

ROBOTICS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Are Robotics teams allowed to practice on Sundays (or Wednesday nights)? Sports teams are not allowed to practice on Sunday.

A: First, rules regarding Wednesday evenings are locally controlled; the MSHSL is not involved in those decisions. Second, Robotics teams are still under FIRST for the entire regular season, as they have been in the past, so MSHSL Sunday rules would NOT apply to them. Any FIRST rules/bylaws are applicable (and local school district rules, if applicable).

Q: Do I need to fill out an MSHSL co-op application if my school wishes to co-op with another school in Robotics?

A: Teams do NOT need to fill out a MSHSL co-op application, as they do in other activities. This is because the MSHSL is recognizing all FIRST-recognized teams for participation. Schools only need to make those intentions known to FIRST personnel, not the MSHSL.

Q: How do we register our team with the MSHSL?

A: This is different than all other MSHSL activities, and you do not need to register. The MSHSL will receive information about all FIRST-recognized teams from FIRST.

Q: Do we need to submit roster, eligibility verification forms, and season schedule to the MSHSL?

A: If your team qualifies for the MSHSL/FIRST State Tournament, the MSHSL will request information from you for the State program.

Q: Now that the MSHSL is sanctioning Robotics, advisors should be paid, right?

A: Payments/stipends/reimbursements, etc. are all locally based decisions, and not something the MSHSL has jurisdiction over, or advises.

Q: Now that the MSHSL is sanctioning Robotics, students can earn varsity letters, right?

A: Lettering is a locally controlled decision, not one made by the MSHSL. In other words, this is left up to local schools, although we have heard from schools/teams that will add a varsity letter for Robotics to its offerings.

Q: Do the kids need to fill out an eligibility form?

A: Participants will be asked to fill out an eligibility form to be kept on file with their FIRST advisor or school, if their team is school-based. The MSHSL does NOT need copies of these forms. The form will be similar – but not the same – to the fine arts form, and will be included in your information packet from FIRST.

Q: Who should I contact if I have questions?

You can contact Ken Rosen, FIRST Assistant Regional Director, if your question is about FIRST registration, FIRST rules, FIRST Regional competitions, or other FIRST-based questions (kr71@aol.com, 952-884-5169). If you have questions regarding the MSHSL/FIRST State Tournament or other MSHSL-related questions, contact Amy Doherty, MSHSL Program Specialist (adoherty@mshsl.org, 763-569-0495). If you are not sure who to contact, feel free to contact either Ken or Amy.