NIBS Worldwide Case Competition

2026 Qualifying Round Scoring Sheet

Scoring process

Each judge evaluates the recorded presentation, slide PDF and live Q&A. Scores are finalized after the Q&A. The first five criteria relate to the business solution; the remaining two assess communication and the team's understanding of its work.

Judges score each criterion from 0 to its stated maximum based on the quality of the evidence. A score of 0 indicates that the team has not addressed the criterion. Weak work has major gaps or errors; adequate work meets the main requirements but has meaningful gaps; strong work has only minor weaknesses; exceptional work is thorough, convincing and insightful.

Before evaluation begins, the judging panel meets to calibrate how the standards will be applied. Judges then score each team independently. Individual judge scores are aggregated to create an initial ranking.

After all teams have been assessed, the panel reviews the resulting ranking, with particular attention to ties, teams near the qualification threshold, and substantial differences among judges' assessments. Judges may revise their own scores if discussion identifies inconsistent application of the rubric; scores are not negotiated collectively and the panel does not assign a single consensus score.

Instructions for judges

- Use evidence from the recorded presentation, slide PDF and Q&A to assess the business solution. The slide PDF supports assessment but receives no separate score.
- Use the Q&A to inform scores where appropriate. Assess errors or weaknesses in the solution under the relevant business criterion. Assess the team's understanding and ability to explain and defend its work under Q&A. Both scores may be affected when the evidence supports distinct weaknesses; do not reduce a content-related score simply because an answer was poorly delivered.
- Assess clear and effective communication. Do not penalize accent or non-idiomatic English where meaning is clear. Do not confuse polished delivery with sound reasoning.
- The same judging panel must assess all teams, and all panel members must participate in every Q&A session. Questions should have comparable difficulty across teams and may be directed to individual members of the team.
- Assess only the first 10 minutes of the video and the first 25 slides. Do not use the PDF to assess slides beyond those shown within these limits.
- Refer suspected rule breaches or integrity concerns to NIBS separately. A weak answer alone does not establish misconduct. Organizers decide penalties; judges score the accepted work.

Team number _____ Judge _____ Q&A date _____

Business Solution

Criterion	What judges look for	Max	Score
Issue identification	Identifies the central decision or problem and prioritizes the important issues. Recognizes relevant objectives and constraints. Distinguishes underlying problems from symptoms, rather than listing every issue in the case.	5	____
Analysis	Uses case evidence and appropriate analytical tools to explain what drives the problem. Draws insights that support the decision. Uses relevant quantitative or financial analysis, with defensible calculations and clearly stated assumptions. Depth and relevance matter more than the number of models used.	15	____
Alternatives and recommendation	Considers credible alternatives and explains the criteria used to compare them. Makes a clear, coherent recommendation supported by the analysis. Addresses important trade-offs and explains why the chosen approach is preferable. Complementary actions may be combined into one solution.	15	____
Implementation	Explains how the recommendation will be put into practice: actions, responsibilities, timing and resources. Addresses feasibility, relevant costs and financial effects, major risks and contingencies. Identifies useful measures of success. Detail should be appropriate to the case and consistent with the recommendation.	15	____
Innovation and creative thinking	Develops original, relevant ideas or combines familiar approaches in a useful way. Shows how the proposed thinking improves the solution and remains feasible. Novelty alone does not earn a high score; creativity must address the case problem.	5	____

Communication and Understanding

Criterion	What judges look for	Max	Score
Presentation	Builds a clear, persuasive argument within 10 minutes. Uses a logical structure, effective pacing, readable visuals and coordinated contributions from team members. Explains important information rather than simply reading slides. Assess effective communication, not production polish or expensive equipment.	15	____
Q&A	Demonstrates understanding and command of the submitted solution. Answers questions directly; explains calculations, assumptions and choices; and responds logically to challenges or changed assumptions. A strong team can justify its reasoning and recognize limitations without relying on rehearsed statements. Judge understanding rather than confidence alone.	30	____

Team number _____ Judge _____ Q&A date _____

Feedback to the team

Principal strengths

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Priority improvements

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