



SkillsUSA[®]

CHAMPIONSHIPS

GENERAL REGULATIONS

2023–2024



CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	2
Introduction	3
SkillsUSA Championships Organization	3
Clothing Classifications	4
Instructions to Technical Committee Chairs	14
Skill Point Certificates.....	18
SkillsUSA Championships General Regulations ..	19

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards sets forth the rules, protocols, competencies and criteria for the SkillsUSA Championships at the annual SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference. Hundreds of hours of volunteer and staff effort have been invested in this document. The business, industry, labor and education communities uniquely combined their time and talents to create and update these standards.

In addition to this document, advisors and students should be diligent in checking for updates from their competition's national technical committee, which will be posted on the [Competition Updates](#) page of the SkillsUSA website.

The organizations contributing to the Technical Standards are invested in improving the quality of career and technical education and better preparing our students for successful careers and engaged community membership. The competencies in this manual transmit the expectations of industry to our classrooms and labs.

SkillsUSA owes a great debt of gratitude for the selfless service of the members of our national technical committees and the organizations that support them. The SkillsUSA Championships is a national hallmark of corporate citizenship. We would like to thank our business and industry partners for their sponsorship and dedication in helping shape our future skilled workforce. We also thank our SkillsUSA colleagues for their assistance in preparing this edition.

Brandon Hudson
Director, Office of SkillsUSA Championships
SkillsUSA Inc.

SkillsUSA strives to ensure inclusive participation in all of our programs, partnerships and employment opportunities. In SkillsUSA, diversity encompasses differences in race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, gender transition status, national origin, age, physical and mental ability, thinking styles, experience and education. We strive to make all members, partners and employees feel welcomed and valued in the SkillsUSA family. SkillsUSA believes in treating all people with respect and dignity. We want SkillsUSA to be regarded as a membership organization of choice that encourages all individuals to be involved.

INTRODUCTION

The SkillsUSA Championships are the preeminent showcase of career and technical education in the United States. The Championships recognize career and technical students who excel in their occupational areas, as well as in the leadership development activities that are an integral part of the SkillsUSA Framework.

The involvement of industry in the SkillsUSA Championships program is essential. Experts in leadership, health occupations and skilled and technical sciences donate time and resources to serve as competition judges and as technical committee members. They assume responsibility for selecting the skills that are to be assessed, determining the format of the competitions and establishing the standards by which competitors will be evaluated.

In addition to showcasing students' skills, the SkillsUSA Championships — by the very nature of competition — encourages students to take pride in their work. It also provides prospective employers with an opportunity to see dedicated, motivated potential employees at work.

To continue to meet the needs of both potential employees and prospective employers, the lines of communication between education and industry must be kept open. Educators must be able to identify industry's needs and, in turn, develop appropriate curricula. These technical standards and the SkillsUSA Championships serve as avenues to this vital and collaborative relationship.

SKILLSUSA CHAMPIONSHIPS ORGANIZATION

The SkillsUSA Championships is governed by policies established by the Board of Directors of SkillsUSA Inc. These policies cover donations and awards as well as each SkillsUSA Championships committee's composition and responsibilities.

The SkillsUSA Championships is organized as follows:

1. Board of Directors of SkillsUSA Inc.
2. SkillsUSA Championships Executive Committee
3. SkillsUSA Director of Championships and Office of SkillsUSA Championships
4. Individual technical committees for each competition
5. National Education Teams



CLOTHING CLASSIFICATIONS

(with photos)



These regulations refer to clothing items that are pictured and described at www.skillsusastore.org. If you have questions about clothing or other logo items, call 1-888-501-2183.

CLASS A: SKILLSUSA ATTIRE

- Official SkillsUSA red blazer or official SkillsUSA red jacket
- Button-up, collared, white dress shirt (accompanied by a plain, solid black tie or SkillsUSA black tie), white shirt (collarless or small-collared) or white turtleneck, with any collar not to extend into the lapel area of the blazer, sweater, windbreaker, or jacket
- Black dress slacks or black dress skirt (knee-length at minimum)
- Black closed-toe dress shoes

Note: The official SkillsUSA windbreaker, sweater, and black Carhartt jacket are no longer available for purchase in the SkillsUSA Store. However, these clothing items are grandfathered in as previous official SkillsUSA clothing and can be worn in SkillsUSA competitions as directed in this document.

