

FIRST Tech Challenge Off-Season Events

Introduction

Events occurring after the last official event of the *FIRST* Tech Challenge season, *FIRST* Championship, are all categorized as “off-season” events in official *FIRST* systems, even if they are official events in the local region. (This sometimes occurs outside of North America due to local school or regional schedules.)

Most events categorized as off-season are events hosted by local organizers who may or may not be associated with the local *FIRST* Program Delivery Partner (PDP) in their region. Off-season events are for teams having fun playing the most recent season’s game, to learn and improve in a lower pressure environment.

Anyone can run unlisted events in offline mode using the official FTC Live scoring software available for download from GitHub: [FIRST Tech Challenge Live Scorekeeper Software](#).

To have your off-season event listed on the *FIRST* Tech Challenge event website,

<https://ftc-events.firstinspires.org> and have access to the full FTC Live scoring software you will need to be aware of, and complete the following steps outlined in this document.

To see a list of currently registered *FIRST* Tech Challenge off-season events, please visit <https://ftc-events.firstinspires.org/#offseasonevents>.

Regardless of how you play in the off-season, the *FIRST* Tech Challenge Staff want you to be safe and have fun!

Key Dates

| Milestone | 2023-24 Season Dates |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Earliest Off-Season Event | April 27 th , 2024 |
| Latest Off-Season Event | September 6 th , 2024 |
| Deadline to register with <i>FIRST</i> to use an official team number in Off-Season Events See Inviting Teams for more details | April 19 th , 2024 |
| Deadline to use the Volunteers Management System to screen and assign roles in the scoring system See Volunteer Management for more details | May 12 th , 2024 |

Requesting an Off-Season Event

Event organizers will need to request an off-season event using this [Smartsheet form](#) at least 3 weeks before your event. PDPs can use their normal event request process on [ftc-scoring.firstinspires.org](https://scoring.firstinspires.org) to request an off-season event.

Please note that:

- *FIRST* does not supply any official support for off-season events but does allow event organizers to use the official scoring software and to save event results to our event page.
- The event host will need to provide everything required to run the event including all their own hardware, volunteers, and any applicable legal or financial coverage.

FIRST Tech Challenge Event Management Software (FTC Live & FTC-Scoring)

FTC Live is the official scorekeeping software for *FIRST* Tech Challenge. It is free and available for anyone to use. Each year the *FIRST* Tech Challenge program releases a special off-season edition which allows for the following changes from the official season version:

- Demo team numbers are available for use in matches (99900-99999).
- The limit to the total scheduled qualification matches per team is removed. Event organizers have the ability to schedule more than 5 or 6 matches per team.

No other custom software support is available. This includes any scoring or game play format modifications.

The event can be updated and configured on the ftc-scoring.firstinspires.org site by the local program delivery partner or the *FIRST* Tech Challenge Scoring Event Admin.

The assigned *FIRST* Tech Challenge Scoring Event Admin can also manually add users to the event for administration and scorekeeping purposes if they were not automatically assigned using the VMS system before the cutoff (see [Volunteer Management](#) section for more details).

FTC-Events Listing Page

Events requested either by the PDP or through the Smartsheet form will display here: <https://ftc-events.firstinspires.org/#offseasonevents>

Events which use the FTC Live scoring system software and which submit event results will have the results shown on the event page at the conclusion of the event.

Off-season events will not show up on the *FIRST* “Events Near Me” search on the firstinspires.org homepage.

Inviting Teams

Event organizers can invite any teams to participate in an off-season event including pre-rookie teams, unregistered teams, and teams with second robots (“B” robots).

- Any team who has been issued an official team number by *FIRST* can use that number in an off-season regardless of home region or current season payment status.



- Teams who have not been issued an official team number can compete using the demo team numbers 99900-99999.
- No team data for teams registered after the registration cutoff deadline in the Key Dates section will be available for off-season competitions.

Instruction for how to add teams to an event can be found under the “adding/editing teams for an event” section in the *FIRST* Tech Challenge Scorekeeper Guide:

https://www.firstinspires.org/sites/default/files/uploads/resource_library/ftc/scorekeeper-guide.pdf

Volunteer Management

The full Volunteer Management System (VMS) will not be available to manage off-season events. However, PDPs who wish to take advantage of many of the features of the VMS system (training, YPP (Youth Protection Program) certification and automatic role assignments in FTC Live) can do so if their off-season events are:

- a) set-up and
- b) volunteer assignment and certification is completed by the cutoff deadline in the [Key Dates](#) section.

All volunteer training materials are publicly available on our [FIRST Tech Challenge Volunteer Resources](#) page.

Event hosts are expected to understand *FIRST*'s [Youth Protection Policies](#) and implement practices to create a safe environment for all event participants.

Event Support

FIRST Tech Challenge staff will not be available to provide on-call support during off-season events.

If you have any questions or need assistance before your event, please reach out via one of the emails below. Email is monitored during normal *FIRST* HQ working hours, but responses may take up to 48 hours (about 2 days), please plan accordingly.

- ftcteams@firstinspires.org for event planning support
- ftctech@firstinspires.org for scoring system setup support