

RoboCupJunior Soccer SuperTeam Rules 2026

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These are the SuperTeam Soccer rules for RoboCupJunior 2026. They are released by the RoboCupJunior Soccer League Committee. The English version of these rules has priority over any translations.

Teams are advised to check the RoboCupJunior Soccer site ¹ and Soccer forum ² for procedures and requirements for the international competition. Instead ask tournament organizers for local, regional and super-regional competitions. Each team is responsible for making sure they have the correct rules for each competition. Teams should ask for clarifications on the Forum where necessary. ³

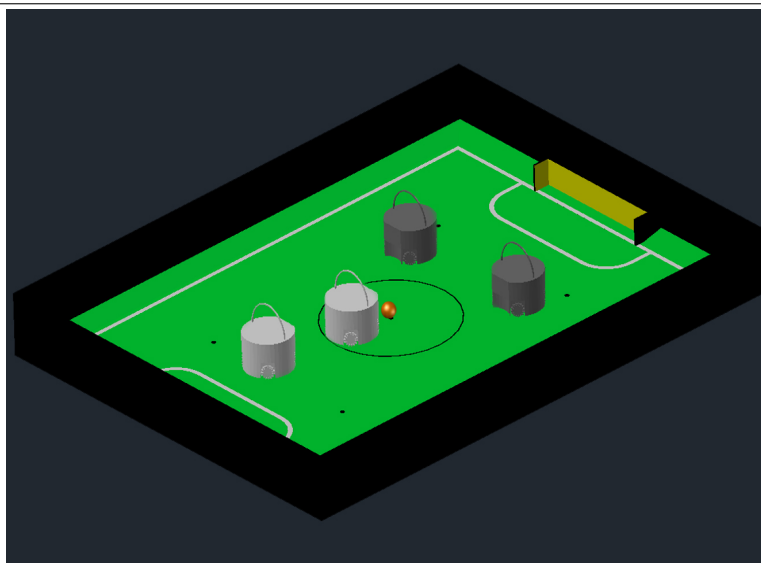


Teams are encouraged to get in touch with the RoboCupJunior community on our Discord. Show what you're working on, ask questions or join the weekly discussions on future rules and league design. ^a You can also reach the Soccer League Committee directly via email ^b

^a You can join the server at <https://robocup-junior.github.io/soccer-rules/discord/>

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Figure 1 Two teams of two robots with an orange ball on a RoboCupJunior Soccer field.



¹ <https://junior.robocup.org/>

² <https://junior.forum.robocup.org/c/robocupjunior-soccer/5>

³ The current version of these rules can be found at https://robocup-junior.github.io/soccer-rules/master/superteam_rules.html in HTML form and at https://robocup-junior.github.io/soccer-rules/master/superteam_rules.pdf in PDF form.



Preface

In the RoboCupJunior Soccer challenge, teams of young engineers design, build, and program two fully autonomous mobile robots to compete against another team in matches. The robots must detect a ball and score into a color-coded goal on a special field that resembles a human soccer field.

To be successful, participants must demonstrate skill in programming, robotics, electronics and mechanics. Teams are also expected to contribute to the advancement of the community as a whole by sharing their discoveries with other participants and by engaging in good sportsmanship, regardless of culture, age or result in the competition. **All are expected to compete, learn, have fun, and grow.**

These rules are released together with the current regular game rules. Wherever a change is needed because of the difference with regular games, situation have been analyzed and are ruled here. For all other situations that do not change from the regular game rules, normally they have been only mentioned here as being the same regular game rule.

Changes from the 2025 RoboCupJunior Soccer SuperTeam Rules

The rule changes developed by the Soccer League Committee in cooperation with the RoboCup Junior Soccer Community (please continue to post ideas for the future at any time) aim to improve gameplay.

Detailed changes are listed below and link to the corresponding place in the rules.

- [Added "will call "pushed out""](#)

1 RoboCupJunior International 2026 General Rules

- 1.0.1 [RoboCupJunior Soccer Rules](#) Rule 1, [RoboCupJunior International 2026 General Rules](#) applies.

2 GAMEPLAY

2.1 Game procedure and length of a game

- 2.1.1 RCJ Soccer SuperTeam games consist of two teams of robots playing soccer against each other. Each team has five autonomous robots. The game will consist of two halves. The duration of each half is 10-minutes. There will be a 5-minute break in between the halves.
- 2.1.2 SuperTeams are expected to be at the field 5 minutes before their game starts. Being at the inspection table does not count in favor of this time limit. Teams that are late for the start of the game may be penalized one goal **per 30 seconds** at the referee's discretion. Member Teams are expected to make sure all their SuperTeam teammates show up for the game.
- 2.1.3 The final game score will be trimmed so that there is at most 10-goal difference between the losing and the winning team.

