

# 2026 *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> Robotics Competition Team Combines/Separations Rules

Updated 5/13/2025

## Case 1: A Team separates into two (2) New Teams and the Original Team retires.

Parameters	Team 1	Team 2
<b>Team Number</b> – The original team number is retired; two new numbers are assigned.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This team does not get a rookie number but is considered a New Veteran Team.</li> <li>Team gets an unused Team Number; the unused number will be as close to the original number as possible (e.g., from the original team's rookie year). If no unused number is available from that year, another number from the closest (higher) year will be selected.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Team 1.</li> </ul>
<b>Team History</b> – Original team history is shared between both teams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>FIRST</i> will add a note in internal systems with statement that this team was originally part of Original Team and refers history queries to that Team's record.</li> <li>Team can make reference to having once belonged to original Team in all marketing, sponsorship, etc., activities of New Team.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Team 1.</li> </ul>
<b>Grants/Awards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This team is NOT a Rookie Team and does not get a Rookie number but is considered a New Veteran Team. Team can apply for grants, as appropriate.</li> <li>Team is NOT a Rookie Team and is not eligible for any Rookie Team Awards.</li> <li>Team is not eligible to submit for the <i>FIRST</i> Impact Award as they are considered a new team.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Team 1.</li> </ul>
<b>Pre-Qualified CMP Eligibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team retains Championship (CMP) eligibility*.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determined on a case-by-case basis</li> </ul>

*\*CMP Eligibility may change season to season; eligibility will be dependent on current season's criteria.*

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**Case 2: A Team separates to form one (1) New Team and maintains the Original Team. Both teams must accept the terms of the separation as shown below. If both teams do not accept these terms, and a new team is still created, this is not considered a Case 2 separation, but simply the formation of a new independent team.**

Parameters	Original Team	New Team
<b>Team Number –</b> The original team number is used by one team; a new number is assigned to the second team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retains original Team Number.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This team does not get a rookie number but is considered a New Veteran Team.</li> <li>Team gets an unused Team Number; the unused number will be as close to the original number as possible (e.g., from the original team's rookie year). If no unused number is available from that year, another number from the closest (higher) year will be selected.</li> </ul>
<b>Team History –</b> Original team history is shared between both teams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retains all Team History, including Awards, Events, and Grant Information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>FIRST</i> will add a note in internal systems with the statement that this team was originally part of Original Team and refers history queries to that Team's record.</li> <li>Team can make reference to having once belonged to Original Team in all marketing, sponsorship, etc., activities of New Team.</li> </ul>
<b>Grants/Awards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team can apply for grants, as appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This team is NOT a Rookie Team and does not get a Rookie number but is considered a New Veteran Team. Team can apply for grants, as appropriate.</li> <li>Team is NOT a Rookie Team and is not eligible for any Rookie Team Awards.</li> <li>Team is not eligible to submit for the <i>FIRST</i> Impact Award as they are considered a new team.</li> </ul>
<b>Pre-Qualified CMP Eligibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team retains CMP eligibility*.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determined on a case-by-case basis</li> </ul>

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**Case 3: Two (2) Teams combine to form one (1) New Team: The Teams agree to keep one of the Original Numbers. Both teams must accept the terms of the combined team as shown below. If both teams do not accept these terms, the teams are not combined.**

Parameters	New (Combined) Team	Dropped Team
<b>Team Number</b> – One of the original team numbers; the other team number is retired.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team keeps one existing Team Number.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One Team Number gets dropped; it is not available for re-issue to New Teams but Retired.</li> </ul>
<b>Team History</b> – Both prior team histories are combined.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team can make reference to both Team Histories, including Event, Awards, and Grant Information.</li> <li><i>FIRST</i> will add a note in internal systems with the statement that this team was combined with Dropped Team.</li> <li>Team can make reference to having combined with Dropped Team in all marketing, sponsorship, etc., activities of New Team.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>FIRST</i> will note Team Record that acknowledges this Team joined with New Team.</li> </ul>
<b>Grants/Awards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This team is NOT a Rookie Team and does not get a Rookie number but is considered a New Veteran Team. Team can apply for grants, as appropriate.</li> <li>Team is NOT a Rookie Team and is not eligible for any Rookie Team Awards.</li> </ul>	
<b>Pre-Qualified CMP Eligibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team retains CMP Eligibility* per the Team Number chosen.</li> </ul>	

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**Case 4: Two (2) Teams combine to form one (1) New Team: New Team does NOT keep either Original Number.**

Parameters	New (Combined) Team	Original Teams
<b>Team Number</b> – Both original team numbers are retired; a new team is assigned.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This team does not get a rookie number but is considered a “new” Team.</li> <li>Team gets an unused Team Number; the unused number will be as close to the original number as possible (e.g., from the original team’s rookie year). If no unused number is available from that year, another number from the closest (higher) year will be selected.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both Team Numbers gets dropped; neither is not available for re-issue to New Teams, both are Retired.</li> </ul>
<b>Team History</b> – Both prior team histories are combined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retains both Team Histories, including Event, Awards, and Grant Information.</li> <li><i>FIRST</i> will add a note in internal systems with the statement that this team is a Combined Team comprising of both Original Teams.</li> <li>Team can make reference to having combined with Dropped Team in all marketing, sponsorship, etc., activities of New Team.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>FIRST</i> will add a note in internal systems on both team records that acknowledge both teams joined with New Team.</li> </ul>
<b>Grants/Awards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This team is NOT a Rookie Team and does not get a Rookie number but is considered a New Veteran Team. Team can apply for grants, as appropriate.</li> <li>Team is NOT a Rookie Team and is not eligible for any Rookie Team Awards.</li> <li>Team is not eligible to submit for the <i>FIRST</i> Impact Award as they are considered a new team.</li> </ul>	
<b>Pre-Qualified CMP Eligibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team retains CMP Eligibility*, which is based on whichever team last attended the event.</li> </ul>	

*\*CMP Eligibility may change season to season; eligibility will be dependent on current season’s criteria.*