



# **FIRST LEGO League**

## **2008 Brookline Qualifier**

**Sponsored by:**

*The Clay Center for Science and Technology at  
the Dexter & Southfield Schools*

*&*

*The Dexter Science and Technology Summer  
Camp*

# **Tournament Information Manual**

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## A. Location, Parking, Registration and Contact Information

The event will be held on Saturday, December 13, 2008 at

**Clay Center for Science & Technology  
Dexter & Southfield School  
20 Newton Street  
Brookline, MA 02445**

There will be ample parking at the event. When arriving, please follow the signs to “event parking” and obey instructions of parking assistants. Enter the Clay Center through the main entrance. When you arrive, please send one representative to the registration desk. The rest of your team can proceed directly to the second floor and claim your pit area. The pit area tables will be labeled with your FLL team number. They are organized in numerical order.

Make sure that the person registering your team has the following information.

- Team Number. **Know your team number!**
- Registration fee of \$75 (check payable to “Dexter School”) if you have not prepaid
- Waiver forms for each team member and coach.
- Please inform the registration desk how many students are officially on your team.

The primary contact for questions regarding the event is:

Greg Koker  
(617) 969-0577  
flldexter@gmail.com

## B. Schedule of Events

Pits Open	7:30 AM	
Registration	7:30 AM	– 8:30 AM
Opening Ceremonies	8:45 AM	– 8:50 AM
Robot Matches	9:00 AM	– 12:05 PM
Technical Judging	9:00 AM	– 12:05 PM
Presentation Judging	9:00 AM	– 12:05 PM
Lunch Break	12:05 PM	– 1:00 PM
Play-Offs	1:00 PM	– 2:30 PM
Awards Ceremony	2:45 PM	– 3:15 PM

A participation fee of \$75 is required from each team and is used to help offset the cost of the event. Most teams have paid in advance. Late registrants can bring the fee to the tournament and turn it in at the Registration Desk. Make checks payable to “Dexter School.”

## **C. Tournament Overview**

This tournament consists of three official robotics rounds, a technical judging of the teams robot, and a project judging. There is no separate teamwork event, teams will be rated on their teamwork during the other judging sessions. After lunch, a “sweet sixteen” single elimination round will be run to determine the Robot Performance awards. Ranking for the elimination round will be based on each teams highest score.

An automated program is used to assign start times for each teams morning robot rounds and judging. We are using team names and official FLL team numbers for scheduling the event. Attached to this manual is the official schedule for matches and judging. Each team has it’s own schedule to follow. Locate your team number on the “Team Schedule.” You will find the start times and locations for your three robotics and two judging slots. There is at least 14 minutes between events, and often much more. Your team should have plenty of time to be in place for their next event. **DO NOT MISS YOUR TIMESLOTS.**

## **D. Robot Matches and Rules**

The robotics matches will take place in the Auditorium on the first floor. Since the pit area is located on the second floor we are asking teams to **NOT BRING TABLES or CARTS** to the competition area. Since the teams will have to bring their robot up and down stairs, rolling carts are not practical. There will be a small tv-table type utility table located by each base area that the teams can put their robot materials on. Please use a box to carry your robot and attachments to the competition area. Many teams use copier paper size boxes or Rubbermaid containers to carry their robots. Teams should not use the elevator to go between the first and second floors, without permission from the pit manager or event organizer.

Teams will queue up along the walls on either side of the Auditorium. No coaches or mentors are allowed in the queuing area or at the competition fields. Teams scheduled to compete on the red field should line on the right side of the Auditorium. Blue field teams should line up on the left. Matches will alternate between the red and blue fields as shown on the schedule. Your team should be in the queuing area at least 5 minutes before their scheduled match time. We will have volunteers lining the teams up in order in the queuing area.

Only two students at a time will be allowed at the competition table. Mentors and Coaches will not be allowed at the table. Students should present their robot to the judges prior to the match for a quick inspection of the parts to be used during the match. The first row of the Auditorium is reserved for teammates of the competing teams only. Teammates will be allowed to “tag out” with their teammates from the front row. Eight seats will be marked for each team. After reviewing the scoring with the referee, teams gather their equipment and leave up the center aisle.

