

A ROOKIE'S GUIDE TO THE ST. LOUIS REGIONAL

Prior to Competition

- Wednesday, March 8th, there is an **unloading period** from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 - **Five team members** will be allowed into the Chaifetz Arena to unload the robot and all supplies and equipment.
 - You will enter through the loading area at the south side of the arena; you **can** drive up to it. There will be an official with a clipboard there to admit you to the parking lot of the loading area. Traffic may be heavy.
 - Once you unload your equipment, you will be admitted to the arena; a judge will be there to inspect your bagged robot.
 - Be sure to have your lockup form with you. Your robot bag will be inspected and checked off for proper Bag and Tag.
 - You may set up your pit, but you cannot unbag your robot.
 - Be sure to **have goggles for all five members**. You will not be able to enter without them.

Day One – Thursday, March 9th

- Be sure to **arrive plenty early** at the Chaifetz Arena. A good time of arrival is 8:00 a.m. Doors open at 8:30 a.m.
 - If you did not load in your robot and equipment Wednesday evening, you may do so **at 7:45 a.m.** The procedure is the same as listed above.
- There is free parking for robotics teams in the parking garage north of the arena.
- Bring a cart to transport your robot from the pit to the competition area.
- 9:00-11:00 – Driver's Meeting, Field Open for Measurement and Calibration.
- Once you arrive, your first priority should be to **get unbagged and inspected** so you can begin practicing immediately!
 - For weighing, you will have to take your robot to the **inspection station**.
 - The schedule for practice rounds will be on a piece of paper that is usually delivered to the pit stations, it is **important to read and follow this schedule**.
- Most teams establish a position in the stands around the playing field, to be used for cheering and **scouting**.
- The arena will have two areas: the playing field and the pits. To enter the pits from the stands, **everyone must have goggles and closed toed shoes**.
- Remember to **be on time** to your designated practices. Practice is important!
 - If you aren't ready for your practice time slot, send a human player to practice alone.
 - There is also a first come first serve Filler Line for extra practice opportunities (We recommend this if you have the time).
 - If you choose to join the Filler line, keep in mind these criteria:
 - Robots in the Filler Line must have **passed** inspection.

- Teams must join the Filler Line with their robot.
- Teams may not work on their robot while in the Filler Line.
- If a team is queued up for their practice match, they may **not** join the Filler Line.
- You may also want to consider **scouting** other teams during practice and later in competitions.
 - Make a scouting sheet to tally points and rank teams.
 - Designate scouts to watch all matches each day.
- Lunch is from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. There will be food stands open in the arena (expect usual concession prices).
 - You will not be allowed to bring food or drink into the arena! Some teams opt to go to restaurants in the area, or even order pizza.
- Practice matches run from 12p.m. to 6:30p.m.
- Pits and Machine Shop close at 8 p.m.

Day Two – Friday, March 10th

- Today is your big day! Once again, arrive at the Chaifetz Arena plenty early, **before 8 a.m.** Pits and Machine Shop open at 8:00 a.m. Beware, there will be a mad rush to enter. Opening ceremonies take place from 8:30-9:00a.m.
- Qualification matches begin at 9 a.m. and end at 12 p.m. Lunch will take place from 12:00 to 1:00, and Qualification Matches will continue from 1:00 to 5:45. A schedule will be available in your pit about an hour before the matches begin.
- It is important to **understand** Qualification Scores.
- It is also important to display your robot's strengths during the qualification matches.
 - Every team will be scouting every robot in every match. If your robot does something well consistently, it will be noticed and you will be drafted for the elimination matches!
- You will need to have a safety captain in you pit **at all times**. The judges will be looking for them. The judges will also come to the pits to talk to student members about your robot and team; several awards will be determined by these interviews.
- There will be an awards ceremony at the end of matches on Friday starting at 5:45 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.
- Pits and Machine Shop close at 7 p.m., or whenever awards are over.

Day Three – Saturday, March 11th

- Doors to the Chaifetz Arena open at 8 a.m. Once again, it is advised to **arrive early**, we cannot stress that enough.
- Opening ceremonies run from 8:30a.m. to 9a.m. followed by qualification matches until 12:15p.m.
- At the end of Qualification matches, teams are seeded 1 through 45.
- The **alliance selection process** (draft) will begin immediately following qualification matches! (12:15-12:30)

- Each team needs to choose a Team Representative, or alliance captain, who is a student to go to the arena at the designated time.
- How it works:
 - Teams that are seeded into the Top 8 will, in descending order, invite a team into an alliance.
 - If you are not seeded in the Top 8, hang tight, you may be chosen or moved up.
 - If you are asked into an alliance, you can accept or decline the invitation.
 - Accept: moved into that alliance
 - Decline: You are not eligible to be picked again and the alliance captain extends another invitation to a different team. (Our advice – **Don't decline!**)
 - If one of the Top 8 invites a team also from the Top 8, the next highest seeded but **unselected** team moves up to become the new Alliance 8.
 - Once Alliance 8 makes a successful invitation, the same method is used again for the **second choice**, except the selections start with Alliance 8 and ends with Alliance 1.
 - The result is 8 alliances with 3 teams each (24 Teams total).
 - Of the remaining unpicked teams, the highest seeded teams should remain on standby and ready to play as a backup team for any of the 8 alliances.
- After alliance selections and before elimination matches is lunch. Lunch will be 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- If you make it to the Elimination Matches, congratulations! These run from 1:30p.m. to 4:30p.m.
 - Now the point system consists of wins, losses, and ties. Within each series of matches, two wins out of three will get you into the next round.
 - Only the first place team, Chairman's Award winner, Engineering Excellence winner, and the Rookie All-Star Team go to Championships.
- An awards ceremony follows the finals starting at 4:30 p.m., after which robots are bagged for their trip home. Pits close at 6:30 p.m.
 - If your team will not be competing anymore this robotics season, bagging will not be necessary.

Team 1208 wishes every team good luck! If you have any questions whatsoever, please, do not hesitate to ask a member of the Metool Brigade!