



# Tennessee FFA

**Competitive Events**

**Rules and Official Policies**

## Purpose

*Tennessee FFA State staff, event superintendents and event hosts will use the published rules and procedures to organize and implement Tennessee FFA competitive events. Event activities may be adjusted within guidelines due to availability of facilities, materials availability, cost, 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 FFA state staff, event superintendents and/or hosts to disqualify the participants and/or team of which that member is a part of. Event superintendents may stop any participant and potentially disqualify them in the following situations:

- A member does not meet the eligibility requirements.
- A member is representing a chapter to which he or she does not belong.
- A member begins a competitive event but does not finish without notifying officials of his/her departure, unless in an emergency situation.
- A member competes in a competitive event in which he/she has previously been declared the state winner individually, or as part of the state winning team.
- A member competes in an event in which he/she has previously competed in the National competitive event.
  - 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 didn't place first in the state event but competed at the national event because the state winner was unable to do so.
- A member or a team presents a topic or proposal that won the immediate past state event. This applies, but is not limited to, Ag Issues, Marketing Plan, Cooperative Development Challenge, 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 event is allowed if within the confines of the event.
- A member exhibits inappropriate behavior during competitive event.
- A member uses a cell phone or other communication device during the competitive event.
- A member possesses or uses unauthorized materials for the competitive event 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 competitive event from the event site without permission.
- An advisor, coach or other member not competing in the event communicates – verbally or non-verbally – with a member involved in the event once it has begun.

## Penalties

- Any written materials counted in scores for a competitive event 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. If documents are received more than a week after the deadline, then the manuscript will receive a score of 0. For state judging events (livestock, horse, dairy) where official dress is required, any student that isn't in official dress will be penalized 25% of the total reasons score, unless otherwise approved by state staff.

# Additional Policies and Procedures for Tennessee FFA Competitive Events

## Advisory Committee

A committee may be formed to meet only when needed at a state event and will make all final decisions on interpretation of the rules and regulations of the State FFA competitive event. This committee will be appointed by the State FFA Director 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 State FFA staff to provide an alternate method of selecting a state winner.

## State Competitive Event Judges

- Advisors with third and fourth place regional event participants in Prepared Public Speaking, Extemporaneous public speaking, Creed speaking, Parliamentary Procedure, Conduct of Chapter Meetings, Ag Issues, and Employment Skills will be asked to serve as judges for the state events. Not all judges will be utilized, but the advisors will serve as a pool of judges for consideration. All judges will be contacted at least one month before the state event, unless the regional event occurs within one month of the state event.

## Special Needs Accessibility for All Students

- All special needs request and/or accommodations should be made to State FFA staff thirty days prior to the career or leadership development event. State FFA staff will be responsible for providing reasonable and appropriate accommodations. Accommodation requests can be made utilizing this [LINK](#).

## Eligibility of Participants

- Each student must be a current member of Tennessee FFA 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.
    - If a member was part of the regionally qualifying event as a senior in high school, but the state event takes place after graduation, the member is still eligible to compete in the state event.
  - Must have qualified as a seventh, eighth or ninth grade member to participate in the Creed Speaking or Conduct of Chapter Meetings LDEs.
  - Junior division contests are limited to students in middle school grades.
  - 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.
  - A student must be at least a 7<sup>th</sup> grader to participate in state qualifying CDE/LDE events that advance to national level competition.
    - If the student is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at the time of the state qualifying event, they will be eligible to compete on the national level. If they are in 6<sup>th</sup> grade at the time of the state qualifying event, they will not meet the criteria set forth by National FFA to compete, regardless if they are a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at the time of the national contest.

- All representatives on a team must be from the same school and/or chapter. A chapter may not mix middle/high school students unless they are all from the same chapter.

### 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 unless otherwise stated:
  - Horse Evaluation
  - Poultry Evaluation
  - Vet Science
  - Forestry
  - Meats Evaluation

The following events will not allow alternates to participate unless otherwise stated:

- All state convention CDE/LDEs (including open contests: Milk Quality, Food Science, Environmental, Agronomy, Quiz Bowl, Cooperative Development Challenge, Bull Pen, FBM)
- Land Judging
- Ag Mechanics
- Floriculture
- Nursery
- Livestock Evaluation
- Dairy Evaluation
- Dairy Handlers

### SAE Based Awards

- A chapter may only have one student representative in each area of the respective SAE based award with the exception of Agriscience Fair divisions which allow team events.

