Lead Robot Inspector

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	Initial 2026-27 Season Release

Questions

Q1. A team's robot signs show a small amount of the opposite alliance color on the back. The deviation does not affect the ability to quickly identify the robot's alliance color. What should you do?

A. Deprioritize that rule so the team may participate, if there is not a reasonable way to fix the issue.
B. Deprioritize that rule so the team may participate, only after consulting with the Head Referee.
C. Mark inspection as incomplete until the team can completely resolve the issue.
D. Gather all available robot inspectors to come to a consensus.

Q2. An adult mentor argues loudly with an inspector and refuses to accept a ruling. You believe that the behavior was egregious. What should you do?

A. Issue a warning and note it on the inspection record.
B. Work with the rest of the Event Leadership Volunteers to discuss the appropriate next steps for escalation.
C. Tell the Judge Advisor so the behavior reaches the judges.
D. Ask the Event Director to disqualify the team from the event.

Q3. A volunteer tells you that a team behaved so poorly they should lose all award consideration. What should you do?

A. Decide whether the conduct qualifies for sanction, then inform the team and Judge Advisor.
B. Pass the concern to event leadership, because full removal from awards is rare, needs *FIRST* HQ approval, and starts with the Event Director or Judge Advisor calling the on-call number.
C. At lunch, tell your friend who is a judge not to recommend the team for an award.
D. File a youth protection report so *FIRST* HQ removes the team from awards.

Q4. Weeks before the event, you want to understand when inspections start, how long they run, and how many inspectors the event will have. Who is the right person to ask?

A. The Head Referee
B. The Robot Inspectors
C. The Event Director
D. The Scorekeeper

Q5. Inspections are running behind the intended pace. What should you do?

A. Proactively communicate progress updates to the FTA and Event Director.
B. Ask the Event Director to delay the start of matches.
C. Direct the Robot Inspectors to begin using the short form version of the inspection checklist.
D. Inform the Head Referee that many robot designs are illegal.

Q6. An inspector references a pre-printed Competition Manual, and its wording conflicts with that of the Inspection Checklist in the scoring system. What should you do?

A. Continue to use the printed copy.
B. Apply the digital copy on the tablet.
C. Apply whichever reading is stricter.
D. Ask the team which version they built against.

Q7. You notice a Robot Inspector incorrectly applying a specific rule. How should you respond?

A. Correct them in front of a team so they know not to make the same mistake again.
B. Ignore it if it seems to be inconsequential.
C. Watch over their shoulder for the rest of the event.
D. Explain how the rule should be applied and remind them that consistency is important to the team experience.

Q8. Inspections finish before matches begin, and the Event Director assigns you to a second role for the afternoon. Mid-afternoon, a reinspection is requested. What should happen?

A. The team competes as-is, because inspection is closed for the event.
B. An available Robot Inspector handles it and reports to the Head Referee.
C. You complete the reinspection after notifying others you need to step away or timing it to minimize disruption.
D. The Event Director decides whether the request still applies.

Q9. What should you do if you see an unusually high rate of reinspection requests?

A. Discuss the situation with the Head Referee and FTA to identify the root cause.
B. Stop accepting reinspection requests for the rest of the day.
C. Lower the inspection standard so fewer robots need a second look.
D. Call a meeting for all Robot Inspectors to figure out what is going on.

Q10. A team has worked directly with you and still cannot pass inspection. What comes next?

A. You permanently mark the team's inspection status Incomplete.
B. The team is permitted to compete without passing inspection.
C. You, the FTA, the Event Director, and Program Delivery Partner work together to decide how to proceed.
D. A mentor accepts responsibility in writing so the robot can compete.

Q11. A team is referred to you for a reinspection by the Head Referee. After examining the robot, you determine that the robot already meets the eligibility criteria. The Head Referee disagrees. What should you do?

A. Cite the supporting rules and give a clear recommendation; you as the LRI have the final decision authority.
B. Reinspect the robot again with a second inspector.
C. Cite the supporting rules and give a clear recommendation but defer to the Head Referee as the final decision authority.
D. Ask the FTA to overrule the Head Referee.

Q12. An inspector flags a servo that does not appear on the pre-verified list in the Inspection Quick Reference. The team says it is legal but has no documentation on hand. What should you do?

A. Rule the servo illegal, because the Quick Reference does not list it.
B. Approve it, because the team says it meets the limits.
C. Support the team in searching for the manufacturer's documentation and evaluate the specifications against the competition manual.
D. Send the question to the Head Referee before inspection continues.

Q13. What guidance should you give to Robot Inspectors regarding the guided inspection process?

A. Offer a clear welcome to teams that briefly explains the purpose of inspection.
B. Engage teams in dialogue by asking the bolded questions and then use the "To Pass" criteria to evaluate their responses.
C. There may be content in the Competition Manual that is not on the Inspection Checklist; but they are only responsible for the criteria directly included on the Inspection Checklist.
D. All of the above

Q14. A coach asks you for the on-call support number so they can dispute an inspection ruling. What should you do?

A. Share the number, because any participant may call about a ruling.
B. Share the technical support number instead, because inspection is technical.
C. Decline to pass on the number and route the concern through event leadership.
D. Tell the coach to email customer service for a same-day ruling.

Q15. Which criteria are NOT on the inspection checklist, and should NOT be checked?

A. Labeled main power switch
B. Secured battery
C. Specific models of gamepads
D. All of the above

Q16. A coach complains that the event is being run poorly and that the game rules are unfair. Where should you direct them to provide this feedback?

A. The *FIRST* Reporting Portal as a youth protection concern.
B. Directly to *FIRST* HQ through customer service or by contacting support.
C. The Judge Advisor, so it carries into award deliberations.
D. The on-call number, so *FIRST* staff can review the match video.

