

Iron Reign Robotics

Program Participation Handbook

V1.4 8/31/2022

Important Contact Information	2
About the Handbook	2
About Iron Reign Robotics	3
What we do	4
Mission and Vision	4
About the Virani/Lux Household and Property	4
About Collaboration with the School of Science and Engineering and Dallas ISD and SEM Robotics	5
About Commingled Resources	5
About FIRST	6
About the Teams	6
Collaboration Model	7
Budget	8
Major Sponsors	8
Other Sponsors	9
Program and Team Fundraisers	9
Team Dues	9
Major Budget Items	10
Team Organization	10
Students	10
Adult Mentors	10
Adult Supporters	11
Subteams	11
Subteam Leads	11
Participant Expectations	12
Professionalism	12
Attendance Policy	12

Personal Priorities Policy	13
Safety & Health	13
Pandemic Protocols	14
Youth Protection and PDA Policies	14
Team Dress Code	14
Workspace Rules	15
Non-Compliance with Expectations	16
Travel Information	16
How We Travel	17
Code of Conduct at Away Events	17
Schedules	18
General Season Schedule	18
Calendar of Major Events	18
Parent Support Opportunities	19
Acceptance	19

Important Contact Information

Team email - ironreignrobotics@gmail.com

Emergency number - 214-763-7529 (Mr. Virani mobile, do not share externally)

Program Calendar - <http://ironreignrobotics.org/calendar>

About the Handbook

This handbook is intended to contain the information needed for all Iron Reign Robotics (Iron Reign) participants to understand the administrative and logistical procedures for all teams hosted by Iron Reign. It shall be updated yearly by core leadership to accurately represent current standards.

About Iron Reign Robotics

The Iron Reign program has a long and complex history. Team Iron Reign began as a parent-led FLL team in 2010; and it evolved into the FTC team, as a response to the growth of team members. It was founded as an effort to teach critical and design thinking, along with team-building and presentation skills, which are inherent to the FIRST robotics program. It has always been primarily parent-led, although affiliations with the associated schools has always been encouraged and nurtured, as school support and promotion is a core belief of the program founders. It has always been and continues to be run at the founders' personal discretion.

Karim Virani has 30 years of experience in IT. He was a VP of Product Development for a tech startup in the 90s that built and ran the first digital video-on-demand field trials in the United States. He's been a principal in another digital streaming server company and in an IT services company. When his sons were born he decided to make a life changing commitment to invest directly in their generation. For the last 20 years Mr. Virani has worked in the non-profit sector. Currently he is a Director of Technology at a mid sized non-profit in the education space.

Dr. Cathy Lux, (DNP, APRN, CPNP), has been a practicing pediatric nurse practitioner for the last 25 years and is a clinical professor of nursing at a local university. Earlier in her career she was a pediatric ICU nurse for 7 years. She has also earned an MBA.

Parents Karim Virani and Cathy Lux initially founded Iron Reign as an afterschool program at Travis TAG. Over time, it evolved into a high school team made up primarily from students at the School of Science and Engineering at Townview (SEM), their children's school. In 2014 the team founders saw an opportunity to assist SEM's struggling robotics program through sharing of their resources and time. They expanded the capacity of the program to include multiple teams, which gives students an opportunity to come into the program at a variety of skill levels, and to move between teams as determined by skill and circumstance. Now that their children have graduated from SEM, the founders continue to offer the program as a way to support the students and the school, and to show their gratitude for all that SEM has meant to their family.

Iron Reign has taken the next logical step by founding an eponymous non-profit, in order to lay the foundation to continue our work. The organization is registered as a not-for-profit corporation based in the state of Texas. The core leadership of the organization will remain with the founders of the program, Karim Virani and Catherine Lux. To the extent that they facilitate The Program, they do so as volunteer leaders of the non-profit. For the remainder of this document, the term "**Iron Reign**" will refer to the non-profit entity unless stated otherwise. "**The Program**" will refer to the activities run by Iron Reign to serve the student participants and to run the related robotics teams.