Note: Wearing socks or hose is no longer required. If worn, socks must be black dress socks, and hose must be either black or skin-tone and seamless/nonpattern.



CLASS B: HEALTHCARE ATTIRE

- Official SkillsUSA blue scrubs
- White socks or white seamless/nonpattern hose visible above the top of the shoe
- Health-professionals white or black work shoe

Note: Scrubs should fit appropriately for all health competitions and should be properly hemmed and wrinkle-free. Only plain, white, collarless T-shirts may be worn underneath the scrubs. Hair must be pinned up and off the collar.

Note: Shoes must be all-white or black (no canvas/mesh) and completely enclosed (no open-toe or open-heel). Athletic-style shoes that meet the criteria are acceptable.



CLASS C: COMPETITION SPECIFIC — MANUFACTURING/CONSTRUCTION KHAKI ATTIRE

- Official SkillsUSA khaki short-sleeve work shirt
- Khaki pants
- Black, brown or tan work shoes

Note: Safety glasses must have side shields or goggles. (Prescription glasses may be used only if they are equipped with side shields. If not, they must be covered with goggles.)



CLASS D: COMPETITION SPECIFIC — BLUE ATTIRE

- Official SkillsUSA light blue work shirt
- Navy pants
- Black, brown or tan work safety shoes (with protective toe cap, unless otherwise specified in a competition technical standard).

Note: Safety glasses must have side shields or goggles. (Prescription glasses may be used only if they are equipped with side shields. If not, they must be covered with goggles.)

Note: Law and Public Safety cluster competitions have additional parameters listed in the technical standards that are specific to competition dress in these occupational areas.



CLASS E: COMPETITION SPECIFIC — BUSINESS CASUAL

- Official SkillsUSA white polo shirt
- Black dress slacks or black dress skirt (knee-length minimum)
- Black closed-toe dress shoes

Note: Wearing socks or hose is no longer required. If worn, socks must be black dress socks, and hose must be either black or skin-tone and seamless/nonpattern.



CLASS F: COMPETITION SPECIFIC — BARBERING, COSMETOLOGY, ESTHETICS, NAIL CARE

- Official SkillsUSA white dress shirt or official white polo
- Black dress slacks
- Black work or dress shoes (non-skid and completely enclosed, no open-toe or open-heel)

Note: Wearing socks or hose is no longer required. If worn, socks must be black dress socks, and hose must be either black or skin-tone and seamless/nonpattern.

Note: The official SkillsUSA white cosmetology smock or apron can be worn with a white dress shirt.

Note: If applicable, model clothing should include business appropriate white dress shirt or polo, black dress slacks and black dress shoes.



CLASS G: CULINARY/BAKING AND PASTRY ARTS ATTIRE

- SkillsUSA official white apron
- White chef's jacket
- Black work pants or black-and-white checkered chef's pants
- Black non-slip, non-porous shoes
- Hair restraint

Note: Chef's hats (toques) and food handlers' gloves will be supplied by the national technical committee.



CLASS H: COMPETITION SPECIFIC — RESTAURANT SERVICE

- Official SkillsUSA white long-sleeved dress shirt
- Black dress slacks
- Plain black tie with no pattern or SkillsUSA black tie
- Black bistro apron (optional Official SkillsUSA black bistro apron)
- Black socks
- Black non-slip, non-porous work shoes

Note: Waiter's jackets, bow ties, vests, cummerbunds or half aprons are not permitted.



CLASS I: COMPETITION SPECIFIC — WELDING | WELDING FABRICATION

- Official SkillsUSA khaki long-sleeve work shirt (100% cotton as per OSHA regulations)
- Khaki pants (100% cotton as per OSHA regulations)
- Black, brown, or tan work shoes

Note: Safety glasses must have side shields or goggles. (Prescription glasses may be used only if they are equipped with side shields. If not, they must be covered with goggles.)



INSTRUCTIONS TO SKILLSUSA CHAMPIONSHIPS

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Attend all meetings called by the Director of SkillsUSA Championships or officially designate a committee member to serve as your authorized representative at these meetings.
2. Ensure that all committee members are familiar with the SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards.
3. Supervise the selection of the skills and competencies to be evaluated in the SkillsUSA Championships and identify necessary equipment and supplies. Make arrangements to borrow and/or solicit donations of all needed items.
4. Supervise the development of competition projects, drawings and instructions for competitors.
5. Locate individuals who are knowledgeable in the competition trade or skill area and invite them to serve as judges.
6. Assist in planning the layout of the competition site. Identify needs and/or services such as water, electricity, compressed air, tables or chairs, etc.
7. Make arrangements for acquiring appropriate industry awards/prizes.
8. Plan and conduct the mandatory competition orientation and debriefing meetings.

