



**1. Where can I find the tournament schedule?**

The event schedule or agenda will be posted on your tournament page at [mylumi.playingatlearning.org](http://mylumi.playingatlearning.org).

**2. How do I know my team pit number?**

Pit numbers are not really a thing in mylumi. Please know that the schedule is final can not be changed or swapped with another team.

**3. Is the coach required to be with the team during the event?**

At least one adult coach is required to supervise the team during the tournament, and *FIRST* recommends 2 adults to be with the team. Adults in this supervisory position must be listed on the team's *FIRST* Roster and must not have any other responsibilities at the event such as caring for a younger child, supervising another team, being on call for their work, or volunteering at the event. You can share this role among different adults with the team but it is important that all are listed on the *FIRST* Roster AND that the team members and the Tournament Director knows how to reach the right person in the supervisory role throughout the event day.

**4. What is a Coaches' Meeting?**

The Coaches' Meeting will be held as the first activity of the day - it will start at 7:30am and is typically held in the Judging Pod 6 room. At least one team coach or designated adult representative must attend this meeting. Make sure that another coach or mentor is assisting the team to set up their pit area during this time. At this meeting, your team's coach will have the opportunity to:

- Meet the Tournament Director
- Meet the Head Referee
- Meet the Judge Advisor
- Receive any updated event information as needed
- Ask judging-related questions
- Ask Robot Game questions
- Ask any other tournament-related question

**5. What should a team bring to the tournament?**

- Labeled extension cord and power strip for your pit table.
- Fresh batteries/spare batteries/rechargeable battery charger
- Team Robot, attachments - see Robot Rule Book on [Season Resources](#) page.
- Laptop w/ USB cable, and plug in charger
- Posters/banners & other items to share your season at your pit table and not to exceed the space allocated by the tournament event
- You might want to bring a tablecloth to cover the team's pit table (optional)
- Food and snacks if the tournament allows. Cash if food/snack available for purchase.
- Box to carry robot to the competition field - no carts! Refer to the [NorCal Storage Box policy](#)
- Innovation Project judging material, props and displays

- Team games or activities for downtimes (optional)
- Team giveaways (optional) - do not give out anything sticky such as food or stickers!
- Rain protection (optional) - plastic covering for your robot, accessories and judging materials

## 6. How does the Robot Game work?

Each team will be given 4 scored Game Matches. The tournament will provide official table setups in the tournament configuration - this includes 3 pairs of Competition Tables back-to-back plus the Mission Models and Mat. The pairs of tables are Red1, Red2, White1, White2, Blue1, Blue2. There is not a practice match at your championship. Game questions should be handled by the team by asking the Referee before the match or sending 1 or 2 team members to the Question Box to discuss with the Head Referee. Remind the team to review the latest Challenge Updates on [Season Resources](#) page before your event.

Important note. The challenge mats in NorCal are NOT generally taped down unless there is significant "curling" at the edges.

## 7. What happens during a judging session?

Each team will be judged within a single judging session. Your team will spend (30) minutes with your assigned judging pod of 2 to 3 judges. Only team members will be allowed into the judging rooms (unless the team has pre-identified Special Needs outlined in their Championship jotform). The team should enter the judge room only when invited to do so by the Judges (or someone like a Judge Queuer or Judge Timekeeper). Nobody from the team should stand behind the judges. The judging schedule is tight. Please be on time for your judging session and queue about 5 minutes early. Check out the Judging flowchart on [Season Resources](#) page. After the team leaves, the Judges will fill out the 3 Rubrics that relate to the Judged areas: Innovation Project, Robot Design and Core Values. Each line will receive a score 1-4 based on the criteria that relates to that marked box and the entire Rubric is summed into 1 overall Score.

## 8. What presentation material can I bring into the judging session?

Teams may use a tri-fold poster, presentation aids, or even a prepared skit to present. You are also welcome to use a PowerPoint presentation, but please be aware that there won't be any projection A/V available for your event. We are not even able to guarantee that the team will have access to a power outlet. Please do not expect the judges to read any additional materials and please do not hand judges anything that you want returned.

## 9. What is the Pit Area?

The Pit is where your team will spend most of the time. This is where team members can work on their robot and programming. This is also the area where you can enjoy downtime with your team, get to know other teams, see their robots, and find out about their Innovations Projects. Feel free to decorate your pit area within the limits of the tournament - ask before assuming you have access to a wall or need to hang/affix or set up structures. Giveaways such as buttons, pins, etc are optional. **Keep in mind that Coaches should refrain from handling the robot, attachments, or the computer.** Also note that the tournament director and/or pit manager will monitor the pit area but that the security of the team's items is the responsibility of the team. Please make sure that you have someone monitoring your team's items at all times as the tournament event is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.

As was mentioned (or should have been), we have a zero tolerance policy for Adult hands on computers. We are unlikely to say anything to the Adult - but instead generally just inform the Judge Advisor directly.

