

2023-2024 *FIRST*® Tech Challenge

Field Supervisor Manual

Sponsor Thank You

Thank you to our generous sponsor for your continued support of the *FIRST*® Tech Challenge!



Raytheon Technologies

Volunteer Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to volunteer for a *FIRST*® Tech Challenge event. *FIRST*® and *FIRST*® Tech Challenge rely heavily on volunteers to ensure events run smoothly and are a fun experience for teams and their families, which could not happen without people like you. With over 6,500 teams competing yearly, your dedication and commitment are essential to the success of each event and the *FIRST* Tech Challenge program. Thank you for your time and effort in supporting the mission of *FIRST*!

Revision History		
Revision	Date	Description
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Introduction

What is FIRST® Tech Challenge?

FIRST® Tech Challenge is a student-centered program that focuses on giving students a unique and stimulating experience. Each year, teams engage in a new game where they design, build, test, and program autonomous and driver operated robots that must perform a series of tasks. Participants and alumni of *FIRST* programs gain access to education and career discovery opportunities, connections to exclusive scholarships and employers, and a place in the *FIRST* community for life. To learn more about *FIRST*® Tech Challenge and other *FIRST*® Programs, visit www.firstinspires.org.

Gracious Professionalism®

FIRST® uses this term to describe our programs' intent.

Gracious Professionalism® is a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community.

Watch Dr. Woodie Flowers explain *Gracious Professionalism* in this [short video](#).

FIRST Privacy Policy

FIRST takes the privacy of our community seriously. As a nonprofit and a mission-driven youth-serving organization, we are compelled to understand who we are serving, how our programs are performing, and make improvements so that we can achieve our goals of making *FIRST* accessible to any youth who wants to be part of the fun, exciting and life-changing experience. Thus, we need to collect certain personal data from participants and volunteers to ensure we are meeting our goals and responsibilities as a youth-serving nonprofit organization.

As a volunteer, you may be asked to handle the personal data, or personally identifiable information (PII), of coaches, team members, and even other volunteers. It is critical that you understand and follow the [FIRST Privacy Policy](#) and complete any data protection and privacy training required by your role. If you have any questions regarding data protection and privacy, please reach out to the *FIRST* Data Governance Team at privacy@firstinspires.org.

Volunteer General Information

Our [FIRST Volunteer Handbook](#) is a comprehensive guide to the different ways people can volunteer with *FIRST*. It includes expectations, descriptions of training, policies, and more.

Learn more about the roles of volunteers on our [Volunteer Resources page](#), “Volunteer Role Descriptions

Volunteer Training and Certification

Volunteers must create an account on www.firstinspires.org and apply to the role. Upon application, training can be accessed from within the dashboard. Please follow these [instructions](#) to access training through the dashboard.

If you have applied for a role but do not see the link to training in your dashboard, or you have other training related questions please email FTCTrainingSupport@firstinspires.org.

Volunteer Minimum Age Requirement

The minimum age requirement of a *FIRST* volunteer is **13 years old**.

A minor must have a parent or guardian give written permission to volunteer. In addition, the *FIRST* Consent and Release Forms will need to be signed by a parent or guardian in the Volunteer Registration system for any volunteer under age 18.

Key Volunteer Role Minimum Age Requirement

Volunteers **MUST** be at least 21 years old before they can serve in a key volunteer role for the *FIRST* Tech Challenge. Key volunteer positions include: volunteer coordinator, head referee, judge advisor, field supervisor, *FIRST* technical advisor, lead robot inspector, lead field inspector, and lead scorekeeper. Local program delivery partners can make case by case exceptions to these guidelines by contacting *FIRST* for approval.

Bring a Friend!

Volunteers are a huge part of the *FIRST* Tech Challenge Program and continuing to inspire students to seek out careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). *FIRST* Tech Challenge needs your help in recruiting new volunteers to keep our programs thriving for future generations! If you have a friend or co-worker you think would be interested in volunteering at an event, there are just a few easy steps to help get them involved!

1. Check out our full list of [volunteer opportunities](#) online!
2. Have them apply for the Event in the [Volunteer Registration System](#). Volunteers must be screened before volunteering.
3. Have them contact Firsttechchallenge@firstinspires.org with any questions they may have.