What we do

Iron Reign Robotics mentors and support robotics teams and related STEM learning. Participants are 9th–12th graders from schools throughout the Dallas area with a current focus on SEM student participation. Our program is centered around three core tenets: a hands-on project-based learning environment driven to push open the limits of our capabilities, a practice of sharing our enthusiasm for STEM across our community with a focus on underserved and underrepresented neighborhoods, and full engagement in competitive robotics. Education, outreach and competition drive the success of our program.

Mission and Vision

Iron Reign 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.

Iron Reign pursues its vision by building a student-centered, mentor-facilitated environment that fosters innovation and teaches interpersonal and technical skills. We also develop local partnerships and community outreach while striving to compete at the highest level possible.

About the Virani/Lux Household and Property

Without regular access to another dedicated robotics workspace the Virani/Lux family has opened their home for program participants as it is effectively a kind of maker space. Team members are welcome, but need to consider access to this space, its tools and equipment, to be a privilege that can be removed at any time at the sole discretion of core leadership. The house, the workshop, the land, the tools, the RV (MXP), the cars and the vast majority of the robotics parts and equipment are the personal property of the Virani/Lux household and it is expected that participants treat this property with respect and always leave it in as good a condition as they found it. The primary meeting/practice location for the remainder of this document will be called “The Lab.” Other terms you may hear such as the Robodojo, Mr. V’s place, and Iron Reign HQ - these all refer to The Lab. The Lab is currently in the Virani/Lux household, but the term applies to any place that program participants meet regularly and which needs to be treated with respect.

About Collaboration with the School of Science and Engineering and Dallas ISD and SEM Robotics

The Program is run in voluntary affiliation with the School of Science and Engineering (SEM) at Townview. The School may support an afterschool club called SEM Robotics. Townview also has other robotics options in the FRC team Robobusters, and a BEST team run out of TAG. Neither of these are affiliated with Iron Reign. So students and parents who do not find a good fit with The Program's requirements and practices do have other robotics options. The school provides a faculty sponsor. Student participation in the club may overlap with participation in The Iron Reign Program, but the club operates per school/district extracurricular rules and The Program operates by Iron Reign guidelines. Participation in the club does not guarantee participation in The Program or on any teams operated by The Program.

Dallas ISD has in recent history provided some of the parts used by the teams and has also provided support for the SEM Robotics sponsor and support for some competition trips.

Each of The Program's current active robotics teams is primarily affiliated with SEM, though we also have participants from other Dallas ISD schools. SEM is currently listed as the recipient of the nonprofit entity Iron Reign's assets if at some point Iron Reign were to dissolve. Iron Reign considers the school and its students to be primary partners and primary beneficiaries of our services. However, this is entirely at Iron Reign's discretion, and Iron Reign reserves the right to add or transition to other school or community beneficiaries at any time for any reason.

About Commingled Resources

At this point, as stated above, the vast majority of tools and robotics parts have been funded by the Virani/Lux family over 13 years of operating the Program. In particular all major tools and most specialty parts have been purchased by the family. Those items remain the personal property of the family until such time as the family may elect to donate any to Iron Reign. Parts provided by any partner school district or grantor for program or team use will be managed by Iron Reign going forward. It is impractical to keep separate inventory and labeling of robot parts. It is considered acknowledged by any donor of parts that they will experience extreme use and many will be considered consumables. Such robotics parts have a useful life of a few years at maximum and are considered fully depreciated or consumed within 3 years.

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 Tech Challenge (FTC) and FIRST Lego League, students are emboldened to excel in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. FIRST was founded in 1989 by Dean Kamen (inventor of the Segway and the portable 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/>.

FTC is FIRST's fastest growing robotics program in the high-school age range. It is designed to provide a rigorous engineering challenge to high school students as well as teach leadership, collaboration, and project management. Over five thousand teams contain up to fifteen students each, with guidance and support from adult mentors. Each year, FTC teams build a robot starting in September with an intent to compete through at least January or February. Some teams that make it to Regionals or State or Worlds can see their season extended into April. Some teams (like Iron Reign, our varsity team #6832) operate year-round with an extensive summer outreach and research program. This allows us to vastly expand the scope and depth of experiences available to team members.