Q17. Which wording best explains the need for a reinspection to a team that is short on time?

A. "Rules are rules. You changed the robot, so you go back through the line."
B. "Because you made a significant change, we need to recheck the robot before you continue competing."
C. "You can probably skip it if you hurry to your match."
D. "I cannot let you compete until the Head Referee clears you."

Q1. How closely should inspectors follow the inspection script when asking teams questions?

A. Questions should be read verbatim.
B. If an inspector believes it will help students better understand the question, they can reword questions however they want.
C. Inspectors can skip questions that seem unnecessary or obvious.
D. Inspectors should follow the bold questions as closely as possible. Using their own words is fine if they keep the original meaning.

Answer Key

Question	Correct Response	Explanation	Source
Q1	A	The inspection process exists to confirm robots are safe and hold no unfair advantage. Inside those two bounds, the manual empowers you to deprioritize some robot construction rules so a team can participate if it does not have an impact on the integrity of the competition.	*Manual, Robot Inspection Process; S1 Role overview*
Q2	B	The LRI does not have the authority to individually apply any behavioral sanctions to a team. Volunteers should escalate egregious behavior to Event Leadership so they can discuss next steps and determine how to correctly handle this issue via Event Leadership Volunteers, the PDP or *FIRST* HQ.	*Manual, Team Interaction and Support; S1 Role overview*
Q3	B	The manual reserves complete disqualification from awards for rare egregious actions, requires *FIRST* HQ approval, and routes the discussion through the Event Director or Judge Advisor calling the on-call number.	*Manual, Team Interaction and Support; S1 Role overview*
Q4	C	The Lead Robot Inspection should collaborate with the Event Director to create an inspection schedule that fulfills the needs of both the inspection process and event logistics.	*Manual, Roles and Responsibilities; S2 Event workflow*
Q5	A	The LRI should discuss options to speed up inspections with the Event Director and FTA. Together these three volunteers can make adjustments that ensure the event schedule enables a high-quality team experience. Depending on the specifics of the event, these adjustments may include changes to the inspection flow, reallocation of volunteers, or other solutions.	*Manual, Roles and Responsibilities; S2 Event workflow*
Q6	B	The tablet should be the preferred method for accessing the Competition Manual because it confirms inspectors are viewing the most current version.	*Manual, Set-up; S2 Event workflow*

Q7	D	Interactions with fellow volunteers should always remain respectful, particularly when providing constructive feedback. At the same time, maintaining high standards is essential, and you are empowered to provide feedback to inspectors when needed.	*Manual, Robot Inspection Process; S2 Managing Inspections*
Q8	C	The manual states that after the inspection process, you may be asked to perform reinspections during the event even while performing a second role, and that you should reinspect the robot and reports results to the Head Referee.	*Manual, Time Commitment and Re-inspection; S2 Event workflow*
Q9	A	A large number of reinspection requests is unusual, especially at a late season event. This should be a signal that "something might be wrong. You and the Head Referee may need to work with the FTA, and potentially *FIRST* staff, to confirm event rules match global standards.	*Manual, Re-inspection note; S2 Event workflow*
Q10	C	The LRI should work with other Event Leadership volunteers including the FTA, Event Director, and Program Delivery Partner to determine how to proceed in a way that maximizes the team experience without jeopardizing the integrity of the competition.	*Manual, Repeated Failures; S3 Scenario 1; S3 Decision points*
Q11	A	The manual states that the Lead ROBOT INSPECTOR (LRI) holds the final authority concerning a team's eligibility to take part in Qualification and Playoff matches on matters regarding robot construction. If there is a disagreement that cannot be resolved collaboratively, volunteers should use the correct escalation channels to receive additional support from *FIRST* HQ.	*Manual, Re-inspection; S3 Scenario 4; S3 Decision points*
Q12	C	A device missing from the pre-verified list may still be legal, but the team needs to supply documentation showing that the device meets the rule limits. The Quick Reference is designed as an aid to speed up common calls but does not include ALL legal devices.	*S3 Scenario 2; S5 Quick Reference guidance; S3 Decision points*

Q13	D	Robot Inspectors should be guided through a consistent inspection process that includes welcoming teams and explaining the purpose of inspection, engaging them in dialogue using the bolded question, and evaluating their responses against the "To Pass" criteria. Inspectors should also focus only on verifying criteria explicitly listed on the Inspection Checklist, rather than additional content found in the Competition Manual.	*Manual, Robot Inspection Process; S2 Managing Inspections*
Q14	C	The on-call numbers serve volunteer support only, and the manual states directly that teams should not use them to call about rulings or technical assistance.	*Manual, On-Call Support Numbers; S5 Tools and job aids*
Q15	D	For the 2026–2027 season, it is important to follow the updated Inspection Checklist and verify only the criteria explicitly included on it. Items such as a labeled main power switch, a secured battery, and specific gamepad models are no longer explicitly checked. Inspectors should avoid adding requirements beyond the scope of the checklist.	*Manual, Inspection Checklist*
Q16	B	The manual classifies feedback about game play, rule changes, awards, and event management as program-related concerns and requests that they be routed to *FIRST* through customer service.	*Manual, Reporting Other Issues or Concerns; S5 Tools and job aids*
Q17	B	This approach names the item causing the need for reinspection, states the requirement, and gives the team the next step, in the calm and specific tone appropriate to the inspection role.	*S5 script table; Manual, Re-inspection; S5 Tools and job aids*
Q18	D	All inspectors should follow the checklist and use the same process for every inspection. This ensures that all teams have a consistent inspection experience despite there being multiple inspectors.	*Manual, Robot Inspection Process; S2 Managing Inspections*