

# 2010 SUPPLEMENTAL RULES FOR MICHIGAN FRC TEAMS

## Update #1

### INTRODUCTION

The new Michigan event structure, piloted by FIRST in Michigan in the 2009 season, provides for seven district events and one state championship. The goal was to expand the reach of the *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) to all Michigan high schools, and make it more affordable, accessible, rewarding and sustainable for new and old teams alike. These rules will supplement the 2010 FRC Manual for all teams participating in Michigan. Topics covered by this supplement include:

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## SECTION 1: COMMUNICATION

Information about *FIRST* in Michigan, the district events and the State Championship can be found at the *FIRST* in Michigan website at: <http://www.firstinmichigan.org/>.

If a team needs clarification on any of the rules in this supplement, questions can be emailed to [Rules@firstinmichigan.org](mailto:Rules@firstinmichigan.org). Questions will be answered by email. Additionally, at the discretion of the rules committee, the questions and answers may be posted to the *FIRST* in Michigan website. Frequently asked questions, as well as any official rules updates, will be emailed directly to all teams and placed on the *FIRST* in Michigan website under the rules section.

Feedback on the district events, ideas for improvement or additional questions not related to the rules contained in this supplement, should be directed by email to both [gail.alpert@gmail.com](mailto:gail.alpert@gmail.com) and [pamela.a.williamson@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.a.williamson@gmail.com).

## SECTION 2: SHIPPING AND ROBOT LOCK UP

### 2.1 No shipping to Michigan Events

The *FIRST* manual specifies that robots must out of the team's hands and shipped to the team's first competition by a specified time on February 23, 2010. This year Michigan teams will NOT ship their robots to events in Michigan, but the robots must still be out of the team's hands by this time. To meet the "out of team's hands" rule, Michigan robots must be "locked up" by this date and time and must remain locked up during the competition season. The only exceptions to this rule will be during a team's event or during a team's Robot Access Period (see Section 3 below).

Teams registered for events outside of Michigan are still required to ship their robots to these events and should consult Section 2.7 below on shipping to out-of-state events.

### 2.2 Definition of "Locked Up"

As used throughout these rules, the term "locked up" is defined as this procedure:

1. The robot is placed into the provided bag.
2. The bag is closed using the numbered security seal.
3. An independent third party fills out the Robot Lock Up Form (attached) by recording the date, time, and seal number thereby verifying the lock up with his signature.
4. An independent third party is defined as a person 18 years or older who is not associated with your team as a student, mentor, teacher parent, sibling or a relative of a person associated with the team. The school principal (if not part of the team), shipping and receiving employee, or another teacher not related to your team, are all examples of acceptable independent third parties.
5. If an independent third party is not available at time of lock up, any adult associated with the team may sign the form, provided the person is over the age of 18 and is not a student member of the team.

### 2.3 Definition of "Unlocked"

The term "unlocked" as used in the supplementary rules is defined as this procedure:

1. An independent third party checks the seal number on the bag and verifies that it matches the seal number on the form for the previous lock up.
2. The third party fills out the form, recording the date, time and reason for unlocking and then signs the form.
3. The seal on the bag is broken and the robot is removed.
4. If an independent third party is not available at time of unlocking, any adult associated with the team may sign the form, provided the person is over the age of 18 and is not a student member of the team.

### 2.4 Lock Up supplies and replacements

Each Michigan team will receive 2 bags, 25 security seals and the Robot Lock Up form in their kit of parts. Plastic bags are not toys and can cause suffocation so please keep out of the reach of children and do not allow unsupervised use.

The spare parts desk at each competition will have extra bags available for purchase at \$5.00 each and extra security

seals available for \$1 each.

If your team needs a bag or seal prior to an event, please contact Pat Major immediately at [pmajor@centurytel.com](mailto:pmajor@centurytel.com). If you cannot reach Pat, please patch up your bag until you secure another bag from Pat. If you run out of security seals and cannot immediately reach Pat, please use a regular zip tie, and create a hand-made label using tape as shown below. Ask an independent third party to number and initial the label. Then proceed with the regular lock up procedure.

