2022 SEASON

Programming Guidance

As part of the transition to the LEGO Education SPIKE™ Prime platform, teams will be using a new kind of programming style different from past seasons.
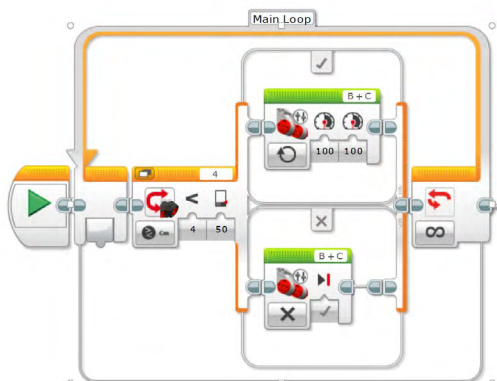
NEW PROGRAMMING STYLE

The former drag-and-drop block style used in past seasons has changed to Scratch-style programming for this season.

While veteran Teams have become accustomed to the old drag-and-drop style, the new Scratch-style incorporates a top-to-bottom reading method that uses common phrases to link together and form a program.
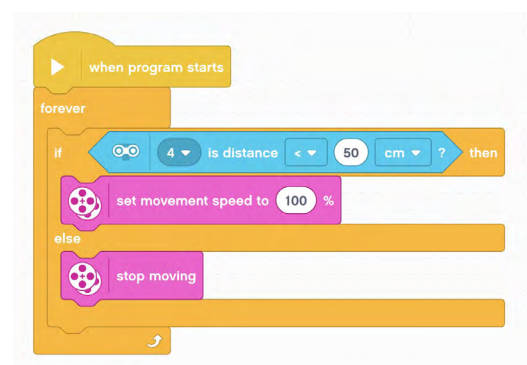
We hope teams find the new style to be more intuitive and easier to build than the former style. The example below is the same program, one in the former style and the other in the new Scratch-style.

Teams with the new SPIKE Prime kits as well as teams with existing MINDSTORMS EV3 kits are required to use the Scratch-style programming for the 2022 season.

LEGO calls this new style "Word Blocks" while the former style were called "Icon Blocks."

The former drag-and-drop block style programming.

The new Scratch-style programming.

The MINDSTORMS EV3 Lab Edition software is no longer supported by LEGO Education.

As a result, all teams are required to use the new EV3 Classroom and SPIKE apps for programming their robots with the new Scratch style.

Both apps are available to download for free from the LEGO Education website. Teams with SPIKE Prime kits are able to program using the Web App with no downloads necessary.

SPIKE App: https://education.lego.com/en-us/downloads/spike-app/software

EV3 Classroom App: https://education.lego.com/en-us/downloads/mindstorms-ev3/software

Important Note:

To promote an equal playing field for all participants competing in the tournament, all competing teams are required to use the "Word Blocks" style of programming in their projects.

Outside of the competition game, teams are more than welcome to experiment with basic robot functions and advanced programming through "Icon Blocks" and Python.

The "Icon Blocks" style has a very limited set of blocks to use that will not allow teams to build the required program for the game.