

TRUCK TOWN THUNDER
F.I.R.S.T. ROBOTICS TEAM 68

TEAM

CODE OF CONDUCT

2012 - 2013

Brandon High School
Holly High School

Ortonville, MI

VISION STATEMENT

To promote enthusiasm in Science and Technology in high school students from local communities by fielding an annual robotics team comprised of a diverse group of students from various schools and organizations. Our goal is to help change the culture of American youth to one in which engineering, science, and technology are among the most prized and recognized skills sought by the majority; a culture wherein these skills become commonplace rather than the exception.

T3 ADVISORY BOARD

Andrew Spiece
David Smith
Tony Ceccacci

Rory Windrim
Linda Smith
Gary Fenn

Gary Bendes

T3 COLLEGE MENTORS

Brent Bendes
Adam Denz

Robert Parker
John Begovich

Kelly Kropetz
Christian Dubrock

T3 MENTORS

Rob Chan
Carol Koenig
Chris Boyle
Mark Koenig
Joe Kayfish
John Fischer

Larry Babb
Mark Koenig
Kellie Determan
Connie Babb
Bill Dixon
Dan Dupuis

Denny Long
Donna Bullard
Jeff Walker
John Fischer
Todd Beard
Elaine Auchter

TEAM MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

COMMITMENT TO THE TEAM

When a student joins and becomes part of the T3 team, it is expected that the student makes a commitment to this team. Due to the intense schedule we must follow during the build and competition times, we strongly advocate the student's commitment to our team over any other extra curricular activity i.e.: sports, cheerleading, band, clubs, etc. In a rare situation, such as an important family matter, a parent will decide in conjunction with the T3 Board in advance to resolve the matter in a way that best meets the conflicting responsibilities. Even though all students interview for the team, **participation is a privilege, not a right**. Students, who are members of the T3 team, represent General Motors, their community, their team, their school, their family and themselves. For this reason, conduct on and off the playing field should reflect the highest values and standards.

GRACIOUS PROFESSIONALISM

One of the major tenets of FIRST is Gracious Professionalism. 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.

From our team members, we want to see;

- Respect on and off the playing field.
- Team Players
- Team Unity
- Respect for property at the host facility and at any event where we participate.
- Good Sportsmanship. Deal with winning or losing in a humble fashion.
- Demonstrate personal growth and self-control.
- Positive attitudes
- Team spirit
- Demonstrated support. You will be treated as professional, but **you also need to respond and behave as a professional.**

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Throughout the year, we ask that all team members participate in sharing themselves with others besides the T3 team. This year's students will be required to participate in community service projects that will be scheduled by the advisory committee. We believe this builds strong character and pride of our community. Team members are responsible for doing 20 hours of community service 75% of which (15 hours) must be team sponsored community service events. Students should always wear their team uniforms for these events. Some past events were:

- **FIRST Lego League** is a group that prepares younger children with the opportunity to learn about robotics and team building. Much like our larger F.I.R.S.T. robotics team, they construct robots and compete locally and state wide. The program runs from October 1st through December 16th. These younger children need older and more experienced people to help mentor them through the program.
- **Adopt a Road**, is an activity where the team works with the Road Commission to keep a section of Dixie Highway cleaned up. This is generally three times a year.
- **Hosting a Junior Lego League Competition**
- **Desert Angels**, is a volunteer organization that packages "care packages" for troops stationed overseas. T3 not only assists in packing of the care packages, but on occasion will help raise funds for shipping costs via "survival bracelets" construction and sales.
- **Football Game Concession Stand**
- **Kettering Kickoff Concession Stand**
- **FIRST in Michigan Events**
- **Helping to host Mid-Michigan Robotics Alliance Events**

FUNDRAISING

General Motors has been very supportive of our robotics team; however, they are unable to cover all of the teams expenses Therefore, fundraising is necessary for the team to provide registration fees, parts and supplies, uniforms, travel and food expenses, trading items, etc. All students and parents are required to participate in all fund-raising activities for the season. This years fundraising activities will include:

1. Renaissance Festival. Team will work on Saturday's and Sunday's during the festival preparing turkey legs. Profit to the team will be \$20,000.00 if we work all days. (15 – 16 days = 7 weekends, Includes Labor day)
2. Little Caesar's Pizza Kits
3. 50/50 Tickets at football games
4. Truck Town Thundering Lego Camp

Additionally, all students will be required to plan and execute a fund-raiser of \$200.00 or more to support the team scholarship fund. If all guidelines are not fulfilled, students may forfeit their right to travel to a competition, be placed on probation and possibly face expulsion from the team. Each team fund-raiser will be dealt with on an individual basis, since the guidelines for each one are not necessarily the same. Documentation will be recorded on all fund-raisers. **Depending on the funds needed, we may participate in more or less fund-raisers.**

PARTICIPATION FEES

Participation fees are necessary to insure the ability to fund the team. Participation fees help with transportation costs, uniforms, transportation of equipment, etc. This Fee is due the first team meeting in September.

