

Dear Small Size League community,

As we look back on RoboCup 2025 in Salvador, Brazil, we do so with pride and perspective. It was a memorable edition, filled with innovation, collaboration, and the unmistakable spirit of our Small Size League community. The announcement that our league will conclude on the international stage after 2027 marks a defining point in our shared history.

Even so, our immediate focus continues: preparing for RoboCup 2026 in Incheon, South Korea. While the long-term future rightfully draws attention, the work ahead for 2026 remains essential. A different email with an update to our general state of mind regarding the future and some of the questions raised in the survey (as well as its general results) will follow soon.

We recognize that the coming years may bring uncertainty and hard choices for some teams. We respect each team's path and thank everyone for their continued dedication. Our goal is to make all future editions of RoboCup SSL just as purposeful and inclusive.

With that in mind, we are pleased to introduce the organizing, technical, and executive committees for RoboCup 2026 in Incheon, South Korea. This dedicated group is already hard at work to ensure another engaging and inspiring competition. You can learn more about them at the end of this email.

As a committee, our mission is to support teams, facilitate innovation & inspiration, and ensure that the Small Size League remains fair, challenging, and enjoyable for everyone involved. Throughout the year, we will be sharing updates on competition formats, rule adjustments, important deadlines, and other essential details to help you and your team prepare for RoboCup 2026.

Our main means of communication is the Small Size League mailing list. The mailing list is the place to be for SSL-related announcements. We require that at least one person from every team is subscribed to this mailing list in order to receive important announcements. You can subscribe to the mailing list [HERE](#).

Next to the mailing list, we have a Discord Server. This is where you can easily ask other teams for advice or help. Additionally, important league announcements are also posted on this server. You can join the server [HERE](#).

Finally, there exists an overarching RoboCup Discord server, open to everyone. Here, you can talk with other leagues, as well as follow discussions regarding the future of RoboCup. You can join the server [HERE](#).

Please feel free to reach out to us via email or Discord if you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns regarding the Small Size League or its organization. We look forward to collaborating with each of you and seeing the creativity and teamwork that make the Small Size League such a remarkable community!

Kind regards,

The RoboCup Small Size League committees

Organizing Committee (OC)

Name: David Brand

Team: TIGERs Mannheim / ER-Force

Committee member since: 2022

About: I joined TIGERs Mannheim in 2019 as a computer science student and have been competing in the SSL since 2021. After my first in person RoboCup, I joined the OC, and my goal since then is to help organize each tournament in such a way that every competing team is able to reach their best result while still having a great time.

When I'm not helping to prepare / host the next tournament, I'm a full-time IT systems expert in the area of aerodrome surveillance based in Frankfurt(DEU). If I have time on the side, I like to go climbing or transceive more knowledge primarily in the IT/ET domain.



Name: Lucas Cavalcanti

Team: RobôCIn

Committee member since: 2022

About: I have been participating in RoboCup competitions since 2011. In 2015, while competing in the @Home league, I discovered the Small Size League (SSL). Inspired by its challenges, I co-founded RobôCIn that same year with a friend to build autonomous soccer-playing robots. In 2019, we made our SSL debut at RoboCup Australia. My passion for the league grew, and in 2022, I joined its organizing team as a Technical Committee (TC) member. After earning a BSc in Computer Engineering and an MSc in Computer Science, I began working at Microsoft while keeping RoboCup as a hobby. Outside of robotics, I enjoy running in my free time.



Name: Emy Ganzeboom

Team: RoboTeam Twente

Committee member since: 2024

About: In 2022 I joined the SSL as full-time Team Manager of RoboTeam Twente and even though it was hectic at times, I thoroughly enjoyed it. I still try to be active in the team by dropping by unexpectedly and giving unwanted advice. I



played an important part in the local organisation of the RoboCup 2023 in Eindhoven and loved to continue my contribution to the league by joining the OC. Recently, I also became part of the organization of the Dutch Championship for RoboCup Junior.

I used to be a Biomedical Engineering student focusing on BioRobotics, but not long ago I graduated and started working at an aerospace company. In my free time I enjoy playing (bass)guitar, backpacking, visiting the zoo, and gaining more technical skills by doing Arduino projects and home renovations.

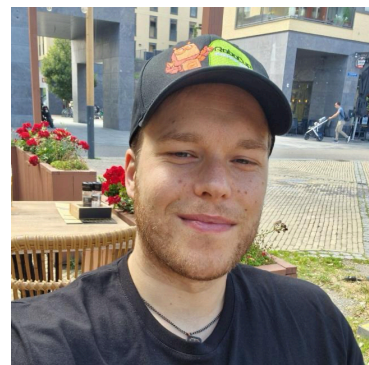
Technical Committee (TC)

Name: Emiel Steerneman

Team: RoboTeam Twente

Committee member since: 2024

About: I'm Emiel Steerneman, 31 years old, and I've been participating in the Small Size League since 2017. In that year, after finishing my BSc Computer Science, I joined RoboTeam Twente as a software developer and member of the board. After my RoboTeam Twente year I started my MSc Data Science. Even though I finished my masters and am now a "Burger", I'm still active as a member of RoboTeam Twente. In my free time, I like flying FPV drones, playing the drums, programming, and lifting heavy stuff. I'm pretty proud of my contribution to the SSL, <https://tdpsearch.com/>, and I hope that as a TC member, I can keep on contributing even more.

