2024 Competition Info

Prepared by Rick Blight

2023 November 2

FRC Season Goals

Performance Goals:

- **Win District Qualifier**
  - *(2023 District Finalist x2)*
- **DCMP 4th place in division**
  - *(2023 DCMP 5th place in division)*
- **WCMP 4th place in division**
  - *(2023 WCMP 5th place in division)*

Award Goals:

- **Win a judged award at each qualifier and DCMP**
  - *(2023 Judged Awards at Qualifier Only)*
- **Win an Engineering Inspiration Award at qualifier**
  - *(2023 No culture award won)*

**Goals set based on previous season performance:
Go one step further than last season**

School and Competitions

- One of the top priorities of AIR students should be school performance. AIR strives to inspire students in the fields of science and technology. That inspiration should not come at the cost of your grades.
- Students and parents should discuss with teachers any missed days of school and missed assignments/tests around 4-6 weeks prior to competitions.
- AIR will provide support documents for schools on request – contact Joe Menassa jmenassa@aquidneckislandrobotics.org
- For the 2024 competition season, for most public schools, spring break falls on competition week 8 which is the week of World Championship.
  - Only Thursday and Friday of DCMP would be missed.

Types of FRC Competitions

District Event

- **2** Day Event
- **Load-in Friday Evening**
- **Compete Sat/Sun**
- **Capped at 40 Teams**
- **Open Event**
- **Each team competes in two qualifiers to earn district points towards DCMP**

District Championship (DCMP)

- **3** Day Event
- **Load-in Wed. Evening**
- **Compete Thu/Fri/Sat**
- **90 Teams split in 2 fields**
- **Qualification Required**
- **Points are worth triple and added to original points towards WCMP qualification**

World Championship (WCMP)

- **4** Day Event
- **Wednesday – Saturday**
- **600 Teams split in 8 fields**
- **Qualification Required**

2024 Competition Schedule

Week	Event	Location	B80 Travel Time	Day	Day
0	Week 0 Scrimmage	Southern New Hampshire	2 H	February 17	Saturday
2	Bridgewater State University	Bridgewater, MA	50 M	March 8 - 10	Fri - Sun
4	Greater Boston	Revere, MA	90 M	March 22 - 24	Fri - Sun
6	DCMP	Springfield, MA	2 H	April 3 – 6	Thu - Sat
8	WCMP	Houston, TX	Plane	Apr 17 - 20	Wed – Sat

- **For district qualifiers and DCMP, the first day starts at 5pm**
  - **'Day 0' features load-in, inspection and possibly practice.**
  - **The entire team is not needed for Day 0**

2024 New England Travel

- 78 is a big team that rolls up to events with a huge presence of students, mentors and families
- Families will be responsible for their own travel plans
- AIR will try to get a hotel block that families can book on their own for
  - Greater Boston in Revere, MA Hotel Block
  - DCMP in Springfield, MA Hotel Block
- The team will collect info on which team members are attending each event via an RSVP form
- Families are encouraged to coordinate carpooling and shared hotel stays via Slack

DCMP Detailed Information

- **DCMP will be held at the Big E fairgrounds in West Springfield, MA from April 3 – 6, 2024**
  - **Wed April 3: 5pm Load In, attendance not required**

- **Team Hotel Block - Hampton Inn & Suites Springfield/Downtown**
  - 851 E Columbus Ave, Springfield, MA 01105
  - [Hotel Link](#)

- **Another Hotel Option - Hilton Garden Inn Springfield, MA**
  - 800 Hall of Fame Ave, Springfield, MA 01105

FIRST WCMP

- Most inspiring event in all of FIRST
- April 16 – 21 (Tuesday – Sunday)
  - Tue: Travel day for those attending load in Wed morning
  - Wed: Travel day, Load In, Inspection, Practice Match
  - Thu/Fri: Qualification Matches All Day / Awards Fri Night
  - Sat: Elimination Matches
  - Sun: Travel
- Majority can arrive afternoon Wednesday.
- We need at least 10 students to compete in FRC at WCMP
  - About 75% of the students attend each season (15/21 in 2023)

