

Instructions to Contest Judges

1. Judges must be completely familiar with the Missouri SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards, particularly the General Regulations, Instructions to Technical Committee Chairs, and the specific rules of the contest they have been asked to judge.
2. Judges should receive copies of the contest project and judges' rating sheet(s), along with complete instructions from the technical committee chairperson prior to the competition.
3. Members of the Missouri SkillsUSA District Championships Technical Committee may not serve as judges unless approved by the Missouri SkillsUSA District Contest Coordinator or the Senior District SkillsUSA Advisor.
4. Judges must give careful attention to each rule, and each contestant or entry must be judged in exactly the same manner and under the same conditions as every other contestant or entry.
5. Judges will meet prior to the Missouri SkillsUSA District Championships, at a time and place announced by the Missouri SkillsUSA District Championships technical committee chairperson, to confer on
 - a. Rule meanings and interpretations
 - b. Room arrangements
 - c. Materials and equipment
 - d. Last-minute details
6. Judges will evaluate the performance of each contestant according to the criteria listed in each contest. The Senior District SkillsUSA Advisor, must approve any changes in the rating sheets' criteria.
7. Judges will report to the contest site prior to the start of the SkillsUSA District Championships and will be present throughout the competition. The Missouri SkillsUSA District Contest Coordinator or the Senior District SkillsUSA Advisor, must approve all exceptions.
8. Judges will identify contestants by number only. Judges will not use contestants' names, schools or states unless otherwise specified in individual contest rules.
9. Only members of the technical committee may instruct the contestants and verify attendance.
10. Judges are selected because of their recognized expertise in the trade or skill that they are being asked to judge and are asked to follow the official SkillsUSA rules without inserting personal opinion. Such things as length of hair, length of dress and style of shoe, unless specifically covered in the contest regulations, are not to be considered by the judges except where safety is considered.
11. In no instance are judges or contest chairs authorized to change the contest rules. If an interpretation is required, the chairperson should contact the Missouri SkillsUSA District Contest Coordinator or the Senior District SkillsUSA Advisor.
12. Judges are to evaluate all items related to safety. Contestants not meeting safety requirements in clothing and/or devices may be disqualified from competition if, in the judges' opinions, the safety of the contestants or those around them is endangered.
13. Judges should rate contestants on the basis of entry-level job skills.
14. Judges should rate each contestant independently and not compare rating sheets with those of other judges.
15. In contests where there are three or less contestants, judges should rate participants against a standard of performance rather than automatically awarding first-, second- and third-place awards. In other words, it is not necessary to select a third-place or second-place winner if the judges feel the standard of performance is not high enough.
16. After the judging is completed, judges should total their own rating sheets and return them, along with any notes and other pertinent information, to the contest technical committee chairperson.
17. The judges and technical committee members will keep all results confidential until the general announcement of winners is made at the awards ceremony. Under no circumstances may the judges discuss contest results with contestants or chapter advisors.
18. Judges should refer all contest inquiries or problems that arise to the Missouri SkillsUSA District Contest Coordinator or the Senior District SkillsUSA Advisor.
19. The contest technical committee chairperson will validate the judges rating sheets, compile the total scores and deliver the results to Missouri SkillsUSA District Headquarters.