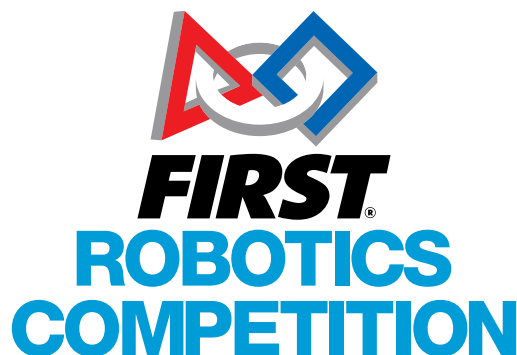


3

Team Organization

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3 TEAM ORGANIZATION

3.1 Overview

This section provides teams with information regarding team organization. It is up to the individual teams to make decisions on how they would like to organize their teams. This section is here to provide guidance on how to organize your team.

3.2 Youth Protection Program

FIRST strives to create an environment in which team members can grow, learn and have fun with minimal risk of injury. *FIRST* maintains a Youth Protection Department (*FIRST* YPD) for the purpose of fulfilling its commitment to protecting youth.

Coaches and Mentors are expected to read the Youth Protection Program Guide, available [here](#).

Information on the US Screening process is available [here](#).

Information on the Canadian Screening process is available [here](#).

You can find an FAQ section and additional information about the *FIRST* Youth Protection Program on the *FIRST* website [here](#).



3.3 Suggested Leadership Roles

Developing a team leadership structure that assigns clear roles and responsibilities is the first step to organizing your team. Once complete, it will be much easier to prepare for the season, unify and manage the team, stay current with important information, and meet season deadlines. Your team is encouraged to align its leadership structure with the contact requirements of the Team Information Management System ([TIMS](#)—outlined in the tables below). Although we encourage the following guidelines, team structure is the team's prerogative and the following are only suggestions.

Examine the roles and compare recommended qualities and abilities with your mentors from a *FIRST* perspective. Please remember it is essential that team members and mentors share the workload!

3.3.1 Lead Mentor 1 Responsibilities

The Lead Mentor 1 is the primary contact who provides team information to *FIRST* and undertakes key actions on behalf of the team via [TIMS](#). It is recommended this role be filled by the lead mentor of the team. This person may choose to delegate some of the responsibilities listed below, but should still be up to date with their progress and ensure their completion. This position must be held by an adult team member 18 years old or older.

Award Submissions:	Assign student awards submitters in TIMS. Ensure submissions of Woodie Flowers, Chairman's, and other Awards by the respective deadlines. Find details in Section 6: Awards .
<i>FIRST</i> Robotics Competition Blog:	Monitor the <i>FIRST</i> Robotics Competition blog for "behind the scenes" news and updates here .
Calendar of Important Deadline Dates:	Monitor the <i>FIRST</i> website calendar for changes, additions here .
Communications	Read <i>FIRST</i> Communications, Team Updates, <i>FIRST</i> Robotics Competition Blog, etc. (see below). Ensure team is educated on important information. Contact <i>FIRST</i> Team Support with any questions.
Consent and Release Forms:	Ensure all team Consent and Release Forms are submitted. Please refer to Section 4.7.1 Consent and Release Forms for more information regarding the Consent and Release form. Review : http://www.firstinspires.org/resource-library/youth-team-member-consent-and-release-form
Contact Information:	Keep all contact information up to date in the TIMS Team Profile Section. Provide his/her accurate email address, mailing address, and phone number to allow timely communication with <i>FIRST</i> , especially for use during vacations or team travel.
Email Blasts:	Receive, read and share email blasts with team. Email blast archive page located here .
Event Information:	Register team for events in TIMS
Judges' Information:	Enter judges' information into TIMS by deadline
Kit and Kickoff Information:	Submit selections in TIMS by deadline
Robot Transportation:	Invite Shipping Contact to team, or assume role. Ensure the Shipping Contact is actively learning the rules and making plans to transport your team's robot. Also ensure the team is meeting all shipping deadlines.
Safety:	Work with team's Safety Captain to ensure team member safety. Review <i>FIRST</i> Safety Policies/Procedures.
Scholarship Opportunities:	Invite team Scholarship Contact in TIMS.
Team Profile:	Maintain and update Team Profile Information in TIMS to reflect correct team contacts, partner organization, team demographic information.
Team Updates	Reads Team Updates posted here .
TIMS (Team Info System):	Maintain and update team information via TIMS .

