

LISBON SCRIMMAGE

TEAM GUIDE

Your team's guide to Portugal's first *FIRST®* Tech Challenge scrimmage: one full day of competition at Taguspark.

- Saturday 18 July 2026
- Taguspark — Edifício Núcleo Central, Oeiras
- Off-season scrimmage · DECODE 2025-26
- 14 international teams
- Free entrance for spectators

BEM-VINDOS A LISBOA

SEE YOU AT THE SCRIMMAGE

Dear teams, coaches and mentors: welcome to the **Lisbon Scrimmage 2026**, the first **FIRST®** Tech Challenge event ever held in Portugal. We're really glad you're here.

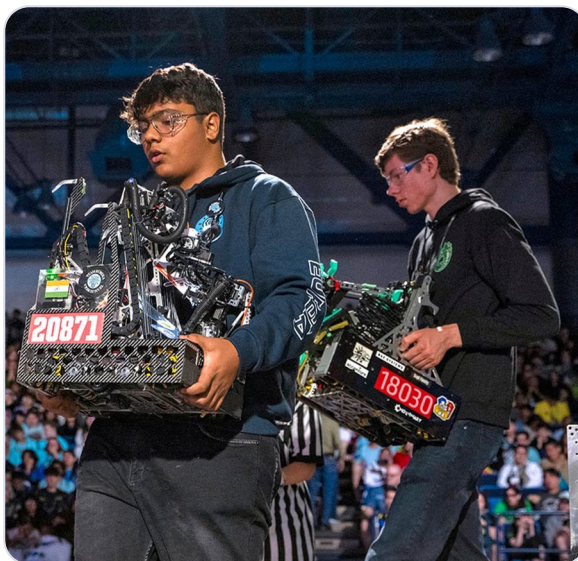
It's an off-season event with one simple goal: **more time on the field**. Bring your DECODE robot, meet international teams, swap ideas in the pits, and compete for real (if unofficial) awards. Seasoned team after extra match practice, or a brand-new team finding your feet? You belong here either way.

GRACIOUS PROFESSIONALISM®

It means doing great work while treating people well. Compete like crazy, and be kind while you do it. Every team, volunteer and guest matters here, and the day is family-friendly and open to all.

It's a small event on purpose: international, but intimate enough that a rookie team ends up trading tips with a world finalist by lunchtime. Come curious, look after each other, and enjoy the day.

— The Lisbon Scrimmage team



Drive teams go head-to-head on the DECODE field.

IN ONE LINE

**One day. 14 teams.
Portugal's first FTC.**

02 | THE EVENT AT A GLANCE

One full **FIRST®** Tech Challenge competition day: qualification matches, alliance selection, playoffs and awards, at Portugal's largest science and technology park.

14

INTERNATIONAL
TEAMS

8

QUALIFICATION
MATCHES / TEAM

1

FULL
COMPETITION DAY

14

AWARDS
UP FOR GRABS

THE ESSENTIALS

DATE

**Saturday
18 July 2026**

DOORS

From 08:00

VENUE

Taguspark — Edifício Núcleo Central

Av. Prof. Dr. Cavaco Silva · Porto Salvo ·
2740-122 Oeiras

SEASON

**DECODE
2025–26**

TYPE

**Off-season
scrimmage**

YOUR PARTICIPATION INCLUDES

- **Full competition day:** quals, alliance selection and double-elimination playoffs on an official field
- **Light snacks and lunch** for students and coaches, with dietary needs covered
- **A pit of your own**, with a table, power and a shared tool station
- **Awards ceremony** for robot performance, design and outreach
- **Professional photos and video**, shared with teams afterwards
- **Plenty of time** to meet international teams

OFF-SEASON, NO PRESSURE

There are no advancement standings. The day is about match time, learning, and meeting other teams. Inspection is practical and there to help, not to catch you out.

03 | PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

Here is the official running order for the day, start to finish.

08:00 -08:30	Team registration · pits open & load in Check in, find your pit, and load in	● PITS
08:30 -11:00	Scheduled interviews Judging slots — be on time for yours	● JUDGING
09:00 -10:00	Robot inspections Sizing, software & hardware · at queueing	● PITS
10:00 -11:00	Practice matches Shake out the robot on the field	● MATCHES
11:00 -11:20	Opening ceremony Kick-off and welcome	● CEREMONY
11:30 -12:30	Qualification matches Ranked matches, first block	● MATCHES
12:30 -13:00	Lunch break Provided on site	● BREAK
13:00 -16:00	Qualification matches Ranked matches, second block	● MATCHES
16:30 -16:45	Alliance selection Captains pick their partners	● CEREMONY
17:00 -18:15	Playoffs, finals & awards Bracket to the finals, then the ceremony	● FINALS

Your individual **match schedule** (which matches you play, and when) is handed to your team on the day.

