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FIRST TECH CHALLENGE

Event Guide Addendum



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Updated 3/1/23

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Introduction

The 2023 *FIRST*[®] Championship will join thousands of students for the ultimate celebration of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and innovation. This 2022-2023 season, *FIRST*[®] ENERGIZESM powered by Qualcomm, empowers *FIRST* teams around the world to collectively reimagine a path forward and invent the future of energy. It's time to go Full Speed Ahead. Join us as we celebrate a future that's built better together at *FIRST* Championship.

Get ready to have fun and be part of something extraordinary! We can't wait to see you!

ADA Spectator Seating

ADA accessible seating is available for all fields for the person in need, plus one companion. Please see a volunteer for directions to seating. This year we are asking all event attendees to notify us ahead of time if they will need wheelchair access.

Alliance Selection

Teams must be prepared for Alliance Selection. Alliance selections will take place Friday evening at 4:45pm CT. For more information about our Alliance Selections, please read our <u>Game Manual Part 1.</u>

App – Coming Soon!

Download the *FIRST* Championship App for interactive maps, personalized schedules, activities, team info, volunteer info, alerts, and more.

Block Party at Discovery Green

Wednesday, April 19, 2023 - Friday, April 21, 2023

The *FIRST* Championship Discovery Green Block Party is the outside extension of our campus. A variety of activities will be available throughout the week such as giant family and lawn games, dance party and movies in the park. Discovery Green is directly across from the George R. Brown Convention Center. A detailed schedule of activities will be available in the app.

Check-In (Team)

Tuesday, April 18, 3:00-6:30pm is Team Check-In. Your team may also check in on Wednesday, April 19 from 7:00am to 8:00am. All teams must be check in by 8:00am on Wednesday.

When teams check in they will receive their team packet which contains their judging and inspection appointment schedule, driver and coach buttons, team schedules, event information, and media passes. To complete check in, teams will need to send a coach to the registration desk (on the first floor, and also on the third floor near Pit Admin in the *FIRST* Tech Challenge Pit Area). Coaches should bring their ID so they they can get the team badges printed. Team members will need official team badges to access most areas of the event. Please register all your team members before the event to speed up your registration and check in process on site.

Closing Celebration

Our closing celebration experience will bring together *FIRST*[®] LEGO[®] League Explore, *FIRST*[®] LEGO[®] League Challenge, *FIRST*[®] Tech Challenge, and *FIRST*[®] Robotics Competition celebrations under the roof of the George R. Brown Convention Center. Each program will have a custom experience, while a global broadcast throughout the convention center will keep attendees up to date on highlights from each program. All are invited to this joint Closing Celebration involving all programs which will kick off at 1:30 PM and is expected to end in the early evening.



Driver's Meeting

Wednesday, April 29 at 2:00pm on the FIRST Tech Challenge Playing Fields. Teams should assemble in the stands.

Field

Practice Fields

There will be eight practice fields, four per conference. Safety glasses are required at all practice field locations. Teams will need to sign up for practice field times. Wi-fi and power will not be provided at the practice fields. Teams should plan accordingly.

Competition Fields

There will be eight competition fields, two per division. Safety glasses are required on all competition field spaces. The *FIRST* Tech Challenge fields will be split up by division. The four divisions at this event are Edison and Ochoa, and Franklin and Jemison. Edison and Ochoa will be paired in the DC Conference. Franklin and Jemison will be paired in the AC conference.

FIRST Championship Conferences

The *FIRST* Championship Conference will be held Wednesday- Friday. The conference includes sessions and workshops on topics of interest to all members of the *FIRST* community in the following conference tracks:

- Discovery
- Innovation
- Impact
- Inclusion
- Teamwork

Sessions are either 20 or 50 minutes in length and will be held in rooms 310A, 310B, and 310C on the 3rd floor of the convention center.

For a full list of conferences please download the app.

FIRST Programs

FIRST LEGO League Explore (grades K-4)

Elementary school kids are challenged to explore a scientific topic, then present what they learned with a *Show Me* poster and a powered LEGO model. Sixty teams will present their findings at the *FIRST* LEGO League Explore World Festival Expo located in **Room 320, Level 3**.

