



Ohio

***FBLA***

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**2025-26**

**OHIO FBLA COMPETITIVE  
EVENTS GUIDE**

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**OHIO FBLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

LAST REVISED  
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## Ohio FBLA Competitive Events Guide

Table of Contents

GOVERNING AUTHORITY .....	3
OBJECTIVE .....	3
EVENT CLASSIFICATIONS .....	4
GENERAL REGULATIONS .....	6
ELIGIBILITY .....	6
COMPETITIVE EVENT REGULATIONS .....	7
DISQUALIFICATION .....	9
ADDITIONAL COMPETITIVE EVENTS RESOURCES/LINKS.....	9
RECOGNITION EVENT GUIDELINES & RATING SHEETS.....	10

Major Changes for 2025-26 are highlighted in YELLOW.

**Ohio FBLA Competitive Events Guide:** This document developed by the State Office contains all the information regarding our state awards program and competitive event regulations. This includes descriptions of every event offered (including national and state events as well as national and state recognition events).

### UPDATED RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS & ADVISERS

- **New!** Updated Ohio FBLA [Competitive Events website](#)
- **New!** Ohio FBLA [All-In-One Resource Guide](#), with links to Event Guidelines
  - For a PDF, click [HERE](#)
- **New!** 2025-26 Ohio FBLA [Significant Changes to Competitive Events](#) document
- [National FBLA Competitive Events Page](#), includes guidelines and other documents
- National [Competitive Events TOPICS](#), for use with many presentation events

**DEADLINE FOR PRE-JUDGED MATERIAL SUBMISSION:**

**Friday, February 6, 2026**

## GOVERNING AUTHORITY

### *Ohio FBLA Board of Directors*

The Ohio FBLA Board of Directors delegates all appropriate and relevant authority for the fair and deliberate execution of our state awards program to the Competitive Events Committee. The Board shall approve (or disapprove) all policy and procedure recommendations made by the Competitive Events Committee before they shall become binding but shall not intervene in the fair and deliberate execution of the state awards program unless otherwise stipulated in this document.

### *Competitive Events Committee*

The articles of this document and policies described therein shall be overseen and carried out by the Ohio Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Competitive Events Committee (CEC) consisting of the Competitive Events Director, as chair, one business/community representative, and one local chapter adviser. The following parties shall be ex-officio, non-voting members of the CEC: the Ohio FBLA State Chair and the FBLA State Adviser. The State Adviser shall serve as an ex officio member of the committee representative of the Ohio chapters at large. The Ohio FBLA Board of Directors Chair/State Chair shall be responsible for appointing all members of the CEC. The Chair may invite other members of the Ohio Operations Team, Board of Directors, or Conference Staff (volunteer or otherwise) to provide testimony/reports to the CEC as necessary for the conduct of its business.

## OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Ohio Future Business Leaders of American Competitive Events Guide is to ensure a fair, equitable, and enjoyable competitive events experience for all members of Ohio FBLA and to prevent any unfair advantage or undue harm to any competitor.

## EVENT CLASSIFICATIONS

### 1. INDIVIDUAL OBJECTIVE TESTS

Individual Objective Tests require competitors to complete an online multiple-choice test. Core knowledge areas and objectives of each test can be found by reviewing the specific event guidelines. Each test is 100 questions, and the competitor has 50 minutes for each test. **Students may compete in no more than three (3) Individual Objective tests or Production events.** **New in 2025-26: All Objective Tests will take place at the 2026 State Leadership Conference. No more remote testing is allowed.** All competitors must provide their own computer/laptop at the State Leadership Conference for testing. Internet access will be provided. **Cell phones are prohibited as a means for taking the test.** For the competitive year 2025-26, the following individual objective tests are offered:

- Career Exploration
- Digital Citizenship
- Exploring Accounting & Finance (New!)
- Exploring Agribusiness (New!)
- Exploring Business Communication (New!)
- Exploring Business Concepts (New!)
- Exploring Computer Science
- Exploring Economics
- Exploring FBLA (previously FBLA Concepts)
- Exploring Leadership
- Exploring Marketing Concepts (New!)
- Exploring Parliamentary Procedure
- Exploring Personal Finance (previously Financial Literacy)
- Exploring Professionalism (previously Business Etiquette)
- Exploring Technology
- Interpersonal Communication

