

The background of the slide is a dark teal color with a faint, light-colored topographic map overlay. The map features various contour lines, a winding river, and some rectangular structures, possibly representing a town or a specific geographical area. The overall aesthetic is clean and professional.

# **FIRSTWA FTC Coaches Meeting**

May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

# Agenda

- Communication Update
- 26-27 Season Calendar
- BIOBUZZ Game Preview
- Upcoming Control System Changes
- Questions
- Soliciting Feedback on the 25-26 Season

# Communication Update

Please send all FIRSTWA FTC-related questions to a new email alias

[ftc@firstwa.org](mailto:ftc@firstwa.org)

This will ensure your questions are seen by everyone and answered  
in a more timely manner

# 2026 - 2027 Season Calendar

- Disclaimers
  - Some dates may be subject to change
  - Please continue to check the FIRSTWA Calendar and Blog Posts
- No major changes planned for the 26-27 season

## 2026 - 2027 Season Calendar

- ~June: FIRST HQ Registration Opens
- ~July: FIRSTWA Registration Form Opens
- September 12<sup>th</sup>: FTC Kickoff
- September 25<sup>th</sup>: FIRSTWA Registration Deadline
- October 2<sup>nd</sup>: Final League Assignments Posted
  - Note: Shorter time window for event preferencing

## 2026 - 2027 Season Calendar

- October 24<sup>th</sup> - November 22<sup>nd</sup>: League Meets
- December 5<sup>th</sup> - December 20<sup>th</sup>: League Tournaments
- December 15<sup>th</sup>: FIRST Leadership Award Submissions Due
- Mid January: Super Qualifiers
- Late January: FIRST Leadership Award Interviews
- Late January/Early February: State Championship
- April 28<sup>th</sup> - May 1<sup>st</sup>: FIRST Championship

# Game Preview

# BIOBUZZ™

PRESENTED BY



## BIOBUZZ Game Preview: Scoring Element

Pollen!

- Similar to DECODE Artifacts
- ~3 inches in diameter
- Available for purchase from Andymark



## BIOBUZZ Game Preview: Robot Tasks

- Some things robots will need to do
  - Intake Pollen off the foam field surface
  - Intake Multiple Pollen at the same time
    - Experiment with Pollen in a line and piles of Pollen
  - Intake off Field Walls & out of Field Corners
  - Navigate and Intake Pollen Autonomously
    - Move between known locations



## BIOBUZZ Game Preview: StarterBot Bases

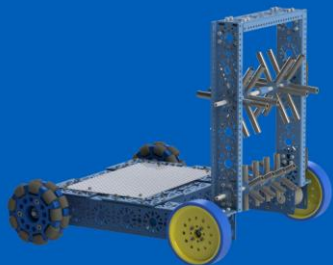
2026-2027 Robits StarterBot Base



 Studica  
ROBOTICS

Build Better Robots®

Studica Starter Bot 2026 / 2027 Build Guide



**FTC StarterBot Resource Guide**

2026-2027 Preseason



## BIOBUZZ Game Preview: FTC Skill Builders

- Created and published by FIRST Education
- Mini-games and other challenges that are designed to leverage the starter bots

### ☰ How to Use Skill Builders

Skill Builders are designed with flexibility in mind, whether you're running challenges as part of a multi-week program or just looking for some quick practice sessions:



- Learn about drive systems, intakes, and programming resources through interactive lessons in this course.
- Build 2026-27 StarterBot Base using instructions and resources from FIRST Tech Challenge suppliers.
- Use editable, printable slides with details for each Challenge and QR codes for easy access to resources.
- Build, test, practice, and then compete in fun challenges that use easily accessible materials.
- Track progress for each challenge and across multiple challenges using the [Skill Builders Scoring spreadsheet](#).
- Encourage *Gracious Professionalism*<sup>®</sup>, teamwork, iteration, and problem-solving.
- Adjust difficulty, scoring, or rules to fit your group.

# BIOBUZZ Game Preview: AndyMark Pre-Orders

Game Sets			
Item	Description	Price	Part #
Full Game Set	Full game and all scoring elements	\$599.00	am-5850_Full
Partial Game Set	Red <u>or</u> Blue game and partial scoring elements	\$399.00	am-5850_Red am-5850_Blue
Tape Set	Includes one roll each of 1" red and blue <u>gaffers</u> tape	\$33.00	am-5850_tape
Tool Set	Includes all tools needed to assemble the game set	\$39.00	am-5850_tool
Scoring Elements	Includes three scoring elements; ships immediately	\$5.50	am-5851_preview

# BIOBUZZ Game Preview

Complete information available from FIRST

<https://community.firstinspires.org/game-preview-field-elements>

The background of the slide is a dark teal color with a faint, light-colored topographic map overlay. The map features various contour lines, a winding river, and a grid of roads or paths. The overall aesthetic is technical and professional.

# Upcoming Control System Changes

# Existing Control System



# New Control System



New Driver Station Device



# Control System Timelines

- No changes in FTC for upcoming 26 - 27 season
  - FRC is adopting SystemCore for this upcoming season
- New Control System become legal for FTC competition usage in the 27 - 28 season
- Existing Control System Components are legal for FTC competition usage through at least the 30 - 31 season
- So long as both the old and the new systems are legal, there will be three different legal configurations

# Configuration 1: Old Control System



# Configuration 2: New Control System



New  
Driver  
Station  
Device



# Configuration 3: Hybrid System



# Key Decision Points: Motor Control

- MotionCore vs Expansion Hub
  - MotionCore is **only** compatible with the FIRST A301
  - Expansion Hubs allow you to use all of your existing motors and servos

# Key Decision Points: Driver Station

- Driver Station
  - The new Driver Station Device will only be compatible with SystemCore
  - The existing Driver Hub will work with the Control Hub or with SystemCore (after an OS update)

# Key Decision Points: Software

- Software
  - SystemCore programming will be based WPILib, the library that has been used for FRC programming for many years
  - Control Hub will remain on the FTC SDK that FTC teams have been using for years

# Key Decision Points: Battery

- Battery
  - MotionCore is leveraging a new 18V Battery
    - Beta test teams are receiving hardware mounts for an M18 tool battery
  - The old control system will continue to use the same batteries
    - NOTE: This is an assumption, I don't know this for sure

# Currently Open Questions

- Cost of new hardware?
- Timeline for availability of new hardware?
- Potential performance difference?
- ?




# Questions

# Feedback on the 25-26 Season



**DECODE**

PRESENTED BY  RTX

**FIRST  
TECH  
CHALLENGE**