



VIDEO NEWS PRODUCTION



SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards

PURPOSE

To evaluate each competitor's preparation for employment and to recognize outstanding teams for excellence and professionalism in the fields of video news production, news anchoring, directing, technical directing, and floor directing in a multi-camera video studio & video production control room environment.

First, download and review the General Regulations at updates.skillsusa.org.

ELIGIBILITY (TEAM OF FOUR)

Open to a team of four (4) active SkillsUSA members from the same local chapter (school) enrolled in programs offering video production and/or journalism as an occupational objective. Each state may send one high school and one college/postsecondary competitor. A full team must be registered. See General Regulations for more information about substitution and penalty rules.

CLOTHING REQUIREMENT

FOR THE ANCHORPERSON:

Class A: SkillsUSA Official Attire

- Official SkillsUSA red blazer or official SkillsUSA red jacket
- Button-up, collared, white dress shirt (accompanied by a plain, solid black tie or SkillsUSA black tie), white shirt (collarless or small-collared) or white turtleneck, with any collar not to extend into the lapel area of the blazer, sweater, windbreaker or jacket
- Black dress slacks or black dress skirt (knee-length at minimum)
- Black closed-toe dress shoes

Note: The official SkillsUSA windbreaker, sweater and black Carhartt jacket are no longer available for purchase in the SkillsUSA Store. However, these clothing items are grandfathered

in as previous official SkillsUSA clothing and can be worn in SkillsUSA competitions as directed in this document.

FOR OTHER TEAM MEMBERS:

Class E: Competition Specific — Business Casual

- Official SkillsUSA white polo shirt
- Black dress slacks or black dress skirt (knee-length minimum)
- Black closed-toe dress shoes

Note: Wearing socks or hose is not required. If worn, socks must be black dress socks and hose must be either black or skin-tone and seamless/nonpattern.

These regulations refer to SkillsUSA Championships Clothing Classifications that are pictured and described at skillsusastore.org. If you have questions about competition uniforms, call the SkillsUSA Store at 888-501-2183.

Note: Competitors must wear their official competition clothing to the competition orientation.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

1. Supplied by the technical committee:
 - a. News set (physical or virtual):
 - 1). Three cameras with preset shots (one wide shot and one close-up on each anchor). Each camera must be equipped with a teleprompter monitor.
 - 2). News desk
 - 3). Studio lighting (preset)
 - 4). Two lavalier microphones
 - b. Control room:
 - 1). A production switcher with media stores and a character generator/graphics system (Ross Carbonite Switcher and Ross XPression Graphics recommended)
 - 2). Headset communication system (wireless or wired) between control room technical director and studio floor director
 - 3). Computer with teleprompter software and video cabling to reach each teleprompter head. Teleprompter software is recommended to be MOS compliant so it can communicate directly with the Newsroom Computer System (NRCS) software. (CueScript CueIT recommended as it is included/integrated with Ross Inception News Academic version NRCS systems)
 - c. Preparation area:
 - 1). Newsroom Computer System (NRCS) software for rundown and scriptwriting (Ross Inception News Academic version recommended)
 - 2). Laser printer with ink and paper
 - 3). Two tablets (Apple iPads) for anchors
 - 4). Laptop or desktop computers enable internet connectivity to access the NRCS.

2. Supplied by the competitors:
 - a. All competitors must create and submit online a one-page single sided resume. See “Online Submission Requirements” below for guidelines.

Note: All national competitors must also check for competition-specific updates and/or competitor preparation instructions on the SkillsUSA website at updates.skillsusa.org.

PROHIBITED DEVICES

Cellphones, electronic watches and/or other electronic devices not approved by a competition’s national technical committee are **NOT** allowed in the competition area. Please follow the guidelines in each technical standard for approved exceptions. Technical committee members may also approve exceptions onsite during the SkillsUSA Championships if deemed appropriate.

Penalties for Prohibited Devices

If a competitor’s electronic device makes noise or if the competitor is seen using it at any time during the competition, an official report will be documented for review by the Director of the SkillsUSA Championships. If confirmed that the competitor used the device in a manner which compromised the integrity of the competition, the competitor’s scores may be removed.

