

# **FIRST** 2026 **CHAMPIONSHIP**

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## **FIRST**<sup>®</sup> ROBOTICS COMPETITION EVENT GUIDE ADDENDUM

Updated 4.8.26

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# **FIRST** 2026 **CHAMPIONSHIP**

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## Welcome to the **FIRST**® Championship presented by BAE Systems

The 2026 **FIRST**® Championship presented by BAE Systems will bring together 600 teams and thousands of students from around the world for the ultimate celebration of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and innovation.

Teams may also reference the [FIRST® Robotics Competition FIRST Championship webpage](#) for similar information in addition to layouts and eventually pit locations (once assigned). The webpage will be updated as soon as information is available, while this document is updated every few weeks and may not have last-minute updates.

**Please reference [this webpage](#) for final details and timing.**

Teams are required to follow all Event Rules (found in [Section 14 of the Game Manual](#)) at **FIRST** Championship. This guide contains helpful information, but if you have additional questions or concerns, please contact us at [customerservice@firstinspires.org](mailto:customerservice@firstinspires.org). Please also reference the [FIRST Championship Event Guide](#) for info that is applicable to all attendees such as information about badging, Conferences, Innovation Faire, and more!

## Accessibility

### Accessible Seating

Accessible seating is available for all fields. If your team needs accessible seating, please indicate this when you register for badging to help us with planning. There will be space for the person in need plus up to 3 additional members from their team. Due to space constraints, most of the team will need to sit in the reserved stands behind the accessible seating on the lobby side. If a student is the one in need, we ask that at least 1 adult sit in the reserved area.

Please be aware that anyone sitting in the Accessible Seating area must wear safety glasses and closed-toe shoes. Please see a volunteer for directions to seating.

Please see the [Einstein Tournament](#) section for information on Accessible Seating during Einstein.

### Accessible Restrooms

Single stall restrooms are available at the George R. Brown Convention Center (GRB). Locations of these restrooms can be found on the **FIRST** Championship map located in the **FIRST** Championship App or in the layouts on the [FIRST® Robotics Competition FIRST Championship webpage](#).

### Lactation Pods

Two [Mamava lactation pods](#) are conveniently located on the North and South side of Mezzanine Level 2. Nursing parents can access these private, clean, and comfortable spaces to breastfeed or pump using the [free Mamava app](#) available on the Apple iOS Store or Google Play Store.

### Quiet Room

A Quiet Room is available for those participants who need a decreased noise space. The Quiet Room is located on Level 3 of the George R. Brown Convention Center, room 362CF. If you would like to donate items (things like playing cards, board games, stress balls, puzzles) for the room, please bring them to the room. The Quiet Room is open Wednesday – Saturday 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

### Prayer Room

There will be two prayer rooms available for anyone wishing to observe religious practice onsite during event hours. These rooms are located across the skybridge in the Marriott Marquis Hotel; Montgomery A&B.

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## Alliance Selection

Alliance Selection takes place on each Division Field on Saturday from ~7:15 AM - 7:45 AM. Each team needs to send at least 1 representative to the floor in front of their Division Field before the start of Alliance Selection. Alliances are comprised of 4 teams. More information about Alliance Selection can be found in the [Game and Season Manual](#).

## Badging & Hotels

All teams traveling to *FIRST* Championship will be required to book their housing accommodations within those designated hotel blocks. Upon qualification for the 2026 *FIRST* Championship, teams will receive an email from ConferenceDirect to begin the process to book their event housing.

Find more details including available hotels on the [FIRST Championship Event Housing webpage](#).

## Buttons (Drive Team, Media)

Each team receives 6 Drive Team buttons in its registration packet. Replacements are not available. These buttons allow the wearers access to specific areas or help designate them as a point of contact for that team:

- 1 Coach
- 3 Drive Team Members
- 1 Technician
- 1 Media

## Safety Captain Buttons

Teams are able to request a Safety Captain Button from Pit Admin. Safety Captain Buttons do not provide any additional access.

