

CITRUS CIRCUITS

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

LA North Regional
February 27-March 1

St. Louis Regional
March 11-14

Sacramento Regional
March 25-28

KICKOFF

Happy kickoff! On January 4, the 2020 FRC game was released. Our team hosted a kickoff viewing party for 22 teams from the Sacramento area in the Brunelle Theater on the DHS campus. After viewing the FIRST Livestream and game release video (watch [here](#)), team members gathered in M1 to read the game manual and take the rules test. After the test, students gathered in groups to strategize robot capabilities and gameplays.



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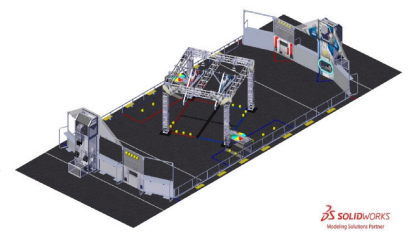
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THE 2020 GAME RELEASE

In the 2020 FRC game, INFINITE RECHARGE, an incoming asteroid shower is aimed at FIRST City and droids must collect and store Power Cells to operate the Shield Generator. The game incorporates foam balls called Power Cells, a large structure known as the Shield Generator, two Control Panels that resemble a carnival wheel, two Loading Bays where human players place Power Cells for the robots, and two Power Ports where robots score Power Cells. Each match consists of two alliances that share the field and compete for the most points.



At the start of each match, a 15 second autonomous period begins and robots pass the initiation line and score Power Cells in the Power Ports. During the 2 minute and 15 second teleoperated period, teams work together to score points and complete the Rotation Control stage by rotating the Control Panel between three and five times. Teams then complete the Position Control stage by rotating the Control Panel so a sensor aligns with a specified color for at least five seconds to energize the Shield Generator. In the last 30 seconds of the match, robots reach the Shield Generator and pull themselves onto the Rung on the tiltable Generator Switch. Teams have seven weeks to build a robot and get ready for the first week of competition starting on February 26. May the force be with us!

THANK YOU TO PARENT BUILD VOLUNTEERS

Several team parents spent their kickoff Saturday building game elements for our team to use when prototyping and practicing. Together, they built a Loading Bay for our robot to score Power Cells into, the Control Panel, and half of a Generator Switch for our robot to practice hanging from. Thank you to Dan Tolson, Alan Taylor, Rodger Wu, Erika Jensen, Mark Pollock, Bogart Nepomuceno, Dan Smith, Parneet Parmar, Brett Saraniti, Tom Young, James Phimmasehn, and Peter Kerr.

OUR COMPETITION SCHEDULE

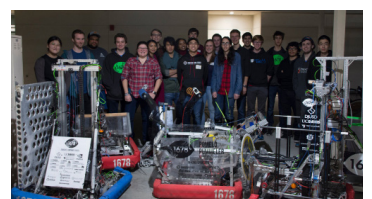
During the competition season, we will be attending three regionals. From February 27 to March 1, we will be competing at the Los Angeles North Regional at the Mamba Sports Academy. From March 11 to March 14, we will be flying to the St. Louis Regional to compete in the Chaifetz Arena. Our last competition will be the Sacramento Regional at the UC Davis Activities and Recreation Center from March 25 to March 28. If we qualify, the Houston Championships will be from April 15 to April 18.

FIRST WADPAN OF THE 2020 SEASON

During our first Work All Day Play All Night (WADPAN), team members did their best to prepare for kickoff and the upcoming build season. To get ready, students cleaned the kitchen, vacuumed M1, and set up the room for kickoff. Afterward, team members played with past year's game elements and participated in other group activities.

ALUMNI CELEBRATION

We held our annual alumni party on December 29 in M1. Many alumni, even from the graduating class of 2011, spoke about their college experience and their time on the team. Parents supplied pasta, while alumni and students brought dessert for the celebration. Thank you to all of the alumni and students who came and we hope to see you all next year.



GIRL POWERED EVENT

We hosted our last Girl Powered event of the 2019 season. The successful event was held on December 15 in the Blanchard Room at The Yolo County Library. Our Girl Powered events strive to reach out to young girls in our community and spread STEM. Tables were set up for activities such as Origami, building spaghetti and marshmallow towers, and making/decorating LED cards. We also talked about our team and demonstrated our 2019 robot, Buzz Lime-Year.



DECEMBER DYR TOURNAMENT

On December 15, we held our last DYR tournament of the year. Approximately 45 teams competed at the event and worked together to drive their robots and show off their skills. Congratulations to Aidan Phimmasehn for winning the Volunteer of the Year Award for his dedication to being an MC and a lead robot inspector. From the words of our outreach mentor, David Solomon, "Aidan spent a great deal of effort to ensure that other students sharing the MC and inspector tasks were trained and along the way, helping to ensure the success of future tournaments, and helping others feel confident in these roles." Thank you to all of the volunteers and teams who participated in the 2019 DYR tournaments. We had 35-40 volunteers at each event acting as judges, field resetters, photographers, and more. We are beyond grateful for the support of our outreach efforts!



INTERVIEW WITH STRATEGY LEAD JUSTIN YEUNG

Q: What does strategy do?

A: The strategy subteam has been training to be able to create the best alliance strategies possible for INFINITE RECHARGE. Over the next few weeks, we will create several different strategies to fit any situation we face at competitions, as well as determining what we look for in a first and second pick robot at regionals and Champs.

Q: What is strategy currently doing in relation to the new game?

A: Currently, we are figuring out what data we will need to collect in order to create successful match strategies, and we are about to start beginning the development of our match strategies.

Q: What preparations did strategy do in the fall to get ready for the 2020 strategy season?

A: In order to prepare for the 2020 season, strategy has reviewed several old games. Veteran members studied 2011, 2014, 2017, and 2018, and new members learned about 2018 and 2019. Just before winter break, strategy held its first Mock Picklist, where students analyzed the scouting data from the 2018 Newton field to create a first and second, simulating the process that the strategists went through at the Champs Draft Night in 2018.

Q: What will be unusual about strategy for the new 2020 game?

A: I think that the control panel will be difficult for most teams to accomplish, and many teams will ignore it. Instead, many teams will be prioritizing Power Cell scoring and attempting to climb.

