

**FIRST**<sup>®</sup>

**DIVE**

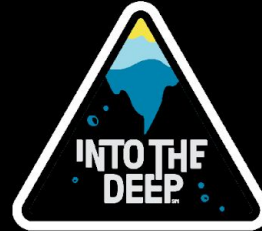
PRESENTED BY **Qualcomm**

# NorCal FTC Season Kickoff

9/10/2024

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GreatBasinFoundation.com

CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL APRIL 23

2024/2025 **SEASON**

## Welcome!!!

- This call is being recorded
- Slides and recording will be posted online
  - slides on <https://www.norcalftc.org>
  - video on YouTube -  
<https://www.youtube.com/@norcalfirsttechchallenge2668>
- All attendees are muted
  - dedicated time for questions at the end
  - ask via the “questions” feature of GoToWebinar

# Introductions

- NorCal FTC Program Staff
  - Ashley Harbert
  - Mark Edelman
- NorCal Regional Judge Advisors
  - Anika Siemers
  - Jill Wilker
- NorCal Regional Head Referees
  - Jeff Greene
  - Rick Swan

# ASHLEY!

**FIRST Tech Challenge NorCal Program Coordinator**

Easiest Method of Contact:

(510) 656-8664 ex. 712

Office Hours M-F 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Need digit documents:

Send email to [ashley@playingatlearning.org](mailto:ashley@playingatlearning.org)

## Kickoff Challenges - Why no in-person this year?

- 1000+ attendees last season!!!
  - overwhelmed venue
  - unanticipated costs to host
  - strongly limited ability for teams to participate in workshops
- Needed a new model!
  - leagues each held own kickoff
  - offered for others to host - no takers early enough to be effective
  - move workshops to online resources - all can consume!!!
- One more issue ...

## ... a personal conflict!

- my son's wedding in Austin, TX on 9/6
- need your help to make me less critical!





# Our Regional Sponsors!



your company's  
logo here?

# Tonight's Agenda

- Changes, changes, and more changes ...
- Season Timeline
- Event Registration Costs
- Qualifier Registration Process
- Status Updates
  - League & Qualifier Status
  - NorCal FTC Regional Championship Status
  - FIRST Championship Status
- Upcoming Events/Workshops
- Your Help Needed!!
- Questions & Answers!

## Changes, changes, and more changes ...

- FIRST decision to align FTC and FRC programs
  - game manual changes
  - terminology changes
  - Q&A changes
  - judging changes
  - playoff changes
- Everyone is essentially a rookie again!
- Assume nothing. Read EVERYTHING.
- Be patient!
  - it will take time for all of us to adjust to all the changes!

# Season Timeline

Sep 7th	Into the Deep Kickoff
Oct (early)	Leagues finalized
Oct 7th	QT preferences open
Oct 26th or 27th	Scrimmage (Screamage)
Nov / Dec / Jan	League Meets
Nov / Dec / Jan /early Feb	Qualifying Tournaments
late Jan / early Feb	League Tournaments
Feb 15th or 16th	Dean's List Interview Event (tentative)
Feb 22nd - 23rd	NorCal Regional Championship (tentative)
April 16th - 19th	FIRST Championship (Houston)

## Event Registration & Costs

- November incentives
  - register for a Nov event and get improved priority for Jan event
- Host team incentives
  - one “front of the line” opportunity - initial event registration only
- Costs for 2024-2025 season
  - League - \$300
  - Qualifier
    - \$200 initial registration
    - \$225 2nd registration
    - \$250 3rd registration
  - Regional Championship - TBD

## Qualifier Registration Process - Current Plan

- “Wave Based”
  - 1 months of events per group/wave
  - 1st event reg, 2nd event reg, etc
- Rank Your Team’s Preferences for group
  - 1 to N
- Can register out of date order - 1st, 2nd do not have to be chronological
- Random Sort of Teams for each wave
- Teams processed one-by-one
  - registered for first available event based on ranked preference
- Teams need to be prepared to play early!

