

WRO Guiding Principles for Judges at international events

As a judge at any WRO event you play a very important role and at international events this is even more so. You have volunteered to do this incredibly important, time consuming, and often difficult job, but without you and other good judges, the competition would not be what is it today.

We would like you to first of all help create a wonderful experience for all the children, one that they will never forget. You do this by keeping the children in mind. This is a competition for children and all the participants here have worked hard all year to make it to this event.

We urge you to treat all the children with respect and treat their endeavours, attempts and work with the same respect. You have a responsibility to make sure that other judges do as well.

As a judge, we expect you to do the following:

- know the rules and the scoring system for the category and age-group you judge.
- promote fair play and appropriate behaviour by all participants.
- match the skill levels and needs of the participants in the age-group you judge.
- remember that this is a competition for children - always give them the benefit of the doubt.
- be consistent and objective, and not to prejudice towards teams from your country.
- accept decisions made by Head Judges or Tournament Directors
- not to share any information about the judging process or scores to anyone who is not a judge.
- always be on time - for meetings, judging or appointments.
- not to comment on or criticize other judges in public.
- be appropriately dressed - in the judging uniform (no clothing that links you to a country/team)
- reclude yourself from judging a team from your country - if and where possible
- supply feedback to the WRO Association if you feel the need for changes to be made.
- know the conflict resolution process and how to deal with appeals.

Conflict Resolution

Disagreements, complaints or appeals (all in English) must be directed to the judges:

- before signing the score sheet [RoboMission/Future Engineers/Football]
- before the judges leave the booth [Future Innovators]

If a team cannot accept the decision of the judges, the Category Head Judge will make the final decision.

Either of the Head Judges should be present during the deliberation in case the Category Head Judge is the same nationality as the appealing team.

Once the Category Head Judge has made a final decision, the decision may not be appealed further or changed.

Key elements to being a good WRO judge.

Communication

professional dealing with participants,
coaches, parents and fellow judges

Judgement

starts with understanding of rules
grows with experience

Commitment

dedicated to the cause/task
adhere to all requirements

Fairness

judgements free of discrimination
judgements free of subjectivity

Consistency

same in all circumstances
apply same rules to all

Integrity

complete absence of bias
unaffected by sources of influence

Rapport

courteous and respectful
relating effectively to others

What it means to be a WRO Judge

“Although Officiating/ Judging involves technical knowledge,
there is definitely an Art to being an effective
Judge/Official/Referee”.

The WRO Ethics Code for Judges

Fairness - Consistency - Integrity

As a judge at a WRO event I follow these principles:

- I will promote fair play and appropriate behaviour by all.
- I will act if I see inappropriate behaviour, whether it is by participants, coaches, judges, parents, or others.
- I am dedicated to the cause/task and will follow all requirements.
- I will always be on time - for meetings, judging or appointments.

- I communicate professionally with participants, coaches, parents and fellow judges.
- I will not comment on or criticize other judges in public.
- I will not share any information about the judging process or scores to anyone who is not a judge.
- I will prepare myself, so I know the rules and the scoring process for the category I judge.
- I will match the skill levels and needs of the participants in the age-group I judge.
- I know the conflict resolution process and know how to deal with appeals.
- I will accept decisions made by Head Judges or Tournament Directors.
- When discussing results, I will be courteous and respectful.

- I am consistent and objective and will not favour teams from my country or disfavour teams from another country.
- I will judge free of discrimination and free of subjectivity, I treat all teams the same and apply the same rules to all.
- I will dress appropriately - in the judging uniform - and will not visibly wear clothing that links me to a country/team.
- I will refrain from judging a team from my country - if and where possible.
- I will refrain from the judge deliberation when a team from my country is discussed.

signature: _____

Name of Judge: _____