2.2 Pre-match meeting

- 2.2.1 At the start of the first half of the game, a referee will toss a coin. The team mentioned first in the draw shall call the coin. The winner of the toss can choose either which end to kick towards, or to kick off first.

The loser of the toss chooses the other option. After the first half, teams switch sides. The SuperTeam not kicking off in the first half of the game will kick off to begin the second half of the game.

- 2.2.2 During the pre-match meeting the referee(s) may check whether the robots are capable of playing (i.e., whether they are at least able to follow and react to the ball). If none of the robots is capable of playing, the game will not be played and zero goals will be awarded to both SuperTeams.

2.3 Kick-off

- 2.3.1 Each half of the game begins with a kick-off. All robots must be located on their own side of the field. All robots must be halted. The ball is positioned by a referee in the center of the field.
- 2.3.2 The team kicking off places their robots on the Big field first and the rest of the robots can be located anywhere on their side of the playing field, as long as they are at a maximum distance of 10 cm from any white line.
- 2.3.3 The SuperTeam not kicking off will now place their robots on the defensive end of the Big field.
- 2.3.4 Robots cannot be placed behind the goal line or out of bounds. Robots cannot be repositioned once they have been placed, except if the referee requests to adjust their placement to make sure that the robots are placed properly within the field positions.
- 2.3.5 On the referee's command (usually by whistle), all robots will be started immediately by members of the team they belong to. Any robots that are started early will be removed by the referee from the field and deemed damaged.
- 2.3.6 Before a kick-off, **all damaged or out-of-bounds robots** are allowed to return to the playing field immediately if they are *ready and fully functional*.

2.3.A Neutral kick-off

- 2.3.A.1 A neutral kick-off is the same as the one described in Rule 2.3, **Kick-off** with a small change: all robots must be at least 30 cm away from the ball (outside of the center circle).

2.4 Scoring

- 2.4.1 **RoboCupJunior Soccer Rules** Rule 2.4, **Scoring** applies.

2.5 Ball movement

- 2.5.1 **RoboCupJunior Soccer Rules** Rule 2.5, **Ball movement** applies.

2.6 Inside the Penalty Area (Pushing and Multiple defense)

- 2.6.1 **RoboCupJunior Soccer Rules** Rule 2.6, **Inside the Penalty Area (Pushing and Multiple defense)** applies.

2.7 Lack of progress

- 2.7.1 **RoboCupJunior Soccer Rules** Rule 2.7, **Lack of progress** applies.

2.8 Out of bounds

- 2.8.1 If a robot's entire body moves out beyond the white line of the Big field, it will be called for being out of bounds. When this situation arises, the robot is given a one-minute penalty, and the SuperTeam is asked to remove the robot from the Big field. There is no time stoppage for the game itself. The robot is allowed to return if a kick-off occurs before the penalty has elapsed.
- 2.8.2 The one-minute penalty starts when the robot is removed from play. Furthermore, any goal scored by the penalized SuperTeam while the penalized robot is on the Big field will not be granted. Out-of-bounds robots can be fixed if the SuperTeam needs to do so, as described in Rule 2.9, **Damaged robots**.
- 2.8.3 After the penalty time has passed, robot will be placed on the unoccupied neutral spot furthest from the ball, facing its own goal.
- 2.8.4 A referee can waive the penalty if the robot was accidentally pushed out of bounds by an opposing robot. In such a case, the referee **will call "pushed out"** and may slightly push the robot back onto the field.

2.9 Damaged robots

- 2.9.1 **RoboCupJunior Soccer Rules** Rule 2.9, **Damaged robots**

2.10 Human interference

- 2.10.1 **RoboCupJunior Soccer Rules** Rule 2.10, **Human interference** applies.

2.11 Interruption of Game

- 2.11.1 **RoboCupJunior Soccer Rules** Rule 2.11, **Interruption of Game** applies.

2.12 Tournament mode and Bye games

- 2.12.1 In some cases (e.g. uneven number of teams) not every team can play every round. In these cases the team that is free from play is awarded a Bye. In SuperTeam matches where fewer goals are scored the Bye is awarded as a 3:0 victory instead of the usual 10:0. Contact your regional/super-regional tournament organizers for details at tournaments other than the international RoboCupJunior tournament.

3 ROBOTS

3.1 Interference

- 3.1.1 **RoboCupJunior Soccer Rules** Rule 3.1, **Interference** applies.

3.2 Control & Communication

- 3.2.1 **RoboCupJunior Soccer Rules** Rule 3.2, **Control & Communication** applies.

