

# Maryland FLL Judging Overview

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## Prior to the Qualifying Tournament

- prepare by following the instructions given on the FIRST Lego League website for each of the three judged areas (Robot Design, Project, and Core Values)
- <http://www.firstlegoleague.org/challenge/thechallenge>
- bring at least three team info sheets to provide the judges in each judging room
- *the Robot Design Executive Summary and Core Values Poster will not be used in Maryland FLL*

## At the Qualifying Tournament

- Judging takes place
  - in a closed room, in a 10 minute session
  - only one adult may accompany the team into the judging room to observe
  - the adult may record the session, but will not be allowed extra time to set up
  - the adult may not speak to, prompt, or guide the students in any way
  - all students should participate in each judging session—in the project presentation, core values activity, and in answering judge questions
- **Project Judging Session**
  - teams should bring
    - entire team
    - team information sheet
    - props or visual aids required for the presentation
  - be wary of relying on technology
    - laptops may go to sleep or lock
    - projectors may need to warm up
    - many qualifying tournament sites will not have Wi-Fi
  - team will be given five minutes for their presentation including setup
  - judges will then have five minutes to ask questions about the project
  - teams will be evaluated based on the Project Rubric
    - take specific note of the rubric items with red asterisks
- **Core Values Judging Session**
  - teams should bring
    - entire team
    - team information sheet
  - there may be a two to five minute teamwork activity (qualifier-dependent)
    - successful completion is irrelevant—judges look at how well the students interact as a team
  - judges will then ask the students questions about how the team demonstrates FLL Core Values
  - teams will be evaluated based on the Core Values rubric
  - *Maryland FLL does not use the Core Values poster*

- **Robot Design Judging Session**

- teams should bring
  - entire team
  - team information sheet
  - robot with mission code loaded and all attachments
  - printed code for one to two missions to show the judges
- be prepared to demonstrate one or two of the team's best missions on a full FLL field
- team is then interviewed by the judges for the remainder of the session
- students should be prepared to discuss their design and strategy decisions
- teams will be evaluated on the Robot Design rubric
- *Maryland FLL does not use the Robot Design Executive Summary*

- **Awards & Advancement**

- Champion's Award
  - team with best overall rankings in Project, Core Values, and Robot Design
  - in the Project, this team must
    - identify a problem,
    - propose an innovative solution,
    - and share that solution with their community
  - minimum required ranking in Robot Performance (threshold varies slightly by qualifier)
  - *automatic bid to state championship*
- Project/Robot Design/Core Values Awards
  - team with best ranking in the category
  - requires good scores in each of the subcategories of the category
- Robot Performance
  - based solely on robot performance rounds in the afternoon
  - may be won alongside other awards
- General Award Information
  - with the exception of the Robot Performance award, FLL awards are determined by a deliberation process, which is formulated around discussion of team performance in each judged category
  - additional awards vary by qualifier
  - teams must participate in all three judged areas and the robot rounds to be eligible for any awards or advancement to the state championship
  - any team not demonstrating the FLL Core Values is disqualified from winning any awards—including robot performance—or advancing to the state championship
- Advancement to State
  - based on Champion's award criteria, not on specific awards
    - team with best overall rankings in Project, Core Values, and Robot Design and meeting the Robot Performance threshold
  - ***teams may win awards without advancing and may advance without winning awards***
- After the Tournament
  - teams will receive a copy of the rubrics filled out by judges
  - rubrics will contain constructive criticism—please read through the rubric before sharing it with the team

Additional Judging Questions?

- for official answers from FLL, email [filljudge@usfirst.org](mailto:filljudge@usfirst.org) and CC [mdfillheadjudge@gmail.com](mailto:mdfillheadjudge@gmail.com)
- for Maryland-specific FLL judging questions, email [mdfillheadjudge@gmail.com](mailto:mdfillheadjudge@gmail.com)