

2025-2026 Competitive Events Guidelines

Broadcast Journalism



Broadcast Journalism challenges members to showcase their communication, storytelling, and production skills by creating and delivering a professional news broadcast. Competitors will research, script, and produce a cohesive news segment, culminating in a live presentation evaluated by a panel of judges.

Event Overview

Division	High School
Event Type	Team of 1, 2, or 3 members
Event Category	Presentation
Event Elements	Presentation with a Topic

Educational Alignments

Career Cluster Framework Connection	Arts, Entertainment, & Design
NACE Competency Alignment	Career & Self-Development, Critical Thinking, Communication, Leadership, Professionalism, Technology

2025-2026 Topic

Shine a Spotlight on a Local Story

Feature a local organization, business, or club by promoting an upcoming event in your community. Plan your coverage like a real journalist: interview someone involved (before, during, or after the event), capture video footage, and tell a compelling story that informs and excites your audience.

How can your broadcast inspire people to get involved or attend? Use your reporting to make the event come to life. **The pre-recorded story must be no longer than two minutes.**

District

Vermont FBLA does not host district conferences.

State

See below for the list of required competition items; Vermont FBLA requires the same items set by National FBLA at our State Leadership Conference. Vermont FBLA will also provide the items listed below, except for power, a projector, or a screen in the finals round. Presentation events will have a 1-minute set-up time. Most presentations will happen in a large Armory, and all competitors may present to the judges in a preliminary round.

2025-2026 Competitive Events Guidelines

Broadcast Journalism



National

Required Competition Items

	Items Competitor Must Provide	Items FBLA Provides
Preliminary Presentation	- Conference-provided nametag Photo identification - Attire that meets the FBLA Dress Code - Technology and presentation items	- Table - Internet Access
Final Presentation	- Conference-provided nametag Photo identification - Attire that meets the FBLA Dress Code - Technology and presentation items, including any adapter or cord needed beyond an HDMI connection	- Table - Power - Projector with HDMI cord - Projector screen - Internet Access

Important FBLA Documents

- Competitors should be familiar with the Competitive Events [Policy & Procedures Manual](#), [Honor Code](#), [Code of Conduct](#), and [Dress Code](#).

Eligibility Requirements

To participate in FBLA competitive events at the National Leadership Conference (NLC), the following criteria must be met:

- Membership Deadline:** FBLA national membership dues must be paid to the specific division by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on March 1 of the current school year.
- Repeat Competitors:** Members may only compete in an event at the NLC more than once if they have not previously placed in the top 10 of that event at the NLC. If a member places in the top 10 of an event at the NLC, they are no longer eligible to compete in that event at future NLCs, unless the event has been modified beyond a name change. Chapter events are exempt from this procedure. **Competitors who placed in the top ten in Broadcast Journalism at a previous National Leadership Conference are eligible to compete in this event.**
- Conference Registration:** Members must be officially registered for the NLC and must pay the national conference registration fee to participate.
- Official Hotel Requirement:** To be eligible to compete, competitors must stay within the official FBLA housing block.
- State Entry Limits:** Each state may submit up to four entries per event.
- Event Participation Limits:** Each member may participate in:
 - One individual or team event, and
 - One chapter event (e.g., *Community Service Project* or *Local Chapter Annual Business Report*).
- Competitor Responsibility:** Only registered competitors are permitted to plan, research, prepare, and set up their presentations. Advisers and others may not assist.
- Participation Requirement:** To be eligible for an award, each competitor must complete all components of the event at the National Leadership Conference.
- Team Composition:** All members of a team must be from the same local chapter.

2025-2026 Competitive Events Guidelines

Broadcast Journalism



- **Identification at Check-in:** Competitors must present valid photo identification (physical or digital) that matches the name on their conference name badge. Acceptable forms include a driver's license, passport, state-issued ID, or school ID.
- **Late Arrivals:** Competitors will be allowed to compete until such time that the results are finalized, or participation would impact the fairness and integrity of the event, as determined by Competitive Events staff. If judges have left the competitive event area, it is no longer possible to compete. Five penalty points will be assessed for late arrivals in any competitive event.
- **Event Schedule Notes:**
 - Some events may begin before the Opening Session.
 - All schedules are posted in local time for the NLC host city.
 - Schedule changes are not permitted.

