

Overall Rules and Official Policies

For Career and Leadership Development Events

Tennessee Agricultural Education/FFA State Staff, event superintendents and event hosts will use the published rules and procedures to organize and implement Tennessee FFA Career Development Events. Event activities may be adjusted within the guidelines due to availability of facilities, necessary materials, or expertise. All rules and policies apply to all state events unless otherwise noted in the individual event rules.

Disqualification

Violations of any of the following rules will be sufficient cause for Tennessee Agricultural Education/FFA State Staff, event superintendents and/or hosts to disqualify the participants and possibly the team of which that member is a part. Event superintendents may stop any participant and potentially disqualify them in the following situations:

- A member does not meet eligibility requirements.
- A member is representing a chapter to which he or she does not belong.
- A member begins a CDE/LDE but does not finish without notifying officials of his/her departure.
- A member competes in a CDE/LDE in which he/she has previously been declared the state winner individually, or as a part of the state winning team.
- A member competes in an event in which he/she has previously competed in the national CDE/LDE.
 - Case 1: A member who may not have been part of a state winning team but became part of the nationally competing team by replacing an original member of the state winning team
 - Case 2: A member who placed second in a state event but competed at the national event because the state winner was unable to do so.
- A member or team presents a topic or proposal that won the immediate past state event. This applies but is not limited to state winning Ag Issues topics, Ag Communications and Marketing Plan proposals, etc.
- A member communicates or gives assistance – verbal or non-verbal – during the event. Communication between team members during the team activity portion of a given career development event is allowed.
- A member exhibits inappropriate behavior during the CDE/LDE.
- A member uses a cell phone or other communication device during the CDE/LDE for any reason.
- A member possesses or uses unauthorized materials for the CDE/LDE during the event.
- Any material scored in an event that has been plagiarized.
- A member, advisor or coach removes written or other material for the CDE/LDE from the event site without permission.
- An advisor, coach or other member not competing in the CDE/LDE communicates – verbally or non-verbally – with a member involved in the CDE/LDE once it has begun.
- A team, participant, advisor or coach visits the event facilities one month prior to the event. *(This refers to but not limited to soils, livestock, dairy, horse, meats, nursery/landscaping, etc.)* For the Forestry and Floriculture CDEs, visitation to the event site is prohibited one week before event.

Penalties

Any written materials counted in scores for a CDE/LDE that are postmarked, emailed or submitted after the official date on the State FFA Calendar will incur a penalty of 10% of the total points allotted for the written documents.

Additional Policies and Procedures for Career and Leadership Development Events

CDE/LDE Advisory Committee

A committee may be formed to meet only when needed at the state FFA convention and will make all final decisions on interpretation of the rules and regulations of the State FFA Career Development Events. This committee will be appointed by the State FFA Executive Secretary or their designee on a case by case basis.

Alternate Method of State Selection

In the event of uncontrollable circumstances, it may be necessary for the Tennessee Agricultural Education/FFA State Staff to provide an alternate method of selecting a state winner.

State Leadership Development Event Judges

Advisors with third and fourth place regional event participants in Prepared Public Speaking, Extemporaneous Public Speaking, Creed Speaking, Parliamentary Procedure, and Conduct of Chapter Meetings may be asked to serve as judges for the state events.

Special Needs Accessibility for All Students

All special needs requests with appropriate documentation must be submitted to the State FFA Office thirty (30) days prior to the career or leadership development event. The Tennessee Agricultural Education/FFA State Staff will be responsible for providing appropriate accommodations.

Eligibility of Participants

Each student must be a current dues paying FFA member in good standing at the time of participation.

- Members are eligible to participate in state and national career and leadership development events up to and including their first national convention following graduation.
- Must have qualified as a seventh, eighth or ninth grade member to participate in the Creed Speaking or Conduct of Chapter Meeting LDEs.
- If a member moves to a different chapter, they may be allowed to participate in the succeeding event with the chapter with which they qualified.

