Team 2158: The ausTIN CANs

Student Team Handbook

Team Leadership 2022-2023

About the handbook

This handbook is intended to contain the information needed for all 2158 team members to understand the administrative and logistical procedures for Team 2158: The ausTIN CANs. It is updated yearly by the leadership team to accurately represent current standards.

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1 Robotics Programs

1.1 About First

FIRST, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, is a non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring young people. Through programs such as the FIRST Robotics Competition and FIRST Lego League, students are encouraged to excel in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. FIRST was founded in 1989 by Dean Kamen, the inventor of the Segway and the insulin pump, and has since become a large international organization reaching thousands of students from elementary school through high school. For more information, visit https://www.firstinspires.org/.

1.1.1 About FRC

FRC, short for FIRST Robotics Competition, is FIRST's oldest robotics program. It is designed to provide a rigorous engineering challenge to high school students as well as teach leadership, collaboration, and project management. Over three thousand teams contain anywhere from fewer than ten to over one hundred students, and provide students with guidance and support from adult mentors. Each year, every FRC team builds a robot in the six-week "build season" to compete in a game released in early January.

1.1.2 Gracious Professionalism

As part of its mission to encourage student leadership and collaboration through yearly robotics challenges, FIRST promotes Gracious Professionalism as one of its core values in all levels of competition. Their website describes this ideal as follows: "With Gracious Professionalism, fierce competition and mutual gain are not separate notions. Gracious professionals learn and compete like crazy, but treat one another with respect and kindness in the process. They avoid treating anyone like

losers. No chest thumping tough talk, but no sticky-sweet platitudes either. Knowledge, competition, and empathy are comfortably blended."

1.1.3 Coopertition®

FIRST extends their philosophy through their value of Coopertition®, which "produces innovation. At *FIRST*, Coopertition is displaying kindness and respect in the face of fierce competition. Coopertition is founded on the concept and philosophy that teams can and should help and cooperate with each other even as they compete. Coopertition involves learning from teammates. It is learning from mentors. And it is managing and being managed. Coopertition means competing always, but assisting and enabling others when you can." (FIRST Website,

https://www.firstinspires.org/about/vision-and-mission).

1.2 About VEX

The VEX Robotics Competition, presented by the Robotics Education & Competition Foundation, is the largest and fastest growing middle school and high school robotics program globally with more than 20,000 teams from 50 countries playing in over 1,700 competitions worldwide. Each year, an exciting engineering challenge is presented in the form of a game. Students, with guidance from their teachers and mentors, build innovative robots and compete year-round.

In addition to learning valuable engineering skills, students gain life skills such as teamwork, perseverance, communication, collaboration, project management, and critical thinking. The VEX Robotics Competition prepares students to become future innovators with 95% of participants reporting an increased interest in STEM subject areas and pursuing STEM-related careers. For more information, visit https://www.roboticseducation.org/vex-robotics-competition

2 About the team

Team 2158: ausTIN CANs is an FRC and VEX team. Team members are 9th–12th graders primarily in the AISD school district.

2.1 Mission, Vision, and Motto

2.1.1 Vision Statement

Team 2158: ausTIN CANs strives to empower students to gain self-confidence and become leaders, collaborators, and critical thinkers while fostering a culture of STEM celebration in our community.

2.1.2 Mission Statement

The ausTIN CANs equip students with the skills they need to accelerate learning, professional development, and personal growth.

2.1.3 Motto

The five goals that Team 2158: ausTIN CANs endeavors to achieve are embodied in our motto: Collaboration. Accountability. Motivation. Professionalism. Safety.

We are all members of a team, communicating and coordinating activities for shared goals. We follow through with the commitments we set. We believe that personal growth and success are products of initiative, hard work, and enthusiasm. We show respect to our resources, mentors, teammates, and competitors. We maintain a safe environment and follow all safety protocols.

2.2 Team History

2.2.1 FRC

Team 2158: ausTIN CANs, from Anderson High School in Austin, TX, formed in 2006-2007 to help students to become the next generation of innovators, engineers, and scientists. We work to excite our school, district, community, and beyond about STEM and robotics. The following year, ausTIN CANs VEX Team 2158 was formed.

Year	Event	Awards	Rank
2007	Lone Star Regional	Rookie All Star	42nd
	Galileo Division		74th
2008	Lone Star Regional	Gracious Professionalism	11th
2009	Lone Star Regional		55th
2010	Lone Star Regional		15th
2011	Alamo Regional		13th
2012	Alamo Regional	Regional Chairman's Award Woodie Flowers Finalist Award Volunteer of the Year Award Dean's List Finalist Award	61st
	Galileo Division	Coopertition Award	70th
2013	Alamo Regional		17th
2014	Alamo Regional	Engineering Inspiration	12th
	Dallas Regional	Regional Finalist Entrepreneurship Award	2nd
	Archimedes Division	Engineering Inspiration	96th
2015	Alamo Regional	Regional Finalist Dean's List Finalist Award	40th
	Hub City Regional		6th

	Newton Division		48th
2016	Alamo Regional	Creativity Award Woodie Flowers Finalist Award	13th
	Hub City Regional	Imagery Award	10th
	Lone Star Regional		6th
2017	Colorado Regional		36th
	Alamo Regional	Entrepreneurship Award Woodie Flowers Finalist Award Dean's List Finalist Award	11th
	Turing Division		46th
2018	Hub City Regional		36h
	Alamo Regional	Dean's List Finalist Award	20th
2019	FIT District Event Austin	District Finalist Judge's Award	23rd
	FIT District Greenville	Imagery Award	30th
	FIRST In Texas District Championship		26th
	Hopper Division		4th
2020	FIT District Del Rio	District Event Winner Industrial Design Award	2nd
2022	FIT District Austin	Quality Award	7th
	FIT District Amarillo	Autonomous Award	9th
	FIRST In Texas District Championship - Apollo Division		13th

