



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. 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 65 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 with same criteria, same set of judges, and same time limits. After 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 be a finalist 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. During Finalist Judging a single panel of judges will reevaluate the finalist teams. The winning and second place teams are selected from this group. 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. New judging schedules will be distributed to these 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*[®] and is exceptional across all judging categories. The top 6-8 teams are selected for this finalist judging. From this grouping, three teams will receive invitations to the following events:

- *FIRST* World Festival in Detroit, April 25-28, 2018 (three teams)

The Project Awards - 1st and 2nd place trophies are awarded in each category. Finalists should be prepared to give their presentation again during this additional judging session.

- **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 - 1st and 2nd place trophies are awarded in each category. Finalists should bring their robot, attachments and programs/laptop to this additional judging session.

- **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 1st and 2nd 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 1st and 2nd 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 65 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. Please check the brackets and be in the gym when your judging group is running. Teams will compete until there are 4 teams remaining in each group. *The last 8 teams from all groups will compete at the very end of the day.* Head-to-Head trophies are awarded for 1st through 4th 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!