
Load In Guide – Logistics Plan

2026 *FIRST*® Championship

George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, TX

There are multiple ways to transport and Load In your Robot and Pit Materials into *FIRST* Championship and the George R. Brown Convention Center (GRB). This guide will walk through each possibility, so read carefully the sections that relate best to your team and logistics planning needs.

If you transport both *FIRST* Robotics Competition and *FIRST* Tech Challenge teams, follow the instructions in this guide for both programs.

Start here:

How is your Robot getting to Championship?

- If you shipped your robot to Championship using the FedEx Voucher, read Section A and B.
- If you are bringing your robot with you in your own vehicle, read Section B.

How are your Pit Materials getting to Championship?

- If your pit materials are arriving via the Loading Dock, read Section B.
- If your pit materials are arriving via Straight Truck needing a loading dock, read Section D.
- If your pit materials are shipping via a Community 53' Trailer, read Section E.

ROBOT LOAD IN DIRECTIONS

A – Robot Shipped to Championship

1. Robots shipped to Championship will be delivered to your team pit area.

B – Standard Team Vehicle Dock Access

1. Team vehicles carrying Robots and/or Pit Materials may begin to queue on Chartres Street starting at 7:00 AM. Any vehicle that arrives early will be turned away from the waiting line. Team Reps not on their team vehicles may access the loading dock via the Pits from the front entrance starting at 7:00 AM.
2. Vehicle drivers must follow instructions from Event Security and the Houston Police Department.
3. Vehicle drivers will be given a dock space to park and unload their vehicle to stage items at the venue doors. Team Reps must follow instructions and safety guidance from Event Staff and volunteers while on the dock.

C – Alternative Team Load In Location

1. Teams arriving by bus, or towing trailers may be directed to the North Transit Station to unload their robot, tools, and pit contents. From the North Transit Station, teams will ride the escalator to the 2nd level of the building, go through security, and proceed to the 3rd level of the building and the FTC Pits.

D – Straight Truck[†] Loading Dock Process

Please Note: A Straight Truck with trailer height that does not connect to the GRB dock height of 00" in a safe manner may not be granted a Loading Dock and must be prepared to follow the process in Section B.

1. A Straight Truck that requires or requests a Loading Dock Space is requested to share their anticipated arrival ahead of *FIRST* Championship via this form:
2. Straight Trucks may begin to queue on Chartres Street starting at 7:00 AM. Additional Team Reps* not in the vehicle may access the GRB Dock Area via the Pits from the front entrance starting at 9:00 AM.
3. Straight Truck drivers must follow instructions from Event Security and the Houston Police Department.
4. Straight Truck drivers will be given a dock space to park and unload the vehicle. Team Reps must follow instructions and safety guidance from Event Staff and volunteers while on the dock.
5. The bay doors to the Pits will open at 9:00 AM and Team Reps may begin bringing items to their Pit.
6. All team members and the public will be allowed to enter the Pits starting at 2:00 PM.

E – Community 53' Trailer Load In Process

Please Note: Only those Community 53' Trailers that have explicit permission from *FIRST* will be granted entrance to the GRB Loading Dock. Any 53' Trailer that arrives and did not receive permission will be denied entry. For safety and security purposes, no exceptions will be granted for any unapproved 53' trailers.

1. Ahead of *FIRST* Championship, provide the issued arrival time to the handling freight company or truck driver. The truck will be expected during this arrival time. Any truck that arrives earlier than its issued arrival time risks being temporarily turned away or staged to a Loading Dock lot.
2. All teams on the Trailer should plan to bring their Team Reps to the Hall A loading dock at the same issued arrival time.
3. When the truck and Team Reps have both arrived, the trailer can be unloaded to the Hall A loading dock. Each team is responsible for bringing an acceptable workforce to handle Load In. Do not expect to have access to available volunteers.
4. Once the truck's trailer is unloaded, movement of team materials can move from the loading dock and into the Pits.

For more information on the Community 53' Trailer, refer to the [Community 53' Trailer Rules and Information](#) document.

F – Specialized Needs

For any unique specialized needs that may prevent a team from being able to follow the instructions within any sections of this document, please email customerservice@firstinspires.org. If needs arise while at *FIRST* Championship, visit Pit Admin.

The definition of a Straight Truck is a vehicle with a tractor-trailer in a fixed position where all axels attach to a single frame and is in total no larger than 26' in length. These are sometimes also called Box Trucks or Cube Vans. Note that while some vehicles have their trailer raised only slightly above ground, only Straight Trucks with a raised trailer that reaches the GRB Dock height of 00" will be granted a Loading Dock space.