Frequently asked Questions on the *FIRST* LEGO League Challenge participation in the *FIRST* Global Innovation Awards

FIRST may amend this FAQ at any time.

1. **When will the Global Innovation Awards powered by *STAR WARS: Force for Change* be held in 2021?**
   June 28-30 on a remote event platform. Teams should plan on about 5 hours of participation each day, with breaks between workshops and activities. Depending on your time zone, some of your activities may be in the late afternoon/early evening. Judging will take place the 28th and 29th. The Awards Ceremony will be on June 30, 2021. Teams should also hold Friday, June 25th as a pre-event informal day to meet and socialize with other teams.

   This year, we will welcome 20 *FIRST* Tech Challenge teams and 20 *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams to the *FIRST* Global Innovation Awards. There will be some activities with all teams together and some workshops by program. Teams will only compete against teams in their own Program for Awards.

2. **What will I need to participate?**
   We expect all Finalist teams to have access to stable internet and a device(s) with camera to enable them to have a successful remote participation experience. Teams are not expected to be together in one location to participate but can be if their local rules allow for them to do so safely in June.

3. **What Awards will be given for *FIRST* LEGO League Challenge teams?**
   There will be one winner and two runners-up chosen from the 20 Finalists in *FIRST* LEGO League Challenge, as well as individual Awards given for Innovation Impact, Implementation, and Create to those teams that excel in those specific areas of the rubric.

4. **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 globalinnovationawards@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 April 21, 2021. All teams will receive a notification the week of May 10th if they are among the top 20 teams chosen to be Finalists. All nominated teams will receive judge feedback via e-mail by the end of May. We also identify 4 ranked alternate teams—and yes, although rare, it has happened that they have been asked to participate in the *FIRST* Global Innovation Awards if one of the 20 is unable to participate.

5. **Is there a registration fee for the Global Innovation Awards?**
   No, there is not an event fee to register/attend if you are one of the top 20 *FIRST* LEGO League Challenge Finalist teams.

6. **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, ages, gender, or team location) during judging. This judging process is managed both by *FIRST* staff and an experienced *FIRST* LEGO League Challenge Judge Advisor.

7. **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. The twenty (20) Finalists' 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 in [Patent Resources](#) area.

8. **Who judges the *FIRST* Global Innovation Awards powered by *STAR WARS: Force for Change*?**
   Many employees from our Global Innovation Awards 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 the first week in March and to submit an application to judge. We make every effort to keep judging groups balanced with different types of experts in each group. This virtual commitment is approximately 5-7 hours.

9. **What will my team have to submit for the Global Innovation Awards?**
   The Global Innovation Awards criteria for *FIRST* LEGO League Challenge mirrors the Innovation Project Rubric, with a few expansions. Please note that *FIRST* Tech Challenge and *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams have a different set of criteria for their *FIRST* Innovation Challenge presented by Qualcomm. Your team will need to write answers on the following:

   Public Overview (200 words)
   - What problem is the team trying to solve? Why did the team choose this problem?

   Detailed (500 words)
   - What is the solution and how does the solution work? (Include relevant details.) How does it solve the problem chosen by the team?

Innovation Impact (500 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.)

Create

- How did the team develop the solution? (Explain what process was used to narrow, evaluate, and verify the solution. What steps did you follow?) **(300 words)**
- How has your drawing/model helped your team and others understand your solution? (Explain how the drawing/model has been refined over time and share any questions it may have raised when sharing with others.) **(200 words)**

Implementation (500 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 Global Innovation Awards rubric for *FIRST* LEGO League Challenge teams is posted here. All team questions can be directed to globalinnovationawards@firstinspires.org.