



## FIREFIGHTING



SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards

### PURPOSE

To evaluate each competitor's preparation for employment and to recognize outstanding students for excellence and professionalism in the field of firefighting.

First, download and review the General Regulations at [updates.skillsusa.org](https://updates.skillsusa.org).

### ELIGIBILITY

Open to active SkillsUSA members enrolled in career and technical education programs, work-based learning, or community training programs with firefighting and/or public safety/protective services as an occupational objective. Each state may send one high school and one college/postsecondary competitor.

### CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS

#### **Class D: Competition Specific — Blue Attire**

- Official SkillsUSA light blue work shirt
- Navy pants  
*Note:* Must be work style pants (e.g. Dickie's) or BDU/tactical style (e.g., 5.11) accompanied by black belt.
- Black, brown, or tan work safety shoes  
*Note:* Protective toe cap is not required. Shoes must be professional/police or tactical style boots. No tennis/running style shoes.

*Note:* Safety glasses must have side shields or goggles. (Prescription safety glasses may be used only if they are equipped with side shields. If not, they must be covered with goggles.)

These regulations refer to SkillsUSA Championships Clothing Classifications that are pictured and described at [skillsusastore.org](https://skillsusastore.org). If you have questions about competition uniforms, call the SkillsUSA Store at 888-501-2183.

**Note:** Competitors must wear their official competition clothing to the competition orientation.

As competitors will be donning and doffing turnout gear several times during the competition, they may wear either of the attire listed below:

1. Official SkillsUSA Class D (outlined above)  
**OR**
2. Sweat/workout pants made of industry appropriate materials, close-toed and close-heeled shoes, and plain T-shirt.

**Note:** The workout attire may only be worn during the competition as directed by the technical committee during orientation. Clothing needs to be professional. Any identification of department, school, city, or state must be covered and should be avoided if possible.

## EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

1. Provided by the technical committee:
  - a. All necessary materials for the competition that are not specified elsewhere.
2. Supplied by the competitor:
  - a. Complete set of firefighter's personal protective equipment, including:
    - 1). Structure rated helmet with chin strap.
    - 2). Eye protection appropriate for fire industry (face shield or other industry standard eye cover)
    - 3). Bunker coat, pants with liners, and suspenders (if applicable to gear's design).
    - 4). Standard fire boots (with steel toe/shank/shin guard)
    - 5). Firefighter protective hood
    - 6). Structure rated fire gloves
    - 7). SCBA face piece
      - a) Optional: competitors may bring SCBA tank and accessories

**Note:** Any identification of department, school, city, or state must be covered and should be avoided if possible.
  - b. Pen and No. 2 pencil
  - c. All competitors must create and submit online a one-page single sided resume. See "Online Submission Requirements" below for guidelines.

**Note:** All national competitors must also check for competition-specific updates and/or competitor preparation instructions on the SkillsUSA website at [updates.skillsusa.org](https://updates.skillsusa.org).

## PROHIBITED DEVICES

Cellphones, electronic watches and/or other electronic devices not approved by a competition's national technical committee are **NOT** allowed in the competition area. Please follow the guidelines in each technical standard for approved exceptions. Technical committee members may also approve exceptions onsite during the SkillsUSA Championships if deemed appropriate.

### Penalties for Prohibited Devices

If a competitor's electronic device makes noise or if the competitor is seen using it at any time during the competition, an official report will be documented for review by the Director of the SkillsUSA Championships. If confirmed that the competitor used the device in a manner which compromised the integrity of the competition, the competitor's scores may be removed.

## ONLINE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All SkillsUSA national competitors must submit their one-page single sided resume online. The deadline and link for online submissions will be published on [updates.skillsusa.org](https://updates.skillsusa.org).

Failure to submit any of the required document(s) listed below by the established deadline will result in a 10-point penalty.

### 1. One-page single sided resume

Your submission must be saved as PDF file type using the file name format of "Your Last Name\_Your First Name\_Resume." For example, "Amanda Smith" would save the individual PDF submissions file as:

- Smith\_Amanda\_Resume

## SCOPE OF THE COMPETITION

The competition is defined by industry standards and the following is a list of materials used in the formation of the competition.

- IFSTA Manual Essentials of Firefighting, seventh edition
- NFPA 1001 Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications

### KNOWLEDGE PERFORMANCE

The competition will include a test assessing general knowledge of firefighting. Competitors are also required to take the SkillsUSA Professional Development Test.

### SKILL PERFORMANCE

The competition will include activities that simulate training and events encountered by firefighting professionals.

