

INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT AND EXPECTATIONS

SkillsUSA Florida aims to be inclusive to all participants of SkillsUSA events to ensure a welcoming, safe, and respectful environment by reflecting the diverse interests of our membership. **We remain committed to providing an inclusive environment for all participants, regardless of age, gender, gender expression or identity, race, ethnicity, nationality, health status, disability, relationship status, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, faith, or religion.**

For the purposes of this statement, "participant" includes student members, advisors, chaperones, business and industry partners, judges, volunteers, alumni, contractors, vendors, exhibitors, and anyone else present at a SkillsUSA Florida function or activity.

EXPECTED BEHAVIOR

All participants must adhere to the following expectations:

- Exercise consideration and respect in your speech and actions.
- Avoid demeaning, discriminatory, or harassing behavior or speech.
- Be mindful and respectful of your surroundings and fellow participants.
- Alert staff if you witness a violation, someone in distress, or a potentially dangerous situation.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

The list of behaviors below is not exhaustive. Participants must exercise common decency and professionalism in all interactions and behaviors. The list below is in no way exhaustive or inclusive.

- Intimidating, derogatory, or demeaning speech or actions by any participant.
- Displaying or otherwise distributing harmful or prejudicial verbal or written comments or visual images related to age, gender, gender expression or identity, race, ethnicity, nationality, health status, disability, relationship status, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, faith, or religion.
- Use of nudity and/ or sexual images, obscene gestures or language.
- Deliberate stalking or following; harassing photography or recording; sustained disruption of talks or other events; real or implied threat of physical or professional damage or harm.
- Unwelcome and uninvited attention or contact or physical assault (including touching/ groping).
- Retaliation for reporting an incident or reporting an incident in bad faith.

REPORTING UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

If you feel uncomfortable or unwelcome as a result of another participant's behavior, witness inappropriate behavior, or have concerns regarding another participant's behavior, contact the closest SkillsUSA Florida staff member onsite or email jgraber@skillsusaf1.org.

If possible, provide any relevant details and documentation on this form: form.jotform.com/223326176041044

- Your name and contact information; date, time, and location of the incident.
- Identifying information of any offenders or victims (physical traits, contestant number, school, etc.)
- Description of the violating behavior, along with any physical injuries or property damage.
- Photos, videos, screenshots, or any other evidence; identifying information for any witnesses and any additional information that might be useful.

Incidents will be investigated promptly, and advisors/ chaperones will be notified. SkillsUSA Florida has a zero-tolerance policy for unacceptable behavior and will take any necessary and warranted action.

Potential consequences for violation:

- Point penalties in competition and/ or disqualification from competition.
- Removal from leadership positions, including State Officers and Courtesy Corps.
- Referral to school administration and/ or contact to parent/ guardian.
- Removal from the conference at own cost.
- Permanent ban from future SkillsUSA and SkillsUSA Florida activities.
- Legal action, including involvement of law enforcement agencies, to the fullest extent of the law.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

