

# 2026 ROBOTICS STATE TOURNAMENT

Sponsored by *FIRST* in Upper Midwest and Presenting Partner MSHSL

## Season Begins

The season shall correspond with all dates and guidelines outlined by the *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC).

## Contest

FIRST Robotics Competition teams in Minnesota are eligible to participate in the 36-team MSHSL State Tournament if they are affiliated with a Minnesota high school and the school has registered the team with MSHSL. The tournament will be held on May 16, 2026 at Gangelhoff Center on the Concordia University campus. Teams will qualify for the event based on their performance at *FIRST* regional events, regardless of the location of those events.

Teams will be charged \$1000 entrance fee and are responsible for their own transportation, food, and housing expenses. Please note that, unlike other MSHSL activities, robotics teams do not pay an annual registration fee when they register with MSHSL. This entrance fee will be the only MSHSL fee for robotics.

Team load-in, pit setup, robot inspection, and field connection testing will occur on Friday, May 15 in the evening. A more detailed schedule is available online at [2026 Robotics State Tournament Schedule](#)

## Robot Requirements

Teams will follow all the rules and guidelines of the FIRST Robotics Competition as described in the current year's Game Manual. Each robot must pass inspection to compete.

## Team Membership

All students eligible for membership on a FIRST Robotics Competition team will be eligible for the State Tournament. Students must be in Good Standing as defined by MSHSL rules to participate. Exception: No students in grade 6 or under will be eligible.

## Regions

All Minnesota robotics teams belong to one of eight geographic regions. The Minnesota Robotics Coaches Association with approval from MSHSL assigns teams to regions with the goal of creating meaningful geographic groups with a similar number of teams. Section assignments are available at <https://www.mshsca.org/sections>

## MSHSL Eligibility Information Brochure

Prior to participation in the state co-sponsored event, the student and one parent or guardian must sign and return one copy of the current year State Tournament Eligibility Form to the student's school or the lead team mentor. The student and parent or guardian signature will certify that they have read, understand, and agree to abide by the information provided. The form is available at <https://www.mshsl.org/robotics>

## State Tournament Qualification

Teams advance to the MSHSL State Tournament based on points they earn at the first two Regional events they attend. Section 12.1 of the Game Manual describes how each event awards points to teams and how ties are broken. FIRST in Upper Midwest posts weekly intermediate team rankings reports at

<https://firstuppermidwest.org/off-season-events/mshsl-championship/>

Any team that attends only a single Regional event receives additional points as described in the Game Manual.

After the conclusion of the final Regional event of the FRC season where a team from Minnesota is competing, the MSHSL Robotics Committee will rank teams by the number of points they have earned and will invite 36 teams as follows:

- The two highest ranked in each region will receive an invitation
- The remaining teams receive an invitation in ranking order regardless of region

Unlike advancement to the *FIRST* Championship, there are no direct-qualifying spots from Regional events; all eligible teams will be in a single pool with advancement determined by points. Qualification happens in only a single batch at the end of the season.

## Alternate Teams

If any team is unable to participate or a qualifying team declines their invitation, an alternate will replace that team. Teams must accept their invitation to the MSHSL State Tournament within one week of final notification. Alternate teams are selected as follows:

- If the original team's region no longer has two qualifying teams, the alternate is the next highest ranking team from that region
- Otherwise the alternate team is the next highest ranked team regardless of region

## ***Tournament Details***

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### General

Competing teams will exhibit the qualities of Gracious Professionalism® and compete in the spirit of Coopertition®. Unless otherwise noted in this document, the tournament will follow all rules and processes described in the Game Manual. The tournament follows any rule variations that are applicable to District Championships.

### Disputes

Any disputes arising during the competition shall be reported to the Head Referee and Tournament Director for resolution.

