

**Maryland FBLA
Advisor Update #1
Competitive Event Updates for 2015-16
November 4, 2015**

Dear Maryland FBLA Advisors:

There are several important competitive event updates for the 2015-16 school year. Please take a few minutes to review the following information:

- [Maryland Competitive Events Guide \(updated October, 2015\)](#)
- [Competitive Events Made Easy summary sheet](#)
- [New and modified events for 2015-16](#)
- [Open Events at the State Leadership Conference](#) *****new for 2016*****
- [National Only Events](#)
- [National FBLA Competitive Events Online Reference Guide](#)
- [Eligibility guidelines for Regional Leadership Conferences and the State Leadership Conference](#)
- [Deadline for submitting prejudged materials and reports](#)
- [Gold Seal Chapter Award of Merit – Revised guidelines and special chapter rebate program](#)

Maryland Competitive Events Guide (updated October, 2015)

The updated handbook is attached and is posted on the Maryland FBLA website. The Maryland Competitive Events Guide should be reviewed in conjunction with the National FBLA Competitive Events Handbook and Rating Sheets, which can be found at the following address:

National FBLA Competitive Event Guidelines and Rating Sheets

<http://www.fbla-pbl.org/data/files/competitive/2015/0819/FBLA%20Competitive%20Events%202015-16.pdf>

Competitive Events Made Easy summary sheet

The Board of Directors has created a “Competitive Events Made Easy” summary sheet of all competitive events offered at Regionals and the State Leadership Conference. This summary sheet is included in the appendix of the Maryland Competitive Events Handbook. The summary sheet lists who is eligible to compete and what type of competition is held at Regionals and the SLC. Please review the summary sheet in conjunction with the Maryland Competitive Events Handbook for detailed event guidelines and requirements.

New and modified events for 2015-16

New Events

- There are no new events for 2015-16.

Modified Events

- Accounting II—removed production test component
- Business Ethics—removed synopsis requirement
- Graphic Design (formerly Digital Design and Promotion)—event name change and removed prejudged component
- Introduction to Business Presentation (formerly Business Presentation)—event name change and now 9th-10th grade only

- Introduction to Business Procedures (formerly Business Procedures)—event name change and now 9th-10th grade only
- Introduction to Financial Math (formerly Business Math)—event name change
- Gold Seal Chapter Award of Merit—guideline changes, see the Maryland Competitive Events Handbook for the specific requirements
- Job Interview—removed job application requirement
- Publication Design (formerly Desktop Publishing)—event name change, removed prejudged component, added a performance component

Open Events at the State Leadership Conference (*)new for 2016(***)**

Four open events will be offered at the 2016 State Leadership Conference. Any student participating in the SLC is eligible to participate in one Open Event with a limitation of two (2) entries per event, per chapter. There is no prequalification for these events and one award will be issued for each Open Event. If there is a time conflict at the SLC where the Open Event time is at the same time as a student’s scheduled competitive event, the Open Event opportunity will be forfeited. The four open events are:

- Computer Foundations
- FBLA-PBL Foundations
- Management
- Microsoft Office Suite

Complete details can be found in the Maryland FