

To the attention of all teams in the 2010 edition of the Portuguese Robotics Open (Festival Nacional de Robótica)

Ethics Committee

The Portuguese Robotics Society (SPR), through its Special Committee for the Portuguese Robotics Open (CEFNR) decided to establish, starting at the 2010 edition of the festival, an ethics committee.

As defined in its initial objectives, the Portuguese Robotics Open (FNR) is intended to be a national/international event aiming at the promotion of Science and Technology among young people of primary, secondary and higher education, as well as the development and research in this highly multi-disciplinary domain, leading to greater disclosure of potential scientific / technological development of the country.

Whilst it is organized as a series of competitions, the competitive side of the FNR is not an objective in itself of the event, but only an additional incentive to motivate young people in different age groups to work together to exercise their creativity, share experiences and knowledge as well as live a learning process based on real problems whose primary objective should be to surpass himself.

Taking these into account, it is a general understanding within SPR that it is a general responsibility of all participating teams, including their team-leaders and, in the case of children, teachers and / or family members who accompany them, the duty to comply with basic set rules that support the festival objectives listed above. So in the spirit of this event, it is considered to be a duty of any participant in the FNR:

- To respect and comply with the rules and regulations established for each competition;
- Respect, without resorting to inappropriate behavior, the decisions of the elements of the juries and referees of each competition;
- To share with other teams, in a spirit of healthy companionship, the knowledge, developments and work undertaken by the team;
- To collaborate, to the possible extent, in the support and mutual assistance between the teams, providing technical support or resources that may be in their possession, in order to enhance the overall outcome of event.
- Refrain from entering into or encourage inappropriate or anti-sportive behavior, as well as promote or incite the use of public demonstrations of dissatisfaction that violate the spirit of this event.

All situations that represent or may suggest a deliberate violation of these duties, or any others that may be contrary to the spirit of the FNR, will be reviewed by the Ethics Committee, which may act accordingly, after hearing the involved parties.

All cases that require consideration by the Ethics Committee of CEFNR must be submitted in writing, with specific indication of the reasons and facts that determine such participation. The only persons with authority to make a written report to the EC are, exclusively the team leaders, referees, members of the juries, the organization members responsible for each event, members of CEFNR or the local organizing committee.

The deliberations of the Ethics Committee may, if necessary, con-substantiate the application of a penalty to the teams involved. This may take the either the form of a written warning or the disqualification from the competition. Penalties can also be applied to teams from a given school through a time limited suspension of participation in FNR or, in extreme cases, permanent exclusion from participation in all events promoted by the SPR.

From the decisions of the Ethics Committee there is no appeal.

Bernardo Cunha (spokesman)

Carlos Carneira

Norberto Pires

A. Paulo Moreira

Fernando Ribeiro