2025 - 26 Playoffs and Awards Ceremony Script

**Scoring System Automation:**

* This script is provided for reference, but events are strongly encouraged to learn to use the built-in “Playoffs and Award Ceremony” script in the scoring system.
* The scoring system will auto-populate known information and guide the Emcee/Presenter through the correct playoff and award ceremony process.
* This script is available when logged into the Emcee role in the scoring system.

**Videos Assets:**

* Available for [download from Box](https://ftc-resources.firstinspires.org/ftc/event/videos) file sharing service (public access).
* Available for download within FTC Live ([FTC Live Setup Guide](https://ftc-resources.firstinspires.org/ftc/event/scoring-setup))

**Important Notes:**

* Awards **MUST** be presented in the order listed below.
* The script for the Innovate Award sponsored by RTX should not be changed at an event.
* This script utilizes all content necessary for a closing celebration, if your event isn’t conducting a specific part of the ceremony, please skip that text.
* **New playoff changes for this season!** Please review the playoff match bracket information in the [Competition Manual](https://ftc-resources.firstinspires.org/file/ftc/game/manual) in section 13.7.3.

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| --- | --- |
| 6-Alliance timing | Playoff Schedule Overview |
| 5 mins | Opening dialog, thank the volunteers |
| 42 mins | Playoff matches rounds (1-4 depending on bracket size) |
| 8 mins | **1st Awards Break**Welcome back the Judges and thank themJudges’ Award (optional), Design Award, Reach Award |
| 3 mins | Last round of playoffs |
| 8 mins | **2nd Awards Break**Control Award, Innovate Award, Sustain Award |
| 3 mins | Finals |
| 8 mins | **3rd Awards Break**Connect Award, Think Award |
| 3 mins | Additional Finals Match (if needed) |
| 12 mins | Event Finalists and Event Winners |
| 8 mins | Inspire Award |
| 8 mins | Advancement Announcement (if known) and closing remarks |

**Key:**

**[Green Highlight]** – If using the scoring system script feature, data will automatically be filled in.

**[Yellow Highlight]** – User must fill in data based on their event information.

**(Action)** – Indicates an action or non-verbal interaction.

**(Blue Highlight)** – This indicates a transition from between ceremony and matches.

**Start this script before the first playoff match of the event.**

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| Speaker | Dialogue | Blocking Notes |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Emcee | **(Start this script before the first match of Playoffs)** |  |
| Emcee | Welcome to the DECODE playoffs! Our top alliances are about to take the field for a shot at being the ***[Event Name]*** Winning Alliance. Along the way, we’ll take breaks to celebrate with awards—so get ready for an afternoon full of competition **and** recognition, leading up to our Inspire Award winner. At this event, we have **[X]** advancement spots that will be awarded to the top point-earning teams, based on both their performance on the field and in judged awards. Let’s get this playoff tournament started! | Emcee comes to stage.  |
| Emcee | [***Optional***]Before we get started, I would like to introduce our special guest.***[Introduce first speaker, include a few personal sentences describing why the speaker is important to FIRST and/or the FIRST Tech Challenge program]*** | Speaker comes to stage, shakes hand. Emcee steps aside. |
| Speaker | ***[Brief comments]*** | Leaves stage. Emcee comes forward. |
| Emcee | And now, it’s time to start our first playoff match! As a reminder we have **[2/4/6/8]** alliances playing in our double elimination bracket today. First up in Round 1 we have Alliance **[#]** vs Alliance **[#].** Let’s meet the teams. **(*Intro the teams in the first match*)** | **(Transition to matches )*****(Continue playoff matches until the 1st awards break)*** |

