

2004 FIRST Robotics Competition

February 06, 2004

Team Update

08

→ Special Notices ←

Documents and Updates

FIRST will provide important information to teams via the FIRST web site at:

http://www.usfirst.org/robotics/doc_updt.htm

Please check the team updates portion of the web site on a regular basis to insure that your team does not miss critical information about the 2004 FIRST Robotics Competition.

Our schedule to publish Team Updates is:

- Tuesday by 5PM and Friday by 10AM. We work hard to meet these commitments. Unexpected circumstances may, on occasions, delay their publication.
- Additional updates may be released if required.

Question & Answer System

The Question & Answer System can be found at:

<http://www.usfirst.org/robotics/2004/qa.htm>

1. Please ask one question at a time.
2. Questions are limited to 240 characters.

The Manual

Updates

Information that was documented in Team Updates 01, 02, 03, and 04 was incorporated into the manual and posted on the FIRST website on Monday, 01/26/2004.

Information documented in Team Updates will be incorporated into the manual and is scheduled to happen weekly. After this process has taken place, you will be able to access:

- .pdf files with “track changes” **turned on** so teams can see all changes applied;
- .pdf files with all “track changes” **incorporated** = an up-to-date manual.

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Section 1. Introduction

No changes.

Section 2. Communication

No changes.

Section 3. The Arena

- ❖ **Modify 3.4.3 Ball Corral** as below. The new/modified text is **bolded and italicized and/or lined out**.

Note: The official Ball Corral dimensions and parts list are contained in "2004 Field Elements – Tees / Corral / ~~Paddle~~" drawing. Diagrams and dimensions below are for summary purposes only.

Each Team Zone contains a 4'w x 30"d x 16"h Ball Corral abutting the Ball Chute. It is constructed of one-inch square aluminum with ~~two~~ ***one*** crossbars on top and sidebars. The side facing the Shelf has no side bar.

~~A Paddle will sit on top of and extend into the Corral to aid in clearing balls from the Ball Corral. The Paddle is made of a 36-inch long piece of PVC pipe with a clear polycarbonate square stop at mid-length and a clear rectangular piece of polycarbonate at the bottom.~~

At the start of each match, there will be 3 small purple balls on top of each ball corral.

Section 4. The Game

- ❖ **Modify G14** as below. The new/modified text is **bolded and italicized and/or lined out**.

The word "any" is underlined as an awareness that there are 3 small purple balls on top of each Ball Corral at the start of the match. These can be used, as stated below, once the AUTONOMOUS PERIOD ends. See the revised 3.4.3 above.

<G14> Team members may not touch any balls during the AUTONOMOUS PERIOD. HUMAN PLAYERS may use ~~any~~ **any** balls in the Team Zone once the AUTONOMOUS PERIOD ends.

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Section 5. The Robot

- ❖ **Revision identifiers. FIRST will post future drawings with a revision id and date. Thanks to those that brought this to our attention.**

The Vishay photo-detector drawing has been reposted with a revision id and date on it.

- ❖ **Caution advised regarding the ½” drill motors.**

You may not replace the blue wires, however, you may shorten them such that there is a minimum of 1.5 inches still attached to the motor and solder heavier gauge wire to their cut ends. Do not attempt to unsolder the blue wires from the brush housings. The plastic brush support housing will distort if exposed to soldering temperatures and the alignment of the brushes will be affected, which can permanently degrade motor performance.

Section 6. The Kit

No changes.

Section 7. The Tournament

No changes.

Section 8. The Awards

- ❖ **The Executive Summary form has been fixed and is posted** on the FIRST website in the Documents and Updates section.
- ❖ **The Woodie Flowers Award submission is done on line this year.** The URL is <http://www.firstawards.org>

Student nominators will need to follow the directions listed on the screen. Each team can only submit one candidate for this prestigious award. As the student nominator fills out the required information, they must choose only one regional where their team's candidate will be submitted. Teams' regional selection choices are only at the regionals they are attending.

Student nominators can easily enter information, save it, and return to the site to edit their entry information until they are ready to submit it for judging. All entries will be final on Friday, Feb. 27th. No entries will be accepted or altered after this date.

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❖ Announcement regarding Team Yearbook Pages.

The Team Yearbook page is your opportunity to share valuable information about your team with FIRST. The data collected helps FIRST track important statistics such as how much it cost your team to participate in the competition, the population of the team (e.g., male/female students, teachers, parents, non-technical professionals) and class breakdown. This information is helpful in FIRST's efforts to procure funding.

Judges also use the yearbook pages at the Regional and Championship events. They learn important details about your team such as the history, goals and strengths, and challenges your team has overcome. Judges take all of this into consideration when they make decisions about team awards! Please note that we may use the robot photos you submit for the Awards Ceremonies.

For rookies unfamiliar with the process, you enter this data via the Team Information Management System at <http://my.usfirst.org/> Simply log in as you did to register your team for events. Once in, you will see the "Edit Team Yearbook Information" button that will lead you to the pages. The pages will open today, **February 4th**, and will close on **February 26th**, at **5:00 pm EST**.

Important Customer Service Note:

Last year, many teams waited until the deadline date to start inputting their information. Unfortunately, some teams had last minute problems that could not be resolved by closing time. Since we are against a strict printing deadline, we urge you to start and complete these pages ahead of the deadline date. This way if you have any problems or questions, Team Support will have enough time to help you. We have over 900 teams this year, and we want to be sure that each of you gets the help you need.

****IMPORTANT**** Due to printing constraints there can be No Extensions. All yearbook pages must be completed on-line by 5:00 pm EST, February 26th.

❖ Modify the point values for the following Website Design Awards section headings. The new/modified text is **bolded** and italicized and/or ~~lined-out~~.

8.8.3.1 Content. (25 points ~~—5 points each~~)

8.8.3.2 Structure and Navigation. (25 points ~~—5 points each~~)

8.8.3.3 Visual Design. (25 points ~~—5 points each~~)

8.8.3.4 Functionality and Interactivity. (25 points ~~—5 points each~~)

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Section 9. Team Organization

No changes.

Section 10. At The Events

No changes.