

Ask an Expert: Informational Calls for Teams, Mentors and Coaches

Call Topic: Robot Transportation Checklist

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Experts: Frank Merrick, Deputy Director, FRC *FIRST*®

When: Thursday, February 9th, 2012 at 7PM E.T.

How: Call Toll-free: 1-866-951-1151

Conference Room: 9533018

Use *2 to mute and/or un-mute your line

All calls are recorded and posted to our website
within
1-2 days after the call

Introduction

The goal of this call will be to go over the parts of the Robot Transportation process that cause the most confusion for teams, not to present everything you could ever want to know about the process. We will leave plenty of time for questions at the end in case we miss something you wanted to clarify. As all of the 2012 Regional and District events are Bag and Tag Events we will cover the logistics of Bag and Tag.

Bag and Tag events provide a new twist to the FRC experience by allowing individual teams to manage the quarantine and transport of their robots. While the bagged robot stays in the possession of the team there is still significant, albeit different, preparation that the team should conduct. During that last three years since Bag and Tag was reintroduced we have collected a number of practices that help avoid common problems and would like to share them. **STOP BUILD DAY is Tuesday, February 21, 2012. This is the date the Robot must be Bagged and Tagged.** Note that this means teams may continue to work on their robot up until midnight on that date, in whatever time zone they are in.

Getting Ready

1. Download and read Section 5 of the 2012 FRC Competition Manual. This section contains rules for transporting your robot to your event(s) as well as helpful tips and contacts. It is extremely important to read and understand this section to ensure that you are in compliance with the rules and that your robot will arrive on time. **ALL 2012 Regional and District events in the US and Canada are Bag and Tag Events.**

2. Download the “Robot Lock-up Form” from the *FIRST* web site at: http://usfirst.org/sites/default/files/uploadedFiles/Robotics_Programs/FRC/Game_and_Season_Info/2012_Assets/Robot_Lock-Up_Form.pdf. Section 5.6 has instructions on usage of this form.

3. Review the Bag and Tag FAQ's on the *FIRST* Website at: <http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/bag-and-tag-faq>

4. Requesting an Exemption to Bag and Tag can be found in Section 5.4 of the 2012 FRC Competition Manual. Please note that the official deadline for requesting an exemption has passed. *FIRST* headquarters will work with teams on a case by case basis if required.

5. Attending Championships -All teams competing at the *FIRST* Championship in St Louis, MO, will be issued a Fed-Ex Shipping voucher. This is required because teams must ship robots to Championship. Section 5.8 of the manual discusses this in detail.

Questions?

If you have any questions regarding robot shipping please call FRC Team Support at 1-800-871-8326 x 0 or email us at frcteams@usfirst.org