



# Student Handbook

2024-2025



# Contents

1 Introduction	3
1.1 About this handbook	3
1.2 What are FRC and FIRST®?	3
2 Team Culture	4
2.1 Team Traits	4
<b>3 Safety</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1 Safety glasses	5
3.2 Safety in the Shop	5
<b>4 Season Schedule</b>	<b>6</b>
4.1 Fall “Pre-season” (August – December)	6
4.2 “Build Season” (January – February)	6
4.3 “Competition Season” (March – April)	7
4.4 Spring/Summer “Off-season” (May – July)	7
5 Policies	7
5.1 Safety	7
4.1.1 All Participants	7
4.1.2 Mentors	8
5.2 Communication	8
5.2.1 Virtual Communications	8
5.2.2 In Person Communications	8
5.3 Attendance	9
5.3.1 Activity Conflicts	9
5.4 Community Service	10
5.5 Task Management	10
5.5.1 Clean up	10
5.6 Grades	11
5.7 Attire	11
6 Sub-Teams	12
6.1 Mechatronics	12
6.1.1 Safety	12
6.1.2 Design	12
6.1.3 Electrical & Mechanical	12
6.2 Software	13
6.3 Business & Media	13
6.3.1 FIRST Impact Award	13



6.3.2 Documentation / Awards	14
6.3.3 Media	14
6.3.4 PR and Outreach	15
6.4 Competition Sub-Teams	15
6.4.1 Drive Team	16
6.4.2 Pit Crew	16
6.4.3 Scouting	17
6.4.4 FIRST Impact Award	17
6.4.5 VIP Ambassadors	17
7 Leadership Roles	19
7.1 Key Role Selection	19
7.2 Team Captain	20
7.3 Team Leads	20
<b>7.4 Mentors</b>	<b>21</b>
7.4.1 Time Commitment	21
7.4.2 Engaging Students	21
7.4.3 Communication	21
<b>8 Probation</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>9 Team Dues</b>	<b>23</b>
Revision history	24
<b>2024-25 Pike RoboDevils Handbook Contract</b>	<b>0</b>



# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 About this handbook

This handbook is intended to outline rules, structure, and principles related to Pike RoboDevils Team 1018. The information contained inside this document is subject to change. Members of the team can access the current version of the handbook at any time on the team website.

The rules and policies set forth in this handbook are critical to a functioning team and must be followed by all team members.

## 1.2 What are FRC and *FIRST*<sup>®</sup>?

*FIRST* stands for “For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology”, as described on [www.firstinspires.org](http://www.firstinspires.org):

*“Combining the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology.”*

FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) has been called “the ultimate Sport for the Mind” and described by student participants as “the hardest fun you’ll ever have.”

Teams operate throughout the year to train students, raise funds, design a team “brand,” hone teamwork skills. Starting in January, students are challenged to build and program industrial-size robots to play a difficult field game against like-minded competitors. Students are led by mentors who work with them side-by-side throughout the process.



## 2 Team Culture

Pike RoboDevils are expected to behave in a professional manner at all times. Students are expected to adhere to the student code of conduct as written in the MSD of Pike Township - Pike High School student/parent handbook. School rules and disciplinary actions apply at all events both on and off-site.

### 2.1 Team Traits

- Safety-minded
  - We work with a lot of potentially dangerous tools in the shop areas; the robots themselves are complex pieces of equipment that could cause injuries, fires, or other damages. Safety is a priority for Team 1018, and all team members are required to follow safety procedures at all times.
- Excellence
  - Everywhere the team goes, we are representing our team, families, mentors, sponsors, and community- in some cases we are representing our country. We should act as an example for other FIRST teams by exhibiting what EXCELLENCE is.
- Supportiveness
  - RoboDevils are helpful and supportive to one another, and to other teams at in- and off-season events and throughout the year. We make a difference in the FIRST community and support other teams by sharing our resources, knowledge, and experiences, as well as helping to make connections between teams with different resources. and also help teams find help from others who have skills we do not have.
- Professionalism
  - Earning the Gracious Professionalism Award at events is a common goal for our team, which we have accomplished many times. RoboDevils are expected to show professionalism, even when no one is watching.
- Gregariousness
  - Team 1018 has a special team dynamic; we are generally known as enthusiastic and outgoing. Team members are expected to exhibit this behavior at all team meetings, events, and competitions. Disrespecting other teammates or other FIRST teams is unacceptable.

