Judging Session Script

Thank you for judging today. **Remember, the most important thing is to enable the teams to give their best performance and feel that their work is appreciated**. The teams should demonstrate the *FIRST*® Core Values in everything they do, so by the end of the judging session, you will be in a good position to evaluate them on the Core Values rubric.

The following sample script will guide you through the judging session. Decide which judge should be responsible for timekeeping and moving the team through each section. You will all work together to complete the rubrics, but decide in advance who will be responsible for filling in each sheet.

Your Judging Session Flowchart gives an overview of the different sections of the judging session and timing. The rubrics and session flowchart should have been shared with teams before the tournament, so they should know what to expect. However, they may be nervous or stressed, so please remember to put the team at ease from the very start of the session.

Text in *italics* is intended to be read, but you can adjust to what feels natural. Please use the questions and prompts in the colored boxes as time allows. **They are color-coded to correspond to your rubrics:**

Red – Core Values	Blue – Innovation Project	Green – Robot Design

Team Welcome

As the team enters and sets up, introduce yourselves and tell the team where you work and what you do.

Welcome everyone, are you the ___(Team Name)___? Come in and set up your things.

My name is ___(Lead Judge Name)___. I'm a ___(Profession)___ and I work for ___(Company/Organization)___.

This is ___(Judge 2 Name)___ and they're a ___(Profession)___ for ___(Company/Organization)___.
And this is ___(Judge 3 Name)___ and they're a ___(Profession)___ for ___(Company/Organization)___.

We're really excited about seeing your work today!

Rubric/Award Area	Elicit information to complete your rubric with the following questions or prompts.
Icebreaker – helps to establish team's starting point	While you're setting up, could you raise your hand if this is the first year you have competed in *FIRST*® LEGO® League Challenge? Great, now raise your hand if it is your second year, third year, etc.
All Core Values	Tell us about your team meetings. How did you organize the work and, who did what? How do you all know each other, and how did the team get together?

Thanks so much for telling us a bit about your team. Now we're ready to listen to your Innovation Project presentation.

Innovation Project Presentation

Team performs their presentation – DO NOT interrupt presentations unless they go over 5 minutes. Videos and other prepared elements are permitted, but teams should be ready to improvise in case technology fails.

Innovation Project Question and Answer

Rubric/Award Area	Elicit information to complete your rubric with the following questions or prompts.
IDENTIFY **Discovery Core Value**	Describe the problem you were trying to solve and explain how it fits the season's theme. What was the most helpful resource you used in your research, and what did you learn from it?
DESIGN **Innovation Core Value** **Inclusion Core Value**	How did you select your idea, and what is the most innovative thing about the idea you chose? How did you ensure that everyone had an important task to do and that their work was valued by the team?
CREATE	Describe the steps your team took to develop your project solution. What have you been using to help explain and share your solution with others?
ITERATE	Who did you choose to share your solution with, and what did they say? Did you make any changes or improvements after sharing your solution, and, if so, what did you change?
COMMUNICATE **Impact Core Value**	How did you decide on the style of your presentation, and what creative part are you most proud of? How will your solution help others and has your solution already made an impact on your community?

Great! Now we would love to hear about your Robot Design! Tell us about your robot!

Robot Design Explanation

Team explains their robot and code. Some teams may need more encouragement if they are nervous; you can begin the questioning to help them with their explanation.

Robot Design Question and Answer

Rubric/Award Area	Elicit information to complete your rubric with the following questions or prompts.
IDENTIFY **Discovery Core Value**	Which missions did you choose and why? How did you make sure everyone on your team developed their building and coding skills?
DESIGN **Innovation Core Value**	How did you organize building the robot and writing the code, and why did you do it that way? Explain the parts of your robot and your code.
CREATE	Tell us about how your robot uses attachments or sensors to complete missions. Explain your different codes and how they make your robot act.
ITERATE	How did you check that your robot was consistent at scoring points on a mission? Describe one way your robot got better through the season.
COMMUNICATE **Inclusion Core Value**	Explain the steps your team took to design, build, and code your robot. How did you ensure every team member was involved and understood the robot and coding?

Core Values Question and Answer

Thank you for telling us about your project and robot. Now we're going to ask you a few more questions about your team.

Rubric/Award Area	Elicit information to complete your rubric with the following questions or prompts.
All Core Values	Describe the toughest challenge your team faced and how you overcame it. Of all the things your team accomplished, what are you most proud of? How did your coach help you this season? How did you resolve any con licts or disagreements that your team had? Tell us how you celebrated what you accomplished.

Thank you so much for telling us about your team and all the great work you accomplished during the season!

Feedback

We have some comments, but first, do you have any specific things you want feedback on?

You may not have comments on every area, but these prompts will help you.

Okay, let's start with your Innovation Project. [Insert Innovation Project feedback here.]

Moving on to your Robot Design. [Insert Robot Design feedback here.]

Finally, some comments about your team and Core Values. [Insert Core Values feedback here.]

Use phrases like:

"We really liked _____"

"Your _____ is really impressive!"

"Consider (or have you considered?) using _____ to _____."

"We loved the way you talked to the expert about _____ and then used their feedback to improve your ideas."

Be sure to call out their strengths, (areas where they Exceeded), and identify areas for improvement (areas where they were Beginning or Developing). Try as best as possible to balance positive with constructive feedback. Be specific rather than generalizing, and make sure the team understands your point. Always start and end on a positive note.

Wrap-Up and Goodbye

Well done, that's everything! You did a great job. Thank you for sharing all your hard work with us! It's clear you learned a lot! Good luck and have a great time with the other teams!

Completing the Rubrics

All three judges should come to agreement on the rubrics and add written feedback as time allows.