Here is an illustration of a home-made security seal:



## **2.5 Submitting Lock Up Forms for inspection at all Michigan events**

Robot lock up forms must be submitted to the inspectors as part of the inspection process at each Michigan event. This will serve to verify that no Michigan team has had illegal access to their robot after the build period. The Robot Lock Up Form is attached to these rules. PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING A COPY OF YOUR EXECUTED FORM TO THE COMPETITION.

## **2.6 Basic rules governing lock up and transportation to Michigan events**

1. Once the robot is locked up on ship day, it may not be unlocked except during the team's 8 hour Robot Access Period discussed in Section 3 below or during the team's competition.
2. Robots must be transported to and from the competitions in their security sealed bags.
3. Robots will be carried in through the regular doors, just like other pit items. Teams will not have access to loading docks or fork lifts.
4. Anyone lifting or carrying the robot in its bag should make sure to have a secure hold. Bags may be slippery. Teams are encouraged to put the robot on a dolly or other rolling cart to transport the robot.
5. Robots may not be unlocked until they arrive in their pit space. Proper unlocking procedures must be followed. (see section 2.3).
6. Robots must be locked up in the pits before leaving the competition. Proper lock up procedures must be followed. (see section 2.2)

## **2.7 Shipping to out-of-state events**

For teams going to regional events outside of Michigan, or to the FIRST Championship in Atlanta, the robot will have to be shipped to and from the out-of-state event in the traditional manner mandated by the FIRST manual. These additional rules apply:

1. If the team's first event is outside of Michigan, the robot must be shipped on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 in accordance with all rules in the *FIRST* manual.
2. For out-of-state events which follow a Michigan event, the robot must be locked up at the conclusion of the Michigan event, and brought back to the team's work place. It will then be shipped in the crate in the same sealed bag.
3. Deadlines for shipping are as follows:
  - a. If a team's next event is out-of state, the robot must be shipped by the Tuesday following the team's Michigan event, even if the out-of-state event is not on the next consecutive week.
  - b. Teams that qualify for the Championship at the Michigan State Championship must follow all procedures in Section 4.8.2.1. of the competition manual. Bag your robot as described and ship it to the drayage location for the Championship. Teams qualifying at the Michigan State Championship event will receive one (1) FedEx Freight BILL OF LADING at the event IF they have not already received the maximum number allowed. Teams may receive up to two (2) shipments prior to the Championship under the FedEx donation. Teams that have already received two (2) shipments will NOT receive any additional BILLS OF LADING.

## 2.8 Bag It: An Illustration

Here is an illustration on how to lock up your robot:

**STEP 1:** Bunch bag up on ground leaving space for robot in center



**STEP 2:** Place robot in center of bag



**STEP 3:** Pull bag up carefully making sure the robot's corners and other parts don't get snagged on bag.



**STEP 4:** Place security tie on bag. Have independent third party fill out form.



## SECTION 3: ROBOT ACCESS PERIOD

### 3.1 Overview

As Michigan events do not have a full practice day, teams will have a specified period of time, known as the Robot Access Period, to unlock their robots prior to attending their Michigan events to work on or with their robots. During this time, teams can do anything they would normally do during a practice day at an event. This includes, but is not limited to, making modifications or upgrades, programming, and practicing alone or with other teams.

### 3.2 Allowable Hours and Days

Teams may unlock their robot for a total of 6 hours during the 7 day period (Friday through Thursday) preceding any District Event in which their own team is participating, and for 4 hours during the 6 day period (Friday through Wednesday) preceding the State Championship if the team is participating. These hours may be broken up in any way the team wishes. The only stipulation is that no single access period may be shorter than 2 hours. The robot must be locked up in between sessions and this must be documented on the Robot Lock Up Form each time.

During the robot access period, if a team travels to another team's facility to practice with them, or for help, the travel time will not count toward the team's allowable hours provided the robot travels in its security sealed bag.

