

9/24/2020

Hello FIRST Indiana Robotics Community,

As announced by Governor Holcomb on Wednesday, Indiana is moving to reopening plan Stage 5. [Click here to learn more about Stage 5 and what this update entails for Indiana](#). We are cautiously optimistic about this announcement and the opportunities we may have to conduct smaller-scaled, in-person events later in the spring. FIRST Indiana Robotics is committed to following the guidelines presented by the Governor's Office, the Indiana Department of Education, the Center for Disease Control, and the Indiana State Department of Health. We encourage our teams to follow these guidelines when planning team meetings. We will be working diligently in each of our communities to overcome challenges and identify solutions on opportunities related to hosting events. As always, the safety of the students, mentors, families, and volunteers is our top concern as an organization.

**FIRST Headquarters provided an important update regarding the FRC season on September 24th, click here to view.** FIRST Indiana Robotics is pleased to see the reduction in team registration to \$2,000 for veterans and \$3,000 for rookie teams which includes access to FIRST Choice, an appropriately adjusted virtual and physical kit of parts, and the expansion of online or remote activities for teams. These activities include the Game Design Challenge, Innovation Challenge, & INFINITE RECHARGE at Home engagement. This is an advantage for teams around the world to continue to participate in the FIRST Robotics Competition program while there are varying responses to the pandemic in terms of the ability to hold events as well as a team's ability to travel and attend events.

We would like to encourage our FRC Teams to register for the season in order to have access to these remote activities. As a reminder, [grant opportunities are available for our FIRST teams and the deadline to submit the grant has been adjusted to November 1st](#) to allow time for teams to submit their information. In regards to the teams who have already submitted their grant application, thank you! We appreciate your patience during this new process and while we work with FIRST Headquarters on the new season timelines. We will continue to keep you updated on adjustments as they are made.

We welcome the Indiana community's help as we continue our FRC event planning process. Our FRC Competition Committee is exploring venue options for FRC events to prepare to evaluate in-person gameplay in January in partnership with FIRST Headquarters. As an organization, FIN recognizes the ever-changing landscape of this current pandemic and understands the importance of evaluating the conditions of a specific region on a case-by-case basis when determining if gameplay is possible this spring.

In order to prepare for the opportunity to have local, in-person gameplay, FIN is looking for venues available in strategic locations across the state that would accommodate multiple, single-day events. Ideally, we would be able to set-up a field once, leave it up over at least two weekends, and hold multiple single-day events in the same location. This would require approximately 15,000 sq. ft. (or more if possible), access to the internet, electricity, and restrooms.

If you have suggestions on venues, leads on real estate agents who work with warehouses, or access to a large, open, well-ventilated barn with plenty of parking- please send a message to [info@indianafirst.org](mailto:info@indianafirst.org) and we'll connect you with our competition committee for more detailed specifications.

Based on recommended social distancing guidelines, we expect the events would scale appropriately for a smaller group of people to attend in-person. While the events may look different (i.e. single-day events, reducing the number of teams and team members attending, making judging entirely remote, eliminating spectators, not having bleachers, requiring PPE in the venue, etc.) FIN is committed to providing the best experience possible to our teams while putting participant safety first.

I am personally inviting our FRC community members to join me on Saturday, September 26th from 10am - 11am ET (9am - 10am CT) for an informal Q&A session. You are welcome to bring your own breakfast and cup of coffee or orange juice to enjoy as we compile a list of questions. Please RSVP here:

We will be hosting a FIN Town hall - FRC Focused on

Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> 10am – 11am ET (9am-10am CT). Please RSVP here: <http://bit.ly/FINTownHallSaturday>

Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> 7pm - 8pm ET (6pm - 7pm CT). Please RSVP here: <http://bit.ly/FINTownHallTuesday>

Read the full announcement from **FIRST** HQ: <http://bit.ly/2021FRCNews>

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Renee Becker-Blau'.

Renee Becker-Blau  
President of FIRST Indiana Robotics  
414-704-1415  
[rbeckerblau@indianafirst.org](mailto:rbeckerblau@indianafirst.org)