Volunteer Opportunity: Nebraska VEX Robotics Referee

As with any activity that involves competition, referees can be a key component to ensuring the contest runs smoothly. The ref is the person of authority that is responsible for presiding over the contest from a neutral point of view and makes on-the-fly decisions that enforce the rules.

Refereeing is one of the most challenging and rewarding robotics tournament volunteer positions. Refereeing a VEX and Open robotics competition is different from a traditional sporting event in that the referees actually HELP the competitors avoid breaking the rules. Referees like to remind team members if they are getting close to an infraction and warn them rather than watching passively.

Referees observe matches, identify rule violations, and enforce the game manual as written. They keep track of all game objects scored and record these results on a score sheet. The scorekeeper will enter this data into the scoring program which then calculates and displays the match score. Referees play a critical role in ensuring smooth flow of match play and maintaining the pace of the event.

Key Skills of an Effective Referee:

• Effective decision maker
• Confident and projects authority
• Ability to “take charge”; be assertive, but tactful
• Thorough knowledge of the competition game and rules of play
• Strong communication, diplomacy skills
• Ability to collaborate with others, work as a member of a team
• Attention to detail

Here are links that provide information on VEX Robotics Competition and Education...

http://www.vexrobotics.com/vexedr/competition
https://certifications.vex.com/training/vex-edr/vrc-tower-takeover-referee-certification-course
http://www.roboticseducation.org/