

Washington FFA CDE/LDE Event Rules and Guidelines

2021 Update (Board approved 7/7/2021)

These rules will guide all state events and may supersede NFFA Event Handbooks.

Individuals should refer to Washington FFA Career/Leadership Development Event Guidelines for state-only events/competitions. Use the National FFA CDE/LDE Handbook for all National FFA CDEs/LDEs and note any state-specific adjustments that are included. The most current version of each handbook for all CDEs/LDEs offered by Washington FFA can be found on the Washington FFA Association website.

Article I. ELIGIBILITY

1. All participants in FFA events must be bona fide FFA members in good standing. See Washington FFA Constitution & Bylaws details:

Article IV, Section B: "Active Membership": To be eligible for active membership in a chartered FFA chapter, a student must be enrolled in a secondary agricultural education program. Washington FFA Association considers "secondary education programs" to be grades 7-12.

To become an active member and retain membership, a student must:

1. While in school, be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study; either course must include a supervised agricultural experience program, the objective of which is preparation for an agricultural career.
 2. Show an interest in, and take part in, the affairs of the chapter by attending meetings, striving for degrees of membership and participating in other organized activities of the chapter.
 3. Pay all current state and national dues by the date determined by the chapter.
 4. Display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization.
2. Chapters must be in good standing by November 1 (roster & POA)/December 1 (dues and activity fee) to participate in FFA related activities. See Washington FFA Constitution & Bylaws details:

Article 3, Section D: A local chapter shall be in good standing with the Washington FFA Association when the following general conditions have been met:

 1. All reports have been submitted as required by the state association. This includes, but is not limited to the Program of Activities being sent electronically to the state advisor by November 1 on an annual basis, and the End of Year Report due annually in the spring. The membership roster is required to be submitted to state staff by November 1 annually. Spring supplemental rosters must be submitted by March 1.
 2. All current state and national dues, as well as the annual Events and Activities fee of \$100.00 have been paid by December 1 of each year. State and national dues of new members from the spring supplemental roster have been paid by April 1 of each year. Chapters that fail to meet the deadlines for submission of membership rosters and payment of state and national dues and the Events and Activities fee may incur a \$100 late fee for each infraction, not to exceed \$200 per school year.
 3. No provisions of chapter constitution conflict with the state and national FFA constitutions, articles of incorporation of bylaws.
 4. Activities are in harmony with the ideals and purposes of the national and state organizations.
 3. The teacher of agricultural education (advisor) must certify that contestants are eligible. If an ineligible student is entered in any State Event, the team of which that student is a member shall be declared ineligible.

4. The posted end date of registration be the final date to submit and register eligible FFA members for state events. If a chapter wishes to substitute a member on a state team after the registration deadline, roster documentation needs to be brought with the member's name and their FFA ID number and presented to the coordinator. It will be the event coordinator's decision whether to allow the substitution, however no late additions/teams will be allowed.
5. The number of members on each CDE/LDE team will be determined annually by the State FFA Advisor and Executive Director and announced by September 1st and is subject to change each year based on recommendations from the state or national level.
6. For all non-district qualifier events the number of teams eligible to participate in the State Event finals will be determined by the rules governing each CDE/LDE. In State Events with fewer than 16 chapters participating (*as determined by an average of the number of teams from the past three years of full in-person events*) a school can have up to two teams compete in the State Event.
7. In the event a student is eligible for membership in two or more chapters, the student can be a member of one chapter only and compete for that chapter during the school/membership year.
8. Smoking, chewing, consuming alcohol, or using other illegal substances will be strictly prohibited during any FFA State Events. Penalty for such action will be disqualification of the individual and/or team if it is determined that a violation has occurred.
9. Individual FFA members whose scores make up the winning FFA State CDE/LDE Team or Individual Event are not eligible to compete again in that specific State CDE/LDE, if they go on to compete at the national level. After competing at the state level in Apple Evaluation, Tractor Driving, and Potato Evaluation CDE's, FFA members from the state winning team may compete in the state contest in the following year(s) as an individual, but their scores may not contribute toward their team scores. *For eligibility in First-Year Member LDE, see Article VII.*
10. All chapters that register a team for a State FFA Convention are required to register the minimum number of contestants eligible to make a team. Any amount less than the minimum will not be eligible to compete. *Example: If an event is a 4/5 member team to compete, then 4 eligible FFA members must be registered for the state contest to compete as a chapter.*

Article II. CONTEST COORDINATION

1. In any state level event, there will be a highly qualified contest coordinator selected by the State FFA Advisor. The contest coordinator shall run the event according to the rules adopted by the Washington FFA Board of Directors, but in the event of rule discrepancies the final decision will fall to the State Supervisor of Agriculture Education (State FFA Advisor). CDE/LDE coordinators should contact any State Staff, in the order of the State Advisor, Programs Manager, and the Executive Director, for issues relating to any State CDE/LDE Event. The time and place for holding state events shall be determined by state FFA staff.

