

**Botball Tournament Rules Summary**  
**91.450, Robotics I**  
**15 November 2001**

Welcome to the Botball tournament. Today, there will be nine teams of two students competing for the Botball title. These eighteen students are in 91.450, Robotics I.

Here is a summary of the rules:

- The game is played on a 4'x8' board, with a black side and a white side. The teams start in a starting box at each end of the arena. The robots are placed when the lights at the end of the arena are on. The lights are turned off when the teams are ready. When the lights come back on, the robots must start autonomously.
- Rounds last 90 seconds. The robots must turn themselves off at the end of the rounds. If a team's robot does not turn off, they forfeit that round.
- There are many scoring opportunities in the game. Teams are scored at the end of the 90 second round.
- On the board are tubes with ping pong balls. Teams score 1 point for every ball of their color that is touching the game board and 1 point for every tube of their color that is tipped past a 45 degree angle.
- In the center of the board is a PVC "nest" with four posts on its corners. Teams get 5 points for getting a robot into this nest and 5 points if they get the nest completely onto their side. Balls and tubes inside the nest earn 2 points each (and do not count as table points). If the team has a robot inside the nest, the score for balls and tubes inside the nest is doubled. If the team has the nest on their side, the score for balls and tubes inside the nest is doubled. If the team both has a robot inside the nest and the nest on their side, the score for balls and tubes inside the nest is quadrupled.
- Teams may also score points by stacking items on the four posts of the nest or the two side posts of the game board. This is a very difficult task. Teams are awarded 5 points for stacking 1 item on a post, 15 points for 2 items, 30 points for 3 items, 50 points for 4 items and 75 points for 5 items. If a team gets post points with the nest posts, they can be doubled or quadrupled according to the rules above regarding having a robot in the nest and/or the nest on the team's side.

We hope you enjoy watching the tournament. Feel free to ask questions between rounds or to e-mail the course's professor, Holly Yanco, at [holly@cs.uml.edu](mailto:holly@cs.uml.edu).