

FIRST IN SHOWSM

PRESENTED BY Qualcomm

2023-2024 End Of Year Town Hall

Tuesday March 26, 2024

Tonight

- Introductions
- Looking Back
- Looking Ahead
- Looking to the future



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Introductions

- NorCal FTC Staff
 - Ashley Harbert - ashley@playingatlearning.org
 - Mark Edelman - marke@playingatlearning.org



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A Look Back

- 224 teams
- 32 events
 - Kickoff
 - 13 qualifying tournaments
 - 12 league meets
 - 4 league tournaments
 - Dean's List interview event
 - Regional championship
- > 780 unique volunteers
- NorCal Advanced 5 teams and 4 Dean's List Finalists



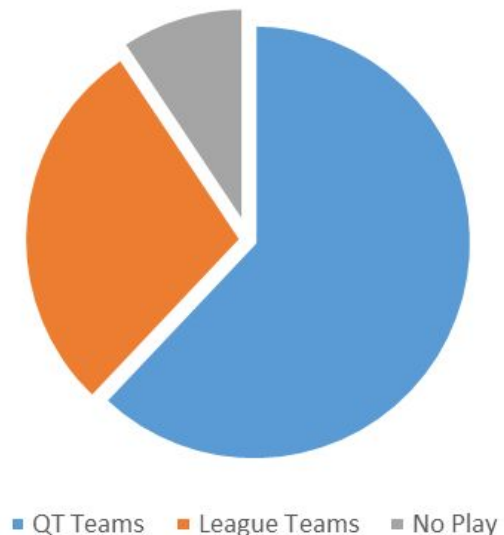
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Our Team Breakdown

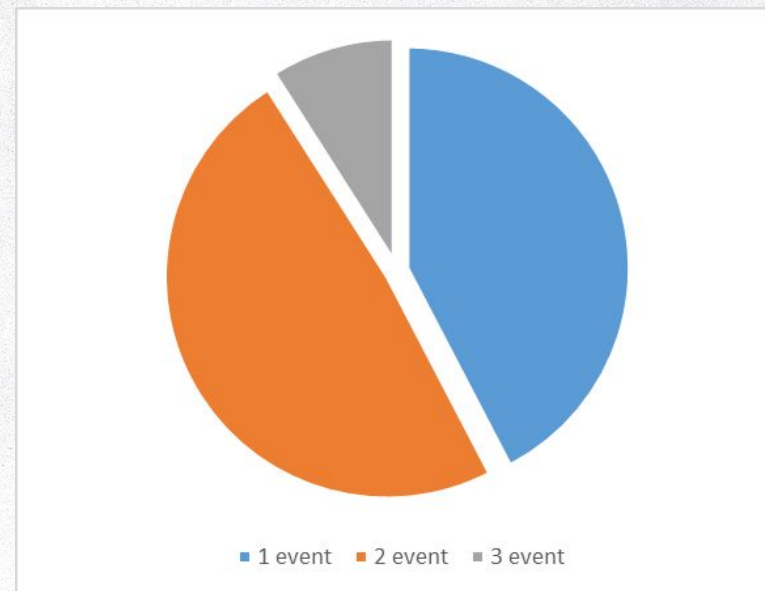
- 224 total teams
 - 63 rookies
 - 161 veteran
- 13 QTs
 - 144 teams
 - 1.67 QTs/team
 - 8.3 avg matches per team
- 4 Leagues
 - 64 Teams
 - 20 matches per team

Team Breakdown



Qualifying Tournament Space

- 17 planned events
 - 4 canceled!
 - 5 with unused capacity
- QTs per team could have been higher
 - 1.67 actual
 - 2.23 if all space used
- Event breakdown
 - 1 QT - 61 teams
 - 2 QTs - 70 teams
 - 3 QTs - 13 teams



Season Highlights!

- Successful second season for Leagues!
 - A lot of high ratings on survey
 - Teams enjoyed getting to play so much
 - Three Leagues last season, four leagues this season
- Qualifying Tournament teams
 - Teams doing great job prioritizing meeting for several hours
 - Utilizing season game manuals, Game Manual Zero,
 - Fundraising toolkits, and applying for grants



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Pain Points

- Teams scrambling to squeeze into last minute events
- Game play can begin Late October (Calendar availability early Nov)
 - Solutions
 - Need more teams to offer to host
 - Teams MUST sign up for earlier events
 - Earlier registrations (Opens in May)
- Teams want 3-4 plays
 - Sign up for earlier open dates/need more Hosts
 - Leagues are a great option to be guaranteed 3-4 plays
 - Need more League Coordinators to step up more Leagues
 - Struggle to get volunteers and Judges during League Tournaments



More Pain Points

- Many late emails reporting teams have trouble building robot
 - Teams aren't ready to play, or drop out of tournaments
 - Solutions
 - Supplies can be ordered as early as May
 - Difficult for teams relying upon grants
 - Take advantage of the off season to fundraise and generate sponsors
 - Fundraising toolkit [HERE!](#)



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Survey Comments

- Suggestions of all Leagues or all Qualifiers
- Tournaments for 1st and 2nd year teams, and middle schoolers
- Having League Meets at multiple site
 - South Bay League did this
 - Requires coordination amongst the league from parents and mentors with space connections
- Many teams want more scrimmage and off season opportunities!
 - Need community involvement and coordination
- Dissatisfaction with number of meets (FIRST minimum requirement)
- Dissatisfied with chances of advancing from LT
- Community wants more Qualifying Tournaments
 - Need more support from Community



Important Comment from League Coordinators

As a league host and coordinator, I just felt pulled away from my team too much. I had a very rookie team this year, and I rarely spent any time with them in the pits. I need more team and parent participation in KEY roles league-wide to make this make sense for me again. I also spent a fair amount of site funds on things for the events (gaf tape, paper, lanyards, id badges, tools for field). I really want to split up those kinds of expenses amongst teams.