### 2. PRODUCTION EVENTS

Production Events require competitors to create several documents, products, or resources for evaluation based on specific test instructions. **New in 2025-26: The objective test component has been removed for Production Events.** The *Production Test* is a 1-hour block of time and will occur on-site at a specific time during the State Leadership Conference, and will be scored on-site by judge(s). **Competitors must provide their own computer and any peripheral device(s) they wish to use.** For the competitive year 2025-26, the following Production Events are offered:

- Slide Deck Applications (New!)
- Spreadsheet Applications (New!)
- Word processing (New!)

### 3. ROLE PLAY EVENTS


Role Play Events require competitors to interact with an individual or panel of judges during the SLC based on a scenario provided on-site by Ohio FBLA. These events will require competitors to check in at the competitive events desk to be eligible to compete. Competitors will be sequestered and given the topic or scenario for their presentation shortly before presenting. **Role Play events for Middle School do NOT have an objective test component.** For the competitive year 2025-26, the following Role Play events are offered:

- Exploring Customer Service (New!)
- Exploring Management & Entrepreneurship (previously Critical Thinking)

## 4. PRESENTATION EVENTS

Presentations Events require competitors to give a presentation of a project, speech, or interview to an individual or panel of judges during the SLC. These events will require competitors to check in at the competitive events desk to be eligible to compete. Competitors may be allowed to use technology, equipment, and/or visual aids as part of the presentation. **These events may also require pre-judged components (reports, resumes, etc.) to be submitted in advance or objective test requirements.** Many events require preparation on a specific Topic. For the competitive year 2025-26, the following events are live:

**\* Asterisk indicates that pre-judged items must be submitted by January 30, 2026**

- Career Research
- Exploring Animation  **(New!)**
- Exploring Business Ethics *(also requires object test)*
- Exploring Business Issues
- Exploring Coding & Programming *(previously Video Game Challenge)*
- Exploring Digital Video Production  **(New!)**
- Exploring Marketing Strategies *(previously Marketing Mix Challenge)*
- Exploring Public Speaking
- Exploring Website Design

## 5. CHAPTER EVENTS

For Chapter Events, the local FBLA chapter is registered to compete in the event instead of an individual member or team. These events do **not** require any pre-judged materials to be submitted. Although the Chapter is the one competing, the events require that the chapter designate the presenting individual or team at the SLC to prevent scheduling conflicts. If such a conflict is unavoidable, the Chapter may substitute the presenter on-site with permission from the Competitive Events Director. Further, if the Chapter progresses beyond the SLC and wishes to compete at the NLC, they need not maintain the same presenter(s) as the SLC. For the competitive year 2025-26, the following Chapter Events are offered:

- Annual Chapter Activities Presentation
- Community Service Presentation
- Battle of the Chapters (Middle School) *State Only*

## 6. RECOGNITION EVENTS

For Recognition Events an individual student or chapter competes for special recognition such as a scholarship or title. These events may follow prejudged or live formats. For the competitive year 2025-26, the following Recognition Events are offered: **\* Asterisk indicates that pre-judged items must be submitted by January 30, 2026**

- Adviser of the Year 
- Young Leader Award 
- Middle Level Gold Seal Chapter

## GENERAL REGULATIONS

All Ohio FBLA state-level competitive events shall be held annually at the SLC unless otherwise recommended by the CEC and approved by the Board of Directors. The completion of competitive events during the SLC shall be overseen by the Competitive Events Committee. Completion of competitive events during the SLC shall be done in accordance with all National FBLA regulations unless otherwise modified herein.

