

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND



Odyssey of the Mind
NC Eastern Region

2025 Coaches Training

Judges: What They Do and What Teams Need to Provide

October 25, 2025



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Today's Agenda

Judges...

- I. Why we need them...
- II. What they do...
- III. What we need from each Coach/Team...

Q&A

(Each team also needs to provide 1 Volunteer on tournament day...related, but different role)

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Judges: Why we need them...

- An Odyssey of the Mind tournament is a competition. We need to evaluate & score solutions.
- Primary teams are NOT required to provide a judge!
- A typical Eastern Region tournament needs:
 - 88 Long Term solution judges (*1 complete team/venue*)
 - 24 Spontaneous judges (*1 complete team/venue*)
 - 6 Scorerroom judges

KEEP CALM
AND LET THE
JUDGE
HANDLE IT

*** 118 Total ***

- A team can be penalized if they do not provide a judge...



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Judges: What they do...

- Get trained....about 5 hours via Zoom, 3 weeks in advance
- Judge all teams in a Problem & Division...need consistency
- Tournament Day time commitment: 7am – 4pm
- Long Term Judges
 - **Staging**: help the team get ready to present; check forms
 - **Announcer/Timekeeper**: introduce the team & time their presentation
 - **Problem**: evaluate different aspects of the solution (objective/subjective); talk with kids after their presentation
 - **Style**: evaluate the 5 required Style items; talk with kids after their presentation
 - **Scoring Data Entry**: enter scores provided by Problem & Style judges
 - **Problem 4 Weigh-In**: evaluate and weigh the balsa structure
 - **Head Judge**: coordinate Judging Team & provide scores to coach
 - **Problem Captain**: overall Problem coordinator; escalation point



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Judges: What they do (continued)...

- Spontaneous
 - Judge all teams in a Problem & Division (\geq three judges/Judging Team)
 - Listen/evaluate/score either a Hands On or Verbal or Hands On Verbal problem
- Scorerroom
 - Compile scores received from each Long Term problem venue & Spontaneous venue
 - Verify scores
 - Print & provide to Head Judge for verification

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Judges: What we need from each Coach/Team...

- 1 judge from each team (Division I, II, and III; Primary NOT required)
- Identify the judge when you register for the tournament
- The ideal judge traits ??
 - at least 18 years old
 - enjoys watching & encouraging creative kids
 - reliable
 - listens well
 - asks good questions
 - Is willing to not watch your team's Long Term presentation
- Where do you get these amazing people??
 - neighbor
 - friend
 - teacher
 - work colleague
 - fellow church/synagogue/mosque member



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Final Thoughts

- We need a bunch of Judges
- They perform a critical job
- Each team needs to provide 1 (except for Primary)
- A word about a team's Volunteer requirement...



QUESTIONS?

