



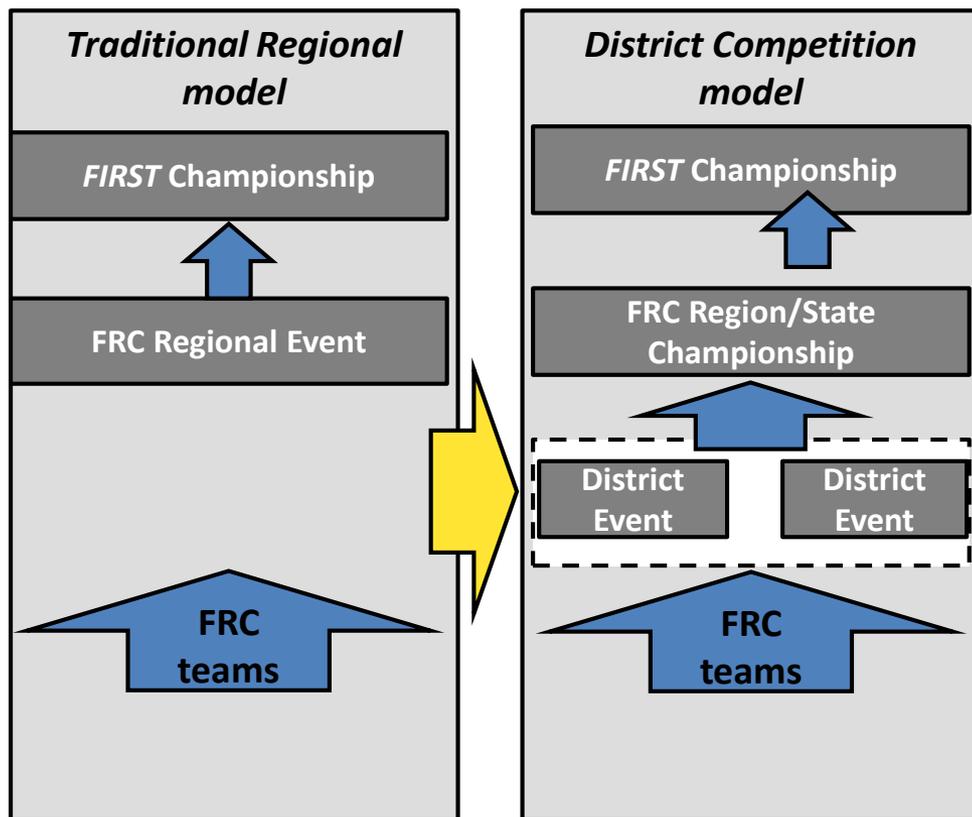
# *FIRST* Robotics Competition

## District Event Structure Overview

Created: November 2012

**Revised: March 2018**

# Scaling FRC requires significant changes to program competition structure



## Benefits of FRC District Model

- **Increases value to teams** (more plays, usually less travel, greater ROI)
- Exposes **more communities** to the *FIRST* message
- **Reduces individual event costs**, allowing more efficient use of resources
- Allows **team growth** without adding new regionals
- Increases **local entity involvement**

## *Why Move to Districts*

- Structure is adapted to increase accessibility and enable sustainable growth
- Provide the opportunity for more students to participate in the FRC Program by having more local events. The event/competition and scalability.
- Existing Districts have successfully proven that *FIRST* Ethos/values and quality standards have not been compromised by introducing more local, lower cost FRC events
  - Biggest cost savings
    - Lower venue cost
    - Lower production (A/V) cost, same number of screens
    - Lower team travel, lodging, and food costs
  - Same size pits
  - Same FRC field
  - Same Practice field
  - No change in rules
  - All the same awards presented



## *Why Move to Districts*

- Make the FRC Program delivery more efficient, more effective, more accessible and a better return on investment for teams
  - More efficient, more effective:
    - 2 events for same FRC Registration price
    - No team is 'one and done'
  - More accessible: more events/closer to home
    - Potentially reduced travel costs to local events
    - Give families, schools, local government, businesses and media easier access to local FRC competitions
  - More rewarding, better ROI: play more (2 events, 12 rounds/event typical)
    - Allow teams to fix issues/upgrade and continue playing
  - Districts are guaranteed to advance a certain number of teams to the *FIRST* Championship based on the number of teams in the District



# Increased Value For Teams

## More Plays for the Money

	Base Program		Base + 2 <sup>nd</sup> Play or District Championship	
	Seeding Matches	Cost	Seeding Matches	Cost
Traditional	10	\$5,000	20	\$9,000
District	24	\$5,000	36	\$9,000

- Two opportunities to have a good event and advance
- Opportunity to iterate robot design/fix technical issues
- Possible reduction in travel time and cost/shorter event structure
- Greater opportunity for family, friends, and sponsors to attend



## *Key Attributes to the District Event Structure*

- For one FRC registration fee each FRC team receives
  - One FRC Kit of Parts (KOP) for the current FRC season
  - Two District Event plays
  - Twelve matches per District Event typical
  
- 30 minimum to 40 (typical) maximum FRC teams at each District Event
  
- State/District Championship
  
- District Events are usually 2.5 day events and the State/District Championships are 3.5 day events like traditional Regionals
  
- Venue/Operation
  - High School or other low cost venue (Community College)
  - All event planning, coordination, logistics, and execution are the responsibility of local volunteers and the volunteer leadership entity
  - Target cost <\$25K depending on in kind goods and services

## *District Event Structure Challenges*

- Teams playing in the District can no longer play at a single event and advance to the *FIRST* Championship
  - Multiple events are needed to advance
  - Depending on event locations, could add to team costs
- Compared to advancement from Regionals to the *FIRST* Championship, teams often find out later in the season they have qualified, leading to less time to make arrangements
- With a greater number of events, more volunteers are needed, or individual volunteers must participate in more events
- District Management has a greater responsibility for activities formerly handled by *FIRST* HQ, such as field logistics
- More venues need to be secured to support the greater number of events
- Districts must be on sound financial footing, with strong sponsors enthusiastic to support the structure



## *Typical Requirements for Sustainable District Model*

- Established 501(c)(3) with capable and influential leadership who knows *FIRST*: Board of Directors, Executive Director, and staff (paid or volunteer)
- Appropriate volunteer base
- Sponsorship or other local revenues sufficient to cover regional/district expenses
  - If existing Regionals are covering their costs, that's a good sign
- Reasonable base of teams
- Demonstrated track record of hosting successful off-season events
- Formal multi-year business plan, organizational structure, and desire to promote and grow *FIRST* programs in the District area
  - Ideally co-manage or work effectively with local *FIRST* ecosystem or other Program partners
  - Business plan must include details on funding sources, staffing, volunteer recruitment, approximate event locations, logistics, etc.