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WRO Season 2026 Changes and Important Rules

This document highlights important rule updates applicable for the 2026 season across all WRO India competition categories.

RoboMission

1. Robot Material & Technical Regulations:

- RoboMission is open to any robot platform at the international level.
- Maximum robot dimensions before start: 250 × 250 × 250 mm (including cables).
- No size restrictions apply after the start.
- Maximum robot weight: ≤ 1.5 kg
- Battery capacity limit: ≤ 6000 mAh
- Maximum voltage of electric components: ≤ 14 V
- Maximum current: ≤ 4 A
- No restriction on type or number of microcontrollers; wireless communication between robot components is not allowed.
- A single, clearly recognizable physical Start/Stop button is mandatory and must immediately stop all robot movement.

2. Sensors, Motors & Movement

- Cameras are allowed only for Junior and Senior age groups.
- LIDAR and 3D scanners are allowed only for the Senior age group.
- Pull-back motors are allowed if wound up by the robot itself.
- Solenoids are allowed up to 20 N force and 20 mm stroke.
- Any wheels and tracks may be used provided they do not damage the mat.
- Motor limits by age group:
 - Elementary: 4 motors
 - Junior: 5 motors
 - Senior: 6 motors

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3. Restricted Materials & Safety

- Liquids, lubricants, sprays, and aerosol bottles are not allowed.
- Pneumatic systems are allowed with a maximum pressure of 3 bar and tank volume ≤ 150 ml.
- Hydraulic systems are not allowed.
- 3D printed parts are allowed; 3D printing during the competition is not permitted.
- Lasers are allowed only if certified eye-safe.

4. Communication & Autonomy

- Robots must operate fully autonomously.
- Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, and other wireless communication must be disabled or unused.
- Only one complete robot chassis is allowed per team.

RoboSports (Double Tennis)

1. Game Structure & Match Format

- An additional 9th orange ball is placed at the center of the field.
- Match duration is randomized between 1 and 2 minutes, announced before each match.

2. Ball Handling Rules

- A team's two robots may operate a maximum of four balls in total (orange and purple combined).

3. Robot Platform & Technical Regulations

- RoboSports is open to all robot platforms.
- Each team must build two robots.
- Maximum robot dimensions: 200 \times 200 mm footprint and 200 mm height.
- Maximum robot weight: ≤ 1.2 kg per robot.

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- Battery capacity limit: ≤ 6000 mAh, with one battery per robot.
- Maximum voltage: ≤ 12 V; boost converters are not allowed.
- Maximum current: ≤ 4 A.
- Each robot must have a clearly identifiable stop button.

4. Motors, Materials & Safety

- Allowed motors: DC motors, servo motors, stepper motors.
- Not allowed: Brushless motors, solenoids, linear motors.
- Liquids, sprays, aerosols, and hydraulic systems are not allowed.
- Pneumatic systems are allowed within defined limits.
- Robots must not use purple or orange colors, as these are reserved for game balls.

5. Communication

- Bluetooth or Wi-Fi communication is allowed only between a team's two robots.
- Any communication with external devices is strictly prohibited.

Future Innovators

1. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Usage

- Any use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) must be clearly declared in the project report.
- This applies to reports, videos, robot models, and all project components.
- Teams must specify:
 - The AI system used
 - Purpose of use
 - Extent of AI involvement

2. Certificates & Recognition

- Updated certificate categories include:
 - Participation
 - Bronze

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- Silver
- Gold
- Certificates are awarded based on percentage ranking within the same age group.

3. Awards Structure

- Older award categories from previous seasons have been removed.
- Only currently defined official awards apply for Season 2026.

Future Engineers (Self-Driving Cars)

1. Competition Structure

- Surprise Rules may be announced before the International Final.
- Surprise rules may add, modify, or change existing rules, with preparation time provided.

2. Documentation & GitHub Requirements

- Clarified deadlines and evaluation criteria for documentation.
- Remain online for at least one year after the competition
- The WRO Association may republish repositories if requirements are not met.
- One defined commit is primarily used for documentation scoring.
- Hardcopy documentation is mandatory for judging reference.
- GitHub repositories must:
 - Be publicly accessible

3. Scoring Clarification

- Points for starting in the parking lot are awarded only if at least one full lap is completed.
- Points related to starting position and parking apply only after full-round completion.

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- Updated scoring rubrics apply for the engineering journal and documentation.

4. Vehicle Operation & Competition Logistics

- Clarified conditions for leaving the start section after completing three laps.
- In multi-day competitions, robots must remain at the venue overnight.

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