### 3.3 No Relationship to Fix-It-Windows

This Robot Access Period is totally separate from, and in addition to, any Fix-It Windows which may be allowed in the FIRST manual. The Robot Access Period can be used anytime during the allowable days leading up to a team's event, including before or after any fix-it window sessions.

## SECTION 4: EVENT AGENDAS

### 4.1 District Event Agenda

A sample agenda for the district events is included below. The actual agenda for a specific event may differ slightly so be sure to check the agenda on the *FIRST* in Michigan website, [www.firstinmichigan.org](http://www.firstinmichigan.org). The agendas will be posted there as they become available. We will also try to make this information available via the [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org) website.

Please note that Thursday evening, while optional, is highly recommended. Teams will have access to the field and pits and will have the opportunity to get inspected. The goal will be to inspect as many robots as possible on Thursday evening. Please make sure your robot is functional and ready to be inspected when it arrives.

<b>Thursday</b>	
Pits open	6:00 PM
Pits close	10:00 PM
<b>Friday</b>	
Pits open	8:00 AM
Opening ceremonies	10:30 AM
Matches begin	11:00 AM
Lunch begins	1:00 PM
Lunch ends	2:00 PM
Matches end	6:30 PM
Pits close	7:30 PM
<b>Saturday</b>	
Pits open	7:30 AM
Opening ceremonies	8:30 AM
Matches begin	9:00 AM
Alliance Selections	12:30 PM
Lunch begins	1:00 PM
Elimination rounds begin	2:00 PM
Awards	5:00 PM
Pits close	6:30 PM

\*\* Schedule subject to change, pending individual venue requirements. All times are estimated based on flow of rounds. See Administration table for updated times.

#### 4.2 Michigan State Championship Agenda

The State Championship agenda will be approximately as follows:

<b>Wednesday</b>	
Team Load in begins	6:00 PM
Team Load in ends	10:00 PM
<b>Thursday</b>	
Pits open	7:30 AM
Lunch begins	1:00 PM
Lunch ends	2:00 PM
Opening ceremonies	3:00 PM
Matches begin	3:30 PM
Matches end	7:00 PM
Pits close	8:00 PM
<b>Friday</b>	
Pits open	8:00 AM
Opening ceremonies	9:00 AM
Matches begin	9:30 AM
Lunch begin	1:00 PM
Matches resume	2:00 PM
Matches end	6:30 PM
Pits close	7:30 PM
<b>Saturday</b>	
Pits open	7:30 AM
Opening ceremonies	8:30 AM
Matches begin	9:00 AM
Alliance Selections	12:30 PM
Lunch beings	1:00 PM
Elimination matches begin	2:00 PM
Awards	5:00 PM
Pits close	6:30 PM

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

## SECTION 5: EVENT ELIGIBILITY, REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

### 5.1 Use of Points System to Rank Teams

FIRST in Michigan has proposed revisions to the point system to take into account comments and suggestions communicated through the team forums. The revised point system proposal was submitted to FIRST for approval. Once we have received final approval, details will be communicated to the teams.

### 5.2 State Championship

#### 5.2.1 Qualifying and registering to compete with your robot

64 teams will qualify for the State Championship. Please see 5.1 above for determining which teams qualify.

#### 5.2.2 Payment for State Championship

The cost to participate in the State Championship is \$4,000. Teams are required to pay at the time of registration to

secure their spot. Acceptable forms of payment are the same as they are for all other FIRST events. These include check, wire, credit card or P.O.

Please note that there is an extremely short window of time between the end of Week 4 when teams learn they are eligible for the State Championship, and Week 5, which is the State Championship. Teams are urged to make arrangements ahead of time to pay for the event if they want to attend. FIRST is willing to accept payment (including a P.O.) any time between now and the State Championship and will gladly refund the payment or cancel the P.O. in the event the team does not qualify. It may also be possible to make the terms of the P.O. null and void in the event the team does not qualify for the State Championship.