Track Twitter Feed/ Facebook Page:	Monitor the <i>FIRST</i> Robotics Competition Twitter Feed and Facebook Page for announcements about updates, news and important information. Twitter/Facebook
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Tip! If team contacts are using school email addresses, please make sure the school's firewall allows emails from frcteams@firstinspires.org.

3.3.2 Lead Mentor 2 Responsibilities

The Lead Mentor 2 is the Lead Mentor 1’s “right hand” and shares in providing and maintaining accurate information in TIMS, as well as providing leadership to the team. The Lead Mentor 2 should read and share in the responsibilities of the Lead Mentor 1 as outlined above. Generally the Lead Mentor 2 assumes the Lead Mentor 1 role should the Lead Mentor 1 not be able to fulfill his/her duties. This position must be held by an adult team member 18 years or older. Key duties of the Lead Mentor 2 are outlined below:

Calendar of Important Deadline Dates:	Monitor the Calendar of Important Deadline dates for changes, additions here .
Communications:	Receive and distribute relevant <i>FIRST</i> communications to team members.
Chairman’s Award	Collect information about, and document, the successes and accomplishments of the team. Organize the Chairman’s Award (CA) submission for the team and help prepare the CA presentation to be given to the judges at the event. Please refer to Admin Manual, Chapter 6 – The Awards, for more information about the Chairman’s Award.
Contact Information:	Provide current contact information for TIMS, including an alternate phone number and address in case <i>FIRST</i> has to make contact during vacation or while the team is traveling.
Public Relations:	Confer with Lead Mentor 1. Notify Public Relations (PR) Contact of any upcoming team fundraising or events.
Robot Transportation:	Be familiar with the robot transportation responsibilities in case the Shipping Contact needs help. Can also assume role of Shipping Contact.
Safety:	Work with team’s Safety Captain to ensure safety while working and traveling.
Support:	Provide any support the Lead Mentor 1 or team may need.
TIMS (Team Info System):	Assist Lead Mentor 1 with maintaining and updating team’s TIMS record.
Vacation Coverage:	Assist Lead Mentor 1 with receiving communications and handling team issues during vacation periods.

3.3.3 Shipping Contact Responsibilities

The Shipping Contact is a critical position on the team, as this contact is responsible for handling robot transportation, Bag and Tag, and receiving any items shipped from *FIRST* to the team (i.e., a replacement part). The Main or Lead Mentor 2 can be assigned to the role of Shipping Contact, or they may invite a separate Shipping Contact via the invitation process in TIMS.

Communications:	Receive and read <i>FIRST</i> email blasts, read the <i>FIRST</i> Robotics Competition Blog and the Team Updates. Communicate with <i>FIRST</i> on any robot transportation related questions.
Contact Information:	Provide the Lead Mentor 1 or 2 with current contact information for TIMS, including a valid phone number to enable <i>FIRST</i> contact during vacation times or when the team is traveling.
FedEx Donation	Receive and safeguard any shipping paperwork the team is given concerning travel to Championship or if you have been granted a Robot Transportation Exemption. The FedEx donation can save your team hundreds of dollars on shipping your robot. Carefully guard the shipping documents. Use the shipping paperwork as specified in Chapter 5 of this manual. NEITHER <i>FIRST</i> NOR FEDEX WILL REPLACE LOST SHIPPING DOCUMENTS.
Kit of Parts (KoP):	<p>If your team opted to pay for your Kickoff Kit shipment (i.e., selected the “Team Pays” choice in TIMS), confer with Lead Mentor 1/Lead Mentor 2 to ensure that the shipping address in TIMS is correct.</p> <p>If your team wants to pick up the kit, make sure the Lead Mentor 1 meets the deadline for this TIMS entry.</p> <p>Designate an adult mentor to pick up the kit at a Local Kickoff.</p> <p>If your team wants to designate another team to pick up the kit, make sure the appropriate Surrogate Kit Pickup paperwork is delivered to <i>FIRST</i> by the deadline as indicated on Calendar of Important Deadline Dates here.</p>
Robot Transportation	<p>Read Chapter 5 - Robot Transportation in the <i>FIRST</i> Robotics Competition Team Competition Manual as well as review supplemental instructions as directed in that chapter.</p> <p>Be familiar with and conform to the following:</p> <p>Bag and Tag requirements and procedures</p> <p>Deadlines and requirements for shipping your robot crate, if you are traveling to Championship or have been granted an Exemption for a regional event</p> <p>Customs requirements if you travel over a border</p> <p>Other requirements that pertain to your particular team situation</p>
TIMS Team’s FedEx, UPS or USPS Account Number:	<p>Provide the Lead Mentor 1 or Lead Mentor 2 with a shipping account number for TIMS. Incorrect Shipping Account numbers could directly impact the missing, defective, or broken parts replacement system for your team.</p> <p>Sponsor/school may let team use its shipping account, or obtain a number from the companies’ websites.</p>