### Scoring and Scorecards

- Scantron sheets will be provided for all registered members participating in a state-level CDE/LDE. Scantron sheets will not be provided to alternates. Limited quantities of scantrons might be available on-site but 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 CDE/LDE that utilize technology to score or grade an event, the results will not be finalized until 24 hours following the completion of the event. This applies to all state-level CDE/LDE events.

### Regional CDE/LDE

- Regional CDE/LDE events may differ from state CDE/LDE events. Refer to your respective regional guidelines.

### Advisor Appeals

- In special circumstances, an appeal might be made by an advisor of a competing team. Appeals will only be considered if an error in scoring or event implementation has been made. All appeals must be received within 24 hours of the announcement/posting of results. Appeals should be made directly to the State FFA Director. This appeal process applies to state level events. Regional events must be directed to the regional coordinators and will be based upon the regional appeal process.

<b>FAQs and Standards for Tennessee FFA Competitive Events</b>			
<b>Event</b>	<b>Official Dress Requirements</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>	<b>Number of State Qualifying Teams</b>
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 Education	Yes	Individual Event	Top 6 in state present at Convention
Agricultural Mechanics	No	Team of 4	Top 2 teams from each region
Agronomy	Yes	Team of 4	Open State Event
Auctioneering	Yes at state level	Individual Event	Top 2 individuals from each region
Conduct of Chapter Meetings	Yes	Team of 7	Top 2 teams from each region
Cooperative Development Challenge	Yes	Team of 4	Open State Event
Creed Speaking	Yes	Individual Event	Top 2 individuals from each region
Dairy Evaluation	Yes	Team of 4	Open State Event
Dairy Cattle Handlers	Yes, or Dairy Whites	Individual Event	Open State Event
Employment Skills	Yes	Individual Event	Top 2 individuals from each region
Environmental & Natural Resources	Yes	Team of 4	Open State Event
Extemporaneous Public Speaking	Yes	Individual Event	Top 2 individuals from each region
Farm Business Mgt.	Yes	Team of 4	Open State Event
Floriculture	No	Team of 4	Top 4 teams from each region
Food Science	Yes	Team of 4	Open State Event
Forestry	No	Team of 4	Open State Event
Horse Evaluation	Yes	Team of 4	Open State Event
Land Evaluation	No**	Team of 4	Top 4 teams from each region
Livestock Evaluation	Yes	Team of 4	Top 4 teams from each region
Marketing Plan	Yes	Team of 3	Top 2 teams from each region
Meats Evaluation	No	Team of 4	Open State Event
Milk Quality & Products	No	Team of 4	Open State Event
Nursery/Landscape	No	Team of 4	Top 4 teams from each region
Opening/Closing Ceremonies	Yes	Team of 7	Open State Event
Parliamentary Procedure	Yes	Team of 6	Top 2 teams from each region
Poultry Evaluation	No	Team of 4	Open State Event
Prepared Public Speaking	Yes	Individual Event	Top 2 individuals from each region

Quiz Bowl	Yes	Team consisting of 1-4 individuals	Open State Event
Veterinary Science	Scrubs/Business Casual	Team of 4	Open State Event
Agriscience Fair	Yes	Individual/2 for appropriate division	Open State Event
Star Awards	No***	Individual Event (per area)	Top 2 individuals from each region
Proficiency Awards	No***	Individual Event (per area)	Top individual from each region

\*Presentations may include official dress, costumes, props, etc.

\*\* Official dress is required for the awards luncheon.

\*\*\* Official dress is required for state convention participation and recognition.

Examples of scorecards used from JudgingCard can be downloaded here. Note, you will need to sign in. <https://www.judgingcard.com/ScanSheets/Order2.aspx>

#### Regarding Official Dress for Competitive Events

Participants are expected to observe the National FFA Code of Ethics and proper use of the FFA Jacket during competitive events. Any competitive event that gives a score for appearance or official dress should use the current official dress standards outlined by the most recent standards published by National FFA.

For an event in which official dress is listed as "No" and has no specific clothing requirements listed in the individual event rules, an FFA t-shirt is appropriate. When official dress is not required, attire must be school appropriate.