

## PHILOSOPHY OF AWARD DISTRIBUTIONS

Keeping in mind that FIRST LEGO League is seeking to “Inspire and Recognize” the efforts of as many students as possible, here are the guiding principles used for awards:

- It is the intent of the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) program to “spread the wealth” when it comes to the distribution of all awards at an FLL tournament.
- Some awards are obviously clear-cut, like:  
Robot Performance 1<sup>st</sup> place - Highest scoring robot  
Robot Performance 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Second Highest scoring robot
- This years awards include:
  - The main “Research Presentation Award” will be subdivided into these three categories: Research Quality, Innovative Solution, and Creative Presentation.
  - The main “Robot Design Award” will be subdivided into these three categories: Innovative Design, Robust Design, and Programming.
  - The Teamwork award completes the list of judged awards that factor into the score for the Director’s and Director’s Runner-up awards.
  - Other optional awards such as the: “Judges Award”, Against All Odds Award, and any “Recognition Awards” do not factor into the overall score for the Director’s Award.
- There is a strong desire to limit any one team to one award (in addition to a performance award).
- Once the top four candidates for all awards are determined the judges begin to look for the Director’s award winner and runner-up. Generally this is not too difficult because this should reflect the top overall score but when scores are close, other items which do not receive hard scores can be factored in to make that final determination. Evaluations of teams for “Team Spirit” are one positive example. On the negative side, observations of or information obtained that shows the work is not being performed by students can detract from a score. Remember to mentor the students’ verses doing “their” work. How else will they learn?  
Some scenarios that help illustrate the philosophy
  - If a single team is judged as the tops in several categories they may become a clear winner of the Directors Award. Situations that could result in a second award include:
    - They might receive one additional judged award to illustrate their strong showing if that score was well above the second place score.
    - If they won either robot performance award, they would receive that as a second award.
  - A team that is consistently ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> , 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> may have the highest overall score and receive the Directors Award but not receive any additional ones. So it is possible for a team to win the Directors award and nothing else.
  - The desire to spread awards as much as possible can result in a team not receiving the best score in a category actually receiving the specific award. Any teams above them in that category will have received an award in some other judged category.
- Open awards give the judges leeway to identify teams that best fit the description of the award. These consist of: Against All Odds & Judges Award

I hope you find this helpful and informative to understanding the judging process. Remember the goal of FLL is to make every team realize that participation in the program is the real benefit and what makes everyone a winner. Don’t let winning become the focus of your teams objective. I hope that doing “their” best is the goal of all students with the support of the coaches and mentors.