Event Administration

This event consists of two phases: a preliminary presentation and a final presentation.

Preliminary Presentation Details

Timing Structure

- **Equipment Set-Up:** 3 minutes
- **Presentation:** 7 minutes (a one-minute warning will be provided)
- **Question & Answer (Q&A):** 3 minutes
- **Important:** Time allocations are exclusive. The presentation must begin immediately after the 3-minute set-up time concludes. Time may not be shifted between segments. Competitors will not interact with judges during the set-up period.

Venue & Format

- Presentations occur in-person at the National Leadership Conference (NLC).
- Competitors/teams are randomly assigned to presentation sections.
- Presentations will take place in a large, open area with a designated space of approximately 10' x 10', which includes a table and chairs for the judges.
- The preliminary round is closed to conference attendees and audience.

Technology Guidelines

- **Internet Access:** Provided (*Please be aware that internet access at conference venues may be unreliable. Always prepare a backup plan in case the connection is lost or does not work with your device.*)
- Presentations must be delivered using one or two personal devices (laptop, tablet, mobile phone, or monitor approximately laptop-sized).
- If using two devices, one must face the judges and the other must face the presenters.
- Projectors and projector screens are not permitted, and competitors may not bring their own.
- Wireless slide advancers (e.g., presentation clickers or mice) are allowed.
- External speakers are not allowed; audio must come directly from the presenting device(s).
- Electricity will not be available.

Non-Technology Items

- Visual aids, samples, notes, and other physical materials related to the project may be used.
- Items may be placed on the provided table or on the judges table, if space allows.
- No items may be left with the judges following the presentation.

Restricted Items

2025-2026 Competitive Events Guidelines

Broadcast Journalism



- Animals, except for authorized service animals.
- Food, which may be used for display only and may not be consumed by judges.
- Links and QR codes, which may be shown but may not be scanned or clicked by judges at any time.

Research

- Information must be supported by credible, well-documented sources.
- Any use of copyrighted material, images, logos, or trademarks must be properly documented.

Team Expectations

- In team presentations, all members must actively participate in the delivery of the presentation.

Event Specific Information: Competitors should incorporate the following aspects in response to the topic

- Broadcast News Segment
 - Present a pre-recorded news segment that meets the topic requirements
 - Pre-recorded content must not exceed 2 minutes in total
 - Segment should be played during the live presentation
- Presentation: The rest of the presentation time should include the following information:
 - **Research, Accuracy & Ethical Reporting:** Explain how news stories were researched and verified, emphasizing credible sources, factual accuracy, and ethical journalistic standards.
 - **Production Techniques & Tools:** Describe the technologies, tools, and editing methods used to create the segment, highlighting key creative and technical decisions.
 - **Visual & Editorial Design:** Showcase how visuals, graphics, transitions, and overall story flow were used to enhance clarity, engagement, and professionalism in the segment.

Final Presentation Details

Timing Structure

- **Equipment Set-Up:** 3 minutes
- **Presentation:** 7 minutes (a one-minute warning will be provided)
- **Question & Answer (Q&A):** 3 minutes
- **Note:** Each time segment is exclusive. Once the 3-minute set-up period ends, the 7-minute presentation time begins automatically. Competitors may not shift time between segments. Competitors will not interact with judges during the set-up period.

Advancement to Finals

- The top-scoring competitors or teams from each preliminary section will advance to the final round in equal numbers.
- The number of competitors or teams advancing to the final round depends on the number of preliminary sections:
 - 2 sections: Top 6 from each section advance
 - 3 sections: Top 4 from each section advance
 - 4 sections: Top 3 from each section advance
 - 5 sections: Top 3 from each section advance
 - More than 5 sections: Top 2 from each section advance

2025-2026 Competitive Events Guidelines

Broadcast Journalism



Audience & Viewing Rules

- Final presentations may be open to conference attendees, depending on space availability.
- Finalists may not view other presentations in their own event.

