



HOW TO BE A ROBOTICS REFEREE

When holding your own robotics tournament, you need to have a referee. Robotics events are very similar to sporting events in that they are fast paced and have much crowd involvement. Just as in a sporting event, referees are the authority figures who are in charge of making sure the competition is fair and efficient. When asked to mediate robotic matches, consider the following suggestions.

Be Knowledgeable

A referee must know the tournament rulebook completely. After reading the rules, clarify any questions with the tournament organizer(s) before the matches start. You should observe as many similar events as possible. You may not be able to please everyone with your judgment, but standing by the established rules will minimize cause for argument. The rules should always be the final word.

Be Fair and Decisive

As an official, you don't care who wins, loses, or whether it is a final match versus a practice one. You are there to do a job, and that is to make sure things run efficiently and fairly. Whenever you make a decision, be quick, be decisive, and move on. It is your job to keep the game moving flowing. Once you make a decision, remain confident with your choice, and make sure that you stay consistent in the calls you make.

Focus On the Game

Keep yourself focused on the game. You never know what you may hear during a match from the spectators. Don't take anything personally. Avoid being distracted or influenced by spectators and their comments because you are the boss of the competition.

Enforce Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship is essential in any competitive match. Before matches begin, make sure that you address all teams about your expectations. Be quick to address inappropriate actions during the competition. Maintaining sportsman-like conduct will lead to a healthy competitive atmosphere.

Be Final

At the conclusion of the contest, you should avoid any possible confrontation with disgruntled spectators or participants. Discuss situations with event coordinators, but do not engage in discussions about judgments with the participants. If you feel the need, remove yourself from the event location until tempers have receded.

It is not an easy task to be a referee or an official. Be confident, be authoritative, and stick to the rules. This will go a long way toward making the tournament a success.