

Dear FIRST Community,

FRC Team 548, the Robostangs, would like to issue the following statement in response to the FIRST Einstein Investigation Report that was issued publically on the 13th of July, 2012. We first would like to acknowledge the donated time and effort put forth by the highly technical volunteers and subject matter experts who extensively researched and investigated the root cause(s) of the encountered situations where the robots failed to respond to command signals from the driver stations. We applaud FIRST's choice to assemble such a dedicated team of individuals and their efforts to understand, diagnose and commit to address possible issues for the future. One of our team mentors and one of our programming students had the chance to not only participate in the re-creation of the Einstein matches but serve witness to the valiant effort put forth by all.

On page 10 of the 40 page report, in section *FAILED CLIENT AUTHENTICATION ON EINSTEIN* it was made mention that an individual was observed near the field using a cell phone in an apparent attempt to access the field Wi-Fi network. This individual was a mentor for Team 548. The individual voluntarily contacted FIRST immediately after the competition concerning his involvement, feelings, and findings surrounding the "failures" during the Einstein matches. According to the information we (Team 548's Steering Committee) have been given and the research we have conducted we know the following sequence to be true.

1. During the first match on Einstein, there was a robot failure in the alliance that included Team 548.
2. An individual mentor from Team 548 believed the failure was likely caused by an interruption.
3. Acting on their own accord, they entered the field in an attempt to notify FIRST personnel of their belief.
4. The FIRST Technical staff did not pursue the suggestion by the individual and asked for them to leave the field area in which they complied.
5. Unfortunately, to further demonstrate the issue, and making a poor decision, they created a 3 second field interruption in match 2.
6. In accordance with the Einstein Field Failure Report, matches 1 and 2 were replayed.
7. The individual has consistently stated that this occurred once and once only.

The actions of the individual were not intended to harm a team or alliance, nor intended to alter the outcome of the matches on Einstein. In the past seven years, this mentor has been a dedicated and enthusiastic member for Team 548.

We, Team 548, apologize that the action of an individual member of our team contributed to the controversy and issues associated with Einstein. Specifically, we extend our apologies to Teams 1114, 2056, and 4334 and the impact to their teams.

In the spirit and mission of FIRST, Team 548 would like to move forward using this unfortunate instance as a learning experience for our students in the years to come. We hope the FIRST community will continue to support us as they have done so graciously since Team 548 has become a part of FIRST 12 years ago.

Sincerely,

Team 548