A FEW TIMING NOTES

Interviews, robot inspections and practice all run together through the morning, so check your team's interview slot and don't miss it. Times can move a little on the day — listen for announcements and keep an eye on the screens.

KEEP ONE ADULT REACHABLE

Check email on the day

At least one coach/mentor should monitor email and the website for any timing updates.

LEGEND

● Matches ● Judging / ceremony ● Pits & breaks

Use this checklist so your team turns up ready to roll. Print it, tick it off, and you're set.

ROBOT & TECHNICAL

- ☐ **Robot, fully assembled & inspection-ready**
Built to current DECODE rules
- ☐ **Driver Hub / driver station + chargers**
Plus phones/cables if used
- ☐ **Laptop with your code & tools**
For tuning and quick fixes
- ☐ **Standard FTC tools & spare parts**
Allen keys, batteries, fasteners, spares
- ☐ **Charged robot & spare batteries**
Bring chargers; power is provided in pits
- ☐ **Extension cord & power strip**
European Union standard (Type F, 230 V); one outlet per pit

TEAM & PEOPLE

- ☐ **Drive team & pit crew**
Plus mentors/coaches
- ☐ **Safety glasses for everyone**
Worn whenever a robot is switched on
- ☐ **Closed-toe shoes**
No sandals/open toes in pits or fields
- ☐ **Engineering portfolio — 2-3 printed copies**
Hand one in at check-in; keep the rest in your pit
- ☐ **Team banner & pit decorations**
Big, visible team number encouraged
- ☐ **Team apparel & spirit**
Show everyone who you are
- ☐ **Refillable water bottle**
Refill points around the venue; snacks & lunch are provided

WE PROVIDE FOR YOU

Pit table and power, a shared tool station, all **field & game elements**, lunch and snacks, water refill points, and professional photography. You bring the robot and the energy; we handle the field.

PIT SPACE**Table · power · chairs**

One 230 V outlet per pit. Canopy frames OK (no tops). No glitter or helium balloons.

Most teams arrive the night before and stay near the venue. Here is how to get from **Lisbon Airport** to your hotel, then from the hotel to the venue on event morning. Parking on site is **free**.

COME A DAY EARLY – FRIDAY 17 JULY

The venue opens on the **afternoon of Friday 17 July**, the day before the event, so teams can drop in for some **practice** time and meet the other teams — a relaxed way to settle in before competition day.

Bring only what you need to practise — your robot, tools, batteries and laptop — then pack it all up and take it with you when you leave. **Pits aren't set up on the 17th**: pit assignments are only made on the **18th** (your team number and name will already be on your pit when you arrive on event day), so there's no pit to build out yet, and **leaving robots, batteries or gear at the venue overnight isn't permitted**. Keep everything packed and with you — the organisers can't be held responsible for equipment or property left on site. Full setup happens on event day.

HOW TO ARRIVE**Lisbon Airport (LIS) → your hotel**

Taxi, Uber or Bolt to the recommended Oeiras hotels: about **25 minutes**, roughly €15–25. Widely available at Departures, and the easiest option with robots and gear.

**Your hotel → the venue**

The recommended hotels are all **5–10 minutes** from Taguspark by car or taxi. An easy hop on event morning.

VENUE ADDRESS**Taguspark
Edifício Núcleo Central**

Av. Prof. Dr. Cavaco Silva
Porto Salvo · 2740-122 Oeiras · Portugal
38.7406, -9.3042

VENUE SERVICES

FREE PARKING

RESTAURANTS & CAFÉS

FREE WIFI

MEDICAL CLINIC

CONGRESS CENTRE

GOLF COURSE

LANDSCAPED GROUNDS

WHERE TO STAY**RECOMMENDED HOTELS IN OEIRAS**

We have lined up a selection of recommended hotels in Oeiras, all close to Taguspark. For the full list, prices and booking details, head to **ftcportugal.org/hospitality**.

July is peak season in Lisbon, so book early.

