

Scrimmages as from September 2026

Three types of practice events: from informal practice to a rehearsal

Starting in September 2026, there will be three types of scrimmages. Each format has its own purpose, ranging from informal practice sessions to a full rehearsal for a qualifier. This gives every school and team the flexibility to choose the format that best suits them.

The same basic agreement applies to all three formats: the school hosting the scrimmage is responsible for organizing the day itself. This includes communication and publicity, registrations, setting up the playing fields, volunteers, and materials. STEAMup supports where possible with guidelines, advice, and systems, but the organization remains the responsibility of the school.

STEAMup can list the scrimmages on its website. The organizing team can post the invitation themselves on Slack.

No playing field of your own? The school can borrow a field from STEAMup. The school is responsible for collecting and returning the field, borders, tiles, and game elements.

Scrimmage: Practice and meet — Train & Play

Teams come together to share experiences, work on their robots, and, if desired, play a practice match. It is helpful if the school has a makerspace or technology classroom where teams can use tools and materials under the supervision of a teacher or another adult. There is no official competition format, and STEAMup does not put out a call for volunteers.

Scrimmage: Practice matches — Game Ready

Teams play multiple practice matches, giving them the opportunity to practise competition procedures, teamwork, and strategies. There is also time between matches to work on their robots. Scores can be recorded using the official scoring system, which STEAMup sets up. The school is responsible for ensuring there are enough people available on the day.

Scrimmage: Generale rehearsel for qualifier Official of Elite

An official preparation event for a qualifier, registered with FIRST®. Teams compete in matches just like they would at a real tournament, can work on their robots between matches, and can present their portfolio to a Judge for feedback (if a Judge is available).

If the school wishes, STEAMup can put out a call through its volunteer network for roles including Referees, Scorekeepers, a Field Technical Advisor (FTA), and a Judge. This helps make the day feel as much like an official qualifier as possible.

Registration of a scrimmage via: info@steamup.eu

Include the location, date of the scrimmage, address, email address where teams can register, and indicate which type of scrimmage is being organized: Train & Play / Game Ready / Official or Elite (see below).

At a glance

What	Scrimmage Train & Play Practice and meet	Scrimmage Game Ready Practice matches	Scrimmage Official of Elite General rehearsel
Atmosphere of the day	*Informel*	*Matchday experiene*	*As real as possible*
Working on your robot *In the makerspace or technology classroom under supervision*	✓	✓	✓
Play practice matches	✓ *If teams want to*	✓ *Several rounds*	✓ *Several rounds*
Official scoringssystem *STEAMup will set up system*	✗	✓	✓
Registered at *FIRST*	✗	✗	✓
Present portfolio at a Judge *Including feedback*	✗	✗	✓
Volunteers via STEAMup *Judge, FTA, Referee, Scorekeeper*	✗	✗	✓ *Upon request, without guarantee*
Borrowing playing field at STEAMup *If available*	✓	✓	✓
Organisation by school *Communication, registration, fields, people, materials*	✓	✓	✓