DEMONSTRATIONS

All team members are expected to participate in team demonstration to help spread FIRST Robotics to the community.

CONDUCT OF TEAM MEMBERS

The Truck Town Team is both a team and a professional organization. The Truck Town team is part of the FIRST organization sponsored by General Motors, Brandon High School and Holly High School. Because individual conduct and appearance is part of the professional expectations of the team, it becomes the responsibility of all team members to conduct themselves in a proper, businesslike manner at all Truck Town activities from the time they leave home until they return home. All activities of the members of the Truck Town team should contribute to the success of the team. Attendance at any Truck Town team activity is a **special privilege**. Knowing that any organization is judged largely by the behavior of its individual participants, the following Code of Conduct is to be subscribed to by team members, advisors, and guests who attend a Truck Town team activity. Actions that could be construed as detrimental to the Truck Town FIRST Robotics team may be cause for probation/suspension/termination from the Truck Town team.

These actions include:

- Poor attendance
- School progress report ineligibility
- School disciplinary problems (such as detentions)
- Unfulfilled participation in fund raising
- Possession or use of controlled substances including alcohol, tobacco products, drug paraphernalia or mood altering chemicals
- Vandalism or accidental destruction to property with no restitution made
- Assault
- Theft
- Harassment

BUDDY RULE

At team functions, the “buddy rule” is required to be followed at all times. Students will not be allowed to move about at a team event without another team member with them. This is in order to insure safety at all times. Students who are unable to follow this rule will be asked not attend competitions and may be asked to leave the team.

TIMELINESS

All team members are expected to be on time for all functions. When traveling to competitions, the transportation **does not** wait for you. If you miss an event due to tardiness, it is an automatic review with the Disciplinary Board and you may forfeit participation in other competitions.

Early is on time, on time is late, and late is unacceptable.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

It is expected that team members attend every mandatory meeting. Attendance and performance reports will be noted at all meetings. Late arrivals and early departures will also be recorded. If you are going to miss a meeting you must **contact Andrew Spiece at 248-627-1820 x1141** to explain the absence (leave a message if you are unable to reach them). Both excused and unexcused absences will be recorded. You must sign out in the book before you leave and indicate what you worked on that meeting.

Unexcused Absences---After **one unexcused** absence, students will have a warning meeting. After **two unexcused** absences you may forfeit the opportunity to attend a competition, be placed on probation, and have to meet with the Disciplinary Board. After **four unexcused** absences, you forfeit your team membership.

Excused Absences---After **four excused** absences you may forfeit the opportunity to attend a competition, be placed on probation and have to meet with the Disciplinary Board. (Board will evaluate absences and cause)

Tardiness---**Two unexcused tardies** equal one unexcused absence. You will then have a meeting with members from the Disciplinary Board. **Four unexcused tardies** and you will meet with the Disciplinary Board. You may forfeit the opportunity to attend a competition and placed on probation.

Early Departures---All students must sign in and out when they arrive and leave. **Early departures** must be approved by Andrew Spiece, or Tony Ceccacci. If students leave without approval, they will meet with the Disciplinary Board and may forfeit the opportunity to attend a competition.

BEHAVIOR AND DRESS

Electronic communication devices are not to be used during meetings or competitions without advisor's permission.

All persons shall demonstrate gracious professionalism; behaving in a courteous and respectful manner, showing good sportsmanship, teamwork, team unity, self-control, positive attitude and support for others. Team members must refrain from language and actions that might bring discredit upon them, their school, their home, their friends, FIRST, or upon the Truck Town Team. Being in the willful companionship of someone who violates any portion of the Code of Conduct, or failing to report any direct knowledge of the Code of Conduct violation can result in dismissal from the team.

Horseplay is not allowed. Students must be mindful of their personal safety and the safety of those around them.

Brandon High School dress code will be enforced. Visit the Brandon High School website for details – <http://www.brandon.k12.mi.us/>

For reasons of safety, there are the following additions to the school dress code:

- Closed toe shoes are required in the shop.
- Hair must be pulled back when working on machines.
- Loose clothing, jewelry, and watches may not be worn in the shop while working on machinery.
- Students will wear pants at all Build Sessions and Team Meetings.
- **Students must wear their safety glasses at all times in the shop.**

Violation of the team dress code may result in dismissal from the team. Students must be trained before they use any machinery. Students may only use equipment designated by their advisors. Adult students shall abide by the rules and regulations for a minor student.

