

In *FIRST* Tech Challenge, Judges work together to identify and celebrate teams for their achievements over the season. Teams advance to the next level competitions through award recognition or their competition results. Judges are led through the judging process with the help of a Judge Advisor.

Judging is a full day experience. A Judge must be prepared to move from the deliberation rooms to the judging rooms and pit areas to meet with teams. Closed toe shoes and safety glasses are required for all attendees in the pit area, walkways, and competition field area.

- Judges, working in pairs or in threes, interview teams, review the team portfolio, and add their notes to a judging summary sheet, and complete judging feedback form. It is required to review these documents before an event:
 - [Section 6 Awards](#) of the Competition Manual
 - [Judge Manual](#)
 - [Judging Summary Sheet](#)* used during initial deliberations and recommended during pit interviews.
 - [Judge Interview Question Bank](#)
 - [Award Terms and Definitions](#)
 - [Judging Feedback Form](#)* used immediately following the formal interview only.
- Each judge is assigned to a judging panel. Each judging panel interviews a set number of teams. All Judges do not interview all teams. The Judge Advisor will provide an interview schedule to each judging panel.
- Judges look for team alignment to specific award criteria based on the content the team provides during their formal presentation (5 minutes), the Judges' questions (minimum of 5 minutes), and the content included in the 15-page portfolio if the portfolio is provided.

Portfolio Required	Portfolio Optional
Think, Control, and Inspire	Connect, Motivate, Design, and Innovate

- Once judging panels have completed their interviews, they return to a judging deliberation room, where they nominate teams they have interviewed for specific awards.
- Teams can be nominated for more than one award, but each team can only win one award. No team is considered for the Inspire Award until the nominations for all other awards are done.
- The number of awards provided at an event is scaled based on the number of teams participating at the event.
- The Judge Advisor walks Judges through the process of identifying top candidates and facilitates conversations with the judges around each award.
- The Judge Advisor identifies teams who have been nominated in multiple award categories and creates a short list for the Inspire Award candidates.
- Judges are assigned to award panels, and the Judges go out to the pit area to interview the teams on their list to gather additional information. Teams can display, document, describe, or demonstrate this information.
- The Judges return to the deliberation room, compare notes on the teams they interviewed, and rank the teams that have been nominated for each award.
- The Judge Advisor will walk through the ranked lists with the Judges, facilitating further conversation.
- Some teams will rank highly for multiple awards. The Judge Advisor will help the Judges to assign teams to the category that best suits their achievements.
- Once the winners of each award have been identified, Judges will write an award script. The award script should be about the positive attributes of the team and should be written with a bit of suspense in mind. The Judge Advisor will help to walk Judges through this exercise.