

# Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers

## General Rules For Career Development Events

### I. Eligibility

- A. Any student is eligible who is under 21 years of age at the time of the career development event (CDE), who has not had more than six years' training (two years junior high school and four years high school) in any approved course in agriculture of less than college grade, and is enrolled in a junior high or high school class in agriculture or has had all of the agriculture offered and is carrying at least three units of regular high school work, with the exception that a person who has participated previously in any official National FFA judging/career development event shall not be eligible for the same kind of state event.
- B. Participants on a CDE team must all be students at the same schools. If an ineligible student is entered in any event, the team of which that student is a member shall be declared ineligible.
- C. Teams representing Illinois in National Career Development Events must agree to abide by the rules of that specific event and be certified members of the Illinois Association FFA. To advance to the National FFA competition all team members must be from the same FFA Chapter. (See Section V, Item C for information on Regional-level and National-level invitational events)

### II. General Information

- A. Team Size
  1. A school may enter less than a full team in any event, but then the participant or participants will compete only as individuals.
- B. Participation
  1. No team or individual may register for a CDE unless accompanied to, at and from the event by their agricultural education teacher or an adult representative from the school district designated to represent the teacher.
  2. Participants from a multiple teacher department shall have entry fees assessed based on the IAVAT membership status of the teacher, or adult designated to represent the teacher, escorting them to the event. If the team or individual is escorted to the event by an adult, not eligible for active IAVAT membership, the membership status of the teacher shall determine the entry fee.
- C. Pre-registration/Registration
  1. Please refer to the General Information chart at the bottom of this document for pre-registration requirements and on-site registration times for each event.
    - a. Each instructor is responsible for pre-registration of teams or individuals for events. Fees for pre-registration may be paid on-site. In the case of cancellations after the pre-registration deadline, the chapter will be invoiced for the amount corresponding to a team fee (fee for minimum number of participants constituting a team score). Pre-registration forms will be posted via Ag Ed listserv prior to each event.
- D. Conduct of the Event
  1. Participants
    - a. No substitutions will be permitted in any career development event after judging has started in that event. *"Late arriving" teams are allowed to participate upon arrival, but extra time or help to make up rings will not be allowed.*
    - b. No extra students will be permitted to participate or be present in the competition area before or during the event.
    - c. Participants will not be allowed to handle cattle, hogs, poultry, meat, hay, horticulture plant materials, or forestry plant materials.
    - d. Participants presenting reasons at any state career development event are required to be in official FFA dress while presenting those reasons.

2. Non-Participants
  - a. Non-judging observers will be permitted only upon approval by the Event Superintendent and must be escorted at all times by an official escort.
  - b. No extra students will be allowed to judge.
  - c. The use of video recording equipment (still or movies) is limited to recording the activities of students from the same school as the person taking/using video equipment. The recording of CDE rings is NOT allowed until the CDE is concluded.
  - d. All teachers, or adults designated to represent the teacher, will report and turn in their assignment sheets to the superintendent of the divisions to which they have been assigned as soon as possible after registering their teams.
- E. Materials Required
  1. Each participant must have a pencil (#2 lead recommended) or pen.
  2. Clipboards are allowed in all events as long as no markings or information relating to the event are present. **Clipboards are highly recommended for those CDE's which will be scored by Scantron.**
- F. Disqualification
  1. Participants talking during or between the rings/practicums, except for questions directed to the group leader or assistant group leader, shall be subject to disqualification.
  2. Students from the same school found to be judging at a ring or participating at the same practicum at the same time shall be subject to disqualification.
  3. Any assistance given to a team member from any source during a Career Development Event will be sufficient cause to eliminate that participant and their team from the event.
  4. The use of tobacco products during the Career Development Events is not allowed and participants using tobacco products shall be disqualified.
  5. Participants failing to comply with the required dress for a Career Development Event shall be subject to disqualification.
  6. Participants failing to comply with the required bio-security procedures (Livestock and Dairy) for CDE's will be disqualified.
  7. Any participant found to be in possession of an electronic communication device (such as, but not limited to cell phone, walkie-talkie, radio transmitter, personal data assistant) during a CDE, shall be subject to disqualification.
  8. Any participant found to have printed materials in their possession, other than those provided by the IAVAT, the event host and/or those materials required by specific CDE rules, shall be subject to disqualification.
  9. Teachers, or designated adults, will be assigned responsibilities and may have their team(s) disqualified if they do not perform those duties.
  10. A team may be disqualified if a teacher, designated adult representative or a participant disregards the policies and/or instructions provided by the host of the event. Teams will be made aware of policies and/or instructions through printed rules, electronic messaging and/or instructions during registration the day of the event.
  11. A team may be disqualified if a teacher, or designated adult representative of the school, is found in the ring area before or during the event unless they are specifically assigned to that area.
  12. Should the IAVAT Board of Directors determine that cheating did occur, the school will be disqualified from the event and a letter, composed and mailed by the full Board of Directors, will be sent to the school's superintendent notifying the school of the violation and action taken. Situations and rules interpretations not covered by General Rules or specific Career Development Event Rules shall be ruled upon by the Event Superintendent.

