

# GENERAL RULES & GUIDELINES

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The Texas 4-H Youth Development Program and 4-H FCS National Championship and Conference Management reserve the right to modify or change rule(s) for the purpose of clarification and/or understanding.

## Eligibility

1. A state/territory/District of Columbia is permitted to enter only one entry in each division of a contest, except for Fashion Revue which allows 2 entries in each division and FCS Educational Presentation allow 2 entries, into the 4-H FCS National Championship & Conference. An entry is an individual, in the events where individuals compete against individuals only, or a team in events where total team scores are computed and recognition given to the team. Individuals may be recognized in those events that are primarily team events.
2. The eligibility requirements to enter a National 4-H Competitive Event or a Multi-State 4-H Competitive event are:
  - a. The contestant must already have passed his or her 14th birthday and may not have reached his or her 19th birthday as of January 1 of the year in which the National 4-H Competitive Event is held. However, the State 4-H Leader may grant a special authorization to compete, for youth with developmental disabilities who exceed the upper age limit.

### Clarification:

The January dates for the 4-H FCS National Championships and Conference are considered part of the previous year for the purpose of ensuring that all eligible youth have a chance to compete in the 4-H FCS National Championships and Conference during their final year of eligibility. It also establishes the age limit of 20 years, indicating that individuals who have turned 20 before the event's start date are ineligible to compete.

- b. All contestants must be members of 4-H in the state they are representing during the year in which the National 4-H Competitive Event is held.
- c. The contestant, his or her county 4-H staff member, and the State 4-H Leader must certify as follows on the application form or an accompanying memo:

*“This contestant has not participated in post-secondary coursework in the subject area of the national 4-H competition, nor has he or she participated in training for post-secondary competition in the subject area of the national 4-H competition.” Violation of the above will result in forfeiture of any awards or recognition which have been won in the National 4-H Competitive Event.*
3. The contestant(s) or team(s) of contestants must be certified as the official state entry by the State 4-H Leader or by a person designated by the State 4-H Leader. The individual(s) or team (s) may be selected by any procedure the State 4-H Leader believes is appropriate.
4. Reference each contest for contest specific eligibility requirements.