COMPETITION ORIENTATION MEETING

The competition orientation meeting is mandatory for all SkillsUSA Championships participants. The purpose of this meeting is to review the following items with all competitors. **Note:** All students should enter the orientation space before any instructors/others are permitted to enter.

1. **Competitors' Credentials:** Compare and verify each competitor's name and competitor number as they appear on the nametag with the master list of competitors. Check the individual name to the actual name on the nametag.
2. **Competition Rules:** Check to be certain that all competitors are familiar with the competition rules and have been notified of any relevant information in the annual competition updates.
3. **Competition Procedures:** Explain the way in which the competition will be conducted, including schedule, procedure for time in/time out, scoring criteria, procedure for breaking ties and the method of dealing with issues/concerns.
4. **Safety Regulations:** Review general and specific safety requirements and procedures for the competition. Instruct competitors that all injuries, no matter how slight, must be reported immediately to the judge or applicable competition supervisor.
5. **Tools and Materials:** Go over the list of tools and materials that are to be supplied by the competitors. Include any additional items mentioned in the updates. If competitors do not have all the required items, be sure they understand that they must obtain them before the competition begins.
6. **Order of Performance:** In competitions where the order of performance is important, the procedure for determining the order should be explained. For example, competitors may draw numbers for order of performance/assignments.

7. **Equipment:** Explain the operation of equipment used in the competition, including safety features. If possible, allow competitors time to become familiar with the equipment.
8. **Special Announcements:** Detail any special functions that the committee has planned, explain special transportation or time schedules and announce industry awards/prizes. Announce that smoking, the use of smokeless tobacco and/or vaping is prohibited during the competition.
Note: The national organization requests that all SkillsUSA Championships committee and competition personnel refrain from smoking and/or consuming alcoholic beverages in the presence of SkillsUSA student members.
9. **Competitor Questions:** Encourage competitors to ask any questions they have about the SkillsUSA Championships. Provide satisfactory answers before the close of the competition orientation meeting.
10. **Competitor Penalties:** There may be special circumstances that prevent a competitor from attending the competition orientation meeting (e.g., illness, an accidents or transportation-related issues). Please do not disqualify a competitor without first consulting with the Office of SkillsUSA Championships.
11. **Clothing Assessments:** Allow time for a clothing assessor to conduct clothing assessments during the competition orientation meeting.

CONDUCTING THE SKILLSUSA CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. Check the competition area, equipment, supplies and facilities prior to the day of the competition to be certain that everything is in place and in order for a smooth-running competition.
2. Assemble all judges at the competition site for a briefing prior to the start of the competition. Be sure that all questions are answered and that the evaluation procedures are clear.
3. Check to be certain that all competitors have brought the tools and materials required for the competition, as listed in the technical standards and/or competition updates. The technical committee may, at its option, furnish any required items that competitors have failed to bring; however, a two-point penalty may be assessed for each missing item.
4. Make sure that all competitors meet clothing requirements for the competition. (See the section on SkillsUSA Championships Clothing Requirements in the individual competition regulations.) The penalty for those who do not satisfy clothing requirements will be up to 5% of the total possible competition points. *Clothing penalties in all skill competitions will be assessed by the designated clothing assessor in cooperation with the competition chair. SkillsUSA Championships technical committees will assess clothing penalties for all leadership competitions.*
5. Make sure that all competitors receive copies of the project to be completed, as well as any necessary drawings, instruction sheets or other materials. Be certain that competitors understand all instructions and have a chance to ask procedural questions. Take great care to see that all competitors have equal time and that their questions are answered fairly.
6. Oversee the competition to ensure that safe work practices are followed.
7. Do not permit competitors to enter the competition site at any time unless they are displaying their competitor badges and numbers.
8. Do not permit competitors to smoke during the competition.

