization and helps to bring in potential sponsors/donors who could be useful partners in the future. All fundraising must be coordinated and approved by the management team, as well as the coach and shall be in accordance with the Avon Board of Education policy on fundraising. These obligations are stated as follows:

1. The team is considering attending up to 3 competitions. The team always tries to attend the Connecticut Regional, which is in Hartford, CT. An additional local regional (bus trip) will be considered and, this year the team is hoping to attend the National Championship competition in Atlanta (plane ride).
2. Chaperones as well as students are expected to pay for their travel and personal expenses. Historically, travel to the championship event in Atlanta Georgia has been under \$900 / person.
3. Fundraising events sponsored by the ÜberBots teams are group fundraisers. The group fundraisers are used for team expense (tools, robot parts, necessary equipment). Students are asked to participate in as many fundraising activities as possible, as it helps not only the team, but also the individual themselves.
4. If a team member can no longer participate with the team, for any reason, the team will attempt to return "out of pocket" payments made by the team member unless those funds have already been used to make purchases (for example if a non-refundable airline ticket has been purchased).
5. Food and incidentals at competitions are additional personal out of pocket expenses, unless otherwise specified. Funds raised through either individual or group fundraising activities are not to be used for the purchase of food or beverages at the weekend build sessions, this will come from out-of pocket sources or family or local vendor donations.

Learning to work effectively as a group, developing personal relationships, fundraising, and accepting and discharging scheduled commitments are elements essential to the growth of the team, and are provided through these fundraising activities. Team members may be randomly chosen to participate in fundraisers. **Those who sign up and are picked must participate in the fundraiser.** Examples of possible fundraisers are; pasta dinner, entertainment books, car washes, selling butter braids, Flatbread and Ninety Nine dinners, and displaying the robot in front of Wal-Mart and Stop & Shop.

While there are no dues to join the ÜberBots, there are some typical financial obligations. All team members are asked to purchase (at least one) team shirt, at a typical cost around \$15 / shirt. From time to time other

opportunities are made available, such as Hats (\$12) or Sweat Shirts (\$30) – While all purchase of this nature are purely voluntary, usually every student is interested.

Students are responsible for their own lunch on all full day meetings, mostly held on Saturday. If a student chooses, a group lunch is typically arranged by the students with an average cost of \$5 per student.

Note that the team is always looking for major sponsors or contributions of any kind. If you know of a person or business wishing to sponsor or donate to the team please contact the fundraising committee through e-mail (at AvonRobotics@Comcast.net)

Section 3: Expectations

3.1: Enjoy Yourself . . . Learn & Experience Science & Technology Teamwork!

3.2: Academic Standing

- To participate in the program, students must maintain eligibility as defined for teams and clubs in the Avon High School student handbook, or as determined by the adult coach and the students parents.

3.3: Group Participation

- Students must attend the Kickoff Event, the Connecticut Regional Competition and the Scrimmage unless a legitimate reason is give ahead of time. Students not 'properly excused' from the regional competition will be ineligible to attend the Championship Event in Atlanta.
- Attendance at a second regional/Championship Event (Atlanta) is optional.
- Students are strongly encouraged to attend the second event, if possible.
- Attendance at the Championship, if the team attends, is also strongly encouraged
- Only those students who qualify can attend

3.4: Attendance

- Students must maintain a good standing on the team in order to attend Competitions and Scrimmages. Good standing is determined by your participation, attendance (60% of the meetings, 70% for drivers and officers) and attitude.
- Each student is required to sign in and out of every meeting. It helps to gives the team a general idea of how well attended a student is, which is used to determine if a student is eligible to participate at group events.
- School and family always come first. If you have a challenging conflict, please see one of the mentors or officers.
- Meeting attendance during January mid-terms is optional, and will not be counted towards your attendance record.
- In the event of severe weather conditions, we may cancel sessions, or we may meet if the school is open. In these cases, it is then up to the decision of the student's parent(s) whether to allow the student to attend. In these instances, attendance will not be counted.
- Sunday meetings are optional. Those who attend will gain extra attendance percent.