## Pit Crew Buttons for Playoff Rounds:

During the playoff rounds, extra team members are often needed to move the team robot from the pit station to the queuing area and playing field. Each team on an Alliance can have 3 additional Pit Crew members to help with necessary robot repairs and maintenance. These buttons provide access to the field. These Pit Crew members must stay with the team and robot in queue, and during matches they may stay with the team's robot cart in the cart box with the technician.

*FIRST* distributes the buttons to Alliance Captains during the alliance selection process on the Division Fields. Each Alliance Captain must set a logistics plan for button distribution prior to the pairings to distribute the buttons to the Pit Crew members.

## Media Button

Each team receives 1 non-transferable Team Media button and related instructions/caveats in its registration packet.

Media representatives are permitted in designated media access boxes around the playing field only during their team's Qualification and Division Playoff Matches. Team Media are not permitted on the actual playing field surface, in areas marked off for human players, in any private venues or VIP/Volunteer areas, or the *FIRST* Media Center. For more details on Media Button access, read the *FIRST*® Robotics Competition Team Media Guidelines found at Pit Admin.

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## Division Fields

### Field Measurement & Robot Sensor Calibration and Connection Test

This time is reserved for teams who want to measure the field and to allow teams to calibrate sensors and test their connection to the official competition playing fields.

Event	Date	Time	Where
Field Measurement & Robot Sensor Calibration and Connection Test	Wednesday	12:00 PM – 4:00 PM	All Division Fields
Field Measurement & Robot Sensor Calibration and Connection Test	Thursday	7:15 AM – 7:45 AM	All Division Fields

### Match Play

See the official match schedule on [FRC-events](#) for exact times for each match.

Event	Date	Time	Where
Practice Matches	Wednesday	5:00 PM – 7:00 PM	All Division Fields
Qualification Matches	Thursday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	All Division Fields
Qualification Matches	Friday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	All Division Fields
Division Playoff Matches	Saturday	8:30 AM – 12:00 PM	All Division Fields
Einstein Playoff Matches	Saturday	2:00 PM – 6:30 PM	Einstein Fields

## Drivers' Meeting

Every event hosts a Drivers' Meeting as a way for Key Volunteers to introduce themselves to the Drive Teams and cover event procedures and is a time for teams to ask questions to the Head Referee or *FIRST* Technical Advisor. Teams can find the submission form at Pit Admin and questions must be submitted in advance to Pit Admin by 3:30 PM.

Event	Date	Time	Where
Drivers' Meeting	Wednesday	4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Galileo Field - Drivers report to the stands

## Einstein Tournament

The 8 Division winning alliances are known as Division Champions. These teams compete in the Einstein Tournament. The tournament will be a Double Elimination Tournament as described in Section 13.4 of the [Game Manual](#).

### Einstein Field Access

Beginning at 1:00 PM on Saturday, additional security measures are in place for the Einstein fields. Anyone within the area without proper access will be asked to leave. Immediately following Division Playoff Matches, Division winning alliance drive teams and robots need to report to the Einstein Mass & Energy fields (Galileo & Johnson Fields). A special access badge is issued to teams.

Due to space constraints and limitations, Team Media are not allowed on the field before or during Einstein Matches.

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Within the Einstein area, accessible seating will be restricted to only the person in need + one friend and is limited to first come, first served. Those who do get seats within the Einstein area will be given a wristband. Those who are in need may report to one of the designated entrances (*location coming soon*) to receive a wristband for access starting at 1:00 PM.

Outside of the Einstein Area, teams who need accessible seating may use additional accessible bleachers on each field.

