



2023-2024 NC FLL Challenge Tournament Day Details

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ONLINE RESOURCES

NC FLL Planning Committee:

<https://www.ncflandftc.com/fl-planning-committee.html>

Challenge Resources:

<https://www.firstinspires.org/resource-library/fl/challenge/challenge-and-resources>

Tournament Day At-A-Glance:

<https://www.ncflandftc.com/fl-tournament-day-details.html>

Tournament Visual Reference Gallery:

<https://www.ncflandftc.com/we-are-nc-fl-video.html>

Note: The following information is subject to change based on the tournament location. In the event changes are made to a specific tournament schedule, all registered teams will be notified via email using the email address provided on the event registration form.



TOURNAMENT PREPARATION

COVID-19 Policy

For the 2023-2024 season, ALL qualifying and semi-final tournaments will be IN PERSON, and will be capped at a maximum of 48 teams (if space allows). COVID precautions will be enforced. All events will follow all guidelines set in place by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services as a baseline for safety precautions. Additionally, we will be following guidelines and rules put in place by the Host Sites, which may differ between locations.

Each in-person event will include additional safety measures such as:

- Social Distancing between teams on the competition floor and in the pit area.
- Teams will not be allowed to congregate in the hallways of the facility.
- Participants are not required to wear a mask.
Note: This rule is subject to change if local, state or federal reinstate the indoor mask mandate.
- Limited contact at team check-in - quick packet pick up at Pit Area entrance.
- Coaches & Team Members only in the Pit Area
- Increased distance between team tables in the Pit Area (where possible).
- Hand Sanitizer throughout the facility, with required use prior to entering the pit area and approaching the competition field.
- Pit Practice tables will not be utilized this season. Teams may bring their own mats and kits for practice purposes within the pit if desired. Competition tables will be provided.

Note: Additional precautions may be added to this list based on suggested or required safety measures. Updates will be sent to coaches throughout the season, as changes occur.

Postponement/Cancellation Policy

In the event of inclement weather, COVID-19 restriction and/or other unforeseen circumstances that prevent a NC FLL Challenge tournament taking place in person, as scheduled, all tournaments will be set-up with an online/remote option to make an easy transition from an unsafe in-person environment to a fully virtual robot run experience online.

If a reschedule date or online/remote option is not feasible, teams will be selected to advance to the State Competition by random lottery selection. All details regarding inclement weather will be posted on the website and will be emailed to all coaches.



Weather

Coaches are responsible for their teams being prepared for inclement weather of any kind (jackets, umbrellas, a box for robot and/or presentation items, etc.). Please keep this in mind, as you prepare to transport your items to and from the parking lot or between buildings, at locations where the tournament will span multiple facilities.

Team Volunteer Requirement

All teams are required to provide a volunteer during an AM or PM shift on tournament day. No exceptions! Please visit the link below for more information on registering your team volunteer and details related to their participation:

<https://public.3.basecamp.com/p/z141W67pSqLhQcHM3fQ3NGov>

Notice to Parents:

Parents are welcome to take a seat in the competition area to view morning practice runs and afternoon Robot Performance runs. The following areas are for teams only, and parents and siblings are not permitted:

- in the pit area
- on the competition floor or at the competition tables
- in judging area

WHAT TO BRING

Things you should bring to the tournament

- Robot and a box or cart in which to carry your robot
- Laptop computer
- Power strip and Extension Cord for use in the Pit Area
- Spare parts
- Extra batteries
- Project presentation materials (Teams MUST bring everything they need. No video, audio, or other presentation materials will be provided.)
- Team banner (if desired)
- Snacks, Bag lunch, Money for Concessions (optional)
- Activities to occupy kids during downtime
- Umbrella, Jacket, etc. in case of inclement weather

Note: Pre-order lunches may be offered based on the event location. Information regarding pre-order lunches will be via email if it is an option for your specific tournament location.



TEAM CHECK-IN

Arrival and Parking

Signage for FLL Tournament Parking will be indicated upon entry to the facility. Please come prepared with the proper transportation device (storage case, hand truck, etc.) to transport your items to your pit area. Doors for check-in will not open until the noted team check in time.

Team Check-in at 7:15am

In order to check-in, Coaches will need to know their team number (assigned by *FIRST*). Parking, Facility, and check-in locations are unique to each location and will be communicated via email prior to the tournament day. Upon arrival, all coaches are required to check-in their teams at the Team Check-in Table. All teams will be given a packet which will include:

- **Team/Coach Wristbands for Pit Area Access (required)**
- Tournament Schedule w/ Team Roster, Pit Table Assignments
- Site Map

Tournament Schedule

The official tournament schedule will be distributed via email to coaches 1 - 2 days prior to the tournament. The schedule will include all activities planned for the day of the tournament, including each team's assigned morning practice table runs, Judging Interviews, and afternoon Robot Performance run time slots. For questions regarding the tournament schedule on tournament day, please visit the information table or pit administration.