FIRST also supplies the nationwide Youth Protection Policies that we adhere to under this program. All mentors must comply with those policies and practices. All parents and students must register with FIRST and accept and adhere to those policies. This will be mentioned again under the PDA section.

About the Teams

As stated previously, all current Teams are collaborations between The Program and SEM Robotics. To that extent they are governed by both the rules and guidelines of The Program and by the extracurricular rules and guidelines of the School and Dallas ISD. Student participants and their families are subject to and agree to comply with both sets of rules.

The Teams are primarily managed by and under The Iron Reign Program. Mr. Virani, as Iron Reign's Lead Coach, mentors and administers all of the Teams. Final decisions about running the teams, the selection of program participants and team members, the status of participants and which outreach and competition events to participate in are made by Mr. Virani.

The School & District support the Teams primarily through staff sponsors, parts and trips.

Team 6832, Iron Reign, is our Varsity team. Formed in 2012 by Karim Virani and Cathy Lux, this team has developed into one of the top teams in our region. It has been to the Regional

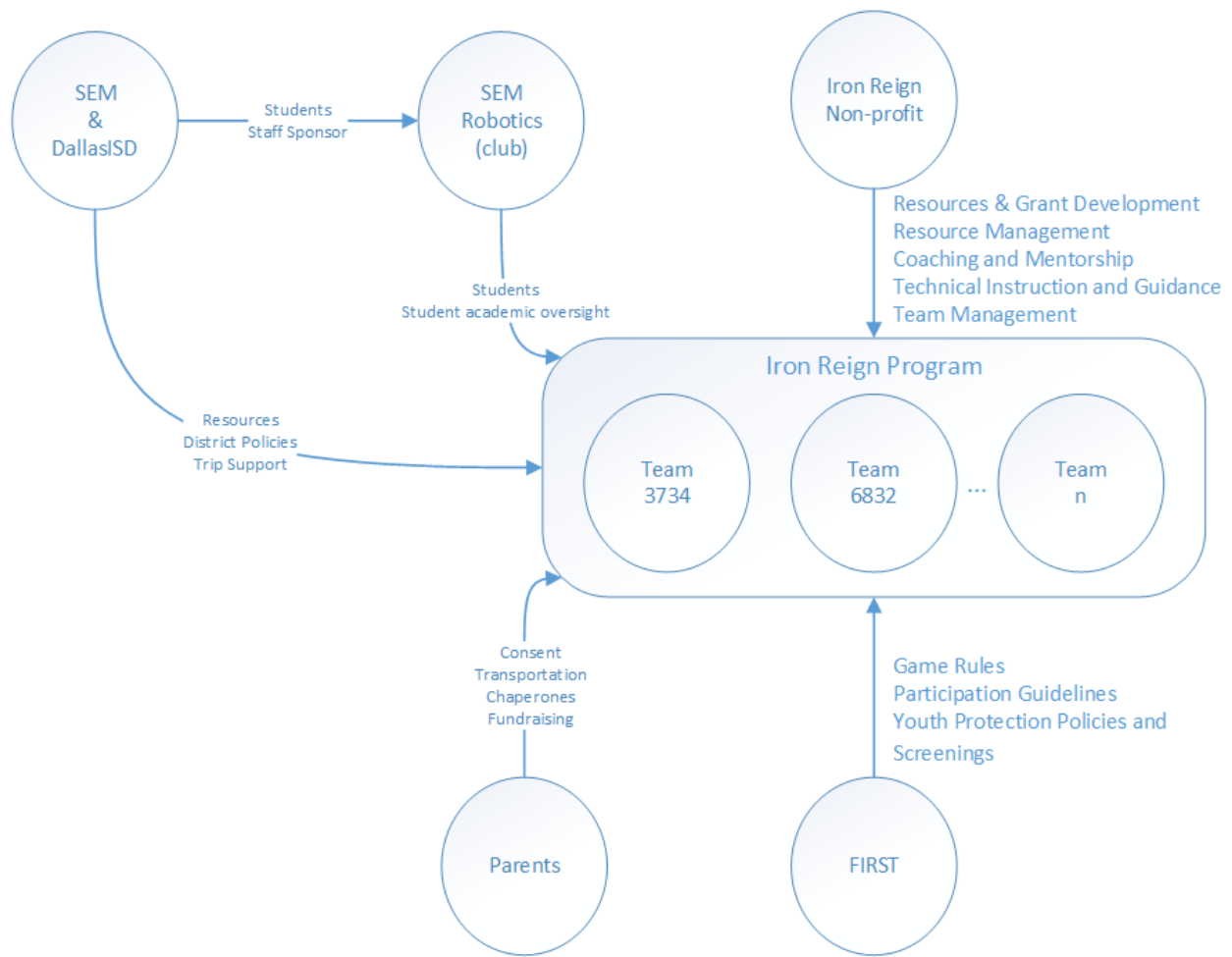
Championship all but one season since then, has taken both first and second place there, has advanced to the UIL State Championship for each of the last 4 years and has won a major award for best outreach at the FTC World Championship in Houston in 2018. Iron Reign also advanced to the 2019 FTC World Championship in 2019 where they earned Innovate Award Finalist. Iron Reign operates year-round and requires an intense time and effort commitment from its members. It is run like a tech-startup with a focus on developing products (robots and STEM focused minds) including a full engineering process, a business development strategy, and the most intense community service model in the region. The peak of community service and research projects happens over the summer with the rest of the year driven by competition timelines. Membership in team 6832 is extremely competitive, and requires extensive commitment of time and energy by members and their families.

