

FIRST 2025

CHAMPIONSHIP

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FIRST TECH CHALLENGE EVENT GUIDE

Updated 2.10.25

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Before the *FIRST* Championship Event

This document has been put together to cover *FIRST* Tech Challenge specific information for the *FIRST* Championship. Please make sure to read [Section 15 in the Competition Manual](#) and the [last update of the Team Updates](#). Please read the [FIRST Event Guide](#) for event-wide information.

Check-In

Early Team Check-In is Tuesday, April 15, 3:00-6:00pm. Your team may also check in on Wednesday, April 16 from 7:30am to 10:00am. **All teams must be checked in by 10:00am on Wednesday.**

When teams check in, they will receive their team packet which contains their judging and inspection appointment schedule, driver and coach buttons, team schedules, event information, and media passes. To complete check-in, teams will need to send an adult to the registration desk (on the first floor or on the third floor near Pit Admin in the *FIRST* Tech

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Challenge Pit Area). Coaches should bring their ID so they can get the team badges printed. Team members will need official team badges to access most areas of the event. Please register all your team members before the event to speed up your registration and check in process on site.

Drivers' Meeting

Wednesday, April 16 at 3:00pm on the *FIRST* Tech Challenge Competition Fields. Teams should assemble in the stands. Drive teams should assemble in the center section of the Edison and Ochoa field stands. We ask non drive team members to please sit on the Jemison and Franklin stands side.

Inspection

Wednesday, April 16

You will receive your inspection and judging appointment schedule via email a few days before the event. You will also receive your inspection and judging appointment schedule on site when you check in at Pit Admin.

Robot Hardware Inspection will take place in your team's pit area. Field Inspection will take place on our competition fields.

Appointment times for field and robot inspection appointments are non-negotiable. The inspectors often spot problems and provide suggestions for correction. Your robot must pass inspection before it can compete in matches.

Please be sure that your robot follows the Robot Rules outlined in the [Competition Manual in Section 12 Robot Construction Rules](#). Please review the [Inspection Checklist](#) before this event.

Judging

Wednesday, April 16

You will receive your inspection and judging appointment schedule via email a few days before the event. You will also receive your inspection and judging appointment schedule on site when you check in at Pit Admin.

Please arrive early to your judging appointment. Please bring your printed portfolio, and robot to your judging appointment with your team. Please note that there is no power available in the judging rooms. Teams may not prerecord their 5-minute presentation. Teams should review the judging process and criteria in [Section 6 Awards, in the Competition Manual](#) prior to their judging appointment. If your team requires accommodation for judging, please email ftcteams@firstinspires.org and use the Subject Line: Judging Accommodations.

Load In & Load Out

Information coming soon.

Match Play

Please see the official team schedule for match times. The official team schedule will be generated before the Drivers' Meeting.

Drive Team Badges

Each team will receive Drive Team buttons in their team registration packet. Please wear the buttons in a visible location above the waist so referees, judges, and queuers can see it. These buttons will allow the wearers access to the playing

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field and designate one coach button, two driver buttons, and one human player button. [These roles are outlined in the Competition Manual, Section 10.2 Drive Team.](#)

Scoring Questions

All questions about a match or scores must be brought forward to the Referees by using the division specific Question Box located in the competition area. [Section 13.4 of the Competition Manual](#) lists specific rules and guidelines regarding the question box. Referees are not permitted to review video replays or images of matches.

Media

Each team registration packet will contain one team media badge and a copy of the media guidelines. The media representative for a team will be permitted in the designated media access areas only during their team's matches.

Team media representatives are not permitted in any private venues, VIP, volunteer, or judge's areas, or the *FIRST* Media Center for professional members of the media. Mascots will not be recognized as an official team media person unless they are wearing a media badge. There is no special access for media badge holders for final matches.

Pits

Each team is allocated a 10 foot by 10 foot by 10 foot by 10-foot (3.05 x 3.05 x 3.05 x 3.05 meter) pit space. Extending beyond your pit space is not allowed and you must set up your pit within your pit area (using the aisles is not allowed). Each pit area will be provided with one six-foot table but will not be provided with chairs. Each pit will have access to one electrical outlet in a dual outlet box. Teams should know they get one outlet and should bring a powerstrip that doesn't infringe on the other team's access to the outlet box.

Aisles must be kept clear for robot movement, safety, and queueing, so we suggest that team members watch the matches and cheer on the teams at the fields instead of overflowing the pit stations and congregating in the aisles.