## **Einstein Tournament Competing Teams Seating Area**

When the Division alliance winners are announced, each team receives 40 wristbands to designate special seating for the Einstein Tournament. Division Champion alliance teams are seated in reserved bleachers (*location coming soon*). Teams obtain the wristbands from the field Volunteer Coordinator. Please arrive at reserved seats no later than 1:45 PM. *Note: any open areas in the bleachers after 2:00 PM become open to the public for seating.*

Beginning at 12:30 PM on Saturday (or at the conclusion of the Division Playoffs Matches), we will be clearing the lobby side bleachers – (*location coming soon*) – of all spectators and team members. Anyone sitting in these sections will be asked to move. These sections are reserved teams competing in Einstein Tournament and **FIRST**® Impact Award Finalists.

## **FIRST Impact Award Finalist Seating Area**

The 6 **FIRST** Impact Award Finalist teams receive 40 wristbands for team members to sit in reserved audience sections (*location coming soon*) during the Einstein Playoff Matches & Closing Celebration.

## **Health and Safety**

All children under 12 must always be accompanied by an adult in the Pit area. Be aware of apparel and hair safety issues while working on your robot. Sandals, open-toed shoes, and Crocs are not allowed in the Pits, fields, or other teamwork areas. Wear relaxed, fun and appropriate clothing; remember, you represent your team and **FIRST**.

## **Enhanced Security Measures**

As part of our continued commitment to attendee safety, each year we re-evaluate the safety measures we instate at the **FIRST** Championship. The perimeter of the screening area is expanded this year to include parts of Discovery Green and Avenidas de las Americas. Security entrances will all be located at these outdoor perimeters, along with the previous GRB/Hotel walkway entrances. There will be metal detection screening at all event entrances. For any attendee that does alert when going through the detectors, they will then move to a secondary screening line. We expect this process to be similar in entry time as our previous process.

Additionally, we will be using canine dog teams during team load in for vehicle screening at the loading docks.

These enhanced security measures are part of our ongoing commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment. Please make sure that you read through the prohibited items list (found in the [FIRST Championship Event Guide](#)) and follow the directions of event staff to assist in a quicker entry and thank you for your cooperation in making this event a great experience for everyone!

## **Mascots**

Please keep safety in mind and make sure that mascot and team costumes are safe for the wearer as to vision and movement and are comfortable and cool enough to prevent fainting and dehydration. Mascots are not allowed on the playing field.

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## Medical Incidents

FIRST requires that physical injuries and medical problems, however slight, be documented and reported to the party conducting the event or their designee and to FIRST within 48 hours of the occurrence. Medical incidents can be reported electronically from any Wi-Fi enabled device using the Medical Incident Form on the [FIRST Reporting Portal](#). Pit Admins also have tablets that can be utilized to report incidents to FIRST if needed.

## Reporting Youth Protection and Youth Safety Concerns

The Youth Protection Concern form on the [FIRST Reporting Portal](#) can be used to report concerns related to Youth Protection and Youth Safety that do not involve medical incidents or physical injuries, such as bullying, harassment or inappropriate conduct involving or impacting youth participants.

**Note:** Feedback about issues such as game play, rule changes, awards, and event management (other than medical/safety issues) are considered program related concerns and not youth protection issues and should be shared with FIRST via [customerservice@firstinspires.org](mailto:customerservice@firstinspires.org). Please note that match results and award results are final and that we will not review match videos.

## Supporting Mental Health at FIRST Championship

Taking care of your mental well-being is just as important as your team's performance on the field. If you're feeling overwhelmed, stressed, or need someone to talk to, confidential counseling services are available on-site for adults and youth participants. [The Harris Center for Mental Health](#) will provide trained counselors who will offer confidential, on-site counseling services to FIRST participants Thursday- Saturday from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

- **To Schedule an Appointment**, Scan the QR code or complete this form - [Sign Up Here](#)

Figure 1: Counseling Request QR Code



- Walk-Ins Welcome (Based on Availability)
- If you have questions, email [safety@firstinspires.org](mailto:safety@firstinspires.org).

