Judge Advisor
Certification Test

Important: All volunteers supporting events in the United States and Canada must be screened and assigned using the Volunteer Management System and are required to complete their certification test using the online volunteer certification system.

This test is provided publicly for team use and volunteer certification at events outside of the United States and Canada.

Revision History	
Revision	**Description**
V25-26.1	Initial 2025-26 Season Release
V25-26.2	Update answer to Q2

Questions

Q1. Teams can present without interruption from the Judges for 5 minutes.
- A. Or until the entire interview session is completed.
- B. And they can be disqualified if they have no prepared presentation.
- C. At the end of 5 minutes, Judges politely stop the presentation and ask questions.
- D. As long as the presentation is relevant to what the Judges would like to know.

Q2. The Inspire Award recognizes teams who:
- A. Are nominated for Think, Team Attribute, and Machine, Creativity, and Innovation Awards.
- B. Are ranked above 60% at the end of the qualification matches.
- C. Bring chocolate to the Judges.

Q3. Per the *FIRST* Youth Protection policies, a Judge may not interview a team alone.
- A. True
- B. False

Q4. The Portfolio must include the following to be considered in the judging process. (select all that apply)
- A. A team number on the front cover.
- B. A team summary page.
- C. Page numbers on each page.
- D. Grade Point Averages for each member of the team.

Q5. Which of the following statements is true?
- A. Teams who deserve the most recognition receive the most awards.
- B. Teams who have received any award at another event are not eligible for awards.

C. Judges may only select a team as the winner or finalist once for a Judged award.
D. Teams who are on the Winning Alliance are not permitted to win additional awards.

Q6. When talking about Conflict of Interest, which of the following statements are true? (select all that apply)

A. The perceptions a team has about a conflict of interest in the judging panel can discourage the team.
B. A Judge must remove themselves from any conversations where it could be perceived that they have a conflict of interest.
C. Conflict of interest is as much about the perception of conflict as it is about actual conflict.
D. Judges do not need to declare a conflict of interest if they believe they can be impartial.
E. Judges must declare a conflict, even when they believe they can be impartial.

Q7. When thinking about Conflict of Interest, which of the following relationships must be declared by Judges? (select all that apply)

A. The volunteer is a parent of a student on a participating team.
B. The volunteer is a teacher at a school with a team that is participating in the event.
C. The volunteer is a Coach or Mentor of a team participating in an event.
D. The volunteer is a recently former member of a team participating in an event.
E. The volunteer interacts with a team on social media.
F. The volunteer works for an organization that sponsors the team.

Q8. Judges should always ask to see the engineering notebook for a team.

A. True
B. False

Q9. A Portfolio is a requirement for all Judged awards.

A. True
B. False

Q10. When Judges receive a Portfolio that is longer than the allowed 15 pages of content, plus a cover sheet, they should:

A. Judges should read and consider the entire Portfolio.
B. Judges should only read and consider the first 15 pages of content.
C. Judges should read the entire Portfolio and consider the best 15 pages of content.
D. Judges should remove the team from award consideration.

Q11. *FIRST* Tech Challenge allows teams to use Artificial Intelligence tools in the creation of their Portfolio.

A. True
B. False

Q12. When learning about the outreach events a team has shared: (select all that apply)

A. Judges consider the number of students who participated in the outreach.
B. Judges refer to the Outreach Terms and Definitions resource for guidance on outreach terminology.
C. Judges use the internet to verify the outreach events.

Q13. Red Card violations automatically disqualify a team from award consideration.

A. True
B. False

Q14. Outreach Terms and Definitions describe the language used for outreach efforts.

A. True
B. False

Q15. When egregious behavior is reported by an event volunteer, which of the following steps must be taken: (select all that apply)

A. The team is automatically disqualified from award consideration.
B. The Judge Advisor or Event Director speaks with the team coach about the behavior and explains potential consequences.
C. The Judge Advisor investigates the report by talking with other event volunteers who have witnessed the behavior.
D. The Judge Advisor asks the Emcee to make an announcement about the behavior.
E. The Judge Advisor calls the *FIRST* on call support to discuss the next steps.