Team 3734, Pandemonium / Imperial Robotics, was formed in 2008 and remains one of the longest running active teams in North Texas. It was originally formed by SEM faculty but fell under Virani/Lux guidance in 2014 when the team advanced to Super Regionals and it was deemed they needed more support. Since then, 3734 has been operating under the same roof as 6832 and they are considered sister teams. 3734 remains more independent of mentor guidance and is a better fit for students with a narrower focus on just the robotics side of things, and who are not able to make the more intense 6832 commitment. 3734 normally feeds some students into 6832 when they are ready.

Depending on program interest, Iron Reign may stand up additional teams on a yearly basis to serve as a training ground for new/younger Program participants. When participation surges, we've run teams 15373 and 15375. These teams are considered to be a feeder system into the established veteran teams. Feeder teams allow the less experienced students to have access to resources and mentor guidance as needed. Students may be invited to the Varsity team if they exhibit the skills and commitment expected at that level of competition.

Collaboration Model

The following diagram is meant to be a visual summary of how the various entities collaborate to support the Participants and the Teams as described above. This collaboration model describes the current arrangement and is subject to change or expand to include more schools or districts. It does not imply any contractual obligations between the entities.



Budget

Team funding comes from a variety of sources. Supporting FTC teams is a very expensive endeavor, and it is important that student participants take those costs seriously.

Major Sponsors

Karim Virani and Catherine Lux have hosted the program for 9 years; and have supplied teams with food, workspaces, robot parts, access to tools and equipment, training and mentorship. The family has documented well in excess of \$25,000 of personal investment in supporting the program over the years, not including the value of time spent running the program and mentoring students.

Dallas ISD provides stipends for school staff sponsorship, team registration and competition fees, robot parts and trip support. Trip support is conditional on team advancement.

FIRST in Texas and the Texas Workforce Commission has consistently awarded financial grants submitted by Iron Reign to support tournament fees, parts and equipment usually around the amount of \$400 per team per season. FIRST in Texas has additionally funded tournament fees for advancing teams.

Other Sponsors

Various other grantors and individuals have supported the Teams or The Program over the years with in-kind or cash donations or other corporate support, including internships and training opportunities.

Companies, groups, or individuals who contribute funds, supplies, or services to our program or teams are solicited through Program leadership or team members. Team members are encouraged to solicit at least one such sponsor.

Program and Team Fundraisers

Fundraisers may be held periodically throughout the year. Fundraisers are expected to go towards the Iron Reign account, although certain fundraisers can be used by students to raise funds to cover their personal expenses, such as travel or dues. Student team members are expected to participate in fundraisers.

