

2 THE EVENT

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2.1 OVERVIEW

This section provides a general summary regarding safety, pit rules, event schedules, Robot inspections, and the expectations of team members. The following section provides a “feel” for competition schedules, practice times, and matches. Please familiarize your team with this overview so all team members know what to expect and will understand the routine and the rules.

2.2 SAFETY

Every team should know, understand, and follow the safety rules.

- ***Children must be supervised by a responsible parent or guardian at all times while at the competition and all other JRL events.***
- *Parents, participants, and guests must remain in the designated areas of the building while at the competition and all other JRL events.*
- Do not run anywhere in the venue.
- Do not play with or open lockers.
- Do not climb in, on, under, or over parts of the building.
- Wear proper closed-toed shoes to protect feet and toes.
- Open flames are not allowed in any part of the building.
- Two way radios are not allowed as they may interfere with staff and building administration communications.

2.2.1 Other Safety Recommendations

At the events, the pure excitement of the competition sometimes overshadows common sense and safety fundamentals. It is important to remain safe at all times and not overlook any detail of safety. One safety area that teams sometimes overlook is the particular need to wear appropriate and proper clothing when working or just being around the Robots. It is highly recommended that team members and mentors:

- Refrain from wearing dangling jewelry or loose, baggy clothing near the Robots.
- Tie back long hair so that it will not get caught in the Robot.
- If the pit area becomes too crowded for teams and their machines to move back and forth to the field safely and quickly, some members may be asked to move to the stands.
- Monitor your teammates’ general safety practices in the Pit and at the Field.

2.2.2 Safety Recognition Program

Throughout the competition, Team Driven staff will continuously observe activities in the pit, queue line, and playing field to critique the safety habits of the teams. The staff will rate safe performance in two key areas: safe behaviors and physical conditions. The team observing the best safety practices will be announced during the Awards Ceremony.

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2.3 COURTESIES AND RULES

The behind-the-scenes action is in the pit. This is where you can get to know students from other teams and perhaps pick a few brains and learn a few things. The Team Driven staff wants you to enjoy the competition and asks that everyone be courteous while in the pit, on the playing field, and in the audience.

Provide your team with these rules and be sure they understand them so everyone can work and compete in a safe, friendly, sportsmanlike, and orderly environment.

2.4 TEAM DRIVEN IDENTIFICATION

During the competition, Team Driven staff will wear distinguishing shirts. Should your team members or mentors have questions, the Team Driven staff will be able to help you find the answer.

2.5 COMPETITION OVERVIEW

This section provides general competition information and necessary details regarding scheduling, Robot inspection, practice matches, and other suggestions for teams.

2.5.1 Practice Matches

Practice matches will take place on the competition field prior to the beginning of any competition matches. Teams will be randomly assigned practice matches; approximate match times will be published in advance.

2.5.1.1 Time Slots

All teams will receive a comprehensive list of practice times. Your team must be ready to practice at the designated time. If your team or Robot cannot be ready for your practice time slot, your team may still send a human player to practice alone. If a team cannot participate in their assigned time slot, the slot will be given to a waiting team on a first come, first served basis.

2.5.1.2 Courtesy

In order to make the most of practice times, there will be specified teams on the field during an assigned practice slot. Each team must be respectful of the other teams sharing the field. Friendly interaction between machines is acceptable if all teams are willing. Unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of a team during practice may result in loss of practice time.

2.5.2 Competition Matches

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2.5.2.1 Inspection Required

Each Robot must pass all aspects of inspection to be eligible to compete.

2.5.2.2 Match Lists

On the day of the competition, copies of the match list will be placed on each team's pit table. This list includes approximate match times as well as alliance information. The team number of the six teams in each match will be listed as well as each team's assigned alliance color for that match. This list is final and the schedule will not be altered.

2.5.2.3 Early Matches

Make sure your team is on time and in place if you have an early match. Teams in the first match of the day should have their Robot on the field and ready to start the match before the Opening Ceremony. The teams in the second match should also have their Robots queued before this time.

2.5.2.4 The Schedule at Events

You will need to know when you will compete. The Team Driven staff will work throughout the day to line up teams for competition matches and maintain the schedule. Pay attention to both the practice and match schedules and listen for announcements throughout the day, especially about any changes to the number of the match ending before lunch or which match designates the end of the competition.

2.6 THE PIT

Teams, Team Driven staff, and guests spend a lot of time in the Pit area. Get to know other teams, help each other when you can, and keep the aisles clear. Time is short, and help is very often right "next door" in the adjacent Pit stations.

2.6.1 Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Gracious

- Use common sense regarding safety and courtesy.
- Choose a team member or adult during the build season to monitor team safety at your work area and also at the competition.
- Respect advice from Team Driven staff.

2.6.2 Pit Administration Station

The Pit Administration Station is centrally located in the pit area. Team Driven staff members are in this area to help teams and visitors. Come to the pit administration station to:

- Look at a game manual.
- Get answers to most questions.