2. Each contest coordinator shall communicate with the 2-3 key instructors selected by the State FFA Advisor and state staff for each CDE/LDE to understand the event rules, expectations and execution of the State Event, and will communicate event information to all teachers across the state 30 days prior to the state competition using the Washington FFA website.
3. Official Dress for FFA members at State Events shall be as listed in the Official FFA Manual and National FFA CDE/LDE Handbooks. Official Dress is highly recommended but not required and point penalties cannot be imposed on students who do not wear Official Dress unless otherwise noted (*eg. Creed*).
4. The advisor of a team or individual participating in any State FFA Event shall not communicate with the individual or any member of his or her team for any purpose while the event is underway. Penalty for such action will be disqualification of the team if it is determined that a violation has occurred.
5. During a team event: any contestant or alternate who communicates with any other FFA member during the actual State Event outside of times designated for team activities should be reported to the contest coordinator and penalty for such action will be disqualification if it is determined that a violation has occurred.
6. During an individual event: any contestant who communicates with any other FFA member during the actual State Event should be reported to the contest coordinator (*contestant conversations in the holding room are allowed*) and penalty for such action will be disqualification if it is determined that a violation has occurred.
7. No contestants or advisors will be allowed in the event area any time prior to the event unless designated a specific responsibility by the contest coordinator.
8. No smart technology (*ie. smartphone, smartwatch, Fitbit, airpods, etc.*) will be allowed on or in the possession of a contestant unless it is a medical device, in which case the student and advisor must notify the contest coordinator about the medical device prior to the start of the event. Any contestant in violation will be disqualified immediately.
9. Any violation of a rule should be reported immediately to the contest coordinator. Then, if needed, to the overall contest coordinator, State FFA Advisor and/or the State Executive Director.
10. Disqualification of a team and/or individual will only be determined by the State FFA Advisor.
11. [APPEAL CLAUSE] All concerns regarding a State FFA CDE/LDE can be submitted using the following Appeal Process:
 - a. Appeals must be sent to State FFA Advisor, Contest Coordinator, and/or FFA Executive Director within 48 hours with explanation and any necessary documentation to provide evidence.
 - b. Acknowledgement of the appeal must be communicated with all teams competing or published on the WAAE list serve.
 - c. Communication with the affected team FFA advisors/coaches within 24 hours of receipt of the appeal.
 - d. Appeals should not be filed in the event of improper score tabulation (*including copying scores wrong, adding sheet totals, etc.*)

- e. Appeals could include:
- Membership
 - Inequitable scoring (*scores not multiplied by factor or converted to a percent where appropriate; spreadsheet issues*)
 - Point discrepancy from CDE/LDE rules
 - Other issues that could not reasonably be found/identified in the 1-hr review period
- f. Resolution of the appeal must be communicated with FFA advisors/coaches within 1 week of the CDE/LDE concluding.

12. The previous three years of national tests available, excluding 2020, as determined by October 1st of the school year will be used for those contests that utilize these as test resources.

Article III: JUDGES/JUDGING

1. All judges shall sit apart and score and rank contestants separately.
2. There shall be **NO** conference between judges with regard to score sheets unless they are seeking clarification on an aspect of an individuals'/teams' presentation. There will also be **NO** conference between judges prior to turning in ranking sheets to the contest coordinator.
3. If there are five or more judges and five or more contestants in the State Event, the contest coordinator shall throw out the high and low rank numbers for each contestant or team and add the remaining rank numbers. Low total wins. (*Example: contestant number one is ranked 1,2,2,4,4, and 5 by six judges – eliminate rank numbers 1 and 5, and the total of remainder is 12.*)
4. Judge all contestants as if this is the first time you have seen or heard a contestant or team.
5. When asking questions – do not editorialize.
6. At the local, sub-district, and district events the judges will be agriculture education teachers and/or others deemed qualified by advisors or contest coordinators.
7. Judges for State Event sub-state flights can be advisors of the teams/contestants participating. Advisors of teams/contestants will judge opposite flights than their members compete in. The advisor who did the training must act as the judge, or provide a qualified replacement, or his/her team/contestant is disqualified unless the advisor is excused by the contest coordinator.
8. Judges for State Events would ideally include qualified individuals for a specific CDE/LDE. Advisors may be asked by the contest coordinator to judge finals and should be prepared to do so or serve in a capacity designated by the contest coordinator.