The only fundraisers actually run recently are the Townview Qualifier Tournaments of 2017 and 2018. These were run by Iron Reign in collaboration with the School and with the FIRST Regional FTC Affiliate (UTD). The Affiliate forwards a portion of the gathered tournament fees to Iron Reign for hundreds of hours of planning and support for the tournament. In 2017 these fees were routed through the School's PTSA. The 2018 fees are expected to be paid to Iron Reign directly.

Team Dues

Many robotics teams require membership dues to support the cost of their participation on the team. Dues are normally meant to help cover the cost of team registrations, robot expenses, etc. But dues do not typically cover the cost of travel/lodging to competitions. Iron Reign teams have been fortunate to have their competition trips supported by Dallas ISD or grantors over the last 5 years.

Iron Reign has so far elected to **not charge membership or participation dues** to team members or their families. Though this could change, there are no such plans at this time. Aside from the costs of feeding themselves and getting to and from meetings and events, the only cost

students are expected to support is the cost of their team apparel. Each team develops their own apparel plans. Students who elect to purchase their own tools and parts are welcome to do so, but should consider those items donated to Iron Reign if left at The Lab or on a robot.

Major Budget Items

Here are some examples of annual estimated budget line items

\$295 - FIRST Registration **per team**

\$270 - League Registration **per team**

\$2,000 - Houston World Championship Registration (assuming team qualifies)

\$600 - Playing field construction

\$1,500 - Robot construction per team (6832 likely higher)

\$400 - Travel **per Team member per event** (away events)

\$1,000 - Misc Team support items

\$1,200 - Building of pit for competitions

\$5,000 - Team specific tools (if funding available)

\$3,000 - Generic part inventory (screws, bearings, gears, etc)

Team Organization

Students

They are High School aged students from the Dallas surrounding area who are interested in participating in a competitive robotics program. We currently serve Dallas ISD students with a focus on those attending SEM. Students are expected to be self motivated to be a part of the program as this is **not** a mandatory extracurricular program. Participation is voluntary on the part of the student and their family, and can be revoked by Program leadership at any time for any reason. Each day of participation is considered to be its own reward and there is no accumulating right to future participation regardless of student contributions or team performance.

Adult Mentors

Adult mentors attend most team meetings and have leadership and strategy responsibilities supporting the teams. They also handle most of the administrative burden of running the team. The mentors are dedicated professionals working hard to make the season a success. Their

work includes team organization, technical guidance, financial planning, overall team management, and much more. They are always expected to act as examples for the students on the team. Parents can be considered mentors, but are not automatically in this role. Graduated team members (alums) who elect to stay actively involved are considered to be in this role.

Certain Adult Mentors take on the additional role of Coach. Coaches are analogous to coaches of many sports teams. They have official standing at the final arbitrators of team assignments and operations. A coach has the authority to determine which program participants are active on a team at any time. Currently only Mr. Virani is considered to be the Lead Coach for all teams in The Program.

Adult Supporters

They assist with various tasks when needed, but do not have leadership roles on the team(s). Tasks for adult supporters are generally asked for on an as-needed basis by the teams, but can include things like, team transportation, helping with shop maintenance, coordinating travel, acting as chaperones, providing food, etc. Generally adult supporters consist of parents, family members, and sponsors.

Please see parent support opportunities below in this document for additional information.

Subteams

Each team is broken into sub-teams to more efficiently achieve team goals. There are several main subteams within our team. Exact distribution of students and mentors to specific subteams can vary, depending on the game and season progress. General subteams consist of:

- Journal / Portfolio
- Engineering (Design and Build)
- Coding/Programming
- Business/Media/Presentation
- Strategy/Scouting

Subteam Leads

The subteam leads for the following year are appointed by student and mentor 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 are also

responsible for ensuring that students on their subteams are trained accordingly. Subteam leads coordinate with team leadership and other subteam leads to plan their subteams' schedule and tasks.

Participant Expectations

Professionalism

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. At all team events, student should be actively engaged in moving our team forward.

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.

When representing the team online, students are expected to remember Gracious Professionalism. When in doubt about if their conduct online would be considered acceptable, students should review with a mentor before posting or otherwise engaging online.