06 | GETTING AROUND TAGUSPARK

Everything you need to find your way around Taguspark: car parks, the drop-off zone, driving and walking routes, and the landmarks to steer by. **Volunteers and signage will guide you on the day.**

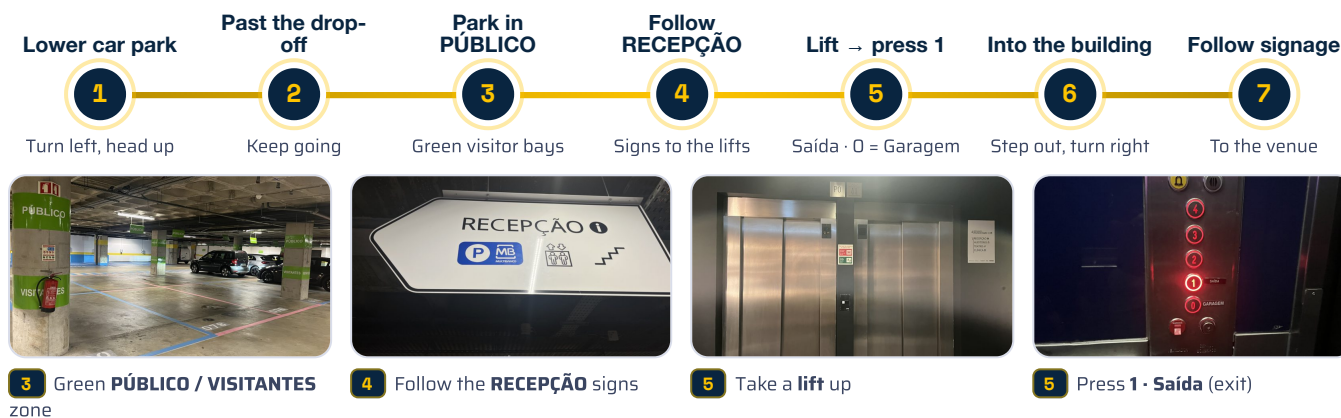


On foot, follow the walking route to the main entrance: look for the **Portuguese flag** at Praça Nelson Mandela, head up the white staircase, and find the **TAGUSPARK** lettering and Lisbon Scrimmage beach flags at the entrance. Inside, follow our flags and the arch to the pits. Parking, drop-off and entrances are directed by volunteers and signage on the day. Step-by-step directions from the underground car park are on the next page. Satellite imagery © Google · Maxar Technologies.

06 | GETTING IN — STEP BY STEP

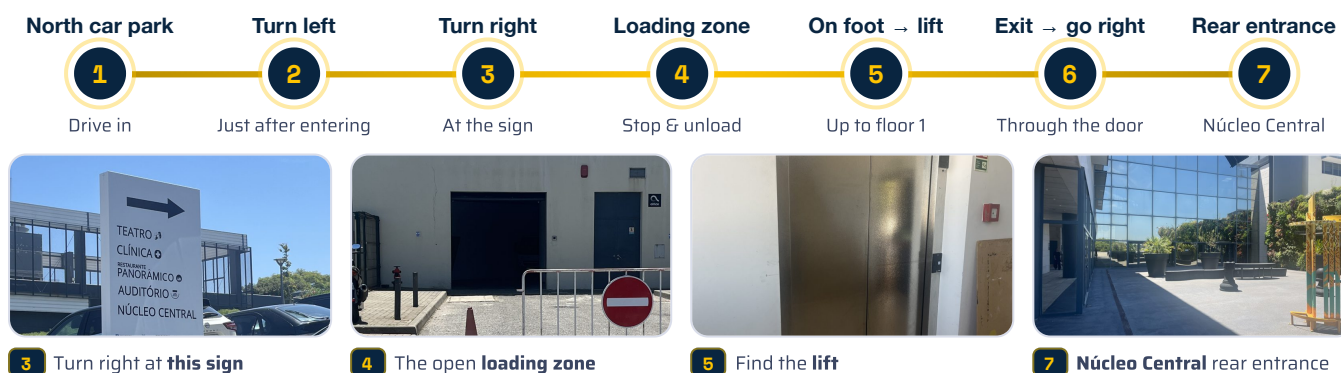
A couple of the ways in take a little explaining. Use the landmarks on the venue map to get close, then follow the steps below to the door.

FROM THE UNDERGROUND CAR PARK



Good news if you're carrying gear: the lift means no stairs the whole way from the car. Parking is free at weekends. Step out on floor 1 (Saída), turn right, and follow our signage to the venue.