If they are concerned about jumping in head first, no worries! Job shadowing at a *FIRST* Tech Challenge Event is a great way to get a taste of what a full day's worth of competition looks like. New volunteers can discover ways they can fit their personal skills into a volunteer position!

Helping Teams Succeed

A volunteers role is about helping a team succeed so they can compete. Teams spend countless hours, weeks and sometimes months working and reworking their robot design and strategies. After all this effort, some teams will still need a friendly volunteer to help create a positive event experience for the students.

Job Description

Prerequisite for the Field Supervisor Role

To serve as a field supervisor, previous experience as a *FIRST* technical advisor and/or referee is required.

Physical/Technical Requirements:

- Technical – Med
- Physical – Med (requires a lot of moving around)
- Administrative – High
- Communication – High

Time commitment:

The field supervisor should read this manual before the event. They should speak to the tournament director or program delivery partner to check for additional requirements, such as meetings before the event or run-throughs of the queuing path before the event. The estimated training time is one hour.

Additional 4-5 hours on top of the event day.

- Set-up (The field supervisor is generally the first one on the field and last to leave.)
- During event
- Tear-Down

Proper Dress:

- Wear comfortable shoes, most of the day will be spent standing and walking between the pit area and the competition fields.
- ANSI Z87.1 certified safety glasses are required in the competition area.

Overview of Responsibilities

The field supervisor is responsible for all activities in and around the robot playing fields, including:

- Competition playing field set-up and tear down.
- Keeping the robot matches on schedule.
- Ensuring the playing field is set up for each match.
- Repairing playing field game elements.
- Managing a safe environment, including:
 - Everyone is wearing safety glasses;
 - No running;
 - Robots are operating safely; and
 - Cables remain taped down.
- The flow of activity in and around the robot playing fields. This includes referees, scorekeepers, field reset attendants, queuers, teams, game announcers, etc.
- Insuring that volunteers have the resources they need and receive breaks.

The field supervisor is NOT responsible for:

- Interpreting game or robot rules.
- Refereeing or judging.
- Repairing robots.

- Explaining their actions, *FIRST* technical advisor actions, referee decisions, game play, game rules, robot rules, etc., to coaches, mentors, parents, grandparents, etc.
- Helping teams with detailed robot debugging. This is a sure way to cause a tournament to run late.

The field supervisor and *FIRST* technical advisor work together to keep the areas in and around the robot playing fields running smoothly. The *FIRST* technical advisor concentrates on the technical issues (robots, field control system, scoring software, etc.) and the field supervisor is responsible for operational activities (team queuing, playing field reset, etc.). While some smaller events combine the *FIRST* technical advisor and field supervisor responsibilities, having separate volunteers for each role will keep the workload manageable for each volunteer and is recommended by *FIRST*.

FIRST Tech Challenge events squeeze a lot of activity into one day. One of the keys to running a smooth and successful event is for teams and volunteers to show up prepared. Teams spend countless hours preparing for competition day and we ask our volunteers to prepare for tournament day as well.

The field supervisor role is comparable to the conductor of a symphony orchestra. They are responsible for directing the flow of activities of groups of volunteers. Each group performs a specialized task in coordination with other groups, and one group's misstep will disrupt the rhythm of the entire competition. The goal for the competition area volunteers is to stay within +/- one match of the published match schedule. If the matches run +/- two matches, it is time to look for ways to speed up or slow down matches so the tournament returns to a rhythm of +/- one match.

Anyone with good people and organization skills can serve as a field supervisor. However, a well-rounded field supervisor will have the following qualities:

- The field supervisor should be someone with high-energy. They will do a lot of walking around the competition area, conversing with teams and volunteers, and helping with event load-in and load-out.
- An experienced leader that can lead volunteers of all ages;
- An empathetic and patient person to work with still-maturing youth or a disgruntled mentor to explain an issue, and work with them to solve the problem during what can be an exasperating time; and
- A cheerleader for teams and fellow volunteers.

Pre-Event Day Responsibilities

Most *FIRST* Tech Challenge events are whole-day events. Field supervisor must help with field set up before the event and help tear down after the event. Plan on four to five hours of time commitment as well as the event day time commitment.

It is important before the event that the field supervisor reviews this manual. While field supervisors are key volunteers and are not required to pass a *FIRST* certification test to fill this role at an event, they must have certain knowledge and skills to be successful.

