

***FIRST®* TECH CHALLENGE EUROPEAN PREMIER EVENT 2026**

Event guide



STEAMup[®]

Welcome

Dear teams, coaches, volunteers, and supporters,

A very warm welcome to the *FIRST*® Tech Challenge European Premier Event 2026 where innovation, teamwork, and technology come together in a celebration of creativity, determination, and the spirit of *FIRST*®.

FIRST competitions are exciting events that leave students with a sense of accomplishment and the understanding that they can do anything with their collective skills, leadership, and confidence. We are excited and grateful for you to be a part of our 2026 European Premier Event experience!

Attending the European Premier Event will bring together about a thousand students for the ultimate celebration of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) from all over the world. This 2025/2026 season, DECODE™, invites all of us to work in collaboration to build a thriving community, and everyone has a role to play. *FIRST* event volunteers support our teams and create a ripple effect that carries young people through uncharted waters to bring ideas to life.

Remembering our Gracious Professionalism®

“Gracious Professionalism is part of pursuing a meaningful life.”

– Woodie Flowers.

- A way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community
- Gracious professionals learn and compete like crazy but treat one another with respect and kindness in the process.
- Teams and any European Premier Event attendees are customers. Treat them all with Gracious Professionalism.

Whether you're here to compete, to learn, or to cheer on your team, your presence helps make this event truly extraordinary. Embrace every challenge, support one another, and above all – enjoy the journey.

FIRST Tech Challenge European Premier Event Team



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2. What to pack - Team Checklist & Packing Tips

Before you come to Eindhoven, The Netherlands, use this checklist to make sure your team is prepared and ready to roll! This includes important documents, packing suggestions, and key reminders.

Pit Items & Decorations

Each team will have a 3x3 meter pit space with 2 tables (90x60cm) and 2 chairs provided.

- If you do not need the table, please email steamup@ftcpremierevent.eu
- Canopy frames are allowed, but tops are not permitted.
- Lights, signs, and team branding are encouraged - just no top coverings.
- Food is NOT allowed in your team's individual pits. We recommend eating in the designated dining spaces, on the bleachers or outside.
- Decorate your pit to show team spirit - large, visible team numbers are strongly encouraged!

An extension Cord is available, but you'll need to bring your own cords and strips.

Safety Goggles

Bring enough for your team and any guests.

No-Spill Water Bottles.

Help keep the pits and the arena clean and safe. Water refill stations will be available around the venue in the toilet rooms.

Snacks

Keep your team fueled between meals. (Just remember - no food in shared pit walkways.)

Team Apparel & Pride

Bring your team shirts, gear, and spirit wear. Let everyone know who you are! No offending text or pictures are allowed. Covering face (masks) are not allowed.

Pit Items & Decorations

> Team Behavior & Supervision.

Teams are responsible for supervising students at all times. Please remind students to display Gracious Professionalism to volunteers, venue staff, and other teams. This is a professional and family-friendly event.

> Venue Rules.

The Indoor-Sportcentrum Eindhoven is a public venue. Please respect all local guidelines, including restrictions on noise, equipment placement, and food in designated areas.

> Team Communication.

Make sure at least one adult from your team is checking email regularly and monitoring the *FIRST* Tech Challenge European Premier Event webpage for updates.

3. How to get to the venue & parking

Arrival & Parking

The address of the venue:

Indoor-Sportcentrum-Eindhoven
Theo Koomenlaan 2,
5644 HZ Eindhoven
The Netherlands

Entrance of the venue:



How to get there by bus:

From the central station by bus. Buses from Eindhoven Central Station to Bus Stop Fontys Theo Koomenlaan. The bus stop where you have to get off is called "**Fontys Theo Koomenlaan**".

You can find and check buses easily with the [9292-app](#).

- Line 7 – direction Veldhoven MMC
- Line 317 – direction Eindhoven Station
- Line 318 – direction Valkenswaard Markt

How to get there by car:

Please follow the directions given by the traffic controller. They will guide you on the appropriate driving route and designated parking areas.

