SoCal FIRST Tech Challenge Kickoff and Welcome! 2025

**Theresa Klemme, Patrick Brophy
SoCal FTC Program Delivery Partners**

Welcome to SoCal FTC!

In–person Game Play
14 Leagues with 4 Meets each
7 Inter-League Tournaments (1 per team)
A WILDCARD Tournament
and a SoCal Championship Event

We span 9 Counties! 300 miles from San Luis Obispo to San Juan Capistrano, and 100 miles from Santa Monica to Palm Springs and Lancaster! 95+ schools, 30+ community groups!

- 2023-24: 182 teams, 33 were Rookies (18%)

- 2024-25: 206 teams, 45 were Rookies (21%)

- *2025-26 53 teams started to register (14 Rookies), expect 220 teams!*

Our Committee (Thank you!!)

- Theresa Klemme – FIRST Program Delivery Partner, Event Mgr
- Patrick Brophy – FIRST PDP, Board Secretary, Event Host
- Amanda Sullivan – Kickoff Coordinator
- Abigail Rehard – Team Registration, Website Management, Admin
- Brian Bugert Sr – Head Scorekeeper, Event Host
- Bob Meinhard – Regional Head Judge Advisor
- Corey Porter – Regional Head Judge Advisor
- Eddie Shek - Deans Award
- Ellen McIsaac – Committee Member
- Erin Rehard – Committee Member
- Ian Johnson - Head Referee
- Nathan MacPherson – Head Referee
- Rachel Johnson - Regional Head Judge Advisor
- Stacey MacPherson – Committee Member
- Sung Choi - Committee Member
- Terry Domae – Committee Member
- Tom Dobson – Committee member, Event Host

Theresa Klemme Patrick Brophy

Amanda Sullivan Abigail Rehard Brian Bugert Bob Meinhard

Stacey MacPherson Ellen McIsaac Ian Johnson Rachel Johnson

Sung Choi Nathan MacPherson Eddie Shek Tom Dobson

Are you over 21 and want to be part of the Committee?
Contact info@socalftc.org

Grant Opportunities check https://socalftc.org/grants/#page-content

Panasonic Foundation is again awarding $300 grants to 40 SoCal FTC Teams. Applications are open **NOW** through Thursday**, October 15, 2025**. Questions should be directed to info@SoCalFTC.com

2025-2026 FIRST® Tech Challenge Hardship Grant **(North America)** The funds can only be used for FIRST Tech Challenge season registration and products in the FIRST Tech Challenge Storefront.   Application link on grant page

Haas Automation, this year Haas have extended grants to FTC teams. If you are interested in applying, go to: https://www.ghaasfoundation.org/apply-now, select "Secondary Scholarship Programs", create an account, fill out the grant request. There are specific requirements, please read details on the site.

Agenda

8:40 AM	Intro Welcome, Season Overview *Theresa Klemme and Patrick Brophy,* **FIRST** *Program Delivery Partners for SoCal FTC*
9:00 AM	Game Reveal Video
9:45 AM	Field Open (until 12pm for teams to look and see)
10:15 AM	Workshop Session #1
11:00 AM	Break Out/Transition
11:15 AM	Breakout Session #2
12:00 PM	Kickoff Over