# Qualifier Registration Process - Current Plan

	Preferences window: note your team's preferences from Team Status Page	Events Assigned from Priority Requests	General Registration (self registration)	Who Participates?
<b>November Events</b>				
Preference Registration	Oct 7th at 9:00a thru Oct 10th at 9:00a	Oct 10th		Everyone
General Registration			Oct 10th at 5:00p	Everyone - open to 1st or 2nd event registrations, November events only
<b>December Events</b>				
Preference Registration - 1st event	Oct 21st at 9:00a thru Oct 24th at 9:00a	Oct 24th		Everyone who has not yet registered for an event
General Registration			Oct 24th at 5:00p	Everyone who has not yet registered for an event
Preference Registration - 2nd event	Nov 4th at 9:00a thru Nov 7th at 9:00a	Nov 7th		Everyone who would like to register for a 2nd event in December
General Registration			Nov 7th at 5:00p	Everyone - open to 1st or 2nd event registrations, Nov & Dec events only

## Leagues & Qualifiers

- Leagues
  - North/East
  - East Bay
  - South Bay
  - Peninsula
  - maybe more???
- Qualifiers
  - 16 in various states of confirmation (1.56 events per team)
  - 10 more needed for 2.5 average events per team



# League Growth

- Increased interest in league participation
  - working with existing leagues to explore in-place growth
  - not all will be able
  - means not all interested teams will be able to participate in leagues
- Need additional league coordinators/hosts
- email if willing/able to help!

## NorCal FTC Regional Championship Status

- Site not confirmed at this time
- Target date - Feb 22nd/23rd weekend
  - Dean's Lists Interview tentatively Feb 15th/16th weekend
- 1+ day event
  - judging and inspection during setup night before
  - rest of event following day
- Forming a planning/execution committee to help with event

## **FIRST Championship Status**

- Location - Houston, TX - George R Brown Convention Center
- Dates - April 16th - 19th
- 256 teams
- New hotel requirements!!!
- NorCal advancement will be announced in early December based on our current size as of 12/2

## Upcoming Events & Workshops

- Using the Qualifying Tournament Preferencing System
- Late October Screamage (scrimmage)
- Rookie Coach Workshop
  
- Details for all are still being finalized!

## Your Help Needed!

- Barrier to growth - without additional resources can't continue to grow!
- Sponsors!!!
- Event support
  - Key Volunteers
    - trained roles - referee, judge, inspector, FTA, and more
  - Field Managers
    - need to spend time to learn setup, takedown, packing, etc.
  - Equipment Logistics
- Event Hosts
- League Coordinators
- Regional Championship Planning & Execution

## NorCal FTC Team Grants

- PG&E/Dream Maker Fund sponsorship not finalized yet
  - final details and amounts being ironed out
- Dream Maker Fund sponsorship confirmed
  - team grants!!!
  - details to be announced
  - application process and requirements will be announced as soon as everything is finalized

# Important FTC Resources

- Season Information
  - <https://www.firstinspires.org/resource-library/ftc/game-and-season-info>
  - much good info here!
- Tech Documentation
  - <https://ftc-docs.firstinspires.org>
- Team Q&A
  - opens 9/16 - code for access in team dashboard
  - <https://ftc-qa.firstinspires.org/>

# Important NorCal FTC Resources

- NorCal FTC Website
  - <https://www.norcalftc.org>
- Team List
  - access to team status page
  - <https://www.norcalftc.org/norcal-ftc-team-list-new/>
- Team Status Page
  - summary of FIRST team status
  - roster status
  - qualifier preferencing and registration



## Some Time for Q&A

- Limit questions
  - about the season or the program
  - no game questions
- Two ways to ask
  - via the “Questions” feature of GoToWebinar
  - by “raising your hand” - and we will unmute

Title | Organization

2024/2025

SEASON

Confidential until April 23

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