

# Q&A

## VIQC 2021-2022: Pitching In

Tagged: G8

Welcome to the official VEX IQ Challenge Question & Answer system, where all registered teams have the opportunity to ask for official rules interpretations and clarifications. This Q&A system is the only source for official VIQC Pitching In rules clarifications, and the clarifications made here from the Game Design Committee (GDC) are considered as official and binding as the written [Game Manual](#) itself.

Please review the [Q&A Usage Guidelines](#) before posting. This system is only intended for specific VIQC Pitching In rules questions.

- For event, registration, or other competition support questions, please contact your [REC Foundation Manager](#).
- For VEX technical support, contact [support@vex.com](mailto:support@vex.com) or [sales@vex.com](mailto:sales@vex.com).
- For game questions, suggestions, or concerns outside of specific and official rules questions, contact [GDC@vex.com](mailto:GDC@vex.com)

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### Enforcement of the blue box under <G8>b

G8

What should Event Partners or Head Refs do to make sure that this rule isn't being exploited for strategic gain, especially if a team only show up with one team member?

<G8> Drivers switch Controllers midway through the Match. ... b. For the 2021-2022 season, Teams may elect to have one Driver in the Driver Station, instead of two. If only one Driver is present in the Driver Station, they may drive for the full Match, and a controller switch is not required. It is at the Team's discretion whether they wish to have one Driver or two. If two Drivers are present in the Driver Station, the controller switch rules in <G8a> would then apply. ... Blue Box: The intent of point "b" in this rule is to provide flexibility for Teams who are unable to meet in a traditional capacity due to local health guidelines. As noted in the definition of "Team", teamwork is a core tenet of the VEX IQ Challenge, and the two-Student drive team is intended to be a fundamental application of this skill. If a Team has the capacity to include multiple Students, it should also be expected that they will not take advantage of this single-Driver exception for strategic gain.

#### Answered by committee

Throughout the Game Manual, "blue box" clarifications are included to provide additional "intent of the rule" context for both Teams and Head Referees beyond the "black-and-white" verbiage of the rules themselves.

Rule G8-b was intentionally written such that the only black-and-white requirement is as follows: *"It is at the Team's discretion whether they wish to have one Driver or two."*

As noted in the blue box, the intent of this is *"to provide flexibility for Teams who are unable to meet in a traditional capacity due to local health guidelines"*. It would be impossible to expect an Event Partner to have an in-depth knowledge of all health guidelines imposed on all Teams at their event, whether they are governmental, school-specific, club-specific, or at the request of a Student's parents. With this in mind, we would strongly advise Event

Partners and coaches to be cautious about making any assumptions regarding a Team's circumstances when G8-b has been utilized in a tournament. We will not be implementing, requiring, or endorsing any specific "validation tests", as it is ultimately at the Team's discretion whether they wish to have one Driver or two.

With that in mind, as noted in the last line of the blue box, *"it should also be expected that they will not take advantage of this single-Driver exception for strategic gain."* This intention should be regarded similarly to rules like G1, G2, G6, R1-a, R1-b, and R1-c. That is to say - whether it is "caught" during an event or not, a Team who has exploited this rule for strategic gain has knowingly violated several points of the [Code of Conduct](#) and/or the [Student-Centered Policy](#). These violations are addressed through an official COC resolution process; Event Partners who have questions about this process should contact their [REC Foundation Event Engagement Manager](#) for more information.

- Act with integrity, honesty, and reliability
- Behave in a respectful and professional manner with event staff, volunteers, and fellow competitors
- Exhibit maturity and class when dealing with difficult and stressful situations
- Respect individual differences
- Follow all rules as listed in the current game manual(s)
- Student-centered teams with limited adult assistance
- Safety as a top priority
- Good sportsmanship, which includes supporting your alliance partners

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## Forgot to turn on the Robot, but my alliance partner bumped me.

G8

Rule G8 states, "During the Driver Controlled Period, Drive Team Members may only touch their own Robot if the Robot has not moved at all during the Match." If a robot moved due to a push or bump from an alliance partner robot, can the team touch the robot to perform the permitted tasks? Technically the robot moved, but not under its own power.

Thank you.

### Answered by committee

This would be legal, as long as the Head Referee acknowledges that it is safe to do so. For example, if the Robot has moved a few feet away from the field perimeter and would require stepping into the field to reach it, this would not be permissible.

This ruling only applies to situations where the Robot has not moved under its own power. Motion as a result of stored energy, regardless of whether the microcontroller is powered on or not, would still be considered motion, and this would not be permissible.

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## G8B to G6B Clarification

G6 G8

Teams that exhibit the following behaviors may be in violation of <G8b>, and/or the RECF Code of Conduct, and should be prepared to share relevant health guidelines with RECF staff upon request:

Utilizing two drivers in Qualification matches, but utilizing only one Driver in Finals Matches or Robot Skills Matches.  
Utilizing only one Driver in Matches, but permitting interactions in the pit area between multiple Students similar in nature

to interactions that would occur between two Drivers in the Driver Station. Meeting outside of the event setting in a manner consistent with interactions that occur between two Drivers in the Driver Station, yet only utilizing one Driver in Matches.

If I attend an event with multiple teams from my organization where 1 team has a single driver following the rules laid out in G8. Can the EP/Head referee give the option of G6B or a mandated 35 second single driver (G8A) if the organization does not accept G6B?

G6B-If a Team attends an event with only one driver in attendance, then that team is granted an allowance to use another qualified Driver from the Event. This substitute Driver is given an exemption for this event and may only Drive for this one Team at that event. Once the event is over, the substitute Driver will go back to his or her original Team. This exception is only granted if a Team has one (1) Driver in attendance due to reasons outside of the Team's control, such as illness.

### Answered by committee

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It is difficult to provide a direct answer to this question as it is currently worded.

If a Team has only one Driver at an event, then that means they are doing so for one of two reasons.

1. The Team usually has two Drivers, but one of them was unable to make it to the event due to illness or other reasons (i.e. G6-B). Yes, in this situation, Teams have the option to choose whether they drive for 0:35 or find a qualified Driver from another Team.
2. The Team is operating under health and safety guidelines that prohibit them from allowing two Students to stand next to each other in the Driver Station (i.e. G8-B). It would stand to reason that a Team who is in this situation, and stating that their Driver is unable to stand next to a teammate in the Driver Station, would also not be able to exercise G6-B and stand next to a Student from another Team.

Teams do not really get to make a "choice" between these two scenarios, as these are both situations that are outside of a Team's control.

If the Team is utilizing a single Driver but doing so for strategic reasons, not health reasons, then they would not be operating under G8-B. The blue box in G8 provides some guidelines / examples for behaviors which would indicate this situation.

Would the team need to find another person with in the organization or a team outside the organization at the event?

In the context of the Game Manual, Teams from the same multi-Team organization are still considered separate Teams. In other words, the fact that two Teams come from the same multi-Team organization has no bearing on how to apply Team-related rules such as G6, G8, R1, or R2. To answer this specific question - yes, a Student from another Team within the same organization could be used to fulfill G6-b, provided that the rule is followed in its entirety.

Within a single event, a Driver may only drive for one (1) Team. If a Team attends an event with only one (1) Driver in attendance, then that Team is granted an allowance to use another qualified Driver from the Event. This substitute Driver is given an exemption for this event and may only Drive for this one Team at that event. Once the event is over, the substitute Driver will go back to his or her original Team. This exception is only granted if a Team has one (1) Driver in attendance due to reasons outside of the Team's control, such as illness.