Head Referee

Certification Test

Important: All volunteers supporting regular season events in the United States and Canada must be screened and assigned using the Volunteer Management System and are required to complete their certification test using the online volunteer certification system.

This test is provided publicly for team use and volunteer certification as needed at events outside of the United States and Canada.

Revision History	
Revision	**Description**
V26-27.1	2026-27 Initial Release

Questions

Q1. You have determined that a team violated a rule that means they should be issued a RED CARD. How do you issue the RED CARD to the team?

a. Discuss the RED CARD with the team before it is displayed on the MATCH results.
b. Hold a physical RED CARD in front of the team while announcing a detailed explanation of the ROBOT behavior that led to the card on microphone.
c. Discuss the RED CARD with the team and then hold a physical card in front of the team when MATCH results are posted.
d. Don't discuss or announce the RED CARD. Let the team find out when they review their MATCH results on their own later.

Q2. You have issued a violation to a team that requires an official VERBAL WARNING that will escalate upon a subsequent violation of the rule. How do you record the VERBAL WARNING?

a. Always track it in your head.
b. Always ask another volunteer to keep a tally on paper.
c. Always record every VERBAL WARNING on the Head REFEREE tablet or on paper.
d. If a subsequent violation of the rule will escalate to a greater penalty – such as a YELLOW CARD, then the VERBAL WARNING should be recorded on the Head Referee tablet or on paper.

Q3. Which of these is most likely to cause significant schedule delays?

a. Making sure the Official Scorers have selected the correct MATCH and indicated they are ready.
b. Checking that teams are ready prior to starting each MATCH.
c. Lengthy REFEREE Conferences following every MATCH
d. REFEREES reviewing Scoring tablet entries after ever MATCH.

Q4. A team that has checked-in, passed inspection, and has not communicated any extenuating circumstances to the queuers/Field Staff/Pit Admin/etc. is late to the FIELD for the start of their MATCH and not in the ARENA or their pit. MATCHES are on time, according to the schedule. This is the first occurrence for this team. What are your next steps, if anything?

a. Wait another 5 minutes to see if they show up.
b. There are no actions to take.
c. Issue a VERBAL WARNING to the team and then start the 2-minute timer.
d. DISABLE the ROBOT for the MATCH.

Q5. Which of the following is not an example of a team making good faith effort to quickly become MATCH ready?

a. Performing a brief “wiggle test.”
b. Installing their ROBOT SIGNS with cable ties.
c. Working with the FTA to troubleshoot an issue.
d. Walking safely to the FIELD with the ROBOT.
e. Changing the ROBOT to a configuration that previously passed inspection by re-installing MECHANISM.

Q6. A blue ROBOT damages a FLOWER – causing one of the pipes to break, all SCORING ELEMENTS to fall out, and rendering it inoperable for the rest of the MATCH. After the MATCH, a STUDENT from the red ALLIANCE comes to the Question Box and tells you that the damaged FLOWER impacted the MATCH. Which factors would favor a determination that this affected the outcome of the MATCH to the detriment of red, leading to a replay?

a. The incident occurred with 3 seconds left in the MATCH, and at the time there were no red NECTAR in the FLOWER.
b. The incident occurred with over a minute left in the MATCH, and at the end of the MATCH all other FLOWERS were owned by one ALLIANCE or the other.
c. Red lost the MATCH by 6 points.
d. Red won the MATCH.
e. (b) and (c)
f. (a) and (d)

Q7. At the end of the MATCH, an Official Scorer and REFEREE tell you that they could not tell if a ROBOT was in the LOADING ZONE at the end of AUTO, even from their multiple vantage points. What do you do?

a. Tell the REFEREE that next time they should walk on the FIELD during the AUTO-to-TELEOP transition to check.
b. Indicate to the REFEREE and Official Scorer that if it was not clear to them, it needs to be entered as "No" for PARK.
c. Take a vote between the REFEREES, Official Scorers, FTA, and all four teams.
d. Check if the ROBOT got PARK at the end of TELEOP. If the ROBOT qualified for PARK at the end of TELEOP, it probably qualified for PARK at the end of AUTO.

Q8. You come across a situation that doesn't seem to be covered by the Competition Manual, but you feel it affected the outcome of the MATCH. What resources can you use in real time to address the concern?

a. Use the *On Call Support Request* feature found in the #all-event-support channel in the FTC Referee Volunteer Slack.
b. Call the Program & Referee Support Line at +1 (603) 206-2412
c. Ask the Scorekeeper or FTA to use the built-in help chat through the scoring system to contact support.
d. Any or all of the above.

