March 02, 2006

TEAM UPDATE #14

GENERAL NOTICES

This is a reminder to all teams that your robot must have 1 LED module (supplied in the IFI Electronics kit) mounted on the robot such that it is visible from the robot starting position. Rule 14 (below) describes the requirement. Teams should assure that their robot has the light installed prior to robot inspection in order to compete in the competition.

<R14> Robots must use the Alliance Color LED provided in the Kit of Parts to display their alliance color (red or blue). The Color LED will be used by field personnel during the matches for diagnostic purposes. It must be mounted on the robot such that their displayed color is easily visible while standing in front of the robot in its' starting position. Instructions for connecting the Color LEDs are provided in the Innovation First Controller manual. The Robot Controller directly powers and controls the Team Color LEDs. The user has no control over the Team Color LEDs and no programming is required.

Documents and Updates

No changes.

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

No changes.

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

Change R20 to make the start and end of the Fix-it window to be at 8:30 am local time Thursdays for all teams (competing and non-competing).

<R20> During the "FIX-IT WINDOW" following each Regional Competition weekend: During this period, all teams (not just those teams attending a Regional Competition) may utilize one or two 5-hour FIX-IT-WINDOWS to manufacture SPARE, REPLACEMENT and UPGRADE PARTS and develop software for their robot at their home facility (not at the competition site). The timing of these "FIX-IT WINDOWS" is at the discretion of the team, but all work must be completed between the close of the Competition **and 8:30 am** on the Thursday following the Regional Competition weekend. At the conclusion of a regional competition event, teams may take a limited amount of broken or malfunctioning COMPONENTS or MECHANISMS back to their home facility to make SPARE or REPLACEMENT PARTS.

The purpose of this rule is to allow teams to make critical repairs to existing parts to enable them to compete in following events. The intent of this rule is not to have teams take their entire robot back home and make large-scale revisions or upgrades to the robot. Teams may manufacture and/or repair all the parts they want, but the amount of parts they can bring to the competition event is limited (as specified in Rule <R29>).

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

February 24, 2006

Third Annual *FIRST* Robotics Conference

The third annual *FIRST* Robotics Conference will take place **April 27-29, 2006** at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta in conjunction with the *FIRST* Championship.

We're gearing up for a great conference that will provide current and prospective FRC, FVC, and FLL teams, coaches, students, and mentors with the technical and non-technical information and advice they need to be the best they can be.

For FRC teams, there's a wealth of terrific information to be learned from past award winners. For FLL, we have teamed up with the Tufts Center for Engineering Educational Outreach (the creators of ROBOLOAB) to offer some excellent sessions that will help you with the transition to the new LEGO MINDSTORMS NXT. For FVC teams, intelitek, WPI,

and others have scheduled some excellent sessions.

Please note that conference passes may be shared among your team members. If you register for 5 passes, any 5 members of your team may attend sessions at any given time, but they will need the printed pass for admission. Printed passes will be available at the conference when upon arrival at the Georgia World Congress Center.

Register yourself or a team of five (5) for one day or for all three.

	One pass	Five passes
Thursday	$20	$75
Friday	$20	$75
Saturday	FREE with Thursday and/or Friday registration	
Thurs-Sat	$35	$140

Registration closes Monday, April 24 or when slots fill, whichever comes first.

To register and to see the full conference schedule, visit http://www.usfirst.org/robotics/2006/cmp_conference.htm Questions? Email firstplace@usfirst.org .

February 27, 2006

FIRST Newsletter Issue #1

Keep up-to-date with *FIRST* - View our Newsletter, 2006 Issue #1, at http://www.usfirst.org/about/news/email/2006-02-24/index.html

In This Issue:
FIRST Robotics Competition Kickoff: Students AIM HIGH in 2006
FIRST LEGO League Day at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute
Ocean Odyssey Challenge Makes a Big Splash
2006 FLL Challenge Teaser
FIRST Vex Challenge Pilot Off to a Great Start
Meet New *FIRST* President, Paul Gudonis: A letter to the *FIRST* Community
FIRST Senior Mentor Project Enters 2nd Year
US Department of Commerce Honors *FIRST* with Export Achievement Certificate
Spotlight on FRC Team 1696: Recipient of $10,000 Lemelson-MIT InvenTeams Grant
Spotlight on FVC Team 98: Challenge Opens New Opportunities to Team Members

February 27, 2006

Congratulations!