2.2.2 VEX

Year	Team	Award
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	2158B	Excellence Award
2010	2158E	Tournament Champion
	2158F	Tournament Champion
2011	2158A	Create Award
	2158B	Tournament Champion Amaze Award
	2158C	Robot Skills
		Educate Award
2011	2158D	Innovate Award
	2158E	Tournament Champion
		Sportsmanship Award
		Educate Award
	2158F	Tournament ChampionChampion
		Educate Award
	2158G	Sportsmanship Award
	2158H	Tournament Champion
	2158R	Judges' Award
2012	2158M	Design Award
2012	2158M	Excellence Award Judges' Award
2013	2158Z	Tournament Champion
	2158M	Tournament Champion Design Award
	2158C	Innovate Award

2014	2158W	Tournament Champions Design Award Judges Award Innovate Award Programming Skills Winner Robot Skills Winner
2014	2158M	Tournament Champion Design Award Excellence Award Think Award Amaze Award
	2158C	Innovate Award
2015	2158W	Tournament Champions Design Award Judges Award Innovate Award Programming Skills Winner Robot Skills Winner
	2158Z	Tournament Champions Design Award Judges Award Think Award Build Award
	2158A	Excellence Award
2016	2158S	Tournament Champions Build Award
	2158A	Tournament Champs
2017	2158R	Tournament Champs
	2158S	Tournament Champs Innovate Award Robot Skills Winner
	2158X	Tournament Champs Excellence Award Build Award Judges Award Robot Skills Winner

	2158A	Tournament Champions
2018	2158V	Tournament Champions
	2158X	_
		Tournament Champions
	2158K	Tournament Champions
		Think Award
2018		Design Award
	2158S	Tournament Champions
		Excellence Award
		Judges Award
		Robot Skills Winner
	2158A	Tournament Champions
	2158C	Tournament Champions
	2158K	Tournament Champions
2010		Design Award
2019		Robot Skills Winners
	2158R	Tournament Champions
		Excellence Award
		Design Award
		Judges Award
		Robot Skills WInner

2.3 Fair Share

This team runs with the help of Fair Share. The Fair Share (FS) covers the costs of running the team that may not be covered by grants, scholarships, sponsors, etc. The FS is a fixed amount depending on the program you are in. This can be paid either as a lump sum during fall training, or in two installments with the last installment due before kick off in January. If the Fair Share is not paid by the deadline, the student may not be eligible to travel to any competition.

Fair Share due date for the 2022 - 2023 School Year: October 3, 2022

2.3.1 Scholarship Option

If the student qualifies for free and reduced lunch, there is a scholarship option for the team. The team will help supply the FS amount for the student. This is a simple process however, the student is required to speak with the Lead Mentor Nanor Asadourian and fill out the Scholarship Form. We **cannot** help if this form is not returned to us by Kick Off Weekend.

2.4 Explorer Post 2158

Engineering & Technology Career Explorer Post 2158 is a hands-on program open to young men and women with an interest in learning more about careers in the fields of Engineering & Technology. The Exploring program is a subsidiary of the Boy Scouts of America.

The goal of this post is to introduce students to real-world, hands-on opportunities in Science,

Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. The reach of this post is beyond our school as we want
to spread our excitement of STEM to all our feeder schools and any student on the North side of Austin
Independent School District. We want to build well-rounded students by the promotion of core values

such as FIRST Gracious Professionalism by volunteering and giving back to the community and the Scouts Law of trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. Also, being an explorer post generates more volunteer opportunities, providing our students with leadership training.

3 Team Organization

3.1 Mentors

Our mentors consist of a dedicated group of industry professionals, teachers, and community members.

Most mentor one or two subteams specifically, and all are incredibly valuable to our team. Mentors work side by side with students to build their leadership and problem-solving skills and, more importantly, their sense of belonging and self-confidence. Mentors are here to teach, guide, and lead alongside the students.

3.2 Student Leadership

Student Leadership consists of all subteam leads and the FRC president and VEX president. Any student leadership position (with the exception of the president and vice president positions) may be split between two people to reduce the workload or for teaching purposes. No student leadership position is automatically granted a spot on the travel team. All student leadership positions must be student team members who will be in 10th–12th grade and have been a team member in the previous year. If no such person is suitable for the position, it will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Vincent Wrencher reserves the right to remove any student from a leadership position for any reason.

3.2.1 Team President and Vice President

Together with lead mentors Vincent Wrencher and Nanor Asadourian, and lead technical mentor Andrew Iverson, the president and vice president form the team's core leadership.

Responsibilities of the presidents:

- Ensuring that 2158 is a safe and welcoming environment for all of our members.
- Keeping the team together and on track. This means that core leadership has the authority to make final decisions for the team and to set and enforce deadlines for the team. The lead technical mentor leads each meeting, but the president and vice president work with the subteam leads, know what the various parts of the team are doing, and keep people responsible for themselves.
- Communicating with the team, mentors, and parents to let them know of any major changes to the team dynamics.

3.2.2 FRC Subteam Leads

Currently, there are four subteam leads. The subteam leads for the following year are appointed by core leadership. Subteam leads are expected to have experience with their subteams and ensure that new members of the team are exposed to their subteams' purpose. Subteam leads and respective mentors are also responsible for ensuring that students on their subteams are trained accordingly. Sub-team leads coordinate with the president, vice president, and other sub-team leads to plan their subteams' schedule and tasks. The four subteam leads, along with the president and vice president, make up the Student Leadership.

