

**Team #6974**

**Zia Robotics**

**Lessons Learned During Our Rookie Season**

## **Before Season/Off season**

- **Do off season training for building, designing and programming to be better equipped with the challenge come build season**
- **Start writing business plans and chairmans material before season starts and develop throughout the season**
- **Write a developed safety plan to make sure that during build season team's safety procedures are enforced and working.**
- **Fundraise- try all means!!!**
- **Formally designate leadership roles for students, both to identify roles for work during the season and to assist students with scholarship applications**
- **Have outreach plan with objectives- log hours of outreach**
- **Start 'Robot Boosters' club with parents to help organize snacks for build season**
- **Create Contacts List include emergency contact information as a requirement for each member**
- **Recruit during offseason**
- **Decide Component Sub-teams**
- **Begin planning in December or earlier create a rough plan for the six-week build. Assume a five-week build schedule**
- **Put plan in place for mentoring FTC teams**
- **Identify local FIRST events, VOLUNTEER!!**
- **Create own training videos**

## **During Build Season**

- **Have a plan for how drivers and drive team members will be selected prior to the kickoff to avoid/preempt the uncomfortable situation of trying to pick and choose subjectively later. Some options include: application process, attendance tracking, interviewing, and try-outs**

- **Organize snacks and food**
- **Engage Parents More throughout the season**
- **Have photography and video crew**
- **Have Engineering Notebook to track design process**
- **Use Scrum to manage team's tasks throughout the season.**
- **Develop a communication plan for coaches students, mentors, parents, and sponsors**
- **Software takes longer than you would expect**
- **Use FRC Inspection Checklist make sure robot passes checklist before competing with robot**

## **Before Tournament**

- **Do Practice Interviews**
- **Create plan for what needs to be done on pit set-up and**
- **Prepare Specialty Buttons for tournaments**
- **Prepare At Tournament Checklists for your team**
- **Watch matches online and review winning strategies of matches**
- **Create Strategy Cards**
- **Asses what your robot can do and what strategies will work best for your team**
- **Schedule meetings for pre tournament plans**

## **At Tournament**

- **Have a pit plan with staffing schedule, identify the lead contacts to talk to judges. Have the safety captain stay in the pit at all times.**
- **Have gloves for drive team to carry the robot**
- **Talk to teams from relatively close area, and get advice. Get contacts with other teams to collectively share lessons learned**
- **Talk to top seeded teams to sell your robot for alliance selections \*Side Note: Ranking don't always matter**
- **Have different tee-shirts for the different days of the competitions**

- **Have large scouting team. 6 people in stands (1 for each robot), scouters in pits**
- **Have Drive Team Write Reflections after each match on what they did well, what could have gone better, and challenges throughout the match.**
- **Have part of drive team work on strategy between matches, while the rest work on fixing the robot.**
- **Have white boards for schedule**
- **Scouting cards work really well!**
- **Prepare checklists for the pit to maintain the pit at all times**
- **Have inventory of every item in our pit. Have a material lists to give other teams of what we can offer.**
- **Have social media coordinators updating throughout the tournament**
- **Enforce use of checklists before matches**
- **Coordinate shifts for food schedule**