

FIRST Robotics Competition Website Award Criteria

Overview

The Website Award recognizes excellence in student-designed, built, and managed *FIRST* team websites. Two subcategories of awards are awarded:

- “Website Excellence” Every submission that meets the *FIRST* website design standards of excellence will receive the Website Excellence award.
- “Best Website” One Website award will be given at each Regional Competition. The championship Website award winner will be chosen from among the regional Website award winners.

Submission and Deadline Information

Teams must enter their website into firstawards.org by **11:59 p.m. EST on February 12, 2009** to be evaluated. Each team’s website is eligible for the website awards at every regional event at which the team is competing. The website must be complete and functional by the date of submission. Any website found to be “down,” and not able to be viewed by the evaluators, will be disqualified.

Scoring Criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate the Website Awards:

General

The ideal website is a genuine reflection of the team, its participants, spirit, and goals. It should not be just a bulletin board with information accessible via a menu. It should tell an individual story and detail how it is part of the larger *FIRST* community.

Content and Design

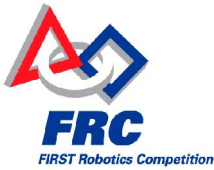
The content (text, pictures, music, etc.) and design of a website should provide a pleasing user experience. Good content with a confusing interface, or an easy to navigate site with little information will not be scored as highly as a site with better balance.

Content (50 points)

- How well does the site explain *FIRST* and promote its vision?
- Is there a prominent link to the *FIRST* website on the website home page?
- Does the site use correct *FIRST* terminology and contain the updated *FIRST* logo?
- Does the website clearly tell the team story and contain the team name, *FIRST* program team number and physical location of the team?
- Does the website contain updated information dealing with the current season?
- Does the website include recognition of sponsors, mentors and volunteers?
- Does the website include helpful resources for other *FIRST* teams?
- Does the website contain helpful non-text content such as music, sound, animation , or video?
- Is this site dedicated exclusively to a *FIRST* team and its activities?
- Does this site follow copyright infringement rules correctly?

Visual Design (25 points)

- Does the website communicate a visual experience reflective of the identity of the team?
- Is the site engaging and does it encourage exploration?



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- Does the font size and format make the site easy to read?
- Does the website contain visuals relating to the current game and the current season's work as a team?
- Is the home page inviting to all readers, or is it cluttered with team member specific information?

Functionality and Interactivity. (25 points)

- Does the website work well and the homepage load quickly?
- Do the links work throughout the site?
- Is important information easily accessible?
- Do external links open new, separate browser windows?
- Can I easily return to the website from an outside link?

Evaluating Process

Any website which, in the evaluator's opinion, contains distasteful or objectionable material will be disqualified from consideration in all events for which the website was entered. Any team whose website is disqualified will be notified by e-mail of the reason for disqualification.

Each website submitted for consideration will be reviewed by a panel of evaluators prior to the regional event.

There will be no on-site interviews. If the evaluators have questions about a particular website, they may contact the team via email prior to the competition to resolve their questions.

Award Presentation

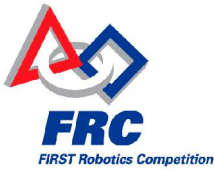
Websites receiving a score of 80% or more, but not winning the Regional Website Award, will receive the Website Excellence Award.

Only one electronic Website Excellence certificate will be awarded per team for the entire competition season.

Teams that earn the Website Excellence award will receive an e-mailed, electronic certificate to place on their websites following the Championship.

Each team that wins Website Award at a competition will receive an e-mailed, electronic certificate for that event following the Championship.

A team is eligible to win the Website Award at multiple regional events.



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2009 Website Award Scoring Sheet

Content (50 points)	
<p>How well does the site explain <i>FIRST</i> and promote its vision?</p> <p>Is there a prominent link to the FIRST website on the website home page?</p> <p>Does the site use correct <i>FIRST</i> terminology and contain the updated <i>FIRST</i> logo?</p> <p>Does the website clearly tell the team story and contain the team name, <i>FIRST</i> program team number and physical location of the team?</p> <p>Does the website contain updated information dealing with the current season?</p> <p>Does the website include recognition of sponsors, mentors and volunteers?</p> <p>Does the website include helpful resources for other <i>FIRST</i> teams?</p> <p>Does the website contain helpful non-text content such as music, sound, animation, or video?</p> <p>Is this site dedicated exclusively to a FIRST team and its activities?</p> <p>Does this site follow copyright infringement rules correctly?</p>	
Visual Design (25 points)	
<p>Does the website communicate a visual experience reflective of the identity of the team?</p> <p>Is the site engaging and does it encourage exploration?</p> <p>Does the font size and format make the site easy to read?</p> <p>Does the website contain visuals relating to the current game and the current season's work as a team?</p> <p>Is the home page inviting to all readers, or is it cluttered with team member specific information?</p>	
Functionality and Interactivity (25 points)	
<p>Does the website work well and the homepage load quickly?</p> <p>Do the links work throughout the site?</p> <p>Is important information easily accessible?</p> <p>Do external links open new, separate browser windows?</p> <p>Can I easily return to the website from an outside link?</p>	
Total Scores. (0-100 points)	