

Hello Coaches & Mentors,

Important Dates for Challenge Sets and Building Instructions

- If you've registered and paid, the Challenge Sets (CS) should arrive in **mid-late July**, prior to the challenge release date of Aug 1. The longer you wait to register the longer it will take to receive the CS. For example, if you register in late July, it is likely your kit will arrive after Aug 1.
- The Mission Model Building Instructions will be released along with the Challenge on Aug 1, 2018 at 9 AM PST.

Official Rounds in Qualifying Tournaments:

I received many requests last season to increase the number of official rounds. I've confirmed with Scott Evans, from FIRST, that it is acceptable to have more than 3 official rounds. Since our tournaments allow for 5 rounds (2 practice + 3 official), we are considering changing that to 1 practice + 4 official rounds, and in that case, the highest score of the 4 official rounds will be the one used to determine Robot Performance awards. If you have **strong** objection to this, please email me with the reason.

SPACE is the Wild West of our time

While attending the 2018 FIRST Community Conference in Orlando, I am convinced It is one season where there is the possibility for a wide variety of project solutions. If you can, please schedule a trip to any of the Aerospace companies (JPL, Space X, Raytheon,...) in August / September in order to expose your students to the challenges and possibilities. There are so many problems looking for creative solutions.

REMINDERS...

1. Workshops for Coaches: There are four Coaches Workshops: Introduction to FLL (Jun 1 & July 21) and Advanced EV3 Programming (July 1 & July 22). For details or to register, please click [here](#). *FIRST also approved the use of the INTO ORBIT mat for the workshops, but not the models. Both workshop have a*

programming element and for that we will use the INTO ORBIT mat.

2. Challenge Release Workshop: Teams that registered with *FIRST* and have an official team number, can now sign up for the Challenge Release Workshop(s) using this [link](#). I will be hosting two workshops in Montrose on August 18th.

3. Judging Process: Based on the positive feedback from last season, our region will continue using the new judging process which is a single 20-minute interview to cover the three categories. The pilot is expanding to other regions. See details [here](#).

4. Registered Team List: You can find the list of registered teams on our website [here](#). Please note that if you see a "-" in the YPP column, it is an indication that either the coach or assistant coach has not completed the Youth Protection Plan (YPP) screening. Please do so at your earliest convenience.

5. Qualifying Tournaments: The list of Qualifying Tournament is now available [here](#). Please use the list to help you with planning.

6. Core Values: To unify the explanation of Core Values across all of FIRST's program, FIRST introduced a new definition that expresses the philosophies of Gracious Professionalism® and Coopertition® through the following list:

- **Discovery:** We explore new skills and ideas.
- **Innovation:** We use creativity and persistence to solve problems.
- **Impact:** We apply what we learn to improve our world.
- **Inclusion:** We respect each other and embrace our differences.
- **Teamwork:** We are stronger when we work together.
- **Fun:** We enjoy and celebrate what we do!

The essence of core values has not changed nor will this change affect the rubrics or judging; it is merely a clarification that applies to all of FIRST programs: FLL Jr., FLL, FTC and FRC. For teams that prepared Mnemonics, skits, posters or presentations using the prior eight core values, it may be time to revisit and tweak

them.

Check your Region

For teams whose address fall outside of the region's area and who chose to participate in tournaments in our region due to logistical proximity, please check your team's designated region. If you still wish to participate in any of the Los Angeles Region tournaments, please change your region in the firstinspires dashboard. Conversely, if you wish to participate in the Southern California region's tournaments, please make the change. Teams are allowed to participate in only one region.

LA FLL Updates: if you missed any of the prior updates (email blasts), you can find them here [here](#).

NEW: Check out the new [Coach's Handbook](#) with excellent resource links