



Team Update 15

03/08/2016

GENERAL

- **Low Bar Fabric:** As many of you have already observed, the Low Bar flap fabric is not holding up well at events. We have been investigating replacement materials that would be comparable for teams, appropriately durable, perform the necessary function of helping to keep boulders from accidentally rolling into the opponent's courtyard, and easily deployable to events. We believe we have a solution.

Instead of a single continuous flap, we will be using 5 separate 8 inch strips of heavyweight vinyl, side by side, draped over the low bar and secured in place with cable ties. The material is McMaster-Carr part number 1894A214, opaque black. 33½-in. long strips will be cut and draped over the Low Bar at regular intervals and in such a way that the front and back flaps are of equal length. The vinyl will then be secured to itself using cable ties a short distance below the bar to allow free, independent rotation of individual strips. Additional cable ties will be used to maintain spacing between the strips. We apologize for not having a drawing ready for release at this time, but we wanted to get this basic information out to teams as quickly as possible. A drawing will follow shortly. We will send notifications on social media when the drawing is available.

This solution will be implemented at most events this weekend, assuming shipments are on time. Events outside the United States may need to continue to use the existing system until the new material arrives.

If, despite this intended change, two or more flaps are damaged beyond repair, and no additional replacements are available, Event Personnel are instructed to remove the flaps from both Low Bars on the Field and continue playing Matches. Additionally, Referees are instructed to not call penalties if a Robots or Drive Team members accidentally cause Boulders to roll through that opening. However, if they perceive it as deliberate, they will issue a Technical Foul.

You can help keep things flowing during matches. Please check your Robot for any sharp edges or points and cover or smooth them over. You don't want to get hung up crossing the Low Bar, and we don't want you to get hung up either.

We are very sorry for this issue, but grateful to the many volunteers who did whatever it took to keep the matches rolling so far this season despite this problem.

ADMIN MANUAL

- No changes.

GAME MANUAL

Section 2.2.2.1 DEFENSES

- **Low Bar**

The Low Bar is constructed from 1" 6061 Aluminum Schedule 40 pipe. The pipe creates an opening that is 1 ft. 4 in. tall and 3 ft. 10-1/2 in. wide. It features ~~opaque walk-in freezer door flaps~~ ~~a black Cordura flap~~, designed to keep BOULDERS from passing through on their own. ~~The material is McMaster-Carr part number 1894A214, opaque black. 33½-in. long strips are draped over the Low Bar at regular intervals and in such a way that the front and back flaps are of equal length with an approximate 1 in. gap between the base and the bottom of the flaps. The vinyl is secured to itself using cable ties just below the bar to allow free, independent rotation of individual strips. Additional cable ties are used to maintain spacing between the strips.~~ ~~The flap is 3 ft. 9 1/2 in. wide, with a 1 in. gap between the base and the bottom of the flap, and swings freely around the top tubing to allow ROBOTS to pass under it.~~ The Low Bar is mounted 1 ft. 4-1/2 in. from edge of the PLATFORM on the NEUTRAL ZONE side of the OUTER WORKS.

Section 4.11 Pneumatic System

- **R77-G** Check and quick exhaust valves, provided that the requirements of R89 are still met.

Section 5.5.6 TIMEOUT and BACKUP TEAM Rules

Teams are expected to have their ROBOTS staged on the FIELD by the end of the TIMEOUT. Teams that cause a significant delay to the start of a MATCH after a TIMEOUT are subject to G8.