

# MASSACHUSETTS FIRST<sup>®</sup> Tech Challenge Tournament Policies

## Tournament Participation

1. Any FIRST Tech Challenge team in good standing with *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> may participate in a Qualifying Tournament.
2. Good standing with *FIRST* does not guarantee participation in a tournament. Teams must comply with the tournament registration procedures that include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Registration deadlines
  - b. Tournament participation fees
  - c. Tournament team capacity limits
3. Participants are required to follow all the tournament and game rules specified in the current *FIRST* Tech Challenge Game Manual.
4. Participation in the Massachusetts Championship Tournament is by invitation only, based on tournament advancement requirements specified below.

## Tournament Registration

1. Qualifying Tournament registration is conducted with a central, online registration system located via a Google Form link distributed by email. Registration is first come, first served to teams in MA followed by out-of-state teams.
2. Out-of-state teams may attend a Massachusetts Qualifying Tournament. In-state *FIRST* Tech Challenge teams receive registration priority over out-of-state teams.
3. Registration priority may be given for special circumstances. Contact the Massachusetts FIRST Tech Challenge Affiliate Partner, at *massftc@gmail.com*, to request registration priority. Special circumstances include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Teams hosting officially sanctioned events.
  - b. One coach for multiple teams that must attend the same event.
  - c. Transportation issues: Teams traveling 2 or more hours and sharing rental/school bus.
4. Tournament participation fees are payable by check to **MIT**. Checks must be received within two weeks of registration to reserve your space. Send payments to:

Loretta Bessette  
Group 101 S1-403  
MIT Lincoln Laboratory  
244 Wood Street  
Lexington, MA 02421-6426

## Team No-shows and Withdrawals

1. No-shows are not in the spirit of Gracious Professionalism, and are not permitted. Consequences of no-shows include, but are not limited to the following:
  - a. Loss of eligibility to attend the Massachusetts Championship.
  - b. Reduced registration priority for future Qualifying Tournaments.
  - c. Forfeiture of tournament participation fees.
2. Withdrawals are not in the spirit of Gracious Professionalism, and are generally not permitted. The consequences for withdrawing from a tournament are the same as for no-shows. Special circumstances will be evaluated on a case by case basis by the Massachusetts Affiliate Partner, Loretta Bessette. Email tournament withdrawal requests to *massftc@gmail.com*.

## Tournament Advancement

1. Tournament advancement is dependent upon the number of Qualifying Tournaments, the number of teams at a tournament and the team capacity of the Massachusetts State Championship.
2. For the 2019-2020 *SKYSTONE* season, the capacity of the Massachusetts Championship is 36 teams. From each Qualifying Tournament, at least 3 teams will advance to the State Championship.
3. Advancement criteria are specified in the Tournament section of the 2019-2020 season game manual.
4. Participation in a Qualifying Tournament assumes a team will participate in the Massachusetts State tournament if they qualify for advancement.

## **Tournament Cancellation**

The decision to cancel an event is not undertaken lightly. The situations most likely to cause a cancellation of all or part of a tournament include, but are not limited to:

- a. Severe weather conditions
- b. Exceptional circumstances including extended power outage, loss of heating/air conditioning, loss of water, fire, natural disaster
- c. Significant illness that might involve the closing of a facility prior to an event

The Massachusetts FIRST Tech Challenge Affiliate Partner and the Tournament Host will determine if there will be a delay, early dismissal, or cancellation of the tournament. If the tournament has to be canceled before the tournament day begins, teams will be notified by an email sent to the team's first and secondary contacts as designated in the team's registration with MASS *FIRST* Tech Challenge. The information will also be displayed on the Massachusetts FIRST Tech Challenge web site, [www.massftc.org](http://www.massftc.org).

If a tournament has to be canceled for any reason during the tournament day prior to the advancement list being determined by robot competition and the judges, all teams that attended the tournament will be entered into a random drawing conducted by the Massachusetts *FIRST* Tech Challenge Affiliate Partner. The teams that are selected to advance will be notified and this information posted on the [www.massftc.org](http://www.massftc.org) web site.

## **Mentor Information**

The team mentors are aware of and have reviewed the 2019 - 2020 Mentor guide:

[https://www.firstinspires.org/sites/default/files/uploads/resource\\_library/ftc/mentor-manual.pdf](https://www.firstinspires.org/sites/default/files/uploads/resource_library/ftc/mentor-manual.pdf)

***The Massachusetts FIRST Tech Challenge tournament policy may be modified from time-to-time.***