3.4 Recommended Additional Contacts

3.4.1 Corporate / University Contact Responsibilities

This contact provides information about the team to the University or Corporation sponsoring the team. Keeping the sponsor/partner informed of team progress and achievements throughout the season is a great way to ensure their support.

Communications:	Receive related team emails. Provide information to team if necessary.
Contact Information:	Provide an alternate phone number and address in case <i>FIRST</i> needs to make contact during vacation or while the team is traveling.
Public Relations:	Notify university/sponsor contacts of any upcoming team fundraising or events. Let supporters know about trials and successes regarding the robot design and build. Get them excited right through the process and continue providing information throughout the year. Invite them to an event.

3.4.2 Public Relations Contact Responsibilities

Advertising the team’s goals and accomplishments is critical. The Public Relations Contact works with the team to ensure that the community and sponsors are apprised of the team’s progress and accomplishments.

Communications:	Receive relevant <i>FIRST</i> communications and reply when necessary.
Contact Information:	Provide up to date contact information to the Lead Mentor 1 for TMS.
Fundraising:	The team would be wise to advise this person of any fundraising activity or team appearances at least two weeks before the date so that advance notification of the event can be prepared and sent to media contacts.
Public Relations Updates:	Responsible for receiving and disseminating any PR updates issued by <i>FIRST</i> , and using them to the team's advantage in local newspapers, as well as TV/radio stations.
Sponsors:	Send any PR information to current sponsors all during the year, and prepare “marketing” materials to attract potential new sponsors.

3.4.3 Scholarship Contact Responsibilities

This team contact is responsible for disseminating information about *FIRST* Scholarships to the student *FIRST* Robotics Competition team members and their parents. It is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that a Scholarship Contact is assigned to the team and entered in TMS!

Communications:	Receives key scholarship information from <i>FIRST</i> and shares information with team students and parents. Contact <i>FIRST</i> about any scholarship related inquiries. Information on scholarships may be found on the Scholarship webpage .
Contact Information:	Provide up to date contact information for TMS. Provide an alternate phone number and address in case <i>FIRST</i> needs to make contact during vacation or while the team is traveling.

3.4.4 School Contact Responsibilities

This adult representative is responsible for knowing and enforcing all school rules regarding team participation. A teacher or principal may be best qualified for this role to facilitate the team's progress and meeting deadlines.

Communications:	Receive school -related team emails. Provide information/reply if necessary. Monitor Award due dates, which are posted on the FIRST Robotics Competition Season Calendar . Please refer to Section 6 (6.1 FIRST Robotics Competition Awards) for detailed information on FIRST Robotics Competition Awards.
Contact Information:	Provide up to date contact information for the Lead Mentor 1 in TIMS
Public Relations:	Notify Public Relations Contact of any upcoming team fundraising or events. Confering with Lead Mentor 1.
Safety:	Stress safety whenever possible.
Scholarships:	Inform students early about scholarship opportunities and deadlines, and encourage and assist those interested in applying for them. Information on scholarships may be found on the Scholarship webpage .

3.4.5 Technical Contact Responsibilities

This person will assist the team with technical issues and problems related to engineering.

Communications:	Receive team emails. Reply with inquiries as necessary. Keep the rest of the team apprised on your technical successes/issues. Ask for help/ideas.
Contact Information:	Provide up to date contact information for TIMS. Provide an alternate phone number and address in case <i>FIRST</i> needs to make contact during vacation or while the team is traveling.
Pre-Transport Inspection:	Work with the team members to perform a robot inspection before your robot is packed for transport or sealed in its bag. Use the Inspection Checklist that will be posted after Kickoff. This inspection will show where problems are so you can correct them before transporting your robot. It will also provide the students with information they will need to know during the on-site, pre-competition inspection since the inspectors will be asking the students questions.
Public Relations:	Notify Public Relations Contact when your robot nears completion or when you have an opportunity to show off your robot. If the PR contact is not available, notify local media of any upcoming team fundraising or events. Plan these opportunities with your Lead Mentor 1.
Safety:	Stress safety and ensure safe working conditions, safety glasses use, etc.