9. Conduct a debriefing session with the competitors after the competition to point out general strengths and weaknesses and the quality of work observed by the judges. (Do not discuss individual competitor performance.)
10. Verify all judges' scoring sheets and submit them to the SkillsUSA Championships scoring management team. Complete the chair's final report and return it, along with required items, to SkillsUSA Championships headquarters following the competition.
11. Keep the results of the competition confidential until the announcement of the winners at the Awards Session.
12. Attend the Awards Session to present medals to the medalists.
13. Organize and supervise the teardown of the competition area and be certain that equipment, tools and supplies are returned to the proper owners and that the competition area is clean and clear of any remaining items.

INSTRUCTIONS TO COMPETITION JUDGES

1. Judges must be completely familiar with the SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards, particularly the General Regulations, Instructions to Technical Committee Chairs and the specific rules of the competition they have been asked to judge.
2. Judges should receive copies of the competition project and judges' scoring sheet(s), along with complete instructions from the technical committee chair prior to the competition.
3. Members of the SkillsUSA Championships technical committee may not serve as judges unless approved by the Director of SkillsUSA Championships.
4. Judges must give careful attention to each rule, and each competitor or team must be judged in exactly the same manner and under the same conditions as every other competitor or team.
5. Judges will meet prior to the SkillsUSA Championships — at a time and place announced by the SkillsUSA Championships technical committee chair — to confer on:
 - a. Rule meanings and interpretations
 - b. Arrangement of competition space
 - c. Materials and equipment
 - d. Last-minute details
 - e. Judge score sheets
 - f. Competition-related processes and procedures
6. Judges will evaluate the performance of each competitor according to the criteria listed in each competition.
7. Judges will identify competitors by number only. Judges will not use competitors' names, schools or states unless otherwise specified in individual competition rules.
8. Judges may attend the competition orientation meeting held prior to the opening of the SkillsUSA Championships. However, only members of the technical committee may instruct the competitors and verify attendance.
9. Judges are selected because of their recognized expertise in the trade or skill that they are being asked to judge and are asked to follow the official SkillsUSA rules without inserting personal opinions. Such things as length and/or color of hair, tattoos, piercings, personal appearance, length of dress and style of shoe, unless specifically covered in the competition regulations, are not to be considered by the judges except where safety is concerned.

10. *In no instance are judges or competition chairs authorized to change the competition rules.* If an interpretation is required, the chair should contact the Director of SkillsUSA Championships.
11. Judges are to evaluate all items related to safety. Competitors not meeting safety requirements may be disqualified from competition if, in the judges' opinions, the safety of the competitors or those around them is endangered.
12. Competitors should be evaluated based on entry-level job skills, not those of an expert in the trade and/or occupational area.
13. Judges should rate each competitor independently and not compare scoring sheets with those of other judges.

SKILLSUSA CHAMPIONSHIPS: SKILL POINT CERTIFICATES

OVERVIEW

Along with national gold, silver and bronze medals, SkillsUSA awards Skill Point Certificates to outstanding national competitors in the SkillsUSA Championships. Students who reach or exceed a threshold score in an official national competition are awarded this certificate. Central to these certificates are the expertise and industry-defined competencies compiled in the SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards. The Skill Point Certificate represents the pinnacle of achievement in demonstrating proficiency and workplace readiness in the student's occupational specialty. Each Skill Point Certificate carries the logos or names of the organizations represented on that competition's national technical committee. Students can place the certificate in an employment portfolio as an indicator of proficiency.

SKILL POINT CERTIFICATE

Competitors achieving the threshold score will be awarded a Skill Point Certificate regardless of competition ranking or medal standing. State directors will be given the procedure for acquiring the certificates in their award packets on the night of the Awards Ceremony, along with their state results. State directors will also receive the Skill Point certificates and state results as a downloadable service after the event.