| Speaker | Dialogue | Blocking Notes |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | ***(Start here for the 1st awards break)*** |
| Emcee | What an exciting match! Before we jump into the next one, it’s time to hand out a few well-deserved awards. Let’s give a big welcome to our judges. Judges, please join me on the field to help with our first awards break. ***(Invite out judges and any additional personnel that are going to hand out awards)***If your team is announced as a 2nd or 3rd place award winner, please stand right where you are so we can celebrate you with a huge round of applause from the audience!The 1st place winners of each award should make their way down to the field to accept your award and run through our high five line—we’ll be giving them a big round of applause as they come down to the field!***[Include instruction on which way you want teams to enter the playing area and where to exit as applicable by venue]*** | Judges form a high five line facing the audience |
| Emcee | **Judges’ Choice Award (Optional)**The Judges’ Choice Award is presented when the judging panel meets a team whose unique efforts, performance, or team dynamics deserve recognition, but don’t quite fit into the other award categories. Here is what the Judges have to say about the winner of this award.***[INSERT JUDGES’ COMMENTS HERE]*** |  |
| Emcee | The Judges’ Choice Award is presented to:***[Insert winning Team number, Team name, Team location]*** | Team comes forward, receives award, poses for photos, leaves stage. |
| Emcee | **Design Award**The Design Award celebrates a team that truly understands industrial design, striking a balance between form, function, and aesthetics while meeting this season’s challenge. The team’s design process results in a robot that is efficient, effective, and inspiring in the way it tackles the game.2nd and 3rd place winners, please stand at your seats for a big round of applause! |  |
| Emcee | 3rd Place for the Design Award goes to: ***[Insert Team number, Team name, Team city and state or province here]***2nd Place for the Design Award is: ***[Insert Team number, Team name, Team city and state or province here]*** | Applause for finalist teamApplause for finalist team |
| Emcee | Here is what the Judges have to say about the winner of this award:***[INSERT JUDGES’ COMMENTS HERE]*** |  |
| Emcee | The Design Award is presented to:***[Insert winning Team number, Team name, Team location]***Please come down through the high-five line to accept your award! | Team comes forward, receives award poses for photos, leaves stage. |
| Emcee | **Reach Award**The Reach Award goes to a team that has brought new people into *FIRST*—whether new teams, mentors, or volunteers—and inspired them to embrace the *FIRST* culture, helping our community grow and thrive. |  |
| Emcee | 3rd Place for the Reach Award goes to: ***[Insert Team number, Team name, Team city and state or province here]***2nd Place for the Reach Award is: ***[Insert Team number, Team name, Team city and state or province here]*** | Applause for finalist teamApplause for finalist team |
| Emcee | Here is what the Judges have to say about the winner of this award:**[INSERT JUDGES’ COMMENTS HERE]** |  |
| Emcee | The Reach Award is presented to:***[Insert winning Team number, Team name, Team location]*** | Team comes forward, receives award, poses for photos, leaves stage. |
| Emcee | And now we’d love to have you turn your attention to the teams at the field as we play the next playoff match!  |  |
| GA |  | ***(Start next Playoff Match, continue to 2nd Award Break)*** |

**(end of this ceremony segment - page break)**

| Speaker | Dialogue | Blocking Notes |
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|  |  | ***(Start here for the 2nd awards break)*** |
| Emcee | Can we welcome back to the field the judges helping with this second award break? Judges, please come out and join me.**(Invite out any additional personnel that are going to hand out awards)** | Judges that are assisting with awards come to stage. |
| Emcee | **Control Award**The Control Award celebrates a team that uses sensors and software to enhance their robot’s performance. With innovative solutions, like autonomous operation, smarter mechanical systems, or sensor use, they tackle game challenges with creativity and skill, showing how technology can push their robot to the next level. |  |
| Emcee | 3rd Place for the Control Award goes to: ***[Insert Team number, Team name, Team city and state or province here]***2nd Place for the Control Award is: ***[Insert Team number, Team name, Team city and state or province here]*** | Applause for finalist teamApplause for finalist team |
| Emcee | Here is what the Judges have to say about the winner of this award:**[INSERT JUDGES’ COMMENTS HERE]** |  |
| Emcee | The Control Award is presented to:***[Insert winning Team number, Team name, Team location]*** | Team comes forward, receives award, poses for photos, leaves stage. |
| Emcee | **Innovate Award sponsored by RTX**The Innovate Award sponsored by RTX celebrates a team that has the ingenuity and inventiveness to make their designs come to life. This award is given to the team that the Judges feel has the most innovative and creative robot design solution to this season’s game. Elements of this award include elegant design, robustness and ‘out of the box’ thinking. This award may address the design of the whole robot or some sub- assembly component. The creative component needs to work consistently.  | ***(Do not alter script)*** |
| Emcee | 3rd Place for the Innovate Award sponsored by RTX goes to: ***[Insert Team number, Team name, Team city and state or province here]***2nd Place for the Innovate Award sponsored by RTX is: ***[Insert Team number, Team name, Team city and state or province here]*** | Applause for finalist teamApplause for finalist team |
| Emcee | Here is what the Judges have to say about the winner of this award:***[INSERT JUDGES’ COMMENTS HERE]*** |  |
| Emcee | The Innovate Award sponsored by RTX is presented to:***[Insert winning Team number, Team name, Team location]*** | Team comes forward, receives award, poses for photos, leaves stage. |
| Emcee | **Sustain Award**The Sustain Award celebrates the team that plans for the future of their program, ensuring it will thrive, long after today. They have established plans for finances, projects, or team sustainability, track their progress, and show dedication to leadership and long-term growth. |  |
| Emcee | 3rd Place for the Sustain Award goes to: ***[Insert Team number, Team name, Team city and state or province here]***2nd Place for the Sustain Award is: ***[Insert Team number, Team name, Team city and state or province here]*** | Applause for finalist teamApplause for finalist team |
| Emcee | Here is what the Judges have to say about the winner of this award:**[INSERT JUDGES’ COMMENTS HERE]** |  |
| Emcee | The Sustain Award is presented to:***[Insert winning Team number, Team name, Team location]*** | Team comes forward, receives award, poses for photos, leaves stage. |
| Emcee | And now we’d love to have you turn your attention to the teams at the field as we play the next and maybe final playoff match!  |  |
| GA |  | ***(Start next Playoff Match, continue to 3rd Award Break, this will commonly be the last match)*** |