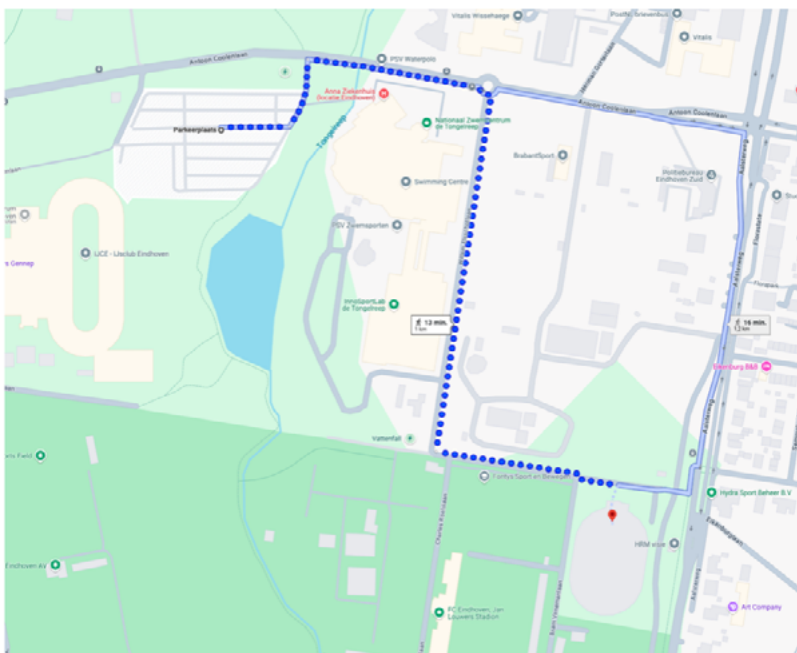
One can park their car - free of charge - on this parking lot:



Please note the following for the Parking lot:

- From Wednesday to Saturday the lot will be open from 06:00 and close at 22:00.
- Overnight parking is not permitted.
- There is no code to enter the lot.
- There is no security. The lot is not connected to the Indoor-Sportcentrum Eindhoven
- Park at your own risk.
- This is free parking.
- This lot's availability is first come, first served. Parking may fill up quickly in the morning.
- You may park in any available open spot in the lot.
- This lot is also utilized by events staff and volunteers.

If the above-mentioned parking lot is full one can park their car at the parking lot on the Antoon Coolenlaan. This is about a 13 minutes' walk from the venue.



Accessibility

The entire event takes place on the ground floor of the venue, but please note that access to the bleachers requires climbing stairs, as there are no elevators available.

For guests who are unable to use stairs to access the bleachers, a designated viewing area will be available in front of the match fields.

4. Registration / check-in & set up pits & robot inspections

Registration on Wednesday June 17: 16:30 – 19:00 | Team Registration

> Please send a maximum of two people to register the team and pick up the team envelope at the Information desk.

Load-In & Load-Out Information: 16:30 – 19:30 | Load In & Pit Set-up

As you can see on this map below, the team has to follow the guidelines of the traffic controllers to get in line for the load-out.

Teams are asked to only stop the car to unload the equipment.

Right after that, the team must move their car and park the car at the designated parking lot.



Set up your pit

There will be queuers to help you find the right pit.

You will be able to set up the pit until 19.30 hours. The venue closes at 19.30 hours.

Please follow all venue signage and traffic controlled directions when arriving and departing.

NEW: ROBOT INSPECTIONS ON WEDNESDAY

All teams must go sizing their robot on Wednesday between 17.30 and 19.30 hours. After this, the robot inspectors will come to your pit for the hardware inspection.

17:30 – 19:30 | Inspection 1 – sizing & Control (Queueing Tables)

17:30 – 19:30 | Inspection 2 – Hardware (Pit Area)

Pit Administration

For program-specific questions, please see the “Pit Admin” desk, located at the entrance of the venue. They are your best source of information about the program.

Information Desk

Next to the Pit Admin you will find the Information Desk. All your questions will be answered here.

Opening times of the Information Desk / Pit Admin: Daily from 07.30 until 18.00 hours.

5. Map of the venue



6. Program per day

Wednesday June 17:

16:30 – 19:00	Team Registration
16:30 – 19:30	Load In & Pit Set-up
17:30 – 19:30	Inspection 1 – sizing & Control (Queueing Tables)
17:30 – 19:30	Inspection 2 – Hardware (Pit Area)
19:30	Closing pits – Teams leave venue

Teams must complete Inspection 1 before proceeding to Inspection 2.