Tournament Rules

- All teams, coaches, volunteers, tournament staff, and spectators should always practice Gracious Professionalism.
- Please bring **ONLY** what your team needs for tournament day.
- Absolutely no cheating, running, no profanity, no smoking. Please respect the people and property at all times. Coaches please let the kids do the work!
- **Know your team number: Everything is scheduled and called by team number.**
- Allowable parts and software: At any time during the tournament, the judges and referees may inspect robots to determine if they comply with the allowable parts and software rules as stated on the Official FLL website.
- Please contact the Tournament Director for clarity on tournament procedures, if you have an emergency, and or if anyone attending the tournament with your team requires special accommodations.



PIT SET-UP

Pit Assignments

Please review the team list (provided at check-in) carefully to identify your team's assigned pit location. All coaches with multiple teams under the same coach or organization will be placed together.

Each pit will consist of:

- one table
- 1 chair per team member
- access to 1 power outlet (up to 25ft from the pit table)

Note: The NC FLL Challenge, N.C. A&T State University, Sharpe Pursuits Inc., Inc. Event Sponsors and the Host Locations cannot accept liability for lost or damaged items. Please make sure that someone on your team monitors your team equipment and personal items.

Practice Tables are Back!

Pit Practice Tables are an unofficial practice option for teams near the pit area. Each table will have a sign up sheet/board available for teams to select a time slot to run the robot on the field for extra practice. All sign ups are first-come, first-serve, and we ask all teams to sign-up no more than once before 11:30 am, to ensure everyone gets at least one opportunity. The practice tables will be closed during lunch and opening ceremony between 11:30 pm - 1:00 pm. Additional sign-ups will be available after 1:00 pm.

2023-24 Season Note: Due to the nature of the 'loose' pieces in this season's field kit. Each team will be required to provide THEIR OWN MINIFIGURES for use at the pit practice tables. All other field components will be present. Please come prepared on event day, and remember to take your minifigures with you, after each pit practice table session.

Personal Kits (full), Mats and Tables are OPTIONAL:

Teams may bring their own pit table and/or kit and mat to practice during down time. The table and mat must fit on or beside your table, where space allows. Please do not block walkways when placing your personal field or mat in. Please note:

- Teams are only permitted to utilize the space provided in their pit area.
- If a team chooses to bring a private competition table for use only by their team, this must be housed in the allotted pit space.
- Teams WILL NOT be allowed to set-up private competition tables and/or kit and mat in other parts of the room/building.



MORNING SCHEDULE INFORMATION

7:45AM - Coaches Meeting (in the COMPETITION AREA)

During the Coaches Meeting you will have a brief conversation with the Tournament Director regarding the schedule and basic information. The meeting will last roughly 20 minutes and will allow time for all coaches to re-join their teams and prepare for Judge Interviews.

8:15AM - Judge Interviews begin

All teams are expected to attend their judge interview as assigned on the tournament schedule. Judge Interviews will begin at 8:15am.

- Teams to participate in ONE judging interview (30 min)
- 3 Judges per judging room
- All 3 areas will be covered in one interview: core values, innovative project, and robot design.
- Please bring all items needed for Judging with you at the start of Judging.
- Please arrive in the judging area no less than 10-minutes prior to your interview start time.

Rubrics and notes completed after each session. Coaches will receive a copy of Judge feedback at the end of the tournament day.

OPTIONAL

- Core Values poster/presentation is optional.
- Team Information Sheets
- Teams that require a device to present (i.e., screen, tablet, TV, etc.) must bring their own equipment. **Note: A device is not required to present.*

SORRY, NOT THIS YEAR...

- No coaches, parents, or spectators in the judging room.
- There will not be a robot table in the judging rooms this season.
- Teams are not permitted to leave anything with the judges after the interview.
- Team Information Sheets are NOT required.
- Interviews will not allow time to Core Values presentations this season.
- There will not be any pit visits or call backs.



BE PREPARED

Depending on the venue, students may have to walk to a separate building to participate in judging interviews. Please plan to protect teams (umbrellas, jackets, etc.) projects and robots in case of inclement weather. A cart to transport items is highly recommended.

8:15AM - Morning Practice Runs begin (in the COMPETITION AREA)

Each team will have one opportunity to practice on the main competition tables on the morning of the tournament. 20-minute time slots will be preassigned. Please reference the tournament schedule regarding your team's table run schedule. All tables will be monitored by the tournament Referees. Due to the tight time schedule of the tournament, teams must be present at the time of their assigned practice run. Teams who miss their assigned time slot will not be able to repeat it later.

