FIRST® LEGO® League Judging – Frequently Asked Questions

1. How is the Champion's Award and advancement from Qualifiers determined? Are certain weights used?

A: The Champion's Award recognizes a team that "embodies the *FIRST* LEGO League experience, by fully embracing our Core Values while achieving excellence and innovation in both the Robot Game and Design, and the Innovation Project."

At an official event judges will look for balanced, strong performance across all areas; this means that all three judged sessions (Core Values, Robot Design, and Project) and the Robot Game performance are weighted equally (each worth 25% of the team's overall score) to determine the initial group of Champion's candidates. The Champion's Award ranking is also used to determine which teams advance from Qualifiers to other official events. All candidates must also meet the following requirements:

- Robot Performance: The team's single, highest score is used to create the performance placement for all teams.
- Project: The team must complete all parts of the Project, including the identification of a real-world problem related to the Challenge theme, creation of an innovative solution and sharing their research and solution with others, as well as any other season-specific requirements that may exist.
- Core Values: The team must adhere to all Core Values throughout the event and the season.

For the Champion's Award, all candidate teams are then reviewed during a deliberative process that considers the team's placement across all four areas, along with other qualitative factors. Final determination of the award winner(s) is based on a vote of the full judging panel.

2. Does *FIRST* LEGO League have an official policy on how teams advance to Championships from Qualifiers?

A: In accordance with the [Participation Rules](#), teams are eligible for awards and advancement only at the first official event of each qualifying level attended during season. In most cases, event capacity within a region limits team participation to only one qualifying event each season.

The qualifier advancement policy is based on Champion's Award criteria. As described above, Champion's Award criteria require that the team performs well in all three judged areas (Core Values, Innovation Project, and Robot Design) and the Robot Game to be considered for Champion's Award.

Contact your local Partner or Tournament Director to find out how many teams will be advancing from the event you are attending. (See the official Advancement Policy described above).

It is possible for a team to receive a 1st Place in one of the four areas Core Values, Innovation Project, Robot Design or Performance Award but not advance to Championship if the team does not do score well in one of the other three judged areas.

3. Is it possible to win the Robot Performance Award based on field/game score without doing the Innovation Project?

A: It is not possible to win the Robot Performance Award without doing the Project. Teams must participate in all 3 judged areas (Project, Core Values and Robot Design) and the Robot Game to be eligible for any required award and Robot Performance is a required award. This rule encourages teams to embrace the spirit of discovery and focus on all aspects of the Challenge.

4. Can elimination or alliance rounds be used to determine Robot Performance Award?

A: The Robot Performance Award recognizes a team that scores the most points during the Robot Game. Teams have a chance to compete in at least three 2.5-minute matches and only the highest score out of the three matches counts. While some events may hold elimination or alliance matches for the excitement and fun, these may not be used to determine the Robot Performance Award. Instead, any awards provided for elimination or alliance matches may only be Local Awards. Note that scores from any alliance or elimination rounds will not be used to determine the Robot Performance rank needed to be met for qualifier advancement or Champion's Award consideration.

5. What happens if my team goes past 5 minutes when giving their Project presentation?

A: Some Judges may warn the team that they have gone over five minutes, while others will allow the team to finish. In some cases, the tournament may need to keep a very strict time schedule, so judges will end the presentation at five minutes. If the judges allow a team to go over five minutes, that may reduce the amount of time judges have to ask questions and could affect how the judges assess your team. Your team should practice timing their presentation before the tournament to reduce the chance they will go over five minutes.

6. Can the coach help the team setup their Project presentation?

A: As stated in the Project document, teams should plan a presentation that they are able to set up and break down with no adult help. The coach should refrain from helping the team setup any presentation materials or props. There may be rare instances when a presentation prop or other item is too bulky or heavy for team members to carry. In this instance, some tournaments may allow the coach to assist the team, or the tournament may provide volunteers to move the heavy/bulky item. Check with your tournament organizer before the tournament if you have any questions about tournament policies and procedures.

7. Do tournament directors have the flexibility to create their own judging tools or additional requirements for teams, other than those specified in the Challenge document?

A: Each official tournament is held to a set of "Global Standards," designed to provide a consistent experienced for teams attending official events. Some items, including the rubrics, are required to be used by events exactly as provided by *FIRST*. Other items may be modified to meet local needs.

Official tournaments will not have any new or additional requirements, such as a binder or video, other than the required items outlined in the Challenge, the Event Guide for Teams and *FIRST* website.

Each region may choose to require teams to present a Core Values Poster or Robot Design Executive Summary. In addition, some regions may have completely optional additions that are only used for local awards. These local, optional additions will not be taken into account by the Judges for any required awards.
If you have any questions about what is required at your tournament, please contact your *FIRST* LEGO League Partner or Tournament Director.