FIRST LEGO League Challenge (ages 9-16)

Elementary and middle school kids are judged on Core Values, Robot Design, and Project. All activities will be held in **Ballroom, Level 3** at the George R. Brown Convention Center, where you can see 108 teams work on their robots and compete.

FIRST Tech Challenge (grades 7-12)

Middle and high school students have advanced from competitions around the country to compete on 12 x 12 foot playing fields with robots they have designed, programmed, and built themselves. 192 teams will compete in **Hall B, Level 3**.



FIRST Robotics Competition (grades 9-12)

High school students from over 600 teams compete on special playing fields with robots they have designed, programmed, and built themselves. *FIRST* Robotics Competition Fields and pits (*safety glasses provided and required*) will be in the George R. Brown Convention Center **Halls A – E, Level 1**. Watch teams compete in this year's robotics challenge on six playing fields.

FIRST Store

The *FIRST* Store is your on-site source for merchandise made exclusively for the *FIRST* #STEMsquad, including limited edition *FIRST* Championship must-haves. The *FIRST* Store is located on site on Level 1, outside Hall C.

Hours of Operation:

Wednesday, April 19, 2023	6:000am – 6:00pm
Thursday, April 20, 2023	6:00am – 6:00pm
Friday, April 21,2023	6:00am – 6:00pm
Saturday, April 22, 2023	6:45am – After Closing Ceremonies

Food

Concessions

There are concessions located within the convention center, with many food options around the George R. Brown Convention Center as well. Local food trucks will be around Discovery Green.

Pre-Order Lunch

Pre-order lunches are available at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

• Lunch Order Form – Available here: https://www.firstchampionship.org/for-teams

Health and Safety

All children under the age of 12 must always be accompanied by an adult while in the pit area.

Be aware of apparel and hair safety issues while working on your robot. Sandals, open-toed shoes, and Crocs are not allowed in the pits, fields, or other teamwork areas. Wear relaxed, fun and appropriate clothing; remember, you represent your team and *FIRST*. Body paint in lieu of clothes, bathing suites and other revealing clothes are not appropriate.

Mascots

Please keep safety in mind and make sure that mascot and team costumes are safe for the wearer as to vision and movement and are comfortable and cool enough to prevent fainting and dehydration. Mascots are not allowed on the playing field.

Medical Incidents

Incidents and Emergency Reporting

FIRST requires that physical injuries and medical problems, however slight, be documented and reported to the party conducting the event or his or her designee and to *FIRST* Headquarters within 48 hours of the occurrence. *FIRST* requires that all safety concerns and non-medical incidents be reported to the party conducting the event and to *FIRST* Headquarters within 48 hours.



If you need to report an incident (medical or non-medical), Pit Admin will have the proper forms. In case of an emergency, please evacuate with the teams and guests.

Reporting Non-medical Concerns

Non-Medical Online Reporting Form

This form can be used for any concern ranging from or related to volunteer issues, venue issues, Code of Conduct issues, or Youth Protection issues. Read more about it <u>here</u>.

Safety Glasses

Safety glasses are required to be worn by everyone while in the *FIRST* Robotics Competition and *FIRST* Tech Challenge pit area. Safety Glasses are available for spectators at the major pit entrances for these programs, but teams should plan to bring their own.

Security

Be sure to keep valuable items with you always or placed in a lockable compartment in your pit station. *FIRST* and the George R. Brown Convention Center do not guarantee security of personal items. We strongly recommend that you do not leave behind valuable items in your pits at any time, such as personal computers, cell phones, cameras, etc. You can report any lost items to the Event Information Desk (see *Lost and Found*).

Remember, the pits are open to the public. Please take proper security measures to protect your valuable items.

