

## Theme It Up

### Sheila and Toad, Pirates in the Sea of Alangí

The game is a competition between two alliances, headed by robots Sheila and Toad. The competition takes place in the Tic Tac Toe archipelago in the Sea of Alangí, which is shaped in a square 12 acres by 12 acres, represented by the standard VRC field. The Tic Tac Toe archipelago is known for its two pirate factions: the flashing Red Ruby pirate alliance and the cool, suave Salty Sapphire pirate alliance. Each pirate alliance has two ships, represented by robots. Each robot pirate ship boasts two colored pirate flags, represented by VEX nameplates.

Before Change Up, Sheila and Toad were the best of friends, as they had been in childhood, despite being the heads of competing pirate factions. After all, good sportsmanship even applies in the Sea of Alangí. However, one day, the dreaded Change Up Competition started when Toad and Sheila were vacationing together on El Central Tower Island for 15 days. For us mere observers on Earth, it was only 15 seconds.\* Meanwhile, in the absence of their friendly, peaceful captains, the crews of each respective pirate alliance began to pirate their ships to compete with the other alliance, though none dared to cross over into declared enemy territory while their captain was away. This is observed for us as the 15 second autonomous period. On the last day of the best friend pirate captains' vacation, they both spotted a lovely lady named Chan Chan. After a heated quarrel between Sheila and Toad, Chan Chan determined that she will date the bot that is more powerful, hence the bot that conquered the most islands. With that, the captains headed back to manually control their ships. This started the long, intense 1 minute and 45 second driver control period, which lasted for 105 days in the Sea of Alangí. To them, however, the prospect of a date with the beautiful Chan Chan was worth it.

The two young pirate bots interact with the balls in order to win as many points as possible in order to compete to impress their mutual love interest, Chan Chan. They each try to score as many points as possible. Toad, being the captain of the Red Rubies, seeks to control the island towers with Red Ruby Recruits. Therefore, Toad takes Red Ruby pirates, represented as balls, and transports them to islands in the archipelago, represented by towers. Meanwhile, Sheila, being the pirate captain of the Salty Sapphire pirate crew, worked hard and long to transport Salty Sapphire Pirates to the tower islands in order to have Sheila's crew control the islands and impress Chan Chan.

Soon, however, the two young pirate captains realized that Chan Chan had an eye for design. She loved seeing rows and columns connected, as it gave her fond memories of when she used to win tic-tac-toe games with her sister. This prompted both Sheila and Toad to calculate that receiving a row of towers would be 6 times as strategically beneficial as putting a single unit of their crew on an island.

In the end, though, both robots abandoned the quest altogether as a result of Chan Chan's betrayal. Good sportsmanship returned between the two pirate factions, and Chan Chan was left with no gold, no date, and no combination of the two as the beautiful pirate Sheila and the handsome pirate Toad lived happily ever after.

\*Note: The theory of general relativity applies even when observing and interacting with alternate universes, including the universe of VEX. Space is not fixed anywhere, and neither is time. That is why a 12 acre by 12 acre sea in the pirate universe is actually just a 12 foot by 12 foot VRC field in our universe. In addition, a day in their universe is a second in ours. General relativity is strange, isn't it?