

2024/2025

SEASON

2024-2025 Season Kickoff -
Pennsylvania *FIRST* Robotics

FIRST
DIVE

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Gene Haas Foundation

Pennsylvania 2024-2025 Season Kickoff



PRESENTED BY  **RTX**



Welcome!

Agenda

- Congrats to 2023-2024 Championship Teams – Houston, TX
- Pennsylvania 2024-2025 FTC Season Overview
- FTC PA Grants
- Important *FIRST* Tech Challenge Team Guidance – Game Manual and Rules
- Introduction – Scouting Robotics
- Game Reveal – 12:00 Noon
- Game Q&A with Pennsylvania Head Referee – 12:45 pm

***FIRST* Championship – Houston**

Overview:

224 Teams Competed in four (4) Divisions – 56 Teams per division

- Our 4 teams successfully competed in separate divisions and had a significant impact and made good trouble!

Team 8468 The Javengers, Family/Community Team, Mechanicsburg

- **Franklin Division** - Alliance Seed 2, 2nd team selected. Made it through the Franklin Divisional semifinals. Earned the division Connect Award 3rd Place

***FIRST* Championship – Houston**

Team 14423 RoboCorns, Downingtown Area Robotics, Exton

- **Edison Division** – Earned the division Control Award – 3rd Place

Team 16468 Green Lemons, Unionville Schools, West Chester

- **Ochoa Division** - Division Finalist Alliance Seed 3 – Team Captain. Made it to Ochoa Division Finals. Earned the division Connect Award 3rd Place

Team 20153 Silver Wolves, Unionville High School, Kennett Square

- **Jemison Division** – Division Finalist Alliance seed 2, 2nd team selected, Made it to Jemison Division Finals

Season Overview

- **Schedule for Scrimmages and Qualifiers Posted on Website**
 - [2024-2025 Season – Pennsylvania FIRST Tech Challenge \(ftcpenn.org\)](https://ftcpenn.org)
- Planning for a fully Traditional Event Season - In-person Workshops, Scrimmages, Qualifiers and State Championship. Remote option N/A
- Participation in 2024-2025 Season Qualifiers, and State Championship Tournament is limited to Pennsylvania FTC Teams, however we may open up to out-of-state teams to fill the events, but with no opportunity to advance to the Championship.
- Optional - We may adopt Delaware FTC Teams if that region cannot meet the 24 team minimum mandated by *FIRST*

Season Overview

Traditional Event Scheduling

- We have scheduled ten (10) Qualifiers. We are not planning on adding more, unless necessary
- Qualifiers will be 18, 20, 24, 28, 32 or 36 team events depending on venue space and registration interest. Flexible based on Reg rate. Agendas vary
- Qualifiers will be held over 5 weekends, 1 each on Saturday and Sunday
- Qualifier season will start Dec 14th and be completed by Feb 23rd
- FTC Event page: 2024-2025 Season – [2024-2025 Season – Pennsylvania FIRST Tech Challenge \(ftcpenn.org\)](https://ftcpenn.org)
- State Championship be the 2nd or 3rd weekend of March (TBD)

Season Overview

Scheduled Qualifiers

Dec 14th and 15th , 2024 - York Country Day School, York, PA

Jan 11th and 12th , 2025 - Manheim Township HS, Lancaster, PA

Feb 1st and 2nd, 2025 - Abraham Lincoln HS, Philadelphia, PA

Feb 15th and 16th, 2025 - Coatesville Senior HS, Coatesville, PA

Feb 22nd and 23rd, 2025 - Boyce Middle School, Upper St. Clair, PA

Special thanks to our Host teams and their schools for making this season happen!

Season Overview

Workshops and Scrimmages

- Open to neighboring state teams, if room.
- Any team may hold a Team Powered Workshop. Let us know!
- 3 scrimmages, so far. We have the potential to add 2 more
 - Sat Nov 2, 2024 Ramp Riot Scrimmage, Wissahickon High School
 - Sat Dec 7, 2024 Green and Red Scrimmage, Gibsonia, Eden Hall ES
 - Jan 18, 2025 Polka Dot Scrimmage, CMU Pittsburgh
- Teams advance from PA State Championship to *FIRST* Championship in Houston, TX (April 16 - 19, 2025)
- *FIRST* Championship to remain in Houston in 2026 and 2027

Season Overview

Additional Season Information

- World Championship team count is increasing again, from 128 (up to '18) to 160 ('19-22) to 192 ('23) to 224 ('24) and to 254 teams 2025!
- Allotment of FTC teams advancing to the Championship will be dependent on the number of teams registered with *FIRST* in a region by the first week of December. We hope to exceed last seasons 4 teams.
- We've made several updates to the website: Maps have been added to the Teams, the FTC Events, and the individual event pages; The Teams page now recognizes teams who reach specific season registration milestones; plus the Teams Table now includes a Season Count column; Team performance history is searchable

Season Overview

Game Manuals and Kickoff Video

- Playing Field Materials and Manuals – Available after 12:30 pm today
- Videos and Promotional Materials
- Official Q&A Forum Documentation
- Robot Building Resources
- Team Management Resources
- Youth Team Member Registration
- <https://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/ftc/game-and-season>

Grant Opportunities

Announced in Team Email Blast #4 – Aug 12, 2024

- Pennsylvania *FIRST* Robotics will be administering two Sponsor Grants this season to grow and expand teams

Arconic Foundation – for *FIRST* Registered FTC Rookie and Veteran teams located in 10 PA counties contiguous with Arconic offices or manufacturing facilities. Allegheny, Berks, Butler, Columbia, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Montour, York, and Westmoreland

- **On-line applications will be available to teams next week**

Grant Opportunities

Google.org - Google.org is the philanthropic organization established within Google that funds education, economic development, and digital literacy related projects in a number of regions.

