





# 10 Things to Know As an FLL Judge

Please be sure to check out [www.firstlegoleague.org](http://www.firstlegoleague.org) for additional information, including Judging and other official Q & A from throughout the season.

<http://flblog.wordpress.com/category/judging-posts/>  
<http://flblog.wordpress.com/category/project-posts/>

Thank you for agreeing to be a judge with *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> LEGO<sup>®</sup> League. The information in this packet is designed to help you prepare as an FLL Judge this season. It serves as a supplement to the FLL Judges' Handbook and is intended to offer background information that will be useful to review prior to your tournament. You should also participate in training sessions that may be offered through your local tournament organizer and/or FLL. We hope your experience as an FLL Judge is rewarding and enjoyable!

## 10. Have fun – you and the kids

The most important thing to know about an FLL tournament is that it is supposed to be **FUN**. The mission of *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> is to get kids excited about science and technology. A competition is a celebration of what the children have accomplished throughout the season. It should be serious and competitive, but not so much that the fun is lost.

## 9. Exhibit Gracious Professionalism and honor FLL Core Values

These are the basic foundations of *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> LEGO<sup>®</sup> League, and should always be at the forefront in everyone's minds.

## 8. Be a good role model for technology and engineering careers

Give the kids a chance to see what makes engineers, scientists, computer programmers and educators special. Share your experiences without sharing your agendas. Be professional – show the kids that what they have accomplished is appreciated and valuable. Show interest in their presentations and discussions, and be personable.

## 7. Respect the children

Please keep negative comments to yourself, away from the ears of the kids, parents, and coaches. All teams should be given the benefit of the doubt when questions arise about adult involvement. If you suspect the kids did not do the work, it is your job to probe further to prove it, rather than assuming that the kids did not do the work. Remember that these are kids who worked hard all season to make it to the tournament. Treat their accomplishments with respect, and be sure that other judges do so as well. One negative comment from a judge can have a devastating effect on teams. Make it your goal as a judge to ensure that the teams know what they did well, and that they have a positive experience showcasing their achievements.

## 6. Respect the judging process

Stay on schedule. The kids have a more challenging schedule than you do. Remember the FLL awards

philosophy. Remember that the whole judging process is subjective. Concentrate on providing a great experience for the kids and try not to get caught up in the mechanics of the process. Do not share scores or awards discussions with the kids, coaches or parents.

## 5. Evaluate teams completely and fairly

Each rubric is designed to evaluate many areas of a team's performance, and gives equal weighting to several factors. All factors are of equal importance. Be objective, both on a team-by-team basis and a total rubric evaluation basis. Familiarize yourself with the levels of achievement. Identify any conflicts of interest you have before the competition, and refrain from involving yourself in discussions about any team when you have a conflict.

## 4. Consider age appropriateness and experience

Consider age when evaluating teams. Certain skills, knowledge, and capabilities are more likely to be exhibited by the kids as they get older and more experienced in general and in FLL in particular. You may also see rookie teams that are more polished and understand FLL better than experienced teams.

## 3. Reward excellence and celebrate achievement

For a team to be considered for an award, they should be evaluated at an Excellent level of achievement in that category whenever possible. Award distribution is spread as equitably as possible among the teams, with the goal of no team winning more than one award.

## 2. Provide specific and constructive feedback

Please be specific when providing feedback comments to teams. This will also help when it comes to awards deliberations – specific examples are very helpful when differentiating between teams. "This team's willingness to help other teams (by providing programming mentorship, for example) is exemplary" is more descriptive and helpful than "that team was so nice and polite and exhibited gracious professionalism." Take lots of notes if you need to!

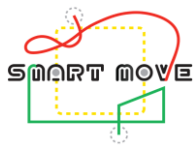
## 1. See #1 again!

FLL is the result of an exciting alliance between *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> and the LEGO<sup>®</sup> Group.

©2009 *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> and the LEGO<sup>®</sup> Group

Official *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> LEGO<sup>®</sup> League Operational Partners are permitted to make reproductions for immediate judging and Operational Partner use only. Any use, reproduction, or duplication for purposes other than directly by the immediate FLL Operational Partner as part of FLL participation is strictly prohibited without specific written permission from *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> and the LEGO<sup>®</sup> Group.

The *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> LEGO<sup>®</sup> League name and logo are trademarks of *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> and the LEGO<sup>®</sup> Group.

