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The Botball Educational Robotics Program Launches the 2008 Season

Norman, OK - January 7, 2008 - KISS Institute for Practical Robotics, an Oklahoma based non-profit company, will present 18 Botball Workshops and Tournaments this year - 13 in the United States and 5 based internationally. Teams who participate in their regional workshop and tournament are eligible to participate in the International Botball Tournament taking place this summer at the University of Oklahoma during the Global Conference on Educational Robotics on July 8-11, 2008.

The purpose of Botball is to engage students from all backgrounds in using science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) as they work together as a team to achieve a long-term goal. Botball gives students the opportunity to be on the creative side of technology as they design, build, program, and document a pair of autonomous mobile robots to play in a competition.

Each regional program begins with its own hands-on workshop for educators and students, and culminates in a public tournament of student-built autonomous robots. As Botball focuses on system design and autonomous control (as well as mechanical design and strategy) there is never any joystick driving used, unlike many other robotics events. Students must learn computer programming and they must anticipate and plan, as they program their robots to play on a dynamically changing game board, in advance of the tournament.

2008 Botball Tournament Schedule:

Arkansas	Little Rock, AR	March 15
Florida	Jacksonville, FL	March 29
Georgia	Macon, GA	April 5
Greater DC	College Park, MD	May 3
Greater St. Louis	Edwardsville, IL	April 26
Hawaii	Honolulu, HI	May 10
Kuwait	TBA	TBA
New England	Lowell, MA	April 5
New York/Jersey	Brooklyn, NY	May 17
Northern California	San Jose, CA	April 19
Oklahoma	Oklahoma City, OK	March 1
Pennsylvania	Allison Park, PA	March 29
Qatar	Doha, Qatar	TBA
Southern California	San Diego, CA	March 15
Texas	Houston, TX	March 8
United Arab Emirates	TBA	TBA

* Two international regional events are TBA

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The Botball Educational Robotics Program is sponsored in part by: NASA Robotics Alliance Project, Solidworks Corporation, Innovation First, Incorporated, Robotevents.com, iRobot, and the X PRIZE Foundation.