

Game Changer roles

Where do you fit into the Game Changer Squad?



@ftc_uk

#GameChangerSquad

FIRST Tech Challenge UK

#MoreThanRobotsUK



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Role overviews

Energisers

Energisers are the ones who bring the atmosphere to life by welcoming teams, commentating matches and keeping the crowd buzzing.

Gamers

The team that runs the action on the field. Gamers ensure matches are fair, safe, and scored accurately.

Judges

The people who get to hear the teams' stories. Judges meet teams, learn about their robots, engineering work and community impact, and celebrate their achievements.

Techies

The problem solvers who keep the tech running. Techies support robot checks, help with control system issues and keep the field operating smoothly. If you enjoy diving into technical challenges and helping teams get back in the game, this is your zone.

Organisers

The behind-the-scenes problem solvers. Organisers balance event logistics with excitement, keeping everything running like clockwork.

Event support roles

These roles focus on creating a safe, organised and welcoming environment. These roles are ideal for those who enjoy helping others, keeping things moving and supporting the team experience.



Energisers

Emcee

At some UK Qualifying Tournaments, this role may be combined with Game Announcer.

Role overview

Bring the energy and spirit of *FIRST* to life as an Emcee, the enthusiastic voice that guides the audience through match play, team introductions, and ceremonies while celebrating student achievements. If you enjoy public speaking, connecting with teams, and creating a fun, inclusive atmosphere, this high-profile, fast-paced role is a perfect fit!

Role requirements

- *FIRST* experience strongly preferred
- Prior announcing or public speaking experience is highly encouraged
- Some pre-event training is required

Reports to

Event Director

Game Announcer

At some UK Qualifying Tournaments, this role may be combined with Emcee.

Role overview

The Game Announcer is a high-energy, high-visibility role responsible for delivering real-time, play-by-play commentary during match play at *FIRST* events, helping to bring the excitement of the competition to life for teams and spectators alike. Working closely with the Emcee, the Game Announcer introduces teams, highlights unique team stories, announces scores and key game moments, and helps maintain the pace and clarity of the event while ensuring the spotlight stays on student participants.



Role requirements

- *FIRST* experience strongly preferred; prior announcing or public speaking experience highly encouraged
- Prior experience as a Game Announcer for a *FIRST* programme is helpful
- Requires thorough knowledge or ability to learn game and match process

Reports to

Event Director



Gamers

Referee

At many UK Qualifying Tournaments, this role may be combined with Robot Inspector.

Role overview

Referees observe matches, apply the game rules and help maintain fair and safe gameplay. They identify rule violations, support match flow and contribute to discussions with the referee team and Head Referee.

At many UK events, Referees support robot inspections in the morning before moving into match play.

Role requirements

- *FIRST* or related experience preferred
- Some pre-event training is required

Reports to

Head Referee

Head Referee

At many UK events, this role may be combined with Lead Robot Inspector.

Role overview

As a Head Referee, you'll lead the referee team in applying game rules with fairness and consistency while helping to create a safe, positive, and competitive environment. This high-impact leadership role is perfect for experienced volunteers who are passionate about supporting teams and ensuring smooth, accurate, and spirited match play. In the UK, the Head Referee role is offered to Key Volunteers and to experienced volunteers who have served across multiple seasons as Referees or Robot Inspectors.

Role requirements



- *FIRST* or related field experience preferred
- Advanced pre-event training is required

Reports to

Works alongside Event Director and other Key Volunteers

Ultimately reports to *FIRST* UK staff

Scorekeeper

Role overview

Scorekeepers operate the scoring system used during the event. They manage match scoring, rankings and audience displays and work closely with the *FIRST* Technical Advisor and Head Referee to ensure accurate results.

Role requirements

- *FIRST* or related field experience required
- Some pre-event training is required

Reports to

FIRST Technical Advisor



Judges

Judge

Role overview

Judges meet teams to understand their work, celebrate achievements and assess award criteria. They conduct interviews, visit teams in the pits and collaborate to identify award recipients.

Role requirements

- No *FIRST* experience required
- Professional experience that helps you recognise good teamwork, problem-solving, design thinking, creativity or technical decision-making is helpful
- Some pre-event training is required

Reports to

Judge Advisor

Dean's List Interviewer

Role overview

As a Dean's List Interviewer for *FIRST* Tech Challenge, you'll engage directly with inspiring student leaders, conducting thoughtful interviews and providing insights that help identify exceptional candidates for the Dean's List Finalist selection. This rewarding role offers a unique opportunity to support and celebrate students who exemplify the values of *FIRST*.

Role requirements

- No *FIRST* experience required
- Some pre-event training is required



Reports to

Judge Advisor

Dean's List Reviewer

Role overview

As a Dean's List Reviewer for *FIRST* Tech Challenge, you'll help recognise and elevate outstanding student leaders by thoughtfully reviewing nominations and interview notes to select regional finalists. This impactful role supports the growth of future STEM leaders and celebrates the values at the heart of the *FIRST* community.

Role requirements

- No *FIRST* experience required
- Some pre-event training is required

Reports to

FIRST UK staff

Judge Advisor

Role overview

The Judge Advisor leads the judging process. They train and support the judging team, manage logistics and ensure award decisions follow *FIRST* criteria. They help create a calm, fair and inspiring environment for teams.

In the UK, Judge Advisors are selected from Key Volunteers or experienced Judges.

Role requirements

- *FIRST* or related field experience required
- Advanced pre-event training is required



Reports to

Works in partnership with *FIRST* UK staff, Event Director and Volunteer Coordinator

Techies

FIRST Technical Advisor (FTA)

This is a Key Volunteer role.

