



Hello,

We are reaching out because your team is currently registered for an event in China. We have been monitoring the outbreak of a viral respiratory illness caused by 2019-nCoV, a new coronavirus that originated in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, in central China and which continues to expand.

World health officials are preparing for an ongoing outbreak that could last months which will impact *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> operations in affected regions. Based on current information and travel advisories, we are taking the following steps to help minimize risk to the *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> Robotics Competition community:

- The *FIRST* Robotics Competition Beijing Cultural Exchange Event #1 and Beijing Cultural Exchange Event #2 in March (Week 3 and Week 4) will be postponed until after *FIRST* Championship.
- The *FIRST* Robotics Competition additional regional event(s) payment due date of January 31 has been extended to February 7, 2020.

Additional information is available below about the event changes and impact on teams. As the situation around the outbreak develops, we recommend that you follow guidance from your local community and public health officials, including travel advisories and other prevention recommendations.

### **What happens to team and event registrations for postponed events?**

*FIRST* Robotics Competition teams who had their first play at either Beijing Cultural Exchange Event #1 or Beijing Cultural Exchange Event #2 have two options for their primary play:

- Move their registration to a future make-up event in China (default), or
- Move their registration to another regional event (subject to sponsor approval if applicable)

*FIRST* Robotics Competition teams with two (or more) plays with a second (or third) play at either Beijing Cultural Exchange Event #1 or Beijing Cultural Exchange Event #2 have three options for their additional play:

- Move their registration to a future make-up event in China (default), or
- Move their registration to another regional event (subject to sponsor approval if applicable), or
- Cancel their additional play

Teams that wish to move to an alternative *FIRST* Robotics Competition regional event, or cancel their additional play, must notify HQ by sending an email to [firstroboticscompetition@firstinspires.org](mailto:firstroboticscompetition@firstinspires.org) by the additional regional event(s) payment due date, which has been extended from Friday, January 31 to Friday, February 7.

This payment deadline has been postponed to allow teams additional time to make decisions, including *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams in China that have second plays in other regional events, and teams that were traveling to China to attend Beijing Cultural Exchange Event #1 or Beijing Cultural Exchange Event #2.

Registration for the future make-up *FIRST* Robotics Competition events in China will be made available for secured teams to select their event once dates are determined. Teams that are not secured (due to canceling their additional play, or due to new interest by a team to participate), will have an opportunity to register for those make-up events, pending space availability.

**What is the impact on *FIRST* Championship advancement?**

*FIRST* is evaluating options for reallocating Championship advancement slots from the postponed events to the 2021 *FIRST* Championship, pending available capacity and other considerations. Additional information will be made available to impacted teams at a future date.

Thank you for your continued patience and support as the situation develops. Please contact our [Customer Support Team](#) with any questions.

Sincerely,

*FIRST*<sup>®</sup> Robotics Competition Team Support