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## **FRC PNW District Briefing for 2015**

# Logistics of GotoWebinar

- This presentation is going to move very quickly!
- Your microphone is muted by default.
- Feel free to ask questions by typing or hit the raise hands button. If you raise your hand, we may un-mute you for a moment.
- We will attempt to summarize and answer similar questions in mass.
- These slides and a recording of this presentation are on [www.firstwa.org](http://www.firstwa.org) in the menu  
FRC->Webinar->FRC Season Briefing 2013-2014

# Season Briefing Agenda

- Before your event
  - Team Briefings are online soon
  - District team Check In
  - District Bag and Tag rules
- Pit area rules and restrictions
- Deans List Judging
- Travel to St Louis
- Other activities

# FIRST WAVE: The Alumni Challenge

- Your team can win an award for generating the highest percentage participation rate with your alumni.
- Reach out to your network of students and alumni and have them register on

<http://pnwfirst.org/alumni/>

The winning team will be recognized at the PNW District Championship.

# A Chance to help!

- Our events need inspectors and judges. If you are available, please visit [www.usfirst.org/vims](http://www.usfirst.org/vims)

Mentors can be robot inspectors. We need your experience! Register today.

Judges should be community leaders, or other distinguished guests not directly involved with a team

# Student Volunteer opportunities

- Your teams are required to help staff the safety glass tables. Your team may be visited by the Safety Glass Table Manager requesting students to help.
- Other event volunteer opportunities include Practice Field staff, field reset, field scoring, ambassadors.
- Team members, students, and parents interested in any of these activities should sign up at [www.usfirst.org/vims](http://www.usfirst.org/vims) and select your event.

# Dealing with the schedule

- You may have short notice about going to the Pacific Northwest District and to World Championships
  - Your schools policies on travel might need a plan
  - Your schools other sports teams do this all the time, yours is no different
  - Be sure your administration understands our schedule for advancement and the timelines. Working it out in advance will lead to a happy and fulfilling life come April

# District Event General Schedule

Check your specific event agenda for exact details

## Day 1

5:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Pits Open and Robot Inspection begins

## Day 2

8:15 AM

Pits and Machine Shop open

8:15 AM – 10:00 AM

Registration and Robot Inspection Continues

8:15 AM – 10:00 AM

Practice Rounds

10:30 AM

Opening Ceremonies

10:45 AM – 1:00 PM

Qualification Matches

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

VIP Tour and Open House

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Lunch

1:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Qualification Matches

8:00 PM

Pits and Machine Shop close

## Day 3

8:00 AM

Pits and Machine Shop Open

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Opening Ceremonies

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Qualification Matches

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Alliance Selection

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Lunch

11:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Final Rounds

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Awards Ceremony

4:00 PM

Pits Close



# Before your event

- Site specific team briefings will be available on the [pnwfirst.org](http://pnwfirst.org) site about a week before your event.
- Site specific information will include food options, parking and loading instructions, bus and trailer parking, and other things specific to each site.

# Before your arrival

- You still get your 30lbs of prefab withholdings
- 6 hours of 'Robot Access Period' time
  - This is done each week you compete.
  - Fix or attach your items in your own shop
  - Read the Rules!
- **DAY 1 IS NOT FINAL BUILD DAY!**
  - Your only goal is to pass inspection

# Some site considerations

- Seating is typically in the 1200-1400 range for our venues
  - 32 teams x 30 people = 960
  - Might need some of the larger teams to spread their participants across events, depending on the venue
- Proximity to services will be different
  - We are aware that teams will be traveling. Our venues are generally not too far from services. However, some are in suburban areas.
- You can bring your own food and water
  - This is a huge budget item for many teams. Yay!
  - Generally, all venues will also have concessions available.

# Handling visiting classes/schools

- We have several schools and classes coming to visit our events. Please be gracious if we need to group a large number of students in the stands by moving to another area.
- If you have invited a large group to visit, please be sure to let Adrienne Rime know ahead of time. [arime@firstwa.org](mailto:arime@firstwa.org)

# Being Gracious at the events

- We have some teams with special needs for seating for ASL interpreters and accessibility.
- We may need to ask you to help make room for these special needs.

# About the pits

- Your team should still get 10x10
  - The isles for moving around may be only 9' wide!
- In general, your pit spaces is on a hardwood floor
  - It is your responsibility to not damage the floor
  - We have heavy tarps to protect floor
  - It costs approximately \$24,000 to refinish a basketball court!
  - Your pit decorations **MUST NOT** have sharp edges on the bottom
  - Your team should plan on a 2' x 2' x ½" plywood for any 'pounding' that needs to be done.

