

Florida FLL Pre-Qual Registration Opens 1001

10/102014

Registration for Florida Pre-Qualifying tournaments opens at 8am EDT tomorrow (Wed 10/1) at <http://flrobotics.org/tournaments/default.html> READ the instructions and then follow the link at the bottom of the page. (YOU CANNOT register for a Florida Tournament on the FLL TIMS website.)

DO NOT ask me questions before you read the page.

TODAY: Check your TEAM SUMMARY page on TIMS (<https://my.usfirst.org/fll/tims/site.lasso>) to verify two coaches are assigned and cleared and that you have a permanent team number (5 digits or less) indicating your team has paid registration.

Review the Tournament Schedule (at the top of the Tournament page at the above link) to choose the Pre-Qual tournament you are interested in so you are ready for registration. Make sure your team will be available on the date selected.

WHY GO TO A PRE-QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT: Since a Pre-Qualifying Tournament does not give you a chance to advance to a Regional tournament, you may be asking why do it. If your team is a new team or if you have a lot of students that haven't been on an FLL team in the past, it is particularly important for them to go to a competition to see what is expected and for the team to have the experience of working as a team. Laura says you go to your first tournament with a bunch of kids but come home with a team! You will also have an opportunity to see your team in the judging rooms and a chance to hear from the judges after the team leaves about ways they can improve before the next tournament. The team will also get ideas from other teams on improving their robot design and strategy for earning points.

There are a limited number of Pre-Qualifying Tournaments around the state, so don't pass up the chance for this early competition. Now you're thinking, "I don't think my team will be ready" If they can complete even one in November, they are ready. It is usually the coach that thinks they aren't ready! The competition will also spark them into action to get better.

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