

# COMPETITIVE EVENTS PROGRAM



## GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

**NOTE:** General rules and regulations apply to *all* competitive events and are *in addition* to each event's specific guidelines.

### A. Affiliation and Membership

1. TSA members, advisors, and chapters must be currently affiliated with TSA to enter any competitive event.
2. TSA membership rights extend through the year of graduation.
3. Students who graduate midyear may compete at the national conference that immediately follows their end-of-year graduation.

### B. Conference Registration, Attendance, and Participation in Events

1. Individuals who wish to attend the conference must complete conference registration.
2. Students must be registered and be in attendance with an adult chaperone at the National TSA Conference in order to enter and become a semifinalist or finalist in any event.
3. All adult advisors, chaperones, and student participants must be in attendance for the entire conference.
4. National TSA Conference registrants must wear conference identification badges at all times.
5. The TSA competitive event limit is six (6) events per conference participant—individual and team events combined.
6. Team events:
  - a. All team members must be affiliated with the same chapter.
  - b. To enter a team event, the chapter designates only that it is participating; names of the individual team members are not required.
  - c. Unless otherwise designated in a competition's eligibility guideline, the maximum size of a team is six (6) members.

### C. Student Responsibilities for Competitions

1. It is the individual responsibility of each participant to obtain all rules and guidelines for competitive events.

2. Lack of knowledge or understanding about a particular event is neither reason nor excuse for an individual to request an accommodating adjustment or change.
3. *Students and advisors must routinely check the TSA website, [TSAweb.org](http://TSAweb.org), for updated information about TSA general rules and competitive event guidelines.*
4. Students who participate in any TSA competitive event are responsible for knowing all updates, changes, and clarifications related to that event.

### D. Competition Entries

1. Entries must be started and completed during the current school year.
2. Entries may be submitted for one (1) year, and one (1) competition only. An infraction of this rule results in disqualification.
3. Each participant/team shall submit only one (1) entry per event.
4. All entries that require a documentation portfolio must be secured in a clear front report cover unless otherwise indicated in an event's regulations (Click [here](#) for a sample report cover).
5. All entries must be in English.
6. Participants must check in and pick up their event entries at the times and places stated in the conference program, or as announced during the National TSA Conference.
7. For any competition that involves the use of a pencil (e.g., for taking a test, for producing required sketches), participants must provide—and bring to the test site two (2) pencils, either:
  - sharpened standard #2/HB grade with an eraser, or
  - #2 mechanical with an eraser
8. Entry content:
  - a. National TSA provides guidelines for individual and team entry content but does not bear responsibility for content choices made by participants.
  - b. Entries are evaluated on the basis of an event's official rating form.

9. Projects and/or products:
  - a. Unless otherwise specified, no identifying information—other than a student or team ID#—is to be included on an entry.
  - b. Exceptions to this rule are:
    - i. Middle school competitive events:
      1. Career Prep
      2. Children’s Stories
      3. Community Service Video
      4. Construction Challenge
      5. Structural Engineering
    - ii. High school competitive events:
      1. Children’s Stories
      2. Digital Video Production
      3. Structural Design and Engineering
    - iii. Events that require submission of a Plan of Work Log shall include indication of student initials only.
  - c. Unless otherwise noted, for all events that require a display, the size of the display may not exceed 15" deep x 3' wide x 4' high.

10. TSA may choose to keep National TSA Conference student entries.
  - a. Such entries may be used by national TSA for promotional purposes. Should that occur, credit for any such entry would be noted by TSA.
  - b. If applicable, the USB flash drive entries will become property of TSA and will not be returned.

**E. Citations, References, and Copyrighted Material**

1. For all applicable competitive events, citations or references must follow Modern Language Association (MLA) style.
2. All entries must be the original work of the student participant or student team.
3. All ideas, text, images (including those labeled “for reuse”), and sound from other sources must be cited.
4. If copyrighted material is used, written permission must be included.

