

Email 11062014

Tournament Preparations

Tournaments are beginning this weekend so now is a good time to be sure you have updated your TIMS account for the team. You can update your team name but more importantly, you should be inviting parents to register their child on your team and complete the consent form.

You **MUST** print a copy of the roster from your TIMS account to bring to any tournament. Any team member that does not show up on the roster with an online consent form should be hand written into the roster and then a signed consent form submitted when you check in for the tournament.

I have posted new TIMS USER GUIDES for coaches and parents that explains the process of entering the students into your roster, getting the consent forms, etc. These are available on the Tournament page in the right hand column. Go to <http://flrobotics.org/tournaments/> to find the link.

If you haven't registered for a tournament yet, now is the time to do it. All Florida tournaments are registered on the above page. If you have registered for a tournament, assignments are posted on the Tournament Assignment page. Be sure to find which ones you have registered for and send in the registration payment. We have wait lists for several tournaments so to keep your slot, be sure to send your payment in. Failure to pay for a Pre-Qualifying tournament can result in losing your slot in the Qualifying tournament. Invoices for the tournaments are also accessed from the Tournaments page. Payments are made to the host school, so download the Invoice to get the details on where the payment goes.

Also needed for the tournament is your Team Info sheet -- 4 copies with a team photo, preferably in team shirts or costumes from your project presentation if applicable. These should be turned in a checkin.

Before you go, a good check on your research project is to download and fill out the Research Project checklist and the Robot Inspection sheet, both available on the Coaches Corner page of the website: <http://flrobotics.org/coaches/> These two checklists will help ensure you have completed all the required elements of the research project and have a legal robot. Remember, only LEGO elements are allowed on your robot. Third party manufactured elements not allowed. They may be cheaper, easier to get and meet some special need but they aren't allowed!

Don't forget to read the latest Robot Game Update.

After your Pre-Qualifier, if you got an award or even Champion, remember, when you go to a Qualifying tournament, all the teams will have had time to improve their robot and research project, so don't rest on your laurels. You still have plenty of work to do.

If you didn't register for a Pre-Qualifier, all of the events are open for spectators. It would be a great opportunity for your team to see what other teams have done so encourage your team members to attend the Pre-Qualifier in their area. Most events start robot runs around 9:15 and finish up around 2:30, so drop in, watch some runs, visit with some of the teams. This would be good for teams who got a late start and aren't sure of what it's all about to see a tournament in action. Dates and addresses are included in the Tournament Schedule available from the Florida FLL Tournament page.

All the web references are linked from the Tournament page at to <http://flrobotics.org/tournaments/> We're still registering so if you haven't signed up for a tournament, now is the time to do it.

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