General Regulation

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Robótica 2008 – 8th Portuguese Robotics Open

General Regulation

(2007/12/07)

1. Introduction and motivation

The Portuguese Robotics Open, which had its first edition in 2001, aims at promoting science and technology among young people of basic, secondary and higher education as well as the general public, through robots competitions. This event, which takes place every year in a different city, includes also a scientific meeting where researchers in the area of robotics come together to present the latest results of their activity. This event has had since its beginning a tremendous growth, both in number of participants and teams, and also in terms of audience. The Portuguese Robotics Open is, currently, endorsed by the Portuguese Robotics Society.

The 8th edition of the Portuguese Robotics Open will be held at the University of Aveiro, from 2 to 6 of April, 2008, and will be co-organized by the University of Aveiro and the Factory of Living Science of Aveiro. It includes various leagues of competition, in particular, the Autonomous Driving competition (held since the first edition of this event), and the ones that follow the RoboCup official rules: INFAIMON Cup - soccer Middle-Size league, junior soccer leagues, rescue junior and dance. Integrated in this event, will also be held the 13th edition of the Micro-Rato competition.

By hosting this event in Portugal, it is intended not only to motivate the students who participate in the competitions for a technologically advanced and highly multidisciplinary area, but also to make a positive contribution to the development of research in Robotics and Automation and a greater diffusion of Science and Technology in the country.

2. Mobile robotics competition classes

In order to cover the wide spectrum of knowledge required to the potential participants, the competition is divided into two broad classes with both age levels and technical and scientific requirements well differentiated:

- •"Senior" competitions:
    - Autonomous driving
    - INFAIMON Cup - Middle-Size League soccer
    - The Micro-Rato and Ciber-Rato contests

    Although these competitions are primarily directed to students and researchers from universities and polytechnic schools, there is no restriction on the origin of the teams. Therefore, teams from all types of institutions such as research units, business enterprises, community associations, electronic clubs, or individual persons can thus sign up for these competitions.

- "Junior" competitions:
  - Junior soccer (JRS) (2x2), with two different age groups: 8-14 years old (primary) and 15-19 years old (secondary)
  - The Junior Dance (JD), with two different age groups: 8-14 years old (primary) and 15-19 years old (secondary)
  - Junior Rescue (JR), with two different age groups: 8-14 years old (primary) and 15-19 years old (secondary)

JRS, JD and JR are essentially aimed at basic, professional and secondary schools. Admission of teams without institutional basis or from non-formative institutions, eg companies, is subject to a decision to be issued by the Organizing Committee.

3. Team constitution

"Junior" competitions

The same institution may enroll more than one team. The teams will necessarily incorporate an adult member (aged greater than or equal to 18 years) which will be responsible for the remaining members of his team. This adult member, which may be a teacher or a students parent, may assume responsibility for more than one junior team. In this case, for the accounting of the number of elements per team and for the payment of the registration fee, that element will only count once.

Typically, the maximum number of team members will be three. This number can, however, be increased up to five team members, upon payment of an additional fee.

The ages of all student team members must fall within the following age classes, taking as reference the date of July 14, 2008: from 8 to 14 years old and from 15 to 19 years old.

"Senior" competitions

There is no limit to the number of teams enrolled from the same institution. The teams representing educational institutions should be formed primarily by students of this institution. Teachers or former students can , nevertheless, be part of any senior team.

Typically, the maximum number of team members will be six. This number can, however, be increased up to eight team members, upon payment of an additional fee.

4. Team registration

Team registration is accomplished by filling a registration form provided by the organization (this form can be obtained on the event web site).

Registration forms should be delivered by hand or sent by mail, up to the registration deadline specified in the event calendar (to be published on the event web site). Note that a registration form will only be considered eligible if sent together with the registration fee or with the proof of payment for a valid bank transfer (payment instructions can be obtained in the event web site).