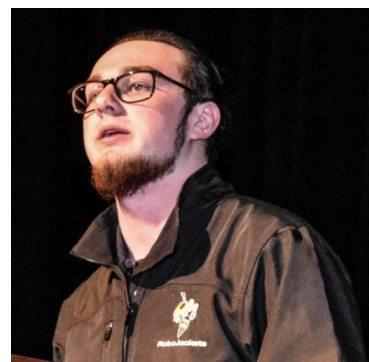


Name: Will Stuckley

Team: A-Team

Committee member since: 2024

About: I've been participating in the SSL since August of 2014. I am a founding and current member of The A-Team, a community team based in the United States. Before that, I was a member of RoboJackets during my undergraduate and master studies at the Georgia Institute of Technology until 2020. I currently still work for Georgia Tech in the area of high-assurance microelectronics and EDA tooling with an emphasis on their role in the formal assessment and formal behavioral proofs of cyber-physical systems. I have taught courses on embedded systems, utility grid security, microelectronics EDA tools, and microelectronics security. In my spare time, I enjoy outdoor activities such as backpacking, rock climbing, technical diving, and skiing.



Name: João Guilherme Melo

Team: RobôCIn

Committee member since: 2025

About: I participated in RoboCup from 2017 to 2019 as a competitor in the Small Size League for the RoboIME team while still an undergraduate student at the Instituto Militar de Engenharia (IME), and I've been passionate about it ever since. After graduating in 2019, I left the team to start working as an Electronics Engineer for the Brazilian Army, but in 2021 I decided to return to academic research to pursue my professional goal of becoming a professor. To do so, I reached out to RobôCIn's students and professor and have been part of the team since then, during which I completed my Master's degree in 2023 and am now pursuing my PhD research, while also helping the team with software development and advising undergraduate students.

My research interests lie primarily in robot self-localization, directly involving computer vision, rigid body transformations, odometry, and Bayesian filters. Besides my academic research, I also work on R&D projects at our university, the Universidade Federal de Pernambuco (UFPE), mainly focused on robotics and embedded/IoT systems. In my free time, I enjoy surfing, playing guitar, and spending time with my friends and family.



Executive Committee (EC)

Name: Tobias Heineken

Team: ER-force

Committee member since: 2020

About: After joining ER-Force in late 2014 and participating with a 4 person team in a regional RoboCup in April 2015, I was fully on board to spend way too many hours on improving the tactics for the small robots we all love. In addition to the regular tasks and my computer science classes, I have always had a special interest in the other aspects in our league: How the qualification is set up, how to design a fair competition schedule that allows for, and values, on-venue improvements, and how to design the rules we play by. Since I often prefer to provide a stable environment and rely on the teams to refute a specific tactic, I had voiced comments about proposed changes even before joining the OC in 2020.

Since joining the OC, I have finished my masters in 2022, and I am pursuing a PhD in software engineering right now. I've stopped working on our robots and spend that piece of



time on preparing, organizing and running the yearly competitions - so do reach out, especially if you have questions for the qualification and review process!

If I'm not busy working on my PhD or preparing the next RoboCup, I am probably exploring somewhere off the beaten path, or visiting friends - many of whom I met at the RoboCup!

Name: Nicolai Ommer

Team: TIGERs Mannheim

Committee member since: 2017

About: I joined the TIGERs Mannheim in 2011 as a computer science student and worked on the team's main AI software. My first RoboCup was in 2012 in Mexico City. I have been to every RoboCup since then. In 2018 I joined the technical committee and contributed several of the league's official tools in the following years, like the ssl-game-controller, ssl-status-board and ssl-remote-control. Since 2024, I'm member of the executive committee.

After I finished my Master's in 2016, RoboCup has become a hobby for me, next to a full time job as a software engineer in Munich. I also like mountain-based sports like biking, snowboarding and climbing.



Name: Leonardo da Silva Costa

Team: RoboFEI

Committee member since: 2020

About: At the very beginning of my graduation in Control and Automation Engineering at FEI I joined the RoboFEI team (2017) and fell in love with the Small Size League. Since then I have mostly worked on the team's strategy software, although as time went by I ended up playing a major role in the electronics team by helping in the development of the new main board for our robots. In 2019 I was elected as a member of the Technical Committee and have been helping the league since then. I have a MSc on Artificial Intelligence applied to robotics and I'm currently doing a PhD in Socially Aware Robotics Navigation and working as a Robotics Engineer.