3.4.6 Travel Contact Responsibilities

This person will make event(s) travel and hotel arrangements for the team members and mentors. Tackle this task early to ensure there is room on preferred flights and in preferred hotels.

Communications:	Receive relevant <i>FIRST</i> communications and communicate with <i>FIRST</i> and team as necessary.
Contact Information:	Provide up to date contact information for TIMS . Provide an alternate phone number and address in case <i>FIRST</i> needs to make contact during vacation or while the team is traveling.
Hotel Reservations:	Make any necessary travel reservations for competition events, including the Championship.
Manual and Website:	Refer to the “Site Info” document on the website for special travel/parking instructions. Bring the directions for the venue.
Travel Pricing:	Obtain, consider, and compare travel costs prior to registering for an event(s). The web has many opportunities to compare airfares. Ask for group rates to see if that is a good option. Is bussing an option?

3.5 Other Important Team Positions

Your team may want to consider appointing one or several Game Rules Monitors and Safety Captains. Students are welcome to fill these positions if the team members and mentors agree and find responsible candidates. *FIRST* does not need their contact information in TIMS.

Please read below for some job-related roles these students or adults may want to fill.

3.5.1 Game Rules Monitor Responsibilities

Know Point System:	Be sure the team understands the system; implement the best strategy.
Know Penalties:	Be sure all mentors and operators know and understand all penalties.
Learn Game Rules:	Read and understand the rules of the game and communicate them to the team members so they know the ins and outs of the game.
Learn Web System:	Check the online Manual for rules, changes, and web-based question and answer system. Online manual is here . Q&A is here .
Monitor Team Updates:	Communicate any changes, written in the updates, to the team. Team Updates are here . News and Email Blasts are here .

3.5.2 Safety Captain Responsibilities

At the Events:	<p>Bring enough safety glasses for the team and all guests. Make sure persons unpacking or un-bagging robot will have glasses to wear as they arrive at the Pit, and make sure all persons wear safety glasses/goggles properly.</p> <p>Be sure your team transports and lifts the robot safely.</p> <p>Know where the EMT area is, and report any injuries to the Pit Supervisor at the time of injury or treatment.</p> <p>Discourage running in the Pit or Competition Arena, and work with the green-shirted Safety Advisors to keep things safe and the Pit aisles clear.</p> <p>Bring any serious safety infractions, such as metal grinding or open flames to the attention of the Pit Supervisor, as well as any blatant discourtesies.</p>
Home/Work Site:	<p>Obtain enough safety glasses for the team. Ensure all persons wear them when working on the robot or in the “work” vicinity. People who wear glasses must have regulation safety glasses with side shields or wear safety goggles over their glasses.</p> <p>Make sure the work area is safe and the floor is clear at the team’s workplace and at the events.</p>
Read Competition Manual:	<p>Read Section 4.3 Courtesies and Rules. Meet with team members and decide what the team deems important in the safety area. Diplomatically enforce their findings.</p>
Read Team Safety Manual:	<p>Print and read the “<i>FIRST</i> Robotics Competition Team Safety Manual”, which can be found here. Meet with the team and go over the manual with everyone.</p>
Safety Policies:	<p>Review Safety Policies and Procedures in the “<i>FIRST</i> Robotics Competition Team Safety Manual” and inform the team of the mandates and suggestions. Encourage all team members and mentors to read the document, follow the suggestions and become familiar with the safety awards.</p> <p>Suggest that the team build a robot cart if they don’t have one.</p>
Use Courtesies:	<p>At all times, think and behave with a Graciously Professional® attitude.</p> <p>This position is one that makes teams aware of safety issues and inspires team members to improve safety conditions. <i>FIRST</i> works hard to ensure a safe environment and encourages others to do so as well. Use common sense and good judgment when bringing an infraction to someone’s attention. Please be kind and positive because the Safety Captain is an ambassador for your team.</p>