To create a professional working environment conducive to new ideas and change, our program has a strict no bullying or harassment policy. This includes physical, online, or verbal bullying. Students' home district anti-bullying policies will apply. Should a student not have a home district with an official policy or should policies be in conflict, the Dallas ISD anti-bullying policy will prevail. It can be found at <https://www.dallasisd.org/bullying>.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to adhere to the following guidelines regarding attendance.

- Sign in and out at every team meeting that they attend
- Spend the first 15 minutes of each visit organizing and cleaning/tidying up
- Attend more than 75% of scheduled team meetings in order to remain active
- If extenuating circumstances apply, students are expected to make arrangements with team leadership *before* falling below 75% attendance.
- Be productive at each meeting you attend
- Students who are not productive will be asked to leave, and that meeting will not count towards their 75% attendance.

Required attendance varies by team. For example, Team 6832 typically has many more required meetings and events than the other teams. 6832 team members are still expected to attend 75% of all scheduled meetings. During the competition season, attendance may get even more involved with many additional meetings. Some members may end up surging to 40 hours per week preparing for a competition. Surge attendance like this is optional but often supported by adult mentors.

Personal Priorities Policy

Students and parents need to agree upon and understand their own personal priorities before participating in the Program or on a team. Iron Reign strongly believes that school work and family take precedence over the robotics program. While the program will not be engaging in strict oversight of grade requirements in order to participate, both the parents and student should periodically evaluate school performance. The school club may exercise strict oversight on academic performance.

It is understood that our students are very busy with many other school activities outside of robotics. These activities are encouraged and supported by the Program. It is the responsibility of the student to manage and balance all their activities, including informing the mentors of their commitments and how those commitments will impact the team.

There are some instances however, where the timing cannot be resolved. In this case you will have to choose which activity you will be putting your time and effort into. Please discuss these issues with mentors before you make a final decision. Our teams have different requirements. For example, students applying to join 6832 will need to commit to Iron Reign being their highest priority extra-curricular, non-family activity. 3734 does not set the bar that high.

Safety & Health

Students, parents, and mentors are expected to act in a safe manner and must follow all safety protocols during any team meeting or event, regardless of location. Basic work space safety will be presented to the entire team and must be followed at all times. Certain tools and equipment require additional training, and usage will be restricted to those who have been trained and approved to use such equipment by a trained mentor. All tools that are supplied with wall power may only be operated when an Adult Mentor is present. Safety lockouts must be reactivated after each use.

Cuts, bruises and abrasions will almost certainly be experienced in the course of building robots. We have had a student who broke a finger that got caught in a door he was rushing to close. We've had students cut themselves with hand held tools. We've had students get their fingers caught in chains or gears on their robot. We do our best to support safety and have not experienced a serious (permanent damage or life threatening) injury in the last 9 years, serious injury can't be excluded as a possibility. Families who have no tolerance for these risks should

not have their students in this program. Students and their families assume responsibility for safe usage of the tools and the facility and re-affirm their ownership of that responsibility each time they return to practice.

Any unsafe, dangerous, or destructive act may result in the immediate dismissal of the participant from the program.

Pandemic Protocols

Iron Reign Leadership is requiring COVID-19 protocols for students entering The Lab or participating in competition. The guidelines evolve along with recommendations of the CDC and the requirements of competition hosts. Iron Reign Leadership maintains the right to adjust health participation protocols at any time. Protocols will be disseminated through the primary leadership-to-participant communication platform and students are responsible for sharing updated policies with their parents. We currently use Discord as our communications platform. Refusal to comply with these protocols will result in dismissal from the venue and repeated refusal will result in dismissal from the program.

Youth Protection and PDA Policies

It is expected that all behavior in the Program remains professional. Students will refrain from any public displays of affection (PDA). Robotics meetings and events are places for students to work and be focused on team goals, as are any events that the teams may attend.

Student and mentor relationships must always remain strictly platonic and professional. See [FIRST's Youth Protection Policy](#) for more details. Mentors and Students will at all times operate under the extended rules of the FIRST YPP.