1. **Communication:** Evaluation of professionalism and communication skills in a scenario(s) from either a job interview or a community interaction common to firefighting.
2. **Ropes and Knots:** Competitors will be evaluated on skills related to ropes and knots commonly used in firefighting. Competitors will use structural firefighting gloves while completing this skill performance. Skill station(s) may have a required time limit. Common knots may include:
  - a. Half Hitch: Tie around the bar
  - b. Clove Hitch — Closed: Tie around the bar
  - c. Clove Hitch — Open: Tie the knot in hand and slip it over an object
  - d. Bowline: Tie the knot in hand and slip it over an object

- e. Figure–Eight (aka Flemish) knot: Tie in hand
  - f. Figure–Eight on a Bight: Tie the knot in hand and slip it over an object
  - g. Figure–Eight Bend (aka Flemish Bend): Connect two ropes of different colors
  - h. Sheet Bend using two different sized ropes: Connect two ropes of different colors and difference sizes
  - i. Girth Hitch used for Hose Straps: Tie around the bar
3. **Skill Demonstrations:** Competitors will be evaluated on skills common to firefighting. All skills will be completed in full gear minus mask.
- Note:** Skill station(s) may have a required time limit and/or be part of a timed circuit. A penalty of 10 points will be assessed during circuits each time a competitor runs. One foot must always be on the ground when moving.
- Common skill demonstrations may include:
- a. Rapid Dress (don full turnout gear)
  - b. Hoses (connect, couple, and charge)
  - c. Nozzle (patterns and control)
  - d. Ladder Raise (solo lift of ladder less than 20 feet and/or commanding a lift with a partner of a ladder over 20 feet)
  - e. Basic Life Saver CPR
  - f. Forced Entry (as lead in a two person team)
  - g. Restricted space prop (maneuvering between 16 inch studs)
  - h. Crawling across ceiling joists/attic space prop
  - i. Going over and under obstacles, i.e., crawlspace prop
  - j. Maneuvering small corridors, some with simulated wiring obstructions
  - k. Knots & Hoist - tying a common fire tool for hoisting
  - l. Coupling
  - m. Rescue Drag
  - n. Search Scenario
  - o. Equipment Carry

## COMPETITION GUIDELINES

1. Each competitor must work independently without assistance from instructors, other competitors, and/or observers. Contact with competitors must be coordinated through designated event staff only. Any violation of this may result in the disqualification of the competitor.
2. A competitor holding area will be established if observation of stations/scenarios presents a competitive advantage. Competitors must remain in the holding area until they complete all required stations.
3. Cell phones, iPads/tablets, smart watches, wearable technology, and/or any other electronic communication device are prohibited in the competition and holding areas. Competitors are allowed to have reading material i.e., books, magazines in the holding area. See “Prohibited Devices” section above for more details.
4. Only competitors, judges and event staff are allowed in the competition area at any time. Observation is limited to the area designated by the judges or event staff. Outdoor

competition area may only be accessed by judges, competitors, and event staff. Any violation of this may result in the disqualification of the competitor.

5. Contact with the judges in any way, at any time without the expressed permission of the competition coordinator is prohibited.

## **STANDARDS AND COMPETENCIES**

The standards and competencies for this competition come from NFPA 1001 Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications specifically for Fire Fighter I. These standards are copyrighted and cannot be posted. To download these, sign up for a free account at NFPA <https://www.nfpa.org>.

### **FF 1.0 — SkillsUSA Framework**

The SkillsUSA Framework is used to pinpoint the Essential Elements found in Personal Skills, Workplace Skills and Technical Skills Grounded in Academics. Students will be expected to display or explain how they used some of these Essential Elements. For more, visit: [www.skillsusa.org/who-we-are/skillsusa-framework/](http://www.skillsusa.org/who-we-are/skillsusa-framework/).

## **COMMITTEE IDENTIFIED ACADEMIC SKILLS**

The technical committee has identified that the following academic skills are embedded in this competition.

### **Math Skills**

- Use fractions to solve practical problems
- Use proportions and ratios to solve practical problems
- Measure angles
- Find surface area and perimeter of two-dimensional objects

### **Science Skills**

- Plan and conduct a scientific investigation
- Describe basic needs of organisms
- Describe and identify physical changes to matter
- Use knowledge of heat, light and sound energy
- Use knowledge of temperature scales, heat and heat transfer
- Use knowledge of simple machines, compound machines, powered vehicles, rockets and restraining devices

### **Language Arts Skills**

- Provide information in conversations and in group discussions
- Demonstrate use of such verbal communication skills as word choice, pitch, feeling, tone and voice
- Demonstrate use of such nonverbal communication skills as eye contact, posture and gestures using interviewing techniques to gain information

## **CONNECTIONS TO NATIONAL STANDARDS**

State-level academic curriculum specialists identified the following connections to national academic standards.

### **Math Standards**

- Geometry
- Measurement
- Problem solving
- Communication
- Connections
- Representation

*Source: NCTM Principles and Standards for School Mathematics. For more information, visit: [www.nctm.org](http://www.nctm.org).*

### **Science Standards**

- Understands forces and motion
- Understands the nature of scientific inquiry

### **Language Arts Standards**

- Students adjust their use of spoken, written and visual language (e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.
- Students use spoken, written and visual language to accomplish their own purposes. (e.g., for learning, enjoyment, persuasion and the exchange of information.)

*Source: IRA/NCTE Standards for the English Language Arts. To view the standards, visit: [www.ncte.org/standards](http://www.ncte.org/standards).*