

# Second Newsletter

Hello everyone,

Thanks again for participating in the RoboCupJunior Soccer Championship 2021!

In this second newsletter we would like to share a couple more details on what the competition will look like, some more details on the trophies and some other bureaucratic necessities we sadly need to go through.

Let's jump right in!

## Media Release Form

As you may have noticed after signup, we are legally required to ask every participant's parent/legal guardian to sign a media release form (provided they are under 18 years of age). If we do not get this form signed, we may not be able to get them access to the RoboCup Virtual platform this year, as we cannot share images of minors without their parent's (or legal guardian's) consent.

So to ensure the whole event goes smoothly, please take a bit of time and fill in the form below -- it's quite short and you can be done with it in about 3 minutes.

Many thanks!

<https://robocup21release.paperform.co/>

## Trophies

Yes, this year we will be giving out some proper trophies! Here is what the list looks like:

### Soccer Open / LightWeight Technical Challenges

- Best TDP (Team Description Paper)
- Best Video
- Best Technical Challenges
- Individual Team 3rd Place
- Individual Team 2nd Place
- Individual Team 1st Place
- SuperTeam 1st place

A few notes on how these will be marked: for the TDP and Video we'll use the rubrics we've mentioned in the previous newsletter (you can find it [here](#)). Each technical challenge will have its own specific grading scheme and these scores will be summed to get the score for the Best Technical Challenges trophy. Similarly, the SuperTeam challenge will have its own grading system and hence its own "winner" as well (if you are participating, we believe you already won, so...). Finally, the Individual Team trophy will have its own scores, which will be a weighted sum of the other "Best" categories, specifically

- Best TDP (20 %)
- Best Video (30 %)
- Best Technical Challenges (50 %)

## Soccer Simulation Challenge (SoccerSim)

- Best TDP
- Best Video
- Best Technical Challenges
- Individual Game Champion
- Individual Team 3rd Place
- Individual Team 2nd Place
- Individual Team 1st Place
- SuperTeam 1st place

Note that the marking process will be essentially the same as with the Open/LightWeight category above.

There are two notable differences though. First, we also have the Individual Game Champion trophy, which will be determined by running a simulated tournament with the code you've already submitted. Second, the Individual Team trophy will have a bit different score, a weighted sum of the following categories:

- Best Individual Team (40 %)
- Best TDP (10 %)
- Best Video (30 %)
- Best Technical Challenges (30 %)

Note that the "Best Individual Team" category here refers to the same thing as the "Individual Champion" trophy mentioned above.

## Frequently Asked Questions

In the past few days we've received a couple questions of a repeating nature and so we thought it would be best to put a bit of an FAQ together for them. Here they are

What are these “challenges” you keep talking about? Are they for hardware robots only?

In general, the technical challenges are small (hopefully interesting) assignments, in which your robots will need to fulfil some task (the [rules](#) have a nice overview). We will have them for both hardware and software robots and they will be announced each day at the standard “daily gatherings”. As the [schedule](#) suggests, they will represent the “bulk” of activities you can look forward to next week.

Does the TDP / Video apply for the SoccerSim as well or is it just for the hardware robots? Is there a rubric for it?

As you are certainly aware, in RoboCup it doesn’t matter whether you win or lose, it’s how much you learn that counts!

In line with that spirit, we’d like to ask every team, be it in the Open/LightWeight or SoccerSim category, to prepare a short, 3 minute video, as well as a Team Description Paper (TDP). The reason why is simple: we would really like to know what you’ve worked on, what you struggled with and how you managed to cope with any obstacles that popped up -- even if you were just programming a simulated robot. Furthermore, once these videos/TDPs are prepared, we can easily share them (for instance at <https://github.com/RoboCupJuniorTC/awesome-rcj-soccer>) and have a set of resources for future generations as well.

We will use the same [rubrics](#) for both the hardware and simulated robots. They also contain a link to a Word/LaTeX template you can use to put your TDP together. (If you are courageous enough, we suggest you try out LaTeX -- it’s like a programming language for documents and basically the standard technical reports.)

We will further share a bit more info on how to submit both of these but in the meantime we can say that you will only submit a link to a video sharing service (like say YouTube or Vimeo) which we will then use further. You will not need to submit the whole (potentially large) video file.

Can you please confirm we submitted the code for the SoccerSim environment properly?

Yes, we can confirm we received the code from all participating teams via the “SoccerSim Checker” interface (we hope you liked it and if not, please do not hesitate to let us know!).

Whether it will work we really do not know, but we hope you had a chance to test it out in the simulated environment. In any case, we will find out next week for sure :)

Will we have a chance to upload new SoccerSim code between rounds?

We thought about this for quite a while and in the end decided that there will be just one code submission for the whole tournament. The reason is that we haven't done this before at this scale and so doing it this way is a bit easier and makes it a bit more straightforward for every team around the globe.

## What's next?

In the upcoming days, we plan to provide a bit more info on how the submission of TDPs and Videos will look like, how you can get onto the "virtual" platform we'll be using throughout the week and a bit more information on what will the "poster session" and the interviews look like. We will also open registration for the interview slots, so that you can save a place that would suit you best.

In the meantime, should you have any questions, please do not be afraid to ask them on the forum (that is, at <https://junior.forum.robocup.org/>). In particular, we would very much appreciate your suggestions for technical challenges for all types (for both the physical and simulated robots) at

<https://junior.forum.robocup.org/t/call-for-suggestions-technical-challenges/2072>

Have a great rest of the week and good luck!