# About the pit Power

- Pit power is limited. We are putting up to 6 teams on a single 20 amp circuit
  - Power generator is shut down overnight
  - No compressors or other large motors
  - Limit 400 watts per team, 2400 watts per 6 team Power Alliance
  - Lighting should go with low wattage
- High school gyms have very little power
  - You may NOT use any outlets in the gym
  - The game equipment uses all available power
  - We will remove and confiscate any equipment from gym outlets until after awards ceremony on Saturday. **You have be warned!**

# About the pits

- You must bring
  - 1 each 15' extension cord 16ga or 14 ga
  - 1 each 40' extension cord 16ga or 14 ga
  - 1 6 outlet power strip
  - 1 each 2' x 2' x  $\frac{3}{4}$  " Plywood pounding board
- Your extension cord should be labeled with your team number on both ends



# Team Rosters and Robot Lockup Forms

- Please insure that all of your students have registered in STIMS.
- **For each event**, you will be required to present the team roster and any additional signed forms.
- PLEASE remember to do this
- Your robot lockup form needs to be brought to each venue.

# RSVP for your event

You are not going to get a pit table unless you request one from us explicitly!  
We also need a contact phone for each of your events.

- The main contact for your team should visit <http://pnwfirst.org/events/team-rsvp/>
- Please use this form for each of your events
- Please do this step tonight!

# Wheel requirements for carts, boxes, and anything rolling

- Our venues will have power cord covers (aka Yellow Jackets)
  - Our yellow jackets are 2" tall
- Your FRC robot cart MUST have > 3" diameter wheels
  - Wheels must be in good working order. No damaged or stuck wheels. Soft rubber. No hard plastic or steel tread wheels.
  - Maximum weight for your carts, tool boxes, etc will be 50 lbs per inch of wheel size (1 cart, 4 x 3" wheels, 600lbs max)
- Under no circumstances will we allow wheels less than 2" in diameter on ANY equipment / boxes / carts
  - Very high likelihood of damage to floors
  - You won't clear our cable management equipment
- All wheels must be non marking rubber or synthetic wheels
  - No steel wheels. No sharp wheels.

# Dean's List Judging

- Dean's list judging is done via interviews
- Interviews are done in the morning at each district event. Interviews last about 5-10 minutes and are an informal chat with the judges
- Dean's list finalists are announced at the District Championship in Portland
- Main contacts for each team will be notified in advance about the interview appointment

# Advancing to PNW Championship

- 64 teams will advance to the PNW District Championship in Cheney WA
- Things we know:
  - Advancement is based on a point system
  - Each of your first 2 events you will receive points
  - The points are added to form your district ranking
  - Top teams advance, as do Chairman's teams

# Advancing to St Louis

- 30 teams advance from the PNW to World Championship
- Ways to advance:
  - Judged awards advance
  - Highly ranked teams advance
    - Advancement is based on the point ranking system

# Airline Tickets to St Louis

- We reserved 200 airline tickets from Sea Tac to St Louis
- We did this in response to dozens of teams asking us to do something about travel expenses for St Louis
  - Tickets are about \$590 which is the full fare, but we have block reservations.
- WFR is on the hook for over \$120,000 for these tickets.
  - If they don't get used, we go bankrupt and this will be the last year for FIRST in the Northwest!

# Student Ambassadors

- VIP tours at each event are hosted by student representatives.
- We are asking each team to identify two student ambassadors to help guide our guests through FIRST.
- Students should be prepared to offer tours and speak about their team and impact of our program in their lives.
- The FIRST staff will reach out to teams about a week before each event.



# Involve your legislators

- Students can show their appreciation to lawmakers for the financial support for all FIRST teams through a letter writing campaign.
- During our events, the FIRST staff will be visiting your pit area with supplies and ideas for your students to communicate directly with their elected officials.
- Letters to legislators will be collected at the Pit Admin desk by 11am on Day 3 for delivery to the capitol.

# Live Streams

- Our nationally recognized video team will be streaming all of our events.
- Check out [www.pnwfirst.org](http://www.pnwfirst.org) for the broadcast schedule each week.

# Social Media Outreach

- Share your stories about your team and its members with the world
- #PNWFIRST #OMGROBOTS
- Twitter: @FIRST\_WA @OREGONROBOTICS @PNWFIRST
- Facebook: WashingtonFIRSTRobotics

# Conclusions

- Lots of things on the calendar
- We are excited
- Teams are excited
- Questions or concerns:
  - Kevin Ross [kevinro@firstwa.org](mailto:kevinro@firstwa.org)