Thursday June 18:

07:30 – 18:00	Pits open
08:00 – 17:00	Practice Fields open
08:30 – 17:00	Merchandise Shop open
08:00 – 10:00	Field Calibration
08:00 – 10:00	Inspections 2 – Hardware (Pit Area)
09:00 – 11:30	Initial Pit Interviews
10:00 – 17:00	Re-inspections in Jankshed
10:15 – 10:45	Drives Meeting (Game Arena)
11:00 – 12:00	Practice Matches Lovelace Division
11:00 – 12:30	Practice Matches Escher Division
BREAK	Pick up lunch
13:00 – 16:00	Initial Pit Interviews
13:00 – 17:00	Practice Matches Lovelace Division
13:30 – 17:00	Practice Matches Escher Division
17:30 – 18:00	Closing pits – Teams leave venue

Friday June 19:

07:30 – 18:00 | Pits open
08:00 – 17:00 | Practice Fields open
08:30 – 17:00 | Merchandise Shop open

08:30 – 09:00 | Opening
09:00 – 11:30 | Qualification Matches Lovelace Division
09:00 – 12:00 | Qualification Matches Escher Division
09:00 – 12:00 | Pit Visits

BREAK | Pick up lunch

Friday June 19: (part 2)

12:30 – 17:30 | Qualification Matches Lovelace Division
12:45 – 15:00 | Pit Visits
13:00 – 17:30 | Qualification Matches Escher Division

17:30 – 18:00 | Closing Pits
18:30 – 20:00 | Team Social – Food Trucks

Saturday June 20:

07:30 – 18:30 | Pits open
08:00 – 16:30 | Practice Fields open
08:30 – 17:00 | Merchandise Shop open

08:30 – 09:00 | Opening
09:00 – 11:00 | Qualification Matches (both divisions)
11:15 – 12:00 | Alliance Selection

BREAK | Pick up lunch

13:30 – 18:00 | Pits Breakdown
13:30 – 18:15 | Playoffs & Award Ceremony
18:15 – 18:30 | Closing
18:30 – 19:00 | Teams leave venue

End of the *FIRST* Tech Challenge European Premier Event 2026

7. Restrooms - prayer room - quiet room

Restrooms

Restrooms can be found in the corridor that runs around the entire venue. There is a restroom at each corner of the venue.

Quiet Room

For those participants who need a quiet space to de-stress and take a break. This room can be found in the corridor on your left-hand side.

Prayer Room

There will be one prayer room available for anyone wishing to observe religious practice onsite during event hours. This room can be found in the corridor on your left-hand side.

Please note that the Quiet Room and the Prayer Room are a combined room. Respect each other's privacy.

8. Food - pre ordered lunches (pre-paid)

You are **not** allowed to bring your own lunches and dinner inside. Bags will be checked for this.

Candy bars and water bottles are allowed inside.

Pre-ordered lunches:

Pick up pre-ordered lunches: These will be provided outside at the opposite of the entrance of the venue.

Please note: there will be:

- > 1 line for the packed lunches
- > 1 line for the hot meals.
- > Volunteers will help you to get in the correct line.
- > Lunch is available for pick up only between 11.30 and 13.00 hours each day.

Dining Areas

Teams are encouraged to utilize the following designated dining areas:

- Outside
- On the bleachers

9. Team Social get together

On Friday evening, there will be a social get together from 18.30 until 21.00 hours.

Time to meet the other team members, time to meet the volunteers, time to relax!

There will be food and soft drinks available for purchase.

Food:

Outside the venue there will be food trucks available. Please note you have to pay for the food at the moment you order at the food truck.

Drinks:

Drinks are available at the restaurant of the venue. Please note that payment is required at the time of ordering.

10. Judging & Awards Information

Information on judged awards, submission requirements, and interview process.

Judging Process on Thursday & Friday

Judging will take place directly in the pits, where judge pairs will visit the teams. Every team will receive two separate visits. During one of these visits, the team will have the opportunity to give a 5-minute presentation, followed by a Q&A session. The other visit is dedicated solely to a Q&A session, allowing the judges to dive deeper into your technical choices and team spirit.

