



ORTOP COACH NEWSLETTER FOR JUNE 14, 2007

RE: CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT CHANGES &
ORTOP SCHOLARSHIPS



73 Teams have registered for FIRST LEGO League "Power Puzzle" Season! That's 6% of the total number of teams registered in the US & Canada!

THREE ITEMS FOR YOU!

1) **The ORTOP Planning Committee has voted to hold TWO – Intel Oregon FIRST LEGO League Championship Tournaments** on January 19 & 20, 2008. The tournaments will be held at Liberty High School in Hillsboro, Oregon. 120 teams (60 each day) will advance to the Championship event. Of course to qualify for the championship, teams must attend an ORTOP Qualifying Tournament be awarded an advancement certificate!

The committee also revised the tournament advancement policy. Starting this year, at each of our Qualifying tournament, teams winning a Champion's Award or a Champion's Runner-up Award will qualify. In addition, the 1st Place Young Team Award winner from each Qualifying Tournament will advance to the Championship Tournament. The change in policy affects rookie teams. Rookie Teams will be awarded trophies but the 1st Place Rookie team will not receive an advancement certificate. Rookie teams are eligible for Champion's or Champion's Runner-up Awards but will compete against the full field of teams.

CLARIFICATION: ALL teams, Young, Rookie and Veteran are eligible for the Champion's or Champion's Runner-up Awards for demonstrating outstanding overall achievement in Robot Performance, Technical Interview, Project Presentation and Teamwork.

CLARIFICATION: At last year's Qualifying Tournaments the top award was named the Director's Award. In 2007 the new name is Champion's Award.

This new policy reflects the overwhelming number of emails and comments from the Coach Year End Survey urging us to open up additional slots for non-rookie/ non-young teams. In the face of tremendous growth and team retention, 46% of the Championship slots were open to the veteran teams that represented 60% of all teams. This new policy also is in alignment with tournament policies in other states.

2) ORTOP SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS LINKS

CLICK HERE FOR COMPLETE ORTOP SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

<http://www.ortop.org/res.htm#scholar>

3) Next week I'll attend the **FIRST LEGO League State Partners Conference** in New Hampshire (affectionately called the "mothership"). I'll update everyone on new information. I'll try to answer email during the week.

Regards,

Cathy Swider

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