Technology Guidelines

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- Presentations must be delivered using one or two personal devices (laptop, tablet, mobile phone, or monitor approximately laptop-sized).
- If using two devices, one must face the judges and the other must face the presenters.
- If the final round takes place in a conference room, the following equipment will be provided: a projector, projector screen, power access, and a table.
- Competitors using laptops or devices without an HDMI port must bring their own compatible adapters.
- It is the responsibility of final-round competitors to decide whether or not to use the provided technology.
- Wireless slide advancers (e.g., presentation clickers or mice) are allowed.
- Electricity will not be available.

Non-Technology Items

- Visual aids, samples, notes, and other physical materials related to the project may be used.
- Items may be placed on the provided table or on the judges table, if space allows.
- No items may be left with the judges following the presentation.

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2025-2026 Competitive Events Guidelines

Broadcast Journalism



- **Visual & Editorial Design:** Showcase how visuals, graphics, transitions, and overall story flow were used to enhance clarity, engagement, and professionalism in the segment.

Scoring

- Preliminary round scores are used to determine which competitors or teams advance to the final round from each section.
- Final round scores determine the final rankings and top award winners.
- Judges are responsible for breaking all ties in both preliminary and final rounds.
- All judging decisions are final. Results announced at the National Leadership Conference are considered official and will not be changed after the conclusion of the National Leadership Conference.

Penalty Points

- Competitors may be disqualified if they violate the Code of Conduct or the Honor Code.
- Five points are deducted if competitors do not follow the Dress Code or are late to their assigned presentation time.

Recognition

- A maximum of 10 entries (individuals or teams) may be recognized per event.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- FBLA complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by providing reasonable accommodations for competitors. Accommodation requests must be submitted through the conference registration system by the official registration deadline. All requests will be reviewed, and additional documentation may be required to determine eligibility and appropriate support.

Recording of Presentations

- Unauthorized audio or video recording is strictly prohibited in all competitive events.
- FBLA reserves the right to record presentations for educational, training, or archival purposes. Competitors should be aware that their presentations may be recorded by FBLA-authorized personnel.