**Note about Confidentiality:** All appointments are private, and the limited data collected via the form is used only for scheduling. It will be deleted after the event.

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## Judging & Awards

*FIRST* Robotics Competition celebrates the excitement of competition both on and off the field. Through our awards, we celebrate the *FIRST* Core Values which makes us so much #morethanrobots.

### **FIRST Impact Award Interviews**

The *FIRST* Impact Award interview schedule is posted in Pit Admin on Wednesday. *FIRST* Impact Award Interviews occur on Thursday and Friday.

There are four *FIRST* Impact Award Interview rooms on site, Rooms 380 A – D, located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the building. To avoid schedule conflicts, *FIRST* Impact Award Interviewees are not recommended to be drive team members. Swapping interview times is not encouraged, but if you must change your time, switch with a team (once you have their consent) that is assigned to the same interview room as you and notify Pit Admin. Pit Admin must approve the change and they will work with the judges to keep them apprised of changes.

Teams can reference the [Hall of Fame webpage](#) to see what other teams who have won the Championship *FIRST* Impact Award have accomplished.

### **Pit Judging**

Judges visit each pit to interview teams for the Judged Awards just like they do at local District or Regional Competitions. Judges may interview and observe teams in the Pit, on the playing field, and other areas of the event. Visit the [FIRST Robotics Competition Awards page](#) for a full description of the awards. To be eligible for any award, teams are required to follow *FIRST* Core Values, demonstrate *Gracious Professionalism*®, and implement and follow appropriate safety practices.

### **Awards Schedule**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Where</b>
Hall of Fame Flag Raising Ceremony	Wednesday	4:30 PM – 4:45 PM	Galileo Field
Volunteer of the Year Award	Friday	7:45 AM – 8:00 AM	Galileo Field
<i>FIRST</i> Leadership Award	Friday	12:00 PM – 1:00 PM *Doors open at 11:15 AM	Hilton America's Ballroom
<i>FIRST</i> Impact Award Finalist Awards	Saturday	7:15 AM	Division Fields
Division Awards	Saturday	presented during Playoffs (8:30am – 12:00pm)	Division Fields
Closing Ceremony including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodie Flowers Award</li> <li>• Championship <i>FIRST</i> Impact Award</li> <li>• Finalist</li> <li>• Winner</li> </ul>	Saturday	2:00 PM	Division Fields

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## Hall of Fame Booth

The Hall of Fame Booth honors previous *FIRST* Robotics Competition Championship Chairman's Award Winners (now called the *FIRST* Impact Award). The *FIRST* Impact Award represents the spirit of *FIRST* and remains *FIRST* Robotics Competition's most prestigious award.

The Hall of Fame Booth is part of the Innovation Faire on the second floor. The Hall of Fame Booth is open Wednesday – Friday from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM!

The Hall of Fame booth also has the *FIRST* Impact Award Clock on display for viewing. This is a great opportunity for you to interact with some of the top *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams and learn what it takes to become a Hall of Fame team!

## Local Transit Info

Be aware that there is construction occurring nearby the convention center and there may be road closures. Visit our [Local Transportation](#) section of our webpage for more details about road closures, parking options, discounted metro tickets, and more!

## Load In & Load Out (Robot Shipping)

### Robot Shipping

Teams attending the 2026 *FIRST* Championship can choose to **either** ship their robot using the FedEx voucher or hand-carry to the event.

Once you register for *FIRST* Championship, you are sent an email asking if you want to bring your robot to the event yourself or ship it via the FedEx voucher. You must select one or the other, as there will be no 'default' option. Teams can reference the [Robot Transportation page](#) for more information.