The field supervisor plays a key role in insuring that robot matches run smoothly and completing the tasks on the following checklist will help assure a fun and successful tournament day.

- Watch the game animation on the *FIRST* Tech Challenge Game & Season Materials page (<https://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/ftc/game-and-season>). Focus on understanding what the teams are trying to accomplish during a match and the names of the playing field elements.

- Download the [Game Manual Part 1](#) and read the “Tournament Day Outline”. It will be helpful to become familiar with the tournament terminology and structure. It would be useful to read up on the robot construction rules, and the [Game Manual Part 2](#) to learn the game rules. Review the [Field Set-Up Guide](#) to become familiar with the setup and breakdown of the field.
- Read this manual thoroughly.
- One or more weeks before event day, confirm the competition playing fields have been assembled and perform properly.
- The field supervisor should work with the tournament director to create a site plan for the competition area. Verify the tables, chairs, power extension cords, audiovisual equipment, etc. are reserved for event day.

Event Day Responsibilities

Event Set-Up Day Checklist for the Field Supervisor

- Tournament set-up often occurs the day before the competition. Setting up the competition area and testing the electronics should take two to three hours for a single field tournament and three to four hours for a two-field tournament. The field supervisor is responsible for setting up the competition area as specified in the site plan, including:
 - The playing field(s) – [Sample Layout](#)
 - Scorekeeper’s table
 - Queuing tables
 - Crowd control stations (if applicable)
 - Oversee the installation of the sound, video, and lighting systems
- The field supervisor will work with the *FIRST* technical advisor and a team of volunteers to set up and test the competition playing field(s) and the practice field(s). The playing field section of this manual contains information about playing field set-up, reset between matches, and repair.



Event Day Checklist for the Field Supervisor

- Arrive early; the field supervisor should be one of the first volunteers to arrive on event day.
- Assure the competition area is ready for volunteers and teams. Look for safety hazards, make sure cables are taped down, clean up trash, pick up tools that may have been left behind, etc.
- Check-in with the following volunteers:
 - **FIRST Technical Advisor** – Has everything been tested and are things ready for robot/field inspection and practice matches?
 - **Scorekeeper** – Has the scoring system been tested and have the teams, sponsors, etc. been entered?

- **Audio Crew** – Has the sound system been tested? Has a sound check been performed with the microphones?
- **Video Crew** – Has the video system been tested?
- Hold meetings with the competition area and pit queuing teams. This is a good time to review the day's schedule, queuing procedure, queuing travel path between the pit area and the competition area, etc. Direct the queuers to bring the teams for the first 2 matches on each playing field to the competition area before the start of the opening ceremony. For a single field event, queuers bring teams for the first two matches. For a two-field event, queuers bring teams for the first four matches.
- Hold a meeting with the field reset crew and review their responsibilities, proper field set-up, robot match flow, etc.
- Get a copy of the match schedule with times from the scorekeeper. The schedule is created by the computer system but cannot be generated until the tournament director has determined all the teams have checked in for the competition and passed robot inspection.
- Attend the opening ceremony and be prepared to start the first match directly following.
- The rest of the day will be spent overseeing the activities around the competition playing field(s).

The field supervisor empowers the volunteers to track the schedule, work together to adjust, and help the competition run at the rhythm of the match schedule.

Field Supervisor Event Primary Activities

The field supervisor is a supervisor and observer of the entire competition area to assure the flow of activity is going well. The field supervisor does not perform the detailed actions of any of the volunteer roles that they supervise. They need to ensure that referee deliberations, while important, are also brief, and that game announcers keep the matches moving along at an appropriate pace.

Primary activities of the field supervisor include:

- Ensure the flow of the competition stays on the schedule for the competition.
 - Referees are working quickly and efficiently;
 - Field resetters quickly reset the field;
 - Game announcers and emcees keep the event moving forward; and
 - queuers deliver teams to the field on time.
- Check in with volunteers to make sure they take breaks and are hydrated.
- Verify the environment is kept clean and safe.
- Contribute to the sense of fun for the event.

