

Welcome to Western Edge Premier - FTC Competition (rev 5.2.2026)

WELCOME TEAMS! We are thrilled to have you part of the 2026 Western Edge Premier - FTC Competition! Congratulations on advancing from your Regional Championships and selecting Long Beach for your Premier Event! We look forward to your participation. Below is additional information to help you to prepare:

Deadlines

- **April 30** - last day to pay your \$2000 registration fee has passed, unless you were added to the event this week.
- **May 25th, Monday**- Judges are excited to see your team portfolios and would like to view them prior to meeting you. See instructions below for uploading a PDF version of your Engineering Portfolio. Upload as early as May 14th and no later than May 25th at 9pm.
- **May 28, Thursday 4:00-8:00** - Team Check In, Robot Inspection, and Pit Set Up.
- **May 29-30-31** – Premier Event!!!
- **May 31, Sunday 2:30-4pm** - Pit load out

General Information / Overall Event

We will be running an 88-team Two-Division tournament with four competition fields. Teams will be assigned to one of the two divisions; Sand or Sea. Teams play 10 matches, moving from one field to the other within the Division. The Winning Captain and Partner team from each of the two Divisions will have a playoff to determine Champion Alliance of Western Edge.

Thursday - Check in, Pit Set Up, and Robot Inspection

Friday - Opening Ceremonies, Practice Matches, Qualifying Matches, and Judging

Saturday - Qualifying Matches Continue, Pit Judging, and Alliance Selection

Sunday - Division playoffs and Awards Ceremony

Parking

Convention Center Parking is available. Teams and Spectators are welcome to stay off campus and drive in each day, please note that parking at the Convention Center is approximately \$40 per day.

Load in and Drop Off: An unloading/loading zone will be located by Exhibit Hall C (please see map at the end of the document)

Team Check in

Check-in is Thursday, May 28, 4:00pm-8:00pm.

1. **FTC Team Roster/ Consent form or Permission slips** You **do NOT** need to present a team roster as you may have needed to in the past. We will use the team count information you provided when you registered your team. If there has been a change to

your team count, please update the registration link [Registration link](#) and email the Tournament Director Kyle Wolfe kwolfe@firstinspires.org as soon as you know.

2. **Event Badges:** For security purposes, all participants and guests will receive a badge at Team Check-in. Attendees are required to wear their event badges at all times.

If you are staying at the Hyatt, you must have your event badge to cross the bridge to the venue. Security will not permit access without proper identification.

3. **Upload your Engineering Portfolio:** There is no need to turn in the team Engineering Portfolio at check in, as you may have done with past events. Judges would like to see it sooner, please see details below for instructions on how to do this.

Robot Inspection

Robot Inspections are **Thursday, May 28, 4:00pm - 8:00pm** and **Friday 7am-10am**. Please make every effort to attend Thursday Inspections. We will have limited volunteers Friday and Thursday. Inspection allows time to fix any serious issues with your robot or software.

Inspections will be conducted "FRC style" You'll bring your robot to the inspection station for sizing, then your team will be in a queue for an inspector to visit your pit to complete the inspection.

Keep in mind you will not be allowed on the practice fields or to fill in for practice matches until you earn your inspection sticker by passing.

Please review the [Inspection Checklist](#) prior to coming to the event to ensure that your inspection process goes smoothly.

Pit

Thursday (May 28) from 4pm to 8pm, Friday (7am-8pm) Saturday (7am-9pm) Sunday (7am - 4pm) the Pits will be open specifically for your team to set up their Pit and get the Robot Inspected.

The pit is your team's home base. It's a space to showcase your hard work, connect with other teams, and meet with judges. Pit decorating is highly encouraged! Teams from around the world will be represented at Western Edge. There will be around 30 countries attending, so represent well! Here's what you need to know to keep things running smoothly for everyone:

What the Pit is For:

- Storing props and materials used in judging sessions
- Repairing and working on your robot
- Connecting with other teams and judges
- Most importantly, your pit is a place to express your team spirit through decor!