3.3 Agility

- 3.3.1 [RoboCupJunior Soccer Rules](#) Rule 3.3, [Agility](#) applies.

3.4 Handle

- 3.4.1 [RoboCupJunior Soccer Rules](#) Rule 3.4, [Handle](#) applies.

3.5 Top Markers

- 3.5.1 [RoboCupJunior Soccer Rules](#) Rule 3.5, [Top Markers](#) applies.

3.6 Violations

- 3.6.1 [RoboCupJunior Soccer Rules](#) Rule 3.6, [Violations](#) applies.

3.7 Material specifications

- 3.7.1 [RoboCupJunior Soccer Rules](#) Rule 3.7, [Material specifications](#) applies.

3.8 Soccer Infrared League Ball Change 2026

- 3.8.1 [RoboCupJunior Soccer Rules](#) Rule 3.8, [Soccer Infrared League Ball Change 2026](#) applies.

3.9 Tournament Balls

- 3.9.1 [RoboCupJunior Soccer Rules](#) Rule 3.9, [Tournament Balls](#) applies.

3.10 Number of robots / substitution

- 3.10.1 The SuperTeam will have all the robots from their respective individual teams available to play. In the playing field, the SuperTeam is allowed to use a maximum of 5 robots simultaneously, and they are its active players. The rest of the robots constitute their reserve players. Since the playing field is big, it is suggested that the SuperTeam establish positions for the robots inside the playing field (goalkeeper, backs, midfielders, forwards, etc.), by adjusting robot's mechanics and programming.
- 3.10.2 The substitution of robots during the competition with other SuperTeam is forbidden. Robots will be issued a special code that will distinguish them from other SuperTeams. Each robot that belongs to a superteam will receive an ID identifying the robot as being a member of a team.
- 3.10.3 Example: Robot A-2: the referee would identify robot with sticker A-2 as robot number 2 belonging to team A. These IDs will be written on the Top Markers of robots (see [RoboCupJunior Soccer Rules](#) Rule 3.5, [Top Markers](#)).
- 3.10.4 Each individual team is required to have at least one of its robots as an active player, with the exception of a sixth team in which case SuperTeam is required to have individual team rotation allowing with that to include all individual teams evenly. SuperTeam members can decide freely how to substitute robots

between the current players and the reserve players during gameplay, but the captain is required to ask a referee for robot substitution authorization.

- 3.10.5 Substitutions are allowed only at every kick-off (see Rule 2.3, Kick-off).

4 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.0.1 RoboCupJunior Soccer Rules Rule 4, CODE OF CONDUCT and its subsections apply.

5 CONFLICT RESOLUTION

- 5.0.1 RoboCupJunior Soccer Rules Rule 5, CONFLICT RESOLUTION and its subsections apply.

6 LEAGUE REGULATIONS

- 6.0.1 RoboCupJunior Soccer Rules Rule 6, LEAGUE REGULATIONS and its subsections apply.

7 Kicker Power Measuring Procedures

- 7.0.1 RoboCupJunior Soccer Rules Rule 7, Kicker Power Measuring Procedures and its subsections apply.

8 BIGFIELD

8.1 Dimensions of the field

- 8.1.1 The Big field is 540 cm by 340 cm. The Big field is marked by a white line that is part of the playing field. Around the playing field, beyond the white line, is an outer area of 30 cm width. Total dimensions of the Big field, including the outer area, are 600 cm by 400 cm. The playing area is divided in sides for each SuperTeam by a black line.
- 8.1.2 The floor near the exterior wall includes a wedge, which is an incline with a 10 cm base and 2 +/- 1 cm rise for allowing the ball to roll back into play when it leaves the playing field. Note that the goal should not contain the wedge.

8.2 Neutral spots

- 8.2.1 There are five neutral spots defined in the Big field. One is in the center of the Big field. The other four are located over the diagonals that go through the corners of the playing field, half the distance between the center of the field and each corner. The neutral spots can be drawn with a thin black marker. The neutral spots ought to be of circular shape measuring 1 cm in diameter.



8.3 Center circle

- 8.3.1 A center circle will be drawn on the Big field. It is 80 cm in diameter. It is a thin black marker line. It is there for Referees and SuperTeam members as guidance during kick-off.

8.4 Penalty areas

- 8.4.1 In front of each goal there is a 35 cm wide and 120 cm long penalty area.
- 8.4.2 The penalty areas are marked by a white line of 20 mm ($\pm 10\%$) width. The line is part of the area.
- 8.4.3 [RoboCupJunior Soccer Rules Rule 3.7, Material specifications](#) and its subsections apply with the above exceptions.

BIG FIELD DIAGRAM



8.4.4