Robot matches will be scored in accordance with official FLL rules, including the “Q & A” updates.

The morning matches will take place alternating between 2 FLL fields (1 field = 2 tables). Thus, 2 teams will be competing and 2 teams will be cleaning or setting up at all times. Each match will be 2 ½ minutes in length. Matches will occur on a 4-minute cycle, meaning that every 4 minutes, the next pair of teams will compete. We will try to have live video of the active table on the main video screen and on relay to the pit area and lobby tv screens.

Teams will be ranked by their maximum score from the three morning robotics rounds. The top 16 teams will then compete in the afternoon elimination round until a first place performance and second place performance have been determined. We will be posting scores as they are entered on the information screen on stage and on the lobby and pit area tv screens.

## E. Technical Judging

Technical judging will be done at judging tables behind the dividers on the second floor. There are two judging rooms with “Green” and “Orange” signs. Make sure to have your team outside that area a few minutes before their judging time. Each team will be given an 8-10 minute interview by the technical judges. There will be a competition table shared between the two technical judge rooms if needed to demonstrate missions or to answer questions. A maximum of two coaches or mentors are allowed to accompany the team to the judging session, but will NOT be allowed to participate in the discussion of the robot. No other observers are allowed. Judges will ask students questions and judge robots on robustness, innovation, programming, and creativity. If students want to highlight their robot program they should bring printed versions of the program or bring a laptop computer with the program loaded for display.

## F. Project Presentation Judging

Presentation judging will take place in classrooms 301 and 302 on the third floor. Take the west-staircase and follow the signs to the classrooms. Have your team waiting quietly in the hall a few minutes prior to their project presentation time. Each team will be given 5 minutes to setup and present their project, followed by a 5-minute question and answer period. A maximum of two coaches or mentors are allowed to accompany the team to the judging session, but will NOT be allowed to participate. There will be power receptacles will be available in the classroom for powering laptops etc. Please have laptops powered up and ready to go before coming in. Setup time comes out of the team’s 5-minute presentation time. Computer projectors will NOT be provided. Since we have only two judges per classroom, they will be able to view your presentation on your computer screen. We’ve chosen to not provide projectors as they will not be provided at the State finals.

If you are not planning to do a project presentation please notify the pit manager so we will not expect you during your scheduled time. In order to qualify for the State finals a project presentation is required

## G. Pit Area

The pit area is located on the second floor. There are tables provided for each team marked with team numbers. **Power receptacles will NOT be provided at the pit tables.** Please make sure that you bring pre-charged laptop computers (with spare batteries if possible) and plenty of spare batteries for your robots. There will be a "recharging" station in the pit area. We are only providing outlets. You will need your own laptop or robot battery chargers.

Downloading will only be allowed in the Pit Area. Please turn off your NXT Bluetooth radios. If you need to download to your NXT robot, please use a USB cable. If you are using an RCX robot, please take precaution when downloading to your robots - downloading inside of a box would be appreciated. Please

remember to keep your RCX robot "off" when not in use to prevent accidental downloading from other computers.

There will be a monitored practice table set up to allow teams to practice. Please show courtesy to other teams and share it politely. There is no formal signup for the practice table. After the technical judging is complete the table in that area will also be available for practice or demonstrations.

## H. Awards

The following awards will be presented:

- Champion's Award First Place
- Champion's Award Second Place
- Overall Robot Design Award First Place
- Overall Robot Design Award Second Place
- Innovative Design Award First Place
- Innovative Design Award Second Place
- Overall Project Award First Place
- Overall Project Award Second Place
- Creative Project Award First Place
- Creative Project Award Second Place
- Teamwork Award First Place
- Teamwork Award Second Place
- Robot Performance Award First Place
- Robot Performance Award Second Place

The following award *may* be presented at the discretion of the judges:

- Judges' Award

Judges work hard to make sure that awards are distributed fairly among teams and according to the various award criteria as defined in your coach's handbook. Please respect their decisions, as all decisions are final. Invitations to the State Finals will be awarded based on total points towards the Champions award which covers all aspects of the competition.