## 3 Safety

### 3.1 Safety glasses

All students will be provided one (1) pair of safety glasses and a storage pouch per season paid for by their registration. These are theirs to keep, but it's recommended to store them in their team locker so that the glasses are always at the shop.

Students are free to use any ANSI approved safety glasses they choose.

Students may purchase additional pairs of safety glasses from the team for \$5

Safety is the team's number one priority. As such, students must obey all posted safety rules and guidelines both in the shop and at all team events.

### 3.2 Safety in the Shop

Students will have the opportunity to use a variety of tools, including hand tools, power tools, and machine tools. While these tools can be used safely, misuse, improper operation, and negligence can cause serious injury to the user and bystanders, as well as damage to the tool. Students must follow these guidelines when working in the shop and lab areas:

- Safety glasses **must** be worn in the shop and around the practice field when work is being performed. If you must pass through the shop to get to another room, do so quickly without stopping to chat, and stay within the caution tape lines.
- Closed toe shoes must be worn in the shop and around the practice field at all times.
- Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry. Tie your hair back if you have long hair.
- No machine or power tools should be used without a mentor present.
- Only operate tools that you have been trained and certified to use.
- Only operate tools that you feel comfortable and confident using.
- If you do not know or can't remember how to use a tool, ask a mentor.. They can assist and train you to use that tool properly.
- Only use tools for their intended purpose.
- If you are unsure of how to perform an operation, ask a mentor or experienced student. Do not try to guess and "repurpose" a tool
- If a tool is broken, stop using it and tell a mentor.
- If you are injured, inform a mentor.
- Always know how to shut off a power tool in an emergency.

## 4 Season Schedule

The most up-to-date calendar is always on Band.

### 4.1 Fall “Pre-season” (August – December)

The Fall “Pre-season” is used to prepare both incoming and returning members for build and competition season. Members will participate in offseason projects to build and develop skills that will be used during the season. The team may also attend an off-season event, which will help introduce new members to competitions and to give interested team members a chance to be in competition roles.

- Meetings schedule will be determined based on team needs and mentor availability.
- Students are expected to attend as many meetings as possible. New members and members in new roles are expected to come to these pre-season meetings with a learning mindset and an intention to contribute.
- Leads and captains are held to an even higher standard and are expected to attend all meetings if at all possible.

### 4.2 “Build Season” (January – February)

The 2025 “Build Season” kicks off on January 4, 2025. Once the game is revealed, the team must design and build a robot to play the game. This is the most intense period of the season, as the robot must be completed before heading to competitions.

- Meetings will be held 3 times a week, with 2 weeknight meetings and 1 meeting on Saturday. These meetings may be expanded due to needs and/or interest.
- Meetings may extend later than the scheduled time. These changes will be announced on the Band app.
- All students are expected to attend Kickoff, times will be listed in the Band app.
- During Build and Competition season (January-March) every meeting is crucial to team success. However, there may be an occasional schedule conflict, necessary school work, or an illness. It is expected that students communicate via the Band app to advise dates/times they will not be able to attend.
- Team Leads/Captains are expected to attend all meetings if at all possible.



## 4.3 “Competition Season” (March – April)

During competition season, the team will travel to 2 District Qualifying events to attempt to qualify for the *FIRST* Indiana Robotics State Championship. The team may also qualify for the *FIRST* Championship held in Houston in late April. Development of the robot will still continue between events. In addition, drive and pit practice will take place during meetings to prepare the drive team and pit crew for events.

- Meeting times usually follow the build season schedule in order to prepare for upcoming events, but will be determined on an as-needed basis
- Drive Team and Pit Crew are required to be at all meetings during this time.
- All team members are expected to attend competitions to help support and cheer on the team.
- Members’ attendance at competitions is contingent on fulfillment of requirements set forth in this handbook.

## 4.4 Spring/Summer “Off-season” (May – July)

After the competition season is over and the school year ends, the team often meets to get started on activities and projects prior to the pre-season. It is a great time to do demonstrations, outreach events, fundraising, and community service. The summer is the best time to experiment, iterate, and improve the team. Planning for the next season’s activities often begins during the summer. The team may also attend off-season competitions in the summer/fall; these events are typically lower stress events for fun.

- Meeting schedule will vary depending on mentor and student interest and availability
- Meetings are optional, but highly encouraged.