Showing off what your team has accomplished!

Teams planning on using a pop up or pit framing to give their home-away-from-home some structures, please plan carefully to make sure that everything fits within the 10x10 area provided (if the legs on the pop up are angled, they will probably encroach into your neighbor's pit and you'll be asked to take it down, so be sure to use those straight leg pop ups)

Heads up that pits must be open on top (no canopies or tops permitted)

Note - Power outlets will be located at the back of your pit, but may be located up to 10ft away, so teams should bring extension cords. Power is shared between multiple pits, so teams who are causing breakers to trip will be asked to reduce the amount of power being used.

No overnight 3D printing or other automated manufacturing in the pit.

Safety glasses for your team. Let's protect the eyes (and follow *FIRST* guidelines)! Have safety glasses ready for your team as they enter the Pit and Competition areas. They are required, but that doesn't mean they can't be decorated with your team colors! Prescription glasses must have ANSI certified side shields or safety glasses over them. Please have them for your visitors as well or ask them to bring their own if they plan to see you in the pit.

Please wear closed-toe shoes. Additional Safety: Closed toed shoes are required in every part of the convention Hall. Long hair must be pulled up in the FTC pits and Competition area (zip ties make great hair ties!)

Pit Rules (refer to FTC Competition Manual, section 5.5) [Competition Manual | FIRST Resources | Section 5.5](#)

Giveaways & Trading: We love team spirit! We recommend trading pins, buttons, or wristbands. Items that are intended to be thrown or bounced are not allowed in the pit area. *No balloons please.*

Practice Matches

Practice Matches will be played on **Friday, May 29, 9:45am - 11:30am.** (After opening ceremonies). Teams will be assigned to play in one practice match. Teams that have passed inspection may sign up to play additional practice matches on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Game Modifications

Western Edge will be implementing some of the game modifications that were used at the *FIRST* Championship this year.

Western Edge will be utilizing:

- aesthetic field changes listed in FTC Competition Manual Section 15.2.1. The fields will be on the floor and not elevated like at Championship
- A 15 second transition period between AUTO and TELEOP listed in FTC Competition Manual Section 15.2.2
- The rank point thresholds will match the *FIRST* Championship listed in FTC Competition Manual Table 10-3

RP TYPE	<i>FIRST</i> Championship
MOVEMENT RP	21

GOAL RP	67
PATTERN RP	22

Portfolio - online submission

Several awards are dependent on an Engineering Portfolio being submitted. For Western Edge, we will collect portfolios over the internet and not hard copies. Each team must submit their Engineering Portfolio online, through the *FIRST* scoring system. This will enable Judges to view all portfolios before the event begins and during the event.

Upload portfolios here: <https://ftc-scoring.firstinspires.org/>. Mentors must login with their *FIRST* password, click on judging, click upload document. If you want to revise your Portfolio once it's uploaded, click 'upload new revision'.

Teams can upload starting May 14th. The last day to upload is May 25, Monday, 9pm.

Please also bring a hard copy to the event to reference during the Judging Sessions.

Structured Judge Interviews

Judging interviews are 3:30pm- 5:30pm on Friday, May 29.

Each team will receive a [pre-assigned 10 minute interview](#) by the judge panel for the team to explain their robot design, team dynamics, or anything else the team would like to share to help judges evaluate their journey. All of your team members are welcome to attend the judging interview, just remember the time is 10 minutes; manage your time appropriately. A team can, but is not required to, have up to a 5-minute rehearsed presentation to share with the judges. This would be part of your 10-minute interview; the remaining 5 minutes would be for the judges to ask questions. If you do not want to give a practiced presentation, the judges will ask questions during the 10 minutes as they have in the past. One mentor or coach may accompany the team at the judging interviews, but only to view the process, not to interact. See section 6.1.2 in the Competition Manual for more details on the Structured Interview.