3.3 FRC Subteams

There are two main divisions of our team: Technical and Non-Technical. These divisions are split into four primary subteams: CAD/Design, Manufacturing, Programming, and Business/Media. In addition, there are three specialized subteams: Electrical, Strategy and Chairman's.

CAD/ Design uses CAD software (OnShape) to design the mechanisms on the robot, as well as make part drawings for the Fabrication team to use. The CAD/Design team uses strategic analysis to combine the results of fact finding, and prototyping into a combined single idea, "the robot".

Manufacturing uses part drawings and industrial machines such as mills and lathes to create parts for the robot. Manufacturing also wires the robot and creates any pneumatic systems needed. Its job is to take the mechanical systems designed, fabricate them and make them controllable.

Programming programs the robot using object-oriented programming and data from sensors including gyros, hall effect sensors, and limit switches on the robot. Together, the subteam controls the flow of autonomous routines, during which the robot must operate entirely on its own, and the teleoperated mode, where the robot receives driver input.

Business/Media is responsible for most if not all matters non-technical. This team oversees the fundraising by contacting sponsors, applying for grants, and helping manage the budget. Members of this subteam also manage our team media, photography and recording all team events and competitions; promoting our program through our website, the local newspaper, and various social media sites; designing flyers, booklets and all of our team apparel; as well as writing content for the awards' essays.

3.3.1 Specialized Subgroups

Students will be selected and/or will volunteer for these specialized subgroups. The two subgroups listed below are focused on during a portion of the build season, so they do not count as a full-time subgroup. Students from any of the subgroups may join any specialized subgroup. When these subgroups are decided, core leadership will decide a subgroup lead for these specialty subgroups.

Strategy develops competition strategies during the build and competition season. Members are expected to fully understand the game rules, follow FRC forum posts, contribute to discussion during strategy meetings, and deeply analyze strategies that other FRC teams are employing. During competition, along with the drive coach, the competition strategist plans out our matches and enacts the strategies developed by the strategy subteam.

Chairman's focuses on the presentation portion of the award. This group of students will write their own presentation/script, and help write/produce the video. These students may or may not be responsible for writing the essay.

Electrical focuses the wiring of the robot. This group of students will be responsible for helping design the electrical panel as well as wiring a majority of the components on the robot.

3.3.2 Secondary Subgroups

Some students may choose to be in multiple subgroups during one build, however they must first speak to a member of core leadership and email frc2158@gmail.com to explain which two subgroups they plan on being a part of. Core Leadership will then decide if the student is able to be on these two subgroups and still exceed student expectations.

3.4 Leadership Selection Process

All leadership selection happens in the same way. Towards the end of the school year, students will be asked to apply for leadership positions or to nominate others who they believe are deserving of a position. The candidates, assembled from these nominations, will be interviewed by core leadership. Then, they will select a single lead or two co-leads for each leadership position.

3.5 the ausTIN CANs Supporters

The ausTIN CANs Supporters are our team's Booster Club. They help the team with bookkeeping, fundraising, and behind-the-scenes leadership. They are an essential part of the team, and volunteers are always welcome to fill these roles. There are a total of 4 positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. If you have experience and/or want to help fill any of these roles, please contact Mike Altmann (centerice1919@gmail.com).

4 Student Expectations

In order to remain a member of Team 2158: The ausTIN CANs, all students are expected to follow the listed student expectations. Understand that being an ausTIN CAN team member means that the team is represented everyday to your teammates and teachers. Your conduct and attitude are just as important for being successful as your technical and nontechnical skills. Some initial standards that must be met are:

• Forms

Submit all required forms by the first official team meeting. This includes those listed on the
 Trello page, field trip forms, and others.

- For FRC, Register online with STIMS, including the FIRST media consent form, which is separate from the team's.
- For VEX, Register online with VEX, including the VEX media consent form, which is separate from the team's.

• Grades

- Students are expected to follow UIL Rules for grading policies and grade checks. Any student not meeting the requirements for a UIL sport will be given one week grace period. After this grace period the student will lose eligibility and not be able to attend any competitions until they regain eligibility during the next grade check.
- Students are expected to balance their team responsibilities with their school work. Schoolwork should be considered as a first priority, even before robotics.
- o Students must have no grades below a 'C' for all progress reporting periods. If your grades are suffering due to robotics, Vincent Wrencher and/or Nanor Asadourian will have a discussion with you about whether or not you can remain a team member for that season.

• Fair Share

- Students are expected to pay their Fair Share before build season begins. The Fair Share amount
 is determined at the beginning of the school year, and can be paid in a lump sum or a series of
 payments.
- If a student has not paid their fair share by Kick off, a meeting will be scheduled with the student's parents to discuss the reason for the late payment and the student's involvement on the team.

4.1 FRC Attendance Policy

4.1.1 Attendance Standards

Attendance is taken at every official, mandatory team meeting by Andrew Iverson, or by a mentor he designated. These are the following criteria for attendance:

Present

Being physically present is not enough to count for attendance, students must be engaged in
robotics related activities in order to be counted for attendance. If a student is playing games, on
their phone, doing homework, or any unrelated activity they will be given a warning by a mentor.
If their behaviour does not improve they will be asked to leave robotics for the day, and their
attendance will not be counted.

Absent Excused

o If a student knows ahead of time that they will miss a meeting, the Lead Mentors or the Technical Lead Mentor should be informed at the student's earliest knowledge prior to the meeting on Slack. If they do so, their absence will be marked as "excused". Students have the ability to make up absences by attending optional meetings, and being productive. All notified absences are still counted negatively towards your attendance percentage.

In addition to attendance of normal team meetings, a member should heed the following guidelines:

• Attend all competitions that you have paid for and agreed to attend for the whole duration.