Role overview

The *FIRST* Technical Advisor (FTA) is a leadership role responsible for ensuring the smooth technical operation of the competition field. FTAs support teams, resolve field and robot control issues, and work with other volunteers and staff to ensure a safe and successful event. At larger events, they may lead additional technical volunteers and help coordinate match flow.

In the UK, the FTA role is only offered to Key Volunteers.

Role requirements

- *FIRST* or related field experience required
- Significant pre-event training is required

Reports to

Works with Event Director and *FIRST* UK staff

Control System Advisor (CSA)

Role overview

The Control System Advisor (CSA) supports teams in troubleshooting and resolving robot technical issues. This highly skilled, hands-on volunteer position directly impacts event success by helping teams get and stay competition-ready.

Role requirements



- Advanced technical experience required
- Hands-on experience with control systems strongly preferred
- Knowledge of game rules required
- Possess networking knowledge
- Advanced pre-event training is required

Reports to

FIRST Technical Advisor

Robot Inspector

At many UK events, this role may be combined with Referee.

Role overview

Robot Inspectors ensure all robots meet technical and safety rules before competing. This hands-on, team-facing role combines engineering, communication, and rule enforcement to support fair and safe gameplay across the event.

At many UK Qualifying Tournaments, Robot Inspectors support inspections in the morning, then move into the Referee role once matches begin.

Role requirements

- *FIRST* or related technical experience preferred
- Some pre-event training is required

Reports to

Lead Robot Inspector

Lead Robot Inspector

At many UK events, this role may be combined with Head Referee.

Role overview



The Lead Robot Inspector supervises robot inspections at the event and supports a team of Robot Inspectors. The LRI oversees and supports the work of Robot Inspectors to ensure robots are legal and match-ready and assists teams with technical needs to get them match-ready. This is a detail-oriented and team-facing role that comes with a lot of responsibility, therefore requiring leadership, rule knowledge and technical competence.

In the UK, Lead Robot Inspectors are appointed from Key Volunteers and experienced volunteers who have supported multiple seasons as Robot Inspectors or Referees.

Role requirements

- *FIRST* or related field experience preferred
- Significant pre-event training is required

Reports to

FIRST Technical Advisor

Technical Director

Role overview

The Technical Director ensures a smooth and engaging event experience by overseeing technical setup, coordinating with key volunteers, managing audiovisual needs, and supporting the flow of ceremonies and event operations from planning through execution.

Role requirements

FIRST or related field experience preferred

Some pre-event training is required



Event support roles

Pit Administrator

Role overview

As the friendly face of the Pit Area, the Pit Administrator plays a key role in creating a welcoming and well-organised experience for teams and guests by sharing important event information, managing pit logistics, and supporting team needs throughout the day. This forward-facing, customer-service-focused role helps set the tone in the Pit by ensuring teams have what they need – from schedules and announcements to venue and safety updates – while also managing Pit area logistics and helping maintain a safe, organised environment.

Role requirements

- No *FIRST* experience required
- Some pre-event training is required

Reports to

Event Director

Check-in

At UK events, this role is usually combined with another role (eg scorekeeper).

Role overview

Check-in volunteers welcome teams and volunteers on arrival, distribute materials and help everyone get where they need to be. They set a positive tone for the day.

Role requirements

No *FIRST* experience required

On-site training provided

Reports to



Event Director

Queuer

Role overview

The Queuer plays a vital role in maintaining the flow and timing of an event by notifying teams about upcoming scheduled matches/judging, and guiding teams between the pits and competition area. This fast-paced, people-focused position requires strong situational awareness, effective communication and a friendly, team-oriented attitude. They support the event flow and help keep matches running to schedule.

Role requirements

- No pre-event training required
- On-site guidance provided

Reports to

Lead Queuer, Field Supervisor or FTA

Field Resetter

Role overview

Field Resetters prepare the playing field between matches. They reset game elements, maintain the field and support a fast turnaround between matches. This role is active and team-facing.

Role requirements

- No *FIRST* experience required
- On-site training provided

Reports to

Field Supervisor, Lead Robot Inspector or Head Referee



Practice Field Attendant

This role is available at the UK Champs.

Role overview

Practice Field Attendants manage access to the practice field and ensure teams use the space safely and fairly. They support equipment checks and help maintain a positive environment for practice.

Role requirements

- No *FIRST* experience required
- On-site training provided

Reports to

FIRST Technical Advisor

Pit Runner

Role overview

Pit Runners help share information, deliver schedules and guide teams to the competition area. They support communication throughout the day and help keep matches on time.

Role requirements

- No pre-event training required
- On-site guidance provided

Reports to

Event Director



Useful info

Who is the Event Director?

The Event Director role is typically carried out by *FIRST* UK HQ, who lead the planning and delivery of the event. They oversee scheduling, venue coordination, volunteer needs and all logistical elements. They help create a safe, consistent and inspiring experience for teams and volunteers.

Reports to

FIRST UK staff

What is a Key Volunteer?

Key Volunteers are experienced Game Changers who take on leadership roles at events. They help make sure every tournament is safe, fair and delivered to a high standard. They support other volunteers, guide teams and uphold the values of *FIRST* and *FIRST* UK. Key Volunteers receive specialised training and work closely with *FIRST* UK HQ to keep events running smoothly. They are a small group of trusted volunteers who bring consistency across the season and help create a great experience for every young person and volunteer.