There is a 10-foot (3.05 meter) height limit. Structures, signage, or banners cannot be higher than ten feet above the floor. Do not build any structure that supports people or stores items above the work area/pit space. If the height exceeds 10 feet, you will be asked to take it down. No advance placement requests are available. Positioning is numerical by division. No requests for displays, additional tables, pit locations, division assignments, meeting rooms, or additional space will be considered. [Pit information is outlined in detail in Section 5.5 of the Competition Manual.](#)

Please remember that everyone will be required to wear safety glasses in the pit area. [This is outlined in the Competition Manual, section 5.1 General Rules.](#)

Announcements

Parts requests will be grouped together and announced every 30 minutes. To submit a request, write your division, team number, and needed part on a piece of paper and give it to the Pit Manager. Additional announcements will be made at half-hour intervals as well. Personal and irrelevant announcements will not be made.

Queueing

Teams are responsible for knowing their match schedule and must queue up before their matches without an announcer's help. For qualification matches, *FIRST* will make every effort to keep close to the published schedules. Keep a close watch of the pit display for any moment-to-moment changes. If your team is one of the first eight matches of the day, queue early enough to be on the field before the competition begins.

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Playing Fields

All playing fields are assembled and set up as described in the [Competition Manual](#) and the [AndyMark Field Assembly and Setup Guide](#) with the following *FIRST* Tech Challenge approved setup options:

- Foam Tiles: To reduce electrostatic buildup, heavy duty Staticide is applied to the playing field foam tiles.
- Playing Field Walls: AndyMark playing field walls are used.
- Practice Playing Fields: AndyMark playing field walls are used and are not secured to the floor.
- Playing fields are split-up by division: Edison, Ochoa, Franklin and Jemison.

We will also utilize a compliance check-list.

Competition Fields

There are eight competition fields, two per division.

Setup: The playing fields, driver stations, and driver station stands are located on raised stages with a painted plywood decking. The decking is not guaranteed to have a uniform texture.

Access: Team access to competition playing fields is restricted to: a) scheduled field inspection appointments, b) scheduled qualification matches, and c) daily robot sensor calibration opportunities specified on the *FIRST* Tech Challenge team schedule.

Power: North American standard 3-prong (NEMA 5-15 Type B) power strip outlets are available to teams at the queueing tables. Drive teams do not have access to venue supplied power at the competition playing fields.

Safety: Procedures for safe entry and exit from the raised platforms are in effect. These procedures are described in the pre-event online Coach Meeting, during Field Inspection and the onsite Drivers' Meeting. Safety glasses and shoes with a closed toe and closed back are required at all competition playing field spaces. [This is outlined in the Competition Manual, section 5.1 General Rules.](#)

Practice Playing Fields

There are ten practice fields.

Setup: Practice playing fields are assembled on the concrete venue floors.

Access: The practice playing fields are operational during normal Pit hours on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. On Saturday, all ten practice playing fields are open from 7:30 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. After 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, six practice playing fields are available until 1:00 p.m.

Miscellaneous: Wi-fi, power, and driver station stands are not provided at the practice fields.

Safety: Safety glasses and shoes with a closed toe and closed back are required at all practice field locations. Safety glasses and shoes with a closed toe and closed back are required at all competition playing field spaces. [This is outlined in the Competition Manual, section 5.1 General Rules.](#)

Portfolio

Teams must bring their portfolio to their scheduled judging appointment. Please read [the Competition Manual](#) for portfolio requirements. Portfolios will be returned to Pit Admin on Friday afternoon for team pickup.

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Robot Help Desk

FIRST Tech Challenge will have a Robot Help Desk at Tuesday Team Check-In from 3:00pm-6:00pm to help any teams with robots that might have been damaged while traveling. Please see the Pit Admin desk for assistance.

Robot Service Booths

The robot service booths are in the *FIRST* Tech Challenge pit area. These booths are an opportunity for you to seek technical help, spare parts, or assistance with repairs from our vendors including AndyMark, goBILDA Pitsco, REV Robotics, and Studica. We encourage all teams to check out their booths and thank them for their support.

Shipping

The George R. Brown Convention Center cannot accept shipments directly. Teams will need to make their own shipping accommodations.

Virtual Coaches Meeting

FIRST Tech Challenge will be hosting a Virtual Coaches Meeting for all our coaches attending *FIRST* Tech Challenge *FIRST* Championship. The webinar will be on Wednesday, April 9 at 8:00pm ET. If your team coaches are unable to attend the webinar, it will be recorded and made available on our website. [Register for the webinar here](#). We encourage teams to submit their questions in advance, by emailing ftcteams@firstinspires.org, with the subject line "Virtual Coaches Meeting."