

## Florida FTC<sup>®</sup> Tournament Policies

September 21, 2011

### Tournament Participation

1. Any FTC team in good standing with *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> may participate in a Qualifying Tournament.
2. Good standing with *FIRST* does not guarantee participation in a tournament. Teams must comply with tournament registration procedures that include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Registration deadlines
  - b. Tournament participation fees
  - c. Tournament team capacity limits, etc.
3. Participants are required to follow all the tournament and game rules specified in the current season's FTC Game Manual.
4. Participation in the Florida Championship Tournament is by invitation only, based on the tournament advancement requirements specified below.

### Tournament Registration

1. Qualifying Tournament registration is conducted with a central, online registration system located on the [www.flfirst.org](http://www.flfirst.org) web site. Registration is first come, first served.
2. Out-of-state teams may attend a Florida Qualifying Tournament. Florida FTC teams receive registration priority over out-of-state teams.
3. Registration priority may be given for special circumstances. Contact the Florida FTC Affiliate Partner, Michael Coleman at [Michael.Coleman@flfirst.org](mailto:Michael.Coleman@flfirst.org), to request registration priority. Special circumstances include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Teams hosting officially sanctioned events.
  - b. One coach for multiple teams that must attend the same event.
  - c. Transportation issues: Teams traveling 2 or more hours and sharing rental/school bus, etc.
4. Tournament participation fees are set by and paid directly to the Tournament Host.

### Team No-shows and Withdrawals

1. No-shows are not in the spirit of Gracious Professionalism<sup>™</sup>, and are not permitted. Consequences of no-shows include, but are not limited to the following:
  - a. Loss of eligibility to attend the Florida Championship.
  - b. Reduced registration priority for future Qualifying Tournaments.
  - c. Forfeiture of tournament participation fees.
2. Withdrawals are not in the spirit of Gracious Professionalism Professionalism<sup>™</sup>, and are generally not permitted. The consequences for withdrawing from a tournament are the same as for no-shows. Special circumstances will be evaluated on a case, by case basis by the Florida Affiliate Partner, Michael Coleman. Email tournament withdrawal requests to [Michael.Coleman@flfirst.org](mailto:Michael.Coleman@flfirst.org).

## **Tournament Advancement**

1. Tournament advancement is dependent upon the number of Qualifying Tournaments, the number of teams at a tournament and the team capacity of the Florida Championship.
2. For the 2011-2012 season, the capacity of the Florida Championship is 32-teams and 3 to 4 teams from each Qualifying Tournament will advance to the State Championship.
3. Advancement criteria are specified in the Tournament section of the 2011-2012 season game manual.

## **Tournament Cancellation**

The decision to cancel an event is not undertaken lightly. The situations most likely to cause a cancellation of all or part of a tournament include, but are not limited to:

1. Severe weather conditions.
2. Exceptional circumstances including extended power outage, loss of heating/air conditioning, loss of water, fire, natural disaster, etc.
3. Significant illness that might involve the closing of a facility prior to an event.

The Florida FTC Affiliate Partner and the Tournament Host will determine if there will be a delay, early dismissal or cancellation of the tournament. If the tournament has to be canceled before the tournament day begins, teams will be notified by an email sent to the team's main and alternate contacts as designated in the team's registration with *FIRST*. The information will also be displayed on the Florida FTC web site, [www.flfirst.org](http://www.flfirst.org).

If a tournament has to be canceled for any reason during the tournament day prior to the advancement list being determined by robot competition and the judges, all teams that attended the tournament will be entered into a random drawing conducted by the Florida FTC Affiliate Partner. The teams that are selected to advance will be notified and this information posted on the [www.flfirst.org](http://www.flfirst.org) web site.

## **Other Restrictions**

Inspire Award winning teams are not eligible to win a second Inspire Award at a subsequent Qualifying Tournament. Inspire Award winning teams are eligible for all other judged awards at subsequent tournaments.

## **Judging Pilot Program - 2011-2012 Season**

During the 2011-2012 season, the Florida region is piloting a judging process. Qualification tournaments and the Florida Championship will follow the judging procedures described in the game manual, with one important difference. The formal judge interview will be replaced with a team created video that judges will watch online prior to tournament day. Complete rules for the judging pilot program will be emailed to teams and can be viewed in the email archive on the [www.flfirst.org](http://www.flfirst.org) web site.

*The Florida FTC tournament policy may be modified from time-to-time.*