Teams can bring 1 translator with them at the panel interview in addition to 1 adult coach/mentor and we can schedule in extra time if they do need a translator. **If you need extra time in the panel interview with your translator, please let us know by Monday, May 25.**

Judging times will be posted on the website one week before your event. <https://ftc-scoring.firstinspires.org/> The interview area is in the main hall, near the pits. Please refer to the map at the end of the document. Your team will be escorted by a volunteer so you don't get lost. Please plan accordingly for getting your robot and any presentation material to the judging area.

Judge Pit Interviews

On Saturday, during qualification matches, Judges will be walking through the pits to have additional conversations with teams on robot design, performance, and team attributes. This is where teams will answer the judges' questions in depth. It is strongly recommended to have a team member at your pit who is available to speak with judges. See section 6.1.3 in the Competition Manual for more details on the Pit Interview(s).

Scores

Robot Game scores and ranking can be found here:

<https://ftc-events.firstinspires.org/2025/FPEWE>

Please be sure to let your spectators know which Division your team is in so that they can cheer you on!

Awards

Performance Awards will be given for each Division for the following:

- Division Winning Alliance (Captain and Partner)
- Finalist Division Alliance (Captain and Partner)

Judges will evaluate teams within each Division for the standard FTC Awards:

- Inspire
- Think
- Connect
- Reach
- Sustain
- Design
- Innovate presented by RTX
- Control
- Judge's Choice Award.

The number of recognitions will follow A211 in the Competition Manual See section 6.3 in the Competition Manual for a description and the criteria for each of the judged awards. [Competition Manual | FIRST Resources](#)

In addition to the Sand and Sea Division awards, there will also be awarding an overall Winning Alliance (captain and partner)! Plus an overall Western Edge Inspire Award!

Food

- Long Beach Convention is a cashless venue.
- You can buy food for your team from the vendors in the convention center. There will also be food trucks outside
- Food purchased other than at the convention center or from the food trucks cannot be eaten inside the arena

Overall Schedule

Thursday, May 28

4:00pm - 8:00pm Team check-in, pit set up and robot Inspection

Friday, May 29 *Region / Team Dress Day Theme*

7:00am - 10:00am Pits Open, outstanding robot inspections from Thursday, Practice Matches open

8:00am - 8:45am Drivers Meeting

9:00am - 10:00am Opening Ceremonies

12:30pm- 3:15pm Qualification Matches Begin

3:30pm - 5:30pm Structured Judge Interviews (15 minutes per team)

