IRON Cal
INSPIRATION ROBOTICS
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

VEX IQ AND V5 · 2026-2027 SEASON

TOURNAMENT COACH GUIDE

Thank you for bringing your team to an IRON Cal VEX tournament. This guide covers VEX IQ teams (elementary and middle school) and VEX V5 teams (middle and high school): registering, tournament day, and conduct.

For 2026-2027, VEX IQ and V5 competitions are run under the Global Robotics and Science Foundation. Check the Global Robotics Library for this season's coach requirements.

START HERE

1. Register your team on RobotEvents, not on the IRON Cal site. Each IRON Cal event page links to its RobotEvents listing.
2. Read the event page in the week before: schedule, venue, and parking.
3. Share the volunteer sign-up with your families. Every tournament needs 15 to 20 volunteers.

IRON Cal events
https://www.ironcal.org/event

IRON CAL VEX EVENTS THIS SEASON

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
The IRON Cal Classic (VEX V5)	Saturday, December 5	Chico High School
2026-2027 California Region 1 VEX V5 Championship	Saturday, February 27, 2027	Chico High School

WHAT TO BRING

- The robot, charged batteries, chargers, and controllers
- Tools and spare parts
- The engineering notebook
- Safety glasses for everyone in the pits
- Water and snacks
- A power strip, if the event page says pits have power

TOURNAMENT DAY

1. Check in at the team table. You'll get your pit assignment.
2. Every robot must pass inspection before its first match. If you change the robot during the day, it may need to be inspected again.
3. Qualification matches pair your team with different alliance partners. Watch the schedule and listen for queuing calls.
4. Skills runs are separate from matches. Judges may interview your team in the pits or a judging room.
5. After qualifications, top teams pick alliance partners for the elimination rounds, followed by awards.

CONDUCT AND STUDENT-CENTERED TEAMS

- Students build, code, drive, and explain their own robot. Adults support from the side.
- Rules questions go to the Head Referee, and drive team students should ask them.
- Everyone follows the Code of Conduct. Concerns go to the Judge Advisor or the Event Partner.
- Keep the pits safe: safety glasses on, walkways clear, and no running.

AFTER THE EVENT

Results and awards are posted on RobotEvents. Some awards qualify teams for the 2026-2027 California Region 1 VEX V5 Championship on Saturday, February 27, 2027, at Chico High School.

HELP US RUN THE EVENT

Families can sign up for a volunteer role at https://www.ironcal.org/event and take our free VEX IQ and V5 Volunteer Training first. Volunteers under 18 must have an adult (18 or older) on site who is responsible for them in case of emergency. This can be a parent, guardian, or coach, or an IRON Cal event lead we assign when they check in. Coaches can fill that role for their own students.

KEEPING STUDENTS SAFE

If anyone is in immediate danger, call 911 first. Then tell the Event Partner or an event lead right away. Adults should avoid being alone with students where other adults can't see them. IRON Cal's Incident Report and Youth Safety Concern Report forms are at the team check-in table.

EVENT CONTACTS

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