• Notify team leadership about late arrivals and absences. Please contact your subteam lead by on Slack as soon as possible, preferably at least 24 hours in advance. Use your best judgement, and let us know earlier for longer or repeated absences.

4.1.2 Outreach Policy

Students are expected to help in our regular outreach events, such as Night of the Robots, hosting other robotics competitions, and robot demonstrations, and to help lead and participate in other events. Students are expected to help in 70% of our total outreach events. Failure to reach your required percentage will result in your absence from competition. The repeated events are listed below, however more may be added throughout the year.

- At least 2 *Team Outreach* Event
 - Night of the Robot (Fall)
 - Night of the Robot with Dell (Fall)
 - Night of the Robot (Spring)
 - o Farmers Market
- At least 6 Competitions Event Opportunities
 - FLL Setup + Teardown
 - FLL Volunteer at Event
 - VEX Competition 1 Setup + Teardown
 - VEX Competition 1 Volunteer at Event
 - VEX Competition 2 Setup + Teardown
 - VEX Competition 2 Volunteer at Event
 - VEX Competition 3 Setup + Teardown
 - VEX Competition 3 Volunteer at Event

4.1.3 Dismissal

On the first of each month, the team roster will be re-evaluated to ensure that only those who are committed will remain as members of the team. In general, students below 80% attendance rate will be considered for re-evaluation. All students below the 80% threshold for the current month will be notified by a member of leadership, likely the technical lead mentor, as a warning. However, team cuts will take into consideration more than just attendance. Reasons for cuts may include, but are not limited to:

- Behavior in and outside of team meetings
- The contribution to the team's work environment

This notice serves as your warning that if your attendance does not improve **significantly** within the next two weeks, you will be removed from the team. If it is found that a student should be removed from the team, the student and their parents will receive an email explaining the reason for the removal and will be removed from the team Slack.

4.2 Codes of Conduct

In addition to obeying the rules and laws of all pertinent governing bodies, including but not limited to those of Team 2158, Austin, Travis County, AISD, Texas, and the United States, students must follow these behavioral expectations. Repeated violations of any of the rules in this section can be grounds for removal from the team.

4.2.1 Everywhere

When you wear the yellow logo, you are representing our team, our schools, our community, our sponsors, and yourself wherever we travel, even within Austin. Treat others with respect and kindness.

Your behavior impacts everyone that you represent. What you say to another team member and how you say it may be overheard by a judge, potential sponsor, or member of another team. Any guests you invite or bring must understand this and behave accordingly. All of your actions as a team member are directly reflected on 2158's team image.

4.2.2 During Team Meetings

- Students are expected to not use their phones at team meetings or functions unless it is necessary for the work they are doing for their subteam or otherwise directed by student leaders or mentors.
- Unacceptable behavior includes but is not limited to: verbal and physical abuse, harassment and unwanted attention, discriminatory remarks, offensive language.
- Unacceptable actions include but are not limited to: playing games, using social media, or other distracting and unproductive tasks.
- Students are expected to respect others at all times. They should follow the Golden Rule (treat
 others how you want to be treated) to help sustain our professional and respectful working
 environment.
- To create a professional working environment conducive to new ideas and change, our team has a strict no bullying or harassment policy. This includes physical, online, or verbal bullying.
- Students are expected to take initiative during team meetings. If they have nothing to do, they
 should be seeking out tasks from their peers and leaders or mentors on the team.
- Students are expected to follow the safety regulations of the team at all times, when in the ATC or on school property.

4.2.3 Online

When representing our team online, please remember Gracious Professionalism. Just like at competition or in public, you are representing our team, and must remember to be humble, professional, and considerate.

4.2.4 At Competition

- Respect other teams. Remember Gracious Professionalism, and always be respectful.
- Stay with the group. If you need to go anywhere, let a student lead or chaperone know and find a reasonable time to do so. If you're needed and you're not there, it will reflect poorly on you.
- Stay on task and fulfill your role on the team.
- Follow the Dress Code outlined in Section 4.4.

4.3 PDA Policy

All mentors and members of 2158 are expected to maintain professional behavior, both at team events and during team meetings. Professionalism can be upheld by establishing and adhering to a standard of decency, shown through a student's attitude, attire, and communication abilities. Additionally, all relationships on the team must remain professional, especially with any potential for public displays of affection (PDAs). PDAs are acts of romantic physical intimacy visible to others, not to be confused with platonic acts of friendship. Robotics meetings and events are places for students to work and be focused, and PDAs can be distracting not only to those involved but also to those who witness it. If engaging in a PDA, students create an unprofessional image and an impaired working environment for the team, whether during a team meeting, competition, or other event. Therefore, all forms of PDA are considered

inappropriate and are prohibited at any team event. If you are in a relationship, do not let it interfere with robotics.

Unacceptable PDA includes but is not limited to:

- Intimate touching
- Hand holding
- Caressing/stroking/fondling
- Kissing
- Cuddling
- Sitting in another person's lap
- Rubbing or massaging
- Hugging in a romantic manner

We expect mentors to apply these guidelines to themselves with the maturity of an adult. Additionally, student and mentor relationships must always remain strictly platonic and professional. See FIRST's Youth Protection Policy for more detail. Failure of a student to adhere to this code will result in initial warnings from the President and Vice President, and involvement from Vincent, Nanor and Andrew. If an inappropriate situation arises in which core leadership feel it is necessary to intervene at the moment, they will do so.

4.4 Team Dress Code

• All students must adhere to the dress code. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Students must wear clothing that covers one's undergarments and private parts.
- Students must NOT wear clothing that depicts violence, obscenities, pornography, nudity, or sexual acts in any manner.
- Students must NOT wear clothing that displays hate speech targeting groups based on their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or any other protected group.