GRADES

Team members also have a responsibility to their schools as well as the team. During the season, students will be asked to submit a school progress report periodically before and during build and competition seasons or at the Advisors' discretion. This will ensure that schoolwork is being kept up and that grades are not damaged by the commitment to the team. **Students will become ineligible to participate in team activities if they fail to maintain a current minimum 2.0 GPA and/or receive a grade below a C (75%).** Students receiving a grade below a C (75%) will be given two weeks to raise their grade to compliance. If a student is unable to raise their grade above a C (75%), the member may be asked to leave the team.

PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION (PDA)

In order to insure a professional environment on the team, the team will not allow any forms of PDA while a team member is representing the team. Hand Holding, Kissing, and sitting with arms around each other are all examples of PDA. We intend to keep the robotics program a professional one and this will not be tolerated. NOTE: This includes when a team member is in uniform away from the team. A team member represents the team while in uniform and must conduct themselves as a professional.

COMPETITIONS

Team members attending the competitions are required to attend the whole competition. While at competitions, students are expected to perform their assigned duties. Team members are required to remain with the team throughout the entire competition. Failure to do so will result in ineligibility to attend future competitions. Students are required to ride to and from competition with the team. Exceptions may be granted due to emergency situations or with prior consent given by the Advisory Board. If a student is leaving a competition with a parent, a release must be signed before leaving.

The following are expected of all team members:

- Students shall keep their adult advisors informed of their specific activities and whereabouts at all times. Students may not use their own cars or ride in cars belonging to other students during the competition.
- Uniforms must be worn at all times during the competition as instructed.
- Safety glasses must be worn at all times by all team members and their guests while in the pit areas
- Card playing, personal entertainment devices and other such activities **are not allowed** at competitions, but **are allowed** while traveling and at hotels.
- While the team is competing, all students not on the drive team (including volunteers) should be in the stands showing their team spirit and supporting their teammates.

Students will be required to meet specific guidelines in order to travel with the team. Students must also meet these requirements in order to be considered to represent the team at competitions.

HOTEL BEHAVIOR/CURFEWS

Team members are guests when using the facilities, and special care should be taken to not deface or destroy any property. Individuals, who inflict damage to the hotel rooms or the building, will be held liable for any costs incurred for repair and will be sent home at the student's expense.

Curfew regulations shall be interpreted to mean that each person shall be in his/her hotel room by the published or stated curfew. Each student shall remain in his/her room until a predetermined time the next morning. Room checks will be made nightly by advisors. Once a room check is made, students may not leave their room. If these guidelines are not followed, they could be dealt with on either an individual or team basis and the student(s) may be sent **home at their own expense**. Each student will be given the room number and phone number of the advisor(s) to call in case a problem arises during the night.

Students of the opposite gender are **NOT ALLOWED** to enter each other's room. When possible we will have a designated room where students can socialize, play cards or watch movies together, while being supervised by an advisor or adult chaperone. Only people who are on the official Truck Town team travel roster may be in a Truck Town hotel room. Students from other teams, friends and family members may not be in Truck Town team rooms after curfew.

It is agreed that, upon violation of the Code of Conduct, the violators may be asked to vacate their hotel rooms and withdraw from the competition activities **at their expense**.

DISCLAIMER

No alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, or tobacco in any form shall be possessed or used at any time or under any circumstances on public or private properties. Use or possession of such substances may subject the student to criminal prosecution and dismissal from the team. Possession of a weapon or use of an object in an unsafe or dangerous manner capable of causing bodily harm or fear of life, defacing or stealing any public or private property will result in dismissal from team and will be reported to the proper authorities.

Serious misconduct shall be reported to advisors, parents, and if necessary, the proper authorities. **Advisors** are responsible for the supervision of conduct. Student delegates who disregard the Code of Conduct will be subject to disciplinary actions, and may be sent home at their own expense and **will** be disqualified from competitive awards. Parents and school district officials will be notified. Any further disciplinary action will be determined by the Advisory Board action and may result in student dismissal from the team.

These examples are not the only acts or conditions for which suspensions or expulsion may be warranted nor do they in any way limit disciplinary action for any student behavior that is determined to be unbecoming as a team member. All alleged violations will be reviewed before any action is taken and the Advisory Board will ensure that all causes will be taken under consideration.