Chapter Participation at Events

A chapter can only be represented by one team or individual per event. The following state-level events allow a maximum of four alternates per chapter to participate:

- Horse Evaluation
- Poultry Evaluation
- Vet Science
- Forestry
- Environmental and Natural Resources
- Agronomy

The following events will **not** allow alternates to participate:

- All state convention CDEs and LDEs (including Milk Quality, Food Science and Meats Evaluation)
- Land Judging
- Ag Mechanics

- Floriculture
- Nursery/Landscape
- Dairy Evaluation
- Livestock Evaluation
- Dairy Handlers Activity

Scoring and Scorecards

Scorecards and scoring systems are included in this handbook and are the guidelines for scoring that should be used. If a scorecard, scoring rubric, or scoring system is not listed in this handbook, the official scorecard for the state event should be the corresponding scorecard for the national event. National CDE/LDE scorecards can be found under the Career Development Event section FFA.org.

Scantron sheets will be provided for all registered members participating in a state-level CDE/LDE. Scantron sheets will **not** be provided to alternates and will **not** be available for purchase on site. It is the responsibility of the chapter to provide Scantron sheets for any alternates.

Every effort will be made to ensure that event scoring is complete and accurate prior to being posted online. For all CDEs/LDEs that use any type of technology to score or grade the event, the results will not be finalized until one 24-hour period following the completion of the event. This applies to all state-level CDEs/LDEs.

Substitution of Participants

With extenuating circumstances, an advisor may substitute another student from the same chapter who may not have participated at a qualifying event to participate on the team in a state-level CDE/LDE. Substitutions for individual CDEs/LDEs such as creed speaking, extemporaneous public speaking, employment skills and prepared public speaking will **not** be allowed.

Regional CDEs/LDEs

Regional CDEs/LDEs may differ from state CDEs/LDEs. Refer to your respective regional guidelines.

FAQs and Standards for Tennessee FFA CDEs/LDEs

	Official Dress Required?	Number of Participants and Scoring	Who goes to state in this event?
Agricultural Communications	Yes	Team of 4	Top 2 teams from each region
Agricultural Issues	Optional*	Team of 3-7	Top 2 teams from each region
Agricultural Sales	Yes	Team of 4	Top 2 teams from each region
Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems	No	Team of 4	Top 2 teams from each region
Conduct of Chapter Meetings	Yes	Team of 7	Top 2 teams from each region
Cooperative Development Challenge	Yes	Team of 4-5	Open
Creed Speaking	Yes	1	Top 2 from each region
Dairy Cattle Management and Evaluation	Yes	Team of 4	Top 4 teams from each region
Dairy Cattle Handlers	Yes/Dairy Whites	1	Open
Employment Skills	Yes	1	Top 2 from each region
Environmental & Natural Resources	No	Team of 4	Open
Extemporaneous Public Speaking	Yes	1	Top 2 from each region
Farm Business Management	Yes	Team of 4	Open
Floriculture	No	Team of 4	Top 4 teams from each region
Forestry	No	Team of 4	Open
Horse Evaluation	Yes	Team of 4	Open
Land Evaluation	No/Yes**	Team of 4, Drop Score	Top 4 teams from each region
Livestock	Yes	Team of 4	Top 4 teams from each region
Marketing Plan	Yes	Team of 3	Top 2 teams from each region
Meats Evaluation & Technology	No	Team of 3-4, 3 scores count	Open
Milk Quality and Products	No	Team of 4	Open
Nursery/Landscape	No	Team of 4	Top 4 teams from each region
Parliamentary Procedure	Yes	Team of 6	Top 2 teams from each region
Poultry	No	Team of 4	Open
Prepared Public Speaking	Yes	1	Top 2 from each region
Veterinary Science	Scrubs/Business Casual	Team of 4	Open
Agriscience Fair	Yes	Individual or Partners	Open

* Presentations may include official dress, costumes, props, skits and other creative paraphernalia.

** Official Dress is required for awards luncheon at state level only.

Please note that FFA bow ties are not considered Official Dress.

Examples of scorecards used from JudgingCard.com can be downloaded here for free:

<https://www.judgingcard.com/ScanSheets/Order2.aspx>

Regarding Official Dress for CDEs:

Participants are expected to observe the National FFA Code of Ethics and the Proper Use of the FFA Jacket during the career development events. Any CDE that gives a score for appearance or official dress should use the current official dress standards as outlined by the most recent Official FFA Manual as a reference. Official dress is highly recommended for all participants where appropriate and is required for all awards presentations and recognition.

For an event in which official dress is listed as "no" and has no specific clothing requirements listed in the individual CDE rules, an FFA t-shirt is appropriate. When official dress is not required, attire must be school appropriate. Event coordinators have the right to ask any member to change if their clothing is inappropriate, distracting, etc.