SKILLSUSA CHAMPIONSHIPS GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. The SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards are written as guidelines for the administration of national competitions.
 - a. They should serve as models for administration of local, regional, and state competitions but should not be considered binding upon state associations in conducting state-level SkillsUSA Championships.
 - b. Because of the changes that can occur within a competition area or a specific station, the scorecards or scoring criteria for all competitions will be provided to the state association.
2. A careful analysis of the skills and knowledge required for successful employment will identify a core of technical and academic principles that students should understand. Competitors are expected to understand these principles. Competitors will be expected to know and demonstrate the following:
 - a. Mathematics: addition, subtraction, division and multiplication of whole numbers, common fractions, decimal fractions, ratio, proportion, percentage, average, area, volume, metrics and written problems specific to areas of training
 - b. Engineering drawing/print interpretation and schematics related to specific areas of training
 - c. Reading comprehension/interpreting technical manuals
 - d. Completion of a job application form
 - e. Making an appointment for a job interview
 - f. Proper interview techniques
 - g. Responding clearly to oral questions
 - h. Safety knowledge: All Skilled and Technical competitions require evidence of safety training. There are some competitions that require a minimum of a 10-hour CareerSafe training safety card or an equivalent certification. That requirement will be noted within the standards of those competitions. Students are encouraged to complete the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) 10-hour web-based CareerSafe course. For more, visit www.careersafeonline.com. Participants completing the safety training course will receive a wallet card from OSHA.
 - i. Compliance with all copyright laws and software licensing requirements
3. Begin checking SkillsUSA's website in October for any changes to the technical standards. All changes to the current year's competitions will be found at: <http://updates.skillsusa.org/>.
4. Tiebreaker:
 - a. No competition will end in a tie. If competitors are tied at the end of the competition, the scores on the most heavily weighted station, as determined by the technical committee, will be used to break the tie.
5. Technical Skills-Related Written Test:
 - a. Written tests and problem-solving exercises covering skills and related information may be included as a part of each competition (with the exception of the Building Maintenance competition). The number of points allowed will not exceed 15% of the

total possible points and will be determined by the technical committee. The following procedures will apply:

- 1). The test will cover appropriate math, technology, schematic/engineering drawing/print interpretation, safety, problem-solving, and related information.
 - 2). The test will be prepared or approved by the SkillsUSA Championships technical committee and may be given at the competition orientation meeting or on the day of the competition.
6. Leadership and Occupationally Related Written Test:
- a. Written tests and problem-solving exercises covering skills and related information will be specified in the competition's technical standards and may be included as a part of some competitions. Check the Competition Updates Page for any potential changes at <http://updates.skillsusa.org/>.
7. Professional Development Test:
- Unless otherwise specified in the technical standards, all competitors will be required to take the SkillsUSA Professional Development Test. A study guide will be published at <http://updates.skillsusa.org/>.
- Please note that middle school competitors are *not* required to take the Professional Development Test as part of their competition. Competitors will be required to take the exam, and the scores will be added to their total overall score within their respective competitions. The number of points allowed will not exceed 2.5% of the total possible points. (For leadership and occupationally related competitions, the Professional Development test may be selected as a knowledge exam. If selected as a competition's knowledge exam, the number of points allowed will not exceed 15% of the total possible points and will be determined by the technical committee.)
8. An oral professional assessment — such as a personal interview, explanation of skills to be performed, problem to be solved or other employability skills assessment — will be included as part of each competition. Except for some Leadership Competitions as identified in the SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards, the number of points allowed will not exceed 5% of the total score and will be determined by the technical committee.
9. All competitors must create a one-page, unless otherwise specified in the competition's technical standards, resume and submit a PDF version online. Failure to do so will result in a 10-point penalty. Competitions that require a hard copy of the resume as part of the skill performance will be specified in the competition's technical standards. *Competitors may bring a resume to the competition on the day of competition; however, the penalty will remain in effect.* Note: Middle school competitors are exempt from the resume requirement.
10. Competitors in competitions that require verbal presentations must use the proper name of the national organization: "SkillsUSA." Competitors in American Spirit, Chapter Display, Community Service, Occupational Health and Safety (Single & Multiple), Outstanding Chapter, Promotional Bulletin Board, and Career Pathways Showcase must exhibit the organization's proper name and logo. Failure to do so will result in penalty points being

assessed by the national technical committee. Visit brand.skillsusa.org and click on “SkillsUSA Brand Guide” for proper logo guidelines.

11. SkillsUSA Championships awards may be presented to the top three competitors in each division. Competitors are evaluated against a standard of performance rather than automatically being awarded first-, second- or third-place medals based on the highest rankings. Medals will not be awarded if the standard of performance as determined by the technical committee does not justify such recognition.
 - a. No ties will be permitted.
 - b. Judges’ decisions will be final. Interpretations of all competition rules will be made by the Director of SkillsUSA Championships.

12. The competencies listed in the technical standards are the basis for a quality career and technical education program from which our national competitions are derived. The competencies have been listed to provide direction and assistance to state associations as they establish their local, regional, and state SkillsUSA Championships and to identify the scope of the national competition.