ONLINE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All SkillsUSA national competitors must submit their one-page single sided resume online. The deadline and link for online submissions will be published on updates.skillsusa.org. Failure to submit any of the required document(s) listed below by the established deadline will result in a 10-point penalty.

1. One-page single sided resume

Your submission must be saved as PDF file type using the file name format of “Your Last Name_Your First Name_Resume.” For example, “Amanda Smith” would save the individual PDF submissions file as:

- Smith_Amanda_Resume

OBSERVER RULE

The technical committee reserves the right to allow or prohibit observers into competition area(s). If allowed, no observer may enter or exit the competition area while a competitor is presenting. Observers are not allowed to talk to or make gestures to competitors. No videotaping or photography is allowed during the competition. All phones and electronic devices must be silenced and put away. The competition staff reserves the right to request any observer to leave if they are perceived as a distraction.

SCOPE OF THE COMPETITION

KNOWLEDGE PERFORMANCE

The competition includes a knowledge test assessing the following: news terminology, direction terminology, technical direction terminology, floor direction terminology, news ethics, newsroom personnel, scripting, and on-air etiquette. Competitors are also required to take the SkillsUSA Professional Development Test.

SKILL PERFORMANCE

The competition assesses skills through the development, design and delivery of a newscast production in a simulated environment.

COMPETITION GUIDELINES

1. Each team shall include four (4) competitors. Two (2) competitors will serve as the news anchors, one (1) competitor will serve as the team's director/technical director in the control room, and one (1) competitor will serve as the studio floor director.
2. Each team will write, produce, and complete a three-minute newscast as if it were live.
3. All competitors must attend the competition orientation.
4. The assignment will consist of the following:
 - a. Each team will receive an identical set of newswire stories (printed or electronic) and an identical set of corresponding muted B-roll video files for use with voice overs. Competitors will work as a team during their assigned competition preparation time to develop their own newscast rundown and production script based on available newswire story facts and context. Each team will return any newswire materials received and any printed rundowns/scripts.
 - b. Competitors will review wire service content and videos, then as a team determine the content for the newscast, which must include a balance of international news, national news, regional/local news and sports news stories.
5. Competitors will demonstrate their ability to perform jobs or skills as listed in the standards and competencies section and on the competition score sheet.
6. An appropriate number of rundowns and scripts must be printed during preparation time, including at least one clean copy for the judge(s). The number required will be determined at competition orientation.
7. Immediately following each team's assigned prep time, each team will be allocated a 20-minute session in the control room/studio competition space for practice run throughs to declare their readiness to record and complete the recording of their one take (as live) three-minute newscast.

STANDARDS AND COMPETENCIES

TVN 1.0 — Organize news scripts per standards as set forth by the technical committee

- 1.1. Review preselected pools of newswire stories (printed or electronic) available for the newscast

- 1.2. Ask appropriate questions when in need of clarification
- 1.3. Author clear and concise rundown and scripts for newscast production based on newswire stories selected from available pool
- 1.4. Proofread scripts for clarity and understanding

TVN 2.0 — Deliver news scripts per standards as set forth by the technical committee

- 2.1. Maintain a good balance of international, national, local and sports news coverage
- 2.2. Present a well-developed newscast
- 2.3. Prepare self appropriately for camera
 - 2.3.1. Maintain and present a professional image
 - 2.3.2. Select appropriate colors and style in clothing
- 2.4. Use of proper diction, pronunciation and inflection

TVN 3.0 — Demonstrate knowledge of the following vocabulary terms

- 3.1. Voice over (VO)
- 3.2. Sound on tape (SOT)
- 3.3. Voice over/sound on tape (VOSOT)
- 3.4. Natural sound (Nat Sound)
- 3.5. Package (PKG)
- 3.6. Reader (RDR)
- 3.7. Lower third graphics
- 3.8. Take
- 3.9. Safe area
- 3.10. Lead in
- 3.11. Out cue
- 3.12. Sound bite
- 3.13. Insert