• In addition:

- Long hair must be tied back. Jewelry is not acceptable if it can entangle into robot parts
 or into machinery, and is generally discouraged.
- o Closed-toe shoes must be worn at ALL times.

4.4.1 Team Gear

If you are wearing a team shirt or any piece of team gear, you are representing us, even if it's just to school. Shirts and other team gear may NOT be noticeably modified (for example a leftover large shirt being given to a petite student may be tailored, however cutting off sleeves, lowering the neckline, or any damage to any logos is not allowed).

Do not behave inappropriately while wearing a team shirt. Even if you're just wearing it to school, you are representing our team. Team gear should not be sold to anyone outside of our team, regardless of the circumstances. Team gear can be traded to other FRC members, but should never be sold to them.

4.4.2 At competition

At competition, it is important for the team to maintain a unified image. As such, we require all team members who are attending as part of the team to wear the current year's t-shirt and/or sweatshirt, as well as any other team-approved apparel. While in the pits or the stands, team members should not cover up the team or sponsor logos. On practice days of competition, the team may decide to relax the standards and allow previous years' shirts. The team may also decide to create a specific t-shirt for an event, in which case that t-shirt supersedes the current year's t-shirt. FRC Chairman's presenters may be exempt from this dress code. Details will be discussed before each competition.

4.4.3 Other events, including fundraisers and off-season competitions

Events like fundraisers and off-season competitions are slightly less formal than regionals and the championship. Those events may allow previous years' shirts. For important events, we may select a certain shirt. For events that are more formal, such as presentations, we may choose to use a business casual dress code.

4.5 Fundraising

Every student is expected to fundraise a minimum of \$120 dollars for the team. This year's main student fundraiser will be choocoate sales. This means the requirement for students to sell is 2 boxes of chocolate. If there are any issues or you encounter any difficulty with fundraising, please speak with Nanor Asadourian immediately.

4.5.1 Dismissal

If a student is not able to raise their \$120 for the year **and** the student has not reached out asking for assistance, the student will not be allowed in the ATC until they have reimbursed the team with the remainder of the student's responsibility.

4.6 Consequences

Initial violations of any of the above student expectations will result in a discussion with core leadership and the student being sent home. Repeat violations may result in the student being dismissed from the team.

4.7 Probationary Period

All members will be probationary until the end of December. At that time we will reevaluate team members based on their commitment to the team and completion of required training. Those who do not meet our attendance and training standards will be asked to leave the team and reapply the following year.

4.8 Senior Gifts

Graduating seniors on the team are recognized for their hard work at the end of the year banquet. For seniors to be recognized, they must be considered to be in "good standing" during their final year. To be considered in "good standing", students must:

- Actively contribute to the team
- Meet attendance and outreach requirements
- Meet grade requirements

This list is not exhaustive; however, these points will be looked at first and considered heavily. Any behaviorial issues or handbook violations will be reason enough to remove "good standing" status on any given graduating student.

5 Workspace Rules

- 1. Follow all safety guidelines and protocols. Use of team tools is a privilege, not a right, and safety is paramount. Do not use a machine or tool unless you have been trained and signed off to use that equipment.
- 2. Return all tools and equipment to their given places.
- 3. If a student leaves before a work session is over, they must give an appropriate amount of notice and obtain permission from core leadership and the relevant subteam lead. The student must also help clean up before leaving.
- 4. Do not download or install programs onto the programming, CAD, or business/media computers without the permission of the respective team lead and a reason directly related to robotics or the team.
- 5. At the end of each meeting the last 15 minutes will be dedicated to a "Clean 15", at which time every member in attendance will help clean up the space that was used. If students are staying later than the official meeting time, the Clean 15 will still happen at the end of the official meeting time, and any students staying later will be expected to leave their workspace clean.
- 6. Personal equipment brought to team meetings or events must be in compliance with all school rules. In particular, personal knives and multitools containing knives will not be allowed at team meetings or

events. Violations of this rule will result in confiscation of the tool in question; repeated violations may result in removal from the team.

6 VEX Team Structure

Due to the divided individual aspect of VEX, the VEX teams have separate rules to follow regarding: subgroups, meeting schedules, attendance, responsibilities, and traveling to competition.

6.1 Group Size

The minimum team size for a VEX team is 3 people. No teams of 2 or a single person will be allowed to build and/or compete with a robot at competition.

6.2 Subgroups

Because they are at least 3 person teams, there are no subgroups on the VEX teams. Teams, if they wish, can assign roles to members, but that is up to their discretion. There are no set roles, which means VEX students must be able to work well with their teammates to communicate their team's roles and rules.

6.3 Meeting Schedule

VEX Teams have one mandatory meeting every Tuesday from 5:00PM to 6:00PM. This meeting will be a weekly recap of what the teams have accomplished in their week. After the recap, teams are free to go to work. The Lead mentors will stay at the meeting for some questions and assistance. Teams are welcome to have meetings more than once a week, but they will not have any mentor assistance during those times.

6.4 Attendance Policy

The VEX teams will not have attendance taken at every meeting. Instead we will do bi-weekly check-ins for your team's progress. Every two weeks, we will check on the progression of not only your robots, but on the documentation of it in the form of the engineering notebook. Failure to make this progress will result in an hour of robot suspension where your team will work on the notebook and not have access to the robot in the time being. In order to be registered for a competition you must have your engineering notebook complete and up to date. Failure to do so will prevent your team from registering for events

6.4.1 Outreach Policy

Students are expected to help in our regular outreach events, such as Night of the Robots, hosting other robotics competitions, and robot demonstrations, and to help lead and participate in other events. Students are expected to help in 70% of our total outreach events. Failure to reach your required percentage will prevent your team from registering for competition. Our known events are listed below, however more may be added throughout the year.

