

FIRST in Michigan

Plan for 2009 FRC Season

Overview

We are proud to report that Michigan will pilot a new FIRST Robotics Competition structure in our state for the 2009 season. We will be the first and only region to implement this pilot of the FIRST Robotics Competition in 2009.

Our state was chosen to lead this initiative because of the large number of schools already involved in FIRST, and because of the depth and commitment of our volunteers and sponsors.

Michigan successfully piloted the 2008 Rookie Pilot Event at Kettering University which proved that a quality FIRST experience can be achieved at a much lower cost than a traditional FIRST Regional. This event served as the prototype for the new event structure.

In 2009, all Michigan teams will participate in the new District Event structure outlined below. During the "Second Regional" and "Unrestricted" registration periods, Michigan teams may elect to participate in a traditional FIRST Regional outside of Michigan, under the regular Regional cost structure, with certain restrictions. Michigan FIRST teams may still apply for "open" spots at the FIRST World Championship in Atlanta.

FIRST in Michigan

FIRST in Michigan is a newly designated 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to delivering a quality experience for all FIRST programs in the state of Michigan. Its main focus is the growth of new teams and sustainability of existing teams. We are 100% committed to expanding our reach to all Michigan High Schools, and to making FRC more affordable, accessible and rewarding for everyone involved. As a statewide not-for-profit, FIRST in Michigan will establish action plans for growth by building on or establishing new relationships with local schools, mentors, volunteers and sponsors and other supporters from the state to help students learn and excel in the skills and knowledge needed to stay competitive in a 21st century workforce.

COMPETITION EVENTS: KEY IMPROVEMENTS

More Affordable: Make FIRST more cost effective

- Reduce cost to participate
- Minimize time away from school and work
- Reduce travel costs
- Reduce event production costs to free up money for teams
- Eliminate shipping costs

More Accessible: Make events local

- Increase the number of events so teams can play closer to home
- Increase visibility and give families, schools, communities, local government, businesses, and media easy access to local FIRST competitions

More Rewarding: Let teams play more

- Guarantee each team a minimum of two events in Michigan to better balance the hard work and time spent building with time spent playing
- Increase the number of matches per team per event

NEW COMPETITION EVENT STRUCTURE

- 7 District Qualifying Events in Michigan
- 1 Michigan State Championship

District Events

- District Events will take place in Weeks 1 through 5 of the FIRST Regional Competition Schedule
- Each team pays package price of \$5000, which includes the kit of parts and two District Events
- No shipping: Teams lock up robots at home and transport them to the event
- Two day events (Friday/Saturday), no dedicated (Thursday) practice day but optional Thursday evening load-in
- Teams will be allowed the regular FIRST fix-it windows, per the Competition Manual, to fabricate replacement and spare parts
- In addition, to compensate for no dedicated practice day, teams will be allowed to access their robot for one 8 hour period, Monday through Thursday in the week of the District Event in which they are competing, to make repairs and install parts
- Teams accumulate points at the District Events to qualify for the Michigan State Championship

The Michigan State Championship

- The Michigan State Championship will take place in Week 6 of the FIRST Regional Competition Schedule
- Teams will be ranked according to their performance at the District Events
- Top ranked teams and selected award winners will qualify to attend the Michigan State Championship
- Qualifying teams will compete for the title of Michigan State Champion
- The Michigan State Championship competition entry fee will be \$4000
- 18 teams from the Michigan State Championship will qualify to advance to the FIRST World Championship in Atlanta

FIRST in Michigan

Detailed Plan for 2009 FRC Season

Preliminary Goals

- 2009 Season
 - 7 District Events over 5 weeks
 - 1 State Championship

Michigan Districts Established

- 16 Districts created (See Attached District Map)
- Current use: recruitment of new teams in 2009
- Future plan: hold events in each District

2009 District Events

- 7 District Events over first 5 weeks
- Open to Michigan teams only
- Venues will be selected to give each Michigan team the opportunity play 2 times in their state
- Registration
 - Sign up on FIRST website
 - Michigan teams select 2 events maximum
 - Staggered first come-first served similar to today's regional registration (select first district event, then second one at a later time)
 - A certain number of spots held back for Rookies
- Format
 - Two-day event with no dedicated practice day
 - Minimum 12 qualifying matches per team per event
 - Traditional structure with qualifying and elimination rounds
 - Full complement of FIRST awards
- Award Submissions
 - Chairman's Award and Woodie Flowers Award
 - Michigan teams must submit in Michigan at district event of choice
 - Michigan teams may not submit at non-Michigan events
 - Rookie All Star Award
 - Michigan teams submit in writing at only one district event

