



DISTRICT EVENT PACKET 2026

1 GENERAL

This document supplements the *FIRST's* Event Rules and highlights rules and expectations that are applicable to all *FIRST* Mid-Atlantic District Events. *FIRST's* Event Rules are included in the *Rebuilt* Game Manual.

A general event schedule is provided for both District Events and the District Championship to allow teams to plan buses & logistics accordingly. Event specific information will be provided to teams attending each event by the Local Event Coordinators closer to the respective events.

Mid-Atlantic Robotics Code of Conduct. MAR and *FIRST* Mid-Atlantic take safety, security, accessibility and well-being of every *FIRST* participant seriously. FMA is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and student-centered environment at all events. For more information visit: <https://midatlanticrobotics.com/coc/>

2 FIRST EVENT RULES – ADDENDUMS

The following rules are addendums to *FIRST's* Event Rules.

- E101. Safety Glasses.** Team members shall bring their own safety glasses. There are no safety glasses available to teams at events. If a team is bringing guests (e.g. Team Sponsors or parents), the team will be responsible for providing safety glasses for them. Some events may have safety glasses available for purchase at concessions.
- E105. Teams Must Check In.** During Team Check-In, the Team Mentor must provide the Team Roster and any paper copies of the Consent and Release Forms to Pit Admin.
- E402. Team Load-in.** Only District Championship has a designated load-in period; the 6 team member limit applies to the District Championship only. There is no designated load-in period nor a limit of team members during load-in at district events.
- E901. No Saving Seats.** Teams may not hang banners, ropes, etc., or use backpacks, totes, spirit items, etc. to designate seating. (Event staff will remove and discard any material used to designate seating). Do not leave items in the stands overnight to save seats (including signs, team promotional items, etc.). All items will be removed from the stands overnight by Event Staff. Event management may reserve seats for attendees who require accommodations.
- 10.6.5 Pit Crews.** Three additional pit crew members are permitted into the team queueing area during playoffs. Hand tools only may be brought into the playing field area. Pit Crew badges may or may not be provided. However, due to space limitations around the playing fields, additional pit crews must leave the playing field area after their team enters the field during Playoff Rounds 1, 2, & 3. Pit Crews may remain in the queueing area during Playoff Rounds 4 & 5 & during Finals.

3 VENUE POLICIES

No outside food is permitted in the District Event venues. The host teams are not compensated by *FIRST* Mid-Atlantic for hosting events. The sale of concession food is a fundraiser for the host teams. Please respect this by not bringing outside food to our venues; this includes tailgating, catered meals, meals prepared at home, etc. We understand that a small number of students have specific dietary requirements, therefore, please consult with the Local Event Coordinator on specific dietary requirements that would require those students to bring in outside food.

Standardized Food Prices. There are selected concession items that have standard prices across all FMA district events. These items are listed below. See Event Specific Packet for additional concession items.

Pizza Slice/Hot Dog \$3 | Water \$1 | Case of Water, 24 bottles \$12 (pre order only)

Event Accommodations. *FIRST* and *FIRST* Mid-Atlantic strive to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals, including individuals with disabilities and religious beliefs, to engage fully. If you or your team needs an accommodation for the event, please reach out to the Local Event Coordinator and Team Support (teamsupport@midatlanticrobotics.org) so we can help and properly prepare for all requests. **All accommodation requests must be submitted to FMA Team Support 72 hours prior to the event.** Requests submitted after this time, may not be able to be accommodated. Examples of accommodation requests include, but are not limited to:

- Wheelchair Ramps for use in Driver Stations.
- Accessibility requests, such as areas for student(s) in a wheelchair to sit with their teams.
- **Quiet Room/Space.** If the need for a Quiet Room arises for a student or member of your team, please go to Pit Admin and ask for the Event Manager. Event Management will then work with you on providing a quiet space as needed. If you know that a student on your team will require a Quiet Room, please reach out to Team Support in advance, so we can ensure proper accommodations are available. A “Quiet Space” may be available for those who need a quieter area outside of the competition area; if a specific event will have this, it will be noted in their event specific packet. This area will be in a public location (e.g. cafeteria) and will not be staffed by volunteers. Activities (e.g. coloring books, puzzles, etc.) will not be provided in either the Quiet Space or the Quiet Room.
- **Prayer Room.** As events will be taking place during Ramadan, if you know that a student on your team will require a Prayer Room, please reach out to Team Support in advance, so we can ensure proper spaces are available. Please go to Pit Admin and ask for the Event Manager who will direct the student and mentor to a designated space.

Distribution of Items. To adhere to school procedures, teams are not permitted to bring in, distribute, or place items around the school without prior approval from the Local Event Coordinator. This includes, but is not limited to toiletries in the bathrooms, and promotional or safety flyers.

4 EVENT SAFETY

Designated Entrances. There will be designated entrances at each venue on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday that teams should use. Do not enter the venue at any location except the designated entrances. Do not open the door to allow entry except at the designated entrances.

