

FIRST® TECH CHALLENGE

OHIO EVENT PARTICIPATION POLICY

(2022/23 SEASON)



OHIO FIRST TECH CHALLENGE EVENTS

Applicability

This Policy applies to all Ohio events branded as *FIRST*® Tech Challenge (FTC) and sanctioned by the Program Delivery Partner (PDP) within the Wright Patterson Airforce Base Educational Outreach Office. These events include the Ohio *FIRST*® Tech Challenge Regional Championship, Ohio Qualifying Tournaments, League Tournaments and League Meets as well as PDP endorsed events such as season kick-off gatherings or unofficial scrimmages. All Ohio events promoted on www.firstinspires.org and <http://wpafbstem.com/FTC/FTC.html> websites are governed by this policy.

Many of Ohio's events, are hosted and managed by organizations who are affiliated with educational establishments, such as High Schools and Universities. For these events, local policies may also apply. Please contact the Event Coordinator for full details.

Conflicting Statements

In the event of any conflicting statement between this Policy and other webpages or forms on the Ohio FTC site, this Event Participation Policy applies. Certain events may have additional participation criteria which augment this policy.

YOUTH PROTECTION

FIRST Youth Protection Program

The FIRST Youth Protection Program is an important part of the protection of our youth. Coaches, Mentors and other Adults affiliated with a Team participating in Ohio FTC managed events are required to follow the requirements outlined in [FIRST Youth Protection Program](#).

Consent and Release

Every student, coach, mentor, or volunteer participating in *FIRST* Tech Challenge must have an electronically signed consent and release form for the current season. This applies to traditional, hybrid and remote events. For anyone under the age of 18, Consent & Release Forms will need to be electronically signed by a parent or guardian.

Click the [link](#) to follow the instructions to complete the Consent and Release Form.

A printed *FIRST* Team Roster showing that each student's parent or guardian has electronically filled out the Consent and Release form online MUST be presented during check-in at traditional or hybrid events.

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EVENT ELIGIBILITY

Team Participation

Before registering to compete in any official Ohio *FIRST*® Tech Challenge event, Teams must be in good standing with *FIRST*®, including

- Registration and payment of annual fees to *FIRST*®
- The team must have two adults who have passed the Youth Protection screening process.

[Registering a *FIRST* Tech Challenge team](#) each season does not guarantee participation in any official *FIRST* Tech Challenge event in Ohio. However, Ohio FTC will seek to offer (at additional cost) *FIRST* Tech Challenge teams at least two opportunities to compete in an Ohio Qualifying Tournament OR one Ohio Qualifying Tournament plus One League Tournament (if offered).

Teams must comply with Ohio Tournament registration procedures that include, but are not limited to:

- Registration request deadlines
- Tournament registration fee deadlines

Official events will be held in accordance with the procedures, guidelines and game rule published on the *FIRST* website at <https://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/ftc/game-and-season>

Per *FIRST*® FTC [Game Manual 1](#), Teams are only eligible to advance from the first three Qualifying Tournaments they participate in, regardless of the region, state or country. Teams may only compete in one league and one League Tournament per season.

In Ohio, teams will be limited to registering for a maximum of 3 Qualifying Tournaments or 2 Qualification Tournament plus the Ohio-Central League Tournament.

If offered, Ohio Teams may participate in out-of-state events; however, this will reduce the maximum number of Tournaments a team can register for in Ohio. Teams are responsible for assuring they do not violate the *FIRST*® eligibility requirements or Ohio Policy on tournament participation.

All official Ohio *FIRST* Tech Challenge Tournaments are closed to out-of-state teams

Ohio Championship Tournament and Advancement Criteria

Participation in the Ohio *FIRST*® Tech Challenge Championship Tournament is by invitation only, based on meeting specific advancement requirements.

1. The team must have advanced from an official Ohio FTC Qualifying Tournament or League Tournament.

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2. The team must not have already advanced to the *FIRST*® Championship (aka. "World Championship").

The number of Teams advancing from each Qualification Tournament and League Tournament will be communicated by the Ohio FTC Program Delivery Partner (PDP) before the date of the first official Tournament. The advancement criteria is outlined in Section 6.0 of [Game Manual 1 Traditional Events](#) or [Game Manual 1 Remote Events](#) (as applicable). Advancement from Hybrid events falls under the criteria in [Game Manual 1 Traditional Events](#)

Ohio Championship Waitlist

If a team withdraws or declines to participate in the Ohio Championship the next eligible team from the corresponding Qualifying Tournament or League Tournament will be offered the advancement slot. Eligibility is based on Next Order of Advancement criteria per Game Manual 1.

