**FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL) FAQ’s**

1. **Parent question: How can my child become a member of an FLL team?**

   Unlike sports leagues, FLL is not an association that assigns children to teams after they are individually registered. In FLL, a coach forms a team and then they register as a team. The majority of teams in Indiana are formed within schools or other youth groups (Girl/Boy scouts, Girl/Boys club, church or after school youth groups, robotic clubs, etc). However, there are also a large number of teams called “neighborhood teams” meaning one parent or several parents from different families form a team with their child and his/her friends. Home school teams are in this category or they may form within a home school organization. In these cases, the parent(s) are the coaches. Keep in mind...**anyone can form a team**! In the state of Indiana, there are quite a few Coach Clinics and Lego camps and workshops where both adults and kids can learn how to build and program the robot used for FLL. Those resources will be expanding in the future and many will be posted on the Indiana Championship website and on the Indiana Qualifying Tournament websites which you can access through the Indiana site at: [www.etcs.ipfw.edu/fll](http://www.etcs.ipfw.edu/fll). See questions #3 for how to find more detailed information about forming the team.

2. **Parent question: I would prefer not to form a team so how can I find out if there are any teams in my geographical location who might allow my daughter/son to join?**

   Once a team is formed, in most cases, they don’t often take on new members. However, the location of Indiana teams is posted on the Indiana Championship website in the right column under “Locate Indiana Teams” (see the small Indiana map). Click on the word map and you will find a larger Indiana map showing location of tournaments. At the top, you can click on the sentence indicating a list of teams; sometimes the list is from a previous school year. The current year’s list may not be posted if it is between January and May since teams do not begin registering for fall participation until after May 1st. The website list of teams will be updated monthly beginning in June at the beginning of each month until national registration closes on Sept. 30. **Coach contact information is not allowed to be made public or distributed to anyone except with a coach’s permission. This is to protect the privacy of each coach.** However, this year coaches will be asked if their name and contact information can be posted and, depending on their answer, that information will be shown on this team list in the future.

3. **How do I, a group of parents, or even a school form a team?**

   See the Indiana website for a document called “10 Steps to Forming a Team” in the upper right column under **Newcomers**. This is a basic summary that explains the steps. The Indiana Championship website is: [www.etcs.ipfw.edu/fll](http://www.etcs.ipfw.edu/fll)

   You can also gain further information at the national FLL website: [http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/fll](http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/fll)

   **And**


   Also, many veteran coaches are willing to provide advice to new teams so if you contact the Championship or Qualifying Tournament director, they may be able to find a coach that can advise you.
4. What else does the national website tell me?

From the national website you will also find out: the current year’s theme, schedule of important dates, procedures to order materials and a price list, details on the annual FLL Challenge once it is revealed in late August. Once you are an official team you will receive a Coach Manual with further instructions. You will also have access to order materials, communicate with other teams, listen to helpful conference calls on forming and working with your team, and ask questions.

5. What can I find out from the Indiana Championship FLL website which is offered by the host IPFW (Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne)?

Check out our Indiana website to find out about registration for the Indiana Qualifying and Championship Tournaments, other Indiana FLL events, links to the qualifying tournament websites, information on JrFLL and lots of other information about the Indiana Championship and Qualifying tournaments.

6. How do we register for tournaments? Is it different from registering as a team?

Yes, there are two registrations: one for your group to become a team and one for your team to attend any tournaments. Your team(s) can compete in one of the Indiana Qualifying Tournaments (QT) listed on the Indiana Championship website. If you would like to attend the Championship Tournament, you must first compete at a QT and then be selected (based on your team’s tournament performance) to advance to the Indiana Championship. At this time, there are over 220 teams in the state of Indiana and 52 will advance to the championship tournament. A select percentage of teams from each tournament advance; the percentage is based on the registration number for each tournament so your chances are the same whether you compete in a large tournament or a small tournament.

7. When do I register for the Indiana tournaments?

Registration for Indiana QT’s is done in October through the Indiana Championship FLL website: www.etcs.ipfw.edu/fll NOT THROUGH THE NATIONAL FLL REGISTRATION WEBSITE. Registration for the Championship Tournament, once you have qualified, is also handled through the Indiana Championship FLL website.

8. What registration fees must I plan to pay in addition to registering an FLL team and buying the robotic kits and field set up kits etc.?

In addition to the fee for registering an FLL team ($225), there is a fee for the qualifying tournament you choose to attend (usually $45) and a fee for the Championship Tournament (usually $40) if your team advances. You can plan on about $310 total cost in registration fees. Since the cost for hosting these tournaments is high, coordinating organization’s cover expenses with registration fees and sponsorships.

9. How can I cover the cost for these fees and other team expenses?

There are several possibilities:
First, a school system, school, PTA or PTO may cover the cost. Be prepared to demonstrate the value of the program and connection to Indiana State Standards.

Second, private business sponsor(s) in your area who wish to support engineering or technical education may have an interest in supporting your team. At most tournaments your team will probably wear a special team shirt. Your team sponsor can be on the shirt.

Third, family or community organization sponsors can support a team. In the case of a home school or a community group, you may be able to have the families of participants (if they can afford it) donate toward the fees or have an organization like a youth group sponsor a team.

10. Do I have to be part of a school to participate in these tournaments?

No, in fact many professionals interested in technology, parents, teachers, youth workers, etc. form teams and participate in the Indiana tournaments. Teams must have 4-10 members between the ages of 9-14. For a complete description of team information see “10 Steps to Forming a Team” under Newcomers at the Indiana Championship website www.etcs.ipfw.edu/fll.