Article IV: SCORING/PLACING

1. Each judge shall prepare a separate score sheet for each team or contestant and turn score sheets in to the contest coordinator along with ranking sheets at the conclusion of the event. The contest coordinator should then allow 1-hour for advisors to review score sheets and notify contest coordinator of any discrepancies prior to announcing the final results.

2. For breaking ties in state-only CDEs/LDEs, the first method is to count the number of first place votes the contestant received. If still tied, go to second place, then third place votes and so on. (*When high and low scores are removed from the initial tally, those scores remain out while determining the numbers of first to second to third place votes.*) For breaking ties in national CDEs/LDEs, follow national rules.
3. *[SCORE REVIEW CLAUSE]* The process for reviewing State Event scorecards will follow the following steps:
 - a. FFA advisors will have 1-hour to review their own scorecards to check for scoring errors only.
 - b. All scorecards can be reviewed no more than 1-hour after scoring has been completed. Any FFA chapter that has a team in an event where scorecards are being reviewed has the right to have one representative involved in the group review. If a chapter is not able to provide a representative during the CDE/LDE group review, their scorecards will still be double-checked for accuracy by other members of the review team. All errors will be reported during the group review time to the contest coordinator and a final score will be issued to each individual and team that participated.
 - c. Final placement will be determined after the group review where each chapter had the opportunity to review the scores. Final placement of all individuals and teams for CDEs/LDEs will be provided by the contest coordinator to the FFA State Advisor and/or FFA State Executive Director. Once the placings are reviewed by the State Advisor and/or State Executive Director they may then be announced. Placings that are not reviewed by state staff prior to announcement are not considered final and final winners, including representation to Nationals, could be changed by state staff.
 - d. The following CDE's/LDE's are not up for review by advisors because they are based on a ranked scoring method:
 - Agricultural Issues
 - Agricultural Education
 - Conduct of Chapter Meetings
 - Creed Speaking
 - Extemporaneous Speaking
 - First Year Member
 - Hall of Chapters
 - Marketing Plan
 - Parliamentary Procedure
 - Prepared Speaking
 - Quiz Bowl
 - Scrapbook
4. Contestants filling out placing cards with irregularities that are indecipherable, or are incorrectly marked, will be given the lowest possible score.
5. When oral reasons are given as part of a State Event, and advisors are used to score the reasons, a minimum of two people will score each oral reason set. These two individuals must not be representatives of the same chapter.
6. Teams arriving after event judging commences will not be scored for official placing. The contest coordinator will make the final decision in case of unforeseen circumstances.

7. No FFA advisor will be permitted to try to influence an official judge's placing, alter the official judge's placing, or attempt to get an official judge to change his/her placing in any event. Any violation of this rule shall result in disqualification of said advisor's team.

Article V: AWARDS/ADVANCEMENT

1. CDE/LDE award pins will be provided by the state for the top ten places for individuals and plaques for the top eight places for teams at State Events.
2. In an event where members on a CDE/LDE team start a competition and one or more members of the team are unable to continue due to sickness or accident, the remaining member(s) is (are) still able to continue and compete for individual awards.
3. The top team or individual in a State Event will be considered the state entry, with the final individuals selected by the chapter advisor, advanced to represent our state at the national competition.
4. The members of any state team shall be from the same school. Team members shall be selected at a State Event held since the last national event and they shall qualify in the kind of event in which they are to participate on the national level.
5. The advisor of the chapter placing highest in the State Event shall be selected as advisor of that state team. In the event that the advisor moves to another chapter, the advisor for that state team can be determined by the school district.
6. For national judging contests not sanctioned by National FFA, the highest-ranking team from Washington following the state contest will select for national events in the order of their placing at the state contest. Selection of National FFA competition negates participation in other national events. The state winning team in events with alternate national options be allowed to pick from all contests to compete in first and then the choice options will go down the line based on state team placings until all contests are filled. The state Association will sign in support but not provide financial or logistical support for non-NFFA sanctioned events. Teams must opt in or out of NFFA by June 1 and other national events by October 1.

Article VI: SEEDING/LOTTERY

1. The number of contestants that advance from sub-district to district level competition is determined by the number of members that each district is eligible to advance to the state level. District qualifiers, including possible lottery options, must be submitted to the State Advisor and State Executive Director by April 1 or the district relinquishes their spots for general lottery fill.
2. Each district will receive 4 individuals/teams for state qualifying events and any remaining spots will be filled by lottery.
3. Lottery participants (*chapter individuals or teams*). To be eligible for the lottery participants must have competed in the same CDE/LDE at the District level. Lottery draws are conducted by state staff after April 1.
4. Sub-State Events will consist of **36 spots with 4 flights of 9 for state qualifying events.**
The Board of Directors also recognizes that this discussion will likely be an annual issue.