Prohibited Items

- Abusive, foul, or disruptive language
- Aerosol containers of any kind
- Animals (except service animals to aid guests with disabilities)
- Coolers*
- Fighting, taunting, threatening remarks, gestures, or harassment of any kind
- Fireweorks, firearms, and weapons of any kind (including parking lots)
- Glass containers of any kind
- Illegal substances, drugs, and drug paraphernalia
- Knives of any length except pocketknives no longer than 4"
- Laser Pointers
- Noisemakers (musical instruments, bullhorns, air horns, whistles, etc.)
- Outside Alcohol/Flasks
- Outside food or beverages*
- Skateboards
- Scooters
- Smoking or the use of vapor (or similar) devices
- Throwing objects
- Trespassing, soliciting, peddling, and loitering
- Unauthorized/unlicensed vendors are not allowed.
- No unauthorized solicitation and materials including handbills, flyers, stickers, giveaways, samples, etc.
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems & Radio-Controlled Model Aircraft/Drones
- Any other item or action deemed dangerous or inappropriate

Event security reserves the right to deem any other item inappropriate. No prohibited item will be accepted at the entry gates for safekeeping.



*Exceptions will be made for those with medical requirements and/or special needs. Individuals with these special needs should contact a security person at their entry gate for special attention.

Innovation Faire

The Innovation Faire on **Level 2** brings together *FIRST* sponsors and supporters with the student community in the Grand Ballroom with engaging interactive events and booths. There will also be a college scholarship row, and other interactive exhibits. The students will take away a deeper understanding of why each sponsor celebrates STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) as the basis for their companies' existence, and how they can be a part of it in the future.

Hours of Operation:

Wednesday, April 19, 2023	10:00am - 4:00pm	
Thursday, April 20, 2023	10:00am - 4:00pm	Plus, FIRST Scholarship Providers and Alliances
Friday, April 21, 2023	10:00am - 4:00pm	Plus, FIRST Scholarship Providers and Alliances

Inspection

Robot Hardware Inspection will take place in your team's pit area. Field Inspection will take place on our competition fields.

Appointment times for field inspection appointments are non negotiable. The inspectors often spot problems and provide suggestions for correction. Your robot must pass inspection to compete, but it doesn't have to be completely ready in order to request a preliminary inspection. Please be sure that your robot meets the guidelines as outlined in the Game Manual Part 1 and Part 2, as well as stipulations posted to the Game Forum.

Teams will have one inspection appointment time, during your appointment, your team's robot will move through a a Field Inspection, and sizing inspection.

Judging

Wednesday, April 19, 8:30am - 1:30pm

Your scheduled judging appointments will be posted on your team registration packet. Please arrive early to your judging appointment. Please bring your engineering portfolio, Control Award Content Sheet, and robot to your judging appointment with your team. Please note that there is not power available in the judging rooms. Teams should review the judging process and criteria in the Game Manual prior to their judging appointment.

Load In & Load Out

Load In

Tuesday, April 18, 3:00pm – 6:30pm: Load In & Robot Hardware Inspection. Wednesday, April 29, 7:00am – 8:00am: Load In.

Load In Process:

- Teams will drive up to the third floor loading dock at the entrance located on Chartres Street (on the back side of the George R. Brown Convention Center). Our loading docks will be behind Hall A and Hall B.
- Team vehicles will be directed to numbered spaces by load in volunteers.
- Teams cannot unload on Chartres Street or Avenida de Las Americas.



• Teams cannot leave vehicles unattended at ANY time.

Load Out

Saturday, April 22, 8:00am - 6:00pm

Please be respectful of other teams and the public in your departure, leave your area clean, and be safe.

Load Out Process

Step 1: Please have your driver place their orange load out pass in the front of the windshield of their vehicle.

Step 2: On Saturday, when your team is completely packed and ready to load out, bring your packed equipment to the que, Door A, by the loading docks on level 3.

Step 3: Please call your driver and have them proceed to the third floor ramp on Chartres Street.

There will be one lane designated for *FIRST* Tech Challenge on Chartres Street. DO NOT use the *FIRST* Robtics Competition lanes or the driver will be asked to circle around the block to get in the correct lane.

Step 4: Team vehicles should arrive within 10-15 minutes of your call. Drivers cannot arrive before the team is in que at the loading dock.

Your driver will be provided with a loading dock space number as they pull into the loading dock area by a load out volunteer. Drivers MUST stay with their vehicles.

Step 5: Please move your packed put items to the assigned dock space number when told by one of the load out volunteers.

