

# Tier 1

## - **Water Game**

- As far back as the early 2000s (and maybe even before), there have been countless people who suggest the possibility of an FRC game involving water, hence “Water Game”. However, for obvious reasons, having electrical machinery interacting with a wet substance like water is most likely not a good idea. This doesn’t stop people however from chanting at every Championship event that they want a water game. Even in the 2019 Houston Championship (one I personally attended), during a speech by a NASA Administrator, when he mentioned the great progress being made and how water was discovered at Mars, the stadium started to loudly chant Water Game (me included). This left the NASA Administrator perplexed, and even quoting if he stumbled across some sort of inside joke (which he did, ha). Although this is technically a meme entry, “Water Game” has transcended and became one of the biggest inside jokes for every FIRST member.

## - **Steampunks Song**

- The best song to ever come from FIRST, this is a rap song introduced during the 2017 FRC season. If you have been in FRC recently, you more than likely heard of this song. But I’ll let it speak for itself. Use this link to listen to it.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AKXZGo1S2rQ&ab\\_channel=DatFRCBoiii](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AKXZGo1S2rQ&ab_channel=DatFRCBoiii)

## - **FRC**

- FIRST Robotics Competition. The FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) is an international high school robotics competition. Each year, teams of high school students, coaches, and mentors work during a six-week period to build robots capable of competing in that year's game that weigh up to 125 pounds (57 kg). Robots complete tasks such as scoring balls into goals, placing inner tubes onto racks, hanging on bars, and balancing robots on balance beams. The game, along with the required set of tasks, changes annually. While teams are given a kit of standard set of parts during the annual Kickoff, they are also allowed and are encouraged to buy or make specialized parts. Source: Wiki

## - **254, 3310, 1114, 1690, etc.**

- Like many other sports teams, some of the teams mentioned in this entry are popular teams that tend to do very well every year and every competition. People like to debate which team is better statistically wise, or who is the most consistent. Opinions vary obviously.

## - **Plowie**

- Plowie has become a mascot for FIRST. Plowie is a little blue robot with a dozer attached on the front of it. Plowie is shown in almost every kickoff animation video, with the bot pushing things or lifting things around the field.

## - **The Blue Alliance**

- It is a website used to record the matches of every single FRC event. Such as the scores, rankings, positions, and even video footage if any are available.

## - **Gracious Professionalism**

- One of the biggest mottos in FIRST, it is a term to help describe how we should treat each other in the community.

- **Dean Kamen**
  - o Dean Kamen is engineer, inventor, and businessman. Known for the invention of the Segway (and also FIRST, ha). He founded FIRST in 1989, and in 1992 alongside Woodie Claude Flowers, created FRC.
- **Woodie Flowers**
  - o Woodie was a MIT professor specializing in teaching engineering design and product development. He is also known for helping Co-found first alongside Dean Kamen, and coining the most popular phrase in FIRST, “Gracious Professionalism”.

## Tier 2

- **Bean Kamen**
  - o I’m not sure how this name came to be. I am assuming someone just saw “Dean” and replaced it with “Bean”, and it stuck. So, yea, Bean Kamen, ha-ha.
- **Maize Craze**
  - o The name of the first ever FRC game in 1992. 4 robots would have to collect tennis balls into their home base. However, the catch is the entire field is covered in a couple inches of corn kernels. It’s pretty unique but must have been a pain to setup and take down every time. There are some photos and footage of this, but of course this being the early 90s and FRC being new, there isn’t widespread coverage of this.
- **Crowdatron**
  - o You either love it or hate it. Crowdatron is a video programmed with a simple black background and white text. Crowdatron, I believe only ever appears at World Champs and District Finals. Crowdatron also sports a very generic beat playing in the background (this is important for another entry lower in the tier). Crowdatron speaks to the audience and entertains them while other processes are happening at the fields such as setup or however. People tend not to like Crowdatron because of its very generic responses and cringe messages.
- **Kendrick Castillo**
  - o Kendrick Castillo was a student and a robotics member for team 4418 Team Impulse. In 2019, a school shooting occurred at his Denver High School. He died while attacking the assailant, helping buy time for his friends and classmates. He is immortalized as being a hero. We wish him to rest in peace. Thank you, Kendrick Castillo.
- **FUN**
  - o FIRST Updates Now are a YouTube and twitch channel that focuses on FIRST content. Go check them out!
- **FRC Meme Accounts**
  - o Usually on Instagram, there are various meme accounts that specialize posting memes about FRC.
- **Wheel of Fortune**
  - o In the 2020 season, one of the ways to score was spinning a colorful wheel to a certain color after filling up enough cargo beforehand. However due to the difficulty of the latter task, the Wheel of Fortune was rarely ever used.

