

Rising All-Star and Rookie All-Star Awards – FRC Guides

1. Introduction

The *Rising All-Star* and *Rookie All-Star* Awards celebrate young and growing teams that embody the spirit and mission of FIRST®.

This guide explains what each award represents, eligibility requirements, judging criteria, and tips to help your team prepare. It also includes examples from the 2025 FIRST Championship.

2. Award Descriptions

Rising All-Star Award

- Introduced in 2025, replacing the former *Rookie Inspiration Award*.
- Recognizes new or rebuilding teams that have shown persistence, strong values, and promising growth.
- Can be awarded at:
 - District Events
 - Regional Competitions
 - District Championship Divisions
 - District Championships
 - FIRST Championship Divisions
- Judges may choose not to present the award if no team meets the criteria.

Purpose:

To celebrate a team that, despite challenges, demonstrates the *FIRST* mission and has the potential for a sustainable, inspiring future.

Rookie All-Star Award

- Honors the rookie team that best embodies the *FIRST* ideals of partnership, inspiration, and innovation.
- Awarded at:
 - District Events

- Regional Competitions
 - District Championships
 - FIRST Championship Divisions
- Once a team wins it at one level (Regional or District), it cannot win again that season at the same level.

Purpose:

To recognize an outstanding first-year team that is “a FIRST Impact Award team in the making.”

3. Eligibility and Criteria

Award	Eligible Teams	Key Criteria	Judging Notes
Rising All-Star	New or transitioning teams (not limited to rookies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates FIRST values (Gracious Professionalism, Coopertition) • Role model for other young teams • Shows sustainable growth and long-term potential 	Judges may skip if no qualifying team
Rookie All-Star	First-year (rookie) teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership between the school/organization and the sponsors • Understanding of FIRST’s mission beyond the robot • Leadership, spirit, outreach • Functional robot suitable for the game 	Judges may skip if no qualifying team

Additional Notes:

- Rising All-Star can recognize 2nd- or 3rd-year teams that have undergone major changes or rebuilding.
- Rookie All-Star is for *first-year* FRC teams only.
- Both awards may involve pit interviews rather than formal presentations.

4. How to Become a Strong Candidate

1. Tell Your Story

Show how your team has grown, adapted, and overcome challenges. Use visuals, data, and anecdotes.

2. Demonstrate FIRST Values

Exhibit *Gracious Professionalism* and *Coopertition* in everything you do — help other teams, share tools, and maintain positive energy.

3. Build Sustainability

Have a clear structure, well-defined leadership roles, comprehensive documentation, and detailed plans for member training and retention.

4. Engage Your Community

Organize outreach events, school demonstrations, and partnerships with sponsors or local organizations.

5. Show Progress

Highlight what you've learned, improved, or changed since your first event or season.

6. Prepare for Judges

Even if no formal presentation is required, keep a concise explanation ready:

- Who you are
- Your mission and growth story
- Examples of teamwork, outreach, and technical learning

7. Collaborate Widely

Work with mentors, veteran teams, and local FIRST programs. Collaboration often impresses judges.

5. Championship Examples (2025)

Rising All-Star Award Winners (2025 FIRST Championship):

- **Team 9459 – SESI SENAI RPRT HAWKS** (Archimedes Division)
- **Team 9427 – iDeer** (Johnson Division)
- **Team PiBotics** (Hopper Division)
- **Team 9084** – Rising All-Star, *San Diego Regional 2025*

Rookie All-Star Award Winners (2025 FIRST Championship):

- **Team 10466 – Federal Force** (Archimedes Division)

These teams were recognized for embodying the *FIRST* mission, growing sustainably, and inspiring others through community engagement and teamwork.

7. References

- FIRST® Official Award Descriptions: firstinspires.org/resources/library/frc/team-awards
- 2025 Game Manual and Award Updates
- Championship Results: frc-events.firstinspires.org/2025/awards