

## TCRSF Project Judging FAQ

Good Morning, (email sent to judges on Tuesday, Feb 23 at 8:30 am CST)

First, thank you again for donating your time to these your students in STEM research.

There are a number of questions that appear to be common to many judges. Some of this has arisen because we had to change to a software package for a virtual fair but the judging questions center around an in-person fair. It is almost like trying to put a square peg in a round hole.

*The most important thing is that you are consistent in your interpretation of the judging rubric.* If you apply your interpretation equally across all your projects the statistics will attempt to correct for most misunderstandings.

### Specific questions

- For team projects, contributions to and understanding of project by all members - How does this apply to projects that are not teams? Individual projects always get a top score, 5, for this question. Teams start out at a 5 and then "subtract" from that if there is a clear imbalance. With all the advantages teams have in a joint project, the international science fair put this question on the form to make sure everyone in the team is contributing.
- How should the interviews be scored? We have 2 rounds. Round 1 is through Wednesday. All round 1 judging is based solely upon what you see online. What you see online is the interview. Please complete round 1 scoring by end of day Wednesday.
- There are a number of questions on scoring, not adding up to 100, etc. Rather than send a lengthy email, there is a hot link on the judging home tag that provides a great deal of information. Near the bottom there is a discussion regarding scoring.
- If the past few days we have experienced the overwhelming generosity of people being willing to judge. If you signed up within the last 3-4 days, we may have not integrated you into round 1. A week ago we had no idea how to facilitate a good experience for the students in the online interviews with the judges available. With the response, we believe that is now feasible from a judging point of view. Student technology access is still a question. Round 2 assignments will be available on Thursday. There will be a follow up email on this. We will also place more information on the judging tab of the zFairs web site so that the emails are not too long.
- Life has unforeseen circumstances. We understand this. Should you not be able to finish your judging by Wednesday, Feb.24, please email us at [director@tcrsf.net](mailto:director@tcrsf.net). We will make appropriate accommodations.