State Championship Event

- Week 6
- 64 teams at Eastern Michigan University
- Open to Michigan teams only
- Event qualification:
 - Top 64 teams based on state rank per point system after district events to compete with their robots (all teams pay FIRST to play; next team in rank order can play if qualified team doesn't register)
(See Attachment B- Point System for State Ranking and Advancement)
 - 42 teams that win district FIRST "culture transforming awards" to compete for these awards without their robots (no entry fee required)
(See Attachment C- Culture Transforming Awards)
 - Notes:
 - Growing number of future district events makes automatic qualification of district winners of "culture transforming awards" at FIRST State Championship with robots, unscalable
 - The State Championship will be the "playoffs" of the ultimate varsity sport showcasing, hopefully on TV, the best work of the students and their mentors

FIRST Regional Events outside of Michigan

- Michigan Teams may register for Regional events outside of Michigan

Path of Michigan Teams to the 2009 FIRST Championship

- Open Spots are available to Michigan teams
- Earned Spots through Regional events outside of Michigan
- 18 Earned Spots through participation in Michigan Championship
 - 3 spots for top 3 State Chairman's Award Winners
 - 3 spots for State Championship Winners
 - 2 spots for top Rookie All-Star Award Winners
 - 1 spot for Engineering Inspiration Award
 - 9 spots for top ranked teams in order of recomputed rank after the State Championship
 - Spots earned by teams already registered for an open spot or earned through Regional events outside of Michigan will go to next team in ranked order

- Top 3 Woodie Flowers Award Winners will be entered into the pool of nominees for the Championship Woodie Flowers Award even if their robot does not qualify for one of the 18 robot spots

Robot Shipping, Drayage and Transportation

- Eliminate shipping for Michigan teams at Michigan Events
 - Michigan events will not be equipped to handle crates
 - There will be no shipping/drayage for Michigan events
- Continue to Limit Hours of Post Build Season Work (modification, upgrades, repair)
 - Lock Up System (modified version of 1997-1998 system)
 - Team A to place robot in sealed bag provided by FIRST in Michigan at Team A's facility
 - Independent third party (ex., Principal of school, or Shipping/Receiving person at build facility) must sign FIRST form and place date on seal stating bag was sealed on required date
 - Form and digital photo of sealed robot must be emailed to FIRST
 - As district events will not include a full day of practice, Michigan teams may access their robots for a total of 8 hours on Monday through Thursday the week of their district event and then the robot must be placed back in the bag, sealed, and recertified
- Teams must transport robots to and from all Michigan events in sealed bags
- Robots will be carried in on a cart like toolboxes and other pit items
- For out-of-state Regionals and the FIRST Championship
 - If the team's initial event is outside of Michigan
 - the robot will be crated and ship on ship date in accordance with regular shipping rules
 - If the non-Michigan event follows a Michigan event
 - The robot must be crated and shipped out on Monday following Michigan event with proof of shipment provided to FIRST by Tuesday at 9am
 - Shipping at the close of the non-Michigan event
 - If next event is in Michigan, the robot is shipped home
 - If next event is outside of Michigan, the robot will ship directly to next event in accordance with regular shipping rules