## I. Gracious Professionalism

The goal of this tournament is to provide an exciting opportunity for students to **have fun and display the results of their hard work**. Please remember that the tournament staff members are all volunteers who share in this goal. Regrettably, events may happen that are controversial or disappointing for some teams. However, all judge and referee decisions are final. Please refer any comments to the head referee or judge coordinator.

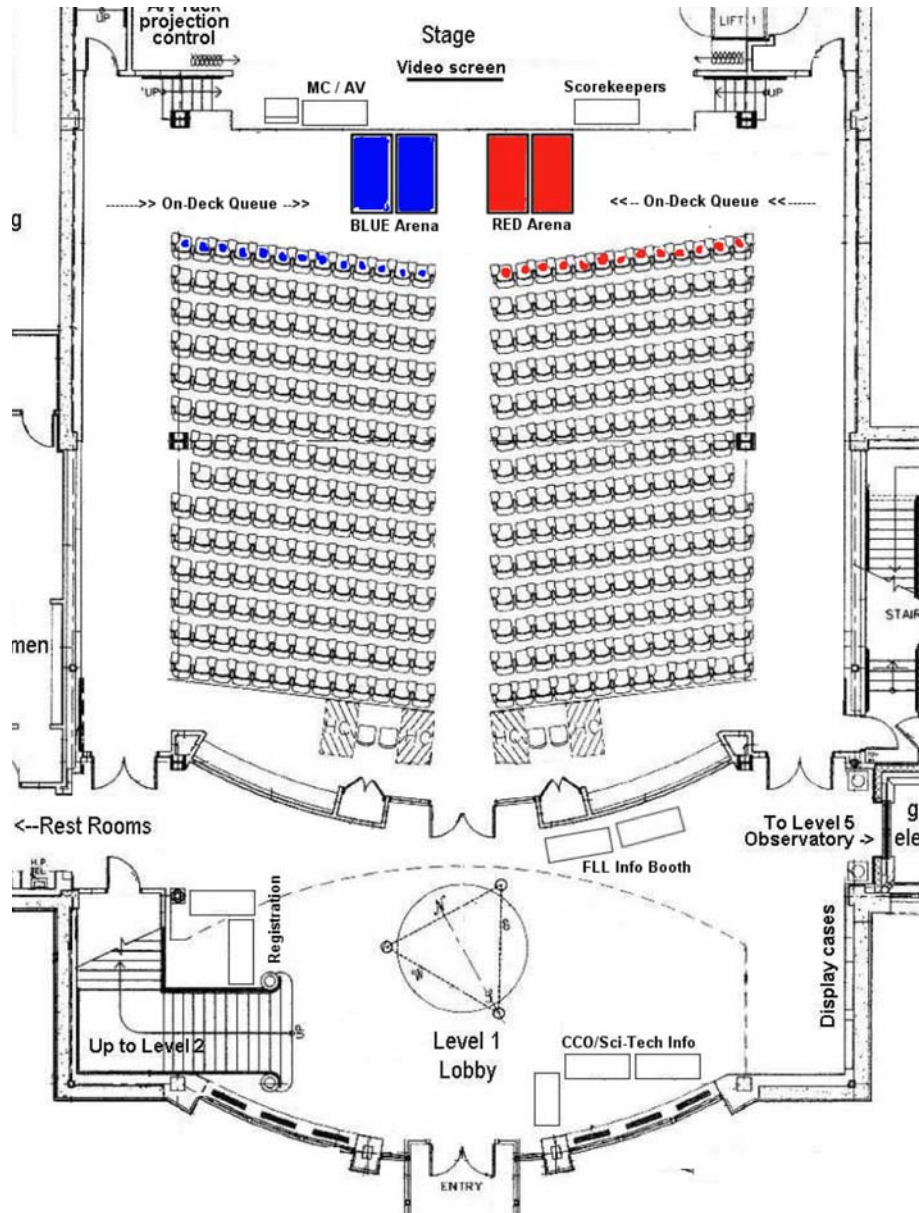
Gracious Professionalism will be expected from all participants and spectators.