### **5.2.3 Chairman's Award, Engineering Inspiration Award, Entrepreneurship Award, Rookie All-Star Award and the Website Award at the State Championship**

Unlike the other awards, only the District Winners of Chairman's Award, Engineering Inspiration Award, Entrepreneurship Award, Rookie All-Star Award and Website Award will be eligible to compete for the award at the State Championship.

To help the general public, as well as other FRC and FLL teams, better understand the level of commitment required to win the Chairman's Award, all District Chairman's Award winners along with the Hall of Fame teams, will have a reserved space in the lobby at the competition to set up a display of all of their outreach activities. The Chairman's Award judges are free to look at the displays.

All District Chairman's Award winners are REQUIRED to prepare a display for the State Championship. Each team will be supplied with a table with skirting and an electrical outlet. Teams are required to provide for review / display a copy of their written Chairman's Award submission, AND their Chairman's Award DVD. The teams are responsible for providing their own method for playing the DVD. Teams may either setup displays behind their table, or on top of their table. Displays may not be more than 8' wide x 8' tall if setup behind their table, or more than 4' wide x 4' tall if setup on top of their table.

Please note: The DVD for display is in ADDITION to the DVD that must be turned in for the Judges. Teams are requested to turn in their copy of the DVD for the Judges, to Pit Administration when they register at the event.

## **5.3 FIRST Championship in Atlanta**

### **5.3.1 Qualifying for Spots**

18 spots will be awarded for Michigan teams at the FIRST Championship in Atlanta, based on performance and awards earned at the Michigan State Championship. The 18 spots are broken down as follows:

- 3 spots for each of the teams making up the winning alliance at the State Championship
- 3 spots for the top three State Championship Chairman's Award winners
- 2 spots for the top two State Championship Rookie All-Star Award winners
- 1 spot for the State Championship Engineering Inspiration Award winner
- The remaining 9 spots will be determined in a manner consistent with paragraph 5.1 above.

### **5.3.2 Notification of Eligibility and Registration Deadlines**

The list of eligible teams will be posted on the *FIRST* in Michigan website, and an e-mail will be sent to the appropriate team contacts, no later than Sunday morning at 9:00 AM following the State Championship.

Teams that plan to attend must register on the FIRST Website before noon on Monday April 5, 2010 or they will lose their spot. Teams that do not wish to attend must send an email quickly to both [Gail.Alpert@gmail.com](mailto:Gail.Alpert@gmail.com) and [Pamela.A.Williamson@gmail.com](mailto:Pamela.A.Williamson@gmail.com).

### **5.3.3 Payment**

Registered teams will have the same amount of time to pay for the FIRST Championship in Atlanta as the Week 5 winners of Regional Events held across the country. Please consult the FIRST manual for details.

## SECTION 6: Award Changes At Michigan Events

Each Michigan team may only submit their Chairman's Award at one of their 2010 Michigan district events and may not submit at an out-of-state event.

### 6.1 District Events

All the Regional Competition awards found in the *FIRST* manual will be given out at District Events in Michigan, with the following exceptions:

#### 6.1.1 Woodie Flowers Award

Each Michigan team may nominate one adult member from their team for the Michigan State Championship Woodie Flowers Finalist Award. Each Michigan team may only nominate their candidate at one of their 2010 Michigan district events and may not submit at an out-of-state event. The adult mentor must be on the same team as the student nominators and only one adult member may be nominated per team. One Regional WFFA will be selected at the Michigan State Championship.

All Michigan teams wishing to submit an entry for the Woodie Flowers Award must provide a written submission, using the online *FIRST* submission site. See section 5.8 of the *FIRST* Robotics Competition Manual for further details.

This award will not be given at Michigan District events. Instead, all nominees for a given District event will be recognized at that event. However all submissions from the district event will be eligible to win at the State Championship.

Additional information on the Woodie Flowers Award submission may be found at

[http://www.usfirst.org/uploadedFiles/Community/FRC/FRC\\_Documents\\_and\\_Updates/2010%20WFA.pdf](http://www.usfirst.org/uploadedFiles/Community/FRC/FRC_Documents_and_Updates/2010%20WFA.pdf)

#### 6.1.2 Autodesk Visualization Award

This award will not be given at the Michigan District Events. All submissions will be judged by Autodesk at the *FIRST* Championship in Atlanta only. If *FIRST* in Michigan can obtain a copy of the submissions, they will be played at Michigan events, so that the teams may view them.