5 ADDITIONAL EVENT FEATURES

Pit Administration. Pit Administration is located in the Pit area and is run by volunteers to check teams in and help teams and visitors. Come to the Pit Administration to:

- Team Roster: Turn in your team's roster and any hard copy Consent and Release forms
- Registration Packet: Check-in and receive your Drive Team buttons, Safety Captain button, and any other event specific information
- Questions: Get answers to most questions, including machine shop access
- Lost and Found: Can be found at Pit Admin
- Incident Reporting: Report an illness, injury, or other incident. A laptop will be available at Pit Administration for individuals to complete the online report forms

Driver's Meeting. The Driver's Meeting will take place from the stands. Members from the drive team should attend to meet with the Head Referee, FTA, and field volunteers. All questions shall be submitted to Pit Admin prior to the Driver's Meeting.

Team Flags. There is no storage by the competition field for team flags. Teams who wish to have the Emcee wave their flag during team introductions shall bring their flag to the playing field for each match and place it in front of their driver station. Field personnel will return the flag to the Technician or robot cart during the match. Any flags left behind at the conclusion of the event will be discarded.

Security. There have been occasions when items such as cameras and laptops have "disappeared" from the Pit or competition area. Use common sense and do not leave valuable items unattended. Neither the site, *FIRST* Mid-Atlantic, nor *FIRST* is responsible for any theft. Take valuable items with you or designate a team representative to remain with them in the team Pit or competition areas.

Media Pass. No media passes are distributed at any *FIRST* Mid-Atlantic events.

Do Not Block the Aisles. Be cognizant of those around you. No standing / taking pictures / socializing against the pipe and drape around the playing field. This blocks the view from the stands and creates a safety hazard. All photographers & videography **MUST** be taken from the stands or areas that do not block traffic or views.

Test Area. Per rule E601, teams must have passed inspection prior to using the event Test Area.

Per section 14.6, the Test Area will not be a full sized field. It contains wooden field elements provided by *FIRST*. The Test Area has field carpet that is about 15'x30'.

Teams will be limited to 10 minute time slots with 2 minutes to enter and exit the area (total of 12 minute time slots). There is a limit of 5 team members permitted at the Test Area, with only 2 team members allowed on the carpet.

The Test Area Attendants (volunteers) will be keeping a list of teams who are in line to access the Test Area. Teams can send a representative to the Test Area to join the queue. It is the team's responsibility to ensure their robot and necessary team members are at the Test Area at their scheduled time or when it is their turn in the filler line. Volunteers will not make announcements or track down teams. If a team misses their assigned time or their spot in the filler line, they can sign up again, but they will not jump other teams that are already



on the list. Space in and around the Test Area may be limited; please only send the number of people that are needed and do not have extra people crowding around the Test Area.

The Test Area will follow the guidance from the FRC Game Manual on what April Tags are or are not provided.

The Test Area closes after the last qualification match each day for general team use. For teams participating in Playoffs, the Test Area will remain open until the end of Round 1.

Queuing. Teams should designate a team member to know the team's match schedule, carefully watch the clock, alert the team when a match is coming up, and review the Pit map or directional signs to find the preset traffic pattern. Pit Administration & Queue Volunteers do not make announcements or alert individual teams when drive teams and robots shall report for matches. It is up to the team to report to matches on time. A display showing which match is on the field will be set up near the Pit Area for teams to keep track of.

If a team is in any of the first three matches of any day of competition, the team's robot and drive team are strongly encouraged to queue prior to the Opening Ceremony.

Senior / Alumni Photo. There will be a photo on the field during Saturday lunch break of current team seniors and of *FIRST* alumni at each event. The photo may be rescheduled if there are time limitations.

Lost and found. Contact the Local Event Coordinator for lost items. Any items left behind will be kept for 7 days. Arrangements must be made to pick up items in this time period.

Machine Shop. All events strive to have an on-site machine shop. The services available vary per event and the specific on-site equipment will be listed in the event-specific packet. Teams shall bring their own material to the Machine Shop. Any job for the machine shop should take no more than 30 minutes and the Machine Shop Attendant will have the authority to reject jobs that exceed a reasonable request.

Items Under the Bleachers. Only Event Staff are allowed under the bleachers. If a team member or spectator drops an item under the bleachers, they must wait for Event Staff to retrieve fallen items. Items will only be collected from under the bleachers during Lunch and at the end of the day. Items collected from under the bleachers will be taken to Pit Admin for individuals to collect.

Public Wi-Fi. All district event venues have a public wi-fi, however wi-fi and online access are not guaranteed. The District Championship does not have public wi-fi.

Gender Neutral Bathrooms. If an event has Gender Neutral bathrooms available, it will be noted in their event specific packet. FMA must follow the policies of the host venue if gender neutral bathrooms are available.