Congratulations on a successful six-week build period. The robots are shipped, the first week of events is now days away, and we hope you have all caught up on your sleep and are ready to play!

We want to take this opportunity to remind you that the events are not only supported by staff, but by event and committee volunteers. Some you will recognize, some will be new.

They will all be giving their time and effort toward making each event a success. In many cases they will be in charge of key functions at the events, and will effectively be the voice of *FIRST.* We thank you and your other team leaders and students in advance for your gracious behavior toward them - without them the events could not take place. Don't hesitate to give a warm hello and thanks to each volunteer you meet along the way.

Team Support will be available during regular business hours (8:30 am-5:00 pm EST) Monday-Wednesday, with extended hours to 8:00 pm EST Thursday and Friday, and Saturday from 10:00 am-3:00 pm EST during the event season. You can call us at 800-871-8326, dial "0" or write to us at frcteams@usfirst.org should you need any assistance from the home office.

We wish all of you the best of luck during your upcoming event(s).

Let the Games Begin!

Important "Don't Forgets!"

- ***Safety Glasses*** - Please do not forget to bring Safety Glasses for each member of your team! *FIRST* does not provide these for teams. All team members must have a pair of Safety Glasses - please see Section 7.3.4 of the Competition Manual.
- ***Consent and Release (C&R) Forms*** **-** Every team member must have a completed and signed C&R form turned in to Pit Administration at their **first** event. If you are attending additional events, you do not need to turn in forms at those events. Please make sure you write legibly, Team Number is on the form, and it is signed! All team members under the age of 18 MUST have a parental signature(s).
- ***Team Load In*** - The team load in location will not be through a loading dock area. You must plan on bringing in your supplies and materials through the front doors of the venues. In most cases the doors are not wider then 34". Please do not exceed this size in the width of your cart .

February 28, 2006

Qualified for the Champinship?

For those of you who qualify at your Regional event to attend the Championship (CMP), please remember you still must register, via TIMS, in order to attend!

To recap, teams who qualify are:

1. Regional Chairman's Award winners (1 per Regional)
2. Regional Engineering Inspiration Award winners (1 per Regional)
3. Regional Rookie All-Star Award winners (1 per Regional)
4. Regional Champions (3 or 4 per regional event)

Please follow the process below:

1. Login to TIMS (http://www.usfirst.org/robotics/res_art2.htm) on the Monday following your event and **after** 9:00 am EST;
2. Proceed to the "Event Registration" section, click on the "Go" link and then "Add

Event" to register your team for the Championship accordingly;

3. Pay by credit card online or make payment arrangements with Finance by calling 800-871-8326, exts. 414, 415 or 450;

4. You must both register and make payment arrangements by **5:00 pm EST Tuesday*** following your event.

****IMPORTANT**-** Please note that if you do not register by the Tuesday deadline, then your team will once again become ineligible to register for the CMP.

Airbills to the CMP for Qualifying Teams

FIRST will provide Shepard Exposition Services (SES) with FedEx airbills at each regional event for CMP qualifying teams. If your team qualifies and needs an airbill to ship the robot to Atlanta, please see a Shepard Representative. Please note the following:

- If you are a Passkey team and qualify for the CMP, you may (but do not have to) print an airbill from Passkey to ship your robot. You will need access to a computer and printer.

- If you are a US team that was unable to use Passkey but received two domestic hard copy FedEx airbills, use your second airbill to ship your robot if you qualify. Do not get a new airbill from SES.

****IMPORTANT** Please remember all teams attending the CMP will be given an airbill to ship the robot home at CMP registration!**

CMP Hotels

To make hotel arrangements please go to http://www.ths-frc.com/

If you have any questions please contact Team Support at frcteams@usfirst.org.

We look forward to seeing you in Atlanta!

Question & Answer Items of Note

No changes