Team Dress Code

Students are expected to wear safe, appropriate clothing at all times. The following general guidelines apply:

At Workspace

- Closed-toed shoes must be worn at all times

- Long hair must be tied back when using any tools or working with the robot

- No dangling jewelry, baggy sleeves, loose jackets, or other items that could become entangled in robot parts or machines should be worn when working with robots or tools

At Competitions

- All dress codes for the event should be followed (closed-toed shoes, safety glasses, etc)

Students should wear team apparel (shirts, sweatshirts, etc) during competition hours

Students may wear the clothing of their preference when competition is finished for the day

Other Team Events

Standards will be dictated by the specific event

In general, students should expect to wear either team apparel or business casual clothing at team events

Workspace Rules

Participants currently meet at the Virani/Lux household (The Lab). While it's hoped that team members enjoy themselves and make themselves comfortable, students are expected to respect the location as a workspace.

There will be areas, equipment, and supplies that are off-limit to students. When in doubt, Mr. Virani and Dr. Lux are the final authorities regarding family property usage.

Examples of respecting the workspace include:

Respecting scheduled team meeting times

Students who arrive early may work quietly on homework or journal until scheduled meeting time

If students have difficulties arranging timely transportation home after meetings, they should discuss with mentors

Respecting the workspaces includes respecting, cleaning and taking care of:

Furniture

Floors

Tools

Inventory storage areas

Desks and work surfaces

The practice field

Using only team-allocated supplies

Food

Office supplies

Robot materials

Screws, nuts, bolts, etc.

Non-Compliance with Expectations

Those who are out of compliance with Participant Expectations as stated herein are subject to status changes with their Team or The Program up to and including dismissal. Determination as to whether participants are out of compliance with the Program is at the discretion of Core Leadership and/or the Lead Coach. Determination of whether participants are out of compliance with the SEM Robotics club is at the discretion of the School Staff Sponsor or School administrative personnel. Participants must be in good standing in both The Program and the club to avoid a status change or dismissal.

Benched status is meant for participants who are seeking to regain active status. Benched participants are welcome and expected to continue contributing at team meets, but they will not participate in competitions or appear on competition rosters. Missing an advancing competition due to benched status will likely result in dismissal. A student needs to return to active status at least 2 weeks before a competition to be considered for the competition roster. In some cases that may not be enough time to reinstate travel to remote competitions due to travel lead-time requirements. It is up to the Lead Coach or Core Leadership to clear a participant back to active status with their Team.

Coaches and Mentors will normally do their best to warn students that they are at risk of non-compliance. But they are not required to and cannot always know in advance that a student is at risk. Such warnings may be subtle. It is up to participants to request clarification if warnings do not seem clear.

Travel Information

Teams will participate in many events, both “home” events (where students will coordinate their own travel to and from venue to home each day) and “away” events (where the team will coordinate travel and overnight lodging). This section covers primarily expectations regarding away events, but many of the same details will be used at home events. Specific information about home events will be distributed before the event.

The team roles when traveling to events, particularly to away events, are much different than roles at general meetings. Travel team roles generally consist of the following, and specific information will be discussed before travel team roles are assigned.

- Pit crew
- Scouting
- Programming
- Drive team
- Outreach / assist other teams
- Documenting the event through photo / video

How We Travel

Home events (DFW, within an hour of Townview) - students and their parent(s) arrange travel from home to event/practice. Carpooling with other team members is encouraged. Dallas ISD transportation may be provided in some circumstances.

Away events (typically staying overnight) - All team members will meet at Townview or The Lab and travel from there to the event whenever possible. Usually transportation will be a bus or coach provided by Dallas ISD. There may be times/events where parents will be asked to caravan and there may be events where air travel is involved. In some cases the team will be allowed to travel in the MXP.

Parents must give permission for all travel arrangements that they don't directly provide or participate in. Dropping students off at The Lab for transportation by Adult Mentors via personal vehicles or the MXP constitutes such permission. Any travel supported by a school district will have district policies and permissions that apply and to which parents will need to give consent.

