

# Ohio Regional Qualifying Tournament Registration

## FAQ

### Q. Who can register for a qualifying tournament in Ohio?

A. Only *FIRST*® LEGO League teams that have registered for the 2012 Senior Solutions Challenge season and reside in Ohio may participate in the Ohio tournament system.

### Q. How many official events can my team attend?

A. **Short answer:** one to three tournaments, but only one Regional tournament.

**Regional Tournaments (1st level qualifiers):** These are the events that you will actively register to attend. They range in size from as small as 12 teams to as large as 24 teams. The regional qualifying tournament season in Ohio runs from as early as November 10 to as late as December 15. Teams may only attend one Regional Tournament. 25% of teams that attend these tournaments will advance to the District level tournament (2nd level qualifier). The Regional Ambassador team for that event will automatically advance. Champion's Award criteria will be used to advance the remaining teams to the next level.

**District Tournaments (2nd level qualifiers):** Teams may only compete at a District Tournament if they have first qualified to advance from a Regional feeder tournament. District Tournaments range in size from 20 to 40 teams, depending on the percentage of teams that compete within that district. District Tournaments are held in January. Please check to see which District Tournament your team would attend from the Regional Tournament to which your team has been assigned. 25% of teams will advance from the District to the Ohio State Championship, based on Champion's Award criteria. In addition, two Regional Ambassador finalist teams will also advance to the Ohio State Championship.

**Ohio State Championship:** The Ohio State Championship is the final tournament in Ohio, and the winner of this tournament may advance to the FLL World Festival, a part of the *FIRST* Championships and held in St. Louis, Missouri in April, or to another Open Championship, if one is open to the Ohio State Championship for that year. The Ohio State Championship size will vary, depending on the number of District tournaments in the state. For 2012, the Ohio State Championship will field between 36 and 42 teams.

In addition to the 25% that will advance from each District, other tournament spots will be available for the following:

**Hardship Teams:** Each District area will send a hardship team to the Ohio State Championship. This team should be a team that did not advance to the District level tournament but did compete in one of the Regional tournaments within that district.

**Ambassador Teams:** Regional Ambassadors that do not advance either by Champion's Award criteria or as an Ambassador Finalist will be selected by lottery to compete at the Ohio State Championship to fill

the final tournament spots. The number of available spots will vary from year to year. Check out the details of the Ohio Ambassador program.

**Open Ohio State Championship Spots:** If there are not enough Ambassador teams to fill the Ohio State Championship Tournament, the remaining spots will be filled by a lottery of the teams that competed in a Regional Tournament for that season but did not advance to the District level.

**Q. Where and how do I register for an Ohio Regional Tournament?**

**A.** You will receive an email from the Ohio FLL Director that includes a link to the registration website the week prior to the opening of registration on October 1st. You will select a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice for tournament. You must also pay your \$75 per team registration fee. This one-time fee will cover your team if you advance through the tournament structure in the state. You will be prompted to pay this fee when you register. You can either pay by e-check or credit card. A small processing fee will be added to your payment.

**Purchase Order:** You will be required to upload a PDF of your Purchase Order as proof of impending payment.

**Credit Card:** You will be directed to pay your fee via PayPal. A small processing fee will be added to your bill.

**Check:** You can mail your check, made payable to The Ohio Educational Outreach Foundation, to:

WPAFB Educational Outreach  
Attn: Ohio FLL  
AFRL/RQWC  
2130 Eighth Street, B20045, R045  
WPAFB, OH 45433-7542

Make sure you include your FLL number on all communications, especially on your check, if you choose to pay by this option. If you choose to mail your payment, your team will not be placed into a tournament until your payment is received in this office.

Regional tournament registration will run from October 1, 2012 through October 8, 2012. All payments must be received by October 8, 2012.

**Q. When does tournament registration open for Ohio tournaments?**

**A.** FLL qualifying tournament registration in Ohio will open on Monday, October 1, 2012 and close on Monday, October 8, 2012. You will receive email instructions the week before registration opens from the Ohio FLL Director.

**Q. Can my team attend more than one regional tournament in Ohio?**

**A. No.** Your team may only attend one regional qualifying tournament. Your team may have additional opportunities to compete by advancing to the District Tournament and then to the Ohio State Championship.

**Q. Can my team compete in the Ohio tournament program in addition to qualifying or championship tournaments in another state?**

**A. No.** If you choose to compete in an official FLL tournament in another state, you are not eligible to compete in the Ohio tournament system. (Exceptions: Open Championships or the World Festival, which occur after the Ohio tournaments have ended).

**Q. How much does it cost to attend a tournament in Ohio?**

**A.** Cost for competing in the Ohio tournament system for the entire season is \$75. This one-time fee is due at the time of tournament registration. You can pay this fee in one of two ways:

**Credit Card:** You can pay online when you register. A small processing fee will be added to your charges.

**Purchase Order:** You must upload a PDF of your purchase order at the time of tournament registration. If your purchase order covers more than one team, upload the PDF each time you register a team listed on the document.