## ELIGIBILITY

### Section 1 General Eligibility

To be eligible for competition, a competitor must:

- 1) Be a member in good standing with the Local, State, and National chapters of FBLA.
- 2) Have properly registered for the event(s) in which they wish to compete.
- 3) Have not placed in the Top 5 in the event(s) they wish to compete in during a prior SLC.
- 4) Have not placed in the Top 5 in the event(s) they wish to compete in during a prior SLC, where the name of the event has administratively changed. *(Example: Prior Top 5 finishers in Financial Literacy are ineligible for the newly re-named event Exploring Personal Finance).*
- 5) Support and uphold the policies and guidelines of Ohio FBLA in their actions throughout the competition (and, if on-site, throughout the conference).

Eligibility shall be assessed annually for all events and conferences.

### Section 2 Registration Restrictions

- 1) Any single competitor may register for **up to three (3)** Individual Objective Test or Production Events **and** one (1) Presentation or Role Play Event. Chapter Events are excluded from this restriction.
- 2) Any single competitor may register for as many Recognition Events as they are eligible for in a given year.
- 3) An individual chapter may register no more than four (4) individuals or teams for any given individual or team event.
- 4) An individual chapter may register only one (1) individual or team for any given Chapter or Recognition Event.

## COMPETITIVE EVENT REGULATIONS

### Section 1 Pre-Judged Submission of Materials & Assets

Pre-judged portions of certain events will require competitors to complete one or more tasks prior to the SLC. These tasks may include reports, creative projects, resumes, or other documents. All pre-judged event tasks must be completed by the yearly due date set by the CEC. Failure to submit tasks in accordance with these regulations is grounds for disqualification. All submissions of pre-judged materials must be uploaded into the Blue Panda system prior to the deadline.

The deadlines for the 2025-26 pre-judged tasks are as follows:

- Written pre-judged materials (e.g. reports and Nominations) – **Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**
- Many events have a Pre-Judged component. Please double-check the guidelines for each event.

### Section 2 Live Events

Live Events will require competitors to make an in-person presentation to a judge(s) during the conference. All competitors in a live event must check in at the competitive events desk. Individual/Team check-in times will be provided to advisers before SLC as well as made available at the competitive events desk and conference registration desk. All competitors must check in within five (5) minutes before their published check-in time. **Failure to properly check in is grounds for disqualification.** If a live event also requires the completion of a pre-judged task (submission of materials); those tasks shall be governed by the pre-judged event regulations.

#### *Sequestration*

Immediately following their check-in, competitors in Role Play Events will be sequestered from the general population of the conference until their competition time where they will be provided with their prompt (and, if applicable, note cards, flip charts, etc.). During sequestration, competitors may **not** have electronic devices of any kind or writing materials such as pens, pencils, and paper. These items must be left in the care of the competitor's respective chapter. For events that require laptops or other presentation equipment, this equipment must not be used while in the holding area. While sequestered a competitor may not communicate with any individuals outside the sequester room. Failure to comply with the rules of sequestration is grounds for disqualification.

The conference does not provide any laptops, projectors, screens, power cords, etc. If competitor is to use any of these devices for a presentation, they must be brought to the conference and set-up/torn down during the performance time.

### Section 3 Production Events

Production events *will take place at the conference during allocated times.* Competitors will be responsible for bringing their own computer, power supply/extension cord, peripheral devices (mouse, keyboard) and any USB storage device.

### Section 4 Chapter Events

Chapter events shall be governed by individual regulations specified on their individual events regulations.

## Section 5 Team Events

If an event allows team entries a chapter may submit a team of no more than three (3) competitors. Team members may not be substituted after registration is complete. **If an objective test is required, ALL participants must take it individually (not as a team), must test at the same time, and may not collaborate during the objective test. The team score is averaged among the individual scores. Teams not adhering to these guidelines are subject to disqualification or having a “zero” score on the objective component.**

## Section 6 Recognition Events

Recognition events shall follow the regulations set forth for pre-judged and live events where applicable. The decision of which regulations shall govern such events is at the discretion of the CEC. Recognition events shall be noted as *recognition live* or *recognition pre-judged* to specify under what regulations they shall be judged.

