BotBrawl Events Inc.
Competitor's Handbook
Event #24



November 28-29, 2026
Columbia International College
1003 Main St W, Hamilton, ON

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Schedule

All times are subject to change at any time, without notice. Please keep an eye on the schedule provided at the competition to know when you are fighting next. Matches will need to keep to a 5-minutes-per-match time frame to get all the fighting in!

Friday, August 7

5:00pm	The trailer will be arriving at this time. Please come to safety your robots, load in your pits, help unload the trailer, and set up the event!
8:00pm	Pack up for the night.

Saturday, August 8

8:00am	Teams arrive. Registration and Safety checks begin. Arena setup continues.
10:30am	Safety checks complete. Driver's meeting, then combat fights begin asap.
11:00am	Spectators arrive.
1:30pm	30min robot repair break. This time is estimated to be after the first round of each combat class.
2:00pm	Sumo fights begin. Combat fights continue.
7:00pm	Fights end for the day.

Sunday, August 9

8:00am	Teams arrive.
9:00am	Quick driver's meeting. Fights begin!
9:30am	Spectators arrive.
12:00pm	30min robot repair break. This time may vary depending on robot availability.
5:30pm	Fights end. Awards and teardown. This time is subject to change as needed.

There may be time for additional breaks throughout both days. Those breaks will be communicated when they happen, and can happen any time.

Timeline

We encourage all builders to arrive on Friday to set up your pit tables and be ready to start first thing in the morning. Time will be tight all throughout the competition, and we cannot afford to fall behind schedule. It is highly recommended to safety your robot(s) on Friday. If you absolutely cannot make it to the event on Friday, please arrive early Saturday morning ready to safety your robots.

Parking & Arrival

When you arrive, you may park in any of the available parking spots inside the purple box. You will be able to load through the door indicated in red (straight into the gym area where we're competing) or the main front door indicated in green and walk through the school to the gym.



Food

There are many food options a short drive away from the venue. Some are walkable as well. Battlesnax are a go, and there will be the ramen again with a kettle.

Pit Tables

Please confine your materials, robot and tools to the pit table you have selected. Space may be tight, so plan to share and to keep your materials condensed. Power may be available at all pit tables, but an extension cord is always handy to have. The venue will be securely locked overnight with roaming security.

All battery charging may be done at your pit table. Please do so safely, and if you have any concerns about your charging setup or anyone else's, please ask a BotBrawl official for help. ***All Lithium-Polymer batteries MUST be charged in a LiPo-safe bag.*** You may borrow a LiPo-safe bag from a BotBrawl official if you do not have one.

The floor at this event is very critical! We will be limiting the 150lb robots driving on the floors, and please be sure to protect the floor around you. Please don't be banging anything on the floor and leave the floor damage to inside the combat boxes!

LiPo Event

In the event of a LiPo event, there will be red buckets placed throughout the pits with a flag beside them. If the event occurs in the box, the Arena Manager will remove your robot from the box and rush it outside in the red bin. If the event occurs in the pit area, place the lipo and anything attached to it into the nearest red bin and rush it outside.

Grinding Area

We would like to keep the floor of the building in good condition. Therefore, if any heavy grinding needs to be done, or any sparks are being made, this should be done outside of the building.

Safety Inspections

All robots must be through safety by the time defined in the schedule above. Any robot which has not passed safety by this time may not be allowed to compete and will forfeit its entry fee. The Safety Officer and the Event Organizer have the final say on matters of robot and competitor safety. When ready, approach the safety station with your robot, transmitter, safety locks, and covers (installed). You will be asked to demonstrate the following:

1. Robot Weight
    a. The BotBrawl scale is the standard by which all robots will be held to.
    b. If your robot is overweight you must reduce weight to pass inspection.
2. Master Power Switch/Disconnect
    a. You must be able to fully de-energize your robot easily and quickly in the event of an emergency.
    b. All robots must be equipped with a functioning Power LED!
3. Weapon Lock
    a. All weapons or pinch points where a limb or finger may become entrapped must have a lock to prevent its movement. The more secure this is, the better. This includes lifters, hammers, spinning weapons or any other variation of movement excluding drivetrains.
4. Sharp Edge Covers
    a. Any sharp points must be guarded at all times unless the robot is in the arena.
5. Radio Failsafe
    a. In the event of signal loss, robots must stop dead. Weapons and drive systems must default to a safe de-energized state. You will be asked to turn the robot on, drive in a circle and then turn off your radio. The robot must then stop all powered movement immediately.
6. Pneumatic Systems
    a. Such systems must adhere to the ruleset.
7. Wheels-Up System
    a. While in the pits or in transport, robots must be lifted so their wheels or legs are not in contact with the ground/table. At no time may weapon systems be energized or tested outside of the test box or combat box.

The Rules

All rules can be found on our website: botbrawl.ca/rules.

Fights

After check-in, robots will be randomly inserted into fight brackets. These brackets will dictate the course of the competition. However, due to the nature of this event, the schedule may change suddenly. For instance, if a team postpones their fight due to technical issues, we will automatically delay that fight and move to the next. It is imperative that you are aware of the schedule. Refer to the match timing screens around the pits.

Formats will be as follows. The Event Organizer reserves the right to change formats prior to the driver's meeting on the first day.

1lb Antweights	Double Elimination
3lb Beetleweights	Double Elimination
30lb Sumo	Round Robin into Single Elimination
150lb Sumo	Round Robin into Single Elimination

Postponements

Each robot has 1 postponement *per day* they can use at any time. A postponement will guarantee you a minimum of 20 minutes before you are called to the arena again. Once called, the Fight Manager may start a 2 minute timer. If your robot is not in the box or on the platform at the end of the 2 minute timer, you will forfeit your match.

ELO

All of your matches will be entered into the new ELO system to calculate a new ELO for your robot, and the BotBrawl Admin team will be monitoring this system for improvements. ELO will not be used for seeding in this tournament.

Entanglement

The Entanglement Ledger will be in full effect at this event. Please refer to the ruleset for an explanation of how this system works.

Balloon Bots!

BotBrawl is happy to see the return of our balloon bot class. If you have a balloon bot, please bring it with you. If you do not have a balloon bot yet, there is a section in the rules outlining how to build one. We will plan to get 2-3 balloon bot rumbles in on each day, where possible.

Awards

There will be awards given out at the end of the event for the following categories. Community awards will be decided by popular vote.

- 1st, 2nd, 3rd podium positions (Antweight, Beetleweight, 30lb sumo, 150 sumo)
- Community awards
    - Most Innovative
    - Best Warrior Death
    - Best Rookie
    - Spirit of the Game

Things to Bring

- All tools you may need to repair your robot (within reason, no welders please)
- Your robot (preferably functional)
- Extension cords, power bars
- Transmitters with spare batteries
- Batteries, battery chargers, and battery bags
- Safety equipment (wheels-up system, safety covers, weapon locks, etc.)
- Personal protective equipment (safety glasses, hearing protection, etc.)
- Reusable water bottles and snacks
- Cash for T-Shirts!
- Wheels! Depending on where you park you may have a fair distance to travel from your vehicle to the competition. Plan ahead, bring a toolbox on wheels, backpack etc.
- Chairs! Some competitors prefer to bring their own chairs for comfort. If you have a large team consider bringing your own. Seating will be limited.

Safety

Ensuring the safety of all competitors and audience members is paramount. As such, it is imperative that teams always take safety into consideration. Please ensure that tools (knives, soldering irons etc) are safe, ensure robots are powered down in the pits with safety locks engaged, wear safety gloves/glasses where needed.

Closed-toed footwear is a ***requirement*** for all competitors.

Always look out for your neighbours. If someone needs a hand, or perhaps a reminder of how to safely operate a tool, it may go a long way in keeping everyone safe.

Teams with small children; the event can be loud. Though not dangerously loud, it may be of annoyance to young children. As such, some parents choose to outfit children with safety glasses and hearing protection. These are not required nor provided items.

If any competitors are witnessed conducting themselves in a way which jeopardizes the safety of another person or the event, they will be warned. Subsequent safety infractions will be met with an ejection from the tournament.