GENERAL RULES

1. Registration for the State Leadership and Skills Conference begins after the school/chapter's Regional Leadership and Skills Conference. Registration and payment deadlines will be published each year at www.skillsusafli.org. Failure to adhere to deadlines may result in additional fees, penalties, or disqualification.
 - a. After the final registration deadline, invoices are final, and no refunds are permitted. Any registrants entered on the registration website are registered for the conference, and the school is responsible for payment.
 - b. No late registrations are permitted. After the final registration deadline, schools may only add contestants/ teams if approved by the State Director.
2. Schools/ Chapters must stay within the approved SkillsUSA Florida Hotel Room Blocks to participate in the conference. Failure to comply will result in disqualification without a refund.
 - a. A school-appointed chaperone must supervise students at any hotel and throughout the conference, regardless of age. No student may stay outside of their school's group and supervision.
 - b. Commuters are allowed and are subject to a per-person commuter fee, which is a flat, one-time fee per person payable before attending the conference. Refer to the Conference Guide for details.
3. Primary supervision is the responsibility of the school/ district, which appoints an advisor to supervise students. All students must have an emergency contact name and phone number for the onsite chaperone(s) submitted with their registration. Advisors or chaperones are responsible for maintaining contact information for parents and guardians.
 - a. All supervisory chaperones and advisors must be approved by their school/district for overnight supervisory roles. SkillsUSA Florida suggests that, at a minimum, supervisory chaperones must complete a background check and abuse prevention training through the school/ district.
 - i. Each school must complete a [Chaperone Certification form](#) listing the individuals approved by the school or district to supervise students on overnight trips.
 - ii. Verification must be completed once per school year, expiring on June 30, and the same verification may be used for all in-person SkillsUSA events during that school year.
 - iii. The Chaperone Certification form is available on the Advisor Resources page at skillsusafli.org/resources.
4. Each school must designate a Lead Advisor to be responsible for online registration and onsite registration pick-up. The Lead Advisor also serves as a point of contact during the conference.
 - a. Schools will designate a Lead Advisor at onsite registration and provide contact information to the registration team.
 - b. The Lead Advisor must have a cell phone on and charged at all times and will be notified first in the event of any emergency or other important communications.
 - c. The Lead Advisor should be familiar with Crisis Management procedures, as outlined in the written Crisis Plan provided to all advisors.
5. Judges and volunteers donate their time and expertise to the success of this event and SkillsUSA Florida students. In respect of their privacy, SkillsUSA Florida does not disclose the names or contact information of any judge or volunteer. Judges may provide contact information during the conference or contest ONLY at their discretion.
6. All scores are final at the end of the Closing and Awards Ceremony. Detailed scoring information can be found in the [Results, Awards and Prizes](#) section of this document.

CONTEST INFORMATION

7. Scorecards or scoring criteria for all national contests from the previous year can be found on the SkillsUSA website at updates.skillsusa.org. These may vary from the state contest version. In most cases, current specific scoring criteria are not published before state or national competitions.

8. The Technical Standards are the primary source of information to prepare for contests. If you need help accessing the Technical Standards, contact the Customer Care Team at 844-875-4557 or customercare@skillsusa.org.
9. Contests at the Regional and State Leadership and Skills Conferences will be based on the Technical Standards to the fullest extent possible. Contests will increase in difficulty at each level. They may be adapted for time, space, logistics, number of registrants, and other factors, as determined by the Regional Coordinator, State Director, or Technical Committees.
 - a. Not all contests at the state level are offered at the regional level. Contests offered at the regional level are at the discretion of the Regional Coordinator and may be based on the number of registrants, available space and materials, or other factors.
 - b. “Florida Only” contests do not advance to the national competition. As with all contests, contestants are eligible for regional or state medals and prizes.
 - c. “Demonstration Contests” may have a national contest, and contestants may or may not be eligible for medals or prizes. Contest status will be published each year.
10. Any changes to the National Technical Standards for state events will be published online at www.skillsusaf.org/slsc/contest-updates at least two weeks before SLSC.
 - a. Any updates released less than two weeks before the event are emailed to the registering advisor to distribute to the appropriate students or instructors.
 - b. Published updates are at the discretion of the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee or State Director will determine the information released before a contest.
 - c. All materials will be released in the same manner to all participating schools/chapters.
 - d. If no update is published, refer to the Technical Standards for supply lists and other contest information.
11. All competitors must create a one-page, type-written résumé and submit it in hard copy to the judges during contest orientation or upon arrival to their contest site. Failure to submit a resume at the assigned time will result in a penalty.
12. All contestants must complete the Professional Development Assessment as a scored portion of their contest. Failure to complete the assessment during the testing window will result in a zero score for that component. A study guide will be published on the Advisor Resources page at skillsusaf.org/resources for students to prepare.
13. Many contests require a written exam. In almost all cases, the exams will be completed online before the competition. Failure to complete the assessment during the testing window will result in a zero score for that component. Specific testing instructions and testing windows will be provided in the Conference Guide.