Ohio Championship Wild Card Teams (Optional)

The number of slots at Championship may be increased after the initial advancement allocation. To assure equitable allocation, each Team that was next in order of advancement from each Ohio Qualifying Tournament or League Tournament will form a wild card pool. This pool of teams will be used to fill any additional openings at the Ohio Championship. The team with the highest average Tie Breaker 1 (TBP1) score achieved at their respective Qualifying Tournament will be selected first. In case of a tie, the average Tie Breaker 2 (TBP2) score will be used to prioritize the tied teams. See Game Manual 1 for a description of average Tiebreaker Points.

If there are still openings at the Championship after all the Wild Card and Waitlisted teams have been advanced, a new pool of second alternates will be created and follow the same process described above.

Due to scoring differences, Teams competing in remote events will not be illegible for inclusion in the Wild Card pool unless all the events are remote events

Participation Exceptions

In rare cases, Ohio FTC may invite teams to register for open slots at official Ohio FIRST Tech Challenge events even if the team is not eligible (such as exceeding the 3 Qualifying Tournament limit). This may occur if surrogates were needed to satisfy tournament minimums. These teams would play for fun and not be eligible for awards or advancements.

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TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

Advanced registration is required for all official Ohio FIRST Tech Challenge events in accordance with stated. Subject to availability, Ohio FTC may accept late registration requests. Registration for unofficial events such as season kick-off events, scrimmages and workshops may be requested, however, the registration process will be the responsibility of the local event organizer.

Qualifying Tournament Registration Process Overview

The Ohio Qualifying Tournament registration process will be based on a phased preference system. Registration for the 2022/2023 Pilot Central-Ohio League will be through invitation only.

During specified period(s), teams will be able to register their Qualification Tournament preferences. For the 2022/2023 season, teams will initially register for up to 2 Qualifying tournaments. A second window will open later for eligible teams wishing to participate in a 3rd Qualifying Tournament.

If more teams apply for a tournament than capacity, a lottery system will be used to assign teams. Teams not assigned to their first preference will then be assigned to a 2nd or 3rd preference, (also using a lottery system if needed). If none of the Tournaments on a team's preference list has open capacity, the team will be waitlisted for the first Tournament on their list.

Details on the annual Ohio Tournament registration process and timeline will be sent via email to the lead coaches of all Ohio teams registered with FIRST®. They will also be published on the [Ohio FTC Tournament Registration Web Page](#).

Ohio Championship registration will be automatic based on the teams that advance from the Qualifying Tournaments. If a team is unable to participate in the Championship, they shall notify the Ohio FTC Program Delivery Partner immediately.

Timeline for the Qualifying Tournament registration period

Registration for tournament typically opens shortly after the game season reveal, however this may vary from season to season depending on local conditions.

Out-of-State Teams

All official Ohio FIRST® Tech Challenge Tournaments are closed to out-of-state teams.

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TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION FEES, DUE DATES

Season Tournament Fees

For the 2022/2023 Season, the cost of registration for two traditional Qualifying Tournaments is \$200. This price will be adjusted if you are only able to participate in 1 Qualifying Tournament. Participation in a 3rd Qualifying Tournament will cost an additional \$100.

There is no tournament fee for teams participating only in the pilot Central-Ohio League.

There will be no further charges for teams that advance to the Ohio FIRST Tech Challenge Championship.

Due Dates

The Ohio Program Delivery Partner will communicate due dates for payment once tournament registration is confirmed. If the tournament registration fee is not received by the due date, the team may be removed from the registered list and the open slot will be offered to the next eligible team. Teams will not be allowed to participate in an official event unless paid in full.

TEAM NO-SHOWS, WITHDRAWALS AND RESCHEDULING

Team No-Shows

No-shows at an official tournament are not in the spirit of Gracious Professionalism and not permitted. If a team cannot participate, they must notify the Ohio FTC Program Delivery Partner bholt@firstpartners.org and the local Tournament Director before the start date of the scheduled event

A no-show team will be treated as if the team had participated in that event. The team will forfeit their Tournament Registration Fee. Other consequences may include loss of eligibility to attend the Ohio FTC Championship Tournament, even if they have previously advanced.

Team Withdrawals

Teams that withdraw for strategic purposes are not operating in the spirit of Gracious Professionalism. Your original decision to register may have impacted the ability for other Teams to participate.

If a team Withdraws from a tournament for any reason **less than 3 weeks** prior to the start date of the Tournament, they will forfeit their Tournament Registration Fee unless another team can fill the slot.

If a team withdraws from a tournament **more than 3 weeks** prior to the start date of the Tournament, they will be refunded their Tournament Registration Fee.

Teams can ask to be removed from waitlists without any penalty.

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Team Rescheduling Tournament Dates

If a registered team withdraws from a Tournament and can re-schedule to a future date, there will be no penalty or additional fees.

The Ohio FTC Program Delivery Partner reserves the right to review and approve/deny withdrawal requests.

