



Our Future:
Built Better Together



Competition – Load in to Load Out

Load In

- For Friday / Saturday Events load in begins Thursday at 5pm. Friday night for Saturday / Sunday events.
- Check maps for the load in location. There will also be signs outside pointing to load in, student drop off, public entrances, volunteer entrance, etc.
- Pits will close at 10 pm on Load in night. You will have from 5 pm – 10 pm to setup your pit, get inspected, and participate in practice matches.
- Many teams will bring “skeleton crew” for load in to reduce hotel costs.
- You will most likely have to arrange for outside dinner options to be brought in. Many of our venues won't have concessions open on load in night.

Load In Continued

- You will need to have your wifi radio configured for the competition. The computer to do that with will be near the pits. Ask pit admin when you are ready to do that.
- Match Schedules – match schedules for qualification matches will not be done until every team checks in and typically gets through inspection. Every team will be given one copy. Take pictures of it! It is usually a multi-page document...make sure to note your match number and approximate time on both pages. You can also refer to www.thebluealliance.com/ or www.frc-events.firstinspires.org for online event schedule.

Day 1

- The building will open to teams at 8 am. It will start to get crowded at the student drop off area by 7:30 am. Teams have favorite spots they like to sit in the stands. Remember...no saving seats.
- Driver meeting will take place very shortly after doors open. Have entire drive team on the field for that meeting.
- Safety meetings/other meetings – Listen to announcements in pit admin for calls to meetings.
- Opening ceremonies – please stop working on your robot and have everyone attend opening ceremonies. It is NOT graciously professional to be in the pits working on your robot during this time.

**The livestream link for the event will be on the home page of our website: www.firstindianarobotics.org Make sure to share the link with friends, family, social media, etc.

Day 1 - continued

- Other opportunities
 - Student Ambassadors – We will be asking for students to volunteer as ambassadors to show VIP's, sponsors, potential teams, etc. around the event.
 - Special meetings/gatherings – there will be announcements made at the events about special meetings, etc. The student board of directors will hold meetings to hear from students about their concerns, questions, ideas, etc. to make FIRST better.
 - VOLUNTEER – students often help by doing field reset – if you have extra students that want to help, have them check in at the volunteer check in table to see if there is anyway they can help.
 - Team Social – if there is a team social it will be announced and your team can sign up to participate if you want.
- Matches will end around 7 pm (ish) – pits will close at 8 pm.
Please have your entire team out of the pits by 8 pm.
 - Teams typically spend time back at their hotel going over their scouting data, thinking about who to pick, how to get picked, etc. for playoffs.

Day 1 - continued

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Please have your entire team out of the pits by 8 pm.
 - Teams typically spend time back at their hotel going over their scouting data, thinking about who to pick, how to get picked, etc. for playoffs.
 - You need to remove EVERYTHING from the stands that you brought with you. Again, no saving seats.

Day 2

- Doors for teams open at 8 am – reminder that you are not guaranteed the same seats as day 1.
- Matches will begin earlier – there will be abbreviated opening ceremonies.
- Your team needs to be out talking to other teams, making the case for why you should be picked. If it looks like you will be an alliance captain, you need to be ready to know who you will select. Have back up plans for your two picks. Other teams will be coming to you trying to sell themselves. Be GP and give them a chance.
- Every team will need to have one student representative prepared to represent the team during the Alliance Selection process. Announcements will start on the field and in the pits as we get close to the end of qualifications. Alliance selection will take place immediately following the last qualification match.

Day 2 - continued

- Alliance Selections
 - The top 8 teams will be placed on the field (one rep from each team.) The order will be 1 thru 8, then 8 thru 1.
 - If 1 picks another team in the top 8, then the 9th ranked team will become the 8th seed alliance captain, etc. If you are in the top 12 or 13, it is possible you could become an alliance captain. Be ready!
 - There is only one rule in alliance selections. If a team declines an invitation to be picked, then they cannot be picked by anyone else. Example – If #1 picks #4 and #4 declines the invitation, then #2 and #3 cannot pick #4. #4 has chosen at that point to be an alliance captain. Understand the point system...it may be more advantageous to be an alliance captain for points than to be picked for another alliance. Also, you may decide that you have a better chance of winning with another team. It isn't personal, it's robots.
 - As soon as alliance selections are done the next 4 highest ranked teams NOT picked need to stay ready in case they are needed as alternates. Otherwise, you may eat lunch and pack up your pits.

