Guidelines for Sibling Teams

FIRST® Robotics Competition defines multiple teams associated with one organization as Sibling Teams. We know that many teams (whether from the same organization or not) will work very closely with each other when not at an event. This document was created to help provide guidance to Sibling Teams.

Our focus in *FIRST* Robotics Competition is on inspiring young people to become STEM leaders. As such, we understand that some organizations have created additional teams in order to help give more experience to their students. It is up to each organization to decide what works best for them when considering creating additional team(s). These guidelines have been created to help ensure equity at events, and Sibling Teams must follow these guidelines.

The guidelines are as follows:

1. If an organization adds a new team to their organization, they must register the team within the *FIRST*® Dashboard.
    - Sibling Teams are generally considered New Veteran Teams and will not be given a Rookie Number (please refer to the Newly Formed *FIRST* Robotics Competition Teams webpage). Although the system will automatically assign a rookie team number to newly created teams, it will also send us an email alerting that this team is not a New Veteran Team and New Veteran Teams will need to request a veteran team number.
2. If Sibling Teams plan to submit for the *FIRST* Impact Award, they should choose one of the following options:
    - Only one of the teams submits for the *FIRST* Impact Award, or
    - Each team can submit and should have different submissions and presentations
3. Sibling Teams will be considered separately for all other awards, and judges will use the information provided to them by each team individually to assess the team and robot. Each team should be prepared to cover all relevant information with the judges.
    - For this reason, teams should be prepared to have designated students for each team to talk with judges. Students should be able to cover the specifics for their designated team.
    - If the Sibling Teams share apparel, it is recommended that the students specify to the judges which team they are talking on behalf of.

Frequently Asked Questions

How is an organization determined?

We purposefully left the guidelines a little vague on what constitutes an organization as we know that some teams operate out of schools, others out of 4-H Clubs, and some are completely independent. For example, a school district may have multiple high schools that each have a team. Though the teams use the district's tax information as their organization, the teams operate independently. These teams would not be considered "Sibling" teams. There is no one size fits all, and this is guidance. We wanted to address the scenario when a team decides to add another team to their organization and work together throughout the year, either building the same robot or different robots. The main goal of this is to provide guidelines for teams in response to questions from the community about what is/is not allowed.

If teams share a build space, are they considered Sibling Teams?

Sharing a facility does not necessarily mean they are Sibling Teams. We are asking teams to monitor this themselves. If teams do not feel they meet the definition, then they are not considered Sibling Teams.

Which teams should students be listed on the roster for?

Students should be listed on team roster(s) that they are an active participant on. Some teams have designated students for each team, whereas others have students work on both teams throughout the season.

Can students change teams between events?

Yes, as long as they are listed on the roster of the team(s) they are a member of they may switch between events or even assist both teams throughout an event. The only exception here is that students speaking to judges must be distinguished for each event.

How does I101 apply to Sibling Teams?

This rule requires that the ROBOT and its MAJOR MECHANISMS were built by its team but isn't intended to prohibit or discourage assistance from others. This rule expects and requires the team's honest assessment of whether they built the MAJOR MECHANISMS of their ROBOT. If the team believes that they meet the rule, and can explain this if asked, then they comply.

Can Sibling Teams use the same ROBOT?

Teams may design multiple copies of the same ROBOT if they wish, but each team must have their own unique physical ROBOT.

Can Sibling Teams still scout together or help each other at events?

Sharing scouts or having Sibling Teams help each other at the event is still allowed. We encourage all *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams to help one another at events. This is the same if they help a Sibling Team or a completely different team.

Is each Sibling Team allowed to submit for the *FIRST* Leadership Award & Woodie Flowers Award?

Yes. *FIRST* Leadership Award & Woodie Flowers Award nominees must be listed on the team's roster in order to be submitted.

If I am nominating a student for the *FIRST* Leadership Award, which roster should they be on?

Students should be on the roster for the team in which they were nominated on.

Can I nominate the same student for both of my Sibling Teams for the *FIRST* Leadership Award?

No, students can only be nominated once per program.

I created a Sibling Team, but the system assigned a rookie team number. How do I get a new veteran team number?

When creating a team and answering the questions, once the system determines that the team being created is a New Veteran Team number, an email is triggered to *FIRST* Support. *FIRST* Support will then email the lead coach with questions to validate the request. Once the request is approved, the Lead Coaches for both teams will be contacted with the new team number.

Can I request a specific number for my Sibling Team?

No, when renumbering the team, the system will automatically assign the next available number for the rookie season assignment of the Sibling Team.

What grants are available for Sibling Teams?

Grants vary depending on the sponsor's intent. We recommend reviewing our Team Grants webpage and selecting the "New Veteran" team type to filter to see some potential grants.

What information is shared with Judges for evaluating Sibling Teams?

Judges are told similar information to teams and are encouraged to review this document as well. The information shared with Judges can be found in the Judge Manual. Note that the Judge Manual is updated annually and typically the new season's version is made available by October prior to Kickoff.