



Overview for Teams and Region/Countries

FIRST® is a global robotics community that prepares young people for the future.



Global Innovation Award Overview

What is the Award?

- Demonstrates that *FIRST*[®] trains kids to think like innovators
- Encourages all teams in *FIRST*[®] LEGO[®] League Challenge to implement their Innovation Project beyond the season.
- Easy for all regions/countries to nominate.
- All nominated teams receive feedback from expert judges.
- 20 Finalists from *FIRST* LEGO League Challenge have opportunity to participate in multi-day event after the season concludes.
- Outside scope of regular season and awards.
- Further information, including links to past Finalists, resources, rubric, and more on the Global Innovation Award can be found at:
<https://www.firstinspires.org/community/innovation>

How do Regions Participate?

- Each *FIRST* LEGO League region/country will nominate between 1-4 team(s) based on the volume of teams in their area.
- Most regions will nominate one (1) team. Regions/countries with the top 25% of team numbers will submit 2-4 teams. A regions/country may have more than one country as we define this under one affiliate partnering organization. A region/country must have a Championship event of at least 24 teams to be eligible.
- The list of how many nominees a region receives is shared with all Program Delivery Partners in November. Program Delivery Partners communicate with their tournament directors/teams the number of nominees their region will have.
- Nominee(s) will be the *top ranked* team(s) in the Innovation Project category for the Project Awards at the Championship(s) event. The nominee could have won Champions Award or a different Award and still receive the Global Innovation Awards nomination.
- Regional Nominee(s) information is due to *FIRST* as soon as possible after Championship event(s) and no later than mid-March. Teams then have two weeks to complete their submission to *FIRST* (in English) by late March. The submission portal is ready for nominees in December. Judging happens asynchronously beginning early to mid-April.

What is a Variation?

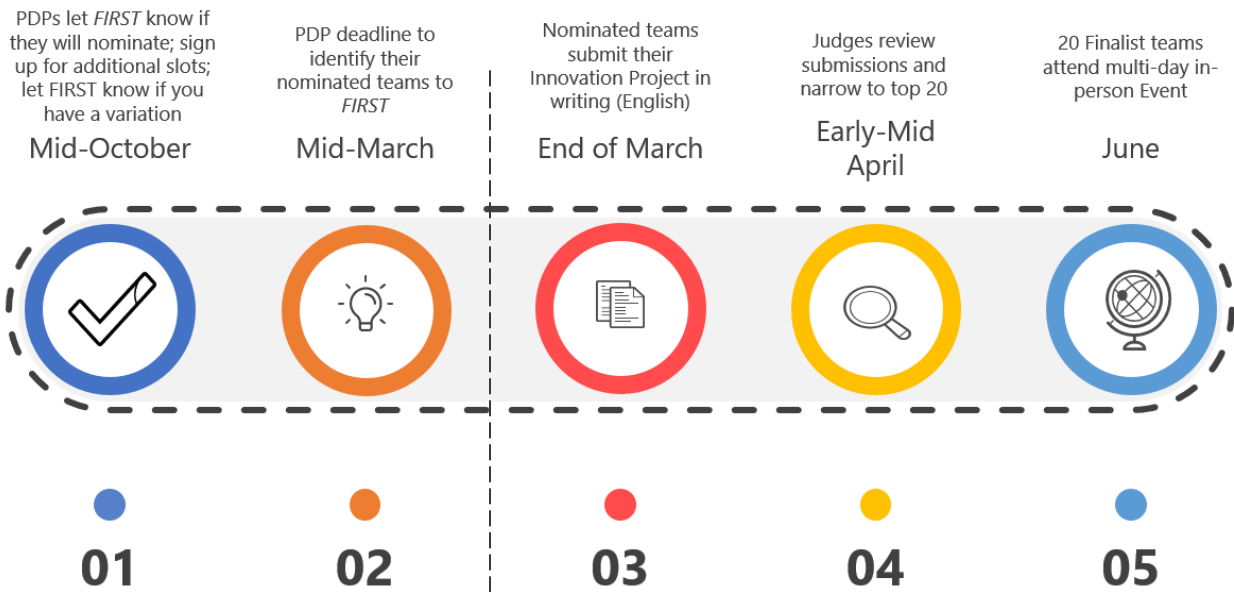
Regions and countries wishing to use a variation to the standard nomination process may do so. Reasons for a variation include a Championship date after the mid-March deadline, the allowance of teams participating at the qualifier level, and/or publicly shining a spotlight on youth innovation. Variations must adhere to the Global Innovation Awards Variation standards and inform *FIRST* they will have a variation. We list region/countries with a variation on the Global Innovation Award resource page to



help inform teams. Program Delivery Partners are expected to inform all teams in their region on the exact processes for their type of variation.

Global Innovation Award Flow At-a-glance

Season dates and deadlines are made available to Program Delivery Partners in August, shortly after Season Reveal. Each year, the timeline generally is as follows:



FIRST emails instructions to nominated teams on how to submit their Innovation Project as soon as we receive their information from the Program Delivery Partner. The instructions on how to provide the written submission of the nominated teams' Innovation Project are not available publicly and will not be sent until *FIRST* confirms with the region/country Program Delivery Partner that the team has received the Global Innovation Award nomination.