**(end of this ceremony segment - page break)**

| Speaker | Dialogue | Blocking Notes |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | ***(Start here for the 3rd awards break)*** |
| Emcee | Judges, please come out and join me for the next awards.***(invite out any additional personnel that are going to hand out awards)*** |  |
| Emcee | **Connect Award**The Connect Award is presented to the team that has built strong connections with their local STEM community. With a clear plan and intentional steps, they grow their skills and show how teamwork and community involvement drive success in *FIRST*. |  |
| Emcee | 3rd Place for the Connect Award goes to: ***[Insert Team number, Team name, Team city and state or province here]***2nd Place for the Connect Award is***: [Insert Team number, Team name, Team city and state or province here]*** | Applause for finalist teamApplause for finalist team |
| Emcee | Here is what the Judges have to say about the winner of this award:***[INSERT JUDGES’ COMMENTS HERE]*** |  |
| Emcee | The Connect Award is presented to***[insert winning Team number, Team name, Team location]*** | Team comes forward, receives award, poses for photos, leaves stage. |
| Emcee | **Think Award**The Think Award goes to the team that best showcases their engineering journey throughout the *FIRST* Tech Challenge season. Judges use the team’s portfolio to see evidence of the engineering process, lessons learned, or analysis guiding their decisions. This award celebrates the team’s thoughtful approach to building their robot. |  |
| Emcee | 3rd Place for the Think Award goes to: ***[Insert Team number, Team name, Team city and state or province here]***2nd Place for the Think Award is: ***[Insert Team number, Team name, Team city and state or province here]*** | Applause for finalist teamApplause for finalist team |
| Emcee | Here is what the Judges have to say about the winner of this award:***[INSERT JUDGES’ COMMENTS HERE]*** |  |
| Emcee | The Think Award is presented to:***[Insert winning Team number, Team name, Team location]*** | Team comes forward, receives award, poses for photos, leaves stage. |
| Emcee | And now we’d love to have you turn your attention to the teams at the field as we play the very last playoff match!  | ***(Next playoff match)*** |
| GA |  | ***(Insert match commentary, final match unless true tie)*** |

**(end of this ceremony segment - page break)**

| Speaker | Dialogue | Blocking Notes |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | ***(Start here for the final awards presentation)*** |
| PDP, Event Director, or Scorekeeper | (***Ensure the advancement list is ready to present from the scoring system or have a printed copy available for the emcee)*** |  |
| Emcee | Now for the next few awards, I would like all the teams I call on to come up to the front. |  |
| Emcee | **Finalist Alliance**We will now recognize the top teams that progressed through our playoff bracket, the Finalist and Winning Alliances. . |  |
| Emcee | Our Finalist Alliance Lead***[Insert Team number, Team name, Team city and state or province here]***  | Team comes forward, receives award/medals, poses for photos, leaves stage. |
| Emcee | Our Finalist Alliance Partner:***[Insert Team number, Team name, Team city and state or province here]***  | Team comes forward, receives award/medals, poses for photos, leaves stage. |
| Emcee | Our Winning Alliance Lead: ***[Insert Team number, Team name, Team city and state or province here]*** | Team comes forward, receives award/medals, poses for photos, leaves stage. |
| Emcee | Our Winning Alliance Partner:***[Insert Team number, Team name, Team city and state or province here]*** | Team comes forward, receives award/medals, poses for photos, leaves stage. |
| Emcee | **The Inspire Award**The Inspire Award is presented to the team that embodies the best of *FIRST*—this team is made up of strong ambassadors, role models, and gracious competitors. This team excels across judged award categories, works together to design and build their robot, and shares their experiences, enthusiasm, and knowledge with other teams, sponsors, their community, and the Judges. |  |
| Emcee | 3rd Place for the Inspire Award is: ***[Insert Team number, Team name, Team city and state or province here]*** | Team comes forward, receives award/medals, poses for photos, leaves stage. |
| Emcee | 2nd Place for the Inspire Award is: ***[Insert Team number, Team name, Team city and state or province here]*** | Team comes forward, receives award/medals, poses for photos, leaves stage. |
| Emcee | Here is what the Judges have to say about the winner of the Inspire Award. ***[INSERT JUDGES’ COMMENTS HERE]*** |  |
| Emcee | The Inspire Award is presented to:***[Insert winning Team number, Team name, Team location]*** | Team comes forward, receives award/medals, poses for photos, leaves stage. |
| Emcee | And now I’m excited to announce the ***[#]*** teams advancing from this event to ***[Event Name, Location, Date]*** based on their combined point totals after their on-field and judging performance today**(read each team from the advancement report in order until all teams advancing from this event have been mentioned)**The first advancement slot goes to the ***[Team number, Team name, Team location],*** with [**x**] advancement pointsThe next advancement slot goes to the  ***[Team number, Team name, Team location],*** with [**x**] advancement points***(Repeat for each advancing team) (applause)*** | Scorekeeper should present the advancing teams list |
| Emcee | Thank you all for being a great audience today, bringing your *Gracious Professionalism* to the event, and supporting the next generation of innovators and STEM leaders! And thank you to everyone for making this an excellent competition, celebration, and *FIRST* Tech Challenge season! | Everyone leaves the stage. |

**(end of ceremony)**