



Statement of WRO® Guiding Principles and Ethics Code

Version 2024

The WRO Guiding Principles

World Robot Olympiad™ was established to help young people develop their creativity and problem-solving skills. We do this in the form of robotics competitions, but our main goals are to:

- Help young people acquire 21st century skills like creative and innovative thinking.
- Encourage young people to be our future scientists, engineers, makers and inventors.
- Expand the horizon of young people through exploration of robots and robotic systems.
- Help introduce the concept of modern science into educational activities.
- Promote robotics in STEM education worldwide.
- Have young people from all over the world to measure their skills and have fun.

We are aware that a competition usually means that those involved are driven to win. This applies to team members, coaches, parents and even to countries. We feel there is nothing wrong with that, as long as the guiding principles of the competition remain intact.

These WRO Guiding Principles are:

- Teams are encouraged to learn and master new skills while having fun together.
- Coaches, mentors and parents are there to guide the teams, not to do the work for them.
- Participating and learning are more important than winning.

WRO Ethics Code for Judges

Judges play a very important role in the WRO competitions. They should be fair and help create a wonderful experience for all the children.

As a judge, we expect the following of you:

- 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.
- not to comment on or criticize other judges in public.
- remember that this is a competition for children - always give them the benefit of the doubt.
- always be on time - for meetings, judging or appointments.
- be appropriately dressed - in the judging uniform (no clothing that links you to a team/country)
- be consistent and objective, and not to prejudice towards teams that you know.
- accept decisions made by Head Judges
- not to share any information about the judging process or scores to anyone who is not a judge.
- reclude yourself from judging a team you are connected to - if and where possible
- supply feedback to the National Organizer or WRO if you feel the need for changes to be made.
- know the conflict resolution process and how to deal with appeals.

What does WRO consider inappropriate behaviour and cheating?

Preparation for the competition:

- Coaches/parents/mentors building robots or writing software for the team.
- Teams buying solutions online and using those solutions in a competition. (hardware and/or code)
- Teams copying solutions from others and using those solutions in a competition. (hardware and/or code)
 - o Exception: Teams are allowed to use the basic robot models that are provided in the LEGO Education lesson plans and adapt those for the challenge.
- Coaches/parents/mentors building and preparing things for the Future Innovators booths and/or the Robot model.

At the competition day:

- Coaches/parents/mentors entering the competition areas.
- Coaches/parents/mentors trying to tell the team how to solve a surprise rule.
- Coaches/parents/mentors trying to help the teams during practice times.
- Coaches/parents/mentors setting up the Future Innovators booth for the team when it is not needed.
- Coaches/parents/mentors giving directions to the teams during matches, building time or Future Innovators presentations.
- Coaches/parents/mentors joining in any rules discussion with referees and judges.
- Interfering with competition tables, booths, materials or robots of other teams.

How to address inappropriate behaviour and cheating?

- Promote the WRO Values in all tournaments, and have teams & coaches commit themselves to those values when registering.
- Communicate up front that teams can be subject for investigation if irregularities are detected.

Possible actions:

- Introduce a short software & hardware check (interview) for all teams during building time, to assess if teams did the work themselves.
- Different forms or penalties are possible for misbehaviour:
 - o A team may not be allowed to participate in one or more runs.
 - o A team may get up to a 50% reduced score in one or more runs.
 - o A team may not qualify for the next round (in case you have a qualification model).
 - o A team may not qualify for the international final.
 - o A team may get less points for certain aspects if there is a suspicion that the work was not done by the team members.
 - o A team may be disqualified completely from the competition.
- Use the concept of yellow and red cards for teams, coaches and supporters: If someone misbehaves you can give the team a yellow card and warn the persons involved that the 2nd time they will get a red card. And a red card will result in a penalty.
- Other actions that fit your competition and country

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: _____