- a. An internet search about copyrighted material and copyright fair use is recommended if ideas, text, images, or sound from other sources is incorporated into an event entry.
- b. For information about the use of the TSA logo, see [TSAweb.org](http://TSAweb.org).
5. Failure to follow any of the above procedures results in disqualification.
6. Plagiarized content in any event will result in automatic disqualification.

**F. Prohibited Materials, References, and Images**

1. Hazardous materials, chemicals, lighted or open flames, combustibles, wet cell batteries, and other similar substances are not allowed at the National TSA Conference.
2. Competition entries or presentations by participants must not include racial or ethnic slurs/symbols, reference to gang affiliation, or vulgar, violent, subversive, or sexually suggestive language or images.
3. Entries or presentations may not promote products that students may not legally buy, such as tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs.
4. Images of guns, knives, or other weapons are prohibited.
5. Failure to follow any of the above procedures results in disqualification.

**G. TSA Liability**

1. TSA is not responsible or liable for any personal property, equipment, or materials brought to the National TSA Conference for use by a participant or attendee.

**H. Event Scheduling Conflicts**

1. When an event scheduling conflict could prevent an individual from participating in an event, the individual has the right to not compete in an event.

**I. Emergencies**

1. Team member substitution may be allowed should a documented emergency arise in team events that involve written and semifinalist segments. All substitutions must be approved by the event manager and coordinator.

2. Change Requests:

- a. Should a change be requested for any reason after the stated conference registration deadline, a \$50 change fee will be charged per person per event, if the change is approved.
- b. Only chapter members previously registered as competitors by the conference registration deadline will be eligible for change requests.
- c. TSA reserves the right to approve or not approve a requested change.
- d. Fees must be paid by credit card, check, or cash prior to any change being made.
- e. No changes will be made once competitions start.

**J. Event Judging**

1. All events are judged in accordance with the stated event criteria noted in this competitive events guide.
2. The decisions of judges related to competitive events are final.

**K. Procedure for filing a grievance with the Rules Interpretation Panel**

The Rules Interpretation Panel (RIP), a group made up of at least three (3) CRC members, monitors and oversees the competitive events during the National TSA Conference. The panel provides a means by which state advisors may express grievances and concerns about conference situations that pertain to events, and it ensures continuity from year to year for competitive event rules and regulations.

1. All concerns must be in writing using the correct form in the guide. The Rules Interpretation Panel Grievance form (see Forms Appendix) must be completed in its entirety.
2. Only state advisors may submit a request to the Rules Interpretation Panel (RIP) at the national conference. Should an individual/team/chapter advisor have a concern about an event, the state advisor shall be the point of contact. National TSA will not accept forms from anyone other than the state advisor.

3. During the conference, the RIP panel will meet to discuss and analyze the advisor's concern.
4. It is the intent of the panel to resolve any grievances at the conference with a written response to the state advisor.
5. Only the state advisor may pick up the written response from the RIP panel.
6. All decisions made by the panel are final.

**L. Rules Violations and Disqualifications**

1. A rules violation that gives a contestant an unfair advantage will result in a twenty percent (20%) deduction of the total possible points in either a preliminary or semifinal round, as applicable.
2. The coordinator or manager of an event has the right to disqualify a contestant when this type of incident occurs.
3. The event coordinator and manager must sign off on both a twenty percent (20%) deduction and a disqualification.

**M. Semifinalists**

1. Should the competition have a semifinal round, the event will have a minimum of twelve (12) semifinalists.
2. Semifinalists (individuals or teams, as applicable) will compete against one another to determine the top ten (10) finalists in an event.
3. All members of a semifinalist team will participate in the semifinalist portion of an event, unless otherwise noted in the event's regulations.

**N. Electronic Devices**

1. Recording devices are not allowed in certain competitive events.
2. CRC manager and event coordinator approval is required before any event may be recorded.
3. All electronic devices—including but not limited to, cell phones, iPads/tablets, electronic readers, smart watches, etc.—*must* be turned off unless otherwise noted in specific event regulations.
4. No electronic communication devices of any kind are permitted during competition.