Breakout Sessions

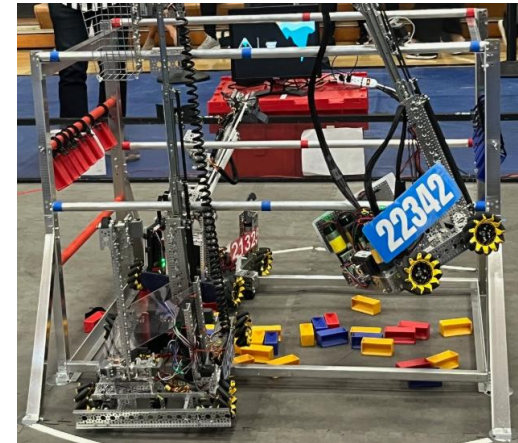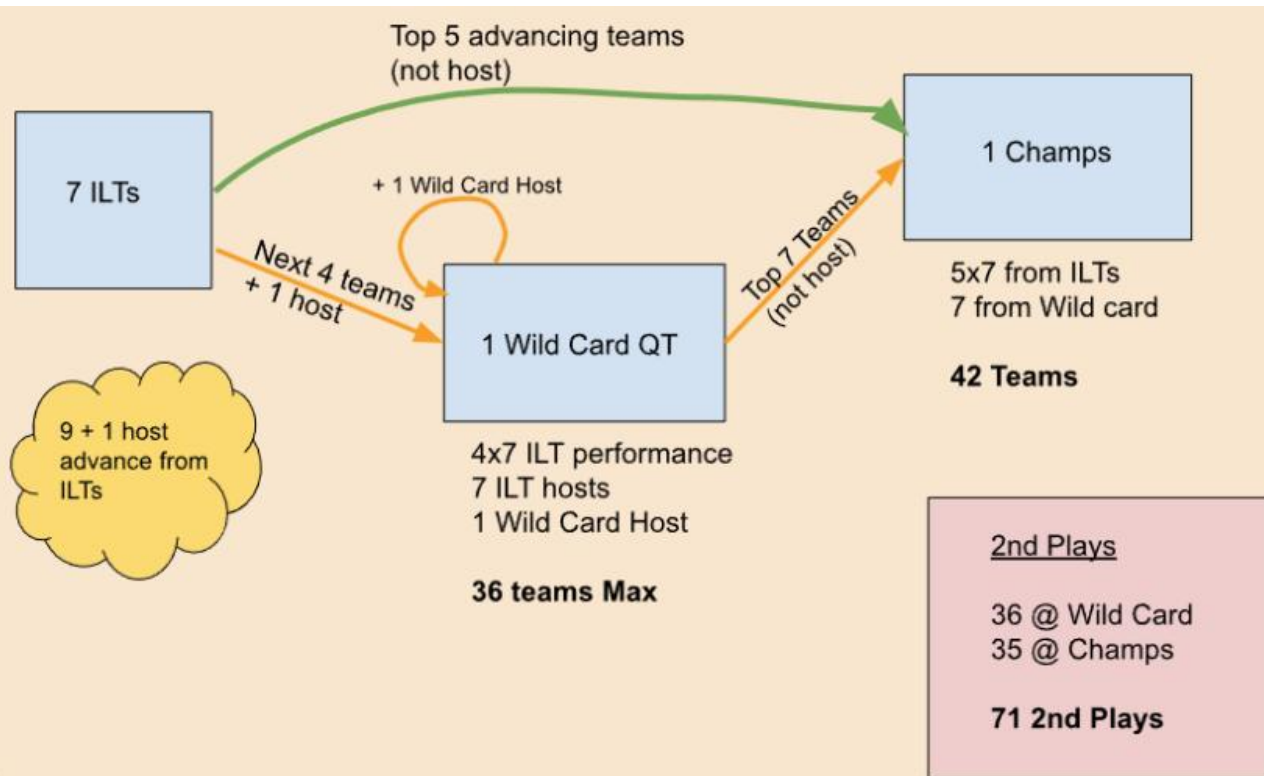| Presentor	Title	Session	Room Ass
techATTACK 22471	Block Programming for Beginners or Rookie Teams	S1, S2	Room 218
Curiosity 11770	Curiosity's Guide to Acing the Engineering Portfolio	S1, S2	Room 608
Bob/Rachel/Corey	FTC Awards and How to Win Them	**S1**	North Gym
Ian Johnson/ Nathan MacPherson	Ask a Ref: Rules Explained	**S2**	North Gym
FRC Team 7415 Jaguar Robotic	Secret to Running Thriving FLL Tournaments	S1, S2	Room 115A
Marlbots 3526	Computer-Aided-Design (CAD)	S1, S2	Room 115B
Philip Young	Custom Python Scripts for the Limelight 3A Camera	S1, S2	Room 125
Axle-otls 26504	Reaching Out To Industry Professionals	S1, S2	Room 217
Seven Squared 49	Design for Manufacturing and Assembly (DFMA)	S1, S2	Room 603
Theresa K	Guide Your Team Through Tournament Structure amd Season Overview	S1, S2	Room 605
Zarah G.	Winning the Dean's List Award - Curiosity 11770	S1, S2	Room 607
Chris Johannesen	Recognizing DECODE Scoring Elements	**S1 (not streamed)**	Room 609
Chris Johannesen	Hands-On Workshop for DECODE Vision	**S2 (not streamed)**	Room 609

SoCal FTC Season Structure

- League Play:
    - 4 Meets, 5 matches per meet, half days Saturdays or Sundays from October 14 to January 30
    - Team must be fully paid (both FIRST and SoCal FTC) to play
- Inter-League Tournament (ILT) Play:
    - 7 ILTs, full day Saturdays or Sundays, late January to February
    - 1 ILT per team, 30-34 teams in an ILT, **your Tourney date is assigned**
    - League scores **DO NOT** follow you to ILT
    - Judging, advancement to Championships
- Wild Card / Second Chance Tournament
- SoCal Championship – top teams advance to Worlds or a Premier Event
- FIRST Worlds
- *Premier Events – several locations and times in US and abroad*

