



COMPETITIVE EVENTS

The competitive events program for the national TSA conference is governed by the current *Middle School and High School Technology Activities, National TSA Conference Competitive Events Guides*. Rules and specifications for every event scheduled for the national conference are covered in these two guides. Entries for all national competitive events must follow the rules and regulations found in these guides.

To assist advisors and students in preparing for the conference, students should register for competitive events as early as possible. Pre-registration for competitive events allows for planning adequate space and personnel. Once a student's registration has been received by National TSA, no changes, additions, or substitutions may be made.

LEVELS OF COMPETITION

Entries for competitive events are categorized according to grade levels as follows:

- Middle School: Grades 6, 7, 8, 9*
- High School: Grades 9*, 10, 11, 12

* Ninth graders must compete at the level in which the chapter affiliates. For example, if the ninth grade is housed in a high school building (grades 9-12), then the student must compete at the high school level. If the ninth grade is housed in a grade 6-9 or 7-9 school building, then the student must compete at the middle school level. If the school has grades 1-12 grouped together, or any other configuration not listed above, the CRC chairperson or National TSA can provide clarification about the appropriate level.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. It is the intent of TSA, Inc. to involve as many different TSA members as possible in competitive events and provide recognition in a setting of fair play practices using TSA event guidelines.

B. TSA members, advisors, and chapters must be currently affiliated with TSA in order to enter any competitive event.

C. TSA membership rights extend through the school year of graduation. It is permissible for students who graduate midyear to compete at the national conference that immediately follows graduation.

D. Students must be registered and be in attendance at all times at the national conference in order to enter and become a finalist in any event.

E. It is the individual responsibility of each participant to obtain all rules and guidelines for the events. Lack of knowledge or understanding about a particular event is neither reason nor excuse for an individual to request an accommodating adjustment or change.

F. The event limit is six (6) per conference participant, individual and team events combined.

G. With the exception of Technology Transfer Challenge, team members must be affiliated with the same chapter. To enter a team event, the chapter designates only that it is participating; names of the individual team members are not necessary.

H. Projects and products can be entered only one (1) year. Projects and products entered in another student organization competition cannot be entered.

I. Entries must be started and completed during the current school year.

J. For all events that require a notebook/album, the following applies: the cover page is on the outside of the notebook/album and the title page is the first page inside the notebook/album.

K. All entries must be the original work of the student participant or student team. All ideas, text, images and sound from other sources must be cited, including anything that is from the public domain. References and resources should be cited using APA, the most current edition. If copyrighted material is used, proper written permission must be included. Failure to follow this procedure results in disqualification.

L. Students must physically check in and pick up their event entries at the time and place stated in the conference program or announced at the national TSA conference.

M. TSA is not responsible or liable for any personal property, equipment, or materials brought to a national TSA conference for use by a participant or attendee.

N. In case of a scheduling conflict that prevents a member from participating in an event, the participant has the right to decide which event entry is eliminated.

O. In some circumstances in team events that involve written and finalist segments, team member substitution will be allowed if approved by the event manager and coordinator.

P. All events are judged in accordance with the stated criteria for each event as shown in the competitive events guide. Completed official rating forms are the property of TSA, and the information they contain is confidential and is not disclosed.

Q. Concern about any event during the national TSA conference should be submitted in writing to the Rules Interpretation Panel (RIP) as soon as possible and preferably during the conference. Whenever possible, the Rules Interpretation Panel renders a decision at the conference. The decisions of the RIP at the national conference are final. (For more information, refer to Rules Interpretation below.)

R. Hazardous materials, chemicals, lighted or open flames, combustibles, wet cell batteries, and other similar substances are not allowed at the national TSA conference.

S. Recording devices are not allowed in certain competitive events. CRC manager and event coordinator approval is required before any event may be recorded.

T. Out of courtesy to other competitors and to avoid any perception of impropriety, no electronic communication devices of any kind are permitted during competition. Cell phones, walkie-talkies, pagers, etc. must be turned off.

U. All adult advisors, chaperones, and student participants must be in attendance for the duration of the conference.

V. Because of the possibility of the controversial nature of topics from which students may select, national TSA bears no responsibility for the content of entries. Topics are selected at the local level and entries are evaluated on the basis of the event's official rating form.

W. Rules violations and disqualifications: A rules violation that gives a contestant an unfair advantage will result in a twenty percent (20%) deduction of the total possible points. The manager of an event has the right to disqualify a contestant when such contestant violates the spirit or intent of a contest. The event manager must sign off on both a 20% deduction and a disqualification.