- At least 2 *Team Outreach* Event
 - Night of the Robot (Fall)
 - Night of the Robot with Dell (Fall)
 - Night of the Robot (Spring)
 - Farmers Market
- At least 6 Competitions Event Opportunities
 - FLL Setup + Teardown
 - o FLL Volunteer at Event
 - VEX Competition 1 Setup + Teardown

- VEX Competition 1 Volunteer at Event
- VEX Competition 2 Setup + Teardown
- VEX Competition 2 Volunteer at Event
- VEX Competition 3 Setup + Teardown
- VEX Competition 3 Volunteer at Event

6.5 Responsibilities

VEX teams can request lockers to keep their robots in. If requested, your team will be assigned a locker number as well as a lock. This must be the lock you use on your locker; only your team and the Lead Mentors will have access to it. The Lead Mentors will only open a team's locker if the team has food kept in said locker, or the team is no longer a registered team.

VEX Teams are also responsible to clean up their areas after use. The "Clean 15" applies to VEX teams in a more strict manner. Teams must clean up every station that they have used. This includes the practice field and the workbenches. After every use, the station must be cleaned for another team's use.

6.6 Traveling to Competition

Every team is responsible for choosing their own competitions and traveling arrangements. Students cannot drive themselves to competition, and a parent chaperone must be selected to travel, stay the duration of the competition and travel back. Once these two are decided, speak to Vincent Wrencher to ensure these are appropriate for your team. Once these are approved, a meeting will be set between Vincent and the parent chaperone to work out the logistics of the competition.

7 Traveling to Competition - FRC

An "away" event is defined as an event where the team needs to coordinate travel and/or lodging arrangements. For "away" events, a traveling team will be selected. Traveling team members will be selected from the team roster according to the travel team criteria (Section 6.1). All travel team members are chosen by who will best represent our team at competition and fulfill the responsibilities of the respective competitions roles.

Travel team lists will be announced at least **a week and a half** prior to the event to allow time to turn in forms and organize logistics.

Before each event, the travel team will be re-evaluated and re-selected. This reselection process will take into account your behavior at previous events, as well as your recent behavior during and outside team meetings.

IMPORTANT: Before travel team selection begins, all team members must inform core leadership of conflicts with competition events no later than the first of February. Failure to do so will result in removal from the travel team for the remainder of the competition season. Exemptions will be made for emergency situations.

7.1 Travel Team Criteria

Academic

• Maintain a "C" or better in all classes

Attendance

• Follow the team's Attendance Policy (Section 4.1)

Behavior

• Take personal responsibility to stay focused and productive

• Act respectfully and safely during team meetings and when representing our team at events

Performance

• Take initiative in learning material required of their subteam's tasks

• Show aptitude at completing subteam projects and tasks

7.2 Travel Team Roles

The travelling team is made up of several predefined roles. Depending on the nature of roles involved,

one person may fill multiple roles. The travelling team will consist of at least 10 students, with a

minimum of 8 scouts, and has historically grown to accommodate up to 35 students. The qualities below

will be used when assessing members to fill competition roles. The team aims to send students who best

qualify for each role to events. In addition to filling role responsibilities and qualities, travel team

members must exhibit commitment, focus, solid communication, and good performance.

Drive Team: Driver/Operator/Human Player/Technician (4)

Responsibilities

 Dedicated and committed to their role at competition and commit to and attend driver/operator/human player practice

Qualities

- Willing and enthusiastic to work closely with and follow the instructions of the drive coach, to put in extra effort to be competitive, and to work closely with other Drive Team members
- Willing to put in numerous hours before, after, and during meetings practicing. Ability to solve problems on field before matches

Pit Crew: Mechanical/Electrical/Programming (3+)

Responsibilities

 Work as a team to diagnose and fix problems with the robot and be prepared to help teams who come to our pit

• Qualities

- Exceptional knowledge of robot functions
- Willingness to go above and beyond to ensure robot competitiveness

Lead Scout

Responsibilities

- Manage logistics for scouts and scouting system
- Qualities

 Exceptional managerial skills, attentiveness, and familiarity with the scouting system and competition rules

Scouts (12)

Responsibilities

- o Collect and upload accurate and consistent scouting data during qualification matches
- o Be available to scout when needed and talk to other teams when not scouting
- Commit to and attend scout training as requested

Qualities

- o Ability to stay focused, attentive, and positive during long periods of time
- Enthusiastically follows instructions given by various team leaders
- Asks questions for clarification

Photo/Video/Social Media (PVS) Representatives (2)

Responsibilities

- o Take photos and videos of team and robot during competition, on and off the field
- Prepare, pack, and keep track of photo and video equipment, as well as the flag and banner
- Update team social media before, during, and after competition
- o Coordinate with fellow PVS Representative to cover required media

Qualities

- Exceptional communication skills
- Experience with photography, video, and necessary equipment

Chairman's Presenters (2-3)

Responsibilities

- o Be prepared and on time for Chairman's Presentation and be team ambassadors
- Fill additional roles as qualified

Qualities

- o Committed to team and presentation rehearsal schedule
- Experience presenting and/or willingness to learn and improve
- Able to take criticism from competition judges

7.3 Travel Team Selection Process

On Team 2158, the travel team selection process honors the observations of subteam leads and protects the confidentiality of students. Before each competition, subteam leaders create a list of students they consider fit for competition roles. They may supplement their selections with descriptions or examples of how each student best fits various competition roles using based on the above criteria. Following this, the core leadership meets to decide on a list of students who would best complete the required competition tasks and fulfill the above travel team criteria. The Drive team is selected by the Technical Lead, Andrew

Iverson. If you have an opinion about drive team roles, please express it to Andrew and your opinion will be taken into consideration.