Coaches in the competition area:

- Coaches are permitted at the tables with teams during morning practice runs.
- Coaches are NOT permitted at the competition tables with their teams during Afternoon Robot Performance Runs.

AFTERNOON SCHEDULE INFORMATION

Lunch/Food Options

- Bring your own lunch: All teams are welcome to bring their own bag lunches
- Pre-order lunches may be available based on each venue. If this option is available for your tournament, you will be notified in advance.
- A concession stand may be available during the tournament (not guaranteed).
- Various fast-food options are located within 5 – 15 minutes of the venue. Please keep in mind you will have a limited amount of time to leave and eat, if you choose to do so. Pre-ordering lunch or bringing your own lunches is encouraged.

Note: Pre-order lunches are not required.

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony will last approximately 30 minutes. We encourage teams to bring banners or poster boards displaying their team's name and number as we complete a 'team role call' during the ceremony in the form of the team parade. Please keep your teams together. There will only be a couple of minutes between the conclusion of the Opening Ceremony and the beginning of the Robot Performance Runs. If you are one of the first/second teams to compete in the table runs, please plan to bring your robot with you during the parade.

As a precautionary measure, we will not have any High-Five lines this season.



Team Que

Team Que is where teams wait until they are called to the table by the Referees for each robot practice or after Robot Performance Run. Please note the site map provided in your team's check-in packet. All teams will flow through the team que area into the competition area according to the tournament schedule. Questions regarding the team que traffic flow should be addressed to the Team Que Volunteers or Head Referee.

Afternoon Robot Performance Runs

- Each team will have three opportunities to compete on the competition tables. Please reference the tournament schedule regarding your team's table run schedule.
- Coaches, parents, and young adult mentors are NOT permitted at the competition tables with their teams during Robot Performance Runs in the afternoon.
- All teams are required to follow all rulings associated with this year's challenge.
- Laptops are not permitted in the competition area during the afternoon runs.
- Robot performance problems encountered during practice runs and competition runs may only be corrected by the registered team members. All questions should be addressed to the referees.
- Teams are NOT permitted to touch the playing field, movable pieces, or the robot at the end of the round. All team members will be required to stand back, away from the table while the referee scores the round. Teams who remove their robot or touch the playing field before scoring is complete may not receive proper credit for the affected mission (s).
- Team members will be invited back to the table by the referee to review their scores before they walk away. Teams will receive a carbon copy of their robot performance scores following each round. A team initial will be required once the team and referee agree on the scores.
- Disputes regarding team scores should be communicated by **team members**, to the head referee in a civil and respectful manner. Coaches, parents and team members are not permitted to approach the scorer's table. Individuals, who do not observe this rule, will be directed to speak with the tournament director.
- Ruling changes, made by *FIRST*, may take place at any time as we get closer to the tournament date. It is the responsibility of the Coach and team members to check the *FIRST* website regularly to review any ruling changes.

Note: FIRST may post Robot Game Updates at any time at <http://www.firstlegoleague.org/challenge/robotgameupdates>



END OF DAY

Pit Clean Up

Immediately following their final table run, ALL teams are required to return to their assigned pit table and begin packing up all team/personal items. Teams are required to clean up ALL trash in their pit area prior to leaving for the day. **Please leave the Pit # Signs on the table.**

Awards Ceremony

The following awards will be distributed at the conclusion of each event:

- 1st Place Champions

Core Awards

- 1st Place Robot Performance Award (Highest Robot Performance Score)
- 1st Place Robot Design Award
- 1st Place Innovative Project Award
- 1st Place Core Values Award

Core Awards will include a 2nd place award will be issued for team attendance between 12 - 24 teams, and a 3rd place award will be issued for team attendance between 25 - 36 teams.

Additional Awards - unique to North Carolina

- Outstanding Coach/Mentor
- Judge Award
- Rookie Team Award

State Championship Qualification

A designated percentage of all teams that participate at each event will advance from sub-regional qualifiers to the semi final event on December 9, 2023, and from the semi-final event to the State Championship in January 2024. The exact number of teams advancing will be announced during the Coaches Meeting on tournament day. More information regarding the Semi-Final Round and the State Championship will be provided after the preceding tournaments.

Note: 1st Place Champions at each sub-regional qualifier will automatically advance to the State Championship in 2024, and will not participate in the Semi-final round.



Judge Feedback

- Team participation packets (challenge buttons, participation certificates and judge feedback/rubrics) will be distributed to coaches at the END OF THE TOURNAMENT DAY.
- Please designate a parent to pick up your team packet, if the coach is not present to retrieve the packet.
- **NC FLL Challenge** will NOT be mailing unclaimed packets this season.
- Your team must participate in the tournament in order to receive a packet.