3.5: Acceptable Behavior

- Student must conduct themselves in a manner consistent with Avon High School's policy and procedures.
- Team Leaders/Teachers reserve the right to remove a student from the team at any time, as long as they have reasonable cause. (Safety of all students is a key priority)

- The ÜberBots is a representative of UTC Fire & Security as well as other major sponsors, thus we expect everyone to behave in a way that is acceptable and expected of such representatives.
- While at the facility (AHS, Practice field or competitions), students are expected to behave respectfully of the other students, adults and facility itself, meaning keeping the facility clean by attending cleaning days and generally picking up after yourself
- Students are also expected to be responsible for themselves, especially while using the team's property, and while in the computer room (no food is allowed in the AHS CAD room). Students are also expected to be sure they are being safe at all times.
- During meetings, students are expected to behave properly and respectfully toward any person at the meeting or running the meeting; side conversations are not acceptable.
- Students (as well as mentors and coaches) are required to demonstrate gracious professionalism at all times.
- If any adult has asked a student to perform a task, the student is expected to respond respectfully and continue with whatever was asked. Students are also expected to be respectful and polite to anyone who they encounter.
- The adult coach also reserves the right to send any student home from a competition at their own expense, if they are behaving inappropriately (to a great extent). All mentors present will make the final call on such a drastic measure.

3.6: Self-Motivation

The students who learn the most are the ones who ask questions and pester the engineers; do that and you'll learn. No one on the team will force a student to do anything. This is a "self motivating" program and while our mentor volunteers will make every effort to encourage involvement by all students, the student makes the ultimate decision on where they choose to engage.

3.7: Meeting places

The robotics team currently utilizes these locations for its regularly scheduled meetings;

- Avon High School – The workshop area, next to the CAD room
- Stop & Shop
- Flatbread
- Hartford Regional Area [Connecticut Convention Center]
- Avon Public Library
- UTC Research Center
- UTC Fire and Security
- Wal-Mart
- Reflexite – Building at 50 Tower Ave, Avon CT
- Thompson Brook School
- Avon Middle School
- Pine Grove Elementary School
- Roaring Brook Elementary School

The student and/or parent/guardian is responsible for transportation to and from all Robotics team activities. Parent permission slips will be required for activities outside our normal meeting places which are identified above. In addition, in the event that school bus is chartered for a Robotics team activity, students must ride the bus there and back, as per school rules.

3.8: Communication

All communications with regard to the team, such as team meetings (time & location), extra curricular events (fundraising, practice driving sessions, etc) will be accessible to the students and the parents on the team web site www.ÜberBots.org, through the sign-up mailing list. The web site has the ability to sign up for three (3) different types of email notifications;

- 1) Notifications addressed to students
- 2) Notifications addressed to parents – these messages are typically developed and sent by a team parent representative
- 3) Notifications address to mentors

Everyone is encouraged to sign up for any and all information they believe may be useful in supporting the mission and vision of the ÜberBots. All past emails are also available through the history section of the website.

The team may also communicate through the school PA system. Please direct any questions to the Team President either in school, through e-mail, or a phone call. Please recall that during the winter season, with sudden weather changes, the schedule of the meetings may change with little notice, in those cases, it will be important to keep up with the website and its updates.

In all cases the student will be encouraged to subscribe to e-mail to be on the distribution list for all correspondence (done through the Web Site www.ÜberBots.org).

Students are responsible for noting school-posted meeting notices, information regarding field trip dates and times, etc.

All members of the robotics mentors team are always open for feedback. Please do not hesitate to provide feedback as required. As this is a student run team, it is highly recommended and encouraged that the initial conversation be started with the Management Team (defined earlier). As a part of the student's education the Management Team has been trained and is willing to try and address issues as they may arise.

In the rare instance that the student and or parent guardian of this application feels 'unhappy' or otherwise 'disenchanted' with the robotics team and the Management team has been unable to address, please come see the coach – Jim Ligotti. The adult coach of the team is ultimately responsible for problem resolution and can be reached at AvonRobotics@Comcast.net. or (860) 770-4100

3.9: Parent Support Group

As mentioned above most of the communication from the team is handled through the ÜberBots website (www.ÜberBots.org).

There is however an important roll in communication between this student run organization and the administration (High School, town or otherwise) that can, from time to time, require parent support. While the students (along with the coach & mentors) will make every effort to communicate the importance of this program and will attempt to stand up for their rights, in our democratic importance is often measured by numbers. Especially in these difficult financial times, Parental Support may be critical in ensuring that this program continues to grow.

The purpose of the Parent Support Group (PSG) – currently chaired by Ellen Bedard - is to support and facilitate the goals of the Avon Robotics Management Team within the Avon High School (AHS) and in accordance with Avon Board of Education (BOE) policies and procedures for extracurricular activities. All functions and actions of the PSG shall be approved by the Avon Robotics Management Team prior to execution. Currently the PSG has two major functions;

1. Support the Avon Robotics Management Team and coach to facilitate communication between the Avon Robotics Team and member parents. All such communication shall be approved by the Avon Robotics Management team and the coach – communication shall be through the website at www.ÜberBots.org .
2. When required by the Avon Robotics Management Team and Mentors to facilitate communication between the Avon Robotics Team and the AHS and Avon BOE. This may include attendance at meetings with the Avon Robotics Management Team and AHS when required.