The Playing Field

The field supervisor is responsible for verifying the playing fields are built to specification, correctly set up, repaired when needed, and disassembled at the end of the competition. They should bring a tabbed binder or tablet containing the following documents to the competition:

- Game Manual Parts 1 and 2
- Field Supervisor Manual
- *FIRST* Technical Advisor Manual
- Scorekeeper Manual
- *FIRST* Tech Challenge Legal and Illegal Parts List
- Game Q & A Forum Printout (latest version)

These guides and manuals are updated throughout the season. The tabbed binder or tablet should contain the latest versions of these documents. A revision history page at the beginning of each document is the key to keeping track of updates. These documents are in the Resource Library on the *FIRST* website: <http://www.firstinspires.org/resource-library/ftc/volunteer-resources>.

The Game Q&A Forum is an online community where teams ask the *FIRST* Tech Challenge Game Design Committee questions about the game. Once events start, the forum is updated **Sunday through Thursday at 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time**. Game Design Committee posts to this forum are enforceable rules or guidance that carry the same weight as the information contained in the guides and manuals. The field supervisor should download a printout of the forum on the Thursday before the competition. *FIRST* posts a PDF format copy of the Q&A Forum <https://www.firstinspires.org/resource-library/ftc/game-and-season-info> Thursday afternoon.

Field Set-Up

Playing field construction should start before the first event of the season. The field supervisor is responsible for verifying that the playing fields are set up properly. Initial playing field verification should be done one week or more prior to competition day. Set up the playing fields the day before the competition. Set-up should take approximately one hour per field depending on the complexity of the game elements; this time will get shorter with experience.

Field Repair

Tools, spare parts, and repair materials should be on-hand should the playing field or field elements become damaged. Spare parts are game-dependent and will vary from year to year. A field supervisor's tool kit should generally contain:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight | <input type="checkbox"/> Pliers | <input type="checkbox"/> Cordless drill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tape measure | <input type="checkbox"/> Diagonal cutting pliers | <input type="checkbox"/> All-purpose drill bit set |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-meter | <input type="checkbox"/> Utility knife | <input type="checkbox"/> Drill bits for Field assembly
- 5/32 hex
- Phillips and slotted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hex key set (English) | <input type="checkbox"/> Gaffer's tape | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety glasses or side shields for prescription glasses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adjustable wrench | <input type="checkbox"/> Duct tape | <input type="checkbox"/> Rubber bands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phillips screwdriver | <input type="checkbox"/> Cable ties (zip ties) – various | <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slotted screwdriver | <input type="checkbox"/> Assortment of fasteners | |

Field Reset

Field reset starts when referees finish scoring a match and ends when teams, robots, referees, etc. are on station for the next match. Efficient flow of action during field reset is critical to keeping the competition running on schedule. The field supervisor should pay close attention to the following:

- Teams quickly remove their robots from the playing field area after the referees have given the teams a clear the field signal.
- Field reset volunteers restore the playing field to its starting condition.
- On-deck teams quickly set-up their robots on the playing field after reset is complete.
- The head referee verifies the playing field is in the correct starting configuration.
- The *FIRST* technical advisor and/or his designee perform a quick visual check of the robots to assure they are good to go.
- The game announcer, referees, and *FIRST* technical advisor should be on station and ready to start the match.

Transition from Autonomous to Driver Controlled Period

Once the autonomous portion of the match ends, the scoring system will tell the teams to pick up their driver station. As a visual cue, the scoring system will display to teams that they must pick up their driver station. Teams will only have 5 seconds to pick up their driver station, so they should make sure to pay close attention! After the 5 seconds, there will be a 3-2-1 countdown (both visual and audio through the scoring system) and the driver-controlled period of the match will begin right away.

Post-Event Day Responsibilities

At the end of the day, walk away from the event knowing you have done your best to ensure the competition ran smoothly. This is the goal of the field supervisor position. If there are any thoughts on how to improve the flow for the next event, take notes and share with the tournament director.

Appendix A – Resources

Game Forum Q&A

<https://ftc-qa.firstinspires.org/>

Anyone may view questions and answers within the FIRST® Tech Challenge game Q&A forum without a password. To submit a new question, you must have a unique Q&A system user name and password for your team.

Volunteer Forum

Volunteers can request access to role specific volunteer forums by emailing FTCTrainingSupport@firstinspires.org. You will receive access to the forum thread specific to your role.

