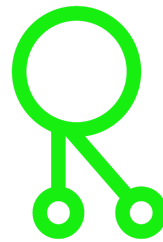


renaissance^{CFL}



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START A TEAM

Rookie Team Guide

Last Updated: August 26, 2020

Please note: This guide does not provide extra guidance on the inner workings of the season as impacted by COVID-19. Coach Blasts, our website, and the Season Handbook will provide more detailed information.

Assemble a Team

Decide **who** will be involved:

- A team is 2-10 students, ages 9-14, willing to take on any job to help their team succeed (lots of jobs available for all skill levels and interests).
- Two or more Adult Coaches/Mentors to guide the team through discovery and the competition season. Adult Coaches/Mentors must be signed up on www.firstinspires.org, which will create a 'Coach Dashboard' where all team administrative functions live for creating a FIRST LEGO League Challenge team.

Decide **when** and **where** (and how often) your team will meet:

- Renaissance Jax recommends a minimum of four (4) hours per week per team, broken into two, two-hour sessions, however, we know that extended meeting times can yield positive results based on increased focus time.
 - Regionally, teams that advance to Championship spend just 1.3 hours more per week on their team compared to teams that do not advance to our end-of-season capstone event.

Begin diving into resources to understand **what** the challenge will be, **how** to get the most fun out of your season while solving problems together, finding out your team's **why**, and having an inspiring, fulfilling experience:

- Familiarize yourself with [Participation Rules](http://www.firstlegoleague.org/season), the current Challenge, Judging and Awards at <http://www.firstlegoleague.org/season>.
- Discover the [FIRST® Core Values](#), which are a fundamental component of the program, distinguishing FIRST® from other programs of its kind.

Complete Team Registration

FIRST® program registration opens May 1, 2020.

Due to COVID-19, the registration deadline for teams in Northeast/Central Florida will be adjusted and outlined in the Season Handbook.

View the [How to Register Document](#) for full instructions.

Note: The Team Admin role is optional but recommended especially for organizations with multiple teams. The Admin role can replace coaches in the event that an adult moves away or no longer wishes to participate.

Register, Pay, and Order Materials

You will pay for your FIRST Program Registration Fee via your Coach Dashboard. You might want to bundle your Registration Fee with some Equipment (see list below). You must pay your team's Registration Fee to receive your team number and gain access to a tournament system which is managed by a regional Program Delivery Partner. For Northeast/Central Florida, Renaissance Jax is the exclusive Program Delivery Partner for FIRST that sanctions all official events and upholds the FIRST Global Standards. [View FIRST's Payment Terms here.](#)

Equipment

Every team needs a:

Robot set

- LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3: Teams can purchase one (1) EV3 set via their Dashboard (Team Options > Parts & Products). This set comes with both the EV3 Core set and the EV3 Expansion set, bundled together and available at a discounted price for teams. Teams can use any programming language they like as long as it is compatible with the EV3's Programmable Brick.
- LEGO Spike Prime: Teams can purchase one (1) EV3 set via their Dashboard (Team Options > Parts & Products). This set comes with both the EV3 Core set and the EV3 Expansion set, bundled together and available at a discounted price for teams.
- *Spike Prime is a little cheaper, but newer (so resources, tutorials, etc. are much newer). You can view a full comparison chart of the two robot sets from FLL Challenge Share and Learn [here](#). Ultimately, it's up to you which robot set you get; both are meant to be on par with one another in competition.*

Challenge Set

- The Challenge Set includes the Field Mat and Mission Models. Every team needs access to a Challenge Set--one can be shared between multiple teams who practice in the same space.
- Teams have the option to purchase a Challenge Set at the same time when paying for the National Registration Fee.

- Your team will need to assemble the Mission Models using the Mission Model Building Instructions. They must be built 100% correctly!

Laptop or Tablet and Software

- You will need a laptop or tablet with the programming software to program your Robot.
- To view system requirements and download the appropriate programming software, visit LEGOeducation.com/downloads. This is a free software download and is guaranteed to work with your LEGO Mindstorms EV3 robot set or Spike Prime.

Optional Equipment

- Team Shirts - get your team brand and name out there!
- Team Sign for Competition (recommended for team visibility)
- Sponsors (people want to support your team, we promise!)
- Extra Rechargeable Battery
- There are countless examples of *FIRST*® LEGO League Teams online
 - Check out www.flltutorials.com

Registering for Events

The *FIRST*® Inspires Dashboard is **NOT** used to register for local events. Event Registration details will be disclosed on www.renaissancejax.org.