FROM THE MAIN LOADING ENTRANCE



Best if you're unloading heavy kit: pull up by the loading zone, unload, then go in on foot. It's step-free from there, with a lift up to floor 1. Out on floor 1, head right, then turn left at the glass rear entrance of Núcleo Central.

ARRIVING ANOTHER WAY?

The other routes in are the easy ones.

These two are the only arrivals that take you through the building. Every other way in is far simpler. Just trace the **footpath and routes on the venue map**, and you can make your way to the **main entrance** on foot from almost any point around Taguspark, without passing through any hard to navigate spots.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE

1

Check in & hand in a portfolio

Send one or two people to collect your team envelope and hand in one printed copy of your engineering portfolio. The desk by the entrance is home base for any question.

2

Find & set up your pit

Queuers will help you find your spot. Unload the robot, then move vehicles to the car park promptly.

3

Pass robot inspection

A queuer takes you to a single inspection at **queueing** that covers sizing, software and hardware (details below). Inspectors are here to help, not catch you out.

4

Drivers' meeting & opening

At least one drive-team member should attend for match procedure and any rule notes.

YOUR PIT

- One pit per team, with a table, chairs and **one 230 V outlet**
- **Free venue Wi-Fi** reaches the pits
- A shared tool station is available nearby
- Bring your own extension cord & power strip
- Decorate it; big, visible team numbers are encouraged
- Pop-up frames OK (no canopy tops); keep walkways clear
- Keep at least one person at the pit during judging
- **Pit & field layout — see the next page;** pits are assigned on event day — look for your team number and name already on your pit when you arrive

PLEASE DON'T

No glitter · helium balloons · drones indoors

ROBOT INSPECTION · ONE VISIT, THREE CHECKS

Every robot goes through **one inspection at queueing** that covers all three areas below, and a queuer will bring your team over when it's your turn. It's practical and low-key: the inspectors are there to help you get match-ready, not to catch you out.

1 · SIZING

Measured against the official **AndyMark sizing tool** to confirm the robot fits the legal starting size.

2 · SOFTWARE

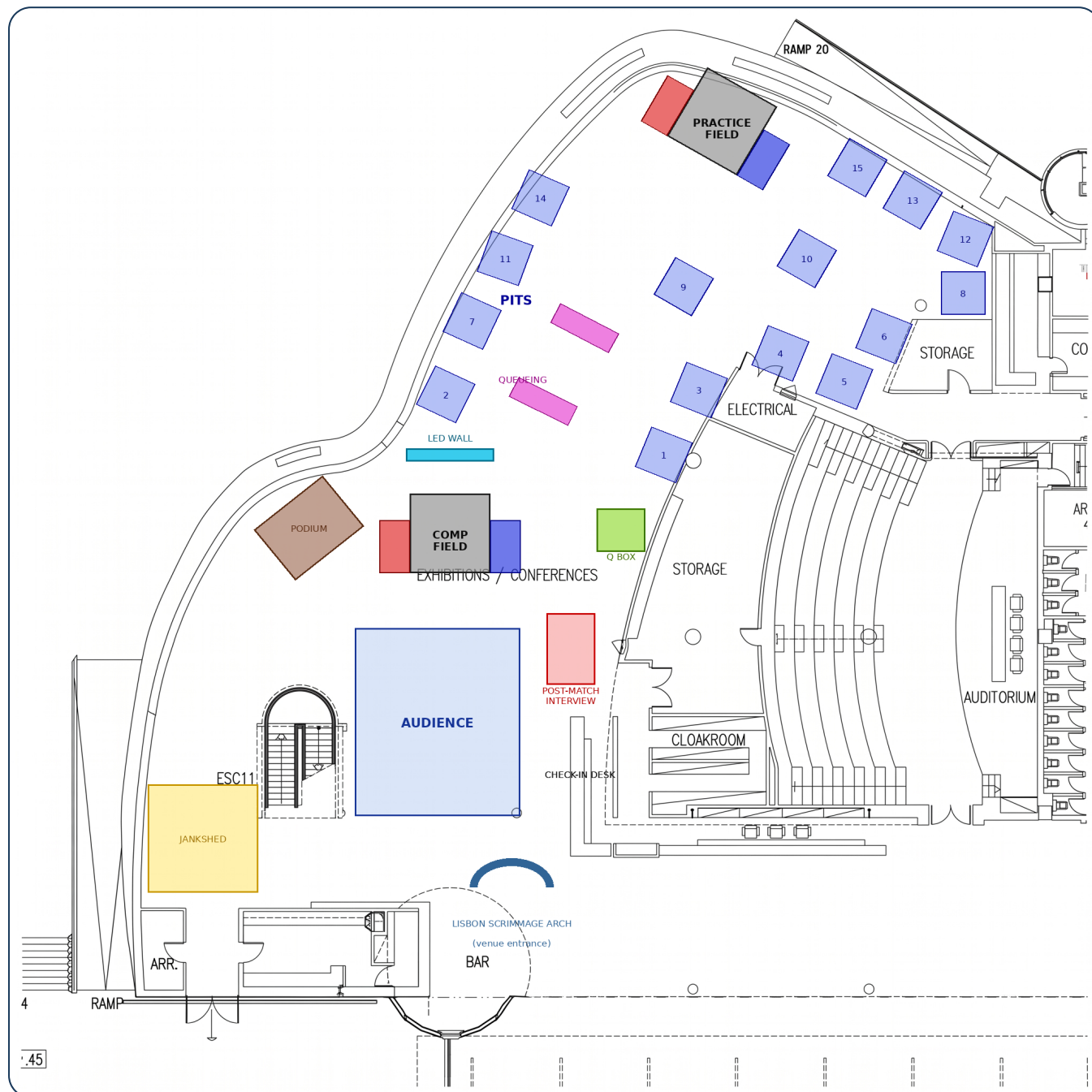
The **self-inspect** is run on your Driver Station, checking all is well and your **apps are up to date**.