## Section 7 Objective Testing

All events that require an objective test will be done on-site at the 2026 State Leadership Conference. The following guidelines must be followed during testing:

- Competitors must provide their own laptop/computer, cables, power source (if needed).
- Ohio FBLA will ensure competitors have internet access for testing purposes.
- Cell phones are unauthorized during the testing – they may not be used in any way. Competitors seen using a cell phone during testing will be disqualified.
- If a Team Event requiring an objective test, all competitors must take it individually (not as a team), and must test **at the same time**, and may not collaborate during the objective test. The team score is averaged among the individual scores.
- **Online objective tests are monitored for browser behaviors. Once an objective test has started, no other tab, browser, application or notification may be opened. The testing software must always be active. The testing software will recognize any deviation away from the test; and will stop the test and score the test at the time of the infraction.**

## Section 8 Breaking Ties

Ohio FBLA shall use the tie breaking rules set forth in the National Competitive Events Program which are as follows:

- **Individual Objective Test Events:** Ties are broken by comparing the correct number of answers to the last 10 questions on the exam. If a tie remains, the competitor who completed the test in a shorter amount of time will place higher. If this does not break the tie, answers to the last 20 questions will be reviewed and determine the winner.
- **Production Events:** The highest number of jobs submitted for judging will break a tie; then fastest time.
- **Performance Events and Objective Tests:** The objective test score will be used to break a tie based on the tie-breaking criteria of objective tests. This applies to the *Future Business Leader* event.
- **Performance & Role Play Events that require pre-judged material(s) submission:** The pre-judged submission score(s) will be used to break any tie.
- **Other Performance & Role Play Events:** In cases where the performance or role play is the only scored component in the event, Judges must break ties and all judges' decisions are final.



## DISQUALIFICATION

Any competitor may be disqualified at the discretion of the Competitive Events Director or State Adviser for failing to follow the policies outlined in this document. Disqualifiable offenses include but are not limited to:

- 1) Failing to comply with the FBLA Code of Conduct.
- 2) Blatant disregard for the FBLA dress code.
- 3) Failing to properly check-in for competitive events.
- 4) Using an unauthorized electronic device during objective testing or sequestration.
- 5) Team event objective tests that are not taken individually or at the same time.
- 6) Communicating with other competitors about the content of event tests or scenarios before the completion of the event or retaining unauthorized content from the sequester room.
- 7) Failing to complete all required portions of a particular event (pre-judged materials, objective tests, and performances). The Competitive Events Director may allow a “zero” score on the missing component(s).

Any competitor who feels that their disqualified status was rendered without merit may appeal the decision to the full Competitive Events Committee. Any petition for appeal must be presented by the chapter adviser to a member of the Competitive Events Committee or State Adviser with appropriate evidence of a wrongfully-rendered decision BEFORE the certification of the SLC Winner’s List (typically one week after the conference). Competitive Events Committee decisions are final and may not be overturned except by unanimous action of the Board of Directors.

## RESOURCES & LINKS FOR STUDENTS AND ADVISERS

### UPDATED RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS & ADVISERS

- **New!** Updated Ohio FBLA [Competitive Events website](#)
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The following pages contain individualized regulations and guidelines for Ohio FBLA Recognition Events

## 1. MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVISER OF THE YEAR

Recognition Event (State Only)

### Overview

In this event, an individual local chapter adviser is recognized for their unique achievements and contributions to Ohio FBLA over the past year. Entries for this event are submitted and judged prior to the SLC. The winner of this event is recognized on stage at the National Leadership Conference as the Local Chapter Adviser of the Year representing Ohio FBLA.

### Eligibility

Each local chapter may submit one (1) entry for this event.

### Procedure

AN online PDF report submission must be received by the CEC by the deadline established for that competitive year. The report is comprised of a nomination letter and application. Reports must follow all guidelines as listed on the State Application guidelines and the report must cover all areas outlined by the rating sheet. Refer to the State Competitive Events Guide for the rating sheet.

### Judging

All submissions will be graded prior to the SLC. All judges' decisions are final.

### Awards

1<sup>st</sup> place shall be recognized on stage at the SLC for a total of one (1) award.