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- Ask about lost and found articles.
- Report an illness, injury, or other situation.
- Sign up for your team's Technical Communication presentation slot (Friday)

2.6.3 Pit Map

You will receive a pit map when you check in. It shows team locations, traffic flow, pit administration, and the inspection area.

2.6.4 Team Stations

These are the areas where teams work on their Robots. These numbered spaces help organize team placement and help team members, judges, and visitors find teams easily. These areas are set up to be as equal as possible. Each team's pit station will have a table. Two power outlets for battery chargers will be available for each team at charging stations throughout the pit area. Power is not given to each team's station, if power is desired teams must plan individually. Team Driven cannot provide any team station with power

2.6.4.1 Rules

For safety reasons:

- Teams cannot build any structure that supports items for storage, above the work area in their team pit station.
- No team station structures, signs, flags, or displays can be higher than 8 feet above the floor.
- Team station signs, flags, and displays must be securely mounted so they do not create a safety hazard.

2.6.4.2 Station Numbering

At the event, each team station will have a team sign that includes the team number and shall be prominently displayed in the team's pit for easy team identification by Team Driven staff, judges, and visitors.

2.6.4.3 Space Regulations

Each team is allotted the same amount of workspace at the event. Be sure your equipment will fit in your space. It is not gracious to expand your area or to use space outside your station. Keep your equipment and team members within your assigned area and do not "grow" into the aisle or undesignated space. If your team is too large to fit in the allotted space, encourage your team to leave the area to scout other teams or to watch the matches from the stands.

The dimensions of the team stations will be provided prior to the

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competition weekend.

2.6.5 Inspection

To ensure all Robots are safely constructed and fall within the Junior Robotics League parameters, there is an official Robot inspection at the event. Team Driven staff will inspect all Robots. The inspection station will be shown on the pit map. Inspectors can sometimes help find problems and/or provide suggestions during an early inspection. Inspectors will use an inspection sheet for checking Robots; a draft copy of the checklist will be available to teams during the build season. To ensure safety and readiness, pre-inspect your Robot before your inspection time. This will make your official inspection go more smoothly and quickly. Don't wait until the last minute to begin the inspection process. Bring your Robot to the inspection station early. The following expectations will apply to inspections:

- Student team members must accompany the Robot and be prepared to answer the inspector's questions regarding the way it was built and how it works.
- Robots must pass inspection before competing in qualification matches. Teams may correct problems and return for inspection until the Robot passes.
- Robots may be required to pass inspection again before they are allowed to compete if the Robot is suspected of rule violation.
- Each team is only allowed to have one Robot at an event. Violation of this rule may result in expulsion from the tournament.

2.6.6 First Aid

Teams are encouraged to bring a small first aid kit for minor injuries. All injuries are to be reported to the Pit Administration Station.

2.6.7 Announcements

We make every effort to keep noise down and announce only important items and scheduling, so do not ask the pit announcer to make unnecessary announcements.

2.6.8 Queuing Your Team

The queuing staff must maintain the practice and match schedules. Your team should carefully watch the schedule and alert all members of the team when its turn is near. Some helpful hints are listed below:

- Look at the pit map to find the traffic flow pattern
- Highlight team practice times on the practice schedule and your competition match times on your match list
- Listen carefully for the queuing announcements
- Always have a team representative in your pit station

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2.6.9 Property Security

Use common sense and do not leave valuable items unattended. Take valuable items with you, or designate a team representative to remain with them in the pit station or competition areas. Neither Team Driven nor Lee's Summit High School can be held responsible for theft or damage.

2.6.10 Lost and Found

If you find a lost item or if you lose one, go to the pit administration table immediately to report or to turn in the lost item. Neither Team Driven nor Lee's Summit High School can be held responsible for lost items.

2.7 CEREMONIES

There will be an awards ceremony following the competition. This ceremony allows everyone to show appreciation and respect for sponsors, teams, mentors, volunteers and award winners and to provide everyone with the opportunity to applaud the successes of team members and mentors. At the awards ceremony, Team Driven presents awards and certificates to outstanding teams.

2.7.1 All Teams Should Attend

We encourage all team members to attend the awards ceremony to show appreciation for the event and those people involved who are volunteering their time and efforts. In addition, you never know what awards your team may be in the running for.

2.8 TEAM SPIRIT

When deciding on a team name, consider how you can work in a theme to make your team more fun and recognizable.

2.8.1 Competition Spirit

We ask that you choose to bring attention to your team in ways that are in good taste and in the spirit of the competition.

2.8.2 Banners

We encourage teams to make posters or banners to show their team spirit. These can be hung in your pit area.

2.9 CONSIDERATIONS

You will often hear the expression "*Gracious Professionalism*" throughout your involvement in Team Driven's Junior Robotics League. One of our main goals is to encourage all team members, mentors, family, and guests to conduct themselves with kindness, sharing, and consideration. It is with gracious professionalism that

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your team may share parts, help to build or repair another team's Robot, or help rookie teams avoid preventable pitfalls.