Please ensure that someone from your team or team mentors is always present in the Pit Area during judging periods to welcome the judges and notify the rest of the team when they arrive. Judges will make multiple attempts to visit each team. However, if a team is repeatedly not available in their pit, the judging process may be concluded without the full interview being completed.

Regarding Initial pit interviews:

- Include all team members, if possible.
- Have your robot visible during the presentation.
- Cover your team's season, accomplishments, and values.
- Feel free to do multiple takes - submit your best version...

Engineering Portfolio

Don't forget to print **two** copies of your Engineering Portfolio and bring them with you to the event. During check-in on Wednesday, please submit one copy at the Information Desk. The second copy should be kept in your pit and be available throughout the event for judges and visitors to review.

While submitting a portfolio is optional, it gives judges a deeper look at your team and can strengthen award consideration.

Considered Awards:

Awards will be given at event level - not per division - with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for each award category.

Inspire Award

Think Award

Connect Award

Reach Award

Sustain Award

Innovate Award

Control Award

Design Award

Separate award:

Judges' Choice Award

11. Pit / Pit map – Safety glasses

Pits:

- Each team will have a 3m x 3m (10' x 10') assigned pit.
- Pits are marked with tape on the floor and include a 3m high pipe and drape backdrop.
- Each pit will have 1 – 220v outlet.
- Each pit will have 2 tables, size 90cm x 60cm.
- 2 Chairs will be provided.

When designing your pit, please keep these cans and cannots in mind:

Can:

- Have a 3m x 3m (10' x 10') tall pop-up frame(without canopy).
- Include lights.
- Include your own country flag (only one).
- Include lots of team information.

Cannot:

- Cover your pit floor with floor tiles or carpets.
- Cover your pop-up frame with canopy.
- Bring outside food into the venue.
- Use glitter.
- Use helium balloons.
- Use fog machines.
- Use drones inside the building.
- Incorporate loud music.

Safety Glasses

Safety glasses must be worn by everyone inside the “Jankshed/Robot Hospital” and in the game arena, as well as practice fields, near the match fields.

Teams are responsible for bringing their own safety glasses - please make sure to pack enough for all team members and coaches.

Pit Map:

Can be found at the entrance of the Pits.

12. Health & safety / Security – prohibited items / Lost and found

Health and Safety

All children under 12 must always be accompanied by an adult in the Pit Area and in the venue. Be aware of apparel and hair safety issues while working on your robot. Sandals, open-toed shoes, and Crocs are not allowed in the pits, fields, or other teamwork areas. Wear relaxed, fun and appropriate clothing; remember, you represent your team and *FIRST*. Body paint in lieu of clothes, bathing suits and other revealing clothes are not appropriate. Face coverings are not allowed. If you are feeling ill, please do not attend the event.

Enhanced Security Measures

During the whole event a bag check will be in order at the doors. Each bag will be checked. Please do not bring prohibited items to help keep the line moving smoothly.

There will also be security at the entrance and walking around the venue.

These enhanced security measures are part of our ongoing commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment. Please make sure that you read through the prohibited items list and follow the directions of event staff to assist in a quicker entry and thank you for your cooperation in making this event a great experience for everyone!

Be sure to keep valuable items with you always. *FIRST* Tech Challenge European Premier Event does not guarantee security of personal items. We strongly recommend that you do not leave behind valuable items at any time, such as laptops, cellphones, cameras, etc. You can report any lost items to the Information desk (see Lost and Found). Remember, the event is open to the public. Please take proper security measures to protect your valuable items.

Under no circumstances should anyone but security go under the bleachers.

Lost and Found Items

Lost and found items will be **logged** and kept at the **Information Desk** for the remainder of the day they are found.

Unclaimed items will stay at the Information Desk for the duration of the event.

Any items not collected by the end of the event will be disposed of.

Mascots

Please keep safety in mind and make sure that mascot and team costumes are safe for the wearer as to vision and movement and are comfortable and cool enough to prevent fainting and dehydration.

Mascots are not allowed on the match fields.

Medical Incidents

Emergency Procedures

For urgent situations, report instantly to the Pit Admin / Information Desk, staff members, Pit Manager or Stage Manager. There are medics and security onsite in the venue. They can be radioed by pit admin or staff for immediate assistance. If the building is being evacuated, please exit the building as directed.

