

**When can I begin?**

The Botball season starts in Jan-Feb with a two-day professional development workshop followed by a competitive tournament 7-9 weeks later.

Teams can also participate in the International Botball Tournament that is held every summer during our Global Conference on Educational Robotics.

**Who can participate?**

Any student in the 6th through the 12th grades can participate in Botball.

We have no restriction on team size. Our national average is 12 students per team, however we have teams with as many as 40 and as few as 2.

**Do you have to be associated with a school to participate?**

No, we have many home-school, community and parent-lead teams. Teams are required to have at least one designated adult leader.

**How long does it take to build and program the robots?**

The time between the professional development workshop and the tournament is ~8 weeks.

Teams meet at least 2 times a week for several hours and many teams meet as often as possible during the build period.

**Do middle school and high school teams compete against each other?**

Yes, and often the middle school teams win! Every game is structured with multiple scoring options, allowing teams to focus on harder goals or simpler solutions.

**What materials are provided in the Botball kit?**

The kit always contains enough material to build 2 autonomous robots: 2 robot controllers, software, 2 digital cameras, 1 iRobot Create®, ~20 sensors, KIPR Metal Parts, ~1000 LEGO® pieces, motors, servos, screws, nuts, and all required game components. The only tools required are a wrench and screwdriver, which are provided.

**Are Botball kit components reusable?**

Teams can reuse select kit components to participate at a reduced registration fee. 88% of our teachers report reusing the Botball equipment for other classroom activities.

**Can I buy Botball equipment without registering a team?**

Yes, you can find the equipment online at <https://botballstore.org>

**What software will I need?**

Botball uses the freely available KISS C programming environment, which includes a robot simulator. KISS C runs on Mac OS X® 10.4 and later, Windows XP®, Windows Vista® and Windows 7®.

**What does it cost to participate?**

The cost is \$2,500 per team. The registration fee includes the two-day professional development workshop, the Botball kit, all software, online support and participation in the regional tournament. Your organization will need to cover travel and meal cost for the workshop and tournament.

**Sounds great but I have limited funding. Can you help?**

Yes, we have numerous sponsors who fund team registration scholarships. We also offer registration discounts for new teams, multiple teams and teams reusing portions of last year's Botball kit. See our website for details.

**Can I talk with a local teacher or mentor?**

Sure, email [info@kpr.org](mailto:info@kpr.org) and we will put you in touch with one of our local Botball experts.

**Are curriculum and training available?**

Yes, we start off our season with a two-day professional development workshop where participants learn the basics, build two working robots and explore Botball manuals and activities.

**What experience or background do I need to coach a team?**

You simply need the desire to work with students and facilitate their learning. You do not have to be an engineer or computer programmer.

**How is Botball different from other robot competitions?**

Botball focuses on education and student development. Student teams utilize and compete with two autonomous (no remote control) robots that they designed, built and programmed. Adults are encouraged to mentor, but are not allowed to work on or program the robots.