



March 12, 2020

FIRST Mid-Atlantic 2020 Season Postponement

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 virus in our district and in accordance with public health recommendations, *FIRST* Mid-Atlantic (FMA) has decided that, effective immediately, the remainder of the FMA 2020 FRC District Events, including the District Championship event, are postponed until further notice.

This was an incredibly hard decision for us to make. Nearly all of us on the Board of Directors and Staff are alumni, mentors or are affiliated with FRC teams, so we know the disappointment that this news brings. And yet, we realize that this news is not likely to be unexpected. We have said it before, but it bears repeating: Our primary concern *really is* always the health and safety of our teams and volunteers. We know first-hand the effort that you all have put into preparing for the season. At the same time, we feel strongly that this action is necessary given several COVID-19 cases that have been confirmed throughout our district's geographic footprint and the increasing restrictions being imposed on many of our teams in terms of travel.

To our students, especially our seniors: The experiences that you've had this year in building a team and a robot are a great accomplishment! Your gracious professionalism and memories that you have made thus far will continue to impact you as you move forward in life. Remember, *FIRST* isn't just about the competition; it's about preparing for the future. It's about building a community and building leaders. Throughout this season, including the latest events, you've learned through successes, failures and even events outside of your control. Remember that the events and experiences of this season are all part of a much longer journey you are on to make this world a better place.

For now, we are turning our efforts towards developing a plan to resume our FRC season and events when it makes sense to do so. Our desire is to work with all of you and *FIRST* Headquarters to provide an experience that does justice to what this season should have been.

We know that there are still many unresolved questions. We will continue to be reaching out to provide answers and clarity in the coming weeks.

TOGETHER WE RISE

(Now more relevant than ever!)

Christopher Lester Joe Troy Herb Katz Frank Larkin
Lauralynne Cokeley Steve Compton Kevin Dieterle Thom Galie
William Garfield Jim Hobin Paul Kloberg Eileen Larkin
Ali Marinari Gene O'Brien Liz Sheffield Brian Sherman

FIRST Mid-Atlantic Board of Directors and Staff