# 5 Policies

## 5.1 Safety

Everyone is responsible for safety during team meetings and during robot design, build, practice, travel, and competition.

### 4.1.1 All Participants

- Be familiar with the Team 1018 safety manual and understand and follow established safety requirements applicable to your environment.
-

- Work in a safe and responsible manner.
- Use personal protective equipment (PPE), safeguards, and other safety equipment as required.
- Identify and report any unsafe or hazardous conditions to a mentor. This includes work practices that may cause an accident.
- Be familiar with any site restrictions identified in the information linked in the 'Event Info' section of the FIRST Event Search page.
- Encourage safe behaviors in everyone around you.

## 4.1.2 Mentors

- Lead by example. Practice the same safety behaviors that are expected from the students.
- Provide guidance and encouragement in a safe working environment.
- Provide leadership and guidance on matters of general safety, including the use of personal protective equipment, including during the lifting, handling, and transportation of robots in team work spaces as well as at events.
- Encourage communication about safety needs and support students who request accommodation. Utilize hazard-based safety engineering principles with team members to eliminate or minimize identified hazards to a suitable level.
- For FIRST Robotics Competition teams, collect and store Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) for any chemicals, chemical compounds, or chemical mixtures (e.g., in paint and batteries) used by the team. SDS information may include instructions for safe use and potential hazards associated with a particular material or product. You can obtain SDS sheets from the manufacturer's web site or by calling the manufacturer directly. Become familiar with them and the related emergency procedures.

## 5.2 Communication

### 5.2.1 Virtual Communications

Team 1018 uses the Band app for virtual communications and for scheduling. All team members are required to have a Band account and are expected to check messages and announcements daily and respond to all messages, surveys, and polls within 24 hours unless told otherwise. All students are expected to be respectful and professional while communicating on Band and other social media platforms.

### 5.2.2 In Person Communications

Students are expected to communicate regularly and respectfully with their leads, captains, mentors, and other subgroups to create a cohesive team environment. Failing



to communicate respectfully or regularly may result in probation or removal from the team.

## 5.3 Attendance

Students are responsible for knowing the meeting schedule, which will be posted as events within Band. Students are expected to be on time and are expected to inform team leadership if they will be absent. All team members are required to attend meetings as described in section 3, with exceptions including; travel, illness, poor academic performance, or other unexpected circumstances. Other exceptions will be judged on an individual basis.

The team has a 3-strike policy for unannounced absences – If a team member does not show up without RSVPing “decline” more than 3 times, they will be removed from the team. New students have an additional strike (4 strikes permitted).

Students who are absent are expected to look at their sub-team notebook to get caught up.

All students required to be accounted for by recording their time in and out of meetings. The timesheet will be used to ensure students are meeting the attendance requirement for membership as well as meeting the hours requirement for traveling with the team.

Students who do not meet attendance requirements will be placed on probation or removed from the team.

### 5.3.1 Activity Conflicts

We understand that team members may have academic conflicts or other extracurricular activities that conflict with team meetings/competitions. We are willing to work with you, but it is expected that you prioritize the team in at least 50% of conflicts. 1018 Robotics should not always be the activity that is missed.

Example: A student has an activity 5 days a week during our meeting time, which conflicts with 2 of our meetings. **At a minimum**, they should be coming to our meetings during 50% of the conflicts, meaning 1 meeting.

However, since the other activity meets significantly more than the team, we would prefer that the student prioritizes the team during all conflicts.

Ultimately, the more you put into the team, the more you will get out of it. Showing up for the minimum requirements will allow you to continue to participate on the team, but it could make you less likely to be selected for leadership positions, and participation on Drive Team and Pit Crew.

## **5.4 Community Service**

Team members are required to complete 15 hours of community service during the year, with hours completed after competition season being counted towards the following season. The team will provide opportunities to complete this community service, but students are also welcome to complete these hours independently. If hours are completed outside of team events, students will need to complete a community service form. Completion of community service hours is required to travel with the team to competitions.

## **5.5 Task Management**

Students are expected to hold themselves accountable for getting tasks accomplished during meetings. If a student doesn't know what to do, they should work with fellow team members, a Team Lead, Captain, or mentor to find something to work on. There should never be students with "nothing to do"; there is always something to do at meetings.

It is important to have fun at meetings, but if you are only here to hang out with friends and mess around, you will be asked to leave.