Pay the League Dues

- Once your team has paid its *FIRST* Program Registration Fee in your Dashboard and both Coaches are screened, Renaissance Jax will send your Team Admin, Coach 1, and Coach 2 an invoice for the Event Fees.
- Invoices will be sent out beginning September 1st to registered teams on a weekly basis as teams come online this season. Once paid, your team will be able to register for one (1) Practice event and one (1) Qualifying Tournament.

What do my League Dues Cover?

- Exclusive Workshops & Training Sessions
 - *These sessions will be recorded and saved in a library exclusively for teams that have paid League Dues.*
- Show & Tell Sessions
- (1) Practice Event
- (1) Qualifier
 - Each student receives a commemorative pin.
- Season Certificate for Students

Note: Teams are not allowed to participate in more than one Practice event and Qualifying Tournament, although they are allowed to attend as spectators (all ages) or volunteer (ages 12+) if they wish.

Sign Up for an Event

- Teams who have paid their National Registration Fee and their Renaissance Jax/CFL League Dues will receive an **access code or a direct link via email to register** for an Official Event. Events not listed by Renaissance Jax/CFL are not sanctioned by *FIRST*® and will not provide the opportunity for a team to advance to the Regional Championship and beyond.
- Event Registration will open in November 2020.
- Sign-ups are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Starter Team Costs

There are never any “per student” fees for *FIRST* or Renaissance Jax/CFL for regular season play; all costs for individual team members are assumed and determined by the team as a group in order to create team sustainability on an annual basis. Estimates for a brand new team, with no equipment, run \$1,200 - \$1,800 for the first year. Existing teams will pay roughly \$800 each year due to the annual reusability of some items, such as the robot, competition table, and laptop. Additional costs for travel, food, team shirts, project supplies, and other optional items will vary. Team registration, the Challenge Set, and League Dues **must** be purchased/paid for every season.

Items purchased through the Store Front:

Team Registration	\$225 (+\$12 shipping)
RePLAY Challenge Set	\$75 (+\$15 shipping)
LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3	\$535 (+\$20 shipping)

(If you already own a robot, adjust your purchasing needs.)

LEGO Education SPIKE Prime	\$410 (+\$20 shipping)
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(If you already own a robot, adjust your purchasing needs.)

Fees invoiced to teams by Renaissance Jax/CFL*:

Event Fee	\$200/team
(includes workshops, training, one Practice Event, and one Qualifying Tournament)	

Regional Championship Tournament	TBD
(applicable to teams who advance from a Qualifying Tournament)	

*Invoices are only provided after completion of the *FIRST* Registration and both Coaches are screened.

Additional items are outlined in the New Team Checklist on page 5. Costs will vary depending on what the team may already have available to them.

Season policies and procedures can be found in the 2020-21 *FIRST*® LEGO League Northeast/Central Florida Season Handbook.

New Team Checklist

First Steps

- ☐ Determine team's meeting schedule
- ☐ Determine team's meeting place
- ☐ *FIRST* Registration
 - ☐ Challenge Set
 - ☐ EV3 Robot Education Set with Expansion Set or Spike Prime
- ☐ Come up with a fun team name or brand
 - ☐ Team Name & Logo
 - ☐ Create [Team Trading Card](#)

Supplies

- ☐ Laptop or tablet capable of running the LEGO Mindstorms EV3 software or Spike Prime in its full capacity.
 - ☐ Installed programming software (view system requirements and download the appropriate programming software, visit [LEGOeducation.com/downloads](https://legoeducation.com/downloads))
 - ☐ There are multiple programming languages your team can use.
- ☐ Competition Table ([View RJAX Instructions](#))
- ☐ Presentation materials*
 - ☐ Tri fold poster boards for Core Values and Project (optional but VERY recommended)
 - ☐ Skit/Presentation costumes, props etc. - varies from year to year
- ☐ Snacks for meetings*
- ☐ Team T-Shirts*
- ☐ Team Swag - buttons, bracelets, pins, etc. for trading with other teams*

*optional items that will vary in cost.

After Registering with *FIRST*

- ☐ Follow Renaissance Jax and Renaissance CFL on social media platforms and ensure your email does not block our Coach Blast emails from MailChimp (info@rjax.org).
- ☐ Pay Renaissance Jax/CFL League Dues invoice (invoicing of teams begins in September)
 - ☐ Register for a Practice Event
 - ☐ Register for a Qualifying Tournament
- ☐ Review the Challenge documents and additional season materials, available on www.firstlegoleague.org/season.
- ☐ Work weekly with your team towards your registered dates
- ☐ Complete Team Roster of students and adults in *FIRST* Inspires Dashboard
- ☐ Attend Season Conference (recommended)
- ☐ Attend Workshops (recommended)