



2026 FIRST® Championship

George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, TX

26' Box Truck Rules and Information

Overview

The George R. Brown Convention Center loading dock space allows access to 26' Box Trucks and other vehicles specifically set up that require access to a loading dock. FIRST is offering teams this option to use the dock bays for Load In and Load Out in 2026. Multiple teams can collaborate and pool resources toward ordering a trailer to transport all robots and pit materials to the FIRST Championship.

The ability for FIRST to provide this option cannot be guaranteed for any future FIRST Championship, including those at the same venue. Applicants should always review the rules and requirements each year.

Rules and Requirements

- 1. Trailer size is capped.** The maximum length of a trailer utilized in this way is 26 feet. Any greater size trailer must be handled through the Community 53' Trailer Option instead.
- 2. A minimum of 2 Teams per Trailer.** The trailer must transport two (2) or more FIRST Robotics Competition team pit materials and/or robots that are competing in the event. Groups with fewer than two teams may apply but may be denied if capacity for the option is high. FIRST Tech Challenge teams are invited to join and be transported in this way, but do not count towards this minimum.
- 3. Teams Load In and Load Out the same way.** All Teams utilizing a 26' Box Truck must both Load In and Load Out using the same method and cannot use additional vehicles at the loading dock.
- 3. Acceptance of Risks.** Teams and those setting up their 26' Box Truck are fully responsible for the safety and security of their items on the freight trailer. If the vehicle is being operated through a company, FIRST is not responsible for additional fees or charges issued by the freight company and cannot guarantee any flexibility or in the competition schedule for delayed deliveries.
- 5. Guarantee Service for Saturday Pickup.** Arrival of the 26' Box Truck for Load Out on Saturday must have a guaranteed arrival as the venue may not be accessible after Saturday.
- 6. Get approval from FIRST.** Unauthorized trailers are not accepted into the Loading Dock of the George R. Brown Convention Center during FIRST Championship. There are no exceptions. Groups that do not receive authorization will be required to locate an alternate location off-site to unload into different vehicles.

Application for Approval

Interested parties must apply for acceptance of their 26' Box Truck option. Email all below information to frclogistics@firstinspires.org. Additional information or questions may also be directed to this email.

- Lead Contact's Name, Email, and Phone Number.
- Lead Contact's Team Number, if any.
- Name, Email, Phone number of a Team representative at FIRST Championship, if different than Lead.
- Team Number list of confirmed and potential FIRST Robotics Competition and FIRST Tech Challenge Teams traveling with the Trailer.
- Size of Truck/Trailer. If Rented, name of company truck is rented from.

The deadline for application is April 20th, 2025. Any application made after this deadline should have an expectation to be declined. The final list of participating Teams for a Community 53' Trailer is due April 24th.

Approval cannot be guaranteed. Please avoid securing logistics transport until approval has been granted.

Truck Requirements and Best Practices

Load and Trailer Specifications & Limits

- Teams must be able to load and unload the trailer by hand and by themselves. Volunteers cannot be expected to be available on site for either Load In and Load Out.
- **Pallet Jacks and Forklifts are not allowed** on the Loading Dock or inside the venue. Package team materials in a way to not require pallet jacks or forklifts.
- Trailers must be able to unload at a fixed dock height of 48". Dock levers are not available.
- Truck Drivers must be able to arrive during the specified timeframe provided. Early arrivals may be temporarily turned away or parked in a holding area until their timeframe is ready.

Best Practices

- We recommend teams that ship their Robot via the FedEx Voucher should consider having access to a set of hand-tools to uncrate their robot separate from the tools in their Box Truck.
- We recommend ordering a truck with e-clip tracks and either purchase or request the trailer provide e-clip ratchet straps to secure freight in transit.
- We strongly recommend teams have all materials on wheels or be moved by wheeled carts.
- We strongly recommend teams understand the payload weight limits of Box Trucks and consider the weight of their pit materials when selecting a Box Truck and determining the number of teams available to move in this way. Typical payload limit of a 26' Box Truck is 10,000 lbs.

Load In and Load Out Timelines

Load In

1. Team Reps may check in at the pits starting at 7:00AM.
2. Box Trucks will not be allowed into the loading dock until the venue doors open at 8:00AM.
3. The driver of the 26' Box Truck is not allowed to leave the loading dock at any time.
4. If a team is not prepared to unload their 26' Box Truck when it arrives to the dock, the Truck will be required to leave as to make room for vehicles and teams that are prepared.
5. Team Reps must unload the trailer onto the Loading Dock quickly. Once all items have been unloaded, Team Reps can begin moving the pit materials into the venue to each team's pit. The unloading of all items must be done first to avoid delays.

Load Out

1. As each team has finished competing on Saturday, 26' Box Truck teams must fully pack their pit materials but leave them in their Pit location ready to collect.
2. Once all teams for that Trailer have been confirmed to be ready for Load Out, the Lead Contact must notify the freight driver to arrive to the Loading Dock, and visit the Load Out Desk to obtain an access code for the Loading Dock.
3. Team representatives must be available at the time the trailer parks to the Loading Dock to load the trailer in full quickly and without delay. Volunteers cannot be expected to be available.
 - Trailers will not be allowed to enter the loading dock temporarily to load half-way. All teams must finish competing and the teams must provide the workforce to load their trailer at any potential time during the competition day.
4. All Teams that have finished competing after *FIRST* Robotics Competition Division Playoffs must be fully loaded out prior to the start of the event finale.