FIRST Tech Challenge Game Manuals

Part 1 and 2 - <https://www.firstinspires.org/resource-library/ftc/game-and-season-info>

FIRST Headquarters Pre-Event Support

Phone: 603-666-3906

Mon – Fri

8:30am – 5:00pm

Email: Firsttechchallenge@firstinspires.org

FIRST Tech Challenge Event On-Call Support

The on call event support number is available for event personnel only. Please **do not** call these numbers if you are a team looking for a ruling, a decision, or assistance. We trust that you will not misuse this resource.

Day of event robot control system and scoring system support: 603-206-2450

All other day of event support: 603-206-2412

FIRST Websites

FIRST homepage – www.firstinspires.org

[FIRST Tech Challenge Page](#) – For everything FIRST Tech Challenge.

[FIRST Tech Challenge Volunteer Resources](#) – To access public volunteer manuals.

[FIRST Tech Challenge Event Schedule](#) – Find FIRST Tech Challenge events in your area.

FIRST Tech Challenge Social Media

[FIRST Tech Challenge Twitter Feed](#) - If you are on Twitter, follow the FIRST Tech Challenge Twitter feed for news updates.

[FIRST Tech Challenge Facebook page](#) - If you are on Facebook, follow the FIRST Tech Challenge page for news updates.

[FIRST Tech Challenge YouTube Channel](#) – Contains training videos, game animations, news clips, and more.

[FIRST Tech Challenge Blog](#) – Weekly articles for the FIRST Tech Challenge community, including outstanding volunteer recognition!

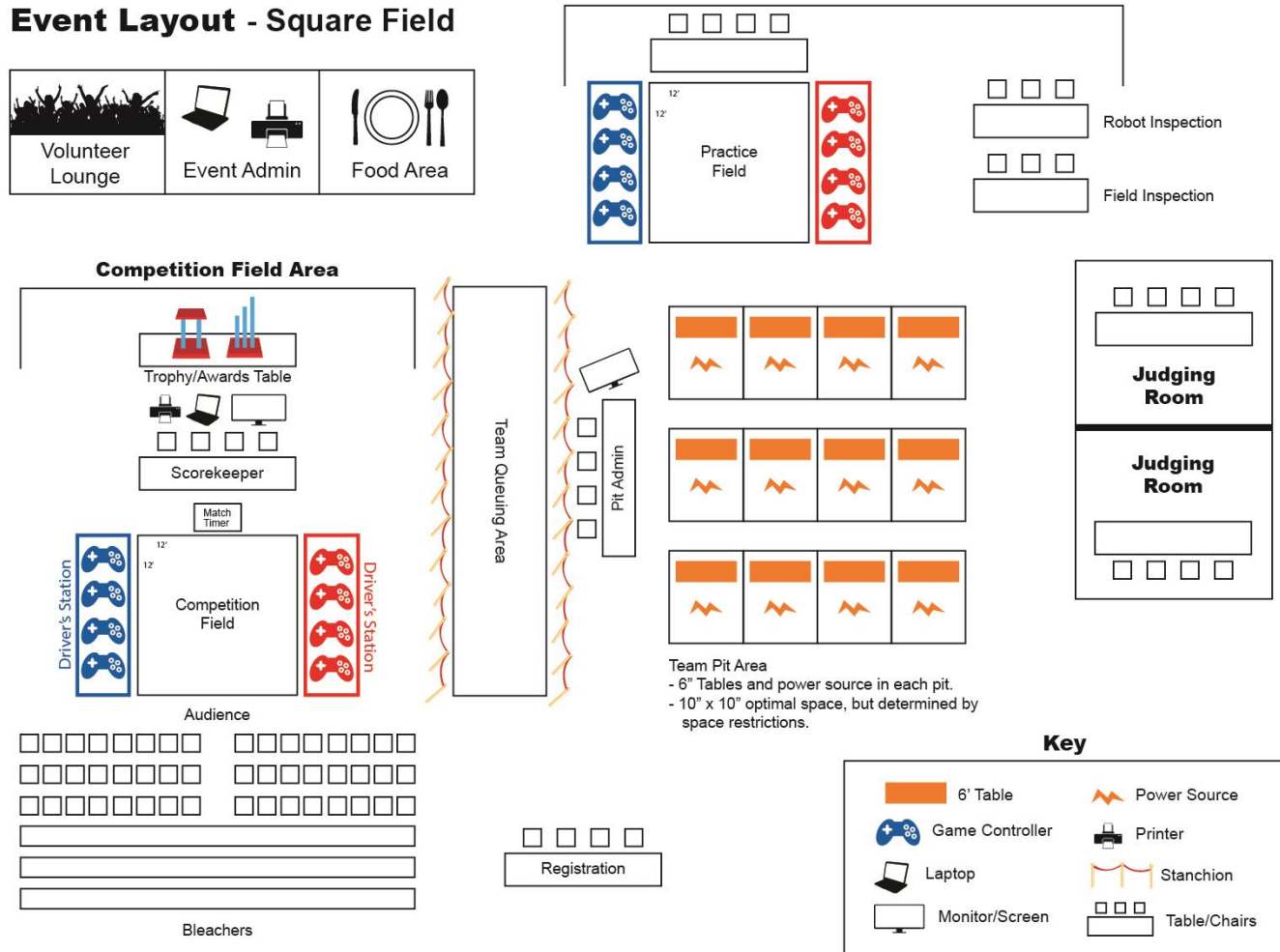
[FIRST Tech Challenge Team Email Blasts](#) – contain the most recent FIRST Tech Challenge news for teams.

