

BROADCAST NEWS PRODUCTION (VIRTUAL)



PURPOSE

To evaluate each contestant's preparation for employment and to recognize outstanding teams for excellence and professionalism in the fields of broadcast news production, news anchoring, directing, technical directing and floor directing.

First, download and review the General Regulations at: <http://updates.skillsusa.org>.

CLOTHING REQUIREMENT

For the anchorperson:

- Red SkillsUSA blazer, windbreaker or sweater, or black or red SkillsUSA jacket
- Button-up, collared, white dress shirt (accompanied by a plain, solid black tie), white blouse (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 (accompanied by black dress socks or black or skin-tone seamless hose) or black dress skirt (knee-length) (accompanied by black or skin-tone seamless hose)
- Black dress shoes

For other team members:

- Official SkillsUSA white polo shirt
- Black dress slacks (accompanied by black dress socks or black or skin-tone seamless hose) or black dress skirt (knee-length) (accompanied by black or skin-tone seamless hose)
- Black leather close-toe dress shoes.

Contest Clothing Notes (Apply ONLY to Virtual Competitions):

- Official SkillsUSA Competition Clothing recommended but NOT required.
- Contestant clothing options include the following:
 - Official Competition Clothing.
 - Trade Appropriate Clothing.
 - Professional Dress.
 - Business Casual.
- Clothing must meet industry safety standards.
- No identification of the contestant, school or state is allowed on clothing.
- No offensive, vulgar or inappropriate images or text are allowed on contestants clothing.
- No shorts or sleeveless shirts are allowed.
- Skirts must be at least knee-length.
- Proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn by contestant to meet all state, local and school requirements due to COVID-19.
- Scoring deductions may only be given and/or disqualification of contestant if clothing safety standards are not met.

These regulations refer to clothing items that are pictured and described at: www.skillsusastore.org. If you have questions about clothing or other logo items, call 1-888-501-2183.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to a team of four active SkillsUSA members enrolled in career and technology programs with media technology and or news broadcasting as part of the curriculum.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

Supplied by the contestants:

1. Computer with high-speed internet capability and camera to use applications such as Zoom, Teams, etc. The minimum recommended internet bandwidth speeds for joining Zoom meetings, accessing on-demand curriculum and other online operations is 2.0 Mbps up and down. You can test your current internet speeds by following this link: www.speedtest.net. Allow the page to load and click on GO.

2. A secondary camera(s) may be required to provide judges with the ability to view contestants from different angles. Additional camera requirements will be located on the SkillsUSA website at <http://updates.skillsusa.org>.
 3. A contest Proctor will be required to be on site to assist judges. A local industry expert is preferred to serve as the Proctor and shall not be an individual that has been involved with the training of the contestant(s). The Proctor will serve as the onsite “hands and eyes” for the judges. Proctor will follow instructions from the judges for safety and operations related to the competition. Proctor may be asked by judges to perform several tasks such as operating a portable camera to show specific components or steps, measure parts, or any task that will provide judges with information needed to assist in accurate scoring of the contestant’s work or presentation. However, the Proctor shall not serve as a judge nor have any influence on contestant scores.
 5. The contestant’s instructor or advisor shall be on site to observe all competition activities to ensure a safe and healthy competition experience for all participants. That instructor or advisor will not be allowed to interact or interfere with the competitor unless a safety issue arises that requires interaction. Any other support or interaction between the contestant and the instructor/advisor will result in disqualification.
 6. All competitors must create a one-page résumé and submit an electronic copy to the technical committee chair at least seven (7) days in advance of the competition. Failure to do so will result in a 10-point penalty. Instructions for submission of the electronic résumé copy will be provided on the SkillsUSA website at <http://updates.skillsusa.org>.
 7. News set (physical or virtual):
 - a. Three cameras with preset shots (one wide shot and one close-up on each anchor). Each camera must be equipped with a teleprompter monitor.
 - b. News desk
 - c. Studio lighting (preset)
 - d. Two lavalier microphones
 8. Control room:
 - a. A production switcher with media stores and a character generator/graphics system (Ross Carbonite Solo Switcher and Ross XPression Graphics recommended)
 - b. Headset communication system between control room technical director and studio floor director
 - c. 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 NRCS systems)
 9. Preparation room:
 - a. Newsroom Computer System (NRCS) software for rundown and scriptwriting (Ross Inception News Academic version recommended)
 - b. Laser printer with ink and paper
 - c. Two Apple iPads for anchors
 - d. Laptop or desktop computers networked with the computer hosting the NRCS, the laser printer and the computer hosting the teleprompter software
 10. USB flash drive
- Note:** Your contest may also require a hard copy of your résumé as part of the actual contest. Check the Contest Guidelines and/or the updates page on the SkillsUSA website: <http://updates.skillsusa.org>.

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.

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 be comprised of 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 member also will take a written knowledge test/quiz as part of the contest.

Standards and Competencies

Note for Virtual Competitions: Contestants may not be required to perform all the standards and competencies listed in this section. However, contestants should be prepared to perform components in all areas. Prior to the competition, the technical committee may determine which standards and competencies contestants will be perform for the virtual contests. The technical committee will determine if additional information is needed for contestants prior to the competition. These changes will be posted on the SkillsUSA Championships contest update website at: <http://updates.skillsusa.org>.

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

- 1.1 Review pre-selected 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 Speed up
- 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 Cross fade
- 6.6 Insert graphics
- 6.7 Slate

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:

<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.

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.