#### 6.1.3 Rookie All-Star Award

*FIRST* invites and encourages rookies to develop a Chairman's Award type submission. This submission may be evaluated by the judges to determine the winner of the Rookie All-Star Award. It will also document where your team started its *FIRST* journey and the results of your team's efforts. It will be a great way to start your team's efforts to win the Chairman's Award.

All Michigan rookie teams are encouraged to prepare a District Rookie All-Star Award summary sheet, and print a copy to give the Judges when they visit you at your Pit location at your district events.

Michigan rookie teams may not submit at out-of-state events. All Michigan rookie teams will be considered for this award, at each Michigan District event they attend.

Additional information on the Rookie All-Star Award and Chairman's Award may be found at

<http://usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/content.aspx?id=452> and at

<http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/content.aspx?id=440>. Michigan rookie teams do NOT need to submit through the website. If you prepare a District Rookie All-Star Award submission, print a copy to give the Judges when they visit you at your Pit location.

#### 6.1.4 Chairman's Award

Each Michigan team may only submit their Chairman's Award at one of their 2010 Michigan district events and may not submit at an out-of-state event.

### 6.2 Michigan State Championship Competition

All the Regional Competition awards found in the *FIRST* manual will be given out at the Michigan State Championship, with the following modifications:

#### 6.2.1 Chairman's Award

Only Michigan District event Chairman's Award winners will be eligible to compete for the Michigan State Championship Chairman's Award. See also Section 5.2.3 about displays at the State Championship.

All teams competing for the Chairman's Award at the Michigan State Championship will need to conduct a scheduled formal interview with the Judges at the event. A signup sheet will be available at Pit Administration.

There will be three Michigan State Championship Chairman's Award winners all of which will be eligible to attend the *FIRST* Championship in Atlanta.

#### **6.2.2 Rookie All-Star Award**

Only Michigan District event Rookie All-Star Award winners will be eligible to compete for the Michigan State Championship Rookie All-Star Award.

All teams competing for the Rookie All-Star Award at the Michigan State Championship will need to conduct a scheduled formal interview with the Judges at the event. A signup sheet will be available at Pit Administration.

There will be two Michigan State Championship Rookie All-Star Award winners both of which will be eligible to attend the *FIRST* Championship in Atlanta.

#### **6.2.3 Engineering Inspiration Award**

Only Michigan District event Engineering Inspiration Award winners will be eligible to compete for the Michigan State Championship Engineering Inspiration Award.

All teams competing for the Engineering Inspiration Award at the Michigan State Championship will need to conduct a scheduled formal interview with the Judges at the event. A signup sheet will be available at Pit Administration.

There will be one Michigan State Championship Engineering Inspiration Award winner who will be eligible to attend the *FIRST* Championship in Atlanta.

#### **6.2.4 Entrepreneurship Award**

Only Michigan District event Entrepreneurship Award winners will be eligible to compete for the Michigan State Championship Entrepreneurship Award.

All teams competing for the Entrepreneurship Award at the Michigan State Championship will need to conduct a scheduled formal interview with the Judges at the event. All teams competing for this award are also required to have a printed copy of their business plan for the Judges. Teams are requested to turn in their business plan for the Judges, to Pit Administration when they register at the event. An interview signup sheet will be available at Pit Administration.

#### **6.2.5 Website Award**

Only Michigan District event Website Award winners will be eligible to compete for the Michigan State Championship Website Award.

#### **6.2.6 Woodie Flowers Finalist Award**

One Regional WFFA will be selected at the Michigan State Championship, based on the nominations received at each of the Michigan District events. Teams that have submitted a previous year WFFA winner for the 2010 Championship WFA and have a 2010 Regional WFFA winner must select only **one** of those mentors to be submitted for the 2010 Championship WFA. In this case, student nominators will be asked by the WFA committee which Regional WFFA winner from their team will be their 2010 Championship WFA candidate. A person may not win the WFA more than one time.