13. Prohibited Devices:
Cellphones, electronic watches and/or other electronic devices not approved by a competition’s national technical committee are **NOT** allowed in the competition area. Please follow the guidelines in each technical standard for approved exceptions. Technical committee members may also approve exceptions onsite during the SkillsUSA Championships if deemed appropriate.
 - a. Penalties for Prohibited Devices:
If a competitor’s electronic device makes noise or if the competitor is seen using it at any time during the competition, an official report will be documented for review by the Director of the SkillsUSA Championships. If confirmed that the competitor used the device in a manner which compromised the integrity of the competition, the competitor’s scores may be removed.
 - b. SkillsUSA the organization, SkillsUSA staff, technical committee members and other volunteers are not responsible for loss or damage to personal items — including electronic devices — while competitors are in the competition areas.

14. Prohibited Materials:
No live animals or biohazardous materials are allowed as part of any contest.

WHO MAY COMPETE

15. Participants must be active SkillsUSA student* members in their respective divisions whose dues have been postmarked by midnight of March 1.
 - a. Exceptions to the above policy may be made under certain conditions. For details, contact your state SkillsUSA office.

***Note:** Teachers and/or professional members are prohibited from competing in any NLSC competition area that they also teach. States may be disqualified from participation in a specific competition if they approve competitors who serve as teachers

in the competition area in which they wish to compete.

16. Each national competition provides for individual entries unless the eligibility section of the competition states that it is a team competition. States may enter one high school, one middle school (where competitions are stated to accept a middle school competitor(s)) and one college/postsecondary student/team in each competition unless otherwise stated in the specific competition rules.
 - a. High school competitors are students enrolled in a coherent program of study, a community training program, and/or a work-based learning experience that prepares the student for further education and/or employment related to career and technical education, including the health industry. Further, a high school competitor must be earning credit toward a high school diploma/certificate or its equivalent during the academic year immediately preceding the National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC).
 - b. College/postsecondary competitors are students enrolled in a coherent program of study, a work-based learning experience, and/or a career major that prepares them for further education and/or employment related to technology, trades or industry, including the health industry. College/postsecondary competitors must be progressing toward a postsecondary credential during the academic year immediately preceding the National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC).
 - c. Middle school competitors must be or have been enrolled in a middle-school exploratory course that prepares for future study in a career and technical education pathway.
 - d. Dual enrollment students: An individual who has not completed the requirements for, nor received, a high-school-level diploma must register for membership and compete as a high-school student even though they may be taking advanced placement or college/postsecondary courses.
17. Competitors may enter only one national championships competition annually. The Championships will not adjust a competition schedule for students running for national office or any other reason, with the possible exception of unforeseen travel issues.
18. Participants in national competitions must be first-place winners selected on a competitive basis at the state level. In the event the first-place winner is unable to participate, the alternate must be the next highest placing competitor at the state level who is able to participate. All competitors must qualify through state SkillsUSA-approved competitions. States may be disqualified from participation in a specific competition if they approve competitors who have not competed in a state competition.
19. In team events, substitutions may be made if a team member (or members) has to withdraw from the national competition. *A full team must be registered.* The ability of the competitors to meet the standards of national competition must be considered before the state association certifies the competitor.

20. Teams that need to replace more than 50% of their members should replace the entire team with the next highest-ranked team from the state competition.
21. Teams that have fewer competitors attend than the full number registered may be subject to penalties. Unless otherwise specified in the technical standards, the amount of the penalty will be determined by the number of no-shows (e.g., team of three and one no-show = penalty of $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total points).

Note: Teams will be allowed to add a member if a member has a family emergency and must cancel. Such cases will be handled as needed, and the director of the SkillsUSA Championships will be notified.

22. Participants must meet the eligibility requirements set forth in each competition description.

JUDGING CRITERIA

23. The judging criteria listed on each competition scorecard comprise the basic elements that will be considered in the evaluation of the competitors' performance.
 - a. The exact number of items evaluated and points assigned to each criterion may change from year to year depending on the complexity of the project.

RELEASE OF COMPETITION RESULTS

24. A breakdown of each competitor/teams scorecards and a ranking will be available and accessible to every competitor on the SkillsUSA website by August 1.
25. The appropriate state official agrees not to use this information in any way that will violate any local, state, or federal law and will protect each student's right of privacy as required by law.

