

MORT FLL Referee Training Outline

Training referees for the First Lego League (FLL) involves a structured process to ensure they understand the rules, can judge fairly, and handle the competition smoothly. Here's a step-by-step guide to training FLL referees:

Step 1: Recruitment and Selection

1. **Identify Potential Candidates:** Look for individuals with a passion for robotics, education, and fair play. Teachers, engineers, and previous FLL participants can be great candidates.
2. **Screen Applicants:** Ensure candidates meet the basic requirements, such as availability, understanding of FLL principles, and willingness to commit the necessary time. They also need to be able to talk to adults and students, and be willing to go to the adult head referee.

Step 2: Initial Orientation

1. **Introduction to FLL:** Provide an overview of FLL, its goals, and the role of referees.
2. **Review of the Game:** Introduce the current season's game, including its missions, scoring system, and objectives. Watching videos of the game and then the FLL referee scoring video along with cards. [Link to Video](#)

Step 3: Rule Familiarization

1. **Provide Rulebooks:** Distribute the official rulebooks, including the Challenge Guide and the Robot Game Rulebook. [Link to Rule Book](#)
2. **Rulebook Review Sessions:** Organize study sessions to go through the rulebooks in detail, discussing key rules, common scenarios, and exceptions. [Two Page Score Card](#)
3. **Provide Scoresheet:** Review the scoresheet to become familiar with the order of the mission scoring in relation to the physical models on the field. [Video of Scoring](#)
4. **Q&A Sessions:** Hold sessions where candidates can ask questions and discuss any ambiguities in the rules.

Step 4: Practical Training

1. **Hands-On Workshops:** Conduct workshops where referees can practice judging using actual game fields and robots.
2. **Mock Competitions:** Set up mock competitions to simulate the actual event. This helps referees practice making quick and accurate decisions.
3. **Role-Playing:** Engage in role-playing scenarios where referees practice handling different situations, such as disputes or rule violations.

Step 5: Testing and Certification

1. **Written Test:** Administer a written test covering the rules, scoring, and competition procedures to assess knowledge. [Quiz Link](#)
2. **Practical Test:** Conduct a practical test where candidates judge a series of matches to demonstrate their understanding and decision-making skills.
3. **Certification:** Issue certificates to those who pass the tests, officially recognizing them as FLL referees.

Step 6: Final Preparations

1. **Review Final Details:** Go over any last-minute updates or changes to the rules or schedule. Make sure to look for updates and clarifications.
2. **Assign Roles:** Assign specific roles and responsibilities for the competition day, ensuring each referee knows their duties.
 - a. Head Referee
 - b. Partners to start with, matching strengths and weaknesses
 - c. Go over the layout of how teams will move in and out
 - d. Go over hand signals, (thumbs all about the thumbs)
3. **Conduct a Final Meeting:** Hold a final meeting to address any remaining questions, reinforce key points, and boost team morale.

Step 7: Competition Day Support

1. **Pre-Competition Briefing:** Conduct a briefing on the morning of the competition to review key points and ensure everyone is prepared.
2. **Supervision and Feedback:** Provide supervision during the competition, offering feedback and support as needed.
3. **Post-Competition Debrief:** Hold a debriefing session after the competition to discuss what went well, what could be improved, and gather feedback for future training sessions.
4. **Message to Coaches:** Make sure to reiterate in Coaches meetings that kids talk to kids, adults talk to adults.

Step 8: Continuous Improvement

1. **Collect Feedback:** Gather feedback from referees, coaches, and participants to identify areas for improvement.
2. **Update Training Materials:** Revise training materials and processes based on feedback and observations from the competition.
3. **Ongoing Education:** Encourage referees to stay updated with FLL changes, attend refresher courses, and participate in future training sessions.

By following these steps, you can ensure that FLL referees are well-prepared, confident, and capable of providing fair and accurate judgments during competitions.