

Minutes from last night's teleconference – 3/6/06

- 1) I will be releasing new inspection docs today (Rev D for checklist, Rev B for training manual and welcome doc).
- 2) FIRST is expecting to eliminate the requirement for Alliance Color LED. Based on feedback from some of you, I've strongly recommended that FIRST reconsider that response. The Alliance Color LED is VERY IMPORTANT to inspectors and refs as an obvious visual indication of robot operation
- 3) The current checklist (Rev C) requires a hardcopy printout of the Bill of Material. That was a mistake on my part. The rules (R47) do not require a hardcopy but they do require that all teams have a list "presented at robot inspection". While a hardcopy printout is preferred, it is sufficient for the team to present their list on a computer (monitor). Rev D checklist and Rev B training and welcome docs include this change.
- 4) Still waiting to get the current required firmware version from IFI.
- 5) Still waiting to determine whether 2005 OIs are acceptable. 2005 OIs aren't currently permitted by the rules but they were allowed in a few instances in Manchester due to availability of replacements.
- 6) The ball speedometer should be available for you. Your regional's FTA should know where it is and how to use it. The Inspectors have no specific "need" (ie inspection item on the checklist) for the instrument - its primary use is for spot-checking but you are encouraged to use it for inspection (including testing for ball scuffing). When using the speedometer, you should report the measurement a couple of times and average the readings.
- 7) I will add the flag height picture from the training manual to the welcome doc (part of the Rev B changes).
- 8) I'm awaiting a response from FIRST regarding "industry standard" use of tape - duct tape to connect metal ducts and electrical tape to wrap cable assemblies. The rules do not currently allow these uses.
- 9) It's very important that you establish contact with the head referee at your regional. We recommend that take a tour of the pits together and reach an agreement on "acceptable" shooter shielding and bicycle flag tubes.
- 10) Your inspection cart includes a ramp for getting robots into/out of the sizing box.
- 11) whiteboard - Your regional's officials have been instructed to provide a whiteboard for you. Unfortunately, we didn't fully specify the whiteboard that you'll be receiving. If you wish to have a large rolling whiteboard (which is highly recommended), please contact your regional officials and place your request.

New Info -

- 1) The new documents should be up at <http://www.usfirst.org/robotics/2006/frcdocs.htm#Section5> very soon.
- 2) FYI Section 5 Robot Rules was upgraded from Rev D to Rev E. The only change was to R20 fix-it window.
- 3) Alliance Color LED - FIRST has decided to eliminate the exemption from last week. LEDs will be required as per checklist.
- 4) Shooter Shield metric - an easy metric to employ - poke around with a 3/4" dowel. You should not be able to contact any rotating or thrusting mechanisms (except when entering from the shooter "outlet").
- 5) 2005 OI - no news yet
- 6) will FIRST emphasize the 12" tube requirements? - hopefully, please be vigilant during inspection, a single 12" contiguous piece is the only acceptable holder (with no attempts at weight reduction, with a "fully enclosing" cap)
- 7) firmware version # - version 12 is the currently expected version
- 8) "industry standard" use of tape - no, although we may be making some headway

Document Changes - Rev D checklist, Rev B welcome doc and Rev B training manual

- 1) shooter shield wording changed in all docs
- 2) hardcopy BOM requirement changed in all docs
- 3) (only for the welcome doc) added flag height picture

I think that's enough. Good Luck to all of this weekend's inspectors!

Russ