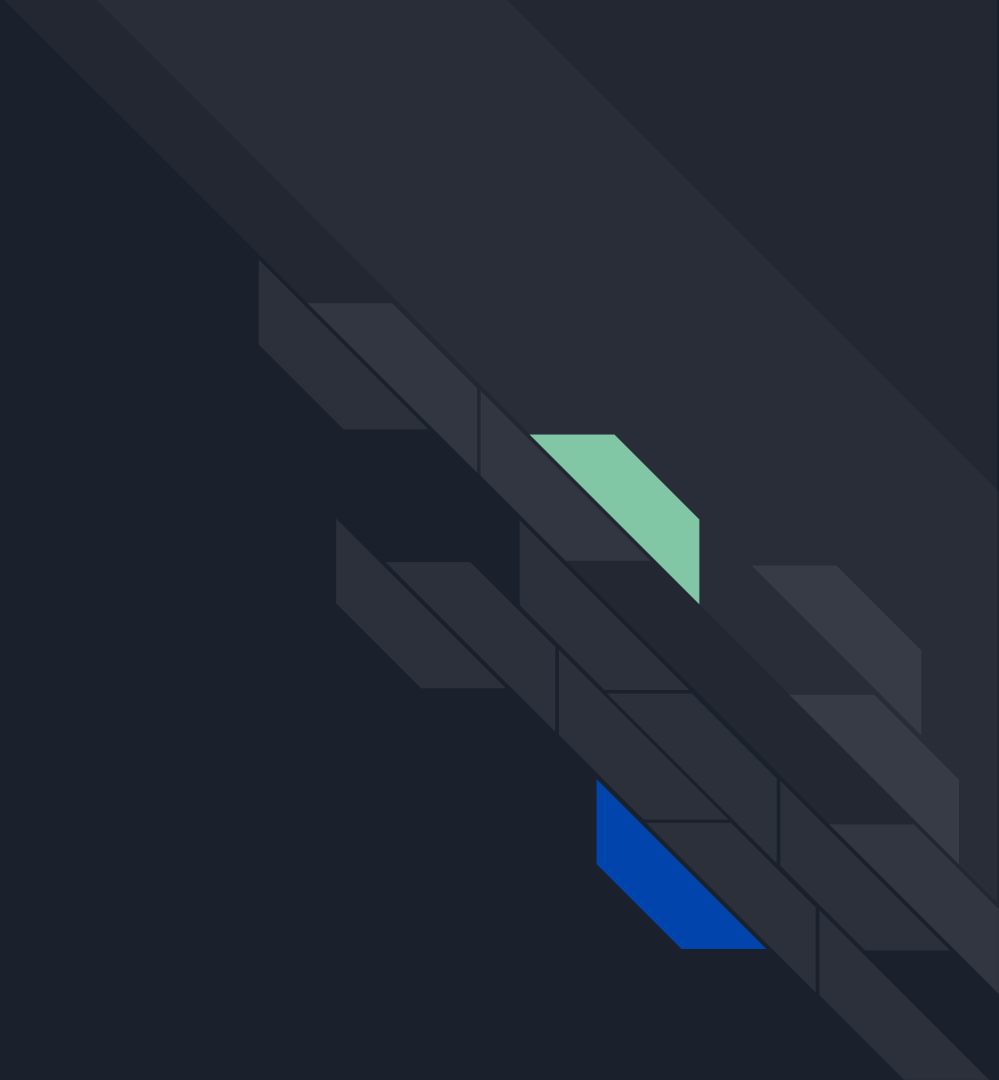


FTC Coaches Chat

Changes for 2024-2025 Season

May 28th, 2024

Background





2023-2024 Season Schedule

- Approx. by September 30th
 - Teams are registered with FIRST and FIRSTWA
- First week of October
 - FIRSTWA sent out invoices
- Second week of October
 - FIRSTWA published league assignments
- November 4th - 5th
 - League Meet 1 Events
- December 2nd - 3rd
 - League Meet 2 Events
- January 13th - 14th
 - Interleague Events
- Mid-January
 - Dean's List Interviews
- February 3rd
 - State (32 teams)




Problem #1: Strict Event Scheduling

- All events occurring on the same weekends gives consistency for planning and team experience, but
 - There are always teams that can't do a subset of the weekends
 - There are always teams that can't do a specific day on the weekend
- Due to shifting calendar constraints, Interleagues have bounced back and forth between December and January from year to year
- As the number of events increase, the amount of volunteers needs to increase as well