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Important Comment from League Coordinators

Coordinating and being mentor stretches me a bit too much and my team suffers. Solidifying volunteers for the league and having a stronger secondary mentor are my goals for next year.



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Kickoff!

- Over 1000 attendees!
 - Unanticipated impact on school
 - Not possible for all to attend workshops
- Something has to change!



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Kickoff Ideas!?!?

- Kickoff per league?
 - Combine w/ league meet & greet and planning
- Multiple kickoff events?
 - Same day vs. traveling show (different days)
 - How many? Where?
- Move workshops to online only?
- Need more people involved
 - Mark NOT available 9/7/24 (DAY OF KICK-OFF!)
- Ashley will reach out to teams interested in hosting



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A Look Ahead

- Team Growth
 - Typically around 15% - 258 teams!
 - Requires ~20 QTs for 2 events/team
- Calendar Challenges
 - 22 viable dates for events
 - Only 14 if we don't include November!
 - ~1.3 QTs/team

Options/Ideas?

- More Leagues?
 - Each league takes the place of 2 QTs
 - Needs more volunteers
 - Add pressure on Jan/Feb events
- Multiple Events/day
 - Needs more volunteers
 - Equipment management
- Larger events
 - 28-32 teams (2 fields) vs. 16 teams (1 field)
 - Needs more volunteers
 - Space constraints

Supporting Team Growth

- More host teams/sites
- Key Volunteer Recruiting
 - Judges
 - Referees
- Event Support
 - Equipment management
 - Event administration
 - Mark **CAN'T** do it all

Further Down the Road(???)

- Mid-Tier competitions
 - Layer between regional championship and FIRST Championship
 - Likely 48-56 teams
 - Multiple regions feed into event
 - Likely 2 full days
 - Still only a concept/idea
- When?
 - Uncertain
 - Likely “soon” - optional 2024?, required 2025?

Mid-Tier Impacts

- More teams from NorCal advance to next level
- Additional travel costs?
- Calendar
 - Likely require us to move our regional championship earlier
 - Puts pressure on QTs being earlier

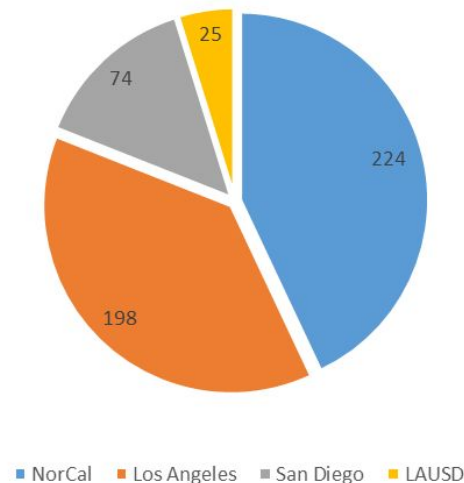
CA Mid-Tier to FIRST Championship

- Current Status = 13
 - 2 - LAUSD
 - 2 - San Diego
 - 4 - Los Angeles
 - 4 - NorCal (+1 late invite)
- Pure speculation
 - CA is 8.6% of world (521 of 6038)
 - 8.6% of 256 CT teams = 21 teams!!!

Mid-Tier For California?

- 521 teams '23-'24
 - 224 NorCal
 - 198 LA
 - 74 San Diego
 - 25 LAUSD
- Hypothetical Advancement to CA Mid-Tier
 - NorCal - 21
 - LA - 18
 - SD - 7
 - LAUSD - 2

California Teams



21 Teams!?!?

Championship Advancement Report

Number	Advancement Criteria	Team #	# Advanced
1	[Optional] Qualifier Host Team		
2	Inspire Award Winner	19819	1
3	Winning Alliance Captain	9614	2
4	Inspire Award 2nd Place	12635	3
5	Winning Alliance 1st Team selected	11039	4
6	Inspire Award 3rd Place	8872	5
7	Winning Alliance 2nd Team selected	19862	6
8	Think Award Winner	15385	7
9	Finalist Alliance Captain	13356	8
10	Connect Award Winner	14473	9
11	Finalist Alliance 1st Team selected	6165	10
12	Innovate Award sponsored by RTX Winner	5773	11
13	Finalist Alliance 2nd Team selected	21454	12
14	Control Award Winner	16481	13
15	Motivate Award Winner	6165 - Advancing Above	13
16	Design Award Winner	16236	14
17	Highest Ranked Team not previously advanced (Winning Division)	8381	15
18	Think Award 2nd Place	14259	16
19	Highest Ranked Team not previously advanced (Finalist Division)	20367	17
20	Connect Award 2nd Place	14525	18
21	Highest Ranked Team not previously advanced (Winning Division)	7303	19
22	Innovate Award sponsored by RTX 2nd Place	8375	20
23	Highest Ranked Team not previously advanced (Finalist Division)	18715	21

Next Steps ...

- Emails/Surveys Coming Soon
 - League participation interest
 - Qualifier hosting willingness
 - Kickoff hosting
- Event Support Volunteers needed
 - Learn event setup/management
 - Learn technology support
 - Equipment movement

Questions???

- Two methods to ask questions
 - Via the “question box”
 - Raise your hand & we can unmute
- After tonight -
 - ftc@playingatlearning.org - goes to both Ashley & Mark