Scouting

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Overview

- What is Scouting?
- Importance of Scouting
- Scouting with different sized groups
- Basic Techniques
- Advanced Techniques
- Analyzing data
- Alliance selection

Importance of Scouting

- What is scouting?
- Scouting data can help you plan how to beat your opponents
- Winning helps you seed high, but scouting helps you pick a good alliance

Scouting with different sized teams

- Big teams
  - 6+ scouts per match
  - Rotating schedule to keep scouts fresh
- Medium teams
  - Fewer scouts per match
  - Group of scouts scout longer
- Small teams
  - Use super scouts
  - Trade scouting data
  - Partner up with other teams

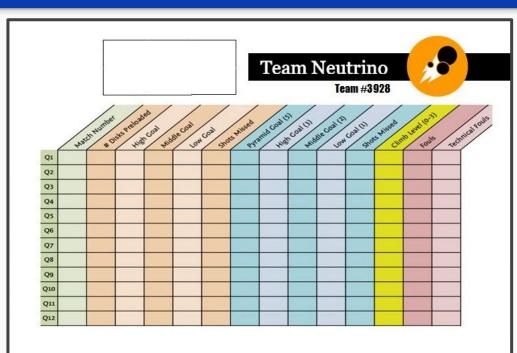# Recording Data

- Digital
    - Requires tablets/phones/laptops
    - Network connectivity
    - Digital recording can be more user friendly
- Written
    - Hard copies won't get corrupted or deleted
    - Data can easily be changed
    - Typically done on notecards, notebooks, or clipboards
    - Data compilation can be difficult

Scouting Card

- Easy to understand, fill out, read
- What type of data are you looking to gather?
  - Don't waste your time writing down info that can be gathered from the pit
  - Don't waste your time writing down info that does not matter (blue wheels)
- Show example card
- Scouting Sheet

Super Scouts

- Dedicated scouts for the whole event
  - Usually the more dedicated scouting/strategy students
- Break up the teams at an event
  - Each super scout should know everything important about those teams/robots
- Help regular scouts during match scouting
- Usually an alliance rep

Scouting apps

- Make your own
- Find another team's app
  - Test ahead of time!
  - GearScout

Analyzing data

- Transferring written data to a computer program (excel)
  - Let the program do the work for you
    - Math
    - Sorting and prioritizing
  - Don't get rid of paper card
    - Backup data

Picklist/Alliance Selection

- Alliance selection process
- Always have a picklist- a list of teams in order of who you want on your alliance
  - Know what robot types make a good alliance or work well with your robot
  - Don't forget about your third alliance member
- Keep track of who has been picked
  - You cannot draft a team that has already been selected
- Members of the audience can help your alliance rep
  - Use a whiteboard, sharpie and paper, or hand signals
- Know when to decline

Advanced Techniques

- Pre-scouting
  - Research pictures and matches before the tournament
  - Helps you plan for early matches
- Pit-scouting
  - Take pictures to remember robots
  - Have a list of questions
    - Avoid the obvious questions
    - Robot size, weight, and capabilities
    - Talk to the right people

Scouting Tips

- Keep a schedule
- Have a Scout Boss
- Train your scouts
- Get decent seats
- Don't lose your data!

Questions?

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