## Awards

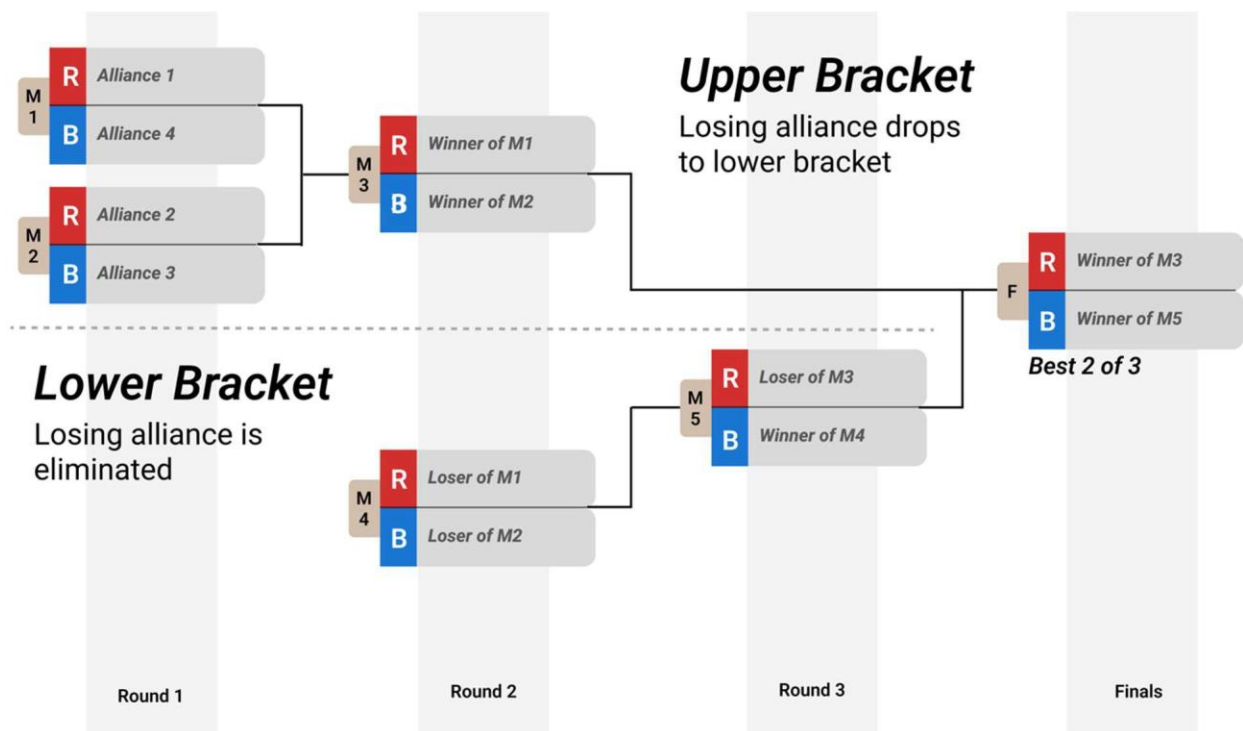
- Trophies: Awarded to the three teams in first, second, and third place ALLIANCES.
- Medals: Awarded to the members of the three teams in first, second, and third place ALLIANCES (25 per team). Additional medals can be purchased after the event.
- Certificates of Participation: State Tournament Participation certificates can be prepared/printed using the Certificate Printing button on School Admin (AD) dashboards. This page includes instructions and templates to print State Tournament Participation Certificates for teams or individuals from your school who participated in a tournament.

## Playoff Tournament Format

The MSHSL State Tournament will use a double elimination playoff format as described in section 10.6 - Playoff Matches of the Game Manual with two exceptions:

- The playoff tournament will contain only four alliances
- The playoff match bracket will be modified as below to support four alliances

There will be a 15-minute breaks between each Round and between each Finals match.



## ***Event Schedule***

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A more detailed schedule will be posted at <https://www.mshsl.org/robotics>

This high level overview is intended to provide a rough agenda for team planning purposes.

### **Friday Night**

- Load-in, registration, and pit setup
- Robot inspection
- Field connection test & robot calibration
- **Driver's meeting**
- **Tentative:** Single round of practice matches

### **Saturday**

- Opening ceremonies
- Qualification matches
- Alliance selection
- Playoff matches
- Awards ceremony