### III. CDE Scoring

#### A. Placing Cards

1. Only the one placing which the participant believes is correct should be circled on the placing card for each ring.
2. The identity of a sample is indicated by placing the sample number on the line next to the correct name of the sample.
3. The grade or evaluation of an animal, a carcass, or a product is indicated by placing an "X" opposite the number of the animal, carcass, or product and in the column marked with the correct grade. On the back of the production judging cards are blanks that can be filled in for convenience of the individual in deciding the final placing. The **final placing must be circled** on the front side of the card. The circled placing is the one that is scored. Cards are pre-numbered and will be sorted and scored according to these numbers. Therefore participants should be sure to **use their own cards** and to mark and turn in the correct card for each ring.

#### B. Scantron Sheets

1. The Horse, Agronomy, Dairy Foods, Meats Evaluation & Technology, Food Science, Vet Science, Dairy Cattle, Poultry, Livestock, and Horticulture Career Development Events will be scored by Scantron and Scantron sheets will be used by participants for these events. Participants must have a #2 pencil to fill in their placings on the sheets. If necessary, special instructions will be given to participants the day of the event. Clipboards are highly recommended for CDE's which will be scored by Scantron.

#### C. Scoring System

1. The Hormel Computing Slide and/or Scantron® will be used in scoring the judging rings. In general the amount of cut made in a participant's score for exchanging pairs varies; a smaller cut is made for reversing pairs that the official judge indicates are close.

### IV. Contest Results

- #### A. Every possible effort will be made in computing the results of the Career Development Event in order to prevent errors. However, if the results announced and errors are revealed, the results will stand as announced and will not be corrected at a later date, except by a formal appeal, and approval by, a majority vote of the Board of Directors of the IAVAT. The formal appeal process shall be:

1. Notification of suspected discrepancies, specifically identifying the errors, must be made in writing by the local advisor to the President of the IAVAT and copied to the Executive Director of the IAVAT.
2. Notification of suspected discrepancies must be made no later than seven (7) days following the post-marked date of the Career Development Event results letter.
3. In a Level I Review, the President and Executive Director review the written notification and determine a review of the results by the full Board of Directors is in order.
4. If a Level II review is necessary, a special meeting of the IAVAT Board of Directors will be called within ten (10) days of the receipt of the notification.
5. The IAVAT Board of Directors, by majority vote can authorize a correction of the Career Development Event results.
6. A decision at either level of review will be considered to be final.

#### B. Resolving Ties in Scores

##### 1. Breaking Ties

- a. When using the Scantron, rings will be ranked by degree of difficulty and the student's scores will be automatically broken, based on those tie breakers.
- b. Prior to the commencement of scoring by Scantron, the judge(s) will identify the class(es) in an individual Career Development Event that will be used to break individual ties.
- c. Prior to the start of scoring by Scantron, the judge(s) will identify the class(es) in the Career Development Event that will be used to break remaining team tie.

