

Q&A

VRC 2022-2023: Spin Up

Tagged: R19

Welcome to the official VEX Robotics Competition 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 VRC Spin Up 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 VRC Spin Up rules questions.

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

Using additional Smart Motor Caps on a robot

R19

<R19> restricts any one robot to having up to 8 VEX Smart Motors. The V5 Smart Motor Cap V5 (276-6780) is a legal part for competition, but by itself it would not be considered a motor, as it does not have any of the actual motor components or electronics. Is it allowable for a team to mount additional V5 Smart Motor Caps on their robot without a motor attached so that they can more easily reconfigure their robot for different setups (such as for skills vs. matches)? In essence the V5 Smart Motor Cap would be serving as a motor mount. It is understood that any configuration that would be used needs to be fully inspected and that additional scrutiny of the robot and team would be expected throughout the event to ensure that they do not ever exceed the maximum motor allotment.

Answered by committee

Yes, this is legal.

<R19> Extent of External Controller Modifications

R19

<R19>

Hello! I had a few questions in regards to R19 and the extent we can take R19ai.

R19ai states

Attachments which assist the Drive Team Member in holding or manipulating buttons / joysticks on the V5 Controller are permitted, provided that they do not involve direct physical or electrical modification of the

Controller itself.

Case 1: Based on this, would it be legal for a team to paint the external casing of their controller, based on the logic they are adding an external attachment to the joystick (as the paint is a layer), which increases the friction on the controller which makes it easier for drivers to grip and manipulate buttons on the controller, no electrical or physical modification has been made and its purely an external layer/attachment on the controller.

Case 2: Would it be legal for a team to make an external box for a V5 controller which contains the controller inside of it, would it than be possible to design your own buttons for the box which when pressed would press buttons on the v5 controller, essentially allowing you to make a non-vex controller which contains and manipulates the v5 controller inside of it.

Case 3: Would it be legal for a team to attach a lanyard to a scuf to prevent it being dropped/lost at an event and can the lanyard holding the scuf be worn during a competition match? This would prevent it from being dropped/damaged during a game, this is something that has been demonstrated at events in the past but isn't clearly stated as per whether the action is legal or not.

Answered by committee

Thank you for your questions. Head Referees must determine whether a specific modification is legal or not, but we can provide the following guidelines for your proposed cases.

Case1: This would be a permitted.

Case 2: Rule <R14> states, "Robots must ONLY use one (1) VEX V5 Robot Brain (276-4810). Any other microcontrollers or processing devices are not allowed, even as non-functional decorations." This could be allowed by <R19a>, but any device that is created to manipulate the controller may not contain these prohibited items.

Case 3: A lanyard would be considered legal under rule <R19a>.

<R19>,<VUR10>, and tank-less pneumatic systems

R19 VEX U

If the ports of multiple cylinders are connected to each other and the pressure in both sides of the cylinders are kept relatively similar, a cylinder can be actuated and retraced by manipulating one of the cylinders (ideally using a motor) ([Image for clarification](#)).

R19 States

<R19> Pneumatic devices may only be charged to a maximum of 100 psi. Teams may only use a maximum of two (2) legal VEX pneumatic air reservoirs on a Robot. The intent of this rule is to limit teams to the air pressure stored in two reservoir tanks, **as well as the normal working air pressure contained in their pneumatic cylinders and tubing on the robot**. Teams may not use other elements (e.g. surgical tubing) for the purposes of storing or generating air pressure. Teams who use cylinders and additional pneumatic tubing for no purpose other than additional storage are in violation of the spirit of this rule and will fail inspection.

And VUR10 states:

Teams may utilize commercially available pneumatic components from the following list: Cylinders, actuators, valves, gauges, storage tanks, regulators, manifolds, and solenoids. c. Pneumatic devices may only be charged to a maximum of 100 psi. **i. Compressors or any other forms of "on-Robot" charging are not permitted**. d. All commercial components must be rated for 100 psi or higher. Teams should be prepared to provide documentation that verifies these ratings to inspectors if requested. e. Components must not be modified from their original state as purchased from a commercial vendor, other than the following exceptions: i. Cutting pneumatic tubing or wiring to length, assembling components using preexisting threads, brackets, or fittings, or minor cosmetic labels.

I would assume that the setup (same as the image) would be illegal, as air is technically compressed if the cylinders experience resistance, but would like an official ruling.

If the max pressure (under load) is kept under 100Psi, is the setup in the image legal for VRC?

If not legal for VRC, is such a setup legal for VEXU?

Answered by committee

The intent of <R19> and <VUR10>, in this context, is to safely limit the amount of stored pneumatic energy available at the beginning of a Match. As pictured, and assuming no other rules were violated in the process, this hypothetical example would satisfy that intent and would be legal in both VRC and VEX U.

Of course, if this concept was used to create a rudimentary "compressor" or otherwise generate additional pneumatic pressure during a Match for other devices to use, this ruling would not apply, and it would be illegal.