

FIRST Official Position on non-FIRST robotics events

Official position on non-FIRST robotics events associated with FIRST

Revised 7.21.17

FIRST is asked on a semi-regular basis how non-FIRST robotics competitions should, or should not, be handled by the FIRST community. Specifically, this addresses FIRST employees, volunteers, and others associated with FIRST and their support of non-FIRST robotics competitions.

To address these questions, three separate categories of events have been established. The question, in all cases, is what is allowed in terms of non-FIRST competitions within these categories.

Category 1 – FIRST Official Events. These include FIRST championship, regional championships, district events, and regional qualifying events. These are events directly supported by FIRST¹ and run under the FIRST brand².

In these types of events, non-FIRST competitions should not be promoted or represented. This does not preclude pilot events sanctioned by FIRST.

Category 2 – FIRST Endorsed Events. These include all events that require FIRST support and/or branding. Examples include lending of fields, electronics, FIRST personnel, and proprietary systems by FIRST. Traditionally these have been titled “offseason events.” FIRST often promotes these through support listed above and outreach to let FIRST teams know they are taking place.

In these types of events, all FIRST programs should be represented or be provided the opportunity to represent themselves. FIRST will only support Category 2 events if all FIRST programs are allowed to be presented.

Category 3 – Community Events include all other events outside of Official and Endorsed and may involve FIRST teams and/or volunteers but do not depend on FIRST-supplied support or branding. These are unofficial events using team- and/or volunteer-owned equipment. They are not promoted by FIRST. They may include scrimmages, camps, workshops, Season Pass celebrations, etc. but are not managed or controlled by FIRST or its Partners.

In these types of events, FIRST has no basis for limiting participation by any non-FIRST robotics competitions or programs. FIRST, of course, does have a bias towards FIRST programs and the benefits they provide. Since FIRST offers a progression of programs to address a wide range of ages and skills, we would prefer that the FIRST community feature these programs to demonstrate the collective strength of this offering.

Definitions:

¹Supported by FIRST – Events are deemed supported by FIRST if these events depend on FIRST equipment (fields, electronics etc.), FIRST personnel or Partners (in-person or via phone), or FIRST funding (including team grants, shipping and logistics, or other funding support). This also includes using FIRST resources to announce or otherwise market/communicate the event.

²FIRST Brand – Refers to events being marketed using the FIRST name and/or trademarks. It refers to using the FIRST name, logo, or other trademarks in promoting the event.

Note: This does not prevent participating teams from displaying FIRST awards or other FIRST banners in their pit areas in Category 3 type events.