



FIRST **TECH** **CHALLENGE** *BENELUX*

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2023

Topics for today:

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- Implementation of the *FIRST* Tech Challenge in the curriculum
- AndyMark orders
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Registration season 2023-2024

Are you looking forward to the new season, don't wait too long and register your team. Registration opens today.

Click on the button below and read all the information carefully.

Registration season 2023-2024

Despite the many price increases, thanks to our sponsors and event partners, we have managed not to increase the registration fee.

Last season the number of participating teams grew by 20% and we expect this increase to continue.

This means we will be hosting eight League Meets. Four in Round 1 (November/December) and four in Round 2 (January/February). Like last season, your team participates once in Round 1 and once in Round 2. All teams that have registered will be automatically notified to pass on League Meet preferences. At this time, the dates and locations are not yet known.

From various sides, volunteers and teams, we have received information that the Benelux Championship is a very busy day and there is hardly any time to relax. We will not drastically change the setup of the day, but we will reduce the number of participating teams from 28 to 24. This means that the 24 highest ranked teams may participate in the Benelux Championship that will take place on February 24th at Avans University of Applied Sciences in Breda.

An extra incentive to get the best out of your team to secure one of the coveted spots in the Championship!

Implementation of FTC in the curriculum

We have announced it several times. Starting next season, the first step will be taken for the implementation of FTC in the curriculum. We will start with vmbo education. The learning modules that are currently being developed by WisMon educational institute are aligned with the elective subjects Robotics and Innovation & Prototyping and aimed at classroom implementation or as an extracurricular activity. The learning modules are all in Dutch and will become part of a so-called Classpack.

In September 2023 we will have the full Classpacks ready. The final price of the Classpack has yet to be determined, but to early adopters of the 2023-2024 season we would like to present an introductory offer. For an amount of €1395,00 your school can benefit from our special Classpack for vmbo. This package includes the following components:

- An annual license for the comprehensive Dutch teaching materials, which can be accessed through the Leapo learning portal of WisMon.

- FTC season registration fee, including participation of one team in the competition and free access to almost all activities organized by FTC Benelux.
- A half-day FTC coaching training for one person, to ensure that coaches are well prepared for competition. You will get content on FTC, how to prepare as a coach, what is expected of you and the team, useful resources and many more tools to get started and become successful with your students.
- A half-day FTC didactic training for one person, specifically focused on implementing FTC into the vmbo curriculum. You will learn how to create a powerful Robotics and/or Innovation & Prototyping curriculum based on the *FIRST* Tech Challenge. You will be explained the different possible routes you can follow using the learning modules and receive tips and tricks about the competition.

The Classpack can be optionally extended with:

- Didactic training for additional person/persons
- FTC coach training for additional person/persons
- Robot education hardware kit (REV Robotics)
- FTC Mini Game tailored to seasonal assignment (AndyMark)
- Additional education hardware kit(s)
- Upgrade kit for participation in FTC competition

AndyMark orders

If you would like to order field components and/or game elements from AndyMark this season, we have good news. Our education partner WisMon has become an official supplier of AndyMark and can handle the purchasing of these materials for the teams in the Benelux. By placing a joint order, we hope to save considerably on shipping costs.

We want to make an inventory of who wants to make use of this possibility. If you are interested please send an email to Irene (irene@ftcnetherlands.eu) and indicate what you would like to order.

Go to <https://www.andymark.com/pages/first-tech-challenge> for an overview of the field/game materials.

After receiving your email you will receive more information about the ordering process a.s.a.p.

FTC Benelux will, like previous seasons, buy an extra set of game elements to give teams the possibility to buy single game elements during the kickoff.

Kickoff CENTERSTAGESM

FIRST's new overall theme is called *FIRST*® in SHOWSM and has everything to do with the A in STEAM. It spotlights the role STEM plays in the arts and empowers young people to design and build a world of endless possibilities. The future is a place you will create.



PRESENTED BY  **Raytheon**
Technologies

The challenge for *FIRST* Tech Challenge is called CENTERSTAGESM and the new game will be revealed on September 9, 2023 at 18.00 hrs.

On this day (13:00-19:30) we will host a kickoff event at SintLucas, Torenallee 75 in Eindhoven.

The entire afternoon and evening is filled with entertainment, the game reveal and informative masterclasses to get your team a head-start. After watching the *FIRST* game reveal video at 18.00 hrs., FTC Benelux will unveil the official field. Teams can take a closer look, ask questions and start their first brainstorming sessions together!

You will soon receive more information and a sign-up sheet to attend the kickoff.

FTC Podcast

Did you listen to the FTC Podcast yet?

There are already 34 episodes available and more will follow next season. In the FTC podcast initiated by Ronald Scheer, team members from different teams talk about their team and FTC journey. What did they learn, what are they proud of, how did they design and build their robot, the importance of sponsors, outreach and so much more.

In episode 32 you can listen to an interview with Daniela Dimova. Daniela is International Field Operations Manager at *FIRST* and an inspiration for coaches, mentors and... our students.

[Listen to the FTC Podcast](#)
