

April 3, 2007

TEAM UPDATE #20

GENERAL NOTICES

As teams prepare to attend the 2007 FRC Championships in Atlanta, we would like to offer a few suggestions for teams that will be there for the first time.

One of the most important things you can do is to make sure that your team and your robot are prepared for the competition.

Make sure you have the latest Team Updates and latest versions of the FRC Manual (available on the *FIRST* web site). Take advantage of the time before the competition to reread the 2007 FRC manual, with particular attention to the Game Rules (Chapter 7), Robot Rules (Chapter 8) and Tournament Rules (Chapter 9). Review the discussions in the *FIRST* Q&A system to check for any rule interpretations that may affect your robot. The event staff will be using the latest versions of these documents in Atlanta for the game play and inspections.

Note that the inspection team at the Championship will be composed of seasoned veteran inspectors. They are there to help make sure your robot is competition-ready and to ensure there is no basis for a challenge to your use or configuration of a part during the competition. The Lead Inspectors are there to ensure that the inspection process is consistent and evenly applied across all teams and divisions. Even though your robot will have been through an inspection during a regional competition, it will have to be completely re-inspected at the Championships. They will be conducting a thorough from the ground up inspection of the entire robot, and validating the design against all applicable rules. To prepare for this, review the 2007 Inspection Checklist (available on the *FIRST* web site), and verify your robot against the checklist items.

There are a few items we want to remind everyone about, based on observations of inspections at the regional competition events. The use of the Rockwell power distribution blocks, properly wired as indicated in the 2007 Power Distribution Diagram, is mandatory. The relay and orange diagnostic light properly wired as shown in the manual - is strongly recommended. Any pneumatics used on the robot must meet the minimum requirements to make it through inspection. A pneumatics system must include the compressor (one only please), gauges (120 and 60 PSI), regulator, pressure switch connected to the RC, Spike relay (to control the compressor from the RC) and pressure relief valve (to vent the system). The Flag Holder, in a legal configuration and location, is an absolute requirement. If you don't have these items on your robot, or if they are not properly installed and operating, the robot will not pass inspection. If any of these items will be an issue, please be prepared to resolve them as soon as you unpack your robot.

Please make sure that the type and number of motors used on your robot are legal to use under the 2007 rules (e.g. no 2006 van door motors, 2006 transmissions, 2006 IFI breaker panels, etc!). If you have any custom circuits, please have a description of them ready for review.

Please make sure you have your complete, updated, robot Bill Of Materials prepared and ready to submit.

We recommend that you start the inspection process as early as you can. Note that if necessary, you can complete the inspection process in phases. For example, consider the case of everything on your robot being ready except the pneumatic system not being properly controlled by the software. You can have the majority of the robot inspected, the weight and volume checks completed, and the BOM reviewed, early in the day when the inspection lines are shorter. Then, when your software modifications are complete later in the day, any remaining items can be quickly checked by the inspector to complete the process.

In short, to make your robot inspection as quick and easy as possible, be ready and be early!

Section 0 - Introduction

No changes.

Section 1 - Communication

No changes.

Section 2 – Team Organization

No changes.

Section 3 – At the Events

No changes.

Section 4 – Robot Transportation

No changes.

Section 5 - The Awards

No changes.

Section 6 – The Arena

No changes.

Section 7 – The Game

No changes.

Section 8 – The Robot

No changes.

Section 9 – The Tournament

No changes.

Section 10 – Kit of Parts

No changes.

Documents and Updates

No changes.

2007 *FIRST* Guidelines, Tips, and Good Practices

No changes.

The Question & Answer System

No changes.