HOW TO REGISTER

26. Only students who are registered by the National March 1 deadline and are paid members are eligible to compete at the National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC). Students who compete and win at a state event are not exempt from the national March 1 deadline requirement. Note: For some states, the membership deadline may be earlier. Registration requirements are:
 - a. No new competitors may be added onsite at NLSC. For any competitor addition requests after the established NLSC registration deadline, approval must be granted from the Director of SkillsUSA Championships prior to arrival at NLSC.
 - b. States may make competitor substitutions onsite at NLSC and must supply an NLSC Conference Registration Release Form for each substitution.
 - c. Should a team member drop in a team competition, states may substitute another student. Teams may compete with one fewer team member as long as a full team was registered originally, and the specific competition technical standards do not state otherwise. Penalty points may be assessed if a team does not compete with a full team.

TOOLS AND MATERIALS

27. Participants who do not bring the required tools and materials as specified in the individual competition regulations *may be penalized two points for each item missing*. Such penalties will be assessed by the competition chair. The competition chair may, at his or her discretion, furnish the required item(s).
28. It is strongly recommended that toolboxes not exceed 9"x14"x22". Competitors 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 competition areas.

OBSERVER RULES

29. During the competition, participants must work independently, without assistance from judges, teachers, fellow students, and/or observers. Competitors may be disqualified for receiving such assistance. An official report will be documented for review by the Director of SkillsUSA Championships. If it is confirmed that the competitor received assistance in a manner that compromised the integrity of the competition, the competitor may be assessed a penalty or disqualified.
30. It is in the spirit of competition and good sportsmanship to demonstrate professional courtesy to other competitors. Competitors shall in no way disrupt or interfere with the work or performance of fellow competitors or teams. Any competitor or team found to be in violation of this regulation may be at the risk of penalty or disqualification.
31. No observers, including SkillsUSA advisors, will enter the designated competition areas without the approval of the SkillsUSA Championships technical committee.
32. No observers will talk/gesture to competitors. Doing so may result in penalties or disqualification.
33. No observers will be permitted in the competition holding area or at the competition orientation meeting unless specifically invited by the SkillsUSA Championships technical committee.
34. Additional limitations on observers, such as entering or leaving a competition area during a demonstration or sequence, may be posted to protect competitors from unnecessary distractions.
35. The technical committee chair may close the competition to observers if observers are seen to be communicating or aiding a competitor in any way or if safety demands such action.
36. No cameras (with or without flash attachments), cell phones, or recording devices of any kind will be permitted in any competition area without the consent of the Director of SkillsUSA Championships.

COMPETITORS NEEDING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

37. To ensure equitable access for all competitors, the SkillsUSA Championships management team will adhere to documented accommodations as directed under a current and valid education plan (IEP, Section 504, and/or Health Plan) from the LEA (Local Educational Agency) or College Department of Accessibility Services (or similar). SkillsUSA does not maintain a list of approved accommodations, including instructional aides or assistive technologies; however, no accommodation may be utilized that substitutes for a competitor's knowledge or skills. Advanced identification of a competitor's accommodation request is required through the completion of an Accommodation Request form — and attestation to the validity of any identified education plan — by the established deadline. See SkillsUSA policy for further detail.

MODELS/ASSISTANTS

38. Nail Care and Esthetics models and assistants in Action Skills, Principles of Technology, and Job Skill Demonstrations A and Open must be active (registered and paid) SkillsUSA student members. Models and assistants are not required to be from the same school as the competitor. They are not considered competitors and are not required to attend competitor orientation meetings, unless otherwise specified in the competition's technical standards. Since models and assistants are not involved in the written test and are not considered competitors, they are also not eligible to receive medals. They will, however, receive a participation certificate or other form of recognition.

MANDATORY COMPETITION MEETINGS

39. Competitors must report to the *mandatory competition orientation meeting* as scheduled in the conference app for instructions from the technical committee chairs. This is a critical meeting since technical committee chairs provide specific competition instructions and often administer the written and/or oral tests at this meeting.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE: PIERCINGS AND TATTOOS

The policy regarding piercings and tattoos while participating in the SkillsUSA Championships is as follows:

40. Piercings: Wearing of any piercings should not in any way cause a safety issue. If so determined, the item must be removed for the duration of the SkillsUSA Championships competition. Failure to comply will result in a safety penalty.
41. Tattoos: Any tattoo that is considered vulgar, sexual and/or morbid should be covered to the best of the competitor's ability while competing in any SkillsUSA Championships competition. Failure to do so will result in a penalty.