GRIEVANCE FORM AND CONTEST FEEDBACK

14. A Grievance Form will be used to file grievances in all contests. The form outlines the filing steps. Hard copies of the form will be available from the Head Judge in each contest. Advisors and students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the process. A grievance is only accepted by the student competitor before they leave the contest area during the competition.
 - a. The most current version of the Grievance Form can be found on the Advisor Resources page, skillsusaf.org/resources.
 - b. Contestants should request a hard copy from the Head Judge in their contest area.
 - c. Grievances are not accepted from advisors, observers, or non-competing students.
15. SkillsUSA Florida seeks input to ensure consistent growth and improvement. Constructive contest feedback from competitors and non-competitors is welcome using this form: <http://bit.ly/ContestFeedback>
 - a. When providing constructive feedback, please be as specific as possible and use as much detail as possible, noting times, locations, and other important information.
 - b. Name and email address are required to submit feedback to allow for follow-up or additional questions if needed.

CLOTHING AND TOOLS

16. Competitors must adhere to each contest's uniform requirements outlined in the Technical Standards. Refer to the Clothing Classifications in the Introduction Materials with the Technical Standards at absorb.skillsusa.org and the Advisor Resources page at skillsusaf1.org/resources.
 - a. Check for specific clothing and safety requirements for each contest. Each contest is assigned a Clothing Classification and identified with Class (A - H).
17. At the state competition, the following uniform substitutions are acceptable and do not require prior notice. Please note: these exceptions will NOT be made at the national competition.
 - a. A plain white polo may be substituted for the official SkillsUSA white polo in Class E attire, provided it is plain white with no logos, colored buttons, accents, or stitching.
 - b. Plain blue scrubs may be substituted for the official SkillsUSA blue scrubs, provided they are objectively similar in color. A different shade of blue is not acceptable.
 - c. Any brand of pants or slacks is acceptable for any contest, provided they meet the color specifications of the competition and any safety requirements (i.e., non-flammable).
 - d. A plain white chef's coat is acceptable in lieu of the official SkillsUSA chef coat, provided it does not have the name of a school or chapter visible on the jacket. Any logos or names must be securely covered before entering the contest area.
 - e. The State Director must approve additional exceptions in writing at least four weeks before the conference. Any exceptions without prior approval are subject to penalty.
 - f. For Regional Contest uniform requirements, contact your Regional Coordinator.
18. Contestants must wear the contest uniform to all contest-related events, including orientations, debriefs, onsite written exams, practical skill tests, or any other official contest activity.
19. Failure to adhere to uniform requirements may result in a penalty, as determined by the Technical Committee or State Director.
20. The Opening Ceremony dress is business casual. Official attire or contest attire is not required.
21. All contestants must wear their official contest uniforms or official SkillsUSA attire to the Closing and Awards Ceremony, where the winners are announced and the industry awards are presented. Students not dressed in the appropriate attire will be denied access to the awards platform onstage and will not appear in medalist photos. Appropriate attire is defined as official contest attire or official SkillsUSA attire.
22. The original official blazer, jacket, sweater, or any other uniform with the old "SkillsUSA-VICA" or "VICA" emblem patch may still be worn in contests requiring official attire.
23. No canvas, vinyl, plastic, or leather athletic-type, open-toe, or open-heel shoes are permitted in any SkillsUSA Championships event.
24. Contestants may be penalized or disqualified where improper clothing constitutes a health or safety hazard.
25. Contestants with long hair that poses a possible safety or sanitary hazard must properly restrain their hair, as is appropriate for their industry. Hair or beard nets may be required.
26. Contestants will be penalized or risk disqualification for lack of safety equipment, clothing, or attire based on the severity of the infraction.
27. Wearing accessories (such as belts) is optional unless otherwise specified in the contest rules and clothing classifications. Accessories may in no way pose a safety risk. Contestants should avoid large belt buckles, large or dangling jewelry, or any item that could impede on maintaining a safe work environment.
28. No identification of the contestant, chapter, advisor, city, or school may be visible on contest attire.
29. The policy concerning piercing and tattoos is as follows:
 - a. Piercings: Wearing any piercings should not potentially cause a safety issue, including any loose or dangling items. If so determined, the offending item must be removed for the duration of the SkillsUSA Championships contest. Failure to comply may result in a penalty or disqualification.
 - b. Tattoos: Any tattoos 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 may result in a penalty.

