



Judge Guide Addendum

This addendum is for Event Partners, Judge Advisors, Judges, Coaches, and Teams.

The Judge Guide Addendum provides the approved variances for judging at REC Foundation-sanctioned events during the 2020-2021 competition season. The variances described in this addendum will only apply during this season and may be updated as needed by the REC Foundation's Competition Judging Committee. Any questions or clarifications on this Addendum or the [Judge Guide](#) should be submitted to the Official [Judging Q&A](#) at RobotEvents.com.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the REC Foundation has developed approved judging models to support Event Partners in providing alternative judging formats that can be used under different circumstances. The approved judging models include:

- **Standard Event Judging:** Used in circumstances where an REC Foundation-sanctioned event is under few if any restrictions due to Covid-19. These events will follow the judging process as outlined in the [Judge Guide](#).
- **Remote Event Judging:** Used in circumstances where an REC Foundation-sanctioned event is under restrictions due to Covid-19 that preclude standard event judging. These events may use pre-submission of a Digital Engineering Notebook and a remote team interview before or during the event.

Event Partners will determine which judging model they will use and will post this information in their event posting on RobotEvents.com. Event Partners are also responsible for communicating with teams regarding the judging model used and any related details (e.g., submission deadlines and judging format). More details on these requirements are provided in this Addendum.

Where an event must change to an alternative format due to a change in local conditions, the Event Partner should contact their Regional Support Manager to discuss options. Converting an event to an alternative judging format is allowed but consideration must be given to the amount of time necessary for teams to comply with the required alternative submissions (e.g., if converting from standard event judging to remote event judging, teams must be provided sufficient time to prepare the Engineering Notebook for Digital submission).

Standard Event Judging

The Standard Event Judging model follows the judging process as outlined in the [Judge Guide](#).

If a team has a Digital Engineering Notebook according to the guidelines below, the Digital Engineering Notebook must be printed and submitted in hard copy at the event.

Note: The 5-point bonus is applied to all Engineering Notebooks with “confirmed time stamps” regardless of the type of Engineering Notebook. The Judge Advisor will use reasonable discretion to determine whether a time stamp is chronological and will apply that standard consistently to all submissions at the event. When there is doubt or question regarding a time stamp, the benefit of doubt should be given to the team.

Remote Event Judging

The Remote Event Judging model follows these recommendations and requirements:

Remote Judging Recommendations

The Event Partner has the reasonable discretion to conduct remote team interviews in several different formats:

- Remote team interviews may be conducted prior to or during the event.
- The Event Partner has the discretion to schedule remote team interviews.
- Remote team interviews may be conducted at the event in a separate room where a coach or mentor is present but may not speak.
- Remote team interviews may be conducted by live streaming Judges from a remote location with teams at the event. Teams would be interviewed in an appropriate location.
- The Event Partner should ensure that the technology for remote judging is functional prior to the event judging; this may require additional coordination by the Event Partner with the Judge Advisor and/or Judges.
- If Judges are unable to observe match and/or skills play, they will rely on match and skills rankings for award criteria related to game strategy and/or programming functions.

Remote Judging Requirements

The [Engineering Notebook Rubric and Team Interview Rubric](#) must be used for remote judging.

The remote judging environment is at the discretion of the Event Partner with the following stipulations:

- The REC Foundation Regional Support Manager must have access to view a remote judging session.
- Access to the remote judging session shall be restricted such that it cannot be accessed or viewed by the public, i.e. the session must be password protected or by invitation only.

- Two adults (18+ years old) who are not team members must be present for the duration of the session. These adults include:
 - One adult must be the Event Partner or an event administrator.
 - The other adult must be the team's Primary Contact as listed in RobotEvents.com or designee. If the team is using an adult designee, the team's Primary Contact must provide the name, email address, and phone number of the designee to the Event Partner prior to the session or by the deadline provided by the Event Partner.
- The two adults must be in the remote session before students are allowed to connect. The two adults must be present for the duration of the session.
- Once the interview begins, only the student team members and the judges may speak. Event Partners, event administrators, the Primary Contact or adult designee may not participate in the interview.
- No recordings, in any form, may be made of the judging interview.

Digital Engineering Notebooks

Pre-submission of a Digital Engineering Notebook is used for Remote Event Judging. Digital Engineering Notebooks may take any form that is accessible by clicking a link without any special software other than a web browser or PDF reader. A bound notebook that is scanned as a PDF and stored in a cloud service meets the definition of a Digital Engineering Notebook. A document stored in a cloud-based service meets the definition of a Digital Engineering Notebook. These are only two examples of an acceptable Digital Engineering Notebook.

All pre-submissions of an Engineering Notebook will be a Digital Engineering Notebook:

- Pre-submission deadline is at the discretion of the Event Partner; suggested pre-submission deadline is one to two weeks before the event.
- The Event Partner must clearly communicate the pre-submission deadline.
- The Event Partner must clearly communicate the form or method for the coach to submit the team information and the Digital Engineering Notebook (e.g., via a Google Form or email).
- The Event Partner should request the following information:
 - Team number/name
 - Organization name
 - Coach name, email, and phone number
 - Secondary contact name, email, and phone number
 - Event name and event code as shown on the event website at robotevents.com
 - The link for the Digital Engineering Notebook
- The Digital Engineering Notebook shall be sent as a link, not as an attachment, by the team's Primary Contact listed in RobotEvents.com.
- It is the team's responsibility to ensure the link is accessible. Additionally, it is the responsibility of the team to ensure their submission is legible.

- The 5-point bonus is applied to all Engineering Notebooks with “confirmed time stamps” regardless of the type of Engineering Notebook. The Judge Advisor will use reasonable discretion to determine whether a time stamp is chronological and will apply that standard consistently to all submissions at the event. When there is doubt or question regarding a time stamp, the benefit of doubt should be given to the team.
- Where a team has a Digital Engineering Notebook and can attend an event with standard event judging, the team must print out their notebook prior to the event and submit a physical copy.

NOTE: The Event Partner shall ensure that all Engineering Notebooks, including links to Digital Engineering Notebooks, are shared only with the Judge Advisor and Judges for that event. No copies of any Engineering Notebook, in part or in whole, shall be made or retained in any form.

Review of Digital Engineering Notebooks

The Event Partner will ensure the Digital Engineering Notebooks are provided to the Judge Advisor/Judges with sufficient time for Judges to:

- Sort notebooks into categories as outlined in the Judge Guide.
- Complete the rubric for the Engineering Notebooks that fall into the categories as outlined in the Judge Guide.
- Deliberate and rank the quality of the Engineering Notebooks as outlined in the Judge Guide.

The Judge Advisor will lead this process and align it as necessary with the process outlined in the Judge Guide.

Excellence Award Criteria for Remote Judging Events

Where an event is Remote Skills and Remote Judging, an Excellence Award may still be awarded where all other Excellence Award criteria listed in the Judge Guide are met. These events (i.e., without IQ Teamwork or VRC Tournament Matches), shall remove the match ranking criterion from the Excellence Award deliberations.

VEX Worlds 2021

The judging process as outlined in the Judge Guide will be used for VEX Worlds 2021. The REC Foundation’s Competition Judging Committee will provide appropriate updates should modifications become necessary.

All Engineering Notebooks at VEX Worlds must be a physical copy; electronic versions of Digital Engineering Notebooks will not be accepted. Teams that are eligible to submit an Engineering Notebook at team check-in are required to submit a physical copy. Teams with a Digital Engineering Notebook must print out their notebook prior to arrival at VEX Worlds; teams will not be able to print their notebook at the event.