Q16. Teams may not be considered for the Inspire Award (winner or finalists) if they have already won the award at an event of the same level of competition.

A. True
B. False

Q17. Judges should be encouraged to nominate a team for a Judges' Choice Award if they have had a particularly bad season.

A. True
B. False

Q18. When evaluating teams for awards, Judges should be encouraged to: (select all that apply)
A. Consider information in the team Portfolio.
B. Search the internet to confirm the validity of the team presentation.
C. Consider information provided in the Structured Interview.
D. Give consideration to additional information that is displayed, discussed, or documented in the pit interview.

Q19. When Judges have questions about judging during the event they should be instructed to:
A. Phone a friend.
B. Ask another Judge.
C. Ask another volunteer.
D. Ask the Judge Advisor

Q20. Some Judges only watch matches, and the Judges are called Match Observers.
A. True
B. False

Q21. The Judge Advisor should encourage Judges to photograph teams or their robots during the structured interview.
A. True
B. False

Q22. Judge Advisors will allow Judges to give teams extra time in the structured interview if:
A. The Judges are curious to learn more about the team.
B. The team is working with a translator.

Q23. Judge Advisors should allow Judges to use AI as a tool to help write award scripts.
A. True
B. False

Q24. Judges must write an award script for Inspire Award finalists.
A. True
B. False

Q25. Judge Advisors should create the judging panels as soon as they have the names and technical or non-technical preferences of the judging volunteers, no other information about the judges is needed for this step.
A. True
B. False

Q26. When should a Judge Advisor call *FIRST* Support? (select all that apply)
A. When clarification about an award criteria is needed to help with the deliberation process.
B. When learning about egregious behavior from a team.
C. Before considering eliminating a team from award consideration.
D. When they need assistance with understanding how to proceed.
E. When not knowing when the lunch break will occur.

Q27. Teams may not receive an award if an adult member of the team is seen working on or programming the robot.

A. True
B. False

Q28. During team award deliberations, a Judge strongly advocates for a team with a robot that is complex, but the team could not answer questions about the design in the pit interview. Another Judge dismisses the same team because they object to the team's attire. What would be the next step(s) that you should take? (select all that apply)

A. Judge Advisor should take a pause in deliberations and speak privately with the second Judge to understand their comment.
B. Judge Advisor should ignore the second Judge's comments and continue with deliberations.
C. Judge Advisor should ensure that neither Judge's comments are because of bias or conflict of interest.
D. Judge Advisor should take a break and call the *FIRST* on-call support line for assistance.

Q29. You are reviewing an initial award script for the Design Award winner. The first draft is long and puts more focus on the team's professional attire and organized pit area. What guidance would you give the Judge to edit this script to align with the award criteria? (select all that apply)

A. Replace the descriptions of attire and pit organization with specific details about their design process, mechanism choices, and how the team described their learning and problem-solving journey.
B. Shorten the script to just two or three sentences, making it more impactful for the award ceremony.
C. Keep the script as written as it is good for the program to show teams that Judges care about the attire and organizational skills.
D. Suggest the Judges emphasize how impressive it is that a team from a small, under-resourced community are able to achieve this level of technical success.

Q30. Judge Advisors receive award decisions and script completion deadlines from:

A. The Event Director
B. Judge Advisors, which create their own deadlines based on the amount of time they believe the process should take.

