

## **San Antonio BEST Award 2003 Participation Guidelines**

The SA BEST Award is presented to the team that best embodies the concept of *Boosting Engineering, Science, and Technology*. This concept recognizes that inclusiveness, diversity of participation, exposure to and use of the engineering process, sportsmanship, teamwork, creativity, positive attitude and enthusiasm, and school and community involvement play significant roles in a team's competitive experience and contribute to student success in the competition beyond winning an award.

Teams advancing to Texas BEST will receive a copy of the Regional guidelines following their local hub competitions.

In accordance with the BEST philosophy, **materials submitted by teams must be the work of students**. The involvement of student peers in auxiliary roles to support a school's official SA BEST team with the documentation – i.e., journalists, photographers, artists, musicians – is encouraged.

### **Evaluation and Judging Procedures**

#### *Criteria*

- Evaluation of competitors will be based on the criteria outlined in these guidelines. An evaluation score of a total possible 100 points will be composed of the following:
  - Project Summary Notebook      50 points
  - Table Display and Interviews      30 points
  - Spirit and Sportsmanship      10 points
  - Judges Discretionary      5 points
  - Robot Performance      5 points (*new category*)

#### *Judging Procedure*

- A distinguished team of judges from private and public sectors with technical and non-technical expertise will evaluate teams.
- As each team completes a category, it will receive a category score that is the average of individual scores of the judges reviewing it.
- Each team's total scores for the first four categories will be combined to determine 95% of the possible SA BEST Award points.
- The fifth category, *Robot Performance*, will determine the final 5% of possible SA BEST Award points.
- Teams should know in advance that scores among many teams frequently differ by only fractions of a point.
- Throughout the judging process, the judges also take into consideration the resources available to teams to conduct their SA BEST programs (financial or technology resources, for example).

### *Results*

- Each team will receive a copy of its score sheets following their local competition.
- Teams advancing to the Regional competitions (Texas BEST) can use judges' comments to make improvements as they wish.

### **Category I: Project Summary Notebook (50 Points)**

#### *Guidelines*

- The SA BEST Notebook is divided into two sections plus supplemental material. The purpose of the first section is to document the process the team used to design, build, and test their robot. The second section should be used to document other aspects of the team activities as described in the following sections. This separation is intended to make it easier for teams to conform to the Texas BEST notebook requirements, which are contained completely in section 1. at Texas BEST, the second section of the notebook will not be used but will become part of an oral presentation
- **The Project Summary notebook must be submitted in advance to the judging committee at Demo-Day (19 October 2003).**
- The notebook must meet the following specifications:
  - Submitted in a *standard* 3-ring binder with a maximum 2" ring size
  - Binder cover must identify the school, team name, and teacher contact
  - Standard, 8 ½" x 11" paper, double-spaced, 1" margins, and Times New Roman (preferred) or similar business-style font no smaller than 12 pt.
  - Section 1 must be 30 typed pages or less
  - Within the 30 pages, include a description of how the 2003 game theme is related to current technological practices or scientific research (minimum of 2 pages, maximum of 5 pages out of the 30 allotted)
  - Provide description of the process the team used to design and complete its robot
  - Section 2 must be 10 typed pages or less
  - In supplemental appendices, teams may provide additional material as support documentation, such as drawings, photos, minutes of team meetings, etc. *This material should directly support the process described in the primary document and NOT reflect activities related to community or promotional efforts, spirit development, or team-building*

#### *Evaluation*

- The notebook will be judged on the documentation of the team's:
  - Section 1 (35 points):
    - Brainstorming approaches
    - Design creativity
    - Analytical evaluation of design alternatives
    - Offensive and defensive strategies
    - Implementation of the engineering design process
    - Support documentation
    - Overall notebook quality and compliance with specifications
  - Section 2 (15 points):
    - School, community and other promotional efforts.

- Recruitment efforts for the school's BEST team.
- Mentoring and team-building experience.

## **Category II: Table Displays and Interviews (30 Points)**

- The purpose of the table exhibit and interviews category is to:
  - Communicate through a display, and through discussion with judges, information about the team's efforts to promote SA BEST in the community and schools
  - Foster SA BEST spirit, camaraderie, and participation
  - Give evidence of sportsmanship

### *Guidelines*

- Each team may bring one standard six-foot long table (29 inches wide). Other displays types are acceptable, but may not require more space than what the table would have occupied.
- Each team should bring their own extension cord and power strip if the display requires power. Teams must work together to share the available power. SA BEST cannot guarantee an outlet at each location, so plan ahead.
- Display space is limited.
- Any audio-visual equipment needs and extra extension cords will be the responsibility of the team.
- Each team is responsible for security of its own material.
- Each team is also responsible for breakdown of its team materials and clean-up of its area following the awards ceremony on Saturday.
- All material should be clearly marked with the appropriate identification and contact information.
- Check with the local hub concerning when and where table displays can be set up.
- Candy and other food items are not permitted at table exhibits as complimentary handouts.
- During the designated interview time, at least one student representative from the team must be present who is able to respond to informal questions asked about the display. These questions will be part of the interview evaluation of the team.
- Teams should expect to be visited by three different judges during this period.

### *Evaluation*

- Displays (20 points) will be evaluated on:
  - Promotion of SA BEST, including recruitment and information-sharing with other schools, presentations, and demonstrations
  - Use of technology, display models or boards, or multi-media in promotion of SA BEST
  - Creativity in design and presentation
  - Publicity activities
  - Compliance with above guidelines
- Interviews (10 points) will be evaluated on:
  - Enthusiasm for SA BEST
  - Level of student participation
  - Recruitment and representation of students for the school's SA BEST team

### **Category III: Spirit and Sportsmanship (10 Points)**

- Judges will evaluate this category on Saturday of the competition.
- They will observe the spirit promoted by the team during the competition rounds as well as the team's conduct throughout the day in the seating area, table display area, game floor, and pit area.

#### *Evaluation*

- Spirit includes the vigor, enthusiasm, and animation displayed by team representatives
- Teams can use posters, cheerleaders, musicians, and mascots to increase the level of spirit
- Sportsmanship includes outward displays of sportsmanship, grace in winning and losing, and conduct and attitude considered befitting participation in sports

### **Category IV: Judges Discretionary (5 Points)**

This category will allow the judges a discretionary score of up to 5 points to reward teams that set new benchmark standards, develop new or innovative approaches, etc. It will also enable the judges to balance fairness of opportunity among teams by assessing points based on teams' school and community size, resources, etc., and to assess evidence of preparation of documentation by the students

### **Category V: Robot Performance (5 Points)**

- The fourth category, *Robot Performance*, will determine the final 5% of possible SA BEST Award points. These 5 points will be based on the total game points earned throughout the regular competition (prior to the championship rounds) according to the following scale:
  - Team finishes in top 20% of all teams competing at hub 5 Points
  - Team finishes in top 40% of all teams competing at hub 4 Points
  - Team finishes in top 60% of all teams competing at hub 3 Points
  - Team finishes in top 80% of all teams competing at hub 2 Points
  - Team finishes in top 100% of all teams competing at hub 1 Point
  - Team is unable to score any points during the competition 0 Points
- Up to 5 Robot Performance points will be added to the total SA BEST Award points accumulated from the previous categories.