January 31, 2006

TEAM UPDATE #5

GENERAL NOTICES

This Notice points out the new convenience teams should enjoy in retrieving their particular Event information on-line from the *FRC* web site *Regional Event* page. The Information index has been reorganized and simplified to separate Site information and Shipping / Drayage information into individual reports. Formerly they were mingled into a common report.

Click on your event, then on "Site Info" for information on:

- The Event address
- Associated websites, if available
- Directions to the event site
- Information about the team social, if applicable
- A copy of the mandatory "Consent Form/s"

Remember to check the manual, sections of 7.6.1, in "At the Events" for information about this form, which is due at registration.

Click on "Shipping / Drayage" for information on:

- Crate arrival deadlines
- Drayage Services contact information
- Overage rates
- Shipping form, with drayage warehouse address, for your crate
- Battery page for your crate –

Please note that if you have already downloaded the "Shipping / Drayage" document for your event(s), please replace the document with a fresh copy from January 31, 2006. The Battery page should say, "Nonspillable Battery Inside."

Please carefully read the "Robot Transportation" section of the Manual for specific criteria.

Documents and Updates

Newly Released 2006 FIRST Robotics Competition Game Elements Drawings:

2006 FIRST Robotics Competition Game Elements Platform Sheet 2 of 3 Rel 1/24/06
2006 FIRST Robotics Competition Game Elements Corner Goal Sheet 3 of 3 Rel 1/24/06
2006 FIRST Robotics Competition Game Elements Center Goal Chain Installation
Rel 1/31/06

Update of Section 5 - Drawings:
2005 Robot Power Distribution Diagram - New Posting 1/31/06

Question & Answer System

No changes.

Section 0 - Introduction

No changes.

Section 1 - Communication

No changes

Section 2 – Team Organization

No changes.

Section 3 - The Arena

No changes.

Section 4 - The Game

Rule G11 is modified to remove "lasers" from the list of devices not allowed for positioning the robot starting position.

<G11> Alignment Devices - Alignment devices (templates, tape measures, ~~lasers,~~ etc.) that are not part of the ROBOT may not be used to assist with positioning the ROBOT. Teams that use external alignment devices to position their ROBOT will have their ROBOT arbitrarily repositioned by the head referee.

Section 5. The Robot (includes the Kit of Parts)

No changes.

Section 6 – Robot Transportation

No changes.

Section 7 – At the Events

No changes.

Section 8 – The Tournament

No changes.

Section 9 – The Awards

No changes.

Section 10 – Get Published

No changes.

2006 *FIRST* Guidelines, Tips & Good Practices

No changes.

E-Mail Blasts Sent Since Last Update

Important Visualization Award information from Autodesk:

Advancing to the Final Round of Professional Judging

There are two ways to advance to the final round of professional judging (i.e., the judging for the Championship awards***see *Notes*) for the Autodesk Visualization Award. Eligible animation entries produced using 3ds Max will be judged as follows:

I. On a regional level, by your animation peers (Regional Peer Judging)

The top scoring animation advances to the final round of professional judging. In the event an animation has previously won at a regional event, the second highest scoring animation will advance.

***New* Process for Regional Peer Judging 2006:**

This year, the Regional Peer Judging will not occur on site at the regional events, instead, the new process is as follows:

- Animations will be posted onto Autodesk Streamline
- Animations will be categorized according to whatever regional the team will attend
- Student animators will view (or download) the animations directly on Autodesk Streamline
- Once you have reviewed all animations for your regional(s) you will then be directed to a third-party website to cast your vote.
- One vote per team!
- Login instructions will be sent to the TEACHER listed on your entry form. **IMPORTANT**: if we cannot read, or have inaccurate information for the teacher, your team may not be eligible to vote. Please be extremely careful when completing the entry form and the consent and release form
- Once you login into the third-party website, you will have only that one opportunity to vote. So it is highly advisable that you have your scores predetermined prior to accessing the third-party website
- We will know if your team tries to vote more than once. **One vote per team.** Please don't chance being disqualified!
- You are only allowed to vote on the animations that will be at the regional event(s) you are scheduled to attend.

We hope you will find this new process both helpful and fun. Regional peer winners will be announced at the *FIRST* Robotics regional events on **Saturday**. Full instructions on Regional Peer Judging will be posted on the Streamline site shortly.

II. By Autodesk 3ds Max animation experts

The animation experts will review every entry this year and will select the top entries to advance, along with the regional winning animations, to the final round of professional judging.

The professionals will select three winners this year
Championship Grand Prize Winner
Honorable Mention Winner
Rising Star Winner (Rookie entry)

Notes:
***Please note that having your Autodesk entry advance to the Final Round of Professional Judging at the Championship does NOT grant your team a spot in the Championship. If you have any Championship registration questions, please contact *FIRST* directly.

Question & Answer Items of Note