- d. Excluding the Agricultural Sales CDE, for events in which Scantron scoring is not used and the judge has not identified the class(es) to use as a tie-breaker, when two or more teams have the same total score, the team with the higher ranking individual shall be ranked higher.
2. In instances when two or more individuals and/or teams have the same total score and the event is scored by hand or the Scantron fails to break the tie, the following procedure will be used to break the ties.
  - a. Breaking Team Ties
    - i. When two or more teams have the same total score, the team with the higher ranking individual shall be ranked higher.
  - b. Breaking Individual Ties
    - i. Prior to the commencement of scoring, the judge(s) will identify the class(es) in an individual Career Development Event that will be used to break individual ties in any Career Development Event not noted in the specific CDE rules.
    - ii. Prior to the commencement of scoring, the judge(s) will identify the class(es) in the Career Development Event that will be used to break remaining individual ties after applying the tie breakers noted in the specific CDE rules.
    - ii. For ties in instances where judges fail to identify the classes to serve as tie-breakers and no other method of breaking ties has been identified.
      - When two or more individuals have the same total score, the individual with the greatest number of perfect scores shall be ranked higher.
      - If individuals have the same number of perfect scores, the higher ranking will be determined by the next highest score, until all individual scores have been considered.
      - If a tie remains after comparing the scores and the event has a written test, the higher ranking goes to the individual with the higher exam score.
- C. The results for Career Development Events will be calculated and distributed in a timely manner. Every effort will be made to post results within one week of the event, but the assurance of accuracy, number of participants and office schedule may delay results.
  1. ***Official electronic results will be sent out at the earliest possible convenience (with the goal of less than 5 business days).***
  2. ***When results can be posted anonymously (by contestant and team number) team lines scores or detailed spreadsheets for the entire competition will be posted electronically.***
- D. Awards
  1. Ribbons will be awarded to each team that participates. Those teams whose scores place them in the upper third of the teams judging in a given division will receive blue ribbon awards, those in the next third will receive red ribbons, and those in the lowest third will receive white ribbons.
  2. Superior (purple) ribbons will be awarded to the top 10 teams in each division (but not more than the top half of the blue ribbon group) in place of the blue ribbons.
  3. Ribbons will be awarded to each individual that participates. Individuals whose scores place them in the upper third of those judging in a given division will receive blue ribbon awards, those in the next third will receive red ribbons, and those in the lowest third will receive white ribbons.
  4. Superior (purple) ribbons will be awarded to the top 10 individuals (but not more than the top half of the blue ribbon group) in each division or phase in place of the blue ribbons.
- E. In the event any agriculture education instructor or representative of the school suspects that cheating occurred at a Career Development Event, the following procedure will be followed:

1. The instructor or school representative will notify the IAVAT President, or the highest ranking IAVAT officer present, at the time of the suspected cheating or before leaving the CDE site.
2. In the event incidents of cheating do not come to light until after leaving the CDE site, then the incident must be reported within twenty-four (24) hours to the IAVAT President.
3. Sufficient evidence to support the charges must be made in writing and signed by teacher or school representative making the complaint. The written evidence must be faxed to the attention of the IAVAT President and carbon copied to the Executive Director of the IAVAT no later than three (3) school days following the contest.
4. In a Level I Review, the IAVAT President and Executive Director will review the evidence and determine if the complaint warrants a review by the IAVAT Board of Directors.
5. If a Level II review is necessary, the IAVAT Board of Directors will meet, review the charges and render a decision within ten (10) days of the completion of the event.
6. A decision at either level of review will be considered final.
7. The agriculture education instructor under question will be invited to the special IAVAT Board of Directors meeting to review with the Board the charges and evidence presented.
8. The IAVAT Board of Directors will consider the evidence and explanations provided before determining the final results of the Career Development Event.
9. In the event the IAVAT Board of Directors determines that the cheating did occur, the team and individual participants will be disqualified from the contest and a letter, composed and mailed by the full Board of Directors, will be sent to the school's superintendent notifying the school of the cause for the disqualification.