- If you opt to hand carry your robot yourself, you must bring your 1 competition robot to *FIRST* Championship along with all your other pit equipment.
- If you opt to ship your robot, we provide a FedEx shipping voucher and a ship-not-later than date. Teams must ship no later than that date or risk their robots not arriving at *FIRST* Championship in time for the event.
  - Please note that during load-in, teams can only bring in 1 tote and all other items must be brought in through the loading dock. (See Load In below for more details)
  - Teams who chose to ship their robot must follow the [Shipping Crate Instructions](#).
  - Teams may not use a FedEx Voucher for pit equipment/other non-robot items. Using a voucher in this way is considered an abuse of the donor's intent and generosity. If you are shipping using the FedEx voucher, only your robot, bumpers, and batteries may be in the crate. If you'd like to ship additional equipment, you must coordinate, ship, and pay for it on your own.

A big thanks to FedEx for once again sponsoring robot shipments to *FIRST* Championship!

### Packing for *FIRST* Championship

Please review the [Districts & Regional Events webpage](#) for suggestions on what to bring to each event.

### Load In

All teams must follow the Load-In process as outlined in the [Team Load-In Instructions](#) in order to bring materials into the Pits from their vehicles. Teams may only unload into the Loading Dock and not onto Chartres Street. Teams cannot leave vehicles unattended at any time.

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- During the Load-In timeframe for teams that shipped their robot, teams can bring in one tote (approximately Kit of Parts size), with the preference that it is hand carried. The tote must fit through a standard doorway. The tote should include all hand tools needed to open the team's crate(s) and can include a corded or cordless power drill.
  - Teams should expect that all items will be searched upon entry into the front doors of the venue and should have the tote ready to be inspected (i.e. don't have it zip-tied shut). Teams should not have items on the prohibited items list (per the [Event Rules E109](#)) in the tote. All other items must be brought in through the loading dock through the standard Load-In process.

## Load Out

All teams must follow the Load-Out processes as outlined in the [Team Load Out Instructions](#) in order to carry out materials from the Pits from their vehicles. Additionally, Load Out rules change depending on how a team's robot arrived to *FIRST* Championship.

Teams that shipped their robot to *FIRST* Championship must visit the *FIRST* Ship Desk prior to Load Out, regardless of if they are shipping their robot home or will change to Hand-Carry home. The desk is open Thursday through Saturday. If you come early, you can skip the long Saturday line!

Teams that Hand-Carry their robot to *FIRST* Championship do not need to visit the *FIRST* Ship Desk. However, these teams must still visit the Load Out Desk once ready to leave the venue. Note: Hall A Load Out Desk is located in Hall A, while Hall E Load Out Desk is located in Hall D.

Please be respectful of other teams and the public on your departure, leave your area clean and be safe. Once your team has finished competing in the matches on Saturday, have a Mentor visit the Load Out Desk in the same Hall as your team's pit. The mentor will be given an Access Code which can be given to the team vehicle's driver. The driver may then queue to the loading dock on Chartres Street, and once inside the loading dock can let the team know to bring all materials out to load. **Vehicles without access codes will not be allowed to queue.**

## Use of 53' Trailers for Load In and Load Out

Groups of teams may pool their resources to transport their pit materials and/or robot with a 53' Trailer. All groups must apply for this allowance and receive authorization to enter the Loading Dock. Unauthorized 53' Trailers will not be allowed to enter the Loading Dock – no exceptions.

Rules, guidelines, and how to apply can be found in the [Community 53' Trailer Option Information document](#).

## Use of 26' Box Trucks for Load In & Load Out

Groups of teams may pool their resources to transport their pit materials and/or robot with a 26' Box Truck. All groups must apply for this allowance and receive authorization to enter the Loading Dock. Unauthorized 26' Box Trucks will not be allowed to enter the Loading Dock – no exceptions.

Rules, guidelines, and how to apply can be found in the [26' Box Truck Option Information document](#).

## Lost and Found

Items for lost and found will be logged in at the information desk located near registration for the duration of that day. At the end of the day, the items will be delivered to building security where they will remain through the event. At the end of the event and for up to 30 days post event, please call the facility directly for missing items.