- Medical: tell Pit Admin, Pit Manager, Stage Manager, staff (with pink shirt) - they will radio the Medic onsite.
- Safety issue – go to the Pit Admin, Pit Manager, Stage Manager or event staff – they will know who to contact.

Items of extreme importance such as medication can be placed in the refrigerator if needed. One has to go to the Information Desk and sign and identify themselves before placing the medication there. Only the Information Desk volunteer will be able to retrieve the medication from the refrigerator.

Prohibited Items

- Abusive, foul, or disruptive language.
- Aerosol containers of any kind.
- Animals (except service animals to aid guests with disabilities).
- Coolers (electrical).
- Fighting, taunting, threatening remarks, gestures, or harassment of any kind.
- Fireworks, firearms, and weapons of any kind (including parking lots).
- Glass containers of any kind.
- Illegal substances, drugs, and drug paraphernalia.
- Knives of any length.
- Laser Pointers.
- Noisemakers (musical instruments, bullhorns, air horns, whistles, etc.).
- Outside Alcohol/Flasks.
- Outside food or beverages (except for water).
- Smoking or the use of vapor (or similar) devices.
- Throwing objects.
- Trespassing, soliciting, peddling, and loitering.
- Unauthorized/unlicensed vendors are not allowed.
- No unauthorized solicitation and materials including handbills, flyers, stickers, giveaways, samples which are not related to the *FIRST* Tech Challenge etc.
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems & Radio-Controlled Model Aircraft/ Drones.

Any other item or action deemed dangerous or inappropriate. Event security reserves the right to deem any other item inappropriate. No prohibited item will be accepted at the entry gates for safekeeping.

*Exceptions will be made for those with medical requirements and/or special needs. Individuals with these special needs should contact a security person at their entry gate for special attention.

13. Merchandise Shop

The *FIRST* Tech Challenge *European Premier Event* shop is your on-site source for merchandise made exclusively for this event, including limited edition must-haves. Get your *FIRST* gear now!

Opening hours: from Thursday until Saturday from 8.30 until 17.00 hours.
Payments: Tap to pay – quick and easy contactless payments or cash!

Available in the shop:

- T-shirts in several colors.
- Hoodies in several colors.
- Water bottle with *FIRST* logo
- European Premier Event Bag
- And more



14. Social Media, Hashtags & Resources

Tag your team, share your experience, and follow the action!

Get Social with Us

We'll be sharing highlights, team features, behind-the-scenes moments, and award announcements throughout the event. Be sure to follow and tag us so we can feature your team!

Official media channels:

- Facebook = /ftcbenelux
- LinkedIn = /company/ftc-benelux
- Instagram = /ftc_benelux
- Hashtag = #FTCEUPE #eupremierevent

We encourage teams to tag their own sponsors, local media, and schools - this is a great chance to show off your hard work!

Live Streaming

The event will be livestreamed on Friday and Saturday on our official YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@FTCEuropeanPremierEvent>

15. Volunteers

As part of our global robotics community, *FIRST* volunteers build and bolster millions of young people to embrace innovation and collaboration. At the 2026 *FIRST* European Premier Event, you will work side by side with *FIRST* participants from around the world to help build their leadership and problem-solving skills, their sense of belonging and self-confidence, and most importantly, help them have fun!

Join us for the ultimate innovation celebration and build up and inspire the next generation of changemakers.

How to recognize them:

- Staff – Pink shirt
- Volunteers – Blue shirts
- Judges – Yellow shirts
- Technical staff – Black shirts
- Referees – Black and white stripe shirts
- Head Referees – Black with yellow shirts

16. Team Picture Area

Take your team photo at the European Premier Event

We've set up designated areas where teams are welcome to take group photos with sponsors, teammates, and mentors/coaches.

There are two photo spots available:

1. A large photo frame with the "European Premier Event" logo, located on the right side of the corridor inside the venue.
2. Just outside the Indoor-Sportcentrum Eindhoven - on the left side of the entrance as you approach the building.

Please note: Teams must bring their own photographers to take pictures at these locations.

Capture the memories and celebrate your team!

17. Contact us!

If you have any more questions just send us an email:
steamup@firstpremierevent.eu

See you soon!