Lost and Found

Items for lost and found will be logged in at the information desk located near registration for the duration of that day. At the end of the day, the items will be delivered to building security where they will remain through the event. At the end of the event and for up to 30 days post event, please call the facility directly for missing items.

George R. Brown Convention Center

800-427-4697

GRBinfo@houstonfirst.com

Items lost under the bleachers: Items of extreme importance such as medication, a purse or wallet, please note where you were sitting and check in at pit administration. Pit Administration will then contact security to retrieve your lost item. For all other items, security will make periodic sweeps and deliver found items to the Lost and Found at the information desk where you can then retrieve your items.

Under no circumstances should anyone but security go under the bleachers.

Match Play

Please see official team schedule for match times. The official team schedule will be generated after all teams have checked in and passed inspection. Teams will play 11 qualification matches.

Buttons (Drive Team, media)

Each team will receive Drive Team buttons in their team registration packet. Please wear the buttons on the front of your shirt nea the left shoulder so referees, judges, and queuers, can see it. These buttons will allow the wearers access to the playing field and designate one coach button, two driver buttons, and one human player button.



Media

Each team registration packet will contain one non-transferable team media badge and a copy of the media guidelines. The media representative for a team will be permitted in the designated media access areas only during their team's matches. Team media representatives are not permitted on the playing field surface, the playing field floor, or in any private venues, VIP, volunteer, or judges areas, or the *FIRST* Media Center for professional members of the media. Mascots will not be recognized as an official team media person, unless they are wearing a media badge. There is no special access for media badge holders for final matches.

Scoring Disputes

All questions about a match or scores must be brought forward to the Referees by using the Referee Question Box located in the competition area. Only one representative from an alliance is permitted to enter the question box, and must do so within the outlined time based on the type of match being played.

Qualification Matches: A team must enter the question box tot dispute a match within the time period of three matches following the disputed match.

Elimination Matches/Final Matches: A team must enter the question box to dispute a match before the star of the next match played by the alliance, regardless of if the team is participating in the next tmatch. The next match played could involve different alliances.

Parking

Garage and Surface Parking is available around the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Pits

Each team is allocated a 10 foot by 10 foot by 10 foot (3.05 x 3.05 x 3.05 meter) pit space. Extending beyond your pit space is not allowed and you must set up your pit within your pit area (using the aisles is not allowed). Each pit area will be provided one, six foot table, but will not be provided with chairs. Each pit will have access to one electrical outlet in a dual outlet box. Teams should remember to be gracious in their positioning and usage of the dual outlet box.

Aisles must be kept clear for robot movement, safety, and queueing, so we suggest that team members watch the matches and cheer on the teams at the fields instead of overflowing the pit stations and congregating in the aisles.

There is a 10 foot (3.05 meter) height limit. Structures, signage, or banners cannot be higher than ten feet above the floor. Do not build any structure that supports people or stores items above the work area/pit space. If the heigh exceeds ten feet, you will be asked to take it down. No advance placement requests are available. Positioning is numerical by division. No requests for displays, additional tables, pit locations, division assignments, meeting rooms, or additional space will be considered.

Please remember that everyone will be required to wear safety glasses in the pit area.

Announcements

Parts requests will be grouped together and announced every 30 minutes. To submit a request, write your division, team number, and needed part on a piece of paper and give it to the Pit Manager. Additional announcements will be made at half hour intervals as well. Personal and irrelevant announcements will not be made.



Queueing

Teams are responsible for knowing their match times and will have to queue up 30 minutes prior to their matches without the help of an announcer. For qualification matches, *FIRST* will make every effort to keep close to the published schedules. Keep close watch of the pit display for any moment to moment changes. If your team is one of the first eight matches of the day, queue early enough to be on the field before the competition begins. When queuers come to collect you, please be gracious and don't delay. Not arriving on time for your match will result in match forfeiture.

Registration and Badging

Please be ready to present you ID when picking up your badge. [Badges can be printed / reprinted with preferred name.]

