

9/10/2014

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Tournament Policy Change

Florida has been operating outside of the FIRST standards in allowing teams to compete twice at the qualifying level. That is changed this season. To meet the FIRST Global Standard, each team will only be allowed to compete for a region bid and awards at their first Qualifying tournament.

You can still play at more than one tournament, but the second time will be for "fun" -- your team won't be eligible for any awards and your team won't be eligible for a region bid. We are attempting to add some pre-qualifying tournaments to the schedule to allow teams (particularly rookies or teams with quite a few new members) an opportunity to experience the competition environment before they go to their "official" qualifying tournament.

Qualifying tournaments are being held between 12/6 /2014 and 1/17/2015. Registration for these tournaments will be available between 10/15 and 10/30. All registration will be on our website, www.flrobotics.org. The preliminary schedule of tournaments will be posted on 9/14 but may have events added later to accommodate an increased number of teams. Registration fee for a qualifying tournament is \$75.00 with payment going to the host school. Teams are encouraged to register early to ensure an opportunity to compete at a tournament near them on the date they are interested in. While we will assure that every team will be able to find a slot if they register by 10/30, we cannot guarantee date or location.

We have done our best at assuring there are tournaments in your area, but you may have to select a 12/6 or 12/13 date to find a location near you. Not everyone can compete on 1/10 or 1/17. We don't have the resources to provide enough tournaments on 2 weekends for everyone. Due to a lack of tournament hosts in the Central Florida area, a number of teams will have to travel to Brevard County where we have extra capacity.

If you have questions about the FLL Global Standards for Tournaments, you can email FIRST at fljudge@usfirst.org

Pre-Qualifying Tournament Hosts needed

We believe it is in the interest of teams to compete twice. To provide for that, we are trying to add Pre-Qualifying Tournaments (PQ) to our schedule during the month of November. Registration fees for these events will be \$50. Teams will receive participant pins and will compete for non-qualifying awards. Judging will be the similar to a Qualifying tournament. Unfortunately, we have very few PQ tournament hosts who have volunteered to host an event. If you/your school would like to host and event, contact Judy Kersey at judy.kersey@swe.org

Florida FLL Kickoff

Kickoff is scheduled for Saturday, 9/13 at Merritt Island High School Auditorium. You can still attend with your team and parents if you haven't registered (but no free coach polo). We have plenty of room, so no need to pre-register now or change your head count. Laura will be reviewing the game rules and missions and our competition process in Florida. Amanda will be going over the Research Project and what is expected. Power point charts will be posted after the event, but the explanation of the missions and rules will not be available online. We will be emailing some handouts in advance for registered teams so you can print them for your parents/team members. Since we are expecting about 800 or more people to attend, we will not be printing handouts for everyone.

Florida FLL Tournaments and more 0910

Doors open for the event 30 minutes before the presentation -- open at 9:00 for the 9:30am program and at 12:00 noon for the 12:30pm presentation. We will have an EV3 for demonstration purposes for those teams still using the NXT. We will also have a Field setup in the foyer for teams to inspect if you haven't built your own.

Robot Game Updates

Be sure to check the Robot Game Updates frequently. Their may be corrections or clarifications to the rules. It is important to stay up to date on these changes. GO to CHALLENGE UPDATES

Field Setup updates

Don't forget to update the revised instructions for the Engagement Model if you downloaded your instructions early. If you built your set early, the only change is in step 30 to change the actuating arms from four arms to two arms.

Also, if you haven't built your field setup yet, be sure to inventory the bags before you start building so you can get a replacement if you are missing a bag.

Field Setup Bag Inventory:

3 Bag 1 3 Bag 5 1 Bag 8
4 Bag 2 3 Bag 6 2 Bag 9
5 Bag 3 2 Bag 7 2 Bag 10
3 Bag 4 2 Un-numbered Bags

Several people have reported problems with missing pieces. To get pieces replaced that are missing. If you have a bag missing, You will have to describe some unique parts in the missing bag or some parts in the bags you have. Call LEGO at 800-835-4386. Don't select the number for missing parts. Stay on hold for a customer service rep. They will need the set number: 45800. It takes 7-10 days to get a replacement. For missing parts (not a whole bag) you can follow the instructions in the Coach's Manual, page iii.