

2021-2022 Season Startup Plan

v1.0

Overview

This document summarizes key information we intend to communicate to the whole team as we ramp activities and participation back to normal for the 2021-2022 build season.

While the world is *still* rapidly evolving, we are sending out this info now to put as much certainty into your mind as we can about our ongoing plans.

Warehouse Capacity Limits

Summary: They're Gone. Please come!

We no longer are required to limit to 8 people. All students and mentors are invited to every meeting. No need to sign up before you come. We want you all back! We miss you!

We will be returning to a normal sign-in process, including over the summer. This will start to use our new RFID badge-scanner system. In addition to all the normal reasons we use attendance, we need this to help do contact tracing. We are requiring students to be vigilant in this regard.

COVID Safety Precautions

Summary: Masks required for now. Keep distance between you and others where possible.

Though the CDC and State of Illinois have lifted masking requirements for many people in many situations, Caterpillar continues to require them. Since they are our primary sponsor, and owner of the facility our warehouse is in, we commit to following their guidelines and requests in this area. Therefore, we will take the more conservative approach and continue to require that masks be worn while at the warehouse.

Gathering in groups in the same area should be limited whenever possible. We already do this somewhat naturally as a team given our distinct subteam areas, but try to keep from spending large amounts of time grouped in a small space, and try to keep some distance when working with others in your own subteam.

We will evaluate this requirement as Caterpillar moves through their back-to-the-office plan. July 6th is tentatively the next review date for offices in North America.

We will not be performing temperature checks, and ask folks to stay home if they are feeling any sort of illness (including COVID symptoms). We may still take folks's temperature if they are not feeling well to help advise whether they should be in attendance or not.

Vaccination Requirements

Summary: Not Required, strongly encouraged.

As a requirement to be on the team or come to the warehouse, we will not ask about vaccination status. We do strongly recommend you take all health precautions you are able to, including getting the vaccine to help protect yourself and others around you. However, we will not make it a team or warehouse requirement.

This stance is derived from Caterpillar's current approach. If FIRST event attendance or other institutions we are involved with have differing requirements, we will sort that out as best we can case by case. The guidelines on how to handle this are still rapidly evolving. However, we currently are not requiring a specific vaccine.

Casserole's Plans for Offseason 2021

Summary: Everything we normally do, plus a new offseason competition.

In addition to the normal slew of training and onboarding events, there is a new Peoria Area offseason competition on October 23rd. It will take place at Tremont High School, and is targeted to have about 30 teams present. While details are still a bit in flux, we are using this as the centerpoint of our offseason.

We are also on a waitlist for an offseason competition in Rockford, IL in July - more details will be provided for that event if we are accepted to attend.

Casserole's Plans for FIRST Robotics Season 2022

Summary: Build a robot, attend CIR and an "away" regional, hopefully make it to Champs.

The plan we are laying out here is what we're asking students who want to actively participate on the team to start to plan around. Things to keep in mind as you plan out your upcoming vacations and activities:

- We plan on having a normal Saturday kickoff viewing event at the warehouse on January 8th, 2022.
- We'll meet that Sunday in the afternoon, do a rules quiz, and go into our usual 20-hour meeting weeks to build our robot.
- We're planning to sign up both for CIR, and for some away regional that we'll travel to as a team.
- As always, we're hoping to make it to Detroit for Championships.

While we don't know for sure what the world will look like in 9 months, most expert opinions and trendlines show that our plans should be feasible. We will keep you in the loop if anything changes, and notify you as soon as possible.

Attendance Requirements

Summary: Starting in September, we are returning to normal.

We intend the policy to remain very similar to what our 2021 policy initially was:

- Securing a spot to travel with the team (with the team supplying room and board) requires being a full-time team member.
 - 80% meeting attendance
 - No more than 2 unexcused absences per month
 - Meets outreach event participation criteria
 - Meets soft requirements for "Active Participation"
- As before, non-travel-eligible students are still welcomed to attend team meetings in a productive way and cheer the team on at CIR
- Full-time team members will be prioritized for jobs at competition.
- Students will be notified of travel eligibility at least two weeks before travel occurs. Questions related to this should be addressed with the mentor team *prior* to the 2-week deadline.

Updates and full details will be found in our student manual at the beginning of the season.

Outreach events done over the summer will count toward the total requirement for travel, so volunteering early is good!

Key Dates

Summary: Add our Google Calendar to yours, and check it regularly.

Items *in italics like this* are travel-eligibility outreach opportunities! Get your outreach requirement out of the way earlier rather than later!

We are publishing these dates as an overview of what we know and expect our season will look like this year. For the latest updates, please be sure to check the calendar on our website!

- Pre-Season Outreach
 - *July 19-23 - Elmwood Library Robotics Camp*
 - *Late July - Peoria Area Homeschooler Conferences*
 - *Aug 5th - IVC HS Registration*
 - *Aug 12 - 9 to 11:30 - Richwoods Freshman Registration*
 - *Aug 25th 6 to 8 - Richwoods "Back to School Knight"*
 - July 29th - Last in-person meeting for Casserole Summer Session
- Pre-Season Prep - **Required Meetings for Returning Students**
 - Aug 24 & Aug 26 - Open house warehouse clean & prep
- Sept-Dec: Offseason Meetings: Tuesday + Thursday, 6-8PM
 - Aug 31st and Sept 2nd -Robot Casserole Open House Week
 - Sept 7th + 9th - New student account setup and training
 - Sept 14th - Mandatory Safety Training - All Team
 - Sept 16th -> Sept 30th - Team Onboarding Presentations & Training
 - Subteam Overview
 - 2020 Robot Overview
 - *Sept-Oct - FLL Scrimmages*
 - Oct 5th -> Oct 21st - Robot repairs, competition prep, and driver practice
 - November/December - continued training and offseason projects
 - Swerve Drive Assembly & Programming
 - Pit superstructure rework & customization
 - New tool setup and practice
 - *Nov - Introduce a Girl To STEM Day*
 - *Dec - Peoria FLL Tournament*
 - Dec 16th - Last offseason meeting.
- Offseason Competition
 - Oct 22nd - Peoria Area Robotics Offseason - Load-In
 - Oct 23rd - Peoria Area Robotics Offseason - Competition
- 2022 Season
 - Jan 8th - Kickoff @ Warehouse
 - Jan 9th - Extra design/plan meeting (Sunday)
 - Jan-Mar - Monday-Thursday 6-9PM, Saturday 8AM-4PM build season meetings @ Warehouse
 - Feb - *"Engineering Day" Outreach Event*

- Late Feb - Required Parent meeting - Travel + Capping Ceremony
- Feb/Mar - CIR and Travel Regional
- April - FRC World Championships
- May - Family Picnic 2022