Youth Protection Concerns. If a youth protection concern occurs at an event that you would like to report to *FIRST*, please complete an electronic report form. Forms can be accessed by visiting the [FIRST Youth Protection site](#). As these forms go directly to *FIRST*, and it is rare that the information is passed along to local FMA leadership, we kindly ask you to forward a copy of the incident to us at teamsupport@midatlanticrobotics.org or alert the Event Manager to the issue. This way, we can work locally and quickly to address any issues. When completing the form online, you are able to forward a copy to yourself, and then forward along to FMA.



6 FIRST MID-ATLANTIC AWARDS

FIRST Mid-Atlantic has two community awards that are awarded at Sunday's Opening Ceremonies at each District Event.

Donald Bowers Inspiration Award. This award recognizes individuals who instill the values of *FIRST* within their team and community. Each team may submit one individual for consideration at each District Event who has impacted and inspired their team. The candidate may be a mentor, volunteer, parent, or sponsor. The 500 word (maximum) essays will be collected at Pit Administration. The deadline for submission is the start of opening ceremonies. For additional information on this award, visit:

<https://midatlanticrobotics.com/downloads/donald-bowers-inspiration-award/>

Outstanding Volunteer. This award celebrates the dedication and service of volunteers within this *FIRST* Mid-Atlantic District. The phenomenal success of the *FIRST* Robotics Competition within the region is a reflection of the commitment and enthusiasm displayed by our volunteers. At each District Event, we will recognize one individual selected by the Local Planning Committee.



2026 FMA DISTRICT SCHEDULE

DISTRICT EVENT

Competition Schedule

Day 0	
4:00PM - 9:00PM	Pits Open, Load In
4:30PM – 9:00PM	Robot Inspections
5:00PM – 8:45PM	Practice Elements Open (fully inspected robots only)
6:00PM -7:00PM	Field Measurements & Camera Calibration**
7:00PM – 8:30PM	Field Test Matches for fully inspected robots** (limit 2 per team)
8:30PM – 8:45PM	Off-Field Robot Connectivity Tests (all teams not fully inspected)
8:45PM	Practice Elements/Test Area Close
9:00PM	Pits Close

Day 1	
8:00AM - 10:30AM	Pits Open, Inspections
8:30AM - 9:00AM	Driver's Meeting
9:00AM - 10:25AM	Practice Matches
10:30AM - 10:50AM	Opening Ceremonies
10:50AM - 1:00PM	Qualification Matches
1:00PM - 2:00PM	Lunch; Graduating Seniors & Alumni Photos^
2:00PM - 6:30PM	Qualification Matches
7:00PM*	Pits Close 30 minutes after the conclusion of the last match

Day 2	
8:00AM	Pits Open
9:00AM - 9:20AM	Opening Ceremonies, Donald Bowers & Outstanding Volunteer Awards
9:20AM - 12:30PM	Qualification Matches
~12:30PM - 1:00PM	Alliance Selection (begins 8 minutes after the end of Qualification Matches)
1:00PM - 2:00PM	Lunch
2:00PM - 5:00PM	Playoff Matches & Awards Ceremony
~5:30PM	Pits close 30 minutes following the close of the Closing Ceremony

***If competition field is available*

^Listen for event announcements on when and where the photo will take place

**Schedule subject to change. All times are estimated based on flow of rounds; See Pit Administration table for updated times.*



2026 FIRST MID-ATLANTIC - DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP

Competition Schedule

Wednesday, April 15, 2026	
5:00PM-8:00PM	6 Team Reps to Load In, Set Up Pits, Get Inspected

Thursday, April 16, 2026	
7:45AM	Pits, Machine Shop, Registration, and Inspection Open
8:00AM - 8:45AM	Field Open for Measurement and Calibration
9:00AM	Load-in Ends
8:45AM - 10:45AM	Practice Matches
10:45AM - 11:15AM	Driver's Meeting
11:15AM - 6:30PM	Qualification Matches
1:00PM - 1:45PM	Field Break/Lunch
7:00PM	Pits and Machine Shop Close

Friday, April 17, 2026	
7:45AM	Pits and Machine Shop Open
8:00AM - 8:35AM	Opening Ceremonies
8:35AM - 12:00PM	Qualification Matches
12:00PM - 12:45PM	Lunch
1:00PM - 6:30PM	Qualification Matches
~7:00PM**	Pits and Machine Shop Close 30 minutes after the last match ends

Saturday, April 18, 2026	
7:45AM	Pits and Machine Shop Open
8:00AM - 8:40AM	Opening Ceremonies (WFFA, VOY, & MAR Legacy Awards)
8:40AM - 12:30PM	Qualification Matches
~12:30PM - 1:00PM	Alliance Selections (begins 8 minutes after the end of Qualification Matches)
1:00PM - 2:00PM	Lunch
2:00PM - 5:30PM	Playoff Matches & Awards Ceremony
~6:00PM**	Pits close 30 minutes following the close of the Closing Ceremony

***Schedule subject to change. All times are estimated based on flow of rounds.
See Pit Administration table for updated times.*