#### **V. Miscellaneous**

- A. At all CDE judging events where students are turning in judging cards, the host will provide official placings orally or in printed form and that when practical, items would be left out for learning purposes at the conclusion of the contest.
- B. Weather and Cancellations  
Each event will be held on the date indicated regardless of the weather. In some events it will be necessary for the judging to be done outside, this is especially true in the forestry, dairy cattle, and livestock events. In other events it may be necessary for the participants to be outside part of the time. Consequently, participants are urged to come prepared for the event regardless of the weather conditions.
- C. Individual Career Development Events are described in greater detail in separate sections.
- D. National Invitational Events Other than National FFA Convention
  1. The Illinois FFA Board of Directors is the responsible group in granting permissions to schools wishing to travel and represent the Illinois Association FFA at a regional-level and national-level invitational events. Permission must be received from the Illinois FFA Board of Directors when registrations forms require the signature of the State FFA Advisor or an Executive Staff Member.
  2. Requests to represent the Illinois Association must be in writing and will be addressed at the next meeting (July, October, January or April) following the receipt of the request. Requests should identify the event, the school who is making the request, a list of the individuals planning to compete and the individual who will serve as the chaperone for the event.
  3. Permission to represent the Illinois Association FFA are normally limited to teams placing in the top three schools at the state-level event conducted by the IAVAT or the FFA.
  4. Funding for a schools participation in regional-level and national-level events, other than those occurring at the National FFA Convention, are the local school's responsibility. A stipend is provided to schools representing Illinois FFA at events conducted at the National FFA Convention.

5. The list on the following page is not meant to be all-inclusive. There may additional opportunities, if so the request to represent at that event would follow the procedures listed previously.

| <b>National &amp; Regional-level Career Development Events</b><br>(Participation limited)  |                                |                                   |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>CDE</b>   | <b>Approximate Date</b>        | <b>Usual Location(s)</b>          |
| <b>Agronomy</b>  |                                |                                   |
| World Dairy Expo - Forage Management   | End Sept                       | Madison, WI                       |
| <b>Dairy</b>   |                                |                                   |
| World Dairy Expo   | End Sept                       | Madison, WI                       |
| All-American Dairy Show  | Mid Sept                       | Harrisburg, PA                    |
| North American International Livestock Expo  | Early Nov                      | Louisville, KY                    |
| <b>Dairy Foods</b>   |                                |                                   |
| World Dairy Expo   | Early Oct                      | Madison, WI                       |
| <b>Horse</b>   |                                |                                   |
| Quarter Horse Congress   | 4th Fri. in Oct                | Columbus, OH                      |
| Arabian Nationals  | 3rd Weekend in Oct             | Louisville, KY or Albuquerque, NM |
| National Appaloosa Show  | 24-Jun                         | Jackson, MS                       |
| National Western   | 2nd Wk Jan                     | Denver, CO                        |
| AQYHA  | 2nd Thurs in August            | Fort Worth, TX                    |
| Morgan Grand Nationals   | 1st Sat in Oct                 | Oklahoma City, OK                 |
| Pinto National Youth Event   | 3rd Sat June                   | Tulsa, OK                         |
| National Appaloosa Event   | 1st Sun July                   | Oklahoma City, OK                 |
| American Junior Paint Horse Event  | 3rd Fri July                   | Ft Worth, TX                      |
| Walking Horse Celebration Event  | 4th Sat August                 | Shelbyville, TN                   |
| <b>Horticulture</b>  |                                |                                   |
| NJHA Contest   | Last Weekend in Oct            | Changes Annually                  |
| <b>Livestock</b>   |                                |                                   |
| American Royal   | Early Nov                      | Kansas City, MO                   |
| National Western   | 2nd Week Jan                   | Denver, CO                        |
| Keystone International   | 1st Week Oct                   | Harrisburg, PA                    |
| Eastern National   | 2nd Wk Sept                    | Timonium, MD                      |
| Southeastern Regional<br>**2 Teams per state   | End October                    | Rocky Mount, NC                   |
| <b>Meats</b>   |                                |                                   |
| National Western   | 2nd Wk Jan                     | Denver, CO                        |
| <b>Parliamentary Procedure</b>   |                                |                                   |
| National Western   | 2nd Wk Jan                     | Denver, CO                        |
| <b>The Big "E"</b>   |                                |                                   |
| The Big "E" is an annual event offering a wide variety of invitational opportunities. Competitive events in the following area have been held in the past. |                                |                                   |
| Agriculture Mechanics  | Extemporaneous Public Speaking | Job Interview                     |
| Agronomy   | Farm Business Management       | Livestock                         |
| Creed Speaking   | Floriculture                   | Nursery/Landscape                 |
| Dairy Cattle   | Forestry                       | Parliamentary Procedure Poultry   |
| Dairy Foods  | Horse Evaluation               | Prepared Public Speaking          |