

Challenge Updates

Updated December 9th, 2025

(FIRST-issued updates supersede all other sources)

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UPDATE 06 – MINESHAFT EXPLORER FIELD SETUP – The Mineshaft Explorer rail sits on a vertical support on the opposing field. The rail has two notches (circled in red) that can be used for support. Either notch can be used in order to keep the support vertical and within the designated range marked on the mat wireframe.



(November 3rd, 2025)

UPDATE 05 – DECORATIVE MODEL ELEMENTS – Some mission models include decorative elements that are not essential to their function. These elements may occasionally become loose or fall off during normal gameplay. Teams are expected to design and operate their robots to avoid damaging mission models, but referees will give benefit of the doubt if decorative elements detach as a result of reasonable gameplay (see Rule 18 regarding model damage).

Volunteers will make every effort to ensure all decorative elements are present, but some may be missing or unrepairable at an event. Teams whose strategy depends on these elements should check their field before the match and alert the referee if something is missing.

(September 16th, 2025)

UPDATE 04 – MISSION 03: MINECART DELIVERY INTERRUPTION – If the minecart is successfully delivered to the opposing field and the opposing team interrupts their robot in a way that causes the minecart to be taken out of play by the referee, the delivery will still be counted as “on” the opposing team’s field. The delivering team earns points for the delivery and the bonus remains possible if both teams complete a successful delivery.

(August 5th, 2025)

UPDATE 03 – MISSION 02: TOPSOIL CLEARING CRITERIA – Mission 02 includes three topsoil sections, each requiring a unique action to be considered cleared:

- One section (identified by its loop) must be completely removed, so it is no longer touching the model.
- The second section must be slid until the latch drops fully.
- The third section must be rotated until it is completely past the designated line marked on the mat.

The mission video demonstrates each clearing method and can be used as a reference for intended functionality.

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UPDATE 02 – MISSION 02: MAP REVEAL SETUP – 3M™ Dual Lock™ Reclosable Fasteners should be aligned carefully to avoid unintended contact with the topsoil sections. Misalignment may cause sticking or movement issues that could affect the model’s performance. Teams should check for smooth operation during setup.

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UPDATE 01 – EXTENDING PAST THE WALLS OF HOME UPON RETURN – Extending past any wall of Home **upon return** counts as “completely in” and can be handled without penalty.