TVN 4.0 — Demonstrate knowledge of floor director hand signals:

- 4.1. Two minutes
- 4.2. One-minute
- 4.3. Thirty seconds
- 4.4. Fifteen seconds
- 4.5. Ten-second countdown
- 4.6. Cut
- 4.7. Stretch
- 4.8. Speedup
- 4.9. Cue talent
- 4.10. Wrap
- 4.11. Break

TVN 5.0 — Demonstrate knowledge of director cues:

- 5.1. Standby
- 5.2. Cue

- 5.3. Take camera
- 5.4. Out cues
- 5.5. Audio cues
- 5.6. Camera direction
 - 5.6.1. Pan
 - 5.6.2. Tilt
 - 5.6.3. Zoom
 - 5.6.4. Focus
 - 5.6.5. Dolly
 - 5.6.6. Truck

TVN 6.0 — Demonstrate knowledge of technical director actions:

- 6.1. Cut
- 6.2. Countdown
- 6.3. Dissolve
- 6.4. Fade to black
- 6.5. Crossfade
- 6.6. Insert graphics
- 6.7. Slate

TVN 7.0 — SkillsUSA Framework

The SkillsUSA Framework is used to pinpoint the Essential Elements found in Personal Skills, Workplace Skills and Technical Skills Grounded in Academics. Students will be expected to display or explain how they used some of these Essential Elements. For more, visit:

<https://www.skillsusa.org/who-we-are/skillsusa-framework/>.

COMMITTEE IDENTIFIED ACADEMIC SKILLS

The technical committee has identified that the following academic skills are embedded in this competition.

Math Skills

- Numbers and operations
- Problem-solving
- Communication
- Connections
- Representation
- Addition/subtraction of time

Science Skills

- Use knowledge of sound technology applications

Language Arts Skills

- Provide information in conversations and in group discussions.
- Provide information for oral presentations.

- Demonstrate use of such verbal communication skills as word choice, pitch, feeling, tone and voice.
- Demonstrate use of such nonverbal communication skills as eye contact, posture and gestures using interviewing techniques to gain information.
- Analyze mass media messages.
- Organize and synthesize information for use in written and oral presentations.
- Demonstrate knowledge of appropriate reference materials.
- Demonstrate narrative writing.
- Demonstrate informational writing.
- Edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure and paragraphing.

CONNECTIONS TO NATIONAL STANDARDS

State-level academic curriculum specialists identified the following connections to national academic standards.

Science Standards

- Understands the nature of scientific knowledge
- Understands the nature of scientific inquiry

Language Arts Standards

- Students read a wide range of print and nonprint texts to build an understanding of texts, of themselves, and of the cultures of the United States and the world; to acquire new information; to respond to the needs and demands of society and the workplace; and for personal fulfillment. Among these texts are fiction and nonfiction, classic and contemporary works.
- Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate and appreciate texts. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge of word meaning and of other texts, their word identification strategies and their understanding of textual features (e.g., sound-letter correspondence, sentence structure, context, graphics).
- Students adjust their use of spoken, written and visual language (e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.
- Students employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.
- Students apply knowledge of language structure, language conventions (e.g., spelling and punctuation), media techniques, figurative language and genre to create, critique and discuss print and nonprint texts.
- Students conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions and by posing problems. They gather, evaluate and synthesize data from a variety of sources (e.g., print and nonprint texts, artifacts, people) to communicate their discoveries in ways that suit their purpose and audience.

- Students use a variety of technological and information resources (e.g., libraries, databases, computer networks, video) to gather and synthesize information and to create and communicate knowledge.
- Students participate as knowledgeable, reflective, creative and critical members of a variety of literacy communities.
- Students use spoken, written, and visual language to accomplish their own purposes (e.g., for learning, enjoyment, persuasion and the exchange of information).

Source: IRA/NCTE Standards for the English Language Arts. To view the standards, visit: www.ncte.org/standards.