7.4 Travel Team Code of Conduct

Once the team arrives back at the hotel for the night, it is expected that they do not leave the hotel property. All students are required to be in their room by curfew and not allowed to leave until dawn except in case of emergency. Unless specified at the team meetings at competition, the default curfew time is 10 PM. If the team needs to leave very early, team members may leave their room at a designated time.

8 Parent Volunteering

Parents who wish to get more involved may mentor or may help in the ways listed below. (For more information on volunteering, contact Mike Altmann (<u>centerice1919@gmail.com</u>)

8.1 Volunteers

We highly encourage parents to participate as parent volunteers. They are necessary for our team to run smoothly; parent volunteers help to organize trips and fundraising, and keep the lines of communication open.

8.1.1 Chaperones

On away trips, we will need chaperones. Chaperones will be adults, usually parents, who are affiliated with the team. Chaperones coordinate with core leadership to organize the trip, manage the logistics of hotels and food, and oversee all of the students.

8.1.2 Transportation

On away trips, transportation is extremely important. Parents who are not event chaperones are often needed to transport our travel team to closer events in Austin area events. Parents who drive also can come watch the events, which are very exciting!

8.1.3 Event Volunteering

Parents are also often needed to help out at the events we host, specifically our VEX and FLL Tournaments in the fall, to fill many crucial roles like judging STEM projects and other awards.

8.2 Mentors

The ausTIN CANs is always open to additional mentor support, and mentoring requires no prior experience. Mentors are a key component of our team's sustainability and success. We invite any parents interested in mentoring to contact Nanor Asadourian (nanor.asadourian@gmail.com) to find out how to get involved. We need mentors across all areas of our team, including technical areas like engineering and software development, as well as non-technical areas like leadership development, business and finance.

9 FRC Meetings

Meetings occur in ATC at L.C. Anderson High School every Wednesday and Thursday from 5:00-7:30pm. These times are subject to change for finals weeks or any other exception in school changes. More meetings occur during certain periods of the year. Meetings will start with a group meeting, led by the lead technical mentor, Andrew Iverson. He will give team-wide announcements and share leadership meeting discussion topics. After team-wide announcements, individual subteam leads will quickly breakdown their subteam specific meeting agenda. To discuss something at a meeting with

the whole team, send an email or a Slack message to Andrew. If appropriate, he will place it on the agenda.

9.1 Meeting Schedule

During the whole school year we meet from 5:00-7:30 pm in ATC on Wednesdays and Thursdays, unless

otherwise notified.

Offseason: Late April–Mid December

Offseason goes from the first meeting after the FIRST Houston Championship to the last meeting before

winter break. During this time, the focus is on recruiting and training new members and raising money for

the year. During the school year, the team meets regularly from 5:00-7:30 pm on Wednesdays and

Thursdays. However, additional meetings may be scheduled in order to prepare for offseason

competitions or train students. Potential extra meeting times include Saturday/Sunday 10am-5pm. During

the summertime, from the end of school through the beginning of school, there are traditionally no

regularly scheduled meetings; however, many subteams will be scheduling training and open shop hours

to help prepare students for the upcoming season. We frequently have robot demonstrations at local

summer camps and retirement communities.

Build season: Early January - Mid February

Build season is where it all comes together. In early January at Kickoff, we will receive the new game and

design, build, program, and wire the robot by "Stop Build Day". Because build season is regulated to be

only slightly longer than 6 weeks, we need strong commitment from all members during build season. In

addition to the regular Wednesday/Thursday meetings, we will also have meetings on a third weekday

from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM and 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturdays and Sundays. Meetings will also be

held on school holidays during this period.

Competition season: Mid February – Late April

During competition season, we will be preparing the team for competition and attending competitions.

Additional optional meetings may be held to continue work on our practice robot, but the schedule and

expected time commitment will be very similar to that of build season. Students are expected to attend all

competitions they are invited to and to follow the behavior guidelines at those competitions. As soon as

competition dates are announced, it is each student's responsibility to check for scheduling conflicts and

to bring them to the attention of core leadership as soon as possible.

10 Calendar of Major Events

This section outlines major events in our annual calendar. Specific dates can always be found on our

official team calendar: https://www.andersonrobotics.org/calendar

Texas Regional Invitation

Mid July

Offseason competition in Houston put on by Team 3847. The pit and drive team will stay overnight in

Houston, but carpools and hotels will be arranged for other members wishing to attend.

Texas Robot Roundup

Weekend in July/August

Offseason competition held by ourselves as well as other local Austin teams, held at Anderson High School. All team members not on the pit or drive team will be expected to volunteer for the event.

VEX Event

Weekend in Nov/Dec

We host numerous VEX Events, this is the first of many. Setup will occur the day before competition and this will count as one outreach event for your attendance. During the competition, some of our teams may compete, but all other VEX team's and FRC members will be needed to volunteer; competition volunteering counts as another outreach event.

FLL Event

Weekend in Dec

We host Robotics events, this is one of many. Setup will occur the day before competition and tear down immediately following the competition; this will count as one outreach event for your attendance. During the competition, VEX and FRC members will be needed to volunteer; competition volunteering counts as another outreach event.

Kickoff Weekend

Early January

Game reveal event, required for all members and held at ATC. After the reveal, all members will brainstorm ideas for strategy and design.

VEX Event

Weekend in Jan/Feb

We host numerous VEX Events, this is the first of many. Setup will occur the day before competition and this will count as one outreach event for your attendance. During the competition, some of our teams may compete, but all other VEX team's and FRC members will be needed to volunteer; competition volunteering counts as another outreach event.