- **Recycle Rush**
  - Recycle has its long share of infamy as being one of the worst FRC games in existence. It's also become a meme in the community as just a game to bash on. On though most criticism is valid, the argument becomes more moot as time goes on, the less current FIRST members there are to actually have been there to experience. The details go on forever, so read this chief delphi post for some examples on why it was bad. <https://www.chiefdelphi.com/t/a-recycle-rush-reflection/143576/35>

## Tier 3

- **Recycle Rush II**
  - Mentioned by u/Swatteam652, although they're probably not the only one to mention this. Recycle Rush is an infamous FRC game for reasons stated above. However, the arrival of something like Recycle Rush II could cause quite the chaos, especially if there are barely any iterations from the first version. But perhaps it could actually make the game quite enjoyable, giving Recycle Rush a second chance to actually be a decent game. We have seen FIRST give infinite recharge a second chance, only due to that because of a worldwide event going at the time. Recycle Rush will need serious changes to come back, and even then, would it even be Recycle Rush if it was changed?
- **Drunk Dean**
  - There are rumors that Dean Kamen might have been drinking during some of the FRC events. Particularly detected from the 2017 Worlds during some of his speeches because of how he was speaking. It became more of a meme at this point, as these days, when Dean Kamen gives a speech, and it goes on a bit too long, viewers would comment on how he is drinking again.
- **Static Electricity Field**
  - There have been times when static electricity has messed with the electronics of the FMS and robots. This can be from the carpeted field, metal frame, or plastic coverings of every single robot all rubbing against each other. At some point this can be launched out causing brownouts or blackouts of the robots.
- **Praise Dean**
  - Kind of the alternate version of saying "Praise God". FIRST students will usually say this anytime a good thing happened, particularly within the field of FIRST Robotics.
- **Infinite Rebuild Season**
  - Due to worldwide events, Infinite Recharge in 2020 has had their in-person events cancelled. Therefore, the build season is still "ongoing".
- **Tall Robot Syndrome**
  - Most known for in the 2018 season, there would be moments of robots getting stuck onto the top of the middle scale, usually an intake breaking of, and scoring multiple penalty points. Anytime this happened, the bot would be diagnosed with Tall Robot Syndrome.

# Tier 4

- **2012 champs' controversy**
  - o Credit to u/GeorgeBork, At the 2012 FIRST Championship, there are claims of intentional FMS "hacking" and DDoSing of the robots on the field, especially in Einstein Matches. Apparently even one of the people involved was banned from FIRST. More details into the specific report can be found on this link.  
[https://www.firstinspires.org/sites/default/files/uploads/resource\\_library/frc/technical-resources/2017/2012-einstein-investigation-report.pdf](https://www.firstinspires.org/sites/default/files/uploads/resource_library/frc/technical-resources/2017/2012-einstein-investigation-report.pdf)
- **Will-I-Am saying the F word in Einstein 2016**
  - o This is hilarious. There isn't much to say. Just watch the link.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9LSyRyV5rE&ab\\_channel=Ethan](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9LSyRyV5rE&ab_channel=Ethan)
- **2017 Archimedes**
  - o Kind of a simpler one, but lesser known. Finals 3 had a redo match where the 1<sup>st</sup> seed alliance won against 2<sup>nd</sup> seed by 4 points. 2<sup>nd</sup> seed claim field error and had a rematch. 1<sup>st</sup> seed alliance still won.
- **2017 Daly Water Game**
  - o This is probably the closest we're ever going to get to a water game. During the St Louis Champs, it was raining particularly hard that day, and so the roof started to leak water onto the Daly Field. FIRST fixed this by taping a giant plastic sheet to stop it.
- **2013 Curie Citrus Circuits DECLINED**
  - o Just a funny moment in the alliance selection. Citrus Circuits asked 4 different teams to join their alliance, all declining, until 148 finally was the team to accept. We rarely ever see the 1<sup>st</sup> rank team get declined by 4 different teams.
- **Chute door**
  - o Yes, Chute door.  
[https://www.firstinspires.org/sites/default/files/uploads/resource\\_library/frc/game-and-season-info/archive/2015/FRCQandA\\_2015-04-20\\_09\\_24\\_41.pdf](https://www.firstinspires.org/sites/default/files/uploads/resource_library/frc/game-and-season-info/archive/2015/FRCQandA_2015-04-20_09_24_41.pdf)
- **Beachbots saved 2016**
  - o One of the most famous matches in FRC history, team 330 Beachbots saved their Carver alliance only by barely. Beachbots earlier attempted to climb the tower but fell. However, 330 were able to flip themselves back up and park into the safe spot, barely earning them the points needed to win the match. Feel free to check it out.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjDSCT96K2w&ab\\_channel=FIRSTRoboticsCompetition](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjDSCT96K2w&ab_channel=FIRSTRoboticsCompetition)
- **2018 Chezy Champs Mistake**
  - o One of the most interesting offseason matches to ever occur. During Final match 3, Red alliance teams 254, 1678, and 649 faced against blue alliance 3310, 1323, and 2659. Not