**Note: This Award is NEW to Middle Level. This is separate from the High School (FBLA) Adviser of the Year.**

RATING SHEETS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

### Nominee's Activities Rating Sheet (excluding nomination letter)

Activity	Possible Points	Maximum Score	Points Earned
Years as an FBLA Adviser	2 per year	20	
Years on Board of Directors	1 per year	5	
Leader in other business/vocational organizations	1 per year	5	
Adviser to State Officer	1 per officer/year	10	
Attendance at SLC	1 per conference	5	
Attendance at NFLC	2 per conference	10	
Attendance at NLC	3 per conference	15	
Students placing in Top Ten at NLC	1 per event	10	
Recruitment of new chapters	2 per chapter	10	
Adviser to a newly formed chapter	5 per chapter	10	
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>	

### Nomination Letter Rating Sheet

Evaluation Item	Not Demonstrated	Does Not Meet Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations	Points Earned
Significant contributions to local chapter projects and activities	0	Contributed to at least 1 local chapter activity. (7 pts.)	Contributed to at least 4 local chapter activities. (14 pts.)	Contributed to 6 or more local chapter activities. (20 pts.)	
Creation of new business-related programs, either for FBLA or for the school system	0	Creation of at least 1 small program (7 pts.)	Creation of at least one large program and at least 3 small programs (14 pts.)	Creation of two or more large programs and four or more small programs (20 pts.)	
Leadership roles in the community	0	Holds at least 1 community leadership role (3 pts.)	Holds at least 2 community leadership roles (7 pts.)	Holds 4 or more community leadership roles (10 pts.)	
Leadership in other school organizations (non-business-related)	0	Holds at least 1 scholastic leadership role (3 pts.)	Holds at least 2 scholastic leadership roles (7 pts.)	Holds 4 or more scholastic leadership roles (10 pts.)	
Other significant factors that lend themselves to being a role model/mentor to students involved in FBLA	0	Evidence of at least 2 significant factors. (5 pts.)	Evidence of at least 4 significant factors (10 pts.)	Evidence of 6 or more significant factors (15 pts.)	
<b>Nomination Letter Total Points (75 points)</b>					
<b>Nominee's Activities Total Points (100 points)</b>					
<b>Total Points (175 maximum)</b>					

## 2. BATTLE OF THE CHAPTERS

### Chapter Event (State Only)

#### Overview

In this event, one (1) team from each chapter will compete on stage during a general session of the SLC. The team will be asked a question pertaining to FBLA's history, regulations, and important information.

#### Eligibility

Each local chapter may submit one (1) team of up to three (3) individuals for this event. The event does not proceed to National competition.

#### Procedure

During a general session, each chapter will be invited to send one (1) team of up to three (3) individuals to the stage to compete in Battle of the Chapters. The teams will be placed in alphabetical order by school name. Beginning with the beginning of the alphabet in even years and the end of the alphabet in odd years the judge shall begin asking each team questions about FBLA one question at a time. If the team correctly answers the question the judge will move on to the next team. If the team incorrectly answers the question that team shall receive a strike. The judge will then pose the same question to the next team. If three teams in a row fail to answer the question correctly the judge will announce the answer to the failed question and ask the next team a new question. Once a team receives its third strike they are eliminated from the competition.

Once only two teams remain; if one fails to answer a question correctly, regardless of the number of strikes earned, they shall be eliminated provided the other remaining team answers the question correctly. If both teams fail to answer the question neither shall be eliminated, the judge shall announce the answer to the failed question and continue by asking the team who answer incorrectly second a new question.

The final team remaining on stage shall be considered the winner.

#### Judging

A judge shall be on stage for the duration of the event administering questions and strikes. All judge's decisions are final.

#### Awards

1<sup>st</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> place shall be awarded on stage at the SLC for a total of ten (10) awards.