2009 Fee Structure

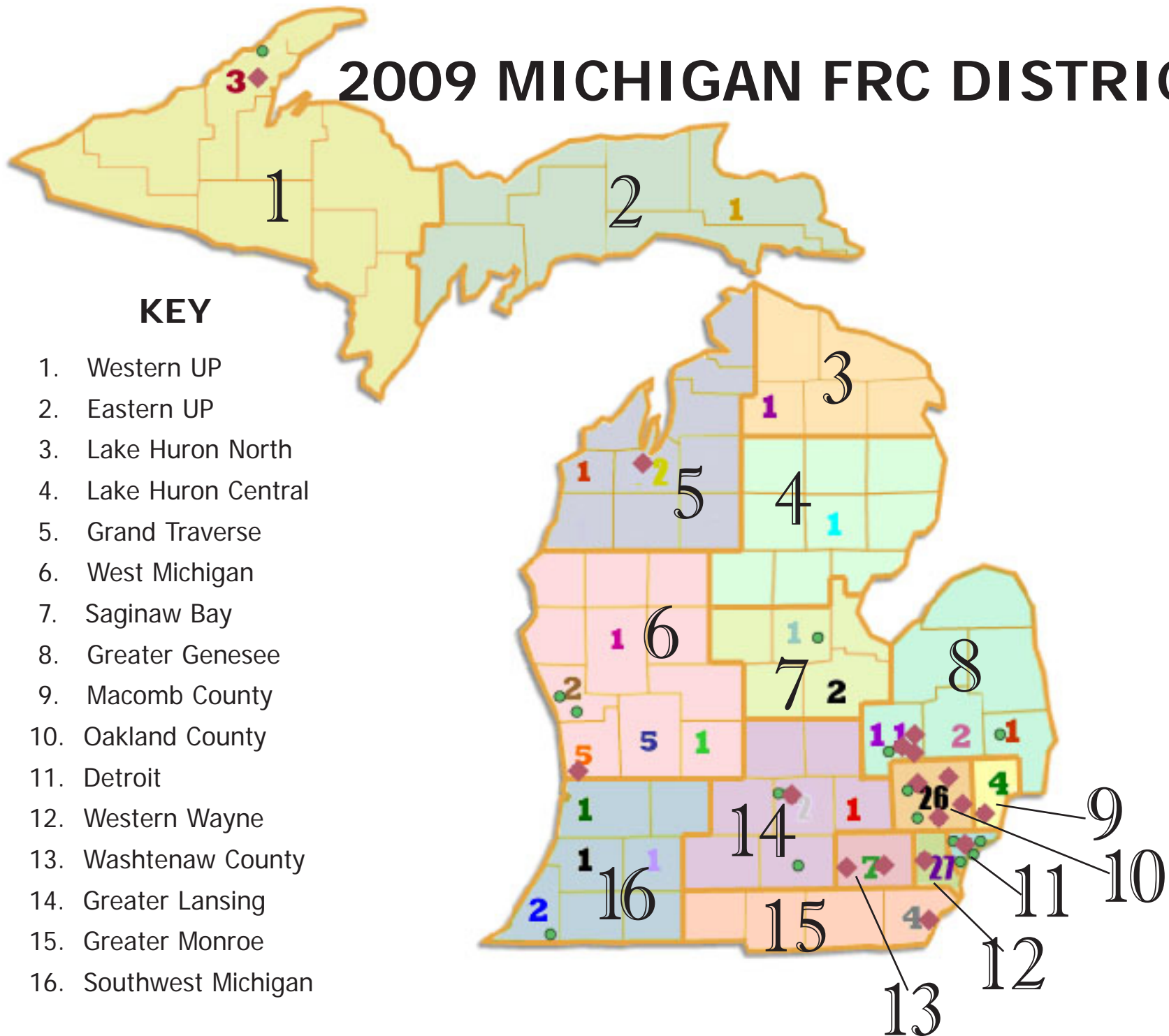
District Event Fee	\$5,000	Participation mandatory for all Michigan Teams Includes: kit of parts and registration in 2 District Events
State Championship	\$4,000	Participation optional, but mandatory to qualify for one of the 18 Michigan spots for the FIRST Championship (Atlanta)
Non-Michigan Regionals	\$4000	Participation Optional
FIRST Championship	\$5000	Participation Optional

FIRST in Michigan 07/30/08

2009 MICHIGAN FRC DISTRICTS

KEY

1. Western UP
2. Eastern UP
3. Lake Huron North
4. Lake Huron Central
5. Grand Traverse
6. West Michigan
7. Saginaw Bay
8. Greater Genesee
9. Macomb County
10. Oakland County
11. Detroit
12. Western Wayne
13. Washtenaw County
14. Greater Lansing
15. Greater Monroe
16. Southwest Michigan



ATTACHMENT B

Point System for Ranking and Advancement to State Championship

POINT CATEGORY	POINTS
Qualification Round Win-Loss Record	
Win	2
Tie	1
Final Alliance Captains After Picking	
#1 Alliance Captain	16
#2 Alliance Captain	15
#3 down to #8 Alliance Captain	14 to 9
Draft Order by Acceptance	
#1 Draft Pick (Accepted)	16
#2 Draft Pick (Accepted)	15
#3 down to #16 Draft Pick	14 to 1
Elimination Round Performance	
Winners	
Alliance Captain and First Pick	30
Second Pick	24
Finalists	
Alliance Captain and First Pick	20
Second Pick	16
Semi Finalists	
Alliance Captain and First Pick	10
Second Pick	8
Awards	
All Technical Awards *	5
Other Judged Awards**	2

* Industrial Design, Quality, Driving Tomorrow's Technology, Innovation in Control, Creativity

** Excludes Culture Transforming Awards (See Attachment C), and Autodesk Awards

ATTACHMENT C

FIRST Culture Transforming Awards

The following FIRST awards are focused on changing culture:

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

- To elevate status and visibility, State Championship will have an area for district Chairman's winners to set up displays either in the lobby or in the VIP Suite
- Top 3 winners at the State Championship will advance to the FIRST Championship

ENGINEERING INSPIRATION AWARD

- State Championship winner will advance to FIRST Championship

ROOKIE ALL-STAR AWARD

- Top 2 winners at State Championship will advance to FIRST Championship

WOODIE FLOWERS AWARD

- Top 3 Award winners will advance to the FIRST Championship for the Woodie Flowers Award pool only

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD

AUTODESK VISUALIZATION AWARD

FIRST in Michigan 06/30/08