SoCal WILDCARD Tournament

Top 5 advancing teams (not host)

7 ILTs

+ 1 Wild Card Host

Next 4 teams + 1 host

1 Wild Card QT

4x7 ILT performance
7 ILT hosts
1 Wild Card Host

36 teams Max

9 + 1 host advance from ILTs

Top 7 Teams (not host)

1 Champs

5x7 from ILTs
7 from Wild card

42 Teams

2nd Plays

36 @ Wild Card
35 @ Champs

71 2nd Plays

Direct to Champs:
- Top 5 teams (based on FIRST criteria) from each of the 7 ILTs proceed to the SoCal Championships.

To Wildcard:
- The next 4 teams (per award advancement order) from each of the 7 completed ILTs will be invited
- The hosts from ILT 1-7 will advance one team to the WILDCARD.
- Event will have judging, awards and advancement, similar to ILTs 1-7.
- To Champs: The top 7 teams (based on FIRST criteria) will advance to SoCal Championships.

HQ Season Game Structure Summary

- Starter Bot kits available to get new teams going

- Game Manual Structure –broken down into self-contained sections

- AI Rules Assistant – AI Chatbot available to help find answers to rules questions

- HQ Team Q&A and Team calls - ie Judging, Game Play, general support

- Team Avatars are back

- Playoffs – double elimination

- Worlds – field is on a raised platform

More detail in the ASK A REF Breakout session!

HQ Season **Judging Changes** Summary

Now using **Points Based Advancement Model**

Motivate Awards is retired: replaced with **Sustain** and **Reach**

Teams can only receive one Judged Award recognition per event (1st, 2nd, or 3rd).

Premier Events rookie season a success

- 22471 **tech ATTACH**, 1st Place Inspire – Canadian Rockies

- 7832 **Gear Guru**, 1st Place Inspire – New England Premier

Premier growing to 336 slots globally (from 256)

- New FLL - FTC **Premier Event in Long Beach** called Wester Edge

- SoCal will know our Championship and Premier Slots by year end 2025

Team Assignments

- Leagues:
  - Teams are assigned to your previous League. If new, you will be assigned to a nearby League
  - Read and know the rules, follow the FTC Forums – there WILL BE referees at League Play
- Interleague Tournaments:
  - To Be announced no later than October 30.
  - If you are a Host of a Tournament, your teams must play a Tournament

Your Commitment as a Team:

At League Meets: 1 volunteer per Team for each Meet to work the event [1]

At Inter-League Play: requested not Required [2]

At Championship: Requested not required [2]

Show up and play at each League Meet,

even if you are not 100% ready – you Will Learn!!

And it helps others learn!

Provide a volunteer and take the HQ training.

(1)   Roles needed : 1 volunteer coordinator, 1 team and volunteer check-in, 4 referees, 1 head referee, 1 field manager, 1 FTA, 1-2 querers, 1 scorekeeper, 2 robot inspectors, 2 field inspectors, 1 field reset, set up and clean up.

(2)   In addition to (1), need pit manager, game announcers, judges, and volunteer food planners

Know your League and your League Host

https://socalftc.org/leagues/

A1 – Los Angeles (Andrew W)

B – Compton / Inglewood (Moshe M)

C1 – La Canada (Brian M)

C2 – Monrovia (Tom D, Alyson B, Brian B)

D – Sherman Oaks (Sabitha C)

E – Webb (Andrew H)

F1 – Perris am (Josh K)

F2 – Perris pm (Josh K)

G - Carson (Ted H)

H – El Segundo (Stephan S)

O1 – Orange County (Shane V, Stuart)

P – Palmdale (Patrick B)

V – Ventura (Chris W)

W – Westside (John L, Chris J, Deborah D)
** Red - NEW

If you want to change Leagues - email info@socalftc.org

Our Season

September 6th	SoCal FTC Kickoff and registration opens
September 7th	Deans List submissions open (last day Dec 14)
	Congratulations Zara/ 17700 Curiosity ! One of the ten 2025 Winners
October 12th	Last day to pay Registration fees
Oct 8 - Jan 19	League Play (check website for League dates or call your Host)
Jan 24 - Feb 15	7 - InterLeague Tournaments (ILTs)
	* All day either Saturday or Sundays
March 8 (Sat)	SoCal Championship, 42 Teams
April 29 – May 2	Worlds – Houston ; TBD Teams
	17700 Curiosity, Jamison Division Inspire Winner 2025
	14295 Operation TAC, Franklin Division Think 3rd
	4348 Roboknights, Jamison Division Design 3rd place