

Team Update 04

General

ALGAE Update

As noted in [this blog](#) both the clamshell and crosshatch ALGAE are approved for use for the 2025 season.

While we are unable to test or predict the various ways teams may interact with the ALGAE, generally mechanisms which are very sensitive to the surface characteristics (such as a vacuum seal) or stiffness (such as pinching ALGAE tightly) of ALGAE may be more susceptible to variance between the two ALGAE types. All inflated game pieces, included those with the same surface texture, typically have some variance. We encourage teams to test their ALGAE on both ends of the diameter specification to ensure their mechanisms work as intended.

At official *FIRST* events, only the crosshatch ALGAE will be used due to the availability that *FIRST* has on hand, production lead times, and to ensure that all teams have a similar experience with the ALGAE used at events.

Additionally, one or more crosshatch ALGAE will be available for use on the practice areas at official events for teams to test with. This ALGAE must be kept at the practice area and shared amongst teams.

We profusely apologize for this error and know this is not ideal for anyone. We will take lessons learned from this season and work towards improving our game piece sourcing and quality control in the future.

Awards

The [Submitted Award webpage](#) was updated to add the character count for the optional executive summary question for the *FIRST* Impact Award.

Game Manual

14.5 Pits

A team pit is the designated space, usually 10 ft. by 10 ft. by 10 ft. (~3 m x 3 m x 3 m), where a team may work on their ROBOT. Each team is assigned a pit space marked with their team number. This helps team members, judges, and visitors find teams easily. Each team pit has a ~~table and~~ power outlet **and a table may be provided.**