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**To:** [adviserlist@pafbla.org](mailto:adviserlist@pafbla.org)  
**Subject:** [adviserlist] RLC Update #2--The Competitive Events Big Picture  
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Dear FBLA Adviser

In this e-mail, my goals are to answer the following questions:

1. What is the competitive events big picture (for grades 9-12 students)?
2. What types of events are offered at an RLC?
3. Who may participate in the competitive events?
4. May students repeat in competitive events?
5. May students participate in more than one competitive event?
6. How are the events administered?
7. How are students selected to participate in the competitive events?

### **Question #1—What is the big picture?**

There are a minimum of 45 different “official” competitive events offered at your RLC. They will be identified in a future e-mail.

### **Question #2—What types of events are offered at the RLC?**

The competitive events are classified as:

1. **Individual events** (an event in which a single student participates and competes)
2. **Team events** (an event in which a team of 2-3 individuals (possibly more depending on the event) compete either collaboratively or individually)
3. **Recognition/chapter events** (events in which the chapter—not individuals—participate)

The events that are administered may be:

1. **Objective tests** (a multiple-choice, true/false type of test usually consisting of 100 questions)
2. **Performance events** (events in which students “perform” such as a speaking or interviewing)
3. **School-site (production) events** (events in which students complete some kind of project on a computer/school-site tests may be individual or team based)

There are some events that are grade specific. For example, some events are only open to students in grades 9 and 10.

### **Question #3—Who may participate in the competitive events?**

Students who participate in the competitive events program **must be dues-paying members**.

Advisers must have registered the student as a member and have paid the state and national dues for the student before actually participating in the competitive events program.

### **Question #4—May students repeat in competitive events?**

It depends on the type of event.

If the student has participated in an individual competitive event in prior years, he/she **MAY NOT** participate in that competitive event again.

If the student has participated in a team competitive event in prior years, there is a **possibility** a student may repeat in a competitive event.

The competitive events guidelines are the written authority on the competitive events.

#### **Question #5— May students participate in more than one competitive event?**

**The answer is NO.** The student may participate in one individual event OR in one team event, but the student may not participate in more than one individual or team event at a time.

You will hear some reference to **state-only events** that will be due on December 6. Those are events that are submitted directly to the state office and are not administered at the RLC. If a student is participating in a state-only event, he or she **MAY NOT** participate in an individual or team event at the RLC. That is considered the student's competitive event. More will follow on state-only events.

#### **Question #6— How are the events administered?**

The **objective tests** are administered online utilizing a computer and Internet access. Students complete the 100-question test at a computer either prior to the RLC or the day of the RLC— depending on the guidelines submitted by the region's adviser. The objective tests may be administered as an individual test (one person only) or as a collaborative test (team or 2 or 3 working together on one test). Local chapter advisers receive a series of online test codes to give to their students to access the tests. Local chapter advisers or non-advisers must supervise the administration of the events.

The **school-site tests** have two parts—a production test administered at the student's school prior to the RLC and an objective test administered at the student's school prior to the RLC or the day of the RLC. The school-site test is a production type test in which the student(s) must complete a series of jobs in a certain amount of time and are working at a computer. Non-FBLA advisers receive the school-site tests and must administer the event; FBLA advisers are not permitted to administer the events.

The **performance events** are events in which the students perform/present in front of a panel of judges. In some of these events (such as speaking events), the students may have been able to prepare and develop a topic prior to the RLC; in some events, the student may only find out the topic 10-20 minutes before performing. In interview events, the student is interviewed for a specific job or recognition. The performance events are not administered at the home school; they are administered the day of the RLC. FBLA advisers may be used to administer the event, but regions usually seek businesspeople or others with expertise in event areas to serve as judges.

#### **Question #7— How are students selected to participate in the competitive events?**

How students are selected is a local chapter adviser's decision. In some chapters, the local chapter advisers will recommend or assign students to competitive events based on their levels of expertise in the event subject matter. In other chapters, the advisers simply allow the students to select the event in which students want to participate. It is perfectly acceptable to guide members into competitive events where the adviser feels the student will perform the best. It is also perfectly acceptable for the adviser to "recruit" students to be members to participate in the competitive events program—especially areas which may be taught outside the business department (examples: economics, speech classes, computer repair or networking classes). Just remember, the students

must be dues-paying members to participate in the competitive events program.

**If there are any discrepancies between what I have written above and the Chapter Management Handbook's Competitive Event Guidelines, the written guidelines always supersede anything which I may have written.**

Bruce

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