Award Notes

- If there is only one rookie team at an event, the judges can decide to NOT award any rookie awards.
- Rookie All Start automatically qualifies your team for state, but not necessarily your robot. If your team is not in the top 32 in points, then the team will attend state to be interviewed for the Rookie All Star Award. However, if you win the Rookie All Start Award at State the entire team AND the robot will advance to the world championship.
- As a rookie team, you start the season with 10 points. 2nd year teams get 5, veterans get 0.

<https://frc-events.firstinspires.org/2020/district/IN#rankings>

Places at Events

- The field – this is where it all happens!
- The pits – Each team will have a 10 x 10 pit. Make sure to read the rules on what is allowed and NOT allowed in the pits.
- Pit Admin – Have a question, need to borrow a tool, need a part, etc. come to pit admin and we'll make an announcement and you will get the help you need. Pit Admin will be making regular announcements, please try to pay attention.
- Spare Parts – usually at pit admin. This has TONS of things you can have or borrow.
- Judging rooms – there will be signs indicating where these are. If you are presenting for an award or interviewing for Dean's List, you will want to know where these are.
- Scholarship Row – Each event will have scholarship providers. Make sure your students take part in the scavenger hunt and meet the providers. Lots of swag and give-a-aways.

Places at Events

- Queuing - This is the area where your drive team will need to be “on deck” for your upcoming matches. Please watch the match schedule closely and be sure to queue early. This helps us keep matches running on time.
 - If your robot has a failure and can’t compete in a match, you still need to send student representatives out to the field. Failure to do so could result in a red card for your team. That will mean a score of ZERO for you.
- The stands – Each event will have a designated area(s) for teams to sit. There is only one rule with regards to seating. No saving seats at FIRST events. Please be gracious, especially on day two when playoffs begin, that is when we are at our fullest!
- Emergency gathering spot - make sure your team designates an emergency gathering spot outside the building in case of evacuation.

People to Know

- FTA – FIRST Technical Advisor – They are in charge of keeping the field running smoothly and in accordance with FIRST requirements.
- CSA – Control System Advisor – Having an issue communicating with your robot? Is your control system not working? The CSA can help!
- Referees / Head Ref – The head referee is the one your students will communicate directly with if there is a question about a call, lack of call, etc. There is a question box on the scoring side of the field. ONLY students may go to the question box and ask the head referee for clarification.

People to Know

- Judges – Judges will be wearing blue polos, except for the safety judges, they will wear red. You won't know what awards the judges are assigned to, so please don't ask. Be ready to answer their questions, share your stories. Try to always have a student in the pits, even when your team is out to compete.
- Volunteers – There will be roughly 120 volunteers at our events. Please be VERY kind, friendly, and gracious with our amazing volunteers. If you see someone in a volunteer shirt...Thank them!
- Other Teams – Remember, your best resource in FIRST is other teams! They can help you with just about ANYTHING. When in doubt...find a veteran team and ask for help!

People to Know

- Media Team – Do you have a student or students interested in photography, videography, etc? Have them joining the FIRST Indiana Media team at each event. They will get media badges and get to go close up to the field for pictures, video, etc. They will get to help create the wrap up video for each event and other videos that they are asked to make. Be listening for announcements and look for signs pointing to the media room.
- Judge Advisor – This person is in charge of the judges and coordinating their work during the competition.
- Me – At events, my role is to support teams. Please find me with any questions you may have. I cannot, however answer or help with rules or awards. Referees and Judges deal with those.

Friendly Reminders

- No wifi hotspots – please remind your students, parents, mentors, etc. to shut off wifi hotspots. These can cause issues with our field and other teams ability to connect to robots.
- No fundraising at FRC events. We want to learn about your team, see all the great things you are up to, but please don't sell anything or fundraise at the events.
- Invite friends, family, teachers, principals, superintendents, school board members, mayors, legislators, chamber of commerce, and anyone else from your community.
- Press Release your local media afterwards about any awards you won, how you did, etc.
- Peanut Allergies – we have students, mentors, and volunteers with peanut allergies. Please be respectful of this and don't bring anything with peanuts. We can not, however guarantee a 100% nut free atmosphere, because our events are open to the public.

Friendly Reminders

- The state championship has an additional registration fee. \$4,000. Your team may be eligible for advancement support from a sponsor. If not, you all should be fundraising for this.
- The World Championship has a \$5,000 registration fee. There will be some advancement support, but not necessarily the entire amount.
- It is recommended that you start looking into charter buses now, getting approval to be gone. Load in will be Wednesday April 29th. Competition will be Thursday 30th through Saturday May 2nd. You will get home late Saturday evening.

**Thanks! and May the Force
be with you!**

Chris Osborne