30. Participants who do not bring the required tools and materials specified in the individual contest regulations will be penalized for missing items. If possible, the contest chair may furnish the required item(s) but will assess the point penalty.
31. 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.
 - a. SkillsUSA Florida is not responsible for tools left in the contest area overnight. Toolboxes should have a locking mechanism in place.
 - b. The contestant is responsible for moving their toolbox to the contest area.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

32. Each contest provides individual entries unless the rules of the contest state that it is a team competition. Team members must be from the same school and division. Schools may enter high school, middle school, or college/postsecondary students/teams in each competition, determined by the state office or Regional Coordinator. Contact your Regional Coordinator for more information.
33. Contestants must be active SkillsUSA members in their respective divisions whose dues have been postmarked by midnight on February 1.
 - a. Exceptions to the above policy may be made on a case-by-case basis and only under certain extenuating conditions as determined by the State Director, in cooperation with the SkillsUSA National Office.
34. Participants must meet the eligibility requirements outlined in each contest description, including, but not limited to, programs of study and occupational objectives.
35. Nail Care and Esthetics models and assistants in Action Skills, Principles of Technology, and Job Skill Demonstrations A and Open must be active SkillsUSA student members who are not competing in a contest during the same conference. Advisors and competitors from other contests may not serve as models.
36. Each member will register under one of the following divisions:
 - a. 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 earn credit toward a high-school diploma/certificate or its equivalent during the school year immediately preceding the National Leadership and Skills Conference.
 - i. An individual who has not completed the requirements for nor received a high-school-level diploma must compete as a high-school contestant even though they may be taking advanced placement or college/postsecondary courses, including dual enrollment.
 - b. College/postsecondary contestants are students enrolled in a coherent series of courses or a career major that prepares them for further education and/or employment related to technology, the health industry, trades, or industry. College/postsecondary contestants must be earning credit toward a postsecondary degree/certificate during the school year immediately preceding the National Leadership and Skills Conference.
 - c. Middle-school members must be or have been enrolled in a middle-school exploratory course that prepares them for future study in a career and technical education pathway.

RESULTS, AWARDS AND PRIZES

37. SkillsUSA Florida Championships medals and awards may be presented to the top three contestants in each division. Contestants are rated against a performance standard rather than automatically being awarded first-, second-, or third-place medals based solely on the highest rankings.
 - a. Medalists will be required to achieve a "cut" score of 70% or better to earn a gold medal and advance to the National Championships. If a contestant does not achieve the cut score, no gold medal will be awarded, and the top-scoring competitor will be awarded a silver medal. The State Director will verify all scores before the Closing Ceremony. By awarding a gold medal, the state association acknowledges that the scores have been verified, and the student is invited to the national competition. Receipt of a gold medal constitutes an invitation to the national championships.

