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Technical Judge Role Description

Purpose: Provide knowledgeable, consistent evaluation of the technical components of a competitive event so every competitor is evaluated fairly and according to the established event requirements.

What is a Technical Judge? A Technical Judge provides subject-matter expertise during a competitive event, focusing on components that may require specialized knowledge, such as programming, web development, databases, networking, cybersecurity, multimedia, or other technology-related skills.

1. What a Technical Judge Does

- Review the technical components of the project or submission.
- Verify that required technical elements are present and functioning.
- Evaluate technical work using the event guidelines, rubric, and materials provided.
- Flag technical issues, such as errors, shortcuts, or security flaws, that judges without specialized expertise may miss.
- Provide technical input when the judging team has questions.
- Apply the same technical standards consistently to all competitors.

2. What a Technical Judge Looks For

- Functionality and accuracy
- Technical execution
- Appropriate use of tools or technologies
- Quality and organization of code
- Database or system design
- Security practices
- Required technical features
- Compliance with technical event specifications

The specific areas evaluated vary by event. The event guidelines and scoring materials determine what is evaluated.

3. What a Technical Judge Should Not Do

- Add requirements that are not included in the event materials.
- Penalize competitors for personal preferences or preferred technologies unless the event specifically requires them.
- Coach competitors or suggest improvements. Neutral clarifying questions are fine.
- Let previous experience with a competitor, school, advisor, or project influence scoring.
- Replace the judging team in areas outside the technical responsibilities assigned to the role.

4. Before, During, and After

- **Before:** Review the guidelines, rubric, and scoring materials. Confirm the required tools and technologies. Disclose any conflict of interest.
- **During:** Verify that required elements work. Take notes tied to the rubric. Score equally any approach that meets the requirements.
- **After:** Complete all scoring, and keep scores confidential.

When something is unclear or unexpected

If you encounter a technical issue that prevents you from evaluating a submission as instructed, pause your evaluation and contact education@bpa.org for guidance. Do not make assumptions, create additional requirements, or determine a solution on your own.

Be fair.
Be consistent.
Rely on the rubric.

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