Q9. At an event, a team is pursuing a strategy that you believe should not be allowed but is not covered in the Competition Manual. What do you do?

a. Give the team a RED CARD and consider the issue resolved.
b. Apply the Escalation Guidelines. Communicate the situation to the Event Director/PDP and reach out to *FIRST* Referee Support to discuss the situation.
c. Tell the JUDGE Advisor that you have decided they must disqualify the team from all awards.
d. Tell the Event Director/PDP to disqualify the team from advancement and withdraw the team from all future competitions.

Q10. A team may only address the Head REFEREE with a maximum of 2 people, 1 of which must be a STUDENT.

a. TRUE
b. FALSE

Q11. A REFEREE warns a HUMAN PLAYER during a MATCH to not touch a ROBOT when introducing a NECTAR. This counts as a VERBAL WARNING.

a. TRUE
b. FALSE

Q12. A ROBOT is not MATCH ready at the scheduled start time for their second Playoff MATCH. Their ALLIANCE already received a VERBAL WARNING during their first Playoff MATCH. You observe the team working with the FTA by the FIELD. What do you do?

a. Give the ALLIANCE 1 MAJOR FOUL and start a 2-minute timer. DISABLE the ROBOT if the ROBOT is not MATCH ready at the end of the timer.
b. Give the ALLIANCE another VERBAL WARNING and start a 2-minute timer. DISABLE the ROBOT if the ROBOT is not MATCH ready at the end of the timer.
c. Ask the FTA if the team will be ready in 2 minutes. If yes, start a timer, if not, DISABLE the ROBOT.
d. Nothing, the team is making a good faith effort by working with the FTA. Continue to monitor whether the team maintains a good faith effort.

Q13. During your Scoring & Referee Logistics meeting, a REFEREE states she was a former mentor of a team present, but isn't sure of whether this counts as a Conflict of Interest (COI). What should she do?

a. Nothing, she is no longer a mentor on the team and thus it cannot be a COI.
b. Err on the side of transparency and ask the REFEREE to fill out a COI disclosure form.
c. Inform the REFEREE that she is not allowed to volunteer due to this COI.

Q14. A team approaches you in the Question Box asking about a specific situation that occurred at a previous event where they felt an incorrect call was made to their detriment and asks you to comment on how the situation was handled at the prior event and how a similar situation might be handled at this event. Which of the following would be the most appropriate response?

a. "That's rough. I agree that the REFEREES at your previous event got the call wrong."
b. "I cannot comment on a specific situation without being able to gather all of the facts. It sounds like rule GXYZ and GABC may be relevant. Do you have a question about these rules?"
c. "Can you tell me who the Head REFEREE was for that event? I want to call them to get their side."
d. "I agree that the prior call was wrong. I will change the score for your previous event, and you will automatically advance to the next level of competition."

Q15. Which of the following activities require you to involve the Scorekeeper?

a. Making a score correction to prior MATCH results.
b. Starting a 2-minute timer for G301.
c. Tracking a VERBAL WARNING.
d. Adding a YELLOW or RED CARD to the current MATCH.

Q16. All VERBAL WARNINGS and CARDS are reset between Qualification MATCHES and Playoff MATCHES.

a. TRUE
b. FALSE

Q17. The JUDGE Advisor stops you between MATCHES and asks whether a particular team has had any behavior problems today. You did have to have a discussion with that team earlier. What is the right response?

a. Share what you observed so the JUDGES have complete information.
b. Share it, but frame it as a neutral observation rather than a complaint.
c. Decline to pass the observation to the JUDGES, and raise repeated or egregious issues with the Event Director and Program Delivery Partner instead.
d. Refer the JUDGE to the REFEREE who first noticed the behavior.

Q18. MATCH Results for Qualification MATCH 10 have been posted. A REFEREE tells you they observed a MAJOR FOUL but entered it as a MINOR FOUL and just realized the error. The correction would flip which team won the MATCH. What is your first action?

a. Correct the entry on your Head Referee tablet, then have the Scorekeeper repost.
b. Notify the Scorekeeper that the score must change, gather the impacted teams to explain what is changing and why, then coordinate with the Announcer on the score post.
c. Have the Announcer announce a pending correction to build drama.
d. Leave the posted result. Once results are public, changing them causes more harm than the error.

Q19. A team has come to the Question Box to contest a call. You want to confer with the REFEREE crew before answering a team's question about a contested call. Where and how do you hold that REFEREE conference?

a. Right in front of the team, so they can see their concern being taken seriously.
b. Away from teams, spectators, microphones, and cameras, with only the relevant REFEREES and possibly the FTA -- kept brief.
c. In a private space, with every REFEREE and Official Scorer at the event included so the whole crew hears the same discussion.
d. Wherever is convenient, as long as it happens before you answer the team.