All Parent support for this program, above and beyond working directly with the student Management team and the coach, is to be coordinated through the Parent Support Group.

3.10: What Students Receive

- The experience of teamwork with peers and adults.
- The experience of establishing & working to a schedule, and finishing a project in time for a deadline.
- Exposure to the field of engineering and professional engineers, as well as marketing, artwork, computers, and financing.

- Exposure to all facets of a program that designs, delivers, and uses a “real world” product (the robot) to perform to set goals and specifications.
- Useful knowledge in choosing a career path.
- A challenge to explore their aptitudes, skills and limits.
- A great team bonding experience
- Life skills, such as problem solving, teamwork and commitment
- Friendships that will last a lifetime.
- Exposure to a source of college scholarships
- Lifetime connection to a US FIRST Alumni Group

3.11: Failure to follow the Handbook

While clearly the purpose of the program is to be inclusive and afford every child the opportunity to learn and grow, in some rare instances the program must reserve the right to limit the participation of a child (or mentor) who’s actions are;

- 1) Jeopardizing the health and / or safety of anyone – violating the safety program
- 2) Disruptive to the program, as determined by a consensus of five (5) or more mentors
- 3) Inconsistent with the behavioral policies of this handbook as well as those of Avon High School as determined by the Avon High School representative responsible for disciplinary action.

One written warning for violating the code of conduct outlined in this handbook will be issued to the student as well as the parents (during which time the student’s ability to participate may be curtailed by the coach).

Further infractions may result in the person being ineligible to participate in the program. Any such decision, which would be made by both the coach and the Avon High School representative responsible for disciplinary action would remain in effect for the remainder of that season.

3.12: Parental Involvement

Not required, but strongly encouraged. There are many ways for parents to participate such as: chaperoning, transporting students, assisting with fundraising, providing food and refreshments for our weekend build sessions, joining the Booster club, planning trip itineraries, etc. While the team can always use more support from the technical/engineering perspective, we are particular in need of other talents such as organizing, fundraising, spirit activities, and publicity, and we welcome any and all additional support.

All parents should be prepared to help and support the efforts of the Parent Support Group as required.

3.13: Trips

In the event of a team trip, be it to witness a demonstration, to compete in a competition or any other circumstance, participating team members are expected to have all permission slips, medical forms, money, and any other necessary items handed in on time. Failure to do so may result in the offending student not being allowed to participate in the event.

3.14: Recruitment

The team is always looking for interested and fun students to join our ranks. In addition, we also look forward seeing former members return year after year for yet another action-packed season. Team members are always encouraged to recruit new students to the program if they demonstrate interest in the team.

Section 4: Agreements

4.1: Internet Use

Students participating in the ÜberBots program will be exposed to and have the use of “unrestricted” Internet while at robotics. While the school district has monitored and blocked Internet, access by participants in the ÜberBots program is not monitored and is similar to the high-speed Internet available in many households. While mentors will be present during student’s internet use, mentors or adult coaches are not responsible for

student's use of internet. It is the student's responsibility to utilize the Internet properly, and to access websites and obtain materials that are legitimately related to the ÜberBots program. Any improper use of the Internet, as with all other tools in the program, will be grounds for dismissal from the program. As with all tools (Internet included), it is the student's responsibility to know how to use the tool properly or to request instructions by a mentor on proper use (a session on proper Internet utilization will be held at the beginning of the robotics season). By signing the handbook, the student agrees to use the Internet appropriately and responsibly as a tool to supplement your learning in the ÜberBots robotics program.

4.2: Events outside the Program

The team chooses to participate in off-season competitions, one of them being Battlecry @ WPI in June. Some years, students have gone just for the second day of competition, but other years they have attended for both days, staying overnight. This requires adequate transportation and supervision of adult mentors and parent chaperones who stay overnight in the dorms with the students. If the team opts to go to Battlecry @ WPI in June 2010, this will be considered an event which is outside of the normal robotics program, and is not a school-sponsored function.

4.3 Snow Days during Robotics Functions

There may be occasions when the ÜberBots team is away from school at a robotics function, such as the regional competition, when school gets cancelled for reasons relating to weather or otherwise. In such an event, the team will stay at its current location and continue with the trip as a non-school-sponsored function, returning home at the originally scheduled time, if travel is safe to do so. By signing the handbook, parents/guardians agree that the student may stay with the ÜberBots at their event as initially planned. If parents/guardians wish for their son or daughter to return home, they must provide transportation and notify a mentor that they are taking their son or daughter home.

4.4: Transportation with Adult Mentors

Adult mentors or coaches may offer to provide transportation to students using their personal vehicles, such as when carpooling. In such instances when students agree to ride with an adult mentor or coach in his/her car, the student is responsible for his/her own safety and well-being, and by signing the handbook, parents/legal guardians and the students recognize this and release adult mentors and coaches of any liability if injury occurs when a student is riding in a mentor's car.