George R. Brown Convention Center

713-853-8087

[GRBinfo@houstonfirst.com](mailto:GRBinfo@houstonfirst.com)

Items lost under the bleachers: Items of extreme importance such as medication, a purse or wallet, please note where you were sitting and check in at pit administration. Pit Administration will then contact security to retrieve your lost item. For all

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other items, security will make periodic sweeps and deliver found items to the Lost and Found at the information desk where you can then retrieve your items.

Under no circumstances should anyone but security go under the bleachers.

## Meals & Breaks

Each division has been assigned a 1 hour 30-minute break for lunch on Thursday and Friday. Please see the schedule below for Thursday and Friday by field. On Saturday, all Fields break from the end of the Division Playoffs until 2:00 PM.

Divisions	Day	Lunch Break Time
Archimedes	Thursday	11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
	Friday	12:45 PM – 2:15 PM
Curie	Thursday	11:15 AM – 12:45 PM
	Friday	12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
Daly	Thursday	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
	Friday	12:15 PM – 1:45 PM
Galileo	Thursday	11:45 AM – 1:15 PM
	Friday	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
Hopper	Thursday	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
	Friday	11:45 AM – 1:15 PM
Johnson	Thursday	12:15 PM – 1:45 PM
	Friday	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Milstein	Thursday	12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
	Friday	11:15 AM – 12:45 PM
Newton	Thursday	12:45 PM – 2:15 PM
	Friday	11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

## Concessions

There are concessions located within the convention center, with many food options around the George R. Brown Convention Center as well. Local food trucks will be around Discovery Green. [View a list of nearby restaurants](#). The food kiosks at the George R Brown Convention Center are **cashless and will only accept debit and credit cards**.

## Parking

Parking is available around the George R. Brown Convention Center, see [Downtown Houston webpage](#) for more info.

## Pits

There are 2 pit areas – one located in Hall A and one located in Hall E. The following divisions have pits located in Hall A:

- Archimedes
- Curie
- Daly
- Galileo

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The following divisions have pits located in Hall E:

- Hopper
- Johnson
- Milstein
- Newton

Division Assignments will be available on this [frc-events page](#) closer to the event. Each team is provided with a designated pit space marked with their team number, where they can work on their robot. Each team's pit comes with a power outlet and a table, and the pit is 120in x 120in x 120in (3.048m x 3.048m x 3.048m). International teams should remember to bring international adapters for any power tools, etc.

Aisles must be kept clear for robot movement, safety, and queuing, so we suggest that team members watch the matches and cheer on the teams to prevent overflowing the pits and congregating in the aisles.

Safety glasses are required for all participants and any visitors in the pits and by the playing field. Teams are expected to bring safety glasses for all team members and any visitors they invite.

Food is not permitted in the Pit Areas.

## **Pit Admins**

Each Pit area has a Pit Administration area located within the Pits. The Pit Admin stations are located directly next to the playing fields within the pit area. *FIRST* staff members and/or volunteers run this area to check teams in and help answer questions from teams and visitors.

## **Pit Announcements**

Parts requests are grouped together and announced every 15 minutes. To submit a request, write your division, team number, and needed part on a piece of paper and give it to the Pit Administration staff. Additional announcements will be made at half-hour intervals. Personal and irrelevant announcements will not be made.

## **Pit Closing**

For safety purposes, be respectful of the pit closing time each day. On Saturday, only essential team members are allowed to disassemble and pack items in pits. Aisles must be kept clear for freight movement and team load out.

## **Pit Hours**

Date	Hours	Item	Notes
Wednesday	8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Team Load In	6 Team Reps Only
	12:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Pits Open	
Thursday	7:00 AM – 6:45 PM	Pits Open	
Friday	7:00 AM – 6:45 PM	Pits Open	
Saturday	6:45 AM – 2:00 PM	Pits Open	

## **Division Playoff Pits**

There will be assigned pits for Division playoff matches closer to the fields to be shared by 4 team alliances. Division Playoff Pits are 180in x 180in (4.572m x 4.572m). Alliances must work together to share the space accordingly including tools and equipment. Teams may move to these spaces immediately after Alliance Selection.

