

SKILLSUSA TECHNICAL STANDARDS

INTRODUCTION

Many people consider the SkillsUSA Championships to be the preeminent showcase of public technical education in the United States. The championships recognize career and technical students who excel in their occupational and occupationally related areas, as well as in the leadership development activities that are such an integral part of the SkillsUSA program in the classroom.

The involvement of industry in the SkillsUSA Championships program is essential. Experts in leadership, health occupations, and skilled and technical sciences donate their time to serve as contest judges and as technical committee members. They assume responsibility for selecting the skills that are to be judged, determining the format of the contests and establishing the standards by which contestants will be judged.

Besides showcasing students' skills, the SkillsUSA Championships, by the very nature of competition, urges students to take pride in their work. It also provides prospective employers with an opportunity to see dedicated, motivated potential employees at work.

To continue to meet the needs of both these potential employees and prospective employers, the lines of communication between technical education schools and industry must be kept open. Educators need to be able to identify industry's needs and, in turn, develop appropriate curricula.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. These *SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards* are written as guidelines for the administration of national contests. They should serve as models for administration of local, regional and state contests.

Because of the changes that can occur within a contest area or a specific station, the scorecards or scoring criteria for all contests can be found on the SkillsUSA website under:

www.skillsusa.org/compete/updates.shtml.

2. A careful and thoughtful analysis of the skills and knowledge required for successful employment in technical, skilled and service occupations, including health occupations, will identify a core of technical and scientific principles that students should understand. Knowing these principles will increase their chances of succeeding and progressing in their fields and form a basis for understanding and applying new technology as it is introduced in their respective fields. Competitors are expected to understand such principles as they apply to their skill areas. They will be expected to know and demonstrate the following:
 - a. Mathematics: addition, subtraction, division and multiplication of whole numbers, common fractions, decimal fractions, ratio, proportion, percentage, average, area, volume, metrics and written problems specific to areas of training
 - b. Engineering drawing/print interpretation and schematics related to specific areas of training
 - c. Reading comprehension/interpreting technical manuals
 - d. Completion of a job application form
 - e. Making an appointment for a job interview
 - f. Proper interview techniques
 - g. Responding clearly to oral questions
 - h. Safety knowledge (Some contests require evidence of safety training).
 - i. Compliance with all copyright laws and software licensing requirements

3. An oral professional assessment, such as a personal interview, explanation of skills to be performed, problem to be solved or other employability skills assessment, will be included as a part of each contest. The number of points allowed will not exceed 10 and will be determined by the technical committee.
4. All competitors must create a one-page résumé and submit a hard copy to the technical committee chair at orientation. Failure to do so will result in a 10-point penalty. They can bring a résumé to the contest on the day of competition, however, the penalty will remain in effect.
5. Competitors in contests that require verbal presentations must use the proper name of the national organization, “SkillsUSA.” Contestants in American Spirit, Chapter Display, Community Service, Occupational Health and Safety, Outstanding Chapter, Promotional Bulletin Board and Career Pathways must exhibit the organization’s proper name and logo. Failure to do so will result in penalty points being assessed by the national technical committee. Visit: tinyurl.com/skillsusa-logo-standards for proper use of the logo.
6. SkillsUSA Championships awards may be presented to the top three contestants in each division. Contestants are rated against a standard of performance rather than automatically being awarded first-, second- or third-place medals based on the highest- rankings. Medals will not be awarded if the standard of performance as determined by the technical committee does not justify such recognition.
 - a. No ties will be permitted.
 - b. National finalists will be recognized with an appropriate designation on their SkillsUSA Championships participation certificates. The state association will determine designation as a finalist.
 - c. Decisions of the judges will be final. Interpretations of all contest rules will be made by the director of the SkillsUSA Championships.
7. The competencies listed in this publication under each occupational area are the basis for a quality technical instructional program from which our national contests are derived. The competencies have been listed to provide direction and assistance to state associations as they establish their district and state SkillsUSA Championships and to identify the scope of the national contest.

WHO MAY COMPETE

1. Participants must be active SkillsUSA members in their respective divisions whose dues have been postmarked by midnight of November 1st.
2. Participants must meet the eligibility requirements set forth in each contest description, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the University Interscholastic League (UIL).
3. High school contestants are students enrolled in a coherent sequence of courses or a career major that prepares the student for further education and/or employment related to technology, the health industry, trades or industry. Further, a high school contestant must be earning credit toward a high school diploma/certificate or its equivalent during the school year immediately preceding the National Leadership and Skills Conference.
4. Each district, state, and national contest provides for individual entries unless the rules of the contest state that it is a team competition.
5. Each school may enter up to five (5) students/teams per contest, per advisor, per program. States may enter one (1) student/team in each competition, unless otherwise stated in the specific contest rules.
6. Individual contestants may enter only one district, state, and national championship contest annually. National participation must be approved by their state association. In addition, each student may enter one (1) exhibit contest.