only did this match have a very interesting auto (with 1323 being lifted into the air), but the real moment of this match was also the referee mistake that occurred. Red alliance officially was declared the winner shortly after the match, even though red alliance made a blockading foul. However, this was corrected, and midway through the award ceremony, this decision was reversed. This is because red alliance had 2 robots create the blockading, which equated to two yellow cards, which equals 1 red card. This resulted in red alliance losing the Final match 3 and declaring blue alliance the ultimate winners of the event. Check out the video in the link below.

[https://www.thebluealliance.com/match/2018cc\\_f1m3](https://www.thebluealliance.com/match/2018cc_f1m3)

## Tier 5

- **1690 Tele-op is autonomous**
  - o This is added here because its pretty amusing to think of this as a possibility. 1690 tend to attract a lot of interesting theories, however I included this because the reddit user, u/snowyvalk, suggested it and it had plenty of upvotes. This is just a mid-tier theory since I couldn't really find anything else about this.
- **Dean hit in the face**
  - o The name is self-explanatory. During the 2010 season, Dean Kamen while watching a match got hit in the face by a ball from a robot. Therefore we wear safety glasses lol. Here's a link to the video.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnE0j69\\_gYk&ab\\_channel=jamesaustin](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnE0j69_gYk&ab_channel=jamesaustin)
- **1000 pt game**
  - o In the 2018 season, during a quarterfinals match in IN Plainfield, team 1747 accidentally got stuck onto the scale, causing 25 pt penalties to be added for every 5 seconds. This happened near the beginning of the match, causing a ton of points to occur for the blue alliance. The score ended with 255 to 1080. This is one of the highest points to ever be earned in an official FRC match. More info can be found on this link.  
[https://www.thebluealliance.com/match/2018inpla\\_qf3m1](https://www.thebluealliance.com/match/2018inpla_qf3m1)
- **254 2022 hoarding**
  - o In 2022, there is a rule in place that robots made not hold more than 2 balls at a time for a certain period of time. However people suspect that 254 broke this rule as they would often pick up 3-4 balls at a time and not get penalized for it. However, people also defend 254 by stating they are not breaking any rules, as they only hold it for a short amount of time, thereby not breaking the rule. Kind of a more common topic nowadays.
- **2906 caught fire**
  - o In a 2017 match, the improper placement of their battery lead to an internal spark, causing a fire on the bot.

- **Freezing Motors**
  - o In the 2011 season, teams would speed their motors in the climbing portion, which would cause their motors to heat up. Some teams would bring mini fridges to store these motors to cool faster
- **Turkish Delight**
  - o If I am understanding this correctly, it is basically you play defense, and hit the other team robots a lot with your bumpers.

## Tier 6

- **The Season that Never Happened**
  - o I decided to leave the title vague just so I can get some people to read this document, ha. However, as one might think it is the 2020 season considering worldwide events, this is actually a reference specifically to a 2010 Israel Regional. According to u/talknoller, there were a ton of communication errors occurring at the event. Only around 1-3 bots would work per match (which is bad as it should be 6 at the time of this post.) A lot of matches to be replayed, which most of them couldn't even occur. Finals was even decided by a coin toss. That is insane if that happened.
- **Mentors Doing All the Work**
  - o This has been talked about for quite a while. The basis of this, is that the reason why the "good" teams always seem to do particularly well, even though technically speaking if team members are always changing throughout the years, is that it is the mentors that carry the team, and the actual students do little to no work on constructing their robot. This is especially aimed at teams whose location may provide them better access to more experienced robotic mentors. I am not naming any, but you could probably guess. However, it is true these teams have access to mentors that many other teams may not have access to, it is debated that they are not the core reason why teams do well for long periods of time. Its low on this list because of how taboo it is to try and genuinely other teams of this.
- **Some Events are More Competitive than Worlds**
  - o I personally believe this is true. Most common cited events are that of Michigan Champs and FIRST in Texas, where these districts to have overall higher quality bots compared to other districts. These leads to closer competitions and sometimes even more interesting matches. This seems illogical considering World Champs should be the place where the worlds best bots gather, but this isn't always the case.
- **71 are villains**
  - o So from what I can learn. Back in the ye olden days of FIRST, team 71 Team Hammond were a powerhouse. Although not creating the most visually appealing bots, they made bots that were so powerful, many rules had to be introduced after the team made a lot of interesting implementations. For example, if I am reading this right, there is a popular cited match in 2002 where they would use a strategy of holding the towers and using a cleat technology to attach onto the floor, making them an immovable mountain and basically securing the match. I believe this damaged the carpet and later a rule was

made about it.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eKvva\\_ZCHw&ab\\_channel=PatrickMcCarthy](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eKvva_ZCHw&ab_channel=PatrickMcCarthy)