Feedback

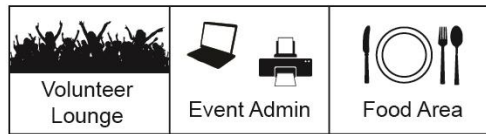
We strive to create support materials that are the best they can be. If you have feedback about this manual, please email firsttechchallenge@firstinspires.org. Thank you!

Appendix B – Floor Plan Template

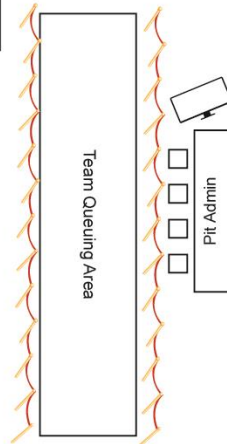
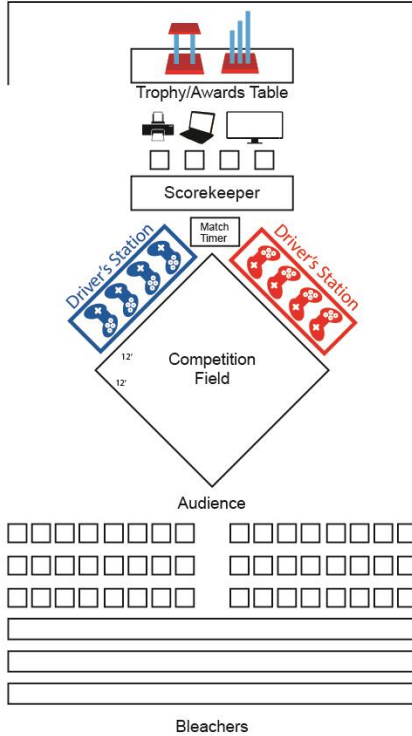
Sample FIRST® Tech Challenge Event Layout - Square Field



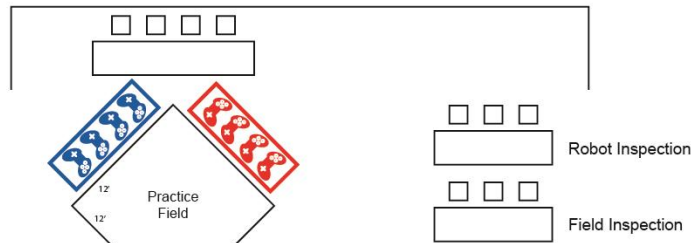
Sample FIRST® Tech Challenge Event Layout - Diamond Field



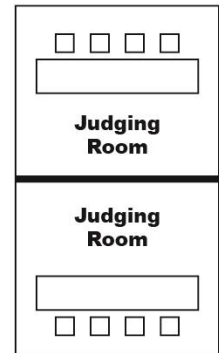
Competition Field Area



Pit Area



Team Pit Area
- 6' Tables and power source in each pit.
- 10' x 10' optimal space, but determined by space restrictions.



Key