Video games or game apps should not be played during meetings unless you are waiting for a ride (and everything is cleaned up) or during a break during long meetings. Similarly, phone/tablet/laptop use should be restricted during meetings to activities related to robotics.

### **5.5.1 Clean up**

Team members should always leave a space better than they found it. Many of the areas our team works in are teachers' classrooms that we are allowed to use. We must keep these spaces as we found them so that we can continue to use them.

In our own spaces, such as the metal and wood shops and practice area, we can leave some materials out, however, members working in these areas should clean up any trash or debris, put away all tools, put back unused supplies, and tidy the area before leaving.

Team members should help each other out - even if you did not personally make the mess, everyone should assist in cleaning it up so that everyone can be done sooner.

The last 15 minutes of every meeting will be devoted to cleaning up the shop - nobody should leave until the team is done cleaning.



## **5.6 Grades**

Team 1018 prioritizes academic performance; we require students to maintain at least a 2.0 unweighted GPA for the most recent 9-week grading term. Grade checks will be performed by the mentors periodically during the season to make sure students are meeting requirements..

Students are expected to keep their grades up and to check on them periodically. They are responsible for meeting or contacting teachers to address any mistakes as soon as possible. A 3-day grace period for potential corrections will follow each grade check, to account for any grade-entering mistakes.

If a student's unweighted GPA is less than 2.0, they will be placed on academic probation. Students on academic probation will not be able to travel with the team and will not be allowed to attend meetings until the issue is resolved. If a student is unable to improve their performance for more than one grade checks, they may face suspension from the team.

## **5.7 Attire**

For meetings and team gatherings students are expected to follow the school handbook. For competitions and outreach events, students are expected to wear the assigned attire, such as team shirt and blue jeans. Students who fail to wear appropriate attire may be asked to change or may be unable to participate in the event. Closed toe shoes are required for all competitions, and in the shop and lab area when work is being performed. Long hair must be tied back when working in the shop and lab area.

## 6 Sub-Teams

The Pike RoboDevils team is composed of sub-teams, which specialize to meet a team need. The following sections detail the purpose and responsibilities of each sub-team.

### 6.1 Mechatronics

#### 6.1.1 Safety

Safety team members are responsible for maintaining safety procedures in the shop and at events.

Responsibilities:

- Oversee shop while machines are in use
- Oversee pit crew and drive team during competitions
- Document safety procedures
- Inform other sub-teams of safety procedures

#### 6.1.2 Design

Design team members are responsible for conceptualizing prototypes and using necessary software to create blueprints of the potential robot.

Responsibilities:

- Design and test prototypes of robot mechanisms
- Take into account strategy, robot restrictions, and electrical/software requirements to design the robot to play the game
- Utilize CAD software to create and keep updated a model of the robot
- Iterate and improve on previous designs during the season
- Create technical drawings to assist in manufacturing.
- Assist in creation of supporting documentation for award and pit presentations

#### 6.1.3 Electrical & Mechanical

Electrical and mechanical team members are responsible for fabrication and assembly of mechanical robot components, as well as designing and implementing the electrical layout of the robot.

Responsibilities:

- Wire robot, test equipment, and manage wires
- Battery testing and maintenance

- Work with Design and Software team members to implement sensors
- Utilize technical drawings to manufacture robot parts and assemblies
- Utilize CAM (computer aided machining) tools such as CNC machining and 3D printing to manufacture parts for the robot
- Assemble the robot per design documentation
- Assist in creation of supporting documentation for award and pit presentations

## 6.2 Software

Software team members design software for robots using advanced control algorithms in Java. Members may also participate in web and app development, which will involve other languages such as Python and JavaScript

Responsibilities:

- Develop software to operate core robot functionality
- Apply basic control theory to robot mechanisms
- Develop autonomous routines in collaboration with Drive Team and Strategy team members
- Work with Drive Team members to automate tasks during teleoperated mode
- Work with electrical team members to integrate control system components and sensors
- Assist in creation of supporting documentation for award and pit presentations and in other useful programming projects for Team 1018, such as apps for scouting

## 6.3 Business & Media

### 6.3.1 *FIRST* Impact Award

From the *FIRST* website:

“The *FIRST* Impact Award (formerly the Chairman's Award) is the most prestigious award at *FIRST*, it honors the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the mission of *FIRST*. It was created to keep the central focus of *FIRST* Robotics Competition on the ultimate goal of transforming the culture in ways that will inspire greater levels of respect and honor for science and technology,



as well as encouraging more of today's youth to become science and technology leaders."<sup>1</sup>

The Impact Award team documents the team's efforts and assembles a portfolio to present at each competition.