8:00pm Pits Close

8:00pm - 9:30pm Dance Party

Saturday, May 30 / Spy Saturday Theme

7:00am Pits open

8:00am Judge Pit Interviews with Teams Begin; Qualification Matches begin

5:30pm Alliance selection

9:00pm Pit closes

Sunday, May 31 Rock Paper Scissor Challenge Day

7:00am Pits Open

8:00am Division Playoffs Begin

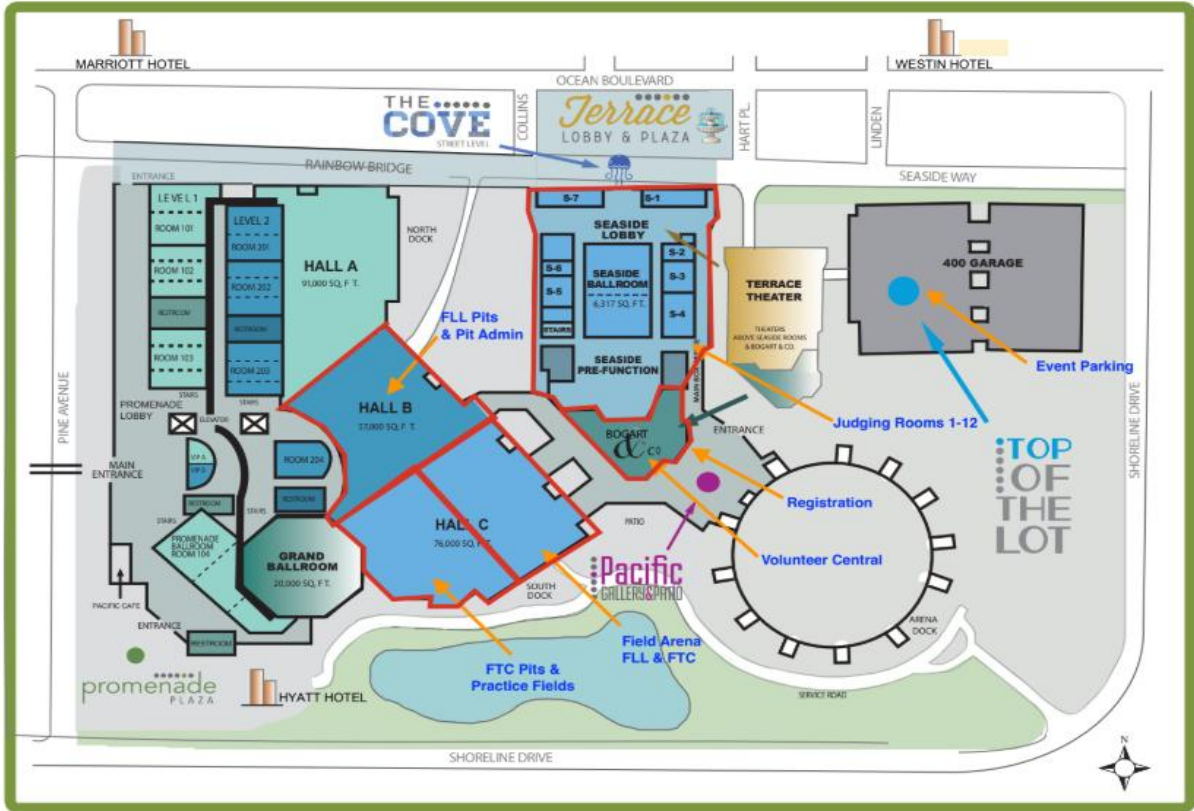
10:00am - 11:00am Division Award Ceremony

