



# Open Software Platform Pilot

Our region is participating in a pilot to open the software rule for the 2018 INTO ORBIT season. *FIRST* LEGO League is responding to interest from the community to be able to use software other than MINDSTORMS EV3, NXT, or RCX to program robots for *FIRST* LEGO League tournaments.

**Special Pilot-region only Robot Game Updates will apply in our region**, in addition to the Challenge Updates posted on [firstlegoleague.org](http://firstlegoleague.org).

Teams may use any software they choose - see the updated rule R07. Note that R05 precludes the use of any software that requires tethering to a computer while the missions are being run. Teams who choose to use software other than official MINDSTORMS software do so **at their own risk**.

There are many software solutions available for programming the LEGO MINDSTORMS. LEGO will provide limited technical support for Microsoft MakeCode for EV3 (<https://www.lego.com/en-us/service>). Any other software that is compatible with LEGO MINDSTORMS and does not violate other *FIRST* LEGO League rules may be used in competition, but they are NOT supported by LEGO. Support for other software must come from the developers of that software. Some software options require internet access; be aware that many tournaments may not have reliable public internet access. We recommend bringing your own mobile hotspot if you will require internet access at your event.

All teams should be prepared to describe their programs to Judges who may not be familiar with the programming language the team used. Teams are **required** use the new **Robot Design Summary worksheet** to help document and explain their programs for Judges.

At the end of the season, we'll ask all teams who choose alternate software to complete a survey to send us feedback about your experiences. You're welcome to email us during the season to share too.

If you have questions about the software pilot, contact your *FIRST* LEGO League Partners at [chair@nmfill.org](mailto:chair@nmfill.org) or email [fljudge@firstinspires.org](mailto:fljudge@firstinspires.org) or [flrobotgame@firstinspires.org](mailto:flrobotgame@firstinspires.org).



# Robot Game Updates

*ONLY for Regions Participating in the  
Open Software Rule Pilot*

Robot Game Rules R01, R05, and R07 have been adjusted to accommodate a change in the allowable software policy that *FIRST* LEGO League is trying out as a pilot project in select regions. Adjustments are highlighted below.

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**R01 - ALL EQUIPMENT** - All Equipment must be made of LEGO-made building parts in original factory condition.

- Except: LEGO string and tubing may be cut shorter.
- Except: Program reminders on paper are okay (off the Field).
- Except: Marker may be used in hidden areas for identification.
- Except: Memory cards may be inserted into the Controller's card slot.

**R05 - OTHER ELECTRIC/ELECTRONIC THINGS** - No other electric/electronic things are allowed in the competition area for Mission-related activity.

- Except: LEGO wires and converter cables are allowed as needed.
- Except: Allowable power sources are ONE Controller's power pack or SIX AA batteries.
- Except: Memory cards may be inserted into the Controller's card slot.

**R07 - SOFTWARE** -

ONLY for regions participating in the pilot for the INTO ORBIT<sup>SM</sup> Robot Game, the rule R07 – SOFTWARE no longer applies.