



SCI FI ROBOT SPECIAL COMPETITION OVERVIEW

The Competition

In late August 2000, half-ton and one-ton robots will converge on Southern California for a battle to the death and a chance to make history. Robot blood will be spilled on a 100 by 175-foot outdoor arena. The uneven ground is skirted by a low concrete wall, marking the perimeter and containing the combatants. This is a proving ground for your machine, complete with obstacles and hazards. A live audience will be present to one side, contained behind their chain link and lexan barrier. The robot controllers will also be protected behind barriers. The robots run free, with humans in protective cages.

The Money

SCI FI is exploring creating a sponsorship pool, to help fund construction efforts. Teams who have or are considering local sponsorship arrangements should inform SCI FI when replying to this solicitation. Prize money is set at \$20,000.

The Robots

Rolling robots are limited to 1,000 pounds wet weight. Walking robots are limited to 2,000 pounds. Flying robots are not allowed. Robots can be powered by battery or the "standard" liquid fuels of gasoline or diesel. Gaseous fuels for power or weapons are not allowed. Robot construction details are generally left to the builder, though all robots must pass a safety inspection.

The Weapons

Very few weapons are strictly forbidden, and we look forward to seeing the results of your creativity. Projectiles must be tethered, so that the tip of the projectile does not go farther than 10 feet beyond the edge of the robot. Fire and flame based weapons are currently under technical advisement. Electrical weapons are allowed, with a preference for weapons with visual impact. Lasers may not be used as a weapon, though class IIIa (<5mw) lasers

are allowed for targeting. Cutting blades must be of one-piece construction. No carbide teeth are allowed, though composite cutting disks are allowed (though ineffective). Kinetic-energy weapons (spinning disks, hammers, and ball-and-chains) will be limited to a RPM based on their effective diameter. Details to be announced. All weapons, attacks, violence, and destruction must be directed towards the other robots – no operator interference is allowed.

The Competition

There are two phases of combat: tournament and melee. The tournament is a one-on-one elimination combat to the death. A robot is considered “dead” if it is no longer able to drive in a controlled manner. There will be a time limit, and points will be allocated by judges in the event there is no clean kill. Details to be announced. The melee pits the survivors of the tournament against each other as a group. The goal of each robot is to cross the field of combat, traverse a ramp to the prize money, and take the money back across the field through the exit. And remain alive in the process. There will be time for repairs between rounds, as well as before the melee.