

2026-2027 Competitive Events Guidelines

Impromptu Speaking (High School)



Impromptu Speaking challenges members to think quickly and deliver a well-organized, engaging speech on a topic revealed onsite at the competition. Members demonstrate their ability to communicate effectively, organize ideas on the spot, and present with confidence under time constraints.

Event Overview	
Division	High School
Event Type	Individual
Event Category	Presentation
Event Elements	Speech with a Topic given on-site
Event Information:	
National Leadership Conference: Timing Structure: • Preparation Time: 20 minutes ○ a one-minute warning will be provided • Presentation (Speech): 7 minutes ○ a one-minute warning will be provided • Question & Answer (Q&A): None Important Notes: • Internet Access: Not Provided • 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.	State/Region: Review Region and State Sections further on in this document.

***** Event specifics are continued below. Review the document in its entirety.**

Region

Region Eligibility

Each chapter may enter two (2) participants who are members of active local chapters in FBLA Connect, the FBLA membership system. An active chapter is defined as having members “pending or paid” at the time of the RLC registration deadline submitted by the region adviser to the Executive Director and published on the PA FBLA website.

In order to be registered for this event, student data is imported into Blue Panda, the event registration and competitive events management system, from FBLA Connect. Students are imported and able to be registered only if identified as having “pending or paid” membership. “Paid” membership is defined as a dues payment for the student received by National FBLA; “pending” membership is defined as membership for which payment is due to National FBLA 60 days from the date the student appears on the membership invoice.

Members may compete in an event more than once if they have not previously placed in the top ten of that event at NLC. If a member places in the top ten of an event at NLC, they are no longer eligible to compete in that event at RLC, SLC, or NLC.

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It is the responsibility of the local chapter adviser

- to pay membership dues for all competitors by the published region deadline and to register students through Blue Panda by the published deadline.

Region Procedure

1. The participant must comply with the PA FBLA Dress Code which can be found at <https://www.pafbla.org/about-pafbla/dress-code/>. Points will be deducted for not complying with the dress code **UNLESS** it is an egregious violation.
2. All participants in this event must report at the event time listed in the program for instructions and to be sequestered. **Because the students in this event are sequestered, a participant arriving late may enter the holding room as long as the first performance has not begun. If the first performance has begun, the participant will not be permitted to enter the holding room. The participant will not receive any instructions if the participant arrives after instructions have been given by the event administrator. This disqualification is necessary due to a potential unfair advantage which might occur from learning the event topic.**
3. There is only one round of competition at the region level.
4. The speech topic will be given to the competitor at the beginning of their assigned preparation time.
5. Twenty (20) minutes before the performance, each participant will receive the topic.
6. Participants must bring a writing utensil.
7. Two (2) 4" x 6" note cards will be provided for each participant and may be used during the preparation and presentation. Information may be written on both sides of the index cards. Note cards will be collected following the presentation.
8. No reference materials, visual aids, or electronic devices may be brought to or used during the preparation or performance; if found, any such items will be given to the event administrators to hold until the members complete their performance. Magazines, books, playing cards, and other printed items not related to the event's content are allowed in the holding room.
9. The participant has seven (7) minutes to present their speech to a panel of judges.
10. Participants should introduce themselves.
11. At the end of six (6) minutes, a timekeeper will stand until noticed and hold up a colored timecard indicating one minute is left, and at seven (7) minutes the timekeeper will stand and hold up a colored timecard indicating time is up.
12. Final presentations are open to conference attendees, except performing participants who are finalists of this event. If participants of the event view other presentations before or after their scheduled presentation time, they (or their team if they are part of one) will be disqualified.

Region Judging

The participant will be evaluated by a panel of judges using the rating sheet found in these guidelines. All decisions of the judges are final. If there is a tie, ties will be broken based on the following:

Judges must make a definitive decision on ranking. Ties are not permitted. The decision of the judges is final.

Region Awards

Each region at a **minimum** must distribute a certificate to the top five place finishers in each event.

