



Frequently asked Questions on the *FIRST* LEGO League Global Innovation Award

FIRST may amend this FAQ at any time.

When will the Global Innovation Awards be held in 2022?

The event will be held TBD in June 2022 over two and a half days and will be at a TBD location, held in-person. The exact date and place will be made public no later than January 2022.

Will you require all of the 20 Finalists of the Global Innovation Award to attend in-person in June 2022?

In a traditional year, two representatives of a team are required to attend for them to be eligible for Awards given at the Global Innovation Award. For 2022, if the area the team is from or the Global Innovation Award host location is experiencing a travel or policy restriction because of the pandemic, an accommodation will be made to allow the team to participate in remote judging and remain eligible for all Awards. Requests for this accommodation need to be made to *FIRST* no later than May 1, 2022. Because the Global Innovation Award is designed as an in-person event in 2022, judging is the *only* event activity that we guarantee will be accommodated remotely. Depending on the venue or schedule, we may be able to offer remote teams mentorship opportunities during the event.

Because we can accommodate up to 20 *FIRST* LEGO League teams at the event, if a Finalist team cannot attend but will still be judged, we will offer their physical spot to the next alternate Global Innovation Award team. This will be a Global Innovation Award Showcase slot. Showcase teams may participate in all workshops, mentoring, activities, and pits to showcase their innovation, however *they will not be eligible* for core awards. Teams will however be offered time with the expert judges to receive feedback comments on their work. Showcase teams *are eligible* for the Community Choice award or other award at the discretion of judges.

What core Awards will be given at the Global Innovation Award?

There will be one winner and two runners-up chosen from the 20 Finalists, as well as individual Awards given for Innovation Impact, Implementation, Design and Create to those teams that excel in those specific areas of the rubric. We also have a Community Choice award, which is a public vote driven by the community to vote for their favorite :30 second elevator pitch.

I received the *FIRST* LEGO League Challenge Global Innovation Awards nomination from my regional Championship event. What do I do next?

Your coach will receive a communication from globalinnovationaward@firstinspires.org as soon as your local *FIRST* LEGO League Partner submits your team name to us. This communication will have instructions on how to find the submission portal; we do not make this information public and only share it directly with nominated teams. The submission portal will require you to create an account; this must be done by an adult 18 years of age or older.

The team must submit (in English) their solution and supplemental materials no later than March 29, 2022. All teams will receive a notification the week of April 18th if they are among the top 20 teams chosen to be Finalists. All nominated teams will receive judge feedback via e-mail in early May. We also identify ranked alternate teams, who may be called upon to participate if any of the Finalists cannot participate or attend. Alternates will know if they are called upon in early May to compete for the Award; in 2022 alternates may also be offered a Showcase slot to participate in all in-person activities.

How will the Global Innovation Awards winners be selected?

We ask experts in engineering, product development, and this year's Challenge theme to judge submissions. Every submission is reviewed by multiple judges. No personal information that would cause bias is given to the judges (team name, team description, or team location) during judging. This judging process is managed both by *FIRST* staff and an experienced *FIRST* LEGO League Challenge Judge Advisor.

Who judges the Global Innovation Award?

Many employees from our Global Innovation Award sponsors judge, including engineers and Challenge theme experts. If you have expertise related to the Challenge theme, product development, entrepreneurship, or innovation and are interested in helping judge the Global Innovation Awards nominees, please contact us at globalinnovationawards@firstinspires.org for more information by mid-February to submit an application to judge.

Do I have to have a patent to make my submission?

No, but we encourage your team to file a provisional patent application for your invention in your home country if you become a Finalist or Showcase team. These teams' solutions will be profiled on the website and may get local or national publicity, therefore your team should make every effort to protect your idea. You can get more information on the Innovation and Intellectual Property Resource Page on the firstinspires.org website.

What will my team need to submit for the Global Innovation Awards?

The *FIRST* LEGO League Global Innovation Award criteria mirrors the Innovation Project Rubric, with some minor differences and the addition of an implementation criterion. Please note word counts listed are maximums; your team does not need to meet the number of words if you can communicate your key points more briefly. Your team will need to write answers on the following:

Public Overview (200 words)

- Briefly explain the problem the team is trying to solve, why this problem was chosen, and the team's proposed solution.

Identify (400 words)

- What is the solution and how does the solution work? (Include relevant details.) How does it solve the problem chosen by the team?

Design (400 words)

- How did the team develop the solution? Explain what process was used to narrow, evaluate, and verify the solution. What steps did you follow?

Create (400 words)

- How has your illustration/model helped your team and others understand your solution? Explain how the illustration/model has been refined over time and share any questions it may have raised when sharing with others.

Innovation Impact (400 words)

- How does the solution solve your identified problem in a new way and/or improve on existing solutions in an impactful way? How do you know your solution will impact who it solves a problem for? (Responses might include descriptions of existing solutions, unique value offered by the team solution, and who benefits from it.)

Implementation (400 words)

- How would the solution be implemented? What factors did you consider (cost, materials, manufacturing, market research etc.) to determine feasibility? (Responses might include applicable analysis and/or professional corroborations.)

Supporting Documentation: One page (8.5 x 11 or A4) ONLY as judges have limited time to evaluate. If the team submits a longer document, we cannot guarantee it will be read by judges. We recommend including visual support documentation, such as a schematic, diagram, chart, photo(s), or anything the team decides help illustrate a criterion. Further prototype documentation or other details are also welcome. We cannot guarantee judges will visit external websites, blogs, or other included links.

The *FIRST* LEGO League rubric is posted on the Global Innovation Award guidelines page in the Resource Library of the *FIRST* website. All team questions can be directed to globalinnovationaward@firstinspires.org.