

NorCal FTC Town Hall Meeting

July 29th, 2020



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Welcome

- On the call
 - Playing at Learning Staff
 - Mark Edelman
 - Dianne France
 - Jill Wilker
 - Regional Judge Advisor
 - Anika Greene
- Ground Rules
 - Everyone is muted
 - Ask questions via the “chat” function
 - The webinar IS being recorded

- Lurking in the Background

- Regional Judge Advisor
 - Anika Greene
- Head Referees
 - Rick Swan
 - Jeff Greene
- FTA/CSA
 - Bob France
 - Mitch Lichtenburg
- Several QT Hosts



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What We Know

- Challenging Times for Events
- Most (if not all) school operating with remote instruction
- Strong desire to have a FIRST experience for teams
- FIRST Tech Challenge has developed a Remote Event model for potential use this season
 - Game Manual Part 1 - Remote Events (on the FIRST website now)
 - Game Manual Part 2 - Remote Events (coming Sep. 12th)



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What We Don't Know

- When access to facilities will allow in-person events
- Constraints for social gathering when allowed
- Details on the scoring software
- Details on the judging process



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What to Expect for 2020

- Season starting with Remote Events
- Adapting as options allow
- Season ending with Traditional Championship
 - Depends very heavily on City/County/State/Federal guidelines
- Registration for Events
 - Likely to be similar (if not identical) to prior seasons



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Current Season Plan

- Nov & Dec
 - Remote Events
 - Re-evaluate in early December
- Jan/Feb
 - Mix of Remote & Traditional
 - Depending on above re-evaluation
- Traditional Championship
 - If possible
 - Late Feb or Early Mar
- Possible Event Modifications
 - Traditional events may be structured differently



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What is a Remote Event?

- See Game Manual Part 1 - Remote Events
- Event Restructured for Social Distancing
 - Robot Game - Single team on a half field with modified game rules
 - Teams responsible for officiating match
 - Scores uploaded to “cloud” via scorekeeping application
 - One week to submit 6 scored matches
 - Judging - remote, live interviews with judges
 - Scheduled interview - likely day of the event
 - Awards - traditional awards.
 - Remote awards ceremony
 - Awards shipped to teams after event



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Things You Can Do to Be Ready

- Digital Engineering Notebook
- Team Photograph
- Robot Photograph
- Team Roster
 - Still required for remote events
 - Get all team members to do online Consent & Release
- Field Access
 - Where can your team practice?



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Things You Can Do to Be Ready

- Video
 - Do you have access to one or more cameras to record and upload video?
 - Identify a shareable video service (i.e. like YouTube)
 - Practice taking video of your robot
- Video Conferencing
 - Practice with the tools once they are identified
 - Make sure you have good bandwidth



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Resources

- Playing Field Tiles
 - Playing at Learning has several ½ field sets available for sale (used in prior seasons)
- Playing Field Access
 - Playing at Learning - The Play Space
 - Field available by appointment only
 - Limited to 1 team per timeslot
 - Details not finalized yet
 - Possibility of other hosted, shared fields
 - Contact us if willing & able



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Resources

- Ask an Expert Office Hours
 - Inspection
 - FTA
 - Referee
- Remote Systems Training
 - Scoring system
 - Judging conference system



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Transparency

- Honor system
 - Self-scored matches
 - Self-inspected robot
- Strongly encourage posting videos
 - All robot matches
 - Robot “walk through”
 - We will publish a tagging convention to allow videos to be easily matched with teams and events
 - Format of tags to be determined



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We will need your help

- Possible in-person event hosting
 - Can't wait until go-ahead - will be too late
 - Working with veteran hosts for schedule
 - If interested - email FTC@PlayingAtLearning.org
- Will likely need more remote event hosts
 - Evaluating host advancement slot - not currently
 - Expense to host is \$0/minimal (also not likely a fundraising opportunity for host)
 - No venue needed; must be a veteran team
 - If interested - email FTC@PlayingAtLearning.org



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Costs

- Teams must pay registration fee to FIRST (\$275) through the storefront
 - Non-refundable, even if you're not able to compete
- In person events will be the same as the past several years (\$150, \$175, \$200)
- Remote events (??? - TBD)
- Playing at Learning funding comes from supporting teams at events
 - Remote events can't be \$0
- Challenging time for non-profit organizations!
- Please consider a donation for Playing at Learning
 - Let us know if your company might consider corporate grants



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Questions

- Type into the “Questions” tab
- If we don’t get to all questions tonight, we will post questions/answers on the website
- Additional Town Hall Meetings are being planned
- Contact Us

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