

METHODS FOR DRIVER  
PRACTICE

# Methods For Driver Practice and Drive Team Training

By Bill Kendall & Mike Corsetto

FALL WORKSHOPS

## Introduction: Bill Kendall

- Lead Mentor for Team 2073, EagleForce
- 17 years Mentoring in FIRST
- Woodie Flowers Finalist in 2018 at the Sacramento Regional

# METHODS FOR DRIVER PRACTICE

## Introduction: Mike Corsetto

- Lead Technical Mentor, Team 1678
- Mentor since 2008, FIRST Participant since 2001
- Woodie Flowers Finalist at the 2016 Sacramento Regional

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## METHODS FOR DRIVER PRACTICE

# What is your process for driver selection? (Bill)

- Drivers are selected during the Off season for the following season.
- Drivers **MUST** be contributors to the team, not just drivers.
- Drivers should have at least one year of experience with tournament play prior to being the team's primary pilot.

## METHODS FOR DRIVER PRACTICE

### What is your process for driver selection? (Mike)

- The team has trusted me as the Drive Coach to select the Drive Team
- I reach out to specific students during the summer for a brief interview
- I am looking for committed students with a range of technical skills
- Ideally, new students to the drive team would not be seniors

## METHODS FOR DRIVER PRACTICE

# What is the goal of your drive team training? (Bill)

- To be familiar with each element of the game.
- To work fluidly together to execute our strategy.
- To be able to execute variations in our strategy as the Drive Coach response to match dynamics.

# What is the goal of your drive team training? (Mike)

- Demonstrate commitment to excellence and desire to improve/succeed
- Practice specific cycles and drills
- Get run time on the robot to identify issues
- Practice coordination between drive team members

## METHODS FOR DRIVER PRACTICE

# What methods do you use for driver training? (Bill)

- Practice, practice, practice!
- Early practice is simply becoming familiar with the robot. Often we use something as simple as setting up a course to follow with a set of stools.  
  
Drive forward, drive backward through the course.
- Practicing with each field element as much as possible.



## METHODS FOR DRIVER PRACTICE

# What methods do you use for driver training? (Mike)

- Start Early. Summer drive-base drills.
- Driver at all our offseasons to get familiar with competition driving
- Keep at least a few robots running year-over-year
- Practice defense on and off season

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## METHODS FOR DRIVER PRACTICE

# What methods do you use for drive team training? (Bill)

- Early practice means working with each field element individually.
- Repeatedly practicing the execution of our strategy on a full field.
- Practice, practice, practice, practice!
- The ultimate goal is that the drive team can execute each one of their tasks without ever thinking about how to execute them!

## METHODS FOR DRIVER PRACTICE

# What methods do you use for drive team training? (Mike)

- Practice hard AND smart
- Take notes on each practice round, note things like how many balls scored in a match, what went wrong that stopped a session, etc
- Practice with human player involvement, where appropriate
- Try to practice in real-life, line-of-sight conditions

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# **Audience Questions**

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