Q20. A STUDENT comes to the FIELD for the 10th time without safety glasses. You have reminded this student every prior instance. What do you do?

a. Give the team a YELLOW CARD for G205.
b. Give the team a YELLOW CARD for G202.
c. Provide a helpful reminder and help them find safety glasses.
d. Tell the STUDENT they cannot be on the DRIVE TEAM any more.

Q21. Incident Response Principles include all of the following, except:

a. Keep it positive.
b. Use observable facts.
c. Use the most severe response.
d. Address conduct consistently.
e. Keep the response timely.

Q22. In the morning an Official Scorer introduces themselves and says that they have not completed the training, but they are eager to learn. What do you do?

a. Welcome them and provide the volunteer with a printed or digital copy (available in the scoring system) of the Official Scorer Training to review. Set aside time for you or an experienced REFEREE to follow up if the volunteer has any questions.
b. Include the volunteer in the Scoring & Referee Logistics Meeting.
c. Thank the volunteer for serving in this critical role.
d. All of the above.

Q23. A red ROBOT intentionally pushes a blue ROBOT into a FLOWER causing a POLLEN to be pushed through the pipes of the FLOWER and into a scoring position. What, if anything, is the call?

a. VERBAL WARNING to the blue ROBOT'S team
b. MAJOR FOUL on the red ALLIANCE
c. Nothing

Q24. REFEREES and Official Scorers should stay in roughly the same corner of the FIELD for all MATCHES throughout the event.

a. TRUE
b. FALSE

Q25. A team has received multiple VERBAL WARNINGS and a YELLOW CARD for CONTROLLING opponent NECTAR in violation of G408 in previous MATCHES. In the team's last Qualification MATCH, an opponent ALLIANCE'S NECTAR takes an unpredictable bounce across the FIELD and lands on the team's ROBOT. The team immediately ejects the NECTAR and continues playing the rest of the MATCH. What, if anything, is the call?

a. YELLOW CARD, escalating to a RED CARD; the team has already received a VERBAL WARNING so this must be a CARD.
b. VERBAL WARNING; this individual violation was an accident and immediately corrected. It was not STRATEGIC.
c. MAJOR FOUL; the team has already received a VERBAL WARNING so they must be penalized, but a YELLOW CARD is too harsh for this situation.
d. Nothing.

Answer Key

Question	Correct Response	Explanation	Rule
Q1	A.	New for BIOBUZZ, the Head REFEREE does not use a physical card. Discuss the CARD with the team before it is publicized; the team should learn about the CARD from the Head REFEREE, not the MATCH results.	Head Referee training
Q2	D.	The Head REFEREE must track all VERBAL WARNINGS that escalate based on subsequent violation of the same rule. Beyond that, the Head REFEREE can maintain notes to help them track the event, but should be mindful that more notes is not always helpful or expedient.	Head Referee Manual & Training
Q3	C.	The Head REFEREE should work with the REFEREES and Official Scorers to finalize scores and discuss any concerns in an efficient manner to prevent event schedule delays.	Head Referee Manual
Q4	C.	If the MATCH start time has passed and the team is not making a good faith effort, issue a VERBAL WARNING for the first occurrence and start a 2-minute timer.	G301, Head Referee Manual
Q5	E.	Items A-D are all examples of a good faith effort from the G301 Orange Box. Making changes to the ROBOT as described in E are not “quick fixes” to become MATCH ready and fall under “attempts to significantly alter a ROBOT’S capabilities.”	G301

Q6	E.	Per T201.B, “broken FIELD elements due to ROBOT abuse of FIELD elements that affects the outcome of the MATCH for their opponents” is an ARENA FAULT. However, per the first Orange Box, “ROBOT abuse that affects the outcome of the MATCH for their ALLIANCE is not an ARENA FAULT.” Since a blue ROBOT’S abuse of the FLOWER caused the damage, the Head REFEREE is only looking for an effect on the outcome against the red ALLIANCE. Particularly, per the second Orange Box, the Head REFEREE must determine if the ARENA FAULT “changes which ALLIANCE would have won the MATCH and/or the assignment of RANKING POINTS.” Item A favors no replay. No red NECTAR were removed, and the last-second damage is less likely to have altered the trajectory of the MATCH. Item B favors a replay. Since the damage happened early and all other FLOWERS were scored, red could not use the missing FLOWER which may have impacted their ability to compete. Item C favors a replay. A FLOWER can be worth upwards of 20 points, so a 6 point difference in score is well within the possibility that the FLOWER could have made the difference. Item D favors no replay. Red already won the MATCH and there is no RANKING POINT associated with FLOWERS, so the ARENA FAULT does not affect the outcome of the MATCH. Final answer: (b) and (c)	T201
Q7	B.	Official Scorers and REFEREES must be able to verify that the ROBOT has affirmatively met the scoring criteria. Per the Section 10.5 Orange Box “teams are encouraged to make sure that it is obvious and unambiguous that the criteria are met.”	Section 10.5
Q8	D.	There are many ways to get in contact with support. Support is guaranteed Friday 5pm-8pm, and Saturday & Sunday 8am-8pm (all times Eastern). Slack support may have extended hours.	Head Referee Manual & Training
Q9	B.	If you are unclear if a strategy is allowed while you are at an event, apply the Escalation Guidelines.	Escalation Guidelines, Head Referee Manual & Training

