



District-Specific Team Information

Judged Awards at District Events and District Championship

At the New England District Championship this year, the Judges will decide the most prestigious awards that will earn a team a spot at World Championships in St. Louis. There will be 6 Dean's List Finalists, 4 Chairman's Award Teams (CA), 2 Engineering Inspiration Award teams (EI) and 1 Rookie All-Star Award team (RAS) that will qualify for the *FIRST* Championship.

Each Dean's List semifinalist previously nominated by their team will be interviewed at one of their District Events. **If you submitted an application for a semifinalist, your team should have already received a form regarding District Event interviews.** A shortlist of the semifinalists will be interviewed in the two weeks prior to the District Championship via Skype, following which the Judges will make the final selection of 6 Dean's List Finalists to be announced at the District Championship at the XL Center in Hartford, CT.

Teams submitting for the Chairman's Award will receive instructions for setting up interviews electronically. Each Chairman's Award interview is allotted a 12 minute slot. The team has up to 7 minutes for their presentation. Remaining time will be left for Q&A with the judges. In addition to the 3 students, a team may have a mentor present who must be silent. No recording of the interview will be permitted.

The team awards (CA, EI and RAS) will be selected from those teams receiving the awards at their District Events. **Once a team has won one of the three awards, they will not be eligible for that particular award at another District Event**, but can receive one of the others.

Only teams being awarded Chairman's at a District Event will be automatically eligible to register their team to compete with their robot at the District Championship. To be able to register their robot to compete at District Championship, Engineering Inspiration awardees and Rookie All-Stars will need to qualify for a spot based on their point total (please refer to [Section 7](#) of the Administrative Manual for more information on this).

All interviews for these 3 awards will be held at the XL Center. For a team to be eligible for the award, they must be interviewed. **If a team has either not qualified for a spot at District Championship or has chosen to not to have their robot compete, those teams will still need to be interviewed at District Championship.**

Teams submitting for the Entrepreneurship Award should bring a hard copy of their business plan and submission to their competitions.

If your team has any questions, please contact the Senior Judge Advisor at seniorjaforne@gmail.com.

NE *FIRST* District Event Practice Match Policy

At all District Events this year, teams will be able to run practice matches in a “filler line” queue on Day 0 and Day 1 of each event (please refer to Section 5 of the Game Manual or Section 4 of the Administrative Manual for more information on how filler lines work). Teams may only enter the filler line queue for practice matches once they have been fully inspected. Due to scheduling constraints, **events will only run filler line practice matches** on both Day 0 (load-in and setup day) and Day 1 (the first official day of competition) instead of scheduled practice matches.

Please note that practice matches are not guaranteed at any District Event. The availability of practice matches at each event will vary depending on when the field can be set up and any field hardware or software issues. The Field Technical Advisor (FTA) present at the event will inform teams whether or not there will be time to run practice matches as soon as possible.

Robot Inspection Reminders

Now that Build Season is over and your robot is bagged and tagged, here are a few tips from Dana Henry, our Head Robot Inspector for New England:

1. **Make 3 copies of your [robot lockup form](#)!** Your student team lead gets one, your Main Contact gets one and at least one other mentor/student gets one. Every event I inspect at, at least one team tells me that their Lock Up Form is on the teacher’s desk back at the school. Let’s avoid this by having multiple forms carried by different people.
2. The [2016 Inspection Form](#) is available and you should assign one or two students (at least) to inspect the robot during your 6 hr. unbag time before each District Event. Make sure you check for firmware updates on the Driver’s Station, roboRIO, Talons, etc. Pay close attention to wire sizes, color coding, pneumatic plumbing (making sure you have legal and properly rated fittings/valves), solenoids and actuators.
3. Motors: Are all of your motors listed in the [manual](#)? Are you using an automotive motor? Do you have the proper documentation proving that a motor you are using from the automotive list IS an automotive motor? **It is the responsibility of the team to prove to the inspector that all motors on your robot are legal.** (Globe motors are still illegal!)
4. Pneumatics: Pneumatic rules have changed slightly this year (the first team that tells me what the rule change is gets a free corn dog at an event where I am Lead Robot Inspector). Check and recheck the schematic for proper plumbing. Bring documentation/manufacturers data sheets for your solenoids, compressors, etc. Again, it’s up to the team to prove to the inspector that all parts on your robot are legal, especially if you are pushing the envelope.
5. Bumpers: Have you seen [Team Update 13](#)? *FIRST* also published a helpful [video](#) for teams that have questions about bumpers and frame perimeter. Look at it this way: the first thing a non-*FIRST* person sees on your robot is your bumpers. Make a good bumper and you’ll at least look good!

If you have questions, refer the [manual](#) and check the official *FIRST* Q&A. If you still have questions, have a mentor or student team lead email Dana at dhenry@firstinspires.org. Include your team number in the subject line.