



Judging Workshop

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NMFTC Judge Advisor

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Judging - Overall



- Process described in manual, section 6.1
- Rules are in manual, section 6.2
- Teams can only win or place in one award category (manual section 6.2, A215). Based on the number of teams in the region, Inspire will likely have a runner up and all other awards will have a winner only (manual section 6.2, A211).

Structured Interview



- 5 minutes guaranteed uninterrupted time for the team to present.
- 5-10 minutes interactive time with judges.
- This is your primary opportunity to demonstrate eligibility for awards.
- Judges will not use the portfolio to determine eligibility outside of Control/Think awards.
- Highlight the team's journey and activities that you believe tell the story of your team this season.
- Make sure you highlight activities for required elements (manual section 6.3), especially for awards your team fits well.

Engineering Portfolio



- Requirements - manual section 6.2, A201-A202.
- Think award criteria section 6.3.2.
- Control award criteria section 6.3.7.
- Not required but recommended for other awards that benefit from detailed results.
- Portfolio has no single ideal format or balance between awards. The portfolio describes your team's journey this season.
- Digital copies will be required for New Mexico with a due date of Thursday at 6 pm Mountain before competition. A paper copy is encouraged for use during pit interviews

Pit Interviews



- Where possible please have a student present in the pits at all times beginning approximately 45 minutes after opening ceremonies, to field/direct questions.
- Pit interviews are usually award-specific but may be category-wide at smaller events (Machine/Creativity/Innovation vs Team Attribute, manual section 6.1).
- Be able to address required and encouraged elements of awards (manual section 6.2).
- If your portfolio or other material has details of your work, please show the judges at this time (it would be good to have a second copy of the portfolio as the judge teams will not have seen them or have them with them for pit interviews).

Think Award



- Manual section 6.3.2.
- Judges will weigh details of the engineering design process heavily, looking for examples of the following:
 - Lessons learned from prototyping/mathematical analysis.
 - Detailed descriptions of iterations for mechanisms (not just the robot as a whole).
 - Evolution of the robot over the course of the season with notes of how the robot evolved.
 - How mentors helped the team overcome challenges and what students learned.

Reach Award



- New award, with Motivate split into Reach/Sustain awards.
- Reach appears to be close to the Motivate award prior to 2024.
- Note recruiting is of teams/coaches/mentors who were not associated with FIRST.
- Be precise in the use of terms like starting/mentoring/coaching a team. Judges will be using the Award Terms and Definitions on the FTC Volunteer Resources page.

Sustain Award



- Contains some elements of the Motivate award from last year.
- Describes the team's activities towards maintaining a sustainable team.
- Tracking efforts towards sustainability is just as important as planning for it.

Control Award



- Submission is included in the portfolio.
- Supplemental submissions (the old forms) will not be considered for eligibility, but this format is one option to include in the portfolio.
- Supplemental information during pit interviews is welcome.
- Note the requirement for external feedback. Detail sensor use during auto and teleop.



Questions