- b. Medals will not be awarded if the performance standard as determined by the technical committee does not justify such recognition.
 - c. If a gold medalist cannot attend the national conference, the silver medalist may be notified and receive an invitation to NLSC within one week of the SLSC Closing Ceremony.
38. Judges' decisions and scores are final.
39. Prizes may be awarded, contingent on industry support, and are not guaranteed for any contest.
40. Contestants must attend the Closing Ceremony to receive medals or prizes. No medals or prizes will be distributed following the close of the conference unless approved in writing by the State Director in advance of the conference.
41. Advisors are not permitted backstage or in the prize distribution area. Students will return to their seats after receiving their awards, and the step-and-repeat will remain in place for photos after the ceremony.
42. To advance to the National Leadership and Skills Conference, contestants must qualify through state SkillsUSA-approved contests. Contestants are not permitted to advance "straight to Nationals" without being deemed qualified by the State Director.
43. Individual scorecards will be made available online 1-2 weeks following the close of the state conference. Contestants must have their contestant number and date of birth to access their scorecard. Please make a note of contestant numbers.
- a. Conference registrants will receive an email once scorecards are published online.
 - b. If you believe an error has occurred on your scorecard, complete a [Request for Review](#) as the error is discovered. Reviews may be requested for two weeks following the release of scores. A link to the form can also be found on the Advisor Resources page at skillsusafl.org/resources.
 - i. Reviews will be considered for clerical errors only - for example, a written test score is omitted; a "1" was entered instead of a "100"; etc.
 - ii. Reviews will not be considered for disagreement with the judges' decisions or scores on any portion of the contest.

TEAM CONTESTS

44. Teams will consist of SkillsUSA members from the same school or chapter unless otherwise stated in the Technical Standards. All team members must be from the same division (middle school, high school, and college/postsecondary).
45. Teams must wear the same uniform. All team members must wear the same classification in contests where multiple clothing classifications are acceptable (for example, Quiz Bowl).
46. In team leadership contests, should a team member drop following the regional competitions, schools/chapters may substitute another student, provided they meet the competition's eligibility requirements. Teams may compete with one fewer team member in the case of an unforeseen circumstance just before the state competition (e.g., the student becomes ill, is involved in an accident, or simply does not show up) as long as a full team is registered and paid for originally, and the specific contest guidelines do not state otherwise.
- a. Notify the State Director of last minute issues as soon as possible to gain an exception.
47. For team skill contests, a team may compete with less than the required number of competitors but will be penalized based on the number of team members present divided by the number of team members required. For example, if a contest requires a team of 4, a team of 3 can compete with a 25% penalty.
48. Teams that advance to the National Championships must compete with at least half of the original members who qualified at the state event. If more than half of the original members are replaced, the team must forfeit their position to the next eligible team.

OBSERVERS

49. During the contest, participants must work independently, without assistance from judges, teachers, fellow students, or observers. Contestants may be disqualified for receiving such assistance.

SkillsUSA Florida

General Regulations 2024



50. It is in the spirit of competition and good sportsmanship to demonstrate professional courtesy to other competitors. Contestants shall not disrupt or interfere with the work or performance of fellow contestants or teams. Any contestant or team found to violate this regulation may be penalized or disqualified.
 - a. If the disruption comes from a non-contestant, a penalty or disqualification may be applied to all contestants from the offending school.
51. A roped or otherwise marked area may be designated for observers. Not all contests will allow for observers. No observers, including SkillsUSA advisors, will enter the designated contest areas anytime. This is necessary for both safety and to maintain the integrity of the contests.
 - a. Advisors are not permitted in the contest area at any time, including outside the active competition.
52. SkillsUSA Florida reserves the right to remove any contestant, advisor, or observer for disruptive behavior.
53. Advisors or observers will not talk or gesture to contestants. Doing so may result in penalties or disqualification. Judges may request a penalty or disqualification of contestants who accept assistance from observers. The State Director will make the final determination of any such penalties or disqualification.
54. No advisors or observers will be permitted in the contest holding room or at the contest orientation meeting unless expressly stated in the contest Technical Standards.
55. Additional limitations on observers, such as entering or leaving a contest area during a demonstration or sequence, may be posted to protect contestants from unnecessary distractions.
56. The technical committee chair may close the contest to observers if observers are seen communicating or aiding a contestant in any way or if safety demands such action.
57. Cameras with flash attachments, cell phones, or recording devices of any kind will not be permitted in any contest area without the consent of the State Director or Technical Committee.