



**PDF OF EMAIL SENT TO OSU TEAMS ON 2/10/10 at 10:19 am**

Dear Teams Coming to FTC Qualifier at OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY:

We had a successful Qualifying Tournament at OMSI last Saturday. In the process we learned some things about the hardware and software inspection process that we would like to share with you so you know what to expect and come prepared to pass inspection the first time.

All rules in your team manual will be enforced except that you will be allowed to use tape to hold on your team numbers as long as there is

little chance of them falling off during the competition rounds. Here are some things to pay extra attention to as they created problems for several teams at OMSI:

(a) Size: Make sure your robot will fit in an 18 inch by 18 inch by 18 inch cube without the cube compressing it to smaller than its natural size. Touch the cube is allowed by robot should not expand even a little bit when the cube is removed.

(b) If there gears anywhere near the outside of your robot they should either be protected by legal material that creates a barrier to fingers in the areas where the gears mesh or you should place a yellow or red "DANGER" sticker near where the gears mesh such that anyone who might touch or pick up the robot will know to keep their fingers away from these areas.

(c) Tape is not allowed except to insulate electrical connections or to hold on your team number signs. Velcro cannot be used as tape.

Examples of illegal use of velcro are using a strip of velcro to wrap around something to hold it in place and using the sticky side of velcro to hold two things together.

(d) Tie things down. Loose wires should be tied down so they don't protrude from the robot.

(e) Parts and materials: Ensure that you only use parts and materials that are explicitly listed in your team manual. Measure thicknesses of materials in advance to ensure there are no surprises.

(f) Extending during play: Make sure you understand the rules about how your robot can and cannot extend upwards and outwards to play. These rules will be enforced.

(g) Shooting limits: If your robot can launch balls, there should be no way that it can launch a ball farther than 10 feet and higher than 4 feet.

(h) Team numbers. Your team number must be visible from TWO OPPOSITE sides of your robot.

(i) Your robot must have a flag holder that meets the guidelines in your manual.

(j) Software / Blue Tooth

(1) You must bring a laptop loaded with the latest version of the Field Control Station (FCS) software. The latest version number ends in 007.

(2) During software inspection you must be able to demonstrate that

- You can establish a blue-tooth connection with your robot using the FCS software.

- You can use FCS to instruct your robot to go into autonomous mode even if it doesn't do anything in Autonomous mode.

- You can use FCS to instruct your robot to go into Teleop mode.

Please let me know if you have questions.

...Bruce Schafer, Lead Inspector