



GENERAL RULES GOVERNING Career Development Events

For complete information regarding Career Development Event Policy, please see the Michigan FFA Board of Directors Policy Manual and review the individual contest rules.

ELIGIBILITY

Limited to active, in high school or junior high, FFA members of a chapter in good standing with the Michigan Association of FFA. To be an active member, a student must be enrolled in an approved agricultural education/agriculture course during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study for a supervised agriculture experience program. Students must be rostered by April 1st with the state association to be eligible to compete.

Each contest will be limited to two teams representing each chapter at state level Career Development Events. If a chapter has more than 75 high school members by April 1st, they will be allowed to bring three high school teams. If a chapter has more than 75 junior high members by April 1st, they will be allowed to bring three junior high teams. This rule may be altered at the discretion of the contest chair.

Individuals on state winning teams and/or national participating teams are not eligible for further competition in the same contest.

While some contests may allow participation by partial teams, those teams having fewer than the minimum number of participants required will not be eligible to win gold or silver awards or be recognized as the state winner. The State FFA Career Development Events Contest Clarification sheet indicates the number of participants required. This number can be found in the column labeled “# of Team Members on a State Level Team”.

AWARD INFORMATION

The top 1/3 of teams and/or contestants will be awarded Gold or Silver ratings.

One winner and an alternate will be selected in each state contest to enter the respective national contest, where such contests are approved by the

Michigan FFA Association.

Awards are made in the form of certificates, trophies, plaques, or educational tours.

RESULTS

Spreadsheets and a list of recommended gold, silver and state winners will be sent to advisors as soon as possible after the conclusion of the contests. These results will be subject to review and therefore, not yet official. These results may be reviewed for mathematical and scanning errors, and if there is evidence of an issue in these two areas, it will be corrected. After two business days have elapsed since the sending of the results, the results (as corrected when appropriate) will become official and subject to no further review.

All final results will be posted on the Michigan FFA Website.

CERTIFYING NATIONAL TEAMS

Upon a state winning team being unable to attend, the chapter will notify the State FFA Office of unavailability by August 1. The state association will contact the applicable Runner Up or subsequent teams in the event that the Runner Up is unable to attend.

By the second Friday of August, the State Office must finalize which chapter will take a competing team in the event that a Runner Up chapter is unable to attend.

OFFICIAL DRESS

Unless otherwise stated for a specific contest, all FFA members are expected to observe official dress requirements while competing in Michigan FFA Leadership or Career Development Events.

Official Dress for an FFA member includes:

- An official FFA jacket zipped to the top
- Black slacks and black socks/nylons or black skirt and black nylons
 - *Skirt should be a minimum of knee length*
 - *Slacks should be full length*
- White collared blouse or white collared shirt
- Official FFA tie or official FFA scarf
- Black dress shoes with closed heel and toe

Note: Medical or cultural adjustments to required official dress may be made with prior approval of contest/event chair. Also, appropriate personal protective equipment may be used with Official Dress. Junior high FFA members are allowed to wear FFA jackets, but it is optional. Participants in junior high contests should not be judged differently for wearing or not wearing a jacket.

If a deduction for non-official dress is warranted it will be determined by the contest chair and provided to the judges. This deduction should be the same on each judge's scorecard and handled in a manner similar to deductions for time.

DISPUTES

A committee made up of the six members of the FFA Board of Directors representing each of the six FFA regions plus the MAAE and MHTA presidents will serve as the Dispute Committee for the Michigan FFA Career Development Events. This committee has the power to disqualify a team or individual by 2/3 majority vote of the Contest Committee.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Any inappropriate communication, verbal or non-verbal, between participants or with non-participating spectators, advisors, parents, coaches, etc., during a leadership or career development event, including communications to members in a holding room and/or prep room, will be sufficient cause for penalty. This penalty can consist of point deductions up to the disqualification of the member and entire team of a team event. This includes, but is not limited to communication via cell phones, smart watches, etc. The only exceptions to this would be:

- a. Communications between team members during the team activity portions of a given leadership or career development event,
- b. The use of pre-approved contest devices required to complete the contest, or
- c. Those devices required for student accommodations, including, but not limited to hearing aids, etc.

If the contest chairperson observes an infraction of this rule, they are required to immediately stop the timekeeper, stop the contest, and remove the person(s) who initiated a blatant rules violation. Any point deduction or disqualification will be determined by the Dispute Committee upon the completion of the last team/individual being judged in that contest.

Teams arriving after the career development event has begun may be disqualified or penalized at discretion of the contest chair. No member substitutions may be made after the career development event has begun.

Any assistance given to a team member from any source other than the career development event officials or assistants will be sufficient cause for penalty. This penalty can consist of point deductions up to the disqualification of the team from the career development event.

It is permissible for students to use a food product as a **prop** in a presentation, but is not appropriate to distribute the food to the judges or audience for consumption.

Contest Chairs may stop any participant if they deem their manner to be hazardous either to themselves or others. Such stoppage shall deem the individuals disqualified for that section of the career development event or for the entire event.

REQUEST FOR ACCOMMODATION

The Michigan FFA Association is committed to providing equal access to our events and activities for all people. We will consider accommodation requests on a case-by-case basis in consultation with contest chairs while adhering to the integrity and standards of Michigan FFA event rules and policies.

To request accommodations for State Career Development Events, chapter advisors must complete the State FFA Event Accommodation Request Form **by the Ag Skills Registration deadline listed on the [association calendar](#)**.

We cannot guarantee accommodations or assistance if a form is received after the deadline. If the accommodation is requesting event materials to be provided in a language other than English, requests must be received at least 30 days prior to event.

Once the request has been received, Michigan FFA Staff, along with contest chairs, will review the requested accommodation as quickly as possible. Each request will be considered on a case-by-case basis considering the following:

- Whether the requested accommodation(s) is reasonable
- Whether the requested accommodation(s) is necessary
- Whether the requested accommodation(s) would fundamentally

alter the nature of the competition, either because it would alter an essential aspect of the contest or give the student an unfair advantage over others and, for that reason, fundamentally alter the character of the competition

A response from Michigan FFA Staff will be provided as quickly as possible to the chapter advisor describing the accommodation(s) the association is prepared to meet.

If a student cannot participate in a portion of a contest due to religious or cultural beliefs, the following procedures should be followed:

- Follow the same notification process outlined above.
- No points should be deducted if this procedure is followed.
- The member may not opt out of an entire section of a contest (example: milk flavor test) and still be considered as the state winner.

JUDGES

Where judges are to be selected, a guide will be submitted to the contest chairperson.

CONTEST ROOM PROCEDURES

Individuals causing a disturbance during career development event performances may be asked to leave the contest room by the contest chair who is supervising the contest.

Schools may only record their chapter's performance(s). No flash photography is allowed in the contest room. All technology must be silenced while in the contest room. Contest chairs should remind spectators of this rule.

CONTEST MATERIALS

All award applications, score sheets, and related materials become the property of the Michigan FFA Association and will be returned at the Michigan FFA State Advisor's and/or State Executive Secretary's discretion.