



## VIDEO NEWS PRODUCTION



SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards

### PURPOSE

To evaluate each contestant'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: <http://updates.skillsusa.org>.

### ELIGIBILITY (TEAM OF FOUR)

Open to a team of four active SkillsUSA members enrolled in career and technology education (CTE) programs offering video production and/or journalism curriculum.

### 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 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.

**Note:** Wearing socks or hose is no longer required. If worn, socks must be black dress socks and hose must be either black or skin-tone and seamless/nonpattern.

## **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 no longer 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 clothing items that are pictured and described at:

[www.skillsusastore.org](http://www.skillsusastore.org). If you have questions about clothing or other logo items, call 1-888-501-2183.

*Note:* Contestants must wear their official contest clothing to the contest orientation meeting.

## **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 room:
    - 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 Apple iPads for anchors
    - 4). Laptop or desktop computers enabled with internet connectivity to access the NRCS.
2. Supplied by the contestants:
  - a. All competitors must create a one-page resume. See “Resume Requirement” below for guidelines.

## RESUME REQUIREMENT

Competitors (except for middle school students, who are exempt from this requirement) must create a one-page resume to submit online. SkillsUSA national competitors should submit their resume by June 1. The link for submission will be published on <http://updates.skillsusa.org> on May 1. Failure to submit a resume will result in a 10-point penalty.

**Your resume must be saved as a PDF file type using file name format of “Last Name\_First Name.”** For example, “Amanda Smith” would save her resume as **Smith\_Amanda**. If you need assistance with saving your file as a PDF, visit [the Adobe website](#) for more information.

**Note:** Check the Competition Guidelines and/or the updates page on the SkillsUSA website at <http://updates.skillsusa.org>.

## PROHIBITED DEVICES

Cell phones 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 SkillsUSA Championships director. If confirmed that the competitor used the device in a manner which compromised the integrity of the competition, the competitor’s scores may be canceled.

## SCOPE OF THE CONTEST

### KNOWLEDGE PERFORMANCE

The contest includes a written knowledge exam assessing 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 contest assesses skills through the development, design and delivery of a newscast production in a simulated environment.

## **CONTEST GUIDELINES**

1. Each team shall include four student members. Two students will serve as the news anchors, one student will serve as the team's director/technical director in the control room, and one student 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 teams must attend the contest orientation prior to the competition, or the team will be disqualified.
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. Contestants will work as a team during their assigned contest 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. Contestants 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. Contestants will demonstrate their ability to perform jobs or skills as listed in the standards and competencies section and on the contest 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). Exact number will be determined at contest orientation.
7. Immediately following each team's assigned prep time, each team will be allocated a total 20-minute session in the control room/studio contest space for practice run throughs to declare their readiness to record and complete the recording of their one take (as live) three-minute newscast.
8. Each team will also take a written knowledge test/quiz during contest orientation.

## **STANDARDS AND COMPETENCIES**

### **BNP 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

### **BNP 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

**BNP 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

**BNP 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

**BNP 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

**BNP 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

### **BNP 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. Please reference the graphic above, as you may be scored on specific elements applied to your project. For more, visit:

[www.skillsusa.org/about/skillsusa-framework/](http://www.skillsusa.org/about/skillsusa-framework/).



### **COMMITTEE IDENTIFIED ACADEMIC SKILLS**

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

#### **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 in 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.

### Math Standards

None Identified

*Source: NCTM Principles and Standards for School Mathematics. For more information, visit: [www.nctm.org](http://www.nctm.org).*

### Science Standards

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

*Source: McREL Compendium of National Science Standards. To view and search the compendium, visit: [www2.mcrel.org/compendium/browse.asp](http://www2.mcrel.org/compendium/browse.asp).*

### 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](http://www.ncte.org/standards).*