Answer Key

Question	Correct Response	Explanation	Rule/Reference
Q1	C	In the interest of equity, teams all receive the same amount of time for the uninterrupted presentation.	A205
Q2	A	Inspire teams rank highly in the Team Attribute category, a Machine, Creativity, and Innovation category, and the Think category. A team's game performance is not a consideration.	Sections 6.1 and 6.3.1
Q3	A	Judges are not permitted to Judge teams without a second Judge.	Judging Process Guide
Q4	A	The team number must be on the front cover of the Portfolio. Judge Advisors should instruct Judges to look for a team number when they receive the Portfolio, and if missing, ask the team to add it.	A201
Q5	C	Judges may only select a team as a winner of finalist for one Judged award at an event.	A215
Q6	A, B, C, E	Conflict of Interest is both about your own inability to be objective and the perception of others.	Judging Process Guide
Q7	A, B, C, D,	All could be considered Conflict of Interest and must be declared.	Judging Process Guide
Q8	B	Teams are not obligated to create an engineering notebook. Judges may consider an engineering notebook content if used as additional information during the Pit Interview(s) but additional material beyond the Engineering Portfolio should not be brought back to the Judging Deliberation room.	Judging Process Guide Section 6.1.3
Q9	B	Portfolio is required for the Inspire Award, the Think Award, and the Control Award.	Section 6.3.1, 6.3.2, and 6.3.7
Q10	B	Only the first 15 pages of the Portfolio (not including the cover sheet) can be considered.	A201
Q11	A	Teams are permitted to use AI in the creation of their Portfolio. Use should be cited but if not cited is not considered to be a disqualifying event.	A201
Q12	A, B	Judges may not consider information that was not Discussed, Displayed, Documented, or Demonstrated at the event. Teams are expected to know and use the defined Outreach Terms and Definitions when describing their outreach. Judges may also consider the number of students to be able to compare the impact of a team's outreach.	A201, Outreach Terms and Definitions

Q13	B	A Red or Yellow Card is not a reason to disqualify a team from award consideration. Judge Advisor must call the *FIRST* on call support line if there is any discussion about disqualifying a team for a judged award.	Judging Process Guide
Q14	A	Outreach Terms and Definitions help Judges understand the terminology used by teams when describing their outreach.	Outreach Terms and Definitions
Q15	B, C, E	A Judge Advisor may not disqualify a team without following the protocol outlined in the Judge Advisor Manual	Judging Process Guide
Q16	B	The rules have changed regarding this. If a team has won the Inspire Award at a previous event of the same level, they are eligible to be considered as a finalist for the award at a subsequent event. They are not eligible to win the award a second time.	A214
Q17	B	The Judges' Choice is designed to celebrate team attributes that are exceptional but not covered by any other award.	Section 6.3.9, Judging Process Guide
Q18	A, C, D	Judges may consider any content provided to them during the event day by the team. Judges may not use outside sources to gather additional information.	Section 6.1.1
Q19	D	Judges with questions about the process should speak with the Judge Advisor.	Judging Process Guide
Q20	B	The Match Observer role has been retired. Some Judges will watch matches as a part of their award selection process since some aspects of performance are included in specific award criteria	Judging Process Guide
Q21	B	Judges may not photograph teams or their robots during the Structured Interview.	A210, Judging Process Guide
Q22	B	Judge Advisors should notify judging panels in advance if they have a team interview scheduled where extra time could be necessary.	A209, Judging Process Guide
Q23	A	AI is a great way to help Judges create scripts.	Judging Process Guide
Q24	A	All teams that receive a Judged Team Award trophy will have a script. Inspire Award winners and finalists all receive trophies, and all have scripts read in the awards ceremony.	Judging Process Guide
Q25	B	Judges must verify conflicts of interest before judging panels are created.	Judging Process Guide
Q26	A, B, C, D	Judge Advisors must call *FIRST* support for potential team disqualification. The other (A, B, D) answers here are also good reasons to call *FIRST* support.	Judging Process Guide

Q27	B	False. There are no rules in FTC that prohibit adult assistance in the building or programming of their team's robot.	Judging Process Guide
Q28	A, C, D	The Judge Advisor needs to ensure that bias against (or for) a team are not part of the judging process and especially during decision making. Depending on the actual situation, the Judge Advisor should call *FIRST* for assistance on how to move forward.	Judging Process Guide
Q29	A, B	It is important that the award script helps the team and audience understand how the team's achievements meet the award criteria. Additionally, being succinct and direct helps to ensure that the event stays on schedule.	Judging Process Guide
Q30	A	Judge Advisors work within the timing schedule provided to them by the Event Director.	Judging Process Guide