

2026-2027 FIRST® Tech Challenge Key Season Dates

May 2, 2026	Game Set Pre-orders Open through AndyMark
May 17, 2026	FIRST Tech Challenge DECODE™ Unlocked Software Release
July 10, 2026	Game Set Pre-order deadline to ship for kickoffs for PDPs
Mid July	FTC Scoring Event Requests Opens
	FTC Events 2026-27 Event Pages available
	FTC Software Development Kit (SDK) Summer Release
August 1, 2026	FTC Events page defaults to the BIOBUZZ™ Season
	CM Preview Release
August 17, 2026	Game Set Pre-order Shipments Start (Estimated, confirm directly with AndyMark)
	Last date for regions to be counted for FCMP/FPE capacity-based advancement
September 4, 2026	Early Game Preview Information – Privacy Agreements Required for all Viewers
September 11, 2026	Last 2025-26 DECODE Off-season Event
September 12, 2026	FIRST Tech Challenge Kickoff
	FTC Scoring Event Configuration Opens
Kickoff Week	FTC Software Development Kit (SDK) Release
	FTC Live Preview Release (Beta)
September 14, 2026	FIRST Leadership Award – Nominations Open
September 17, 2026	Volunteer Training Available
September 28, 2026	Team Q&A Opens for BIOBUZZ
	Volunteer Q&A Opens for BIOBUZZ
October 2 - 4, 2026 (proposed)	Preseason Testing Event (Date and Location TBD)
October 15, 2026	FTC Live 2026-2027 Official Release <i>Minimum software version for advancing events</i>
October 19, 2026	Earliest Event Date for League Meets or Qualifying Tournaments
	Deadline for PDPs to request Regional Championship Events in FTC Scoring
	Deadline for PDPs to set-up Region Advancement in FTC Scoring
November 16, 2026	Region Size Snapshot for FIRST Championship Advancement Calculation
	Deadline for Event Variance Request (Dual Division & Extra RCMP Matches)
November 19, 2026	FTC Live Dual Division Version Software Release
November 30, 2026	FIRST Championship and Premier Event Advancement Allocations Released
	Earliest Dual Division Events
	Earliest Regional Championship Events <i>FIRST Championship Payment Due Date – 2-weeks after preferencing assignment</i>
December 15, 2026	FIRST Leadership Award - Nominations Due
	FIRST Leadership Award Interview Event Dates set in FTC Scoring
December 18, 2026	FIRST Leadership Award – Confirmation emails sent to semi-finalists
February 15, 2027	FIRST Leadership Award – Finalists Due to FIRST <i>Earlier RCMP events can announce earlier, FIRST will keep later RCMP finalists confidential</i>
March 21, 2027	Last Regional Championship Event Date to Receive FIRST Championship or Premier Event Advancement (FIRST must receive final event data by EOD 21 st)
TBD	Last Date to Order a BIOBUZZ Specific Field Elements from AndyMark
April 9, 2027	FIRST Championship Final Payment Deadline (5pm ET) <i>Teams who have not paid and secured hotels will be dropped Unsecured slots will be reallocated by FIRST regardless of original region</i>
April 28 – May 1, 2027	FIRST Championship

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TBD	Registration and Storefront Closed <i>Last Day to use grant funds or secure a team number for current season events</i>
July 31, 2027	End of FIRST support for BIOBUZZ
Late May	2027-28 Season Registration Opens
May 20, 2027	FIRST Tech Challenge BIOBUZZ Unlocked Software Release

Projected Lead Times

5-6 Weeks	Trophy Orders from Sports Award https://firstinspiresawards.com/
8 Weeks	Banner Orders https://shopsli.com/ftc_banners/shop/home Banners are manually reviewed and approve on the 1 st of the month

Season

Projected Future Season Dates

Season	Projected Future Season Dates	
2027-28	September 11, 2027	FIRST Tech Challenge Kickoff
	March 13, 2028	Last Regional Championship Date to receive FIRST Championship and Premier Event Advancement
	April 19, 2028	FIRST Championship Load-in Date
2028-29	September 9, 2028	FIRST Tech Challenge Kickoff
	March 19, 2029	Last Regional Championship Date to receive FIRST Championship and Premier Event Advancement
	April 25, 2029	FIRST Championship Load-in Date