Responsibilities:

- Maintain a record of team history, including a list of alumni and their accomplishments and a running list of awards the team has received
- Document events the team has organized in the community and school system.
- Produce a video for the award submission.
- Present the *FIRST* Impact Award presentation to judges at events.
- Help to guide appropriate team behavior to qualify for a *FIRST* Impact award.
- Maintain an Impact notebook that will document how the award submission is created and the general how-to for presentation.

### 6.3.2 Documentation / Awards

Potential Responsibilities:

- Write other FRC, community, and school system award submissions.
- Assist pit crew in creating supporting documents for awards judged at events.
- Ensure all sub-teams are maintaining proper documentation and digital notebooks.
- Write grant applications for sponsorship alongside the PR and Outreach sub-team.
- Collaborate with Media team to maintain brand standards.
- Write a submission for the Woodie Flowers award - this includes researching what mentor the team would like to nominate for the award, interviewing, and fully documenting the impact that mentor has had on the team.
- 

### 6.3.3 Media

The media team maintains the team image and branding and designs promotional materials. They maintain the team's social media presence, including Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. This team is also responsible for all team photography and videography.

Responsibilities:

- Maintain team image and branding (see below list)
- Publish updates on the team's YouTube channel
- Coordinate filming, production, and publication of a robot reveal video

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.firstinspires.org/resource-library/frc/submitted-awards>





- Film, produce, and publish a highlight video for the end of the season
- Update social media per meeting/event
- Social media challenges
- Promo Events (work with the Marketing and Promotions team)
- Tag Sponsors and VIPs in team posts

Team brand and image items include:

- T-shirt design
- Pit Banner Layout
- Pit Aesthetics
- Marketing Materials
- Buttons for events
- Posters and announcements at school
- Competition posters and cards
- Scavenger Hunt at events
- Giveaway competitions

#### **6.3.4 PR and Outreach**

Members are responsible for helping support outreach efforts that can be lead by any member of the Robotics team.

Responsibilities:

- Help plan and support events to raise STEM interest and awareness in the Pike and Indianapolis communities, such as “Girls Night In” or a robotics camp
- Help support social media efforts to raise awareness
- Reach out to local businesses to request sponsorship
- Coordinate a sponsor and family Open House events

Events examples include:

- School events such as Safe Trick or Treat and Freshman Orientation
- Volunteer events such as Adopt-A-Block
- Fundraising events such as the IMS Ecology Program

### **6.4 Competition Sub-Teams**

Every member of the team contributes to victories on and off the field. There are a few sub-teams that have specific roles at competitions. Our team is committed to upholding our team traits even during the heat of competition.

## **6.4.1 Drive Team**

The Drive Team transports, sets up, and operates the robot on the field at competitions.

Members of the drive team can change from year to year but generally include:

- Driver - responsible for controlling the drive train
- Operator - responsible for controlling any other robot features
- Human Player - responsible for dispensing game components to robot or other tasks specified in the game rules
- Drive Coach - responsible for overseeing drive practice and matches
- Technician - assists in setup and load-in of the robot and driver station for each match and with pre- and post-match diagnostics

Drive team members need to perform well under pressure and observation. They will be controlling the robot at events. They will be on-camera while competing and will be a visible “face of the team”. Drive team members must be able to stay calm under pressure and stay respectful and professional even under the heat of competition. They should be models of the team’s culture.

Drive team members must be knowledgeable about the robot and the team’s strategy. Technical knowledge is ideal, but not required. Drive practice begins once a robot base can move or drive by operator control. Drive team members are expected to be at ALL meetings where there will be drive team practice. The drive team must attend all meetings once a fully functional robot is operating.

Drive team members will be held to the highest standards, and will be removed and replaced if deemed unfit at any point during the season. Attendance issues, inability to work with fellow teammates, lack of preparedness or focus, failure to follow instructions, and failure to meet grade standards are all potential reasons for removal.

## **6.4.2 Pit Crew**

Pit Crew members repair, test, and maintain the robot between matches. They also present the robot and team to judges to win both machine and team attribute awards.

