

What to Expect at Competitions

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Thursday

7:45 AM	3 team reps to uncrate robot and set up pit area
8:30 AM	Pits and machine shop open
	Registration and inspection start
11:00 AM-6:00 PM	Practice rounds
8:00 PM	Pits and machine shop close

Pit setup-	Make sure to have tools ready to uncrate robot. Uncrate the robot and secure crate. Let Pit Admin know crate is ready, the crate will then be picked up.
Registration-	Send an <i>adult</i> to Pit Admin. Turn in release forms for whole team. Pick up practice match list, field crew buttons, team packet.
Get to know area-	Get familiar with the regional setup. Find Spare Parts, Inspection, Machine Shop, Shipping reps, Practice area (if available)
Inspection-	Get started with the process as soon as possible, you can do it in sections. Weigh-in involves putting the robot on a large scale (make sure robot is in the center) Sizing is done in a large lexan box with a bottom sliding tray on which the robot is placed The inspector will then go through a checklist for wiring, pneumatics, safety, etc. Have students available to answer the inspector's questions. Can participate in practice matches without passing but must pass by end of Thursday.
Driver meeting-	Usually held 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM. Two representatives from each team. Will go over basic match procedure including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Connecting controller to field setupFlow of teams on/off the fieldQueuing area proceduresPlacement of carts during matches
Practice matches-	Used to test and tweak subsystems as well as driver practice. Have a plan of what things need to be tested. Good to run through "matches" for driver practice. Talk to partners and opponents about plan. Send at least a human player for practice if robot is not operational.
Machine shop-	Find out the procedures required to get work done. Use their resources and expertise to your advantage.

Friday

8:00 AM	Pits and machine shop open
9:00 AM	Opening Ceremony
9:20 AM–12:00 AM	Seeding matches
12:00 AM-1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM-4:45 PM	Seeding matches
4:45 PM	Friday awards ceremony
6:00 PM	Pits and machine shop close

Pits open-	Send only essential people to the pits (field crew, needed pit crew). Everyone else in the stands to get seats for opening ceremonies. Match list will be at pit in morning or announcement will be made to pick up at pit admin Highlight your matches and communicate match times to team members in stands. Keep match list in pit.
Opening ceremonies-	Includes team welcome, speeches, game intro, judge intro, ref intro, national anthem(s). The first 3-4 matches will be called to the queue before the start of opening ceremonies. Those in pit should also observe national anthem(s).
Pre match-	Gather scouting info on partners and opponents. Talk to partners and develop a match specific strategy. Go through a pre-match robot checklist. Put in a new battery.
Match-	First call usually ~15 minutes before match. Always at least send a human player to match. Only those with field crew buttons and safety glasses allowed in queue. Field personnel will direct team to appropriate waiting areas on stage. Reiterate and finalize plans with partners. Once the match before is finished, teams will be instructed to: Connect their controls Move robot closer to field Referees will signal when robots are to be moved onto the field. Teams will be introduced by the MC and game announcer. Match is played, after the match <u>do not leave the driver area until the refs signal.</u> Send one person for cart, one disconnects controls, other two get the robot.
Judges-	Usually will start walking around an hour after opening ceremonies. They will be wearing blue FIRST polo shirts. Each team will see at least two judges in the morning. They will come back after lunch to specific teams.
Friday awards-	Start soon after the last match of the day. First half of awards given.
Team social-	Teams who receive an award will go down to the field to high-five judges. For those regionals that have them, more details will be available.

Saturday

8:00 AM	Pits and machine shop open
9:00 AM	Opening ceremonies
9:30 AM-11:45 AM	Seeding matches
11:45 AM-12:00 PM	Alliance selection
12:00 PM-1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Finals
3:00 PM	Awards ceremonies
5:00 PM	Pits and machine shop close

Matches-	Remaining seeding matches are played in the morning.
Alliance selection-	Each team sends a representative to the field (usually by 11:30 AM). Rep should have an ordered list of potential partners (even if you're in last) and a pen. Have rep cross off teams on the list as they are called up or picked. Typical response if picked is "Team XXXX graciously accepts." Should discuss next pick with partner.
Lunch-	Used by those in finals alliances for strategy meetings. Limit those involved in strategy meetings to field crew and strategy/scouting lead.
Finals-	Teams not picked pack up robot and their pit area. Teams not participating watch. Much less time between matches. Have necessary tools for quick fixes and extra batteries on the field. Borrow batteries from teams not in finals if needed. Have a runner ready close to the field for emergencies.
Awards-	Start right after the finals. Other half of awards presented.
Packing up-	Crates usually delivered back to pit during lunch. Follow Fed Ex procedures with labels and paperwork(Don't forget to bring them). Make sure to return all borrowed tools.