Another occurrence is their 2005 Midwest Regional SF1-3, when their team pulled down an entire tetra tower, which should be penalized. However, this wasn't taken into account and 71's alliance won the match.

- **The Greatest Human Player**

- Patrick Belford, a student from I believe team 2013, was a human player in pretty much all their matches from what I can find. The reason the entry is called this is because of a YouTube video that with the same name, shows him throwing the exercise balls over the truss and accurately making it to whichever bot he wants it at. This entry is low because there isn't a "greatest human player in FRC history" and it's more of a meme video. The description even admits that. "If you think this is real, you are really dumb." Check out the video if you want.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SiVSn0wFQ&ab\\_channel=RossAndress](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SiVSn0wFQ&ab_channel=RossAndress)

## Tier 7

- **Reeses Puffs vs Bagged Rice**

- "Big meme fight on this subreddit that continued into championships IRL where Reeses dominated Houston and Bagged Rice dominated Detroit." According to u/superawesome51.

- **2017 Einstein Controversy**

- With some negative events going on, such as the sun messing with vision-targeting, students passing out from heat stroke, and limited water and no food, made this an unpleasant event for some.

- **Throwing Game for Rank**

- I heard about this quite rarely. The strategy is to purposely throw games in order to achieve a certain rank. However, this is obviously not gracious professionalism considering these ruins the spirit of the games and could affect your partners in a negative way.

- **Fantasy FIRST**

- Like Fantasy Football, people will bet on FRC teams. Some people get into this by doing deep dives into rookie and new teams.

- **The 2012 hacking conspiracy is deeper**

- There are theories that the hacking and DDoSing events were happening at other events that year, such as Michigan Champs and Troy. It is rumored that the alliance partner accidentally hacked their alliance partner during a finals match, which led to them losing. I don't mention any teams for obvious reasons.

- **469 2010 scoring illegal?**

- One of my favorite bot designs of that season. Basically, the way 469 is setup is that when the soccer ball heads down the return ramp, it would then get caught on 469's ramp return, where it is then pointed back into their own goal. Thereby creating a perpetual scoring system, if done correctly. The exploitation of the field is one of the

most genius in my opinion. However, it is debated if 469 broke the rules doing this and the refs and inspectors failed to enforce this.

## Tier 8

- **1690 Orbit uses iron dome tech**
  - o The iron dome is a system of anti-air defense used to eliminate enemy aerial attacks. Considering Orbit is from Israel, people like to suspect Orbit has utilized this Iron Dome technology into their robots somehow.
- **Every Robot in FRC is personalized**
  - o Well... yea. That is the point. However, I added this in as sort of an inside meta joke about iceberg memes in general. One of the first iceberg memes to gain traction is the Super Mario 64 iceberg. In the lowest entry of that iceberg said "Every copy of SM 64 is personalized" which is trying to say every copy of the game is different, even if it is slight. This is just more of a meme entry to put on every iceberg meme.
- **Turing Curse**
  - o Correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe the Turing division is the only division in FRC where the winning alliance from that division has then never won the Einstein Finals. Hence the Turing Curse. Also, other issues such as field errors over the years compared to other divisions.
- **Who Are the 4911 CyberKnights?**
  - o While we have a Facebook profile, a pretty sweet website, and invite local teams to our shop whenever the weather is sunny (so like, once?), we've never really had a presence here on CD... I'm kidding. This is mostly a meme on their chief delphi post. It is a long post about who they are. However, some teams took fun of this and turned their "Who Are the 4911 CyberKnights" post into a cypasta for FRC.
- **Dean Kamen Cameo**
  - o Dean Kamen, alongside a FIRST competition, makes a cameo in an episode of *Black-ish* in 2020
- **The worst cameo ever**
  - o Very hilarious. In a season 2 episode of *Trinkets*, part of an FRC match is shown. However, this is one of the strangest setups ever shown. Just to list a couple things, almost no one is wearing safety glasses, and the entire "red" alliance is missing. Just check out the full clip below.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n96Gg\\_Aq2GU&ab\\_channel=FRCVideoArchive](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n96Gg_Aq2GU&ab_channel=FRCVideoArchive)