



# Judging Process

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# Documents

- <http://www.roboticseducation.org/vex-robotics-competitionvrc/game-day-running-an-event/>
- <http://www.roboticseducation.org/vex-iq-challenge/viq-event-documents/>
- Judges Guide
- Awards Appendix
  - Description of each award & judging criteria
- Award Scripts (Found in Tournament Manager)
- Award Descriptions for judges room
- List of Awards to be given at the event

# Training Calls

- Call this number to join: (855) 212-0212, the access code is 878 304 944.
- If you have specific topics or questions that you want addressed, please send an email to [tarek@roboticseducation.org](mailto:tarek@roboticseducation.org)

# EP Recruits a Judge Advisor

- The EP should not try to run judging
- The judge advisor will be the “expert” on judging at the event
- Judge Advisor should have a good working knowledge of the judge guide for the program (VRC, VEX IQ, or VEX U)
- EP, and in some cases, the judge advisor will help recruit adult judges for the event
  - Working professionals
  - College students
  - Team parents

# Judge's role at an event

- Judges are the “friendly face” of the REC Foundation, VRC and VEX IQ programs
- They do not make calls on the field (those are referees)
- Judges are at an event to hear students talk about their experiences
- Judges decide on awards based upon what they hear and see
- Judges must be flexible

# Judge's role at an event

- **Student-Centered Teams:** The Robotics Education & Competition Foundation seeks to increase student interest and involvement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by engaging students in hands-on sustainable and affordable curriculum-based robotics engineering programs across the U.S. and internationally. Judges play an important role in our efforts to ensure that our program remains student-centered. Teachers/Mentors/Parents providing guidance and helping students design, fix or program robots is accepted. Adults doing the majority of the work on a robot, or working on a robot alone without students, is not acceptable, as there is obviously limited student learning and ownership taking place in such a situation.
- Judges have the opportunity through observation and interviews to identify teams, schools and clubs that strive to keep their program student centered and that understand that the purpose of the program is to enhance the learning process, not to win at all costs. Judges, with input from event staff, should identify teams that are not student-centered. Examples of this may include:
  - Robots built entirely by adults or, in the case of younger student, mentors (ie. High school students building robots for middle school teams).
  - Multiple identical robots on one or more teams (so called clone-bots).
  - Adults who criticize students from alliance teams for poor performance, failure to perform optimally or who blame other teams for low scores rather than offering positive suggestions.
  - In cases where judges have clearly identified that the team is not student centered, judges should not reward such teams with any judged awards. Judges should also observe how representatives from a team (students and/or adults) interact with others at an event. Unsportsmanlike or disrespectful behavior by students and/or adults associated with a team should impact how the Judges consider them for awards.

# Judge's role at an event

- **Team Conduct:** The REC Foundation considers the positive, respectful, and ethical conduct of all students and adults associated with a team to be an important and essential component of the VEX Robotics Competition program. For this reason, judges will consider all team conduct by students and/or adults when determining award recognition at VEX Robotics Competitions.
- EP should keep in touch with Judge Advisor regarding observed team issues.

# Teams Assigned to Sets of Judges

- The judge advisor will assign teams for each set of judges to interview.
- You will need one set of judges per 8-10 teams
- Judges review Engineering Notebooks before interviewing teams (best to have at least 2 dedicated judges for this task)
- Review Interview Tips and Sample Questions before interviewing teams



# Judges Report Back

- Each set of judges reports back to the group following initial interviews
- Judge Advisor posts the Award Descriptions for each award to be considered
- Each set of judges posts its top candidates for each award under the Award Descriptions

# The Excellence Award

- This is the highest award presented in the VEX Robotics programs. The recipient of this award is a team that exemplifies overall excellence in building a high quality robotics **program**. This team excels in many areas and is a shining example of dedication, devotion, hard work and teamwork.
- For large events, use calculator to find top contenders for Excellence and then use judgment to select the winner
- For small events, Identify top Design Award contenders and then use judgment to select the

# Judges Reach Consensus

- Judges work to reach a consensus on each award
- **One judged** award per team
- Finalize awards choices



# Excellence at World Championship

- VRC Eligibility - Teams must have:
  - Won Excellence award during competition season
  - Submit two different eligible online challenges
  - Submit an Engineering Notebook
- At the 2017 VEX Robotics World Championships, the Excellence Award will be awarded to:
  - VRC High School overall
  - VRC Middle School overall
  - VEX IQ Middle School overall
  - VEX IQ Elementary School overall
  - VEXU
- The Excellence Award is earned by an entire school or organization at Worlds, not just a single team. Each qualified school/organization will be given a single Excellence Award Interview Slot.

# Design Award

- Engineering Notebook required
  - Documents design process
  - Documents project management
  - Required at worlds for Design and Excellence
  - Teaches communication
  - Teaches students to organize their thoughts
- Design Award Rubric used to first evaluate notebooks
- Teams with top notebooks receive follow up interview

# VRC Design and VEX IQ STEM Research Project Awards at Worlds

- VRC Design Award Eligibility
  - Teams must have been awarded The Design or Excellence award during competition season
- VEX IQ STEM Research Project Eligibility
  - Teams must have been awarded the STEM Research Project, Design or Excellence award during competition season

# Questions and discussion

- Feedback?