

2005 FIRST Robotics Competition

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→ **Special Notices** ←

******* SPECIAL UPDATE *******

→ **General Notices** ←

Documents and Updates

FIRST will provide important information to teams via the FIRST web site at:

http://www.usfirst.org/robotics/doc_updt.htm

Please check the team updates portion of the web site on a regular basis to insure that your team does not miss critical information about the 2005 FIRST Robotics Competition.

Our schedule to publish Team Updates is:

- Tuesday by 5PM and Friday by 10AM. We work hard to meet these commitments. Unexpected circumstances may, on occasions, delay their publication.
- Additional updates may be released if required.

Question & Answer System

Please review answers to questions in the Question & Answer System daily before submitting a new question (see instructions below).

The Question & Answer System can be found at: <http://www.usfirst.org/robotics/2005/qa.htm>

1. Please ask one question at a time.
2. Questions are limited to 240 characters.

<u>Find Q&A Answered After a certain date</u>	<u>Find an Individual Q&A ID</u>
Leave Section set to All	Enter question ID # in the ID field
Set Date to After	Press Update Filter
Enter the appropriate date in the next field	
Leave Search blank	
Set Status to Answered	
Press Update Filter	

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**THE Q&A SYSTEM WILL BE SHUT DOWN FOR QUESTION SUBMITTALS
ON THURSDAY, 4/13/2005 AT 12:01AM.**

Team PIT Support at The Championship

As was done last year at The Championship in Atlanta, we will allow 3 additional team members to support their team during the Divisional elimination matches and on the Einstein field for the grand finale.

This update is being released to avoid potential trouble at the Championship. We apologize for an imprecise original answer to Q&A #1773 regarding "flop-down" robots.

This change is intended to avoid confusion about the interpretation of our response to a question about "flop down" robots. In our answer to question #1773, we were not sufficiently explicit. A literal interpretation of what we said gives "flop down" robots an advantage not available to other robots. This literal interpretation creates an incentive for many teams to make quick changes to their machines converting them to "flop down" operation. Since many robots' arms could be used to cause the "flop", such a change would be straightforward. Taking the literal interpretation of our original answer to question #1773 to its logical extreme, robots could "flop" and become 60 plus 38 inches long. Robots over 8 feet in length could dramatically change the competition.

Question & Answer Items of Note

➤ Revised #1773

Q: We designed and built a robot that would tip from 38x28 to 38x60. The "new" base and drive train is "blatantly obvious that our robot is in the LZ" and "has a load bearing surface in contact with the HDPE". Is our robot in the LZ?

Revised answer 4/11/2005: If we understand your question correctly, yes. Robots that "flop" must declare a 28" x 38" section of their robot to be the "robot base." The declared section must be a portion of a 60" long surface of the robot that was nominally vertical prior to the start of the match. This is the section that the referees will always use to determine if your robot is in the loading zone.

Original answer: If we understand your question correctly, yes. Robots that "flop" basically must declare a 28" x 38" of their robot to be the "robot base." This is the section that the referees will always use to determine if your robot is in the loading zone.

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Important E-Mail Blasts

4/11/2005

This is a reminder to all teams regarding parts at Championship.

Team LEDs

You must order your LED clusters from Innovation First in order to receive them in time for the Championship. There will be NONE available through Spare Parts.

Spare Parts

Available: Motors, pneumatics, and many other items. Please remember, you must turn in the broken part in order to receive a new one.

Not Available:

- circuit breakers
- pwm cables
- fuse panels
- wheels
- metal of any kind
- transmission or drive train components
- screws, nuts, bolts, washers

Innovation First Support at the Championship

Innovation First will have staff available on all fields and in the Pit to assist with problems. Please come to the Spare Parts table to request help from an Innovation First staff member. They will come to your pit station as soon as possible.

Control systems will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, after Innovation First approval and proper documentation/ paperwork to ensure its return after the event has ended.

Robot Controller Issue

It is possible for the PWM outputs 6-12 to become active for a fraction of a second when a Link is established, if the OI is not in a Disabled Mode. This condition can cause motors to jump when a Link is established whether using Radio or Tether. This condition will not happen on the Competition Field at a FIRST Event because the OI will power-up in a Disabled Mode. If you are concerned with this issue, you can up-grade your Master Code to Version 11 or build a Dongle for the OI Competition Port. Master Code Version 11 will soon be available on the Robot Controller web page at:

<http://www.ifrobotics.com/rc.shtml>

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Master Code Version 11 will not be required to compete at the Championship. Instructions for building a Dongle are on the RC web page. Teams can use a Dongle connected to the Competition Port on the OI that will allow switching between the Disabled and Enabled Mode. Always verify that the OI will power-up in a Disabled Mode using your Dongle when not connected to an Arena Controller.