Judging Quick Start

Overview

In *FIRST* Tech Challenge, Judges work together to identify and celebrate teams for their achievements over the season. Teams advance to the next level of competition through a combination of award recognition and match results. Judges are led through the judging process with the help of a Judge Advisor (JA). The JA does not pick the award winners, but they do act as a facilitator for the Judging process by:

- Ensuring that a Structured Interview schedule exists, and teams and judging panels are assigned.
- Helping Judges identify top candidates by facilitating conversations around each award.
- Identifying teams which are nominated in multiple award categories to create the Inspire Award candidate list.
- Assigning Judges to award-specific panels for follow-up interviews and Portfolio reviews.
- Helping the Judges with deliberations for final awards decisions and script writing.

Judging is a full day experience, and Judges should be prepared to move from the deliberation rooms to the judging rooms and pit areas to meet with teams. Closed toe shoes and safety glasses are required for all attendees in the pit area, walkways, and competition field area.

Judges have an enormous impact on the student experience at the event. Before you start the day, spend some time thinking about your state of mind to ensure that you can be fair, unbiased, a positive role model and what verbal and non-verbal feedback you are giving as you interact with teams and other volunteers.

> This is not a complete substitution for completing the training covered in the [Judge Manual](#), but is intended to give you a quick overview.

Process Summary

JA conducts Morning Orientation Meeting	Conduct Structured Interviews	Create Initial Award Nominee Lists	JA forms Awards-Specific Judging Panels	Follow-up Pit Interviews & Portfolio Reviews	Deliberate and select Award Winners and Finalists	Create Awards Scripts

Conduct Structured Interviews:

- Judges, working in 2s or 3s, talk with students on teams, review the team portfolio, and complete Structured Interview feedback form.
- Each judging panel interviews a set number of teams during the Structured Interview phase. All Judges do not interview all teams.
- Give your full attention to the team during the Structured Interview. Do not review the Portfolio at this time. Portfolios will be initially reviewed after the team leaves.
- Judges must only consider content Discussed, Displayed, Documented, or Demonstrated at the event.
- Portfolios will be initially reviewed after the team leaves.

Create Initial Award Nominee Lists

- Once judging panels have completed all their assigned interviews, they return to a judging deliberation room, where they nominate teams they have interviewed for specific awards.
- Teams can be nominated for more than one award. No team is nominated directly for the Inspire Award.

Follow-up Pit Interviews & Portfolio Reviews

- Judges are then re-assigned into award-specific panels, and Judges will conduct Pit Interviews to gather additional information or review Portfolios.

Deliberate and select Award Winners and Finalists

- After all pit interviews have been completed, the Judges return to the deliberation room, compare notes on the teams they interviewed and provide a ranked list for their award to the JA.
- The JA will then facilitate the award deliberations.

Create Awards Scripts

- After all award decisions are made, awards script will be written to highlight what stood out about the team to the Judges

Rule Reminders

- [A205] Judges look for team alignment to specific award criteria based on the content the team provides during their presentation (5 minutes), the Judges' questions (minimum of 5 minutes), and [A201] the content included in the 15-page portfolio, if provided.
- [A211] The number of awards is scaled based on the number of teams participating at the event.
- Every award has specific required and encouraged elements. Section 6.3.

Portfolio Required	Portfolio Optional
Think, Control, and Inspire	Connect, Reach, Sustain, Design, Innovate, and Judges' Choice