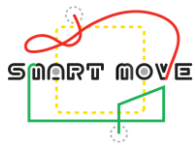


Team FLL Number

Team FLL Name

# Teamwork Rubric

	Needs Improvement	Fair	Good	Excellent
<b>Roles &amp; Responsibilities</b>	No clearly-defined roles	Loose role assignments	Defined roles	Clearly defined roles
	Not clear who completed which tasks and/or very uneven distribution of work	Uneven work distribution	Work is distributed fairly, but with individual focus only	Workload is distributed fairly and team members understand each other's roles
	Team members not collaborative	Team members will help each other, if asked	Team members assist each other without being asked	Team members fill each other's roles (happily!), if needed
	Time management is poor or purely directed by the coach	Time management skills are weak	Team mentions learning time management	Team members give concrete examples of learning time management
<b>Gracious Professionalism</b>	Team members show little/no respect for each other	Team members show limited respect for each other	Team members show respect for teammates	Team members give concrete examples of respect for teammates
	Team members show no awareness of school/community issues	Team members show limited awareness of school / community issues	Team members imply increased awareness of school/ community	Team members show increased awareness of their school/community issues, including concrete examples
	Team members compete with each other to be heard during judging	Team is aware of Gracious Professionalism, but gives no concrete examples of what they have done to help others	Team members are vague about how this awareness translates into other aspects of their lives	Team members clearly discuss how this increased awareness translates into other areas of their lives
	Team doesn't understand the concept of Gracious Professionalism	Team did not help each other/other teams	Team implies that they have helped each other/other teams	Team members give concrete examples of how they have helped each other/others
<b>Problem-Solving &amp; Team Dynamics</b>	A problem was identified, but no steps were taken to identify a solution	A problem was identified, but the chosen solution was inadequate to some team members	A problem was identified and there is compromise evident in the solution	A problem was identified and the team worked together to find a solution
	One team member used power to reach their desired outcome	Some team members didn't accept the solution	Team tested various solutions to solve the problem	Various solutions were tested and then incorporated
	One person's ideas are used	Simple majority had input at meetings	Cooperation is a dominant theme	Team accepts input from all and sees the big picture in their overall goals
	Team members working against each other	Decisions made by simple majority without collaborative discussion	Decisions made by most of the team, however team focuses on individual tasks	Team members show equality and value each other's roles by entire team making decisions
	Coercion and/or confrontation dominate	Team coexists peacefully	Team collaborates well	Collaboration and co-ownership are dominant themes with the members recognizing interdependence



Team FLL Number

Team FLL Name

# Teamwork Rubric

		Needs Improvement	Fair	Good	Excellent
<b>Confidence &amp; Enthusiasm</b>	Only one team member spoke to the judge(s)	About ½ the team spoke to the judge(s)	Everyone was ready to answer at least one question from the judge(s)	All team members spoke to the judge(s) showing confidence in themselves as well as the team	
	Some team members seem disinterested	About ½ the team seems interested	Most of the team appears excited and interested	Team members show equal investment in FLL	
	Most team members are disengaged	Members are not paying attention to one another	Members are enthusiastic, but talk over one another	Members enthusiastically work together to include each other	
<b>FLL Core Values</b>	No clear enthusiasm for science, engineering or technology	Some members show an interest in science, engineering or technology	Team shows a keen interest in subject matter, but limited use of concrete examples	Group articulates a clear understanding of the FLL experience	
	Team doesn't mention new skills acquired	Limited attention paid to new skills acquired	Team implies new skills acquired	Team gives concrete examples of new skills acquired and their interest in the subject areas	

**Additional Comments:**

## ***Teamwork and FLL Core Values Sample Questions***

### Roles and Responsibilities

- Tell us about the roles each of you had on the team and how this worked.
- How did you decide who would do each role?
- Can someone else do your job? What happens when someone is sick?
- Do you have team leaders? If so, explain how that works.

### Gracious Professionalism

- What does Gracious Professionalism mean to you?
- Can you give an example of Gracious Professionalism that your team displayed this season?
- Explain how Gracious Professionalism is like good sportsmanship.
- How do you show Gracious Professionalism when you relate to your team? To your coach? To others?

### Problem Solving, Team Dynamics and Communication

- Tell us about a problem your team had and how it was solved.
- How do you solve disagreements?
- What happens if a team member is not getting his/her job done?
- Does your team have a set of rules? If so, what are they, and how are they enforced?

### FLL Core Values

- Tell us what you have learned about FLL and how you think it will help you in the future.
- How does your team share with others your excitement and interest in science and technology?
- Do any of your team members mentor others? If so explain.
- If you saw something happening to another team and thought it wasn't fair, what would you do and why?

### Look for:

- Confidence and enthusiasm of team members.
- Concrete descriptions and examples.
- Are team members listening to each other and to the judges? Are they interrupting each other or waiting their turn?
- Are team members looking at the judges when they speak or at team members when they are talking?
- Is everyone answering questions or just a few?
- Do they encourage each other to participate?