## J. Food

Lunch and Snack service will be provided on a cash basis on the second floor. You are also permitted to bring your own food to the event.

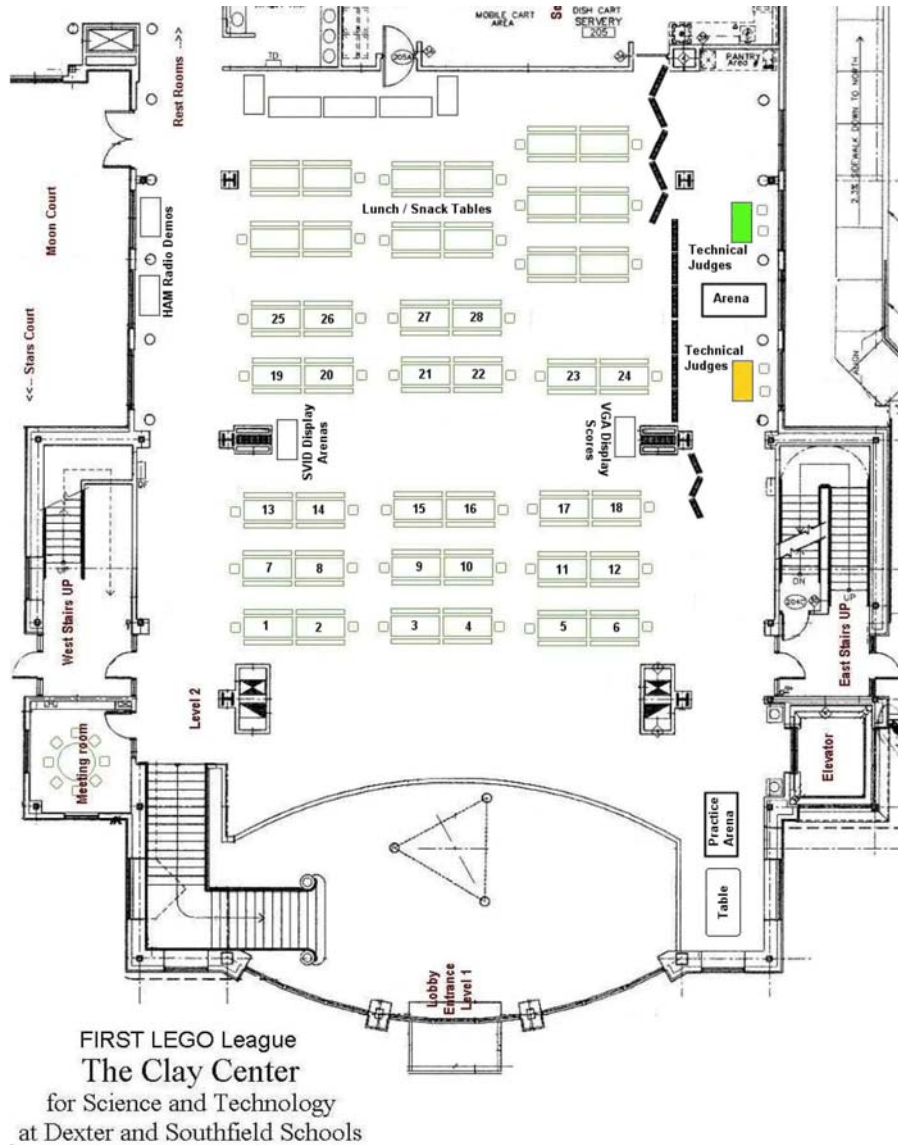
## K. Floor plans

First Floor Auditorium



The Clay Center  
for Science and Technology  
at Dexter and Southfield Schools

Second Floor: The 28 numbered tables in this diagram make up the “pit” area.



## L. Team Rosters

This will be sent out as a separate document as soon as it is available, last minute changes are necessary due to team cancellations and additions.

## M. Schedule by Team

Use this schedule to find your competition and judging times.

This will be sent out as a separate document as soon as it is available, last minute changes are necessary due to team cancellations and additions.