Problem #2: Decreasing Advancement Allocations

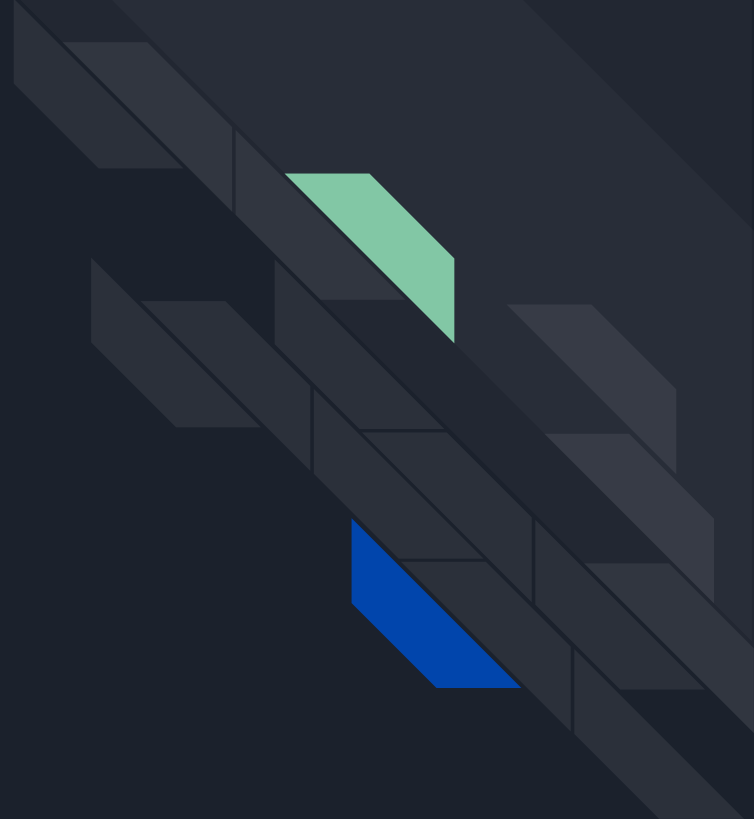
- 2022-2023
 - 129 registered teams
 - 32 advancement spots across 5 Interleagues for State
 - Curie advanced 4 teams
 - Feynman, Pasteur, Tesla, Watt advanced 7 teams
- 2023-2024
 - ~170 registered teams (+40)
 - 32 advancement spots across 6 Interleagues for State
 - Curie advanced 3 teams
 - Hawking advanced 5 teams
 - Feynman, Pasteur, Tesla, Watt advanced 6 teams



Goals With the 2024-2025 Season Changes

- Give teams and event hosts more flexibility in scheduling
- Decrease the burden on volunteers and volunteer coordinators
- Improve the scalability of advancement within Washington
 - Acknowledging that our team counts may continue to grow

Changes for the 2024-2025 Season





Event Assignment Changes

Existing System

- Teams register with FIRST as well as with FIRSTWA
- FIRSTWA assigns teams to a league
- Teams attend their assigned league and interleague events

New System

- Teams register with FIRST as well as with FIRSTWA
- FIRSTWA assigns a “home” league to each team
- Teams get the opportunity to submit league preferences if they want to be in a different league
- FIRSTWA processes league preferences
- FIRSTWA assigns teams to their final league



Event Assignment Changes

New System

- Teams register with FIRST as well as with FIRSTWA
- FIRSTWA assigns a “home” league to each team
- Teams get the opportunity to submit league preferences if they want to be in a different league
- FIRSTWA processes league preferences
- FIRSTWA assigns teams to their final league

Details

- Event information will be published prior to preferencing
- League pairing for Interleagues are constant and unchangeable
- Teams are guaranteed their home league if that’s what they want
- Teams can elect to be in any league within 75 miles of their home events



Event Advancement Changes

Existing System

- Everyone attends two league meets
- Everyone attends their Interleague
- Some teams from the Interleague advance to the State Championship

New System

- Everyone attends two league meets
- Everyone attends their Interleague
- Some teams from the Interleague advance to a Semifinal event
- Some teams from the Semifinal advance to the State Championship



Event Advancement Changes

New System

- Everyone attends two league meets
- Everyone attends their Interleague
- **Some teams from the Interleague advance to a Semifinal event**
- Some teams from the Semifinal advance to the State Championship

Details

- Plan to run two Semifinal events
- Semifinals will be similar in format to Interleagues
 - No carry-forward of rankings
- Goal is that every Interleague will advance at least 4 teams
- Goal is 28 teams at each event
 - 56 teams advance past Interleagues
- Slightly smaller State Championship



Event Scheduling Changes

Existing System

- All events of a specific “type” are played on the same weekend
 - League Meet 1
 - League Meet 2
 - Interleagues

New System

- All events are played within a given time window, but not necessarily on the same weekend
 - 5-6 week window for League Meets
 - 2-3 week window for Interleagues
 - 1 weekend for Semifinals



Event Scheduling Changes

New System

- All events are played within a given time window, but not necessarily on the same weekend
 - 5-6 week window for League Meets
 - 2-3 week window for Interleagues
 - 1 weekend for Semifinals

Details (2024-2025 Dates)

- League Meet Window
 - October 26th - November 24th
- Interleague Event Window
 - December 7th - 22nd
- Semifinal Event Weekend
 - January 11th - 12th
- State Championship
 - Late January/Early February

Summary





2023-2024 Season Schedule

- Approx. by September 30th
 - Teams are registered with FIRST and FIRSTWA
- First week of October
 - FIRSTWA sent out invoices
- Second week of October
 - FIRSTWA published league assignments
- November 4th - 5th
 - League Meet 1 Events
- December 2nd - 3rd
 - League Meet 2 Events
- January 13th - 14th
 - Interleague Events
- Mid-January
 - Dean's List Interviews
- February 3rd
 - State (32 teams)



2024-2025 Season Schedule (Tentative)

- By September 30th
 - Teams are registered with FIRST and FIRSTWA
- First week of October
 - FIRSTWA assigns and publishes **home** leagues (early in the week)
 - **Teams submit league preferences by end of week**
 - FIRSTWA sends out invoices
- Second week of October
 - **FIRSTWA publishes final league assignments**
- October 26th - November 24th
 - League Meets
- December 7th-22nd
 - Interleagues
- January 11th-12th
 - **Semifinals (~28 teams)**
- Late-January/Early February
 - State (**~24 teams**)



Changes for Teams

- Not everyone competes on the same weekends
- We will assign teams a home league that optimizes travel distances across everyone
 - This may mean your home league is not your closest league
- Teams can choose to register for their home league, or a different league
 - Teams are guaranteed their home league if that's what they want
 - Teams can choose any league within 75 miles
- Interleagues are completed by December, with advancement events in January/February



Questions