- The priority of the program for schools and organizations is to reduce barriers and increase FIRST Tech Challenge participation of middle school-aged students who are under-resourced or have been traditionally underrepresented in STEM.

Grants have stipulations and requirements as dictated by the sponsor organizations. PA *FIRST* Robotics is obligated to meet the requirements

On-line applications will be available to teams next week.

FTC Team Guidance – 2024-2025 Season

1. **Make sure you read the full Competition Manual, from start to finish.** Assign FTC knowledgeable individuals specifically to this task. There are many noteworthy changes this season. Teams, coaches, and volunteers should **NOT** assume they know everything from past seasons. The game changes from year to year so they should be reading those rules anyway. However, there have been **very significant changes to the way the rules are written overall.**
 2. A reminder that every team has access to the Official Q&A, where they can go to ask questions throughout the season. **The Q&A will open on 9/16/2024.**
- A formal Manual update will take precedence over Q&A responses. See 3.**

FTC Team Guidance – 2024-2025 Season

3. In-season game rule updates will be communicated as follows:

- a. Any important rule updates or clarifications will be written in the Competition Manual, and releases will happen on a biweekly (twice a month) basis on Thursdays
- b. A separate document titled “Team Updates” will be posted on our website concurrently with the Competition Manual updates. The document will highlight any rule changes or clarifications made to the Competition Manual.
- c. Teams can sign up for “Team Updates” email notifications through the website. The sign-up feature for this email will be on the game and season page and will go live on kickoff day.

FTC Team Guidance – 2024-2025 Season

4. FIRST will continue to host team calls this season, which is an open Q&A for teams to ask questions and receive real time answers from our volunteer experts. There are three team calls for the following topics:

- a. Team Gameplay
- b. Team Dean's List
- c. NEW – Rookie Team Resources

- [Team and Volunteer Calls](#)

FTC Team Guidance – 2024-2025 Season

5. Engineering Portfolio – review in relation to eligibility for Judged Awards.

Please review the Judging section of the Competition Manual for more information. Section 6 of Manual V1, release today

6. The Control Award no longer requires a separate submission form. Content should be added to the Portfolio. Please review the Judging section of the Competition Manual for more information. Section 6 of manual V1, release today

7. The Promote Award will no longer be offered.

FTC Team Guidance – 2024-2025 Season

8. There have been notable changes to robot construction rules teams should be aware of prior to their first tournament. Note especially Section 12.1 General ROBOT Design including R104 - Horizontal Expansion Limit and Section 12.4 Robot Sign Rules

9. There have been notable changes to the playoff structure. Section 13.6.2 of manual V1, release today

10. The advancement order for teams has been updated. Section 4 of Manual V1, release today

Note: Some content and details from Manual Release V0 that you may already be aware of may have changed in Release V1. Review all, sections in detail

Scouting Robotics – a Hybrid Program Experiment



Scouting America

Youth Development
Leadership and Ethics
Camping and Outdoor Skills



FIRST

Youth Development
Leadership and Ethics
Robotics Competition and STEM Skills

Scouting Robotics Partners

FRC Team 321, The RoboLancers, Philadelphia
Michael Johnson and Isriah Keila

Chester County Council of Scouting America
Gary Schroeder

NYLT Leadership Academy
Christine Luczka and Sam Leitermann-Long

Downingtown Area Robotics, Exton
Scott Mengle

Scouting Robotics – the Advancement Method

- Earn ranks from Robotics Scout to Eagle Scout
- Structured, self-paced skill-building
- Standardized general requirements
- Specialized advanced skills through Merit Badges
- Instant Recognition of Achievement
- A tool for youth and mentors alike!

Scouting Robotics – three Pathways

In Scouting Units

“Lab” is a registered Scouting Unit AND registered FTC teams.

Scouts advance through ranks and compete in FTC.

Pilot in Exton.

On *FIRST* Teams

FTC and FRC teams use some or all of Advancement Method to guide skill building.

Pilots in Exton and Philadelphia.

At Summer Camp

Immersive Scouting Robotics experience building skills and community.

June 22-28, 2025

Chester County

You're Invited!

Scouting Robotics – Get Involved

Seeking folks at the intersection of Scouting America and *FIRST*.

Robotics Scout Camp 2025 is open to groups from all Scouts BSA units and all FTC teams.

ScoutingRobotics.org

Interest form for summer camp and the experiment in general.

info@ScoutingRobotics.org

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your attendance and all that you do! We are looking forward to another innovative, competitive and fun season. Special Thanks:

Philadelphia - PA FIRST Robotics and Temple University, College of Engineering

Exton – Chester County Council – Scouting America and Downingtown Area Robotics.

East - FTC Team`16468 Green Lemons and Unionville/Chadds Ford SD

South Central – FTC Teams 9242 and 21324 Hackin and York Country Day School

West – Mars Robotics Association FTC teams and Discovery Christian Church Cranberry Township