

## Off-Season Events FAQ 2024

### Off-Season Event FAQ

#### When is the 2023 - 2024 Off-Season Period?

The 2023-2024 Off-Season Period is between April 22, 2024 and the date specified for each program (*FIRST* LEGO League – August 1, 2024, *FIRST* Tech Challenge – September 6, 2024, *FIRST* Robotics Competition - December 31). **Note that while the Off-Season Period for *FIRST* Robotics Competition extends through December, any equipment borrowed from *FIRST* Headquarters in Manchester must be received there not later than November 1.** This means any Off-Season Events taking place after that will not have access to official equipment.

#### What is an Off-Season Event?

An Off-Season Event is defined as a gathering that utilizes *FIRST* program content for which there is a participation fee or sponsorship funding. This could include competitions and summer programs and includes all *FIRST* programs globally. Off-season team activities such as no-fee scrimmages, open houses, and other non-paid activities are **not considered** to be Off-Season Events.

#### Who can host an Off-Season Event?

Off-Season Events must be planned and supported by a Host Organization (i.e. *FIRST* Partner Organization, *FIRST* Program Delivery Organization, local school/district, youth serving organization, team 501(c)3, etc.). They cannot be hosted by an individual or unincorporated group.

#### What considerations should my organization make before planning an Off-Season Event?

Host Organizations should consider such topics as:

- Appropriate level of insurance
- Youth protection measures
- Data protection measures
- Adherence to state/local tax regulations
- Compliance with local health and safety protocols for in-person gatherings

*FIRST* LEGO League Opens have a twelve month+ application process. 2024 Open dates have been finalized. If interested in hosting an Open in 2025 or later, please contact [kvachon@firstinspires.org](mailto:kvachon@firstinspires.org) for US and Canada or [firstlegoleague@LEGO.com](mailto:firstlegoleague@LEGO.com) Outside of US and Canada.

#### What actions need to be taken by a *FIRST* Robotics Competition Off-Season Event Host Organizations?

Off-Season Event Host Organizations will be asked to submit an Off-Season Event Notice via an online form to *FIRST* HQ beginning March 15. The form will be shared with the local Program Delivery Partner and will collect basic information about the Hosting Organization, Off-Season Event details, and registration details as well as confirm the following:

- Hosting Organization compliance with local health and safety protocols for in-person gatherings
- Acknowledgement of Right to Cancel by *FIRST* in cases of emergencies and other extraordinary situations.
- Consideration for conducting the event with the appropriate level of insurance, youth protection measures, data protection and adherence to state/local tax regulations as determined locally.

### **Will Off-Season Event Host Organizations be able to borrow *FIRST* Robotics Competition field and equipment from *FIRST* HQ?**

FIRST Robotics Competition fields can be borrowed from local Districts, through AndyMark, or with teams that have purchased their own field. *FIRST* will also supply a field, however these must be obtained directly from the *FIRST* Championship event. Field needs after *FIRST* Championship are not available from *FIRST* and must be obtained through other means. All FIRST Robotics Competition equipment loaned out by *FIRST* **must** be returned by November 1st, 2024.

To review *FIRST* Robotics Competition specific rules and requirements on hosting an Offseason, please review the [Offseason Events page on the Resource Library](#). As in prior seasons, a borrower of a field from *FIRST* must sign an agreement requiring insurance of \$1M+, indemnification for *FIRST* HQ, and a *FIRST* Technical Advisor, local health and safety protocols, Right to Cancel, and equipment return deadline agreements. There is no fee to borrow the equipment, but the borrower is responsible for all transportation fees and other incidental expenses.

### ***FIRST* Tech Challenge Off-Season Events**

Any events that take place after the last official event date on April 21, 2024, is considered to be an unofficial event or an Off-Season event. These unofficial events can be requested through the [Off-Season Event Notice Smartsheet](#). Off-Season events **cannot** be requested through ftc-scoring, as these are unofficial events. Off-Season events end on September 6, 2024 as the 2024-2025 season begins September 7, 2024.

Judges who plan to participate in Off-Season remote judging must be added and screened through VMS screening before the May 3<sup>rd</sup> rollover date in order to show up in the *FIRST* Tech Challenge Scoring System.