5. The following CDEs/LDEs will be seeded according the following:

Use Serpentine Model for Seeding

- Agricultural Sales
- Creed Speaking
- Employment Skills
- Extemporaneous Speaking

Use Scoring Serpentine Model for Seeding

- Agricultural Issues (proposal)
- Conduct of Chapter (combined test scores)
- Marketing Plan (marketing plan score)
- Parliamentary Procedure (combined test score)

6. The seeds will be filled using the Patrick Model and a lottery draw will be used to fill any remaining spots not filled by district qualifiers. The lottery will be conducted by state staff and results will be emailed to all local chapters by April 15. The top two from each flight will advance to the State Event finals.

Patrick Model for State CDE/LDE Draw – Example:

Flight 1	Flight 2	Flight 3	Flight 4
D1-1	D2-1	D3-1	D4-1
D8-1	D7-1	D6-1	D5-1
D9-1	D1-2	D2-2	D3-2
D4-2	D5-2	D6-2	D7-2
D8-2	D9-2	D1-3	D2-3
D3-3	D4-3	D5-3	D6-3
D7-3	D8-3	D9-3	D2-4
D3-4	D4-4	D7-4	D9-4
D2-5	D3-5	D4-5	Lottery

Explanation of State CDE/LDE Draw using the Patrick Model

1. Draw all 1st place individuals/teams for each district and place in flights. Using a snake like pattern only for the 1st place individuals/teams.
 2. Moving 1 place to the right place all 2nd place individuals/teams for each district in flights.
 3. Moving 1 place to the right place all 3rd place individuals/teams for each district in flights.
 4. Moving 1 place to the right place all 4th place individuals/teams for each district in flights. (may not be exact based on total # of qualifiers for each district)
 5. Moving 1 place to the right place all 5th place individuals/teams for each district in flights. (may not be exact based on total # of qualifiers for each district)
- ***Steps 4 and 5 may not pertain to each district if they only have 3 that can qualify based on number of FFA members.

6. Fill remaining spots with lottery slots to be drawn by State Advisor.

*****Important that all districts submit alternates after district leadership qualifying events*****

7. Once all 1st-4th place and lottery spots are slotted, the order that each individual/team will compete in will be drawn.

Article VII: MIDDLE SCHOOL

1. 7th, 8th, 9th grade FFA members and first-year FFA members are allowed to compete one time only at all levels in the Creed LDE.
2. 7th, 8th, 9th grade FFA members and first-year FFA members are allowed to compete one time only in First-Year Member LDE during their entire membership in FFA. Participation is limited to first-year agricultural education students only (*this is defined as the first time they have enrolled in an agricultural education class*).
3. 7th and 8th grade FFA members are eligible to participate in the First-Year Member CDE without jeopardizing their ability to participate in the Conduct of Chapter Meetings and/or Creed LDEs in the future.
4. 7th, 8th and 9th grade FFA members are eligible to participate in the Conduct of Chapter Meetings LDE more than once, unless they are members of the state winning team.
5. FFA members in 10th grade are **not** eligible to compete in the State Conduct of Chapter Meetings LDE or at the national level in Creed.

Article VIII: STATE FFA REVIEW PROCESS

1. All CDEs/LDEs will be reviewed by WAAE members to make recommendations on a three-year rotation to ensure accuracy of each CDE/LDE. This will be done on an annual basis at the WAAE Summer Conference and all approved recommendations will be submitted for consideration by the FFA Board of Directors. Any changes approved by the FFA Board of Directors must then be published in the CDE/LDE handbooks and made available on the Washington FFA website.
2. The State FFA Advisor will coordinate or select an individual to assist in coordinating the judging of State Degrees, Proficiencies and National Chapter Applications each year. All documents/scoresheets used to determine qualifications should be distributed to all chapters, published on the Washington FFA website, and updated as needed.
3. District and State Star selection process will be delineated in a scoring rubric published by the State Advisor, distributed to all chapters, published on the Washington FFA website and updated as needed.
4. Members must apply for District and State Star in the same year they apply for their state degree. The member must be approved by the state to receive their state degree in order to receive either star designation.
5. Washington FFA will use the American Star Rubric to select any American Star candidates and the review/selection will occur at the WAAE Spring Exec meeting. Students should be encouraged to wait until their last year of eligibility to apply in order to be more competitive at the national level.

Updates approved by the Board of Directors: 10/2018, 4/22/19, 10/2019, 4/2020, 6/2020, 7/2021