

Nail Care – Regional and State Contest Update 2026

Review the contest Technical Standards for more information!

The Technical Standards online competition at the national level. This document outlines any differences between the regional, state and national contest, as it relates to those standards.

STATE CONTEST OUTLINE

The following outline should be used as a guide. Contestants will be provided with a detailed schedule during contest orientation.

- 8 AM – Contest Orientation – 15 minutes
- 8:15 AM – Sculptured Nail Application – 60 minutes
- 9:30 AM – Tip Application with UV/LED Gel Overlay – 60 minutes
- 10:45 AM – Polish Application and Nail Art – 90 minutes
- 12:15 PM – Lunch – 30 minutes (Either before or after polish application)
- 12:45 PM – Oral Assessment – 3-4 minutes
- 1:15 PM – Parade and Debrief
- Safety and Professionalism – judged continuously during the contest
- Technical and Professional Development Assessments – online in advance of the contest

SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

Provided by the Contest Committee:

- Technical guidelines for the specific applications required to be performed
- One electrical outlet per competitor

Provided by the Contestant:

- Safety glasses for competitor and model
- White terry towels – no holes or stains, at least 6.
- Disposable towels for the table
- Plastic bags for disposal and refuse
- Any items necessary for a mock client consultation on natural nail care services
- All items necessary to complete five nails with a tip and light-cured enhancement overlay. Can be a hard gel or a hybrid gel/acrylic product.
 - NOTE: Gel polish, temporary, or no-light gels may not be used.
- Dark red crème lacquer/polish
- All items allowed to complete the flat nail art application. Medium choices: acrylic paints, polishes/lacquers, colored powders (acrylic and dip), gel polish, rhinestones sizes 20ss and under, glitters and dusts, and adhesives, i.e., gel top coats/glue
 - NOTE: No pre-prepared items may be used; items are limited to those intended for use on nails. A topcoat may be used as a sealer.
- A written description of the nail art theme. Themes are to be typewritten, should include pictures and be contained within a plastic sleeve. Due at contest orientation.
- Portable kit organizer (to transport all items necessary for the competition)
- Manicure table lamp and extension cord (optional)
- A USB Drive with a digital photo of nail art to be created during contest. Photo may include props.
- One page typewritten resume
- **All items necessary to complete five sculptured acrylic nails.**
- **Notes: Dappen dishes must have covers; Monomer, polymer and primer must be from the same manufacturer; Two or more of the four basic acrylic colors (pink, white, clear or natural) must be used to complete two-tone/French manicure sculpted nails.**

NOTE: Electric drills/files are not allowed.

SCORING CRITERIA

Sculptured Nail Application	200
Tip Application with Overlay	200
Polish Application	75
Nail Art	200
Technical Assessment (State Only)	100
Professional Development Assessment (State Only)	25
Safety and Professionalism	100
Oral Assessment	100
	<i>Uniform penalty</i> Up to -50
	<i>Resume penalty</i> -50
	100