SKILLSUSA CHAMPIONSHIPS CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS

42. Competitors in the SkillsUSA Championships must wear the approved SkillsUSA Championships clothing or work uniform specified for their respective competitions during the event or be subject to a penalty of up to 5% of the total points available. The official clothing items referred to in these regulations are pictured and described at: www.skillsusastore.org. For questions regarding clothing or other logo items, call 1-888-501-2183.
43. Competitors must wear their official competition clothing to the mandatory competitor meeting prior to the competition.
44. Participants must meet clothing requirements for their respective competitions. For specific requirements, refer to the technical standards and General Regulations.
 - a. If applicable, model clothing should include a business appropriate white dress shirt or polo, black dress slacks, and black dress shoes (non-skid and completely enclosed; no open-toe or open-heel).
 - b. All competitors are required to wear their official competition uniforms or official SkillsUSA attire to the Awards Session, where the winners are announced and the industry awards/prizes are presented. Inappropriately dressed competitors will be denied access to the awards stage.

Note: Competitors with special needs regarding clothing requirements should contact the office of SkillsUSA Championships.

45. The clothing requirements apply only to the national competitions. State associations may have different dress requirements for their own state championships.
46. “SkillsUSA official attire” as indicated for specific competitions refers to the following:
 - a. Official SkillsUSA red blazer or official SkillsUSA red jacket
 - b. Button-up, collared, white dress shirt (accompanied by a plain, solid black tie or SkillsUSA black tie), white shirt (collarless or small-collared) or white turtleneck, with any collar not to extend into the lapel area of the blazer, sweater, windbreaker or jacket
 - c. Black dress slacks or black dress skirt (knee-length at minimum)
 - d. Black closed-toe dress shoes

Note: The official SkillsUSA windbreaker, sweater, and black Carhartt jacket are no longer available for purchase in the SkillsUSA Store. However, these clothing items are grandfathered in as previous official SkillsUSA clothing and can be worn in SkillsUSA competitions as directed in this document.

Note: Wearing socks or hose is no longer required. If worn, socks must be black dress socks and hose must be either black or skin-tone and seamless/nonpattern.

Note: All personal jewelry should contribute to a businesslike appearance. Only official SkillsUSA jewelry is to be worn on a SkillsUSA blazer, jacket or sweater. Official jewelry is described as a conference pin, SkillsUSA emblem, officer pin, President’s Volunteer

Service Award pin, Statesman pin (one only), and professional development pin (one only).

47. Shoes:

No canvas, vinyl, plastic or leather athletic-type shoes, open-toe or open-heel shoes are permitted in any SkillsUSA Championships event without penalty. Competitors may be disqualified if improper footwear constitutes a health or safety hazard. When work shoes are required: “work shoes” are technically defined as low or high-top , lace-up shoes with rubber, skid-resistant soles. They can be steel- or non-steel-toed. Work shoes can be purchased from most department stores, shoe stores and mail-order catalogs. Western-style (cowboy) boots are not allowed, except Roper-style boots that are round-toed, flat-soled and with a low heel.

48. Eye protection must meet ANSI Z87 requirements. Prescription and nonprescription safety glasses must include side shields designed for the safety glasses by the manufacturer of the eye protection. An imprint with the mark “Z87” will appear on the frame or lens to identify the safety glasses as meeting ANSI Z87 requirements. Approved safety goggles may also be worn to meet these eye protection requirements.

49. Competitors with long hair that poses a possible safety or sanitary hazard must wear hair containment devices (hairnets).

50. Competitors may be disqualified for lack of safety clothing or attire.

51. The wearing of accessory items (such as belts) is optional unless otherwise specified in the competition rules.

52. While not required, only a skill competition patch may be worn on the left shoulder without penalty.

53. No identification of the competitor, school, or state is allowed on official clothing.

54. Check for specific clothing and safety requirements under the guidelines for each competition.

55. Clothing penalties in all skill competitions will be assessed by the designated clothing assessor in cooperation with the competition chair. SkillsUSA Championships technical committees will assess clothing penalties for all leadership competitions.