2024 WCMP Travel

- An adult family member is recommended to accompany each student attending
- If a student travels with another family, that family is responsible to get student to/from Houston
- Hotel rooms are organized through the team/FIRST but paid directly to the hotel
- WCMP Hotel rooms: ~$225 per night (Estimated)
  - Priority is staying close to venue to avoid daily commute
  - In the past, we have rented a coach bus to/from venue
- Best way to lower costs for WCMP is to book flights in the fall
  - JetBlue has direct flights [BOS – IAH] for $624 as of Sep 7
  - Southwest opens booking for WCMP flights September 14

BOOK FLIGHTS AT YOUR OWN RISK

Example WCMP Schedule

Wednesday
- 8a — Load-in (6 members)
- 2p — Pits open for all
- 5p — Practice Match
- 7:30p — Pits Close

Thursday
- 7a — Pits/Stands Open
- 8:30a — Qual Matches Start
- 6p — Qual Matches End
- 6:30p — Pits Close

Friday
- 7a — Pits/Stands Open
- 8:30a — Qual Matches Start
- 5p — Qual Matches End
- 5p — Awards Ceremony
- 6p — Pits Close

Saturday
- 6:45a — Pits/Stands Open
- 7a — Impact Awards
- 7:30a — Alliance Selection
- 8:30a — Play Off Matches
- 2p — Round Robin
- 5p — Final Match

How to Qualify for WCMP

Performance

- Win the DCMP
- Be in the top ~25 teams in points after DCMP
- Means we need to qualify for DCMP
  - Be in the top 90 out of ~200 teams in points after all district events are completed.

Judged Awards

- Win Impact Award at DCMP
- Win Engineering Inspiration Award at DCMP
- Both must first be won at a district event.

78 WCMP Qualification by Year

- **2010**   **Waitlist**
- **2011**   **Boston Regional Victory**
- **2012**   **Boston Regional Engineering Inspiration Award**
- **2013**   **Pine Tree Regional Impact Award**
- **2014**   **NE Regional Impact Award** **& District 5/162**
- **2015**   **NE Engineering Inspiration Award**
- **2016**   **District Points 21/182**
- **2017**   **District Points 8/192**
- **2018**   **NE Regional Impact Award** **& District 8/209**
- **2019**   **District 9/203**
- **'20/'21** **WCMP Cancelled**
- **2022**   **NE Engineering Inspiration Award** **& District 21/185**
- **2023**   **District 22/185**

Competition FAQs

- **Is there a fee to attend competitions?**
  - There is a registration cost for the team to attend an event. However, events are free to the public and to participants.
- **Do students have to attend every day of each competition?**
  - No – event attendance is your choice (but competitions are really fun!)
  - For those that can't make each day due to a scheduling conflict – we'd rather have you for some of the event than not at all.
  - **Load-in Nights** will be a subset of the team that is identified in January/February. Usually Robot Drive Team and Pit Crew. All invited, but not required.

Competition FAQs

- **What will students do at the competition?**
  - Everyone has a role and they are all important for the success of our teams:
    - **Scouting**: Responsible for scouting other teams and developing strategy.
    - **Awards**: Responsible for preparing awards presentations and interacting with judges.
    - **Pit Crew**: Responsible for robot repair and maintenance.
    - **Drive Team**: Operate the robot on the field.
    - **Team Spirit**: *EVERYONE!*
- **What happens if I get hurt or there is an incident at an event?**
  - A mentor or parent POC will be assigned for each day/night of the event. All incidents must be reported immediately to the POC, then to event staff depending on the severity.
  - All events have EMTs on site.

Competition FAQs

- **What should I wear to competition?**
  - Team members must wear the 2024 team shirt on full competition days.
  - Supporters (family and friends) should wear their team 78 swag
  - Just like in our workshop, you will need to bring safety glasses and closed-toe shoes.
  - Sweatshirt or a light jacket is recommended.
  - Dress for New England weather.
- **Is there food available at competitions?**
  - All venues will have concessions.
  - Most venues allow outside food (always for those with allergies)
- **How will I remember all this information at a competition?**
  - Each event will have a custom packet with important event information, agenda, contact numbers, travel information, etc.