

TSA GENERAL COMPETITIVE EVENT RULES

LEVELS OF COMPETITION

A. The following breakdown of grades is used to designate categories for curricular event entries. Each level has its own unique competitive events guide.

Middle School/Junior High School-Grades 6, 7, 8, 9

HighSchool-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 9-12, the student must compete in high school events. If the ninth grade is housed at a 6-9 or 7-9 school, ninth grade students must compete in middle school events.

B. If the school has a K-12 or configuration other than the examples above, contact the CRC chairperson or national TSA for clarification and approval regarding the appropriate school designation.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

- A. It is the intent of TSA, Inc. and Washington TSA 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 year of graduation. It is permissible for students who graduate midyear to compete at the national conference that immediately follows the end-of year graduation.
- D. Students must be registered and be in attendance at all times at the State TSA 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 MS Global Manufacturing and MS Techno Talk, team members must be affiliated with the same chapter. At the Washington TSA State Conference, to enter a team event the chapter must designate that they are participating in that event and who the team members will be.
At the National TSA Conference, to enter a team event, the chapter designates only that it is participating; names of the individual team members are not necessary.

Unless otherwise designated in a competition's eligibility guideline, the maximum size of a team is six (6) members.

- H. Entries (projects and/or products) may be submitted for one (1) year, and one (1) competition only. Unless otherwise noted, entries should be identified with student or team ID# only, as applicable.
- I. Entries must be started and completed during the current school year. All entries must be in English. Unless otherwise specified, no identifying information-other than an ID# should be included on an entry.
- J. Participants must provide and bring to the test site-two (2) pencils (sharpened standard #2/HB grade with an eraser, or #2 mechanical with an eraser) for any competition that involves a written test.
- K. 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.
- L. Unless otherwise noted, for all events that require a display, the size of the display may not exceed 15" deep x 3' wide and 4' high.
- M. For all applicable competitive events, written work-including citations or references-must follow MLA (Modern Language Association) style.
- N. 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 the most current edition of MLA (Modern Language Association). If copyrighted material is used, proper written permission must be included. Failure to follow this procedure results in disqualification. Advisors: Please see the Student Copyright Checklist at the end of this section of your guide. For any applicable competition, your student participant in the competition must complete –and you must verify – the information on the checklist. The checklist MUST be submitted with the competition entry.
- O. All competitive events with a semifinalist component will have a minimum of twelve (12) semifinalists. Semifinalists (individuals or teams, as applicable) will compete against one another to determine the top ten (10) finalists in an event. Washington TSA Reserves the right to limit the number of semifinalists to less than twelve. Washington TSA only recognizes the top five (5) finalists in an event.
- P. Students must check in and pick up their event entries at the time and place stated in the conference program or announced at the national or state TSA conference.
- Q. TSA and WTSA are not responsible or liable for any personal property, equipment, or materials brought to a national or state TSA conference for use by a participant or attendee.
- R. In case of a scheduling conflict that prevents a member from participating in an event, the participant has the right to decide which event is eliminated.
- S. In the case of a documented emergency in team events that involve written and semifinalist segments, team member substitution will be allowed if approved by the event manager and coordinator.
- T. All events are judged in accordance with the stated criteria for each event as shown in this competitive events guide. Completed official rating forms are the property of TSA, and the information they contain is confidential and may not be disclosed. Concern about any event

during the national or state 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 or state conference are final. (For more information, refer to Rules Interpretation Panel.)

- U. Hazardous materials, chemicals, lighted or open flames, combustibles, wet cell batteries, and other similar substances are not allowed at the national or state TSA conference.
- V. Recording devices are not allowed in certain competitive events. CRC manager and event coordinator approval is required before any event may be recorded.
- W. Other than for participants in Techno Talk, 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, MP3 Players, IPODS, other electronic devices, etc. must be turned off.
- X. Everyone who wishes to attend the conference must complete conference registration. All adult advisors, chaperones, and student participants must be in attendance for the duration of the conference.
- Y. Because of the possibility of the controversial nature of topics from which students may select, national and state TSA bear 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.
- Z. 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.
- AA. TSA and/or WTSA may choose to keep national or state TSA conference student entries. Such entries become the property of TSA and ultimately may be used by TSA for promotional purposes. Should that occur, credit for any such entry would be noted by TSA.