Registration forms for enrolling junior teams must be accompanied with a term of responsibility signed by the adult member of the team. This document is mandatory. The text of this term of responsibility will be made available on the web site of the event.

Any registration can be cancelled up to 15 days after the registration deadline, in which case the registration fee will be refunded minus 20% for administration fees. Any cancellation requests received after the registration deadline plus 15 days will imply no refund of the registration fee.

"Junior" competitions

Effective participation in the competition for the teams in the junior leagues is subject to a pre-registration which must be made no later than 31/12/2007. The total number of pre-registered teams will determine the need for a pre-selection process. Pre-registration is accomplished by completing and signing a form (signature of the adult member is mandatory), available on the web site of the event, and sending it by mail to the organization contact address.

The team registration fee is 75 €. This price presumes a maximum of three members per team. Each team may, however, sign up two more members, upon payment of an amount of 25 € for each additional member.

The registration fee includes access to the competitions under this regulation terms, including:

- badges and certificates of participation;
- a site in the competitions venue, with electricity, for installation of the robot and the team;
- support in terms of nutrition for the members of the team.

Other services that may latter be included will be disseminated appropriately. In any case, these additional services will only be made available for, at most, three members per team.

"Senior" competitions

The team registration fee is 200 €. This price presumes a maximum of six members per team. Each team may, however, sign up two more members, upon payment of an amount of 35 € for each additional member.

The registration fee includes access to the competitions under this regulation terms, including:

- badges and certificates of participation;
- a site in the competitions venue, with electricity, for installation of the robot(s) and the team.

Other services that may latter be included will be disseminated appropriately. In any case, these additional services will only be made available for, at most, six members per team.

5. Teacher/Tutor role within the junior leagues

The mission of junior competitions in the Portuguese Robotics Open includes learning and sharing knowledge of technological nature among young students. The emphasis is not placed, therefore, in wining. It is, therefore, rather important that all teachers / tutors, or any other accompanying adults, are aware of this mission and act according to these principles.

In order to enforce the competition spirit, access of teachers / tutors to the competition working areas will be limited. Any teacher / tutor who is seen directly intervening in the team work, will first receive a warning (in the form of a yellow card that will be placed on the working table). After that, and in the case of any recurrence, a red card will be awarded with the consequent team exclusion from the competition.

A good "rule of thumb" is that all teachers / tutors or other accompanying adults should keep their hands away from robots and computers of their team(s).

6. Competition rules and technical specifications

Competition rules and technical specifications for both categories, are posted on the web site of the event. In those competitions following the RoboCup model the original rules of the international competition are adopted.

7. Competition prizes

All teams participating in the competition (those that show up with a robot complying with the regulations), will receive a participation prize. Additionally, three classification prizes will be awarded in each competition.

All prizes will be appropriately specified and disclosed on the web site of the event.

8. Dates and venue

The Portuguese Robotics Open – Robótica2008 will be held from 2 to 6 of April, 2008, at the University of Aveiro. Senior competitions will be held in the Aristides Hall pavilion, while the junior competitions will be held at the gymnastics pavilion of the João Afonso Basic School in Aveiro.

9. Juries

Juries are the maximum authority in the interpretation and application of each competition rules. It is their responsibility to verify the robots compliance to the rules during the competition and to support the referee while auditing them.

Through its authority, the juries guarantee justice in the application of rules and regulations. No appeal from the juries decisions will be allowed.

The juries are appointed by the Organizing Committee. Juries composition will be appropriately posted on the web site of the event.

10. Organizing Committee

The Organizing Committee is responsible for the human and physical infrastructure required for the event implementation. It will also ensure the Robótica2008 promotion and the

registration and participation management. The Organizing Committee composition can be found on the web site of the event.

11. Contacts and information requests

All official information regarding ROBOTICA 2008 – 8th Portuguese Robotics Open is available on the Internet through the URL:

http://robotica.ua.pt/robotica2008

Requests for any additional information should directed to:

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