Check-in

FIRST requires every Championship attendee to be registered and badged, including adult team mentors, youth team members, parents, family members, chaperones, etc. who are participating in the event. Attendee registration grants access to participant-only activities and increases the security of the event.

We strongly encourage your team to <u>complete attendee badging prior to your arrival, as this will expedite your team's</u> attendee badge collection and your entrance to the event.

Consent and Release Forms

All participating team members and volunteers must complete a current season *FIRST* Consent and Release form. Please do this ahead of the event.

Pronoun Ribbons

Available at Central Registration and program Pit Admins.

Registration and Badging Hours

Central Registration Hours:

Date:	Open:	Close:
Tuesday, April 18, 2023	7:00 AM	6:00 PM
Wednesday, April 19, 2023	6:00 AM	8:00 PM
Thursday, April 20, 2023	7:00 AM	6:00 PM
Friday, April 21, 2023	7:00 AM	6:00 PM
Saturday, April 22, 2022	7:00 AM	2:00 PM

Satellite Registration Hours:

Date:	Satellite Area:	Open:	Close:
Tuesday, April 18, 2023	FIRST Tech Challenge	3:00 PM	6:00 PM
Wednesday, April 19, 2023	FIRST Tech Challenge	8:00 AM	Noon

Robot Hardware Inspection

Robot Hardware Inspection will take place on Tuesday, April 18, at 3:30-6:30 PM CT. Teams may arrive at 3:00pm and check in and drop materials off at your pits. There will be no practice fields available at this time.



Once on site, teams may sign up in person for a hardware inspection appointment time on Tuesday afternoon. This will be first come, first served. Our goal is to make your Wednesday Inspection and Judging appointments easier.

Please note that ALL TEAMS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY 8:00am on WEDNESDAY, April 20th for the rest of the event to run smoothly and successfully. Please plan accordingly.

Robot Service Booths

The robot service booths are located in the FIRST Tech Challenge pit area. These booths are an opportunity for you to seek technical help, spare parts, or assistance with repairs from our vendors including AndyMark, Pitsco, and REV Robotics. We encourage all teams to check out their booths and thank them for their support.

Schedule

Schedules will be available on the *FIRST* Championship website and in the *FIRST* Championship App. The *FIRST* Championship App can be downloaded from our website or you may search for "*FIRST* Championship" in the App Store or Google Play Store.

Tuesday	
3:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Pits Open
3:00 PM – 6:30 PM	FIRST Tech Challenge Team Check-In
3:30 PM – 6:30 PM	Robot Hardware Inspection
Wednesday	
7:00 AM – 6:30 PM	Pits Open
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	FIRST Tech Challenge Team Check-In
8:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Scheduled Judges Interview Appointments, Scheduled Field Inspection Appointments
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Scheduled Judges Interview Appointments, Scheduled Field Inspection Appointments
2:00 PM – 2:45 PM	Driver's Meeting @ the Competition Fields
3:00 PM – 3:45 PM	FIRST Tech Challenge Competition Kickoff and Welcome, Followed by Qualification Matches
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Qualification Matches
Thursday	
8:30 AM – 5:30 PM	Pits Open
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Qualification Matches (Franklin and Jemison 9:00-11:30, Edison and Ochoa 9:00-12:00)
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Lunch (Franklin and Jemison 11:30-1:00, Edison and Ochoa 12:00-1:30)
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Qualification Matches (Franklin and Jemison 1:00-5:00, Edison and Ochoa 1:30-5:00)



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Friday	
All-Day	Tiara Friday
7:30 AM – 6:00 PM	Pits Open
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Qualification Matches (Franklin and Jemison 8:00-11:30, Edison and Ochoa 8:00-12:00)
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Lunch (Franklin and Jemison 11:30-1:00, Edison and Ochoa 12:00-1:30)
1:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Qualification Matches (Franklin and Jemison 1:00-4:30, Edison and Ochoa 1:30-4:30)
4:40 PM – 4:45 PM	Mascot Parade
4:45 PM – 5:30 PM	Alliance Selection
Saturday	
All Day	Suspender Saturday
7:30 AM – 6:30 PM	Pits Open
8:15 AM – 8:45 PM	Elimination Matches Driver's Meeting
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Division Semi-Final Matches, Division Final Matches
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Divisional Award Ceremonies
12:00 PM – 1:15 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM – 2:15 PM	One FIRST Closing Celebration
2:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Conference Final Matches, Event Final Matches and FIRST Tech Challenge Finals Award Ceremony
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Load Out