#### **6.2.7 Autodesk Visualization Award**

This award will not be given at the Michigan State Championship. All submissions will be judged by Autodesk at the *FIRST* Championship in Atlanta only. If *FIRST* in Michigan can obtain a copy of the submissions, they will be played at Michigan events, so that the teams may view them.

## **SECTION 7: Mandatory Volunteer Sign-Up**

## 7.1 Volunteers Required

Each team must supply two volunteers; aged 14 and older, for any event the team attends. If your team is unable to volunteer at the event they attend due to the size of the team, teams must volunteer at an event they are not attending. It can be different people at each event, but the volunteers for a given event, will remain for the duration. Volunteers must sign up through the Volunteer Information Management Systems (VIMS) on the FIRST website, <https://my.usfirst.org/vims/logon.lasso?page=logon>

Once your team's volunteers have registered on VIMS, please send an email to the Volunteer Coordinator for your events. The Volunteer Coordinator will be assigning positions in early February.

Event	Dates	Volunteer Coordinator	Email Address
Traverse City <i>FIRST</i> Robotics District Competition	Mar 5-6	Karen Connick	<a href="mailto:kcintc@gmail.com">kcintc@gmail.com</a>
Kettering University <i>FIRST</i> Robotics District Competition	Mar 5-6	Dr. Bill Welch	<a href="mailto:bwelch@gisd.gisd.k12.mi.us">bwelch@gisd.gisd.k12.mi.us</a>
Cass Tech <i>FIRST</i> Robotics District Competition	Mar 12-13	Erica Burges	<a href="mailto:burgersed@netscape.net">burgersed@netscape.net</a>
Ann Arbor <i>FIRST</i> Robotics District Competition	Mar 12-13	Dave Nolff	<a href="mailto:alex.golec@gmail.com">alex.golec@gmail.com</a> , <a href="mailto:dnolff@sbcglobal.net">dnolff@sbcglobal.net</a>
Detroit <i>FIRST</i> Robotics District Competition	Mar 19-20	Temetria Reid	<a href="mailto:treid@brownrigg.com">treid@brownrigg.com</a>
West Michigan <i>FIRST</i> Robotics District Competition	Mar 19-20	Amy Hoppe	<a href="mailto:amyhoppe@gmail.com">amyhoppe@gmail.com</a>
Troy <i>FIRST</i> Robotics District Competition	Mar 26-27	Margaret Milligan	<a href="mailto:milliga9@msu.edu">milliga9@msu.edu</a>
Michigan <i>FIRST</i> Robotics Competition Championship	April 1-3	Dave Nolff	<a href="mailto:dnolff@sbcglobal.net">dnolff@sbcglobal.net</a>

## **SECTION 8: Resolution Of Issues At Events**

### **8.1 Non-Game Related Issues**

Please see pit administration for issues NOT related to the game, field or rules. Pit administration will note the problem and your team number, and then see that the right person is found to address your issue.

### **8.2 Game Related Issues**

For competition play related issues, such as a questionable call, a field malfunction, an improper score or even a game rule your team feels was improperly interpreted during either the driver's meeting or during the course of play, the following procedure is to be followed:

The team should contact the Head Referee at the end of the match or as soon as is practical. The decision of the Head Ref will stand for that match and game play will continue. If after speaking with the Head Ref you believe this issue has not been properly resolved, you may approach the Field Technical Advisor. If *either* the Head Referee or the FTA believes the issue needs clarification from *FIRST*, the FTA will place a call to *FIRST* for a ruling.

In the event that neither the Head Referee nor the FTA believes clarification is required, or if clarification is sought and *FIRST* agrees with the Head Referee's interpretation, the issue shall be considered closed.

Should *FIRST* provide a different interpretation of the rule and it is feasible to retroactively apply the new interpretation then the previous results will be changed. Otherwise, the new interpretation will only be used going forward for the remainder of the event.