2025-2026 Competitive Events Guidelines

Broadcast Journalism



Broadcast Journalism Presentation Rating Sheet

Expectation Item	Not Demonstrated	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations	Points Earned
Broadcast News Segment					
Broadcast News Segment <i>Present a pre-recorded news segment that meets the topic requirements and does not exceed 2 minutes.</i>	<i>No segment shown or content does not relate to the assigned topic.</i>	<i>Segment submitted but lacks clear connection to the topic, exceeds time limit, or contains major content or quality issues.</i>	<i>Segment clearly addresses the topic, meets time limit, and demonstrates a basic level of production quality and organization.</i>	<i>Segment is concise, highly relevant to the topic, professionally presented, within the time limit, and demonstrates excellent storytelling and production quality.</i>	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
Visual & Editorial Design <i>Showcase how visuals, graphics, transitions, and overall story flow were used to enhance clarity, engagement, and professionalism in the segment.</i>	<i>No use of visuals, graphics, or editorial elements to support or enhance the segment.</i>	<i>Basic visuals or transitions used inconsistently; design choices may distract from clarity or appear unpolished.</i>	<i>Visual and editorial elements are appropriate and enhance clarity and engagement; story flows logically with professional appearance.</i>	<i>Visuals, graphics, and transitions are cohesive, polished, and strategically used to elevate clarity, engagement, and storytelling; story is seamless and professionally executed.</i>	
	0 points	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 points	
Presentation					
Visual & Editorial Design <i>Demonstrates thoughtful reflection by discussing how specific visual and editorial design choices (e.g., graphics, transitions, pacing, and flow) enhanced clarity, engagement, and professionalism in the broadcast segment.</i>	<i>Does not discuss visual or editorial design choices, or discussion is irrelevant to the segment.</i>	<i>Mentions visuals or editorial elements in a general way but provides little to no explanation of how they contributed to clarity, engagement, or professionalism.</i>	<i>Clearly explains several visual and editorial design choices (e.g., graphics, transitions, pacing, flow) and connects them to how they supported clarity, engagement, and professionalism.</i>	<i>Provides a thorough, thoughtful reflection with specific examples of visual and editorial design choices; clearly articulates the rationale behind design decisions and insightfully connects them to enhancing clarity, audience engagement, and professionalism.</i>	
	0 points	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 points	
Production Techniques & Tools <i>Describe the technologies, tools, and editing methods used to create the segment, highlighting key creative and technical decisions.</i>	<i>No description of production tools or techniques; no evidence of editing or creative decisions.</i>	<i>Minimal explanation of tools or editing methods used; lacks clarity on how techniques contributed to the final product.</i>	<i>Identifies tools and editing methods with clear explanation; describes how techniques supported the production and storytelling.</i>	<i>Provides a detailed, thoughtful explanation of technologies, tools, and editing decisions; highlights how each choice enhanced the segment’s technical quality and creative impact.</i>	
	0 points	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 points	
Research, Accuracy & Ethical Reporting <i>Explain how news stories were researched and verified, emphasizing credible sources, factual accuracy, and ethical journalistic standards.</i>	<i>No explanation of research process or sources; factual accuracy and ethical standards are not addressed.</i>	<i>Minimal or unclear explanation of research; sources lack credibility or are not cited; limited attention to accuracy or journalistic ethics.</i>	<i>Research process is explained with credible sources cited; facts are mostly accurate; ethical standards are acknowledged and generally followed.</i>	<i>Thorough explanation of how stories were researched and verified; multiple credible sources cited; all facts are accurate; clear demonstration of high ethical standards in reporting.</i>	

2025-2026 Competitive Events Guidelines



Broadcast Journalism

	0 points	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 points		
Expectation Item	Not Demonstrated	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations	Points Earned	
Presentation Delivery						
Statements are well-organized and clearly stated	<i>Competitor(s) did not appear prepared</i>	<i>Competitor(s) were prepared, but flow was not logical</i>	<i>Presentation flowed in logical sequence</i>	<i>Presentation flowed in a logical sequence; statements were well organized</i>		
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points		
Consistently displays confidence, poised body language, engaging eye contact, and effective voice projection.	<i>Did not demonstrate any of the listed skills</i>	<i>Demonstrated 1-2 of the listed skills (confidence, body language, eye contact, or voice projection)</i>	<i>Demonstrated 3 of the listed skills (confidence, body language, eye contact, or voice projection)</i>	<i>Demonstrated all skills, enhancing the overall presentation</i>		
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points		
Demonstrates the ability to effectively answer questions	<i>Does not respond to questions or responses are completely off-topic.</i>	<i>Provides incomplete or unclear answers that show limited understanding.</i>	<i>Responds accurately and clearly to most questions, showing adequate understanding.</i>	<i>Responds confidently with clear, accurate, and thoughtful answers that enhance the overall presentation.</i>		
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points		
Presentation Protocols						
Adherence to Competitive Events Guidelines	Competitor(s) Did Not Follow Guidelines	Execution Aligned with Guidelines: (All criteria must be met) ✓ Pre-recorded segment is no longer than 2 minutes ✓ Used only allowable technology devices (sizing specs followed; maximum of two, with only one facing judges at a time) ✓ Presentation aligned with the assigned topic ✓ Maintained professional boundaries during set-up time (no interaction with judges) ✓ Did not leave materials behind after the presentation ✓ Links or QR codes were displayed appropriately (not clicked or scanned by judges) ✓ Audio was presented without external speakers (preliminary round) ✓ Avoided use of food or live animals				
		0 points	10 points			
Staff Only: Penalty Points (5 points for dress code penalty and/or 5 points for late arrival penalty)						
Presentation Total (110 points)						
Name(s):						
School:					Section:	
Judge Signature:					Date:	
Comments:						