Skills Ontario 2026 Robotics Q and A Document

Updated: March 10th, 2026

A. General

A.1- What is this document?

This document is a supplement to the competition scope that answers specific questions teams may have about ambiguities in the scope. This document supersedes the current version of the scope found on www.skillsontario.com.

A.2 – What is the Mail list?

The mail list is the fastest way to receive information about the competition. It is recommended that at least 1 team member or coach should be receiving email updates. Email dan.kurz@dsb1.ca to be added to the mail list.

B. The Court

B1. The scope says the hallways are 22" wide. Appendix A has them at 21 1/4 inches. What is correct?

Hallways are 21 1/4" wide. Appendix A will be taken as correct if there are any discrepancies between it and the scope.

B2. Pieces FE3 and ECU15 have different sizes on the drawing from what is in the cut list. What is correct?

The drawings are correct. FE3 should be 4"x6", ECU15 should be 5 ¼" x 6".

B3: What colour will the chunks of pool noodle be?

The scope says they can vary in colour. Teams will need to be able to adapt. However, the autonomous pool noodle chunks will be blue (like in the description video) at provincials.

B4: What will the playing surface be at the Skills Ontario Competition?
The surface will be good 1 side plywood with a polyurethane coating. Note: this is the surface that will be used at nationals too.

B5: Will the ECU Fan shelf be flush with the wall or hanging over a bit?
The ECU fan shelf is flush with the plane of the wall and does not hang over.

C. Game Play

C1: If the autonomous bot knocks something over after the switch is flopped, can the team lose points?

No. The switch flip determines the end state of the game. Which is what is scored.

C2: Does "reaching over walls" include breaking the interior vertical plane of a wall, but not fully crossing it?
Yes, no part of a team's entry may break the vertical plane formed by the inside (or outside) edges of any walls.

C3: Are the tele-op robots allowed to touch, push or pull the autonomous robot at all?

Yes, as long as the interaction is outside of the autonomous zone.

C4: What will happen if a game piece goes over a wall in an advantageous way for a team? For example, a piece of pool noodle roles off the top of a bot into the debris zone.

The judge would not count the piece for points. The judge may also issue a warning if it is deemed intentional or a repeated action.

C5: Robots can't reach over walls. Could a robot reach over the top of the ECU?

No, the sides and front face of the ECU go up to the ceiling, just like the walls.

C6: Is an arm accessing the ECU fan shelf in violation of the "no reaching over walls" rule?

No. The fan shelf, and the space above is considered part of the autonomous zone and is fully accessible to the autonomous robot.

C7: Can fallen beams be lifted over the 2x2 posts?

Yes. But they cannot be lifted over walls.

D. Robot Design

D1: If a robot separates into two parts, while remaining connected with a wire is this acceptable?

Yes. All parts of a robot must be in continuous physical connection for the entire match to be considered one robot.

D2: Are teams allowed to transfer pieces between robots. For example, could a "trailer" attached to 1 robot at the start of the match be attached to the another robot part way through?

No. See Question D1 and rule 3.3.6 in the scope.

D3: Rule 8.6.4.2 in the scope says "Laser devices are not permitted". Does this include time of flight sensors or other classroom safe distance sensors that technically use lasers?

This rule is in the scope to prevent teams from using lasers that are distracting or dangerous. The NTC has ruled that commercially available, unmodified distance sensors that use class 1 lasers are permitted for sensor use only. Note: Teams must provide documentation during inspection showing that their device is rated as class 1. For more clarification about a specific product reach out the technical chair at dan.kurz@dsb1.ca.

D4: Can a single tele-op robot have 2 controllers connected to it?

Yes. Teams are permitted to have up to 2 Controllers per tele-operated robot, as per Section 1.1

D5: Can a robot have a tool changer head where pieces of the robot where pieces of the robot are taken off and put on the robot not the floor?

Yes. But parts must stay connected to the robot at all times. See D1 and D2 for more details on robot connectivity.

E. The Skills Ontario Competition

E1. Do competitors need to wear safety glasses this year?

Yes. Everyone in the robotics area must wear safety glasses at all times during the competition.