Code of Conduct at Away Events

Students are expected to attend the entire away event. Leaving early, arriving late, or leaving in the middle of the event for personal reasons are strongly discouraged.

While at the event, the students are expected to be actively engaged in the competition.

Students with free time should reach out to other teams and network. Playing video games or otherwise withdrawing from activities is not acceptable behavior, as it is counterproductive to team spirit and to effective competition.

Students are expected to remain in the competition area and/or hotel unless explicitly given permission to leave by chaperones.

To travel outside of the hotel or competition area, students are required to travel in groups of three or more students

The chaperone must know who is going, where they are going, when they plan to get back, and who among them has a cell phone.

Without explicit chaperone permission, no one is allowed to enter a room of the opposite gender.

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, curfew is 10 PM. If the team needs to leave very early, team members may leave their room at a reasonable time.

Our teams will not engage in negative behavior toward another team or team member.

Our teams will not display displeasure over any decision by a referee, judge or event volunteer.

While at the hotel, students are expected to be respectful of other guests and their own rooms. Excessive noise, disruptive activity, unsanitary conditions, etc. will not be tolerated.

Schedules

General Season Schedule

“Off-Season”: Late April – August

Team 6832 - Research projects and outreach season:

Saturdays 2-6pm or event-specific hours

Occasional other days as needed

Early Build Season - September & October

Saturdays 2-6pm

League Play Season - November through January

Saturdays - possibly all day - 4 competition Saturdays plus outreach Saturdays plus engineering work

Commitment varies per team

Other days as determined per team needs

Advanced Competition Season

February through April - as needed per advancing teams

Calendar of Major Events

Please see the online calendar for the full set of competitions and events:

<https://ironreignrobotics.org/calendar/>

The calendar includes the following advancement-required events

*Regional Championship - February, 25th, 2023 at Marcus HS

*Texas State FTC/ UIL Championship - April 4 - 8, 2023

*FTC World Championship in Houston - April 19 - 22, 2023

Parent Support Opportunities

Donations

- Direct donations - you can donate directly on the ironreignrobotics.org website. This is entirely voluntary. Donations are not yet tax deductible as we haven't received our 501(c)3 determination.
- Company Donations - please consider representing the program to your company or companies you know.

Volunteering

- Food - while we often provide food - there is no actual food budget and we do not promise food. We intentionally created our primary Saturday meeting time between lunch and dinner so families could take care of that. At tournaments food might be arranged or provided but usually it is a family responsibility to provide food or money for food. We do recognize that students are ever-hungry and we often have snacks available. But we would very much welcome a parent-coordinated food rotation. Some students on some teams are already bringing food to some practices.
- Transportation - Parents' biggest investment is usually transportation. Our team meeting locations serve students from all over the Dallas area. Getting your student to meets and competitions is a significant investment and we appreciate the dedication to your students that this effort demonstrates. We encourage parents to get together and work out ride sharing options. Mentors do not have the time to manage this directly.
- Team attire. As mentioned above, teams usually create a uniform with a custom T-shirt design. Some teams may have more elaborate attire. The cost of such attire is decided by and borne by participant families and not by the program.
- Chaperones - if we have away events we may ask parents to chaperone per district policies.
- Event Volunteering - we are hosting a qualifier tournament at Townview on December 14th and parents can help support that event.

Mentorship (Technical, Presentation, Business, Leadership) - please speak with us if you wish to participate as a mentor.

Acceptance

To accept participation, [please fill out this online Iron Reign Participation Agreement](#). You might want to do this from a mobile device since it requires uploading a selfie for verification at the

end. It will also require you to be signed in with a google account. If you do not accept the terms of this handbook, you will no longer be able to participate in this program.

Also be sure you've registered at [firstinspires.org](https://www.firstinspires.org), accepted the terms there, and applied to the correct team. Only participants who have completed both the Iron Reign Participation Agreement and are properly registered for FIRST will be allowed at tournaments:

<https://www.firstinspires.org/resource-library/youth-registration-system>

Finally, Dallas ISD may have occasional paperwork requirements. Our faculty sponsor this year is Mr. Florczak. He can be contacted at CFLORCZAK@dallasisd.org