



## MN FLL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGING PROCESS & AWARDS

*The number of awards and process for Judging at the State Championship is slightly different than what is used at a Regional or Sectional event. Please read this clarification and contact Vicki Coaty at High Tech Kids with any questions.*

### JUDGING GROUPS

Unlike a regional or sectional tournament, all teams competing at the State Championship are in one division but are broken into separate judging groups. At regional and sectional tournaments there are a maximum of 16 teams per division. One set of judges is able to evaluate a single 16 team division in a day and determine one set of awards. At the State Championship, one set of judges cannot see 61 teams; therefore they are split into 6 judging groups.

### PRELIMINARY AND FINALIST JUDGING (a.k.a. Callbacks)

Each judging group is evaluated using the same process as regional/sectional tournaments, same criteria, same judges, and same time limits. After all preliminary judging is complete (around 1:00); the judges evaluate the teams and determine a finalist from each judging group for each award category.

Teams may advance in more than one award category.

The top teams from each group will be scheduled for a SECOND (finalist) judging session, also referred to as callbacks. A single panel of judges will reevaluate the finalist teams. The winning and second place teams are selected from those finalists. This 2 level format is the preferred way to do subjective judging fairly with such a large number of teams and is the standard for large team events.



**NOTE: Not all categories are called back for finalist judging. See the list below for clarification.**

### AWARDS WITH FINALIST JUDGING

Teams participating in Finalist Judging will be listed on the screens in the performance gym at approximately 1:30 pm. Callback schedules will be distributed to teams in the front lobby

**The Champion's Award** – The most prestigious award given. Our experienced judges are looking for the most well-rounded team who embodies the spirit of *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> and is exceptional across all judging categories. The top 6-8 teams are selected for this finalist judging. From this grouping, three teams will be chosen to receive invitations to the following events:

- *FIRST* World Festival in St. Louis, April 26-29, 2017 (two teams)
- Asia Pacific Open Championship in Sydney Australia, July 6-9, 2017 (one team)

*Teams will be asked to submit their choice of events no later than Monday, February 27. The overall first place team will be awarded their first choice.*

**The Project Awards** - 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophies are awarded in each category. Finalists should be prepared to give their presentation again.

- **Research** is awarded to the team whose research covers all aspects of the project and has an in-depth knowledge of the topic.
- **Innovative Solution** is awarded to the team whose research solution is innovative, creative and thoughtful.
- **Presentation** is presented to the team whose presentation is both creative and well presented.

**The Technical Awards** - 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophies are awarded in each category.

- **Mechanical Design** is awarded to the team that produces a solid, predictable and dependable robot using sound mechanical principals.
- **Programming** is awarded to the team best demonstrating an in-depth understanding of sound programming principals and applications.
- **Strategy and Innovative** is awarded to a team using a creative programming or design, component, or unique strategy.

**Core Values/Teamwork Award** - Presented to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams who best exemplify the FLL Core Values.

#### **AWARDS WITHOUT FINALIST JUDGING**

The following awards do not require a second round of judging.

**Judges' Awards** - Open ended awards determined by the Official Judging Panel. The panel is looking for an inspirational or one of a kind story. Something special about the team. Teams need only share their experiences in their morning judging sessions for consideration.

**Inspiration Award** - Presented to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams showing exceptional team spirit, enthusiasm, support and encouragement of fellow teams. This award is chosen by the referees.

**Gracious Professionalism®** - This award recognizes a team whose members show respect for others at all times. It will partly be based on input from teams at the tournament on sportsmanship-like qualities they may see in other teams. *If your team sees or experiences some act of sportsmanship from another team, please fill out the form in your folder and return it to a referee or judge.*

#### **HEAD-TO-HEAD AND ROBOT PERFORMANCE AWARDS**

ALL 61 teams will participate in the head-to-head competition. Lakes, Woods & Prairie will compete at 2:00 PM and River, Marsh & Snow at 3:20 PM. Make sure you are there when your judging group is running. We will skip teams if they don't show up. Teams will compete until there are 4 teams remaining in each group. *These last 8 teams will compete at the very end of the day.* Head-to-Head trophies are awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> place along with trophies for the top two scores from the morning Performance rounds.

#### **YOUNG MENTOR AWARD AND YOUNG LEADERSHIP AWARD**

The nominees for these awards will be interviewed prior to state tournament and the winners will be acknowledged during the ceremony.

All participating team members will receive a medal and teams will receive their commented rubrics back at the end of the day.

**GOOD LUCK!**