**Note: This may be combined with the high school (FBLA) division, but we will recognize placement for Middle Level Chapters with a separate award.**

### 3. GOLD SEAL AWARD / MIDDLE LEVEL CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

Pre-judged Recognition Event

#### Overview

In this event, a chapter is recognized for its unique achievements and contributions to Ohio FBLA and its local community over the current year. Entries for this event are submitted and judged prior to the SLC. *(Note: NLC Attendance will be based on the 2024 NLC in Orlando, FL).*

#### Eligibility

Each local chapter may submit one (1) entry for this event. The top two (2) schools will be recognized at NLC.

#### Procedure

All Chapters are automatically entered into this event and awarded points based on chapter activities completed since the previous SLC and competitive rankings in events for the current SLC.

#### Judging

A judge or panel of judges will calculate the final scores on the second day of SLC. All judges' decisions are final.

#### Awards

All schools that reach the minimum point requirements will be awarded the title of Gold Seal Chapter. The top three (3) schools will receive special recognition at SLC. The Top (2) schools will be recognized at NLC. The top school by score will be recognized as the Ohio FBLA chapter of the year and the Chapter adviser's registration for NLC will be paid for by the State.

**Note: This Award is NEW to Middle Level. This is separate from the High School Gold Seal Chapter.**

#### More Information About National Programs:

- **Lead Awards:** <https://www.fbla.org/lead-awards/> .
  - Deadline for SLC recognition is January 30, 2026.
- **Champion Chapter:** <https://www.fbla.org/ms-champion-chapter/>, Tracker poster/PDF [HERE](#)
  - Deadline for SLC recognition is January 30, 2026

RATING SHEET ON FOLLOWING PAGE

Activity	Point Structure	Maximum possible points	Minimum points
LEAD Awards Participation (State Deadline 1/31/26)	2 pts for every student completing the Explore Award. 4 pts for every student completing the Aspire Award.	100	10
Champion Chapter participation (State Deadline 1/30/26)	Champion Chapter (SIX Months August – January eligible) score divided by 12	200	25
NFLC attendance (2025 NFLC)	2 pts per attendee	100	Pts equivalent to 5% of membership attending.
NLC attendance (2025 NLC)	2 pts per attendee, 4 pts per competitor	200	Pts equivalent to 10% of membership attending.
Participation in chapter events	15 points each for competing in these 2 Chapter Events: Annual Chapter Activities Presentation and Community Service Presentation	30 (if both events)	0
Nominations for recognition awards	15 points each for submitting an entry for these 2 Recognition Events: Local Chapter Adviser of the Year and Young Leader Award	30 (if both events)	0
Submit an Open Event Test to SLC	5 points for each 50-question multiple choice test submitted to the CEC for SLC consideration	15 (three tests max)	0
<b>Total Points</b>		<b>675</b>	

#### 4. YOUNG LEADER AWARD

##### Pre-judged Recognition Event

##### Overview

In this event, a chapter may nominate a student who has excelled in leadership and community service. The winner selected will represent Ohio FBLA at the National Leadership Conference.

##### Eligibility

Each local chapter may nominate one student for this event. The nomination(s) may come from the chapter adviser, another member, a member of the school district, or a member of the community. The nominated student ***must have completed*** at least the LEAD Explore Award to be eligible.

##### Procedure

A chapter may submit up to three (3) nominating letters pertaining to ONE (1) student. These nominating letters can be from anyone familiar with the student, and should include information about the student's commitment to leadership activities and community service. *All nominating letters should be included in one packet (.pdf) and submitted by the Pre-Judged Event Deadline.*

##### Judging

A judge or panel of judges will review the nominating letters and select a winner for the event. All judges' decisions are final.

##### Awards

The winner of this event may represent Ohio FBLA at the National Leadership Conference.

##### From National FBLA

The Young Leader Award recognizes members with extraordinary commitment to leadership and community service. Members must have achieved at least the LEAD Explore Award to be eligible for this award. Each state may nominate one member to represent them at the NLC for this award. The entry form must be completed by the state leader or their designee.

*In Ohio FBLA, the winner recognized at the SLC will be who Ohio FBLA nominates for recognition at the NLC.*

**Note: This Award is NEW to our State Conference.**