

FIRST Tech Challenge Off-Season Events

Introduction

Events occurring after *FIRST* Championship that are not approved Premier Events, are categorized as unofficial “off-season” events in official *FIRST* systems, even if they are official events in the local region. (This sometimes occurs outside of North America due to local school or regional schedules.)

Most events categorized as off-season are events hosted by local organizers who may or may not be associated with the local *FIRST* Program Delivery Partner (PDP) in their region. Off-season events are for teams to have fun playing the most recent season’s game, and to learn and improve in a lower pressure environment.

Anyone can run unlisted events in offline mode using the official FTC Live scoring software available for download. Off-season events have a specific software release that may contain the ability to modify values (example - # of matches per team) not otherwise allowed during the season.

To have your off-season event listed on the *FIRST* Tech Challenge event website, <https://ftc-events.firstinspires.org> and have access to the event in FTC Scoring you will need to be aware of, and complete requirements in this document.

To see a list of currently registered *FIRST* Tech Challenge off-season events, please visit <https://ftc-events.firstinspires.org/#offseasonevents>.

Regardless of how you play in the off-season, the *FIRST* Tech Challenge staff want you to be safe and have fun!

Key Dates

Milestone	2024-25 Season Dates
Earliest Off-Season Event	May 10 th , 2025
Latest Off-Season Event	September 5 th , 2025
Deadline to register with <i>FIRST</i> to use an official team number in Off-Season Events See Inviting Teams for more details	April 17 th , 2025
Deadline to use the Volunteers Management System to screen and assign roles in the scoring system. See Volunteer Management for more details	May 2 nd , 2025

Requesting an Off-Season Event

Event organizers not affiliated with a PDP will need to request an off-season event using this [Smartsheet form](#) at least 3 weeks before your event. PDPs can use their normal event request process on ftc-scoring.firstinspires.org to request an off-season event.

Please note that:

- *FIRST* does not supply any official support for off-season events but does allow event organizers to be given access to FTC Scoring as the FTC Scoring Event Admin for the event, to use the official cloud and local scoring software, and to save event results to our event page.
- The region's PDP will be notified of off-season events.
- The event host will need to provide everything required to run the event including all their own hardware, volunteers, and any applicable legal or financial coverage.

FIRST Tech Challenge Event Management Software (FTC Live & FTC-Scoring)

FTC Live is the official scorekeeping software for *FIRST* Tech Challenge. It is free and available for anyone to use. Each year the *FIRST* Tech Challenge program releases a special off-season edition which allows for the following changes from the official season version:

- Demo team numbers are available for use in matches (99900-99999).
- The limit to the total scheduled qualification matches per team is removed. Event organizers can schedule more than six matches per team.

No other custom software support is available. This includes any scoring or game play format modifications.

The event can be updated and configured in ftc-scoring.firstinspires.org by the local PDP or the *FIRST* Tech Challenge Scoring Event Admin.

The assigned *FIRST* Tech Challenge Scoring Event Admin can also manually add users to the event for administration and scorekeeping purposes if they were not automatically assigned using the VMS system before the cutoff (see [Volunteer Management](#) section for more details).

FTC-Events Listing Page

Events requested either by the PDP or through the Smartsheet form will display here: <https://ftc-events.firstinspires.org/#offseasonevents>

Events which use the FTC Scoring and FTC Live scoring system software and which submit event results will have the results shown on the event page at the conclusion of the event.

Off-season events will not show up on the *FIRST* "Events Near Me" search on the firstinspires.org homepage.



Inviting Teams

Event organizers can invite any teams to participate in an off-season event including pre-rookie teams, unregistered teams, and teams with second robots ("B" robots).

- Any team who has been issued an official team number by *FIRST* can use that number in an off-season regardless of home region or current season payment status.
- Teams who have not been issued an official team number can compete using the demo team numbers 99900-99999.
- No team data for teams registered after the registration cutoff deadline in the [Key Dates](#) section will be available for off-season competitions.

Instruction for how to add teams to an event can be found under the "adding/editing teams for an event" section in the *FIRST* Tech Challenge Scorekeeper Guide in [FIRST Tech Challenge Volunteer Resources | FIRST](#)

Volunteer Management

The full Volunteer Management System (VMS) will not be available to manage off-season events. However, PDPs who wish to take advantage of many of the features of the VMS system (training, YPP (Youth Protection Program) certification and automatic role assignments in FTC Live) can do so if their off-season events are:

- a) set-up and
- b) volunteer assignment and certification are completed by the cutoff deadline in the [Key Dates](#) section.

All volunteer training materials are publicly available on our [FIRST Tech Challenge Volunteer Resources](#) page for volunteers unable to complete certification.

Event hosts are expected to understand *FIRST*'s [Youth Protection Policies](#) and implement practices to create a safe environment for all event participants.

Event Support

FIRST Tech Challenge staff will not be available to provide on-call support during off-season events.

If you have any questions or need assistance before your event, please reach out via one of the emails below. Email is monitored during normal *FIRST* HQ working hours, but responses may take up to 48 hours (about 2 business days), please plan accordingly.

- ftcteams@firstinspires.org for event planning support
- ftctech@firstinspires.org for scoring system setup support