4.5: Publicity

The ÜberBots frequently take team photographs to commemorate our accomplishments and preserve our team heritage. These team photos often appear in media related to the ÜberBots. By signing and agreeing to this handbook, parents/guardians and students agree and consent to allow their photographs, name, or comments to appear in media related to the ÜberBots

While parents and friends are encouraged to help spread the word of the ÜberBots team, any and all references to the ÜberBots which will be displayed through public media (newspaper, radio, TV, cable, etc...) must be approved in advance by the adult coach. In addition, any publicity released that specifically references individuals on the team must be authorized in advance by the student management team or adult coach.

4.6: Volunteer release

While the parents, mentors and the coaches of the AHS ÜberBots will do their best to ensure the safety and well being of every member of the team, they are after all volunteers and cannot be everywhere at all times. It is the responsibility of the students of this program to follow all instruction, safety procedures and common sense. By signing this agreement, parents/legal guardians and students in the program agree to hold harmless the volunteers of this program including the adult coach and mentors, from any and all liabilities associated with the AHS ÜberBots program, and to indemnify said volunteers for any losses or damages suffered by reason of any claims asserted against them resulting from their actions taken with the scope of their duties.

Section 5: Medical Release Form

Please sign and return by October 1, 2009.

Team Member's Name: _____
(Please print)

To the Parent or Guardian:

In case of accident or serious illness, I request that AHS contact me. If the school is unable to reach me, I hereby authorize AHS to make appropriate arrangements. AHS has no liability for medical costs.

Known allergies to Medicine/Food:

Known Medical Conditions (such as diabetes, seizures, epilepsy, asthma, heart, kidney, etc.):

Please list any medications being taken:

Please list any dietary restrictions:

Family Physician: _____ Phone Number: _____

Insurance Company: _____ Phone Number: _____

Policy Number: _____

Hospital Choice in Case of Emergency: _____

Please continue form on next page.

In Case of an Emergency, Contact:

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Would the participant be able to have the following medications administered?

Acetaminophen: Yes _____ No _____

Aspirin-free analgesic: Yes _____ No _____

Student may receive first aid for minor injuries: Yes _____ No _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Section 6: ÜberBots Team Handbook Agreement

Please sign and return by October 15, 2009.

I _____, as a participant on Team ÜberBots 1124 hereby agree to abide by all the rules and consequences stated in the handbook on the ÜberBots website: www.ÜberBots.org. I certify that I have read the handbook and understand all the rules/regulations/releases that were set in it.

Student Signature

Date

I _____, as the Parent/Guardian for a student on Team ÜberBots 1124 hereby agree to abide by all the rules and consequences stated in the handbook on the ÜberBots website: www.ÜberBots.org. I certify that I have read the handbook and understand all the rules/regulations/releases that were set in it.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Information

Waiver and Assumption of Risk

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This form may be used in situations in which a customer is either using a business' facilities, receiving instruction, renting equipment, or participating in activities sponsored by a business. If there is any possibility of injury or harm, this form provides a method for the customer to assume the risk of the activity and waive any right to file a claim against the business.

By this form, a customer agrees that they have been informed of and understand the risks involved, that they agree to abide by any safety rules, and that they agree to act in a non-negligent manner while using the facility or item or participating in the instruction or activity.

The items needed to fill in this document are the names of the customer and the seller, the type of activity or instruction, and the age of the customer.

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An attorney should be consulted for all serious legal matters.

WAIVER AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

I, _____, Customer (*student member, mentor, or sponsor of Avon H.S. Robotics Team*), voluntarily sign this Waiver and Assumption of Risk in favor of the Owner, in consideration for the opportunity to use the Owner's facilities (50 Tower Lane, Avon CT) and/or the opportunity to receive instruction from the Owner or the Owner's employees, and/or to engage in the activities sponsored by the Owner, as follows: *Robotics Team meetings and practice sessions*.

I understand that there are certain risks and dangers associated with the activity and use of the facilities and that these risks have been fully explained to me. I fully understand the danger involved.

I fully assume the risks involved as acceptable to me and I agree to use my best judgment in undertaking these activities and follow all safety instructions.

I waive and release the Owner from any claim for personal injury, property damage, or death that may arise from my use of the facilities or from my participation in the activities or instruction.

I am a competent adult, aged _____, and I assume these risks of my own free will.

Dated: _____, 20____

Signature of Customer (ÜberBots team member)

Printed Name of Customer

Address of Customer

City and State of Customer

Signature, Parent of Team member

Printed Name of Parent of Team member