



## Questions and Answers

October 5th, 2015

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### Events

- Can you please give me some insight into how the event locations were chosen?
  - The potential locations for District events were chosen to benefit as many teams as possible. The goal was to bring events as close as we could to as many teams as possible. Areas with larger concentration of teams received more events to serve those teams.
- How many Teams from the Chesapeake Region will be invited to the FIRST Championship?
  - The actual number of teams to be invited to the FIRST Championship event is determined by FIRST. FIRST Chesapeake will receive spots based on our total representation of teams within FRC. Our estimates are that we'll receive approximately 25 slots. The final number will be received from FIRST by Kickoff.
- How many teams will be at the District Championship?
  - There will be 58 teams at the 2016 FIRST Chesapeake District Championship.
- What's the breakdown of teams advancing to the FIRST Championship? (i.e. 7 Chairman's Award winners from the preliminaries + 3 winners of the Regional Championship + ..... )
  - FIRST will provide the breakdown of teams to receive the Championship slots. Teams do not receive slots for winning a Chairman's award at a District event. District Championship Chairman's, Engineering Inspiration, and Rookie All Star winners will move on. The number of each of those will be determined by FIRST. Any remaining slots will be awarded based on the point ranking system.
- How are points calculated?
  - The point system is standardized by FIRST. Last year's can be accessed here: [http://www.usfirst.org/sites/default/files/uploadedFiles/Robotics\\_Programs/FRC/Game\\_and\\_Season\\_Info/2015/FRC\\_District\\_Standard\\_Points\\_Ranking\\_System\\_2015%20Summary.pdf](http://www.usfirst.org/sites/default/files/uploadedFiles/Robotics_Programs/FRC/Game_and_Season_Info/2015/FRC_District_Standard_Points_Ranking_System_2015%20Summary.pdf)
- How many teams do you estimate will exist in FIRST Chesapeake for 2016?
  - There were 124 teams within the District area for the 2015 season. Our estimate is 130 teams for the 2016 season.
- When do you anticipate announcing the kickoff locations for Virginia?
  - In Virginia one kickoff will be held at VCU in Richmond and a second kickoff will be held in the Hampton Roads area (exact location to be announced shortly).
- Can you confirm the costs for the initial registration (2 district competitions) and the District Championship? (listed on US FIRST website, but nothing noted for cost)
  - Registration costs are listed here: <http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/frc-payment-terms> .
- If a team makes the District Championship, when will they know? When will the payment be due?
  - The final list of teams qualified for the District Championship will be available at the conclusion of week 4 events on March 26th though teams will be able to see their ranking throughout the season on the FIRST site. Payment will be due on April 1st.

- Hi, you state: "all FIRST Chesapeake teams will be able to register for 2 District events with their one registration fee", does this include the FIRST Chesapeake District Championship event???

Invalid event id selected' is the message we get when clicking on events and FIRST Chesapeake District Championship link

- The initial \$5000 registration fee for veteran teams allows teams to register for two District events. The District Championship is not included. Teams that qualify for the District Championship will pay a \$4000 registration fee to compete.

## Organization

- How is this new FIRST Chesapeake (This name also points to a regional bias btw, RVA and Norfolk don't consider themselves apart of the Chesapeake Bay. Not to mention those in the Valley, SW and Southern VA.) group going to deal with the inequity of travel costs?
  - As mentioned in the first town hall meeting, most of MD/DC/VA are part of the Chesapeake water shed. There are a few outlying areas in the extremes of both Maryland and Virginia that are just outside the area but the name seemed to fit best from those options submitted. As mentioned in the previous responses, the Steering Committee is working hard to raise enough funds to provide grants to teams negatively affected by the implementation. Amounts and distribution methods are unknown at this time as the committee works to raise the funds needed for execution of the events first.
- For some VA teams outside of NOVA, it would be financially feasible for them to look elsewhere for events (NC,SC,TN come to mind).Will there be a way for a team to op out of this new regional system or join another region?
  - FIRST has not yet established guidelines for teams to join other regions or opt out of the District model.
- How was the logo developed and does it fit within the FIRST Branding standards?
  - The FIRST Chesapeake logo was developed by Crabtree+Company as a donation of their services and expertise in logo development. We are grateful for their service. The guidance provided to them by the Steering Committee was to incorporate the FIRST logo so that we could build on the brand recognition of FIRST already has. They were also provided examples from the other FIRST Districts and their logos. The final logo is very similar to what has been used across the country by those entities.
- The June 22 QA document claims "The \$41k presented also includes some of the capital and specific operation expenses allocation per event necessary to implement the model. Other Districts have already accounted for those costs in their first year and now have minimal recurring costs. We expect the same to occur once the large capital expenses have been fulfilled." However, the 1st-year cost was originally presented (at ~5:00 in the video) as approximately \$60k. Which figure is the correct average cost of the initial slate of 7 district events?
  - The \$41k figure includes transportation cost allocations and some of the field equipment allocations (carpets, field tape, etc). The \$60k number includes allocation for all the capital costs necessary to implement include all the road cases and all the contents of each. The committee has been working with both numbers to try to better understand our event costs. Sorry for any confusion this may have caused. These numbers are continuing to evolve as more details are finalized and quotes received from potential vendors. The committees are working hard to reduce costs as much as possible while still providing a quality event for all teams.

- The June 22 QA document states "Eventually, the Board of Directors of VirginiaFIRST will determine if a new 501c3 will need to be established or potential rebranding will be done with VirginiaFIRST." What is the timeline for this determination to be made?
  - The goal is to get through the initial implementation year and then evaluate the steps moving forward.
- The June 22 QA document states "All district events will be executed by one of the two planning committee... The goal is to...not add event responsibilities to teams." Is this always true, regardless of whether individual FRC teams actually desire to plan, host, and execute these events?
  - Yes. Team members are welcome to join the appropriate planning committees which have been arranged geographically in order to maximize resources and avoid duplication of effort. Our goal is to eliminate any appearance of an unfair advantage because a school happens to be large enough to host an event. The goal is to work efficiently and reduce total effort as much as possible so this model is scalable in the future.
- In regards to the proposal to continue the funding of the 3 RD positions to be consumed by FIRST Chesapeake, the June 22 QA document states that "long term staffing roles and decisions will be made as appropriate based on the needs of the organization." At what frequency (annually?) will this staffing decision be reevaluated by the the organization?
  - Yes, annually.
- Will the websites from Virginia FIRST, Maryland FIRST, DC FIRST be combined into one website?
  - The individual websites will continue to exist since most are multi-program. A new FIRST Chesapeake website is in development and will include all the FRC program information going forward.