

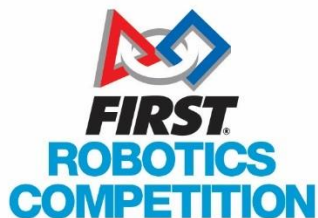
## 2018 *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> Robotics Competition Rookie Team Criteria Guidelines

The formation of new *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams is critical to *FIRST* Founder Dean Kamen's vision of changing the culture and creating the spirit of *Gracious Professionalism*<sup>®</sup> that is open and friendly to new participants. We recognize the commitment teams and mentors must make to get a first-year team "off the ground" and for this reason *FIRST* grants qualifying first-year teams "rookie" team status, which comes with specific incentives and recognition including:

1. **Rookie All-Star Award** - Celebrates the rookie team exemplifying a young, but strong partnership effort, as well as implementing the mission of *FIRST* to inspire students to learn more about science and technology;
2. **Rookie Inspiration Award** - Celebrates a rookie team's outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering and engineers, both within their school, as well as in their community;
3. **Highest Rookie Seed** - Celebrates the highest-seeded rookie team at the conclusion of the qualifying rounds;
4. **Rookie Grants** - To help first-year teams get financially off the ground. For more information regarding rookie grants please click on the following link:  
<https://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/frc/grants>

As *FIRST* continues to grow and teams expand, it is important for us to have guidelines for qualifying a rookie team. For the 2018 season, these guidelines are:

1. A new team that starts in a school/organization/alliance, or as a non-affiliated team, that has never run a *FIRST* Robotics Competition team before would be considered a rookie team. (Note: Most teams are formed within a single school, but some comprise two or more schools, or are formed in partnerships with organizations such as Scouts, Boys & Girls Clubs, home schools, etc.).
2. A returning team that has not been in a competition for three years would be considered a rookie team; that is, going into the 2018 season, the returning team cannot have competed in seasons 2017, 2016 or, 2015. Returning teams, whose last competition season was 2014 or earlier, can return during the 2018 season as a rookie with a 2018 rookie team number, OR, they can continue as a veteran team with their original team number. Returning teams that choose to register as a veteran are NOT eligible for the above listed rookie incentives and recognition.



3. Any single team that wants to separate into different teams, the new teams do not qualify as rookie teams unless the requirements set forth above in #2 are met. These teams will need to register as a new team in the team registration system by clicking on the “Create a Team” link, and following all steps accordingly. See **2018 Team Combines/Separations Rules** in the Resource Library for additional details.
4. Where multiple returning teams want to combine into one team, the new team does not qualify as a rookie team unless the requirements set forth above in #2 are met. The new team will need to register as a new team in the team registration site by clicking the “Create a Team” link and following all steps accordingly. See **2018 Team Combines/Separations Rules** in the Resource Library for additional details.
5. If one mentor or teacher from an existing team leaves and starts a team at a new school/organization/alliance, or as a non-affiliated team, that team qualifies as a rookie team.
6. If individual students who have been involved in a team leave that team and start a team in a new school/organization/alliance, or as a non-affiliated team, that team also is generally considered a rookie team providing it meets condition 1 and does not involve sufficient students to be considered a version of condition 3. As a maximum, the number of students in the new team that have competed on other teams must not exceed 5.

It is important to remember that these are guidelines only and *FIRST* will review special situations on a case-by-case basis as they are brought to our attention. Teams that do not meet the guidelines and wish to submit a petition for rookie status may do so by writing to us at <mailto:frcteams@firstinspires.org>. We ask the following be added to the subject line: **“Request for 2018 Rookie Status”** along with a full description of the situation.

[www.firstinspires.org](http://www.firstinspires.org)

200 BEDFORD STREET ■ MANCHESTER, NH 03101



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