



FIRST **TECH** **CHALLENGE** *NETHERLANDS*

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2022

Dear all,

The new season has started. A perfect time to update you on all our activities. We have a lot to share. Some information has already been posted on social media before, but for all those who don't follow us through these media, we include the posts in this newsletter.

Topics for today:

- **POWERPLAYSM registration**
- **Materials for rookie teams**
- **FTC Playground**
- **Upcoming Events**
- **Past Events**
- **Slack**
- **FTC Almuni**

POWERPLAYSM registration

The registration for the POWERPLAYSM season is closed. In recent months, we have spent a lot of time recruiting new teams and we are very proud that this has resulted in a huge increase in the number of teams wanting to compete in our league. Not only a significant growth of Dutch and Belgium teams, but also teams from other countries. This made us decide to increase the maximum number of participating teams to 58 instead of 48.

Of course all teams from the Netherlands and Belgium were given a spot. In addition, we looked at all applications from abroad. We have received applications from Germany, Lithuania, France, Spain,

Norway, Czech Republic, Greece, Romania and England. As the 6 German teams from the Stuttgart region have been competing with us for years and don't have their own competition, we gave them priority for participation in the Benelux competition. Besides the German teams, a team from Norway, Lithuania and Spain will compete. These teams also have no playing opportunities in their home countries.

All teams have been notified and know which League Meets they have been assigned to. The allocation can also be found on [the Calender page](#) of our website. Click on the relevant date to access the information.

Besides all the preparations for the upcoming events, we continue to inform and enthuse new schools. Interested schools are invited to come and take a look during one of the upcoming League Meets.

Materials for rookie teams

We are very happy that we managed to provide all participating rookie teams with the necessary materials, including the control hub, despite major shortages. It took a lot of effort, but we're glad they can all start and join our competition.

If you are interested in starting a FTC team, please contact us for advice on materials. For starting schools/teams, we have put together a Starter Kit. This Starter Kit contains all the materials a team needs to build a robot that can compete in the competition.

We have sponsors who fund Starter Kits for Dutch and Belgium rookie teams. Every season we have a limited number of Starter Kits available. We will be happy to discuss whether your school is eligible for a Kit.

Please contact us at info@ftcnetherlands.eu.

Launch FTC Playground

We would like to offer all teams the right support and the best learning experience. The number of participating teams and schools is increasing. This is a great development, but it is just as important that the quality of the program and the way we offer it remains a priority. Rookie teams have many questions, but experienced teams can also use tips and advice to improve their knowledge and strategies. During the kick-off we already announced it, in cooperation with FRC Team Rembrandts we will start with walk-in afternoons at our location at the Microlab in Eindhoven.

During the walk-in afternoons, FTC teams can practice on a fully built-up FTC field and use Team Rembrandts' workspace and equipment. On behalf of Team Rembrandts, team members will be present to watch, give tips and offer assistance in a variety of areas. It is also a perfect opportunity for teams to practice with other teams, learn from each other but definitely inspire each other! In order to assess whether our ideas on interpretation match the teams' expectations, we invited the first teams for a try-out last Wednesday. We will process all the feedback and launch the first official FTC Playground soon.

Upcoming Events

| Event | Date | Location | City, country |
|---------------|------------|------------------------|---------------|
| League Meet 1 | 26-11-2022 | Lorentz Casimir Lyceum | Eindhoven, NL |
| League Meet 2 | 03-12-2022 | Maerlant-lyceum | The Hague, NL |
| League Meet 3 | 10-12-2022 | VOKA KvK Limburg | Hasselt, BE |
| League Meet 4 | 14-01-2023 | Pius X-College | Bladel, NL |
| League Meet 5 | 21-01-2023 | De Breul | Zeist, NL |
| League Meet 6 | 28-01-2023 | Stanislas College | Delft, NL |
| Championship | 11-02-2023 | SintLucas | Eindhoven, NL |

At all events, visitors are welcome from 11:00 a.m.

Detailed information will be published on [our website](#) as soon as available. Participating teams will be informed of all practical information via e-mail.

Past Events

POWERPLAY kickoff

Saturday September 10, the kickoff of the new season took place. And what an amazing start this was on a great location at the AVANS University of Applied Sciences in Breda. Teams could participate in various master classes, ranging from Strategic Design, Java, SolidWorks, Judging, Imagery & Branding etc. etc. All master classes were well attended and during the short breaks in between there was still time to have a team photo taken or to visit the various stands such as Urban Living lab, Breda Robotics and FRC Team Rembrandts. For the rookie teams there was also a demo FTC. For them and all new students the master class Intro to FTC was set up so they immediately got a good idea what it actually means to participate in the FTC.

The unveiling of the new game was spectacular with the big canvas falling down after the red button was pressed. There were also many questions for the referees and the teams had the opportunity to take a closer look at the new game themselves. It will be another fun challenge this new season!

If you missed the kickoff or just want to re-enjoy, watch the [after movie](#).

We are looking forward to a great season.

Thank you Avans University of Applied Sciences for hosting and organizing the kickoff. Thank you Bits Foundation for making the connection. It is the start for continued partnership to expand FTC.



Start-up event

On October 8th, the Summa College in Eindhoven was our host for a start-up event. 12 Teams from the Netherlands and Belgium gathered this day to build their robots, program them, practice on the playing field, but also to get an explanation of what FTC is all about. Especially for the rookie teams it was very nice to have a first impression of FTC. FTC alumni were very busy during the day with a whole lot of questions. The Summa college offered an intro to SolidWorks and they had their maker space available for students for drilling, metal bending, etc. With a lot of sodas and fruit for all teams it was a good day to meet and learn a lot.

Science fairs

Besides organising events for our teams, we also consider it important to demonstrate the FTC during third-party activities. Contributing to this kind of activities gives us the opportunity to spread the program and inform and enthuse others. We always ask a number of teams to participate with their robot. For teams, this is a great outreach opportunity, an important part within FTC. Recently, the FTC was demonstrated at the Makerfaire in Eindhoven, and during the weekend of science we were present at the Zpannend Zernike in Groningen. In the coming months, a number of teams will demonstrate the FTC at various *FIRST*[®] LEGO League regionals.



Slack

We use SLACK to communicate with the teams. In Slack teams can ask questions about everything concerning FTC. Mostly the answers come very quickly. Every team member (including the coach) is able to get access to the FTC Slack Workspace. In case you are not yet on slack, please click on the button to join. We're using a general name format for every Slack member to make sure everybody is recognizable to which team they belong: FirstName - TeamNumber TeamName

[Join the FTC Slack Workspace](#)

FTC Alumni & volunteers

Do you know any alumni FTC who would like to be involved with FTC? Even when they're not in a team, they can! Just send an email to info@ftcnetherlands.eu and they can join our group of FTC volunteers. We surely can use their expertise!





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