## 10. Some reminder when using Practice Tables in the Pit Area:

- Remember to be gracious professionals
- Be mindful of your time and other teams' needs. Please be courteous
- Reset the Practice Table for the next team
- Make sure you check that you do not take a mission model from the Practice Table
- Offer help to teams that may need it!
- Remind yourself of the [NorCal Practice Table policy](#)
- **Bring your team's "loose" non-dual locked mission models as those are not likely to be provided**
- Reminder that practice tables are not the place for programming
- There are no "personal" or "private" practice tables. The only practice tables and mats/models should be in the pits where they are accessible to all teams.
- Pit practice tables should not be placed on the floor as that is a tripping hazard (and actually makes your mat very dirty and thus affecting the robot's movements)

## 11. What is the Coaches' role during the Robot Game?

No coaches will be permitted to join the team on the competition floor. Please do not touch or handle the robot or attachments. Consider yourselves spectators and practice positive cheering! Do not yell instructions to the team or direct them.

## 12. Please inform officials of any special Needs on your team

It is best if you can let us know ahead of time about any specific special needs for anyone on your team and you can add that to the Championship Jotform. It may be important to talk to the Head Referee and/or Judge Advisor (can be in person after the Coaches' Meeting) about how the specific child's needs need to be taken into consideration for the team's Competition Game Rounds and/or Judging Session - but without a heads up, there may no be time to do that - so please let us know ahead of time. We like to make sure that we have as inclusive of an event as possible but need your help as well.

## 13. Reminder that Robots must be autonomous - programs must be downloaded to your robot controller

Remote controls are not allowed anywhere at the tournament (This includes Smartphone applications that enable you to control your robot remotely). Also, bluetooth or tethering to a computer may not be used at the competition tables or practice tables. Your team could be disqualified if you are found remotely controlling your robot anywhere during the competition or if your Bluetooth is enabled in the competition area!

## 14. What is Gracious Professionalism®?

"Gracious Professionalism is a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. With Gracious Professionalism, fierce competition and mutual gain are not separate notions. Gracious Professionals learn and compete like crazy but treat one another with respect and kindness in the process." We expect all members of the *FIRST* community - team members, volunteers, coaches, and families - to behave as Gracious Professionals.

## 15. What are the awards distributed during a tournament?

The following 1st place, 2nd awards will be presented at your FLL Challenge Championship:

- Champion's Award
- Core Values Award
- Innovation Project Award
- Robot Design Award
- Robot Performance Award

Plus we will hand out 2:

- Coach/Mentor Awards

Detailed explanation of these awards is available on the [Season Resources](#) page. For the larger Championships, 1 to 2 additional optional awards will be given out. Teams may win only 1 Judged Award except for the Coach/Mentor Award. A team may also win a Robot Performance Award by having the top robot game score.

## 16. What is the Coach/Mentor Award and how will that be evaluated?

*FIRST* has designated a required Coach/Mentor award that will be given out at each tournament. Per the Award description, the Coach/Mentor Award goes to the coach or mentor whose leadership and guidance is clearly evident and best exemplifies the *FIRST* Core Values. Each team will be given a Coach/Mentor Nomination form when they arrive on site. The team members will fill this out by the deadline specified on the form (typically just before or after noon) and hand it in as specified on the form. The Judge Advisors will review the completed and received nomination forms with the Judges to determine which Coach or Mentor (adult or youth) will receive this award. Note that a team's coach/mentor may win this award and the team can also win one of the other Judged Awards. [Link to example nomination form](#)

## 17. I have Project, Core Values, Robot Design or Judging related questions - how do I get help answering them?

Please send all Judging related questions to [fljudging@playingatlearning.org](mailto:fljudging@playingatlearning.org). Note that the Judges will use the official *FIRST* published Rubrics to evaluate your team.

## 18. I have Game related questions - how do I get help answering them?

Please send Robot Game related questions to [flgame@playingatlearning.org](mailto:flgame@playingatlearning.org). It is always best to include the rule(s) and mission(s) that relate to your question. Also, be sure to check out the latest Challenge Updates.

## 19. Reminder: Kids Do the Work!

Tournaments are a time for the student team members to shine - coaches, mentors and parents should encourage and cheer the teams on, but know that all of the work that is presented at an event must be done by the kids on the team.

Additionally, the team members should take pride in doing the "work" at events. This "work" includes carrying materials to and from the robot matches and judging session, managing what to test out or run at the pit practice tables, any programming changes, and asking the referees any questions!

We take a "zero tolerance" at tournaments to adults that are seen with their hands on keyboards and similar actions. It is highly likely that if observed, there will be no reminder or questions - just a note to the Judge Advisor. The Judge Advisor might seek additional input from the adult or other officials at the event but also might not. Depending on the circumstances and how this was reported, this could mean the team is removed from consideration to win an award.

## **20. What event does a team advance into - Any Invitationals?**

This season, we are blessed to have a couple of Invitational events that our Champion's Award winning teams have an opportunity to attend.

We will randomly assign each opportunity to a specific Championship and will communicate with the specific teams. If someone declines a bid, we will select the next randomized 2nd Place Champion's Award winner... Once all 6 1st/2nd place Champion's Award winners are dealt with,, then we will have an opportunity for 2 additional award winning teams to apply - details will get posted on the [championship.norcalfl.org](http://championship.norcalfl.org) site after March 9th.

We have a total of 8 Invitational Slots.

1 slot at the *FIRST* World Festival, plus the following events: 1 - Australia, 1 - Massachusetts, 2 - Florida, and 3 - Southern California.