3 · HARDWARE

A run through the official **FIRST@ inspection checklist** for build rules, wiring and safety.

07 | THE PIT HALL — FLOOR PLAN

Where everything sits inside the venue: your **pit** (find your number), the **competition** and **practice** fields, the queueing lane, check-in, the audience area and the Lisbon Scrimmage arch you came in through.



*Pits are numbered 1-15 and assigned on event day — your team number and name are already on your pit when you arrive. The **competition field** sits centre with the **practice field** up top; the **queueing lane** and **Q box** feed the field, with **post-match interviews** right beside it. Enter under the **Lisbon Scrimmage arch** and check in at the desk by the auditorium.*

The Scrimmage runs like a full **FIRST®** Tech Challenge tournament, just without advancement on the line.

Q

Qualification matches

Every team plays **8** qualification matches in randomly-assigned two-team alliances. Results build the day's rankings.

A

Alliance selection

The top-ranked teams become alliance captains and pick partners for the playoffs in a live selection.

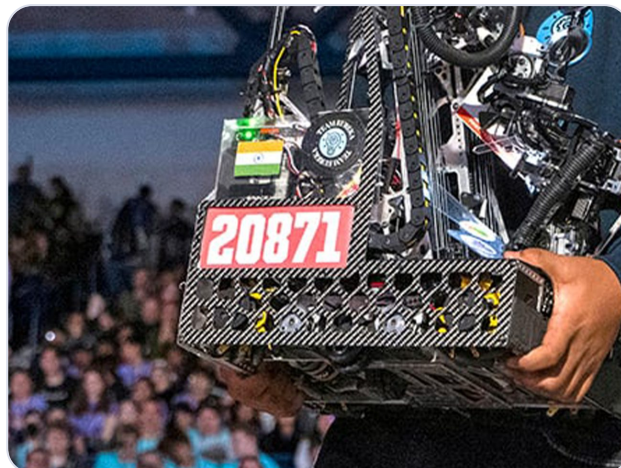
P

Double-elimination playoffs

Alliances battle through a double-elimination bracket to decide the winning alliance of the day.

DECODE · 2025-26

Robots combine an **autonomous** period with **driver-controlled** play on a 3.6×3.6 m field. The same field and game rules used this season apply.



A DECODE robot lines up on the competition field.

8

GUARANTEED
QUALS / TEAM

2v2

ALLIANCES
PER MATCH

GOOD TO KNOW

Unofficial, but it counts for pride

No advancement to chase, so it's all the fun without the pressure.

Judging follows official **FIRST®** Tech Challenge event judging: a structured **5-minute interview** with Q&A, followed by shorter **Q&A-only pit interviews** during the match day. It stays friendly and informal, a chance to share your team's story.

