

Judges Advice

This guide is to ensure all teams judged at an event in 2023-24 are scored fairly, in response to the different kinds of teams who are attending. This document is the responsibility of the Judges Advisor and must be shared with all Judges to assess each team against the award categories.

The judging rubric

The judging rubric allows you to score each team against the awards available, using this ranking: Demonstrated, Beginning, Developing, Accomplished and Exemplary. Please refer to and complete the judging rubric sheet for every team that is judged and add notes.

Special accommodations for teams

SEND teams

Before starting the judging process with a team, please ask the Team Lead who is present to clarify if their team has any SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) requirements or limitations we need to be aware of.

If the Team Lead confirms there are SEND students or any verbal communication limitations, inform them that you will allow them to speak during the Q&A part of the presentation and will allow a few minutes at the end of the judging session for the

Team Lead to share any further information about the team's experience and work that they'd like the judges to take into consideration.

New teams

New teams have not taken part in the competition before and are very new to the process. As they are competing against other advanced teams who in a number of cases have participated for many years, we are weighing their judging presentation and portfolio submissions. This allows each team to be compared fairly during the judging deliberation process.

Weighting scores in the judging rubric

Criteria Rank	SEND teams	New teams	All other teams
Exemplary	4.5 points	4.25 points	4 points
Accomplished	3.5 points	3.25 points	3 points
Developing	2.5 points	2.25 points	2 points
Beginning	1.5 point	1.25 point	1 point
Not Demonstrated	0 points	0 points	0 points

Other Considerations for Judges Deliberations

In the UK, we do everything in our power to ensure those competing in the *FIRST* Tech Challenge are given access to all resources they need to be successful in the competition. This is why we offer bursaries that cover the cost of a Robotics Kit containing over 1400 pieces to our teams.



Whilst you are conducting your deliberations, we ask that you consider teams each on their own merit. The award criterias consider creative thinking, problem solving and the way they've worked as a team, their resourcefulness in using things that are available to them and not just having the funding to purchase the highest level of kit upgrades possible (unless they've fundraised to cover this, then there's award criteria for that too)!

Teams should be considered for any award that they meet the criteria for, and where you find teams are top contenders for many of the judged awards, you should then consider them for the Inspire Award. You do not have to give out an award just because it is available. However, at each tournament, judges must award the Inspire Award to a team who has stood out amongst the other teams as going above and beyond. Judges must also award the Innovate Award which is sponsored by RTX at every tournament.

Remember a team can only win **one** judged award.

When possible, judges should not list the same team as award finalists in multiple categories. Using common sense, it may not always be possible to have fill every role (winner and 2 runners up) in every category without duplication, but judges must make an earnest effort to recognise as many teams as possible on the day.

Questions or clarifications

If you're unsure about anything in this document or would like further clarifications, please speak with your Judges Advisor or a member of the HQ team that is allocated to support you.



Suggested Questions for Judges Interviews:

1. Can you describe your team and how it reflects your community.
2. What does it mean to be a Gracious Professional?
3. Can you tell us about the importance of each person's role in the team?
4. How did you team make decisions about assigning roles to team members?
5. What did you learn by being a part of the team?
6. Did your team perform any type of community service?
7. Has your team reached out to other teams? In what way?
8. How many student members do you have on your team and what year group are they in?
9. What is the one thing that we did not ask you about that you most want the Judges to know?
10. In what way(s) is your team unique?

Question Topics to Avoid:

- Religion
- Politics
- Gender
- Disabilities
- How students are doing in school.

