

Preparing for a FLL Event
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1. FLL Event: Overview

- Significance of Events-All FLL events are designed to be fun and exciting so that teams can be rewarded for their hard work
- FLL Partners and volunteers coordinate these events
- Teams will be recognized for a variety of aspects
- Best way to understand what an event entails is to participate
- Be prepared to have fun!

2. Event Types

- Local Events-smaller tournaments with a variety of styles regarding format, judging process, and awards (for example-in NYC we have borough wide tournaments)/no bearing on qualifying for a Championship
- Qualifying Tournaments or Regionals-medium size event similar to a Championship with some flexibility regarding format/teams may qualify for the Championship
- Championship Tournaments-large events with rigid standards in format, judging, awards, and overall quality that involve teams from any number of regions
 - Open Championship (Dayton, Ohio on May 7-9, 2009)-not held every year and use the same standards as the Championships
 - FLL World Championship (April 16-18, 2009 in ATL)-takes place every year in conjunction with the FIRST Championship. All Championship tournaments may be invited to send a team, but most will not

3. Tournament Applications

- Rookie teams-even if the team is not completely “ready” for the event, the team should compete anyway.
- Applying-team registration and applying for an event are separate, complete Consent and Release forms for all students/mentors for each tournament
- Championship Tournament Application-Many FLL Partners coordinate their own application process so check local guidelines, make sure your teams contact info is correct so you can be notified accordingly
- Logistics
 1. After registering check for changes/updates regularly
 2. Most FLL events are free and open to the public so encourage parents, siblings, sponsors, school staff, and other to cheer on the team

4. Preparing

- Read the handbook! Then ask questions of your tournament directors
- Have a parent meeting before the tournament to help parents understand what to expect
- Remind team it is okay to make quantitative comments (our robots uses five sensors, and other teams use four) but not qualitative comments (ours is better than that one)
- Use checklists-items to bring (batteries, cables, laptop, face paint, etc.)

5. At the Event

- Parents/Guardians-Adult supervision is key to a successful tournament
 1. Parents should understand that events are designed for youth to exhibit what they have achieved (an overbearing parent can serve as a photographer!)
 2. Are parents allowed in the pit? Who is coordinating lunch? Who's watching the jackets (it's winter in NYC)? What section is the team reserving?
- Familiarize the team to the area
 - Registration Area-Have the *Team Introduction* page with you and expect to be given your pit station
 - The Pit-A specific location where your team can setup displays and work on the robot (bring an extension cable in case an outlet isn't nearby)
 - Practice Fields-teams can practice, but respect other teams' needs as well
 - Competition Area-tables setup for the official robot competition
 - Judging rooms-separate areas where judging technical awards, teamwork, and project usually take place
 - Be aware of time-review the schedule for the day and be prompt!

6. Schedule

- Opening Ceremony-high energy start to the day, teams not immediately scheduled should return to pit to listen for queuing and/or meet with judges
- Rounds-usually three rounds based on the day's schedule
- Scoring Confirmation-after each match the two robot operators should confirm the score with the referee
- Judging-varies by tournament, may be scheduled evaluations or informal

7. Question/Comments