7. Participants in national contests must be first-place winners selected on a competitive basis at the state level. In the event the first-place winner is unable to participate, the alternate must be the next highest-placing contestant at the state level who is able to participate. All contestants must qualify through state SkillsUSA approved contests. States may be disqualified from participation in a specific contest if they approve contestants who have not competed in a state contest. In team events, substitutions may be made if a team member(s) has to withdraw from the national competition. A full team must be registered. The ability of the contestants to meet the standards of national competition must be considered before the state association certifies the contestant.

TOOLS AND MATERIALS

1. Participants who do not bring the required tools and materials as specified in the individual contest regulations may be penalized two points for each item missing. Such penalties will be assessed by the contest chair. The contest chair may, at his or her discretion, furnish the required item(s) but may assess the two-point penalty per item.
2. It is strongly recommended that toolboxes not exceed 9"x14"x22". Contestants may bring more than one box. Toolboxes that are bigger or cannot be carried by one person should have casters, wheels or a hand truck for movement to and from contest areas.

MANDATORY CONTEST MEETINGS

1. Contestants must report to the mandatory contest orientation meeting, as scheduled in the conference program, for instructions from the technical committee chairs. This is a critical meeting since technical committee chairs provide specific contest instructions and many times administer the written and oral tests at this meeting.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF PIERCING AND TATTOOS

1. The policy in regards to piercing and tattoos while participating in the NLSC is as follows:
 - a. Piercings: Wearing of any piercings should not in any way cause a safety issue. If so determined, the offending item must be removed for the duration of the SkillsUSA Championships contest. Failure to comply will result in a safety penalty.
 - b. Tattoos: Any tattoo that is considered vulgar, sexual or morbid should be covered to the best of the student's ability while competing in any SkillsUSA Championships contest. Failure to comply will result in a clothing penalty.

SKILLSUSA CHAMPIONSHIPS CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS

1. Contestants in the SkillsUSA Championships must wear the approved SkillsUSA Championships clothing or work uniform specified for their particular contests during competition or be subject to a penalty of up to 5 percent of the total points available. The clothing items* referred to in these regulations are pictured and described at: www.skillsusastore.org. For questions regarding clothing or other logo items, call 800-401-1560 or 703-956- 3723.
2. Contestants must wear their official contest clothing to the mandatory contestant meeting prior to the competition.

3. Participants must meet clothing requirements for the individual contests. For specific requirements, refer to the individual contest regulations.
 - a. The penalty for contestants who do not satisfy the clothing requirements will be a maximum of 5 percent of the total possible contest points.
 - b. All contestants are required to wear their official contest uniforms or official SkillsUSA attire to the Awards Ceremony, where the winners are announced and the industry awards are presented. Inappropriately dressed contestants will be denied access to the awards platform.
4. Official attire as indicated for specific contests refers to the following:
 - a. **For men:** Official blazer or jacket, black trousers with white dress shirt, plain black tie with no pattern (or official SkillsUSA black tie from: www.skillsusastore.org), black socks and black shoes.
 - b. **For women:** Official blazer or jacket, black slacks or knee-length skirt with businesslike white, collarless blouse or white blouse with small, plain collar that may not extend onto the lapels of the blazer, black sheer or skin-tone seamless hose and black dress shoes.
Note: T-shirt-style tops are not approved.
 - c. All personal jewelry should contribute to a businesslike appearance. Only official SkillsUSA jewelry is to be worn on a SkillsUSA blazer, jacket or sweater. Official jewelry is described as conference pin, SkillsUSA emblem, officer pin, President's Volunteer Service Award pin, statesman pin (one only) and professional development (one only) pin.
5. Shoes: No canvas, vinyl, plastic or leather athletic-type shoes, open-toe or open-heel shoes are permitted in any SkillsUSA Championships event without penalty. Contestants may be disqualified where improper footwear constitutes a health or safety hazard. When leather work shoes are required: "work shoes" are technically defined as low or high-top leather, lace-up shoes with rubber, skid-resistant soles. They can be steel- or non-steel-toed. Work shoes can be purchased very inexpensively at any local department store and in most mail-order catalogs. Western-style (cowboy) boots are not allowed, except Roper-style boots that are all-leather, round-toed, flat- soled and with a low heel.
6. Eye protection must meet ANSI Z87 requirements. Prescription and non- prescription safety glasses must include side shields designed for the safety glasses by the manufacturer of the eye protection. An imprint with the mark "Z87" will appear on the frame or lens to identify the safety glasses as meeting ANSI Z87 requirements. Approved safety goggles may also be worn to meet these eye protection requirements.
7. Contestants with long hair that poses a possible safety or sanitary hazard must wear hair containment devices (hair nets).
8. Contestants may be disqualified for lack of safety clothing or attire.
9. The wearing of accessory items (such as belts) is optional unless otherwise specified in the contest rules.
10. Only occupational or career patches, competitor patches and Professional Development Program (PDP) patches may be worn on the left shoulder or above the left pocket without penalty. However, they are not required.
11. No identification of the contestant, school or state is allowed on official clothing.
12. Check for specific clothing and safety requirements under the guidelines for each contest.
13. Clothing penalties in all skill contests will be assessed by the designated state director in cooperation with the contest chair. SkillsUSA Championships technical committees will assess clothing penalties for all leadership contests.