

GENERAL RULES GOVERNING MICHIGAN FFA LEADERSHIP CONTESTS

Eligibility

1. 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/agriscience course during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study for a supervised agriculture experience program. Students must be rostered with the state association by February 1st, or prior to participation in district contests if contests occur before February 1st to be eligible to compete.
2. Each contest will be limited to two teams representing each chapter in the district contest. If a chapter has over 75 high school members as of February 1st, or prior to district contests if contests occur before February 1st, they will be allowed to bring three high school contestants to the district competition. If a chapter has over 75 junior high members as of February 1st, or prior to district contests if contests occur before February 1st, they will be allowed to bring three junior high contestants to district competition. A maximum of two teams will be selected to compete at the regional level. Each region will select two teams to represent their region at the state contest.
3. Team events may list alternates. A team may have multiple alternates but they cannot be on another team. The roster completed and forwarded to the Michigan State FFA Office must include the team members' and alternates names.
4. Individuals on state winning teams and national participating teams are not eligible for further competition in the same contest.
5. Substitution of members is not permissible, except to keep the team eligible. For example, if you have a seven-member parliamentary procedure team and one member cannot compete, a team MAY NOT add another member. But, if a five-member parliamentary procedure team loses a member, they now are ineligible because they do not meet the minimum number required. In this case, the team may substitute any member to maintain the team eligibility requirement. In contests represented by an individual (i.e., public speaking), no substitution can be made.
6. Chapters having an agriculture issue or a demonstration team or a public speaker winning a "Gold" award in a regional/state contest during the past four years must change the title and content to be eligible the following year.

Award Information

1. Teams and/or contestants will be awarded Gold or Silver ratings at the district and regional levels. Participants at the state level may be awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze ratings. The participants that do not make it past the preliminaries will be awarded a Silver or Bronze. Participants competing in state finals will receive a Gold or Silver.
2. Awards are made in the form of certificates, trophies, plaques, or educational tours.
3. 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 Association of FFA.

4. Announcement of Awards at state level: Announce the state winner and runner-up, as well as, all gold and silver awards are to be announced in descending ranked order. There should be no order given to those earning bronze awards.
5. All results are final once announced on stage.
6. All results will be posted on the Michigan FFA Web Site.

Miscellaneous

1. Where judges are to be selected, a guide will be submitted to the contest chairperson.
2. State leadership contest chairs may not train teams period.
3. General contest chairs (Host school advisor) for district and regional contests should try to avoid being an individual contest chair.
4. Holding rooms are to be supervised at all times.
4. All award applications, score sheets and related materials become the property of the Michigan Association of FFA and will be returned at the Michigan FFA State Advisor and/or State Executive Secretary's discretion.
5. 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 State FFA Leadership contests held during the State FFA Convention. This committee does have the power to disqualify teams or individuals. This penalty can range from taking point deductions all the way up to the ability to disqualify a team or individual. This decision will need to be agreed upon by a 2/3 majority vote of the Dispute Committee. The dispute committee for district and regional contests should be formed prior to the contests. District dispute committees should consist of three advisors from different chapters. Regional dispute committees should consist of three advisors from different districts.
6. Michigan FFA Official Dress
Unless otherwise stated for a specific contest, all FFA members are expected to conform to the following requirements for official dress while competing in the Michigan FFA:

Female Members: (junior high or high school)

- Black skirt or dress slacks
- White-collared blouse
- Official FFA blue scarf
- Black dress shoes with a closed heel and toe
- Black nylon hosiery or socks
- Official FFA jacket zipped to the top and worn in the manner prescribed by the National FFA Constitution.

(The skirt is to be at least knee length, hemmed evenly across the bottom, with a slit no longer than two inches above the knee, excluding the kick pleat.)

Male Members: (junior high or high school)

- Black dress slacks
- White-collared shirt
- Official FFA tie
- Black dress shoes
- Black socks
- Official FFA jacket zipped to the top and worn in the manner prescribed by the National FFA Constitution.

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.

7. Judges packets for contests with a prewritten topic should contain: Rules for Contest, rules describing the contest, and the specific abilities that will be performed in that contest. **NO ITEMS OF BUSINESS** should be sent in advance, these will be given to the judges on the day of the contest.
8. Schools may only video tape their chapter's performance(s). No flash photography, cell phones, or beepers allowed in the contest room. Contest chairs should remind spectators of this rule.
9. Judges will seat themselves apart from one another in different sections of the contest room. Each team shall be judged on the basis of the rating sheet provided. Teams shall be ranked in numerical order by each judge on the basis of the final score, without consultation among judges. The judges' ranking of each team shall then be added and the winner will be that team whose total of the ranking is the lowest. Other placings shall be determined in the same manner. (Low point ranking score method of selection.) In case of a tie, that team which has the highest grand total score shall have a higher rating.
10. During the district and regional leadership contests the individual contest chair and general contest chair will review and certify results, utilizing a calculator, prior to announcement of the results. Once the announcement of results is made no further changes may be made.
11. 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, PDA's etc. The only exceptions to this would be:
 - a. Communications between team members during the team activity portions of a given career development event,
 - b. The use of pre-approved contest devices required to complete the contest, or
 - c. Those devices required to accommodate any special needs individuals, 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.

12. 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 begins.
13. 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.
 - a.) Agricultural Issues can have a maximum of eight people, including team members, involved in set up.
 - b.) Demonstration can have a maximum of six people, including team members, involved in set up.
 - c.) Adults may assist as part of the allowable number of people but all team members must do the majority of the set-up and tear-down.
14. 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.
15. During the Agriculture Issues and Demonstration contests, one additional non-speaking team member may assist the team by running technology but, may not speak during the contest or answer any questions. These members must be in official dress.
16. Inclement weather policy – In the event that school is cancelled in one of the schools bringing contestants to the district or regional leadership contests, the contest will be postponed. The contest date must be re-scheduled for the next available date which is within one week of the original contest date.
17. Individuals causing a disturbance during leadership or skills contest performances may be asked to leave the contest room by the contest chair who is supervising the contest.
18. 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.
19. Prior to announcing the results, the individual contest chair and general contest chair (host advisor) are to use a calculator to re-add the judges scores and rankings to certify that the results that will be announced are correct.
20. At the discretion of the contest chair, students who have already competed in team contests can send no more than one student from their team back into the contest room to watch teams remaining to compete.
21. Teams/individuals have the right to view the contest room set-up prior the start of the contest.

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

Revised March 22, 2018