

2025-2026 FTC KICKOFF

SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2025



DECODE

PRESENTED BY  RTX

**FIRST
TECH
CHALLENGE**

WELCOME BACK

- Dakota Region has been allocated 2 teams for the Championships
 - To keep this, teams must be registered by December 1st
 - Houston, Texas | April 29th – May 2nd, 2026
- 3 Qualifiers (Minot, Fargo, Bismarck)
 - Events limited to 20 teams
 - Teams are allowed to pick 2 of the 3 they wish to compete in
 - Registration will open at 9am October 1st

LEARNING DATES

October 11th at North Dakota's Gateway to Science

- Marketing, Community Impact, Engineering

November 15th at North Dakota's Gateway to Science

- Team Presentations, Programming, Head Ref Q&A
- Please email any questions in advance to Lee at lee_gullingsrud@bismarckschools.org

December 6th

- Scrimmages, 10am-4pm | Fargo ND & Alexander ND

COMPETITION DATES

January 10th

- Bismarck Qualifier – BSC Advanced Technology Center

January 17th

- Minot Qualifier – Bishop Ryan High School

January 31st

- Fargo Qualifier – NDSU Bentson Bunker Fieldhouse

February 14th

- State Tournament – BSC Advanced Technology Center

UPDATES / CHANGES

Advancement & FIRST Championship Update

- New points system this season for advancement
- <https://community.firstinspires.org/advancement-first-championship-update>

In 2026 for the DECODE™ presented by RTX season, we will be welcoming 336 teams to the *FIRST* Championship, up (31%) from 256 teams last season.

Premier Events – Last season we had 2 teams go to the Netherlands

UPDATES / CHANGES



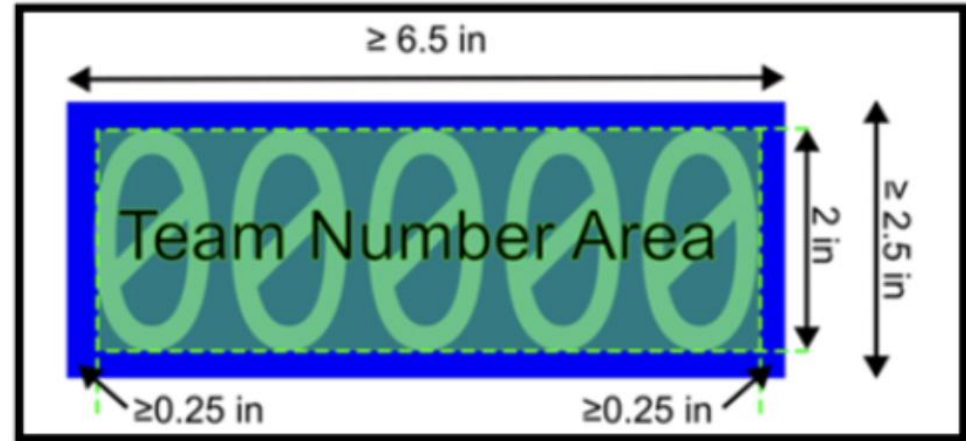
Starting on September 6, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. ET, all regions will be able to access their dashboard to nominate eligible students on their team. All regions will have until Monday, December 15, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. ET to complete their nomination.

CHAMPIONSHIP COSTS

- FIRST increased the Championship Registration Fee
 - \$2500/team
- Championship Housing should be booked through FIRST
- \$1000 USD FTC SIM Rookie Team Grant is now live!
Your teams can find out more info at this webpage:
<https://firstroboticscanada.org/ftcsimgrant/>

ROBOT RULES – TEAM SIGNS REMINDER

- Reduce complexity of rules around team numbers and Alliance Markers
- Eliminates advantage of short team numbers and skinny fonts
- Alliance Identification is easier for referees, scorers, etc.



AWARD NEWS

State Qualifiers

- Will be online interviews the week of qualifiers
- Tuesday and Wednesday evenings
- Exceptions only for extenuating circumstances

State Tournament

- Will be IN PERSON
- Morning of competition, starting ~ 8:30am, verified closer to competition

CALL FOR JUDGES

We are always looking for new judges.

- Do you know of any former FIRST alumni that would be interested?
- Anyone else that might like to get involved?

If interested have them contact:

- Lee @ lee_gullingsrud@bismarckschools.org
- Dawn @ d_chaput@hotmail.com or
- Mike @ mike.holman@bismarckstate.edu

Requirements:

- At least 18 years of age (21+ Preferred)
- High School Graduate
- Pass a background check.

YOU'RE IN KAHootS

What do you know about FTC?



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**FIRST[®]
TECH
CHALLENGE**

GAME ANNOUNCEMENT

