

Practice #13

Preparation

- Learn the tournament rules and expectations (we have a PowerPoint presentation available on our website to help coaches prepare for the tournament and there is also a great deal of information in your coach's handbook <http://gillespie.agrilife.org> > 4H > Robotics > Resources For FLL Coaches)
- Plan how you will implement a practice tournament (might invite some parents to act as judges)
- Notify team members of where and when the team will meet to present their research topic to a civic group
- Do something fun with your team within the next week or so
- Notify friends and family members to come and hear the research project presentation at the end of this practice

Preparing for the Tournament

5 min - Go over the plan for today's practice with the team

Explain that the team will participate in a practice tournament to get prepared for the upcoming tournament, and the team will also present their research presentation to a civic group.

10 min – Administer a CORE Values Quiz (copies of available quizzes should be in the file box)

This is just to help remind everyone of the CORE values that we have been emphasizing during previous practices. The team doesn't need to worry about memorizing the CORE values, they need to concentrate on learning how to implement them into all parts of the practices and the competition.

During the CORE Values interview at the tournament, the judges will give the team a task to complete. They will be watching for how the team works together, so working on the respect of each team member will help them better to understand this part of FLL more than memorizing the values word for word.

10 min – Go through the Tournament rules and expectations

We have prepared a PowerPoint presentation for Youth Members that will help you to prepare your team for the tournament. We will post this presentation on our website <http://gillespie.agrilife.org> > 4H > Robotics > Resources for FLL Coaches.

Let the team know that they will have 3 robot matches and 3 team interviews during the tournament. You probably won't know the schedule at this point, but it is typical for a team to have several robot matches and then start with team interviews, so the team will be busy for the duration of the tournament.

Each robot match is 2 ½ minutes, and you will want to explain that only 2 team members can be at the field table during the robot match. Players can switch in and out, but only two can remain at the table. The rest of the team must be behind the line cheering for their team.

Each team will have a CORE values interview, present their research project, and will also be judged on their robot design and programming. You can use the judging rubrics available to help the team prepare. During the CORE values interview, the team will be given a task to complete, and the judges are looking for how they work together as a team. During the robot design and program interview, the team will need to describe how they designed and built their robot and answer questions about any changes that they made. Each team will either want to bring a color copy of their programming or the team laptop into the interview room with them so that they judges can see their programming.

The coach's Handbook that you were given at the beginning of the season has a lot more detailed information about preparing for the tournament and the team interviews.

Have a Practice Tournament

Practice the three 2 ½ minutes robot matches with your team. Plan who will operate the robot during each match. Will team members rotate each match, or will the same people operate the robot during all 3 matches? Have the team practice switching operators during a match if that is what you plan to do.

We have found that it works really well if one person operates the program of the robot and the other teammate at the table switches the robot arms between missions.

Then, practice asking the team questions to help them prepare for the team interviews.

Present Research Topic To Civic Group

20 min – Presentation To Friends & Family

Have your team run through their presentation in front of friends and family to help them get used to speaking in front of a group. Use suggestions from the audience to make the final revisions.

Follow Up For Coaches

For practice #15, we suggest that you go and do something fun with your team. You might want to start brainstorming and making phone calls to parents or reservations somewhere. It can be something simple, and it isn't required at all, but it might help to build more friendships in the team and relax before the big day!