

Letter from the Chief Judge- Creative Performance, Mr. Jason Van Dyke

Hi there,

March 30, 2018

My name is Jason Van Dyk and I'll be the Chief Judge for Creative Performance at this year's Junior Robotics Competition. You're receiving this email because you have registered one or more teams from your school for the Creative Performance event.

I'm excited to have you all in the competition this year - it's especially nice to see some new names among you!

If you haven't already done so, I encourage you visit the E.A.S.T. website:

<http://sciencetech.ca/events/junior-robotics-competition/>

And download the Creative Performance [Rules](#). Attached to this email you will also find the Score Sheet and an MS Word template for the Technical Sheet per team.

<2018 JRC Creative Score Sheet.pdf>

<2018 JRC Creative Technical Sheet.docx>

The rules are important to follow and the score sheet will show you what the Creative Performance judges will be assigning points for.

Please be sure to prepare your teams and make sure they are ready to demonstrate their programs and details of mechanical and electrical hardware during the technical interview. The best way to do so is to use the Technical Sheet or another document with the same headings.

If possible, I would also ask that you email your technical sheets for each team to me by Wednesday, April 18. If you can't get them to me by then, please submit them on paper first thing Friday morning (and please bring paper copies to the event regardless).

For registration and scheduling, we are using the team names you provided on the registration form. If your team name(s) have changed please let me know asap.

As some of you have developed content besides music to add to your performances, we'd like to share some suggestions:

1. While we will do our best to provide a VGA cable for video or presentations, our preference is to have you provide your media to the sound technician before the event.
2. As such, please save audio files in MP3 format and video in either MP4 or MOV format. Please do not use Windows Media Player proprietary formats as we cannot guarantee that they will be compatible with our system.
3. Please save your media (sound or video) on a USB key and bring it with you at registration time to give to the sound technician.
4. Please email a copy of your sound and/or video files to me at least one week before the event. This way we can organize your media in order and test it with our equipment ahead of time and minimize problems or confusion.
5. If your content is too large to email, consider a file transfer service such as www.wetransfer.com or let us know asap so we can make alternate arrangements to receive it in advance.
6. If you have any questions about formats not listed here, please send them as soon as possible so we can get you a response and ensure you have time to make alternate arrangements if there's a problem of any kind.

Finally, here are a few more tips:

1. It is always a good idea to plan an introduction of your team members and robots at the start of the performance, while other members of the team are setting up.
2. Please have your students think about how to cue the timing of the music and the robots, and use your practice time on Friday morning to get the timing right with the sound

technician. Consider having one team member familiar with the routine dedicated to staying with the sound technician until the music starts.

3. Try to time the length of the music clip to the performance, so it's easy to tell when the performance/programs are finished and the music ends at that time.
4. Please inform your teams about the possibility to request a restart. While they will lose 3 points, it is 3 out of 60 and could be well worth it if there is a problem. Note that because of the time constraints a maximum of two restarts will be allowed (and dependant on the time during the 5 minutes that it is requested).
5. Also inform your teams about the possibility to correct the movement of the robots. While touching a robot is a deduction of 3 points per time, it may be worth it.
6. Note that teachers/mentors are not allowed on the stage and cannot help with setup/teardown. The team should also operate independently, i.e. it should be up to the students to decide to ask for a restart or to touch a robot. Adults are not to interact or interfere with the performance.
7. Note that no Wi-Fi will be provided by the organizers, however if a team wishes to use an Internet connection via their own Wi-Fi hotspot (e.g. from a mobile phone) for a multimedia or other creative prop not related to robot control it may be allowed. Any team wishing to incorporate a Wi-Fi connection into their routine must obtain email permission from the Creative Performance Chief Judge before the beginning of the competition.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you have any questions or if you feel your routine might be "pushing the limits" with respect to the rules, so we can clarify any details ahead of time.

Good luck! I look forward to meeting you on April 20th!

Best regards,

Jason Van Dyk
Creative Performance Chief Judge, Junior Robotics Competition- Robo●Junior