First Lego League Coach Update: 9/28/2017

1. Indiana Registration Closed: Team Count: Need Your Help!

2. Qualifying Tournaments: Where to find information about an Indiana qualifying tournaments

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1. Indiana Team Registration Closed: Team Count as of today is 299

Indiana Registration closed over a week ago due to reaching potential tournament capacity.

Need your help: Please contact me ASAP if you have any of these team situations regarding attending a Qualifying Tournament (QT):

- You will not be using a team number that you registered; i.e. that team was not formed
- You will be working with a team that has an official team number but not ready to attend a November qualifier. The team may go visit one just to observe and learn.
- Your team is fairly new and will not be ready for Nov. tournaments but would prefer attending a robot game “scrimmage” or off season event later this year in a lower stress situation if one were offered.

Contact: Carol at dostalc@ipfw.edu to notify us about a team that will not be applying to a QT.

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2. Where to find information about a tournament?

Alert: Do not go to the First Lego League team dashboard for your team to apply for an Indiana Tournament. Tournament information will shortly be removed from the FIRST website to prevent teams from applying there.

See the list of tournament locations for Indiana Qualifying Tournaments (QTs) on the Northern Indiana Championship website: www.etc5.ipfw.edu/fll

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3. When and where do you apply to attend a tournament?

All coaches should visit the Indiana Championship website to read about the tournament application process. Here is the scoop:

Where to apply: Indiana Championship Website: www.etc5.ipfw.edu/fll
When to apply: Tuesday, October 10 8:00 AM (EDT) through October 13, noon or 12:00 PM (EDT)
4) **What is the tournament application all about:** Read about it on the Northern Indiana Championship website under Qualifying Application Process. **This is not a straight registration for a specific event.** There are often many teams who want to go to the same event and not enough space. Each tournament has a maximum due to space and other considerations. Teams are asked to rank three tournaments in order of preference. Every attempt is made to assign teams to their first choice but it will not be possible for all teams. Read the last Coach Update for further explanation. Go to the Northern Championship website also for more explanation and look under Team News for the Update in early September.

5) **What do teams in Indiana need to know about preparing for a tournament?**

There are two parts to the competition: the judging sessions and the robot game (matches).

**Tournament schedules typically follow one of these two formats:**

- **Split event:** the judging sessions are typically held in the morning and for the most part are separate in the schedule from the robot game portion of the event
- **Intermixed event:** teams will participate in judging sessions and robot rounds intermixed in the schedule throughout the day

All judging sessions are the same at all events and they include: project judging, Core Values judging, and robot design judging. These are the three sessions each team will attend regardless of the format used.

All robot game portions of the event have 3 rounds where each team is matched with a different team each round and has three opportunities to earn a score during their 2 and ½ minute match. The best score is the one used to determine robot game winner. However, this alone does not determine who advances to the championship. Judging session rankings from judges are vital!

**Read carefully the Coach Manual on the basics** that are expected of teams in judging sessions and robot game. Read through the **online guidelines also for this year’s Challenge** to know how the robot game will be scored.

**INDIANA specific information; Core Values Poster:** All teams are expected to have a Core Values poster to show judges during their Core Values judging. There are no rules on what to put on the CV poster but it should show how your team was able to accomplish the main three components of the CV judging: inspiration, teamwork, and gracious professionalism. Teams will use this as a visual aid during the CV judging. Remember...a picture is worth a thousand words!

**Judging Sessions; Coaches in attendance:** Your tournament director will let you know if the coach is allowed in the room for judging sessions. This may be different at various events so make sure you look for that information in the packet from the director and prepare your team.

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6) **Tournament Advancement to a Championship:** See a separate FAQ on this posted on the Championship website

That's all the news for now!