Responsibilities:

- Create packing checklists
- Pack for events at the school
- Load vehicles and trailers
- Load team materials in and out of the event venue
- Set up of the pit
- Robot repair and maintenance
- Presentation of robot and team culture to judges

### 6.4.3 Scouting

Members of the Scouting team will collect data on other teams' performance, evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the competition, develop match strategies, and determine which robots to pick during alliance selection.

Everyone who travels to a competition and is not part of the other Competition Sub-Teams will be an important part of the scouting team. Collecting accurate data during competitions is crucial to developing a winning strategy.

Roles within the scouting team include:

- Scouting lead
- Pit scouts
- Match scouts

Responsibilities:

- Pit scouting: walking the pit floor and interviewing teams to gather technical data on their robots
- Match scouting: Collecting data on each robot on the field per match played at a competition.
- Compiling and analyzing data to give the Drive Team the information they need before matches
- Compile a pick list for the team representative to use during Alliance Selection

### 6.4.4 *FIRST* Impact Award

Members of the Impact Award team will present the team's award submission to judges at the event.

### 6.4.5 VIP Ambassadors

VIP ambassadors escort VIP guests around an event. These VIPs could be sponsors, local dignitaries, or *FIRST* representatives visiting an event. They will report to the Student Ambassador Coordinator for the event to be assigned a VIP. Ambassadors should be social, eloquent, and comfortable talking to strangers. They should have a strong knowledge of the team and robot, and FRC. VIP ambassadors are selected by the team administration at or shortly before any event.

Responsibilities:

- Conduct tours of the Pit
- Interact with teams and students



- Interface with invited guests
- Explain venue and game to invited guests
- Explain how FRC works and what FIRST means to you
- Tell the guest about Pike RoboDevils team culture
- Conduct interviews and participate in videos

## 7 Leadership Roles

One of the main goals of Pike's robotics team is to inspire leaders. Student leaders are good listeners and eager learners. They take initiative, ask questions, and seek answers. They are not afraid to make mistakes and learn from them. Every student in Pike RoboDevils has the chance to develop their leadership skills by taking on a leadership role on the team.

### 7.1 Key Role Selection

The mentors oversee the team and select the leadership students. The mentors will use input from the students, data from student engagement / participation, high school grades, and / or feedback from teachers, administrators, and / or coaches.

One or two students will fill the role of Team (Co-)Captain and report to and are advised by the adult mentors. Team Leads are in charge of sub-teams and report to the Team Captain.

Key roles are selected based on attributes that are observed by the mentors and student leadership over time. Many of the most common characteristics of students selected are:

- Ability to be self sufficient
- High motivation
- Outstanding communication skills
- Outstanding attendance
- Interaction with peers and mentors
- Relevant ability
- Performance during interviews
- Evident desire to lead
- Exceeding base expectations

The Pike Robotics leadership roles include the following positions:

- Team (Co-)Captain
- Sub-team (Co-)Leads
- Drive Team - Driver, Operator, Human Player, Technician, Drive coach
- Pit crew - Composed of four to six students. The only guaranteed appointments are the mechatronics lead, programming lead, and safety captain (or their designated appointees). Other members will be determined as the season progresses.

## **7.2 Team Captain**

The team captain or co-captains encompass the highest form of student leadership, who provide advice and support to both students and mentors. Responsibilities include event and meeting planning, hosting regular lead meetings, filling in for absent leads, communicating problems to mentors, ensuring leads are providing updates and projects, and overseeing meetings.

## **7.3 Team Leads**

Team leads delegate tasks to the rest of the sub-team and are responsible for holding those students accountable. Team leads are intended to be an encouraging voice to the students in their sub team and will guide/train less experienced members within their group. Team leads are an important leadership position on the team and as such are expected to attend all meetings and competitions.

Team leads are required to report to regular meetings with the team captain(s) and mentors, where they will provide updates for every project in process.

Team leads have a large responsibility on the team, and that responsibility can be overwhelming at times. All team leads are encouraged to seek help or advice from mentors or peers at any time.

Team lead positions include:

- Safety
- Business & Media
- Design
- Mechatronics
- Scouting
- Programming

## **7.4 Mentors**

Our robotics team could not exist without the dedication and time given by our mentors. Our mentors are professionals who volunteer their time with the goal of inspiring more students to pursue their interests in science, technology, engineering and math. Mentors are patient and understanding and allow students to learn while guiding them through problem solving.

