RoboCup MSL – 2021 Rule Changes

Disclaimer: This document contains an overview of the Rulebook changes introduced for the 2021 RoboCup competitions. It was created to facilitate the integration with new rules, but it does not replace the reading of the official rulebook in any way.

The Executive and Technical Committees would like to thank all the contributions of the teams with proposals for rule changes. Rules are adapted with the league roadmap in mind, making sure that the evolution goes towards the RoboCup 2050 goal, along with a steady scientific progress.

Due to the postponement of the RoboCup 2020 (because of the situation linked to the COVID-19), the rulebook of the MSL 2021 RoboCup competition is mainly based on last year's version. However, since the 2021 competition will be held **virtually** some changes are addressed.

Any questions or issues regarding the rules should be addressed to the MSL Technical Committee mailing list: rc-msl-tc@lists.robocup.org

The 2021 Middle-Size League Exec/Technical Committees members,

Seyed Ehsan Marjani Bajestani, Polytechnique Montreal, Canada

Wouter Houtman, Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands

Bernardo Cunha, DETI/IEETA, University of Aveiro, Portugal

Edwin Schreuder, ASML, Netherlands

Zhiqian Zhou, National University of Defense Technology, China

Xinzhe Lyu, Beijing Information Science & Technology University, China

Changes:

- The Technical Challenge is kept according to the rules of last year, such that teams can work on all of the topics which are considered relevant (among which are "standardization", "**remote play**" and challenges which are relevant to "play against humans")

- The statement about the document status describes the distributed, remote event:
  Section **"Document Status"** on page 3:
  This is the draft version of the rules that will be used for the RoboCup Soccer World Championships, which due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 will be a distributed, remote event. As such, for the Middle Size League, the remote competitions consist of the **Scientific Challenge** as well as the **Technical Challenge**. The latest information of the event can be found on https://2021.robocup.org/.

- The minor updates which the TC agreed about consisted of
  - an update on the RoboCup year and document version
  - On page 84, in the paragraph about the game-logging, it is mentioned that "The total score of the technical challenge will be the sum of the Demonstration and the data-logging.". This is not the proper place to make this statement. Therefore, the following clarification has been added at the beginning of the chapter "Challenge 1- Technical Challenge":
    "The technical challenge is composed of two components. The first part is the demonstration of a new concept and the second part is the logging of match data. Each of these components will be explained in the next paragraphs. The total score of the technical challenge will be the sum of the demonstration and the data-logging."
  - On page 76, in CR1.5, a reference to the assessment of "open sourcing" the developments of teams is missing. The following text has been added:
    "To stimulate the sharing of information, points are awarded during the qualification of tournaments as described in the "Mechanical and electrical description of the robot and software flow chart"-section of CR1.2"