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State

State Eligibility

The minimum number of competitors each region may enter is the first- and second-place winners who are members of active local chapters on record in FBLA Connect as having dues listed as “pending or paid.” Since a participant’s “pending or paid” membership was required at the time of region conference registration, only students who are “pending or paid” appear in Blue Panda to be registered for and assigned competitive events at the State Leadership Conference.

If any of the eligible winners cannot attend the SLC, it is the responsibility of the:

local chapter adviser

- to contact the region adviser about the student who will not be attending.

region adviser

- to contact the adviser of the next eligible competitor about participating at the State Leadership Conference.
- to notify the PA FBLA Executive Director/State Chairman of the change before the deadline date published at <https://www.pafbla.org/about-pafbla/important-dates/>, which is posted on the PA FBLA web site.

State Procedure

1. The event requires three rooms—a holding/sequestering room, a preparation room, and a delivery room.

Oral Presentation

1. A **preliminary round** will be held to determine the top participants in the final round. All participants will be divided randomly into groups by a member of the state committee, with an equal number of the top participants from each group advancing to the final round.
 - The order of performance will be drawn at random by a member of the state committee.
 - Finalists for this event will be an equal number advancing from the preliminary round groups to a maximum of 15 in events in which there are no preliminary rounds.
2. The following procedures will be followed during the **final round**:
 - The order of performance will be drawn at random by a member of the state committee.
3. Both the rounds will be open to an audience. The performance is open to all conference attendees, except performing participants of this event. If participants of the event view other presentations before or after their scheduled presentation time, they (or their team if they are part of one) will be disqualified.
4. **The participant must comply with the PA FBLA Dress Code which can be found at <https://www.pafbla.org/about-pafbla/dress-code/>. Points will be deducted for not complying with the dress code UNLESS it is an egregious violation.**
5. All participants in this event must report at the event time listed in the program for instructions and to be sequestered. **Because the students in this event are sequestered, a participant arriving late may enter the holding room as long as the first performance has not begun. If the first performance has begun, the participant will not be permitted to enter the holding room. The participant will not receive any instructions if the participant arrives after instructions have been**

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given by the event administrator. This disqualification is necessary due to a potential unfair advantage which might occur from learning the event topic.

6. The speech topic will be given to the competitor at the beginning of their assigned preparation time.
7. Twenty (20) minutes before the performance, each participant will receive the topic.
8. Participants must bring a writing utensil.
9. Two (2) 4" x 6" note cards will be provided for each participant and may be used during the preparation and presentation. Information may be written on both sides of the index cards. Note cards will be collected following the presentation.
10. No reference materials, visual aids, or electronic devices may be brought to or used during the preparation or performance; if found, any such items will be given to the event administrators to hold until the members complete their performance. Magazines, books, playing cards, and other printed items not related to the event's content are allowed in the holding room.
11. The participant has seven (7) minutes to present their speech to a panel of judges.
12. Participants should introduce themselves.
13. At the end of six (6) minutes, a timekeeper will stand until noticed and hold up a colored timecard indicating one minute is left, and at seven (7) minutes the timekeeper will stand and hold up a colored timecard indicating time is up.
14. Final presentations are open to conference attendees, except performing participants who are finalists of this event. If participants of the event view other presentations before or after their scheduled presentation time, they (or their team if they are part of one) will be disqualified.

State Judging

The participant will be evaluated by a panel of judges using the rating sheet found in these guidelines.

All decisions of the judges are final. If there is a tie, ties will be broken based on the following:

Judges must make a definitive decision on ranking. Ties are not permitted. The decision of the judges is final.

State Awards

The state chapter will present a maximum of ten (10) awards at the State Leadership Conference.

National Conference Eligibility

The first-, second-, third-, and fourth-place award winners at the State Leadership Conference are eligible to attend the National Leadership Conference.

If the first-, second-, third-, or fourth-place winner cannot attend, it is the responsibility of the:

local chapter adviser

- to contact the PA FBLA Executive Director/State Chairman about the student who will not be attending.

PA FBLA Executive Director/State Chairman

- to contact the next eligible award winner about participating at the National Leadership Conference.