### **7.4.1 Time Commitment**

To qualify as a full time mentor, all meetings during build/competition season will be required. Full time mentors will be given the opportunity to assist sub-teams and travel with the team before part time mentors. Part time mentors are required to make their time commitment known to other mentors and the members of their sub-team.

### **7.4.2 Engaging Students**

Mentors are expected to share with students the “Tricks of Trade” relevant to the work being done on the team. Shedding light on the proper processes used in industry for students' future reference is a major responsibility of team mentors.

Mentors play a major part in team brainstorming. It is essential that mentors make a special effort to include students in brainstorming sessions done during meeting hours. The sharing of all ideas- no matter how big or small- is essential to team innovation. Students and mentors are always encouraged to share ideas as well as critique and encourage each other

No major work should be completed by mentors without student involvement unless absolutely required for safety or logistical reasons. Tasks such as inventory, repetitive machining operations, and field construction are excluded from this rule, although mentors are encouraged to involve students as much as possible.

### **7.4.3 Communication**

Mentors are expected to have a band account, and check the notifications as best as possible. Mentors are should respond to messages, polls, and surveys within 24 hours unless told otherwise, and are expected to communicate in a respectful manner. Mentors are also required to inform peers and their sub-team if they are unable to attend a meeting (does not apply to part time mentors who have specified days off).

## 8 Probation

Students may be put on probation due to unacceptable behavior after a meeting and review with the mentor team (and Pike High School administration if needed).

Examples of unacceptable behavior include (but are not limited to):

- Failure to follow team rules, especially those surrounding safety
- Bullying/harassment
- Poor academic performance
- Causing distractions/ loss of productivity to team members
- Poor attendance

The purpose of probation is to hold students accountable and give them a chance to realize their actions and correct their mistakes. The time on probation should be used as a time to reflect on the actions of the student that resulted in the probationary status.

The length and terms of a student's probation will be decided on an individual basis, but will last a minimum of one week and can last for up to a semester. During the probationary period students will not be allowed to attend meetings, with the exception of mandatory meetings, and may face other stipulations such as required volunteer hours or tutoring. If a student holds a leadership position, the position will be temporarily forfeited while on probation with the possibility of removal from the leadership role. If a student is put on probation within two weeks of a competition, the student will be unable to attend the competition.

After returning from probation, there will be a two-week review period. If anytime during the two-week review the student demonstrates poor attitude, poor performance, and/or fails to meet team expectations as outlined in the student handbook, the student will meet with team mentors to discuss their future with the team.

Note that all situations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and may bypass probation and immediately escalate to removal from the team or disciplinary actions through the school.





## 9 Team Dues

The Team operates on sponsorships, grants, donations, and team dues to cover all team costs.

Based on the amount of sponsorships, grants, and donations, the Mentors will determine how much team dues are each season.

Typically these dues are used to cover expenses including hotel and meal costs along with team uniform shirts. These dues would be for regular season competition expenses. If the team qualifies for State Competition or even Worlds Competition there may be additional fees required for travel and additional expenses.

Below is the dues and payment schedule:

- \$180 (food and 2 team shirts) for new students who plan to travel for competitions or \$110 (food) for returning students who plan to travel for competitions.
- The payment schedule will be: new students: \$60 due January 31, \$60 due Feb 28, \$60 due March 13. Returning students: \$40 due January 31, \$40 due Feb 28, \$30 due March 13.

Reach out to a coach/ mentor if you need to make additional arrangements for Dues payments; scholarships/aid is available.

Note: If dues are not paid, and the team has incurred expenses related to students participation, then a hold will be placed on the students account with the school treasurer that if not paid would result in the student not receiving their diploma upon graduation.

## Revision history

Date	Version No.	Description of changes	Reviewer
08/23/2022	2023.0	Entered into version control, updated for 2022-2023 season	Ryan Blue
11/01/2022	2023.1	Updated definition of academic probation	Ryan Blue
12/01/2023	2024.0	Updated	Jason Scheuer and John Blue
9/1/2024 to 11/15/2024	2024.1	Updated	Emily Blue, John Blue, and Jason Scheuer

# 2024-25 Pike RoboDevils Handbook Contract

Students:

By signing below I acknowledge that:

- I have read and understand the 2024-2025 Pike RoboDevils handbook and agree to follow all expectations and policies
- I understand that violation of any of the policies above is subject to discipline up to and including dismissal from the team or referral to school administration.
- Agree to pay for the 2025 Competition season dues listed in the handbook.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_