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## Practice/Test Areas

There will be 2 complete Practice Areas in each Pit area, as well as several carpeted Test Areas. The Practice/ Test Areas are open:

- Wednesday 12:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Thursday 7:15 AM – 6:15 PM
- Friday 7:15 AM – 6:15 PM
- The Practice/Test Areas are not available on Saturday.

There are no sensors in the processor and no match scoring. Please reference the *FIRST* Championship Practice/Test Area Overview (*coming soon*) that is provided in the team's registration packets.

We recognize that teams shipping their robot are at a disadvantage as they cannot work on their robot after it ships. To help level the playing field, teams that ship their robot using the FedEx voucher receive:

- a fast pass that allows the team to skip the line one time on the Test Area any day they are open.
- a fast pass that allows the teams to skip the line one time on either Practice Area any day they are open.
- **Note:** Fast passes must be used prior to one hour before the day's scheduled closing time, i.e. prior to 6:00 PM on Wednesday and prior to 5:15 PM on Thursday and Friday.

## Queuing

Teams are responsible for knowing their match times and are expected to queue 30 minutes prior to their matches without the help of an announcer. Teams need a minimum of 10 minutes to travel from their pit space to the playing fields. Please leave extra time to get back and forth between the pits and playing fields.

For qualification matches, *FIRST* will make every effort to keep close to the published schedules. Keep close watch of the pit display for any moment-to-moment changes. There will be no audio queuing.

*FIRST* will be using the [FRC Nexus](#) application at the 2026 *FIRST* Championship Event. Nexus is a web-based application, developed by Evan Forbes, and has been widely used since 2023. Nexus is not owned or managed by *FIRST*, and personal data (PII) collected by Nexus is not covered by the *FIRST* Privacy Policy. Participants should always review the privacy practices of third-party sites and applications before submitting any personal data. The [Nexus Privacy Policy](#) can be found on their website.

Nexus allows teams to sign up and receive notifications of their upcoming matches, which helps teams manage their time and makes teams aware of potential field delays.

It's important to note that while all fields will be using Nexus, it is completely optional for teams to opt-in to receive notifications. The pit displays will still be available and will show the current match and how far ahead/behind the field is running. Teams that choose to opt-in to receive notifications from Nexus are still responsible for making it to their matches on time. **Matches will not be postponed or replayed because of a delayed or missed notification from Nexus.**

## Robot Services

Robot Services covers opportunities to get support and help during the event.

## Inspection

Inspection opens at 10:00 AM on Wednesday. Each Division has an inspection station, and teams should go to the Inspection Station in their Division. Teams should start the inspection process as soon as possible to help every team get through it in a timely manner. The inspection process does not need to happen all at once and we encourage teams to

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weigh and measure their robot early in case any issues are identified. During inspection, if your inspector is unable to explain a decision or if you think there is an error, you can (and should!) ask for the Lead Robot Inspector (LRI) to assist. Robots must pass inspection prior to accessing the practice fields and competing in Qualification Matches.

## Robot Service Center

The Robot Service Center, located in the back of Halls B, C, & D, is an opportunity for you to seek and get support from Suppliers during the competition (e.g. technical help, spare parts, or assistance with repairs).

- **Electrical & Software Assistance** - Teams can request general help from Control Systems Advisors for troubleshooting software or electrical issues by submitting a request online at [www.ni.com/frcsupport](http://www.ni.com/frcsupport) or by stopping by the NI booth in the Robot Service Center. There are also representatives from REV Robotics and CTR Electronics located in the Robot Service Center that can help troubleshoot issues with specific devices.
- **Machine Shop** - There is a machine shop, sponsored by NASA, located in the back of Hall C near the Spare Parts Tables.
- **Spare Parts** - There is a spare parts table in the back of Hall C and parts are available on a limited basis.