Student Ambassadors

As part of the *FIRST* Championship, we ask *FIRST* participants to assist us in providing fun and exciting tours to our generous sponsors and other special guests. We know our students are our best tour guides! Volunteer to be a Student Ambassador at the *FIRST* Championship this year and show our guests what *FIRST* is all about. This role will be one to two hours furing the entire event. To volunteer please apply through the Volunteer Registration.

Guests are invited to take an in-depth tour of the Championship with our most knowledgeable tour guides, our students! Tours are available Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. All tours are subject to availability. Please see the Student Ambassadors desk located near registration to set up a tour.

Team Picture Area

There is a designated area at the *FIRST* Championship where teams are welcome to take group pictures with their sponsors, team mates etc. This area is located right outside of the GRB Convention Center. There will be a *FIRST* sign where teams can pose for their pictures to be taken. Please note, teams will need to supply their own photographers for the pictures.



Venue Information

Campus Locations

The FIRST Championship Event is a multiple point campus, which will include four venues/spaces:

George R Brown Convention Center

FIRST LEGO League Explore World Festival Expo, *FIRST* LEGO League Challenge World Festival, *FIRST* Tech Challenge World Championship, *FIRST* Robotics Competition Championship, *FIRST* Championship Conferences, the *FIRST* Store, and the Innovation Faire including Scholarship Row.

The George R. Brown Convention Center is located on Avenida de las Americas. Visit the venue site here: <u>http://www.grbhouston.com/</u>

Discovery Green FIRST Championship Block Party

<u>The Marriott Marquis Hotel</u> Headquarter Hotel

The Hilton America's Hotel Headquarter Hotel along with a range of meetings and events

All of this will contribute to the overall event goal of making a unique, transformative experience to all teams, sponsors, volunteers, and supporters of *FIRST* in a fun and safe environment in the city of Houston.

Local Transportation

Metro Transportation is available in Houston - Purchase discount passes

Restrooms

Gender-neutral accommodations available.

Shipping

The George R. Brown Convention Center cannot accept shipments directly.

Wireless

Free wireless internet access is available in the common areas of the George R. Brown Convention Center. This access is not available on the Pit floor or in the playing field areas of the George R. Brown Convention Center. When not actively using you Wi-Fi, please switch off your Wi-Fi and personal hotspots to benefit robot performance.

Due to the wireless nature of *FIRST* control systems, wireless availability will be evaluated during the event. Teams will not be allowed to set up their own wireless networks at the Championship. While we certainly appreciate the positive potential team-created wireless networks could represent, there is a chance such wireless networks could interfere with planned activities during the event.



Virtual Coaches Meeting

FIRST Tech Challenge will be hosting a Virtual Coaches Meeting for all our coaches attending our World Championship. The webinar will be Wednesday, April 12th at 8:00pm ET. If your team coaches are unable to attend the webinar, it will be recorded and made available on our website. <u>Register for the webinar here.</u> We encourage teams to submit their questions in advance, by emailing <u>firsttechchallenge@firstinspires.org</u>, with the subject line "Virtual Coaches Meeting".

Volunteers

As part of our global robotics community, *FIRST*[®] volunteers build and bolster millions of young people to embrace innovation and collaboration. At the 2023 *FIRST* Championship, you will work side by side with *FIRST* participants from around the world to help build their leadership and problem-solving skills and, their sense of belonging and self-confidence, and most importantly, help them have fun! Join us for the ultimate innovation celebration and build up and inspire the next generation of changemakers. Find out more about volunteering at *FIRST* Championship at https://www.firstchampionship.org/volunteer.

Check out the <u>Volunteer Guide</u> for the most up-to-date information on the *FIRST* Championship volunteer experience. (Coming soon!)

Webcast

The live stream will be available on *FIRSTty*. Visit Twitch for airtimes and archives.