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National

Required Competition Items

Items Competitor Must Provide	Items FBLA Provides
- Conference-provided nametag Photo identification - Attire that meets the FBLA Dress Code	- Two notecards - Pencil - Secret speech topic revealed onsite

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.
- **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:
 - o One individual or team event, and
 - o One chapter event (e.g., *Community Service Project* or *Local Chapter Annual Business Report*).
- **Participation Requirement:** To be eligible for an award, each competitor must complete all components of the event at the National Leadership Conference.
- **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 Administration

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

Preliminary Presentation (Speech) Details

Timing Structure

- **Preparation Time:** 20 minutes (a one-minute warning will be provided)
- **Presentation:** 7 minutes (a one-minute warning will be provided)
- **Question & Answer (Q&A):** None

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Speech Prompt

- Competitors will be provided with a single copy of the topic at the beginning of their assigned preparation time. This copy may only be accessed within the designated preparation area.

Notecard Use

- Each competitor will receive two notecards for use during preparation and the presentation. Information may be written on both sides. Notecards will be collected after the speech.

Materials

- No technology, reference materials, visuals, or props may be used.

Audience

- Presentations are closed to all conference attendees.

Confidentiality

- To maintain fairness, competitors must not discuss or share the speech topic until the event concludes.

Advancement to Finals

- The top-scoring competitors from each preliminary section will advance to the final round in equal numbers.
- The number of competitors 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

Scoring

- Preliminary round scores are used to determine which competitors 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.

Electronic Devices

- Unless approved as part of a documented accommodation, all cell phones, smartwatches, electronic devices, and headphones must be turned off and stored away before the competition begins. Visible devices during the event will be considered a violation of the FBLA Honor Code.

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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.

Sample Preparation Resources

- Official sample speech topics can be found in [CONNECT](#). These sample items showcase the types of questions that may be asked on the test and familiarize competitors with the multiple-choice item options.

Important FBLA Documents

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

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Impromptu Speaking Presentation Rating Sheet

Expectation Item	Not Demonstrated	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations	Points Earned
Incorporates provided topic	<i>Provided topic is not mentioned in speech</i>	<i>Topic is not clearly incorporated into speech</i>	<i>Topic was clearly incorporated into speech</i>	<i>Topic was clearly incorporated and expanded thoroughly throughout the speech</i>	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
Identify and execute a consistent theme	<i>No theme presented</i>	<i>Theme was identified, but not consistent throughout speech</i>	<i>Theme identified and consistent throughout speech</i>	<i>Personal stories are utilized to expand on the central theme</i>	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
Include accurate and appropriate supporting information	<i>No supporting information provided OR inappropriate material used</i>	<i>One example of supporting information provided</i>	<i>Multiple examples of supporting information provided</i>	<i>Multiple examples of supporting information included to develop and enhance the speech</i>	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
Introduce the topic immediately (Introduction)	<i>Topic was not introduced</i>	<i>Introduction was not clearly presented</i>	<i>Introduction was clearly presented, and topic was defined immediately</i>	<i>Introduction was clearly presented, and topic was defined immediately with an effective transition into the speech body</i>	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
Support the topic throughout (Body)	<i>Speech did not have a topic</i>	<i>Multiple topics presented without clear connections</i>	<i>Central topics were identified, connected, and supported throughout the speech</i>	<i>Smooth transitions were effectively utilized to support the central topic</i>	
	0 points	1-9 points	10-16 points	17-20 points	
Provide effective conclusion (Closing)	<i>Speech did not have a conclusion</i>	<i>Conclusion was not clearly presented</i>	<i>Effective conclusion was presented</i>	<i>Conclusion provides connection to entire presentation</i>	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
Presentation Delivery					
Delivers quality extemporaneous presentation	<i>Does not address audience at all</i>	<i>Reads speech directly from notes with minimal eye contact</i>	<i>Glances at notes occasionally while keeping appropriate eye contact with audience</i>	<i>Glances at notes occasionally, keeps appropriate eye contact, and utilizes appropriate body language and hand gestures</i>	
	0 points	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 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	1-5 points	6-10 points	11-15 points	
Staff Only: Penalty Points (5 points for dress code penalty and/or 5 points for late arrival penalty)					
Presentation Total (100 points)					
Name(s):					
School:					Section:
Judge Signature:					Date:
Comments:					