EVENT CANCELCATION OR RESCHEDULING

The decision to cancel or reschedule a Tournament is not undertaken lightly. The situations most likely to cause this include, but are not limited to:

- Severe weather conditions.
- Exceptional circumstances including extended power outage, loss of heating/air conditioning, loss of water, fire, natural disaster, etc.
- Significant illness or other Health and Safety Concerns (such as COVID-19) that might involve the closing of a facility prior to a Tournament.

The Tournament Director and Ohio PDP will work together to determine if there will be a delay, early dismissal, rescheduling, or cancelation of the event. Cancelation will be a last resort, but the ability to re-schedule an event is highly dependent on the future availability venues, volunteers, and teams. There may be an option to change a tournament from Traditional to Remote format.

Notification of a schedule change or event cancelation will be sent by an email to the team's main and alternate contacts as designated in the team's registration with FIRST®

Registration fees will not be returned to teams affected by an event cancelation; however, teams will not be charged if they are able to register for a re-scheduled or alternate equivalent event. Teams that advance to the Ohio Championship from a canceled Qualification Tournament or League Tournament will be counted as if they had participated in the Tournament.

Advancements allocated to a canceled Qualifying Tournament or League Tournament will be decided by a lottery of teams who were registered for the tournament and intended to participate at the time of cancelation.

If the Ohio Regional Championship Tournament is canceled, Ohio FTC will seek direction from FIRST HQ on advancement criteria. Based on precedent, it is likely that any advancement to the World Championship will favor Teams who have simultaneously won both Inspire Award AND Winning Alliance Captain at a previous official event

Ohio FTC has the right to change the Cancelation Policy at any time depending on the situation or as directed by FIRST®. Any change to these criteria will also be communicated to the team's primary contacts and updated in this document as soon as possible following the change.

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2022/2023 SEASON OHIO TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE

Official FIRST Tech Challenge Tournaments

Ohio will offer seven (7) Qualifying Tournaments with up to 24 teams each and one (1) pilot League with up to 12 teams. Each will advance teams to the Ohio FIRST Tech Challenge Regional Championship. The official Qualifying Tournaments and League Meets/Tournament are all operated by volunteer host organizations sanctioned by Ohio FTC. The Ohio FIRST Tech Challenge Regional Championship is managed directly by the Ohio FTC PDP.

Ohio FTC PDP is responsible setting up the Ohio Tournament Structure, Tournament Registration Process and assigning the number of advancements slots. All event related communications, such as logistics and schedules are managed by the host organization.

Official events adhere to FIRST standards in format, judging, robot game rules and awards in accordance with FIRST Tech Challenge Game Manual Part 1 and Part 2.

Ohio Qualification Tournaments will be a mix of Traditional and Hybrid format events.

Ohio PDP may increase the number of teams at a tournament if conditions warrant and capacity exists.

Traditional format Qualifying Tournaments

These competitions are typically one-day events, incorporating robot inspection, judging, robot competition and closing ceremony/awards. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, robot inspection may be offered the evening prior to the event, to provide teams the time they may need to correct any significant issue with their robot.

Hybrid format Qualifying Tournament

At hybrid events, robot inspection, robot competition and the awards/closing ceremony are conducted in the traditional format, but all judging is held remotely. An allowed variation is to conduct the initial judge interviews remotely and follow-up with in-person team interviews during the day of the robot competition. Judging may be held up to six days prior to the robot competition.

League Meets and League Tournaments

For the 2022/2023 season, Ohio FTC will pilot a League structure in Central-Ohio. Registration will be offered by invitation only. League Meets provide teams multiple opportunities to compete with their robots in an Alliance format, without judging sessions, awards, or elimination matches. Meets may occur during the week and/or at weekends.

A League Meet will comprise of 5-6 Qualification rounds. Teams are expected to compete in at least two League Meets in advance of a League Tournament that includes all the elements of a traditional Qualifying Tournament, including judging, awards and advancements. Unlike a Qualification Tournament, a team's cumulative ranking from their League Meet play determines the initial Ranking in the League Tournament.

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League Play may be expanded in Ohio for the 2023-2024 season based on feedback from the pilot and interest shown by teams in other regions of Ohio. Further details of League Play can be found in Game Manual 1

Remote Events

In regions where teams are not able to gather and compete in the traditional head-to-head competition format, FIRST have introduced Remote Events. Teams will run their robot matches and conduct judge interviews remotely from their own space/facility. These Qualifying Tournaments may run for a week or more to provide sufficient time for teams to schedule time to run their robot matches as well as time to schedule and conduct videoconference meetings with judges. There may also be time allocated in the schedule for pre-tournament help sessions with teams.

For the 2022/2023 season Ohio FTC does not intend to conduct remote events. However, if local COVID-19 health conditions deteriorate, Ohio FTC has the right to revert the Traditional Qualifying format to fully Remote at any time. This also applies to the Ohio Championship.

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