Q10	A.	New for BIOBUZZ, one additional person (maximum of 2) may interact with the Head REFEREE in the Question Box. This additional person may be an adult or another STUDENT.	T301
Q11	B.	A VERBAL WARNING is a warning issued by event staff or the Head REFEREE (or their delegate) after a MATCH is completed. General warnings are helpful during MATCHES to precent teams from incurring rule violations.	Referee & Head Referee Training
Q12	D.	Working with the FTA is a good faith effort to become MATCH ready (G301 Orange Box item D). While this continues, the team is not in violation of G301. Continue to monitor the situation and start a G301 timer if the team stops making a good faith effort to become MATCH ready. Consult with the FTA, if they have been involved.	G301
Q13	B.	The appearance of a COI, particularly a non-disclosed COI, can negatively impact the team experience and the integrity of the competition. Always err on the side of disclosing a COI through the proper channels.	Referee & Head Referee Manual
Q14	B.	Keep the conversation factual and avoid speculation about prior interactions. Focus on the relevant aspects related to the current event. Generally, avoid straying into specific hypotheticals.	Section 13.3
Q15	A.	All of the items except for (A) can be done from the Head Referee tablet.	Head Referee Training, Scoring & Referee Tablet Guide
Q16	B.	CARDS are reset between Qualification and Playoff MATCHES. However, VERBAL WARNINGS do not reset – except for G301 VERBAL WARNINGS, as this rule will now apply to an ALLIANCE, not just a team.	Section 10.6.1
Q17	C.	Focus on maintaining a supportive environment by keeping team feedback strictly among those that need to know (Event Director, PDP). Sharing team observations with other volunteers or participants is discouraged, as full context is rarely known.	Head Referee Manual
Q18	B.	Score changes should be made if a REFEREE incorrectly recorded a score or FOUL. If the outcome of a MATCH will change, the Head REFEREE should inform the Scorekeeper, teams involved, and the Announcer before allowing the score to be posted and announced.	Head Referee Manual

Q19	B.	REFEREE Conferences should take place away from teams and other volunteers. REFEREES should avoid being near any microphones or recording devices.	Head Referee Manual
Q20	C.	There is no limit to the number of VERBAL WARNINGS you may issue. Only if the response becomes disrespectful or uncivil should this escalate to G201. Note that G201 also begins with its own separate VERBAL WARNING about respectful behavior.	E101, Head Referee Manual & Training
Q21	C.	Always use the *least* severe response.	Escalation Guidelines
Q22	D.	You will work with Official Scorers with varying levels of familiarity and prior training. Meet all volunteers with the same Gracious Professionalism and help them learn, gain experience, and get comfortable in the role.	Head Referee Manual & Training
Q23	B.	In violation of G418, the blue ALLIANCE did not enter the POLLEN via entering it through the top of the FLOWER or removing the POLLEN from the bottom of the FLOWER. However, because the red ROBOT intentionally pushed the blue ROBOT into that action, G204 “Do not expect to gain by doing others harm” is applicable. G204 applies a MAJOR FOUL to the red ALLIANCE. The blue ALLIANCE therefore does not receive any G418 penalty, and if the POLLEN remains in a scoring position during the remainder of the MATCH, it is scored by the Official Scorer.	G204, G418
Q24	B.	Within their role, REFEREES and Official Scorers should regularly change locations around a FIELD (i.e., swap from red to blue) or rotate between FIELDS, depending on the size of the event. They should not swap roles with each other.	Head Referee Manual
Q25	B.	While repeated behavior should lead to increased scrutiny, each individual action is evaluated within the full context of the situation. As described, the accidental action cannot be considered a STRATEGIC violation. There is no specific quantity of VERBAL WARNINGS that require a future action to receive a CARD.	Escalation Guidelines, G408