## Team Service Center

We're thrilled to have the Team Service Center back at *FIRST* Championship again! The Team Service Center is a team-run organization with the mission to help all teams. Competing in *FIRST* Robotics Competition is hard and they are here to help teams overcome challenges and get robots back out on the field. At the *FIRST* Championship, they will be providing spare parts, tool loans, and technical assistance. Teams 254 and 1678 will manage and run the effort, with participation from selected other teams. For those familiar with CheesyCare or Citrus Service, the Team Service Center is an expanded version of these groups, scaled to better meet the needs of teams at the *FIRST* Robotics Competition Championship.

The Team Service Center will have stations at both the Hall A and Hall E pit areas. Teams seeking parts or technical support may come to the location near their pit for help. Many parts and materials will be provided free of charge. Tools will be loaned and must be returned when work is complete to allow other teams access.

The Team Service Center looks forward to assisting many teams in having a successful *FIRST* Championship!

## Schedule

Teams can reference the [Public Schedule](#) for specific timing for *FIRST* Robotics Competition. General schedules are available on the [FIRST Championship webpage](#) and in the [FIRST Championship App](#) which can be downloaded from our website, or searching "*FIRST* Championship" in the App Store.

## Team Check-in

Team's Lead Coach 1 or 2 must check-in at the Team Check In Desk in Hall C to receive their team's name badges and team Registration packet. Check-in times are Wednesday, 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

### Note:

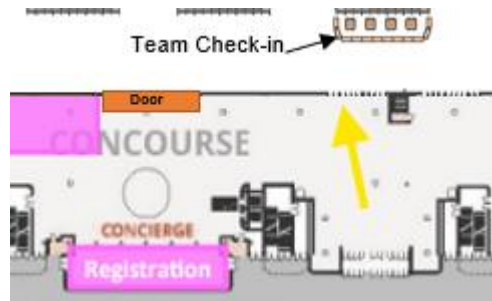
- Between 7:00 AM & 8:00 AM, teams can access the Team Check In Desk by going into the doors to the left of the main registration area, as shown below, (when looking at the desk – see image below).
- This year, the Team Check In desk will provide team member badges as well as a check in packet with information teams need for the event.
- A staff member will be located at this door to help answer questions and allow 1-2 mentors in only. The rest of the team can wait in the lobby if needed.

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Figure 2: Team Check-In Location between 7AM & 8AM



FIRST requires every FIRST Championship attendee to be registered and badged, including adult team mentors, youth team members, parents, family members, chaperones, etc. who are participating in the event. Attendee registration grants access to participant-only activities and increases the security of the event.

Beginning at 12:00 PM, all members must have their badge in order to access the FIRST Robotics Competition area.

## Consent and Release Forms

All participating team members and volunteers must complete the current season FIRST Consent and Release form prior to arrival.

## Pronoun Ribbons

Available at Central Registration and program Pit Admins.

## Volunteers

As part of our global robotics community, FIRST volunteers build and bolster millions of young people to embrace innovation and collaboration. At the 2026 FIRST Championship, you will work side by side with FIRST participants from around the world to help build their leadership and problem-solving skills and, their sense of belonging and self-confidence, and most importantly, help them have fun! Join us for the ultimate innovation celebration and build up and inspire the next generation of changemakers. To learn more about roles available at FIRST Championship, check out the [volunteer role descriptions](#) and [apply today!](#)

Volunteers can also reference the [Volunteer Event Guide](#) for general volunteer information and the [FIRST Robotics Competition Championship Volunteer webpage](#) for volunteer information specific to the FIRST Robotics Competition Program.

## Webcast

The live stream is available on *coming soon*. In addition to dedicated streams for each of the eight divisions, FIRST Champs Live will be back this season for combined coverage and analysis of the entire event!

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