11:00am - 12:00pm Lunch

12:15pm - 2:15pm Event Finals, Event Awards Ceremonies and Closing

2:15pm - 4:00pm Team Load Out

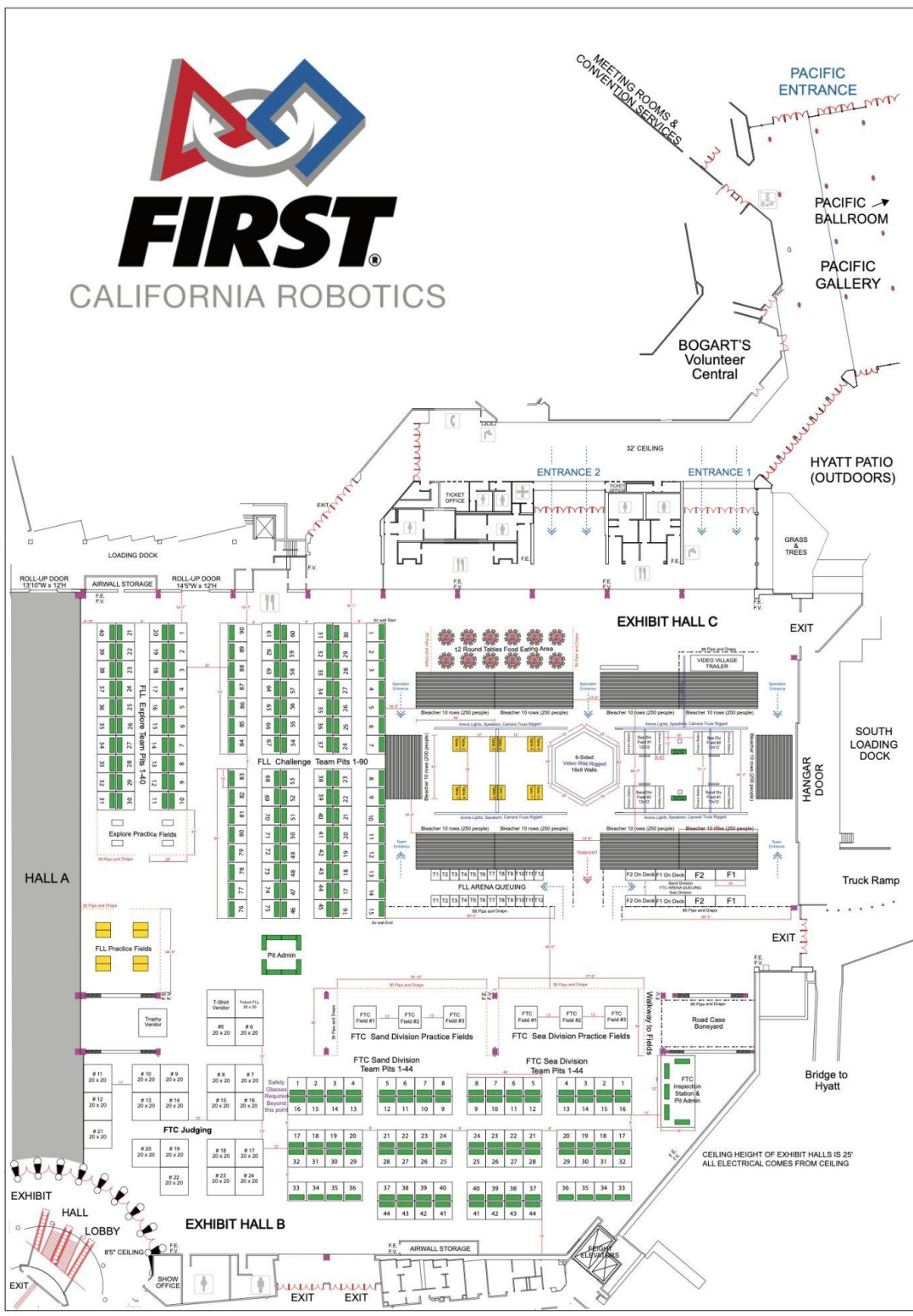
Venue Layouts





FIRST

CALIFORNIA ROBOTICS



CALIFORNIA ROBOTICS FIRST 2026

- LEGEND**
- 48" x 60" table 6' x 30" x 30" with OUT linen/skirt (LBCECC)
 - foldable table 6' x 30" x 30" skinned table (LBCECC)
 - foldable table 6' x 30" x 30" with linen/skirt (SHOW READY)
 - foldable table 8' x 18" x 30" laminated top (LBCECC)
 - stackable chair (LBCECC)
 - stackable chair (SHOW READY)
 - 36" x 42" round cafe table (SHOW READY)
 - 72" diameter table (LBCECC)
 - Podium (LBCECC)
 - 4" Pipe & drape black (SHOW READY)
 - gatorfoam sign on easel
 - 60-70" monitor on stand (AV1)
 - Lobby Table & Stools (LBCECC)
 - PA System / Building Paging
 - Fema Barrier Queue (SHOW READY)
 - Stage Deck - 6'x8' (LBCECC)
 - Water Station (ASM Global)

HALLS B&C

SCALE
1/32" = 1'-0"

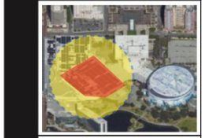
- EVENT DATES**
- Wed, May 27, 2026: Load-in Day 1
Access Hours: 0700-1700
 - Thurs, May 28, 2026: Load-in Day 2
+ Reg. Access Hours: 0700-2000
 - Fri, May 29, 2026: Ops Day 1
Access Hours: 0700-2000
 - Sat, May 30, 2026: Ops Day 2
Access Hours: 0700-2100
 - Sun, May 31, 2026: Ops Day 3/Out
Access Hours: 0700-2030



- REVISIONS**
- 1.
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 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
 - 7.
 - 8.

VENUE INFO & CONTACT

Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center
- Halls B&C
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