

Evaluating for FLFPSP

What is the role of evaluation in the FPS program?

Evaluation is an essential component of the FPS program. Written feedback allows our students to grow in their abilities to apply the problem solving process. Evaluation provides students with information on their thinking, their writing, and their understanding of each step in the process. Evaluators work hard to encourage students while providing constructive suggestions for continuing improvement. The Florida program prides itself on the care it takes in evaluating student work.

Who can evaluate?

All coaches, other adults, and college and high school students (10th grade or above, with three years' FPS experience) may evaluate for Florida FPSP. Many evaluators have experience in the FPS process; however, others first learn about FPS when they train to become coaches/evaluators. We welcome new evaluators to our ranks! Contact the Affiliate Office or your District Representative to register for Evaluator Training.

How does evaluation work?

Evaluators gather for Practice Problems #1 and #2 in designated areas. Training for new evaluators takes place while experienced evaluators are refreshed in the process. All evaluators must attend at least one training, and new evaluators are encouraged to attend training for both PP#1 and PP#2. On those days, the trainers will teach the evaluation process and lead new people through one or more student booklets. New evaluators usually get an experienced buddy for the first couple of booklets that they evaluate.

Each evaluator works on an assigned step of the booklet during the day. Evaluations of PP#1 & PP#2 occur shortly after each of the problem deadlines. Qualifying Problem evaluations occur at the time of the District Competition, and the Affiliate (State) Competition evaluation occurs in March during the conference. Reminders and registration information are sent out before each evaluation day. It is part of the Florida FPSP policy that all coaches must participate in the evaluation process. *The number of evaluators required varies at the District level competitions, however at the Affiliate Competition level, a coach must provide one evaluator for every team competing, as well as one evaluator for every individual that is not attached to a team.*

What does a commitment to evaluate entail?

Florida FPSP requires that each evaluator be certified on one or more steps through the completion of a sample booklet. Recertification occurs each year by practicing at evaluation training. By certifying evaluators, Florida attempts to ensure that all evaluators are proficient in the step that they will be assigned to evaluate. All coaches must be certified in order to evaluate and bring a team to competition.

Evaluators are expected to spend some time reading background articles about the topic. Evaluation Guidelines are also provided with specific suggestions for what to look for in the student booklets. Evaluators should give their best effort in providing positive and constructive feedback to students.

What's in it for you?

- Added insight into the FPS process and the skills needed to be successful in competition. Most coaches realize that by evaluating, they learn more about the process, which in turn, improves their coaching.
- The enjoyment of working with a dedicated, fun-loving group of people. Evaluating is serious work, but we enjoy the camaraderie that we have developed!
- Eternal gratitude from the Evaluation Coordinators! We truly need the help of our evaluators to serve the students who work so hard at FPS.