HOW JUDGING WORKS

- Judges visit teams **in the pits** during the day
- Be ready for a short chat about your season, design and team
- Have your robot visible and a couple of members on hand
- Keep someone at the pit so judges can always find you

BRING YOUR ENGINEERING PORTFOLIO – PRINTED

Bring at least **2 printed copies** (ideally 3). **Hand one in at check-in**, and keep the others in your pit for judges and visitors to read through the day.

14 AWARDS UP FOR GRABS

JUDGED AWARDS

INSPIRE · 1ST & 2ND

THINK

CONNECT

REACH

SUSTAIN

DESIGN

INNOVATE

CONTROL

JUDGES' CHOICE

COMPETITION

Winner x2 · Finalist x2

All 14 awards are decided by the judges on the day and handed out at the closing ceremony. Nothing is pre-decided, so there's everything to play for.

Light snacks and lunch are provided throughout the day for every student and coach, so there's no need to bring your own or sort out catering.

- **Light snacks & lunch provided** throughout the day
- **Dietary requirements covered**, as long as we have yours in advance
- **Water refill points** around the venue, so bring refillable bottles
- **On-site cafés & restaurants** at Taguspark for extra options and coffee

DIETARY NEEDS?

If anyone on your team has an allergy or dietary requirement we don't already know about, email hello@ftcportugal.org as early as possible so we can plan for it.



Refuel, regroup, and swap notes between matches.

WHERE TO EAT

Dining areas & outdoor spaces

Keep food out of the field and pit walkways; eat in the designated spaces.

11 | HEALTH, SAFETY & VENUE RULES

We want everyone to have a safe, easy day. A few essentials:

SAFETY

- **Safety glasses on whenever a robot is switched on** — and no entry to the practice or competition fields without them. Bring enough for your whole team and guests
- **Closed-toe shoes** in pits and team areas; no sandals or open toes
- **Mind hair, lanyards & loose clothing** when working on the robot
- **Under-12s** must be accompanied by an adult at all times
- Feeling unwell? Please rest; there's a **medical clinic on site**, plus a **fire-department ambulance on standby**

IN AN EMERGENCY

Tell any staff member or the Info / Pit Admin desk and they can reach medics and security right away. If the building is evacuated, follow staff directions to the nearest exit. For anything urgent before or on the day, message or call the event team on **+351 932 507 572** (WhatsApp).

CONDUCT & VALUABLES

- **Gracious Professionalism** at all times, toward volunteers, venue staff and other teams
- Teams supervise their own students throughout the day
- The event is open to the public, so **keep valuables with you**; the organisers can't guarantee personal items
- Lost & found is held at the Info desk

QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT TO BRING?

If you're not sure whether an item is allowed, please check with the event team before the day. Email hello@ftcportugal.org or message us on WhatsApp and we'll be glad to help.

MEDICAL & EMERGENCY — NEAR THE VENUE

NEAREST CLINIC • NON-URGENT

Clínica de Oeiras — general medicine, by appointment. Rua A Gazeta d'Oeiras 12, Oeiras · **211 314 093**. ≈10 min by car.

NEAREST URGENT CARE • 24H

Hospital da Luz Oeiras — 24-hour *urgência* (A&E). Rua Coro de Santo Amaro de Oeiras 12, Oeiras. General **217 104 800** · Urgência **217 104 424**. ≈10 min by car.

LOCAL FIRE BRIGADE

Bombeiros de Barcarena · **214 213 900**. The brigade that provides our on-site standby ambulance.

In any emergency call **112** (ambulance, fire or police; free, and operators speak English). For non-urgent advice, **SNS 24 · 808 24 24 24** is Portugal's national health line.

STAY CONNECTED

SHARE YOUR DAY #LISBONSCRIMAGE

FOLLOW & TAG US

Instagram @ftc.portugal

TikTok @ftc.portugal

YouTube @FTC.Portugal

Facebook /ftc.portugal

Tag your sponsors and school too, and we'll reshare the best moments. We share the professional event photos with all teams afterwards.



SCAN FOR
ftcportugal.org

QUESTIONS ON THE DAY

Email hello@ftcportugal.org

WhatsApp +351 932 507 572

On site Free WiFi at the venue

POWERED & SUPPORTED BY



MUNICÍPIO OEIRAS



TAGUSPARK
CIDADE DO CONHECIMENTO

RAISEBOX

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LISBON SCRIMAGE 2026 · PORTUGAL'S FIRST FIRST® TECH CHALLENGE EVENT · SEE YOU AT TAGUSPARK