**Check:** You can mail your check, made payable to **The Ohio Educational Outreach Foundation** to (If you select this option, you will not be placed into a tournament and no spot in a tournament will be held for your team until payment is received):

WPAFB Educational Outreach  
Attn: Ohio FLL  
AFRL/RQWC  
2130 Eighth Street, B20045, R045  
WPAFB, OH 45433-7542

The \$75 Tournament Fee for the entire Ohio tournament season is due at the time of team registration and no later than October 8, 2012.

Make sure you include your FLL number on all communications, especially on your check, if you choose to pay by this option.

**Q. How will teams be placed into a Regional qualifying tournament?**

**A.** When you register your team for a regional tournament, you will indicate a 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice for tournament. Tournament placement will be made based upon the following criteria:

1. Timeliness of registration

## 2. Timeliness of registration payment

### 3. Balanced tournament numbers

No tournament placements can be finalized until tournament payment is received. If you register and pay early, you are more likely to receive your first choice of tournament. The longer you wait, the more likely you are to be placed into your second choice, third choice or other tournament, depending on space availability and minimum tournament number requirements.

Please note to which District Tournament your team would advance, if you qualify, from each regional tournament you select. There are four District Tournaments throughout the state, and each regional tournament will advance teams to a specific District Tournament, regardless of a team's physical location within the state.

#### **Q. If my team decides not to compete after we have registered and paid, can we get a refund?**

**A. No.** Team registration fees are non-refundable, as these fees go to pay for tournament competition mats and fields and awards, including trophies, medals and other team recognitions. These orders are made at the close of tournament registration, as soon as tournament numbers are finalized.

#### **Q. When will we receive notification that we have been placed into a tournament?**

A. As soon as your tournament requests and payment are confirmed and your placement has been finalized, you will receive an e-mail notification of your placement, which could occur as early as October 3, for teams that registered and paid early, or as late as October 9, for teams that registered or paid closer to the October 8, 2012 deadline. All placements should be finalized by October 12, 2012.

#### **Q. Does my team have to attend a Regional tournament in the region in which we live? For example, if our team resides in Dayton, do we have to attend a Dayton area tournament?**

**A. No.** Your team may register for any of the regional tournaments in Ohio.

#### **Q. If we want to pay by credit card, how will I receive that information?**

A. You may pay by credit card as early as October 1, 2012 through October 8, 2012 through the online registration system. A small processing charge will be added to your transaction when you choose the PayPal payment option. The credit card option will not be available for you to access until registration opens on October 1, 2012.

#### **Q. Will a Purchase Order number alone finalize my tournament placement?**

**A. Yes.** Your team can be placed into a tournament as long as you uploaded a PDF of the Purchase Order at the time you register your team for competition.

#### **Q. My school needs a W-9 form and an invoice before it will release funds for payment. How do I request this information?**

A. Your organization can request a W-9 and/or an invoice for payment by sending an e-mail to [AFRLDet1.WSCJrFLL@WPAFB.AF.MIL](mailto:AFRLDet1.WSCJrFLL@WPAFB.AF.MIL) or by calling 937.656.2273.

**Q. Where can I find details about each of the official tournaments in Ohio?**

A. All of the official tournament information, including event sizes, location, awards, team and parent information packets, forms, schedules, etc., will be housed on the “Competitions” page of the Ohio FLL website, located at <http://edoutreach.wpafb.af.mil/Robotics/pages/competitions.html>. No later than September 24, 2012 (and hopefully before), you will be able to click on the name of each event to get to information about that event. As the season progresses, more information related to each tournament will be posted for the convenience of teams and spectators. Check back to your event site frequently to find updates.

**Q. How do I register for a District tournament or the Ohio State Championship?**

A. The District and Ohio State Championship tournaments are invitation only events. A team must qualify at a Regional tournament to advance to the District. A team must qualify at a District tournament to advance to the Ohio State Championship. No additional fees are required from teams that advance to the next level in the Ohio tournament structure.

25% of teams will advance from a Regional tournament to the District tournament. The Ambassador team from that event will automatically advance. Invitations for the remainder of the advancing teams will be based on Champion’s Award criterion, which includes a high robot performance score that falls within the top 50% of performance scores at that event.

25% of teams will advance from the District tournament to the Ohio State Championship, based on Champion’s Award criterion, which includes a high robot performance score that falls within the top 50% of performance scores at that event. Two Ambassador finalists will also advance to the State Championship from each District. In addition, one hardship team from each district as well as a lottery of regional ambassador teams that did not advance will be invited to the Ohio State Championship to fill the remaining available tournament spots.

Please reference your Coaches’ Handbook for information on Champion’s Award criterion. Information about the FLL Ohio State Championship can be found on the Ohio FLL website at:

[http://edoutreach.wpafb.af.mil/Robotics/pages/fll\\_stchamp.html](http://edoutreach.wpafb.af.mil/Robotics/pages/fll_stchamp.html)

**Q. Who do I contact if I have additional questions about tournament registration?**

A. Contact the Ohio FLL Director and WPAFB Educational Outreach Robotics Program Manager at [AFRLDet1.WSCFLL@WPAFB.AF.MIL](mailto:AFRLDet1.WSCFLL@WPAFB.AF.MIL) or 937.656-2273.