Austin District Event

Dates to be announced

The Austin District event is held in the Austin area. Because we do not have to deal with the associated travel costs, all team members are expected to attend, given that they meet all requirements. Because this is our "home" regional, we often organize student volunteers to support the event. Students not on the travel team are expected to take advantage of this opportunity to contribute to the robotics community in this way while experiencing the competition environment firsthand. The first day of competition is a practice day, and only a few team members will be excused from school to attend the competition and work on the robot. All members not on the drive or pit teams will assist in field build after school. On the second day, all team members who attend will be excused from school if necessary. The third day will be a Saturday and all team members may attend.

VEX Event

Weekend in Feb/March

This is an event that we host, but some of our teams will choose to compete. Setup will occur the day before competition and this will count as one outreach event for your attendance. During the competition, some of our teams may compete, but all other VEX team's and FRC members will be needed to volunteer; competition volunteering counts as another outreach event.

One Travel District Event

Dates to be announced

In addition to the Austin District Event, we attend one other district event. We do not know which other event we will be able to attend until late winter/early spring, but information will be shared as we receive it.

District Championships

Early April

The team will attend the District Championship if we qualify. To be eligible to attend, team members must turn in all the field trip forms and meet all other traveling requirements. In the past, this has also been a "home" event, so transportation may not be needed.

World Championships

Mid July

The team will attend the Houston Championship if we qualify from District Championships. To be eligible to attend under team funds, team members must again turn in all the field trip forms and be eligible. Everyone travels on the same day, but pit and drive teams leave earlier in the morning. All members will return together after the conclusion of the event.

11 Media Sharing Policy

Section 11 has been adapted from Team 971 Spartan Robotics' Photo/Video Policy. Team 2158 uses photos, videos, and Google Drive documents in a number of ways, including, but not limited to:

- Team organization and planning
- Documentation
- Keeping 2158 team members and mentors informed
- FIRST Award submissions
- Sharing within the 2158 team
- Sharing with the FIRST and/or local communities

12 Media Consent Contract

For our team to advertise itself to our community, whether it be the FIRST, school, or Austin community, we ask that all team members understand that they consent to the participation in interviews, the use of quotes, and the taking of photographs, movies, or videotapes of team members by the ausTIN CANs Robotics and FIRST. Team members must also agree to grant to the team, the ausTIN CANs Robotics, the right to edit, use, and reuse said products for nonprofit purposes including use in print, on the internet, and all other forms of media. Additionally, team members must agree to release the ausTIN CANs Robotics and FIRST and their agents and employees from all claims, demands, and liabilities whatsoever in connection with the above.

13 Contact and Final Notes

Here is the contact information for the 2022-2023 core leadership.

Vincent Wrencher Sr. (Lead Mentor): vincent.wrencher@austinisd.org

Andrew Iverson (Lead Technical Mentor, Drive Team Coach): andrew.iversonp@gmail.com

Nanor Asadourian (Lead Business Mentor): nanor.asadourian@gmail.com

We expect all team members to follow and understand all rules and policies in this handbook. The leadership team reserves the right to set consequences for major violations and consider confidential information in decisions. Core leadership also may change the handbook during the season. If this occurs, the team will be notified of the modifications promptly. Lastly, core leadership encourages all students to raise concerns about the team directly with them in person or through email. The students and team climate are our first priority, and we strive to do all we can to support our team mission. We hope all of our members can have a part in that process. Thank you, and let's have a wonderful season!

14 Forms

Team 2158: The ausTIN CANs Student Contract

Please print this page, sign and s	ubmit.	
By signing below, I, the student,	agree with the following:	
• I have read and understood the	e 2022-2023 the ausTIN CANs Tear	m Handbook, including the student
expectations (4) and workspace	rules (5).	
• I understand that to be consider	ered a team member of Team 2158:	The ausTIN CANs, I must
follow and fulfill the criteria out	lined in Section 4.	
• I commit to attending at least 8	80% of all team meetings and 70%	of all outreach activities.
I have read and understood the	e expectations for alerting Team Lea	adership of absences before
competitions and the consequence	ces for not complying (4.1).	
• I understand that not everyone	will be able to travel to "away" eve	ents and will agree to abide by
the travelling team criteria (7.1)).	
I have read and understood the	e Media Sharing Policy (11) and M	Media Consent Contract (12).
• I will behave in a responsible,	mature, and graciously professiona	l manner while on or
representing the team.		
• I understand that I can bring p	roblems to the attention of team lead	dership to work it out.
Student(print name)	Signature	Date

The ausTIN CANs Explorer Post 2158 Policy Contract

Please initial by each point and sign at the bottom. By signing below, I acknowledge that I understand and agree to these rules and conditions:

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Team 2158: The ausTIN CANs Parent Contract

By signing below, I, a parent/guardian, agree with the following:

- I have read and understood the 2022-2023 ausTIN CANs Team Handbook, including the parent expectations (8). I understand what is expected of me as a parent of a team member, outlined in that section.
- I have read and understood the expectations for alerting Team Leadership of absence during a competition, and the consequences for not complying (4.1).
- I understand that for my child to be considered and considered a team member of Team 2158: The ausTIN CANs and must follow and fulfill the criteria outlined in Section 4.
- I understand that my child has committed to attending at least 80% of all team meetings and at least 70% outreach activities.
- I understand that my child will agree to abide by the travelling team criteria (7.1).

for themselves.

- I have read and understood the Media Sharing Policy (11) and Media Consent Contract (12).
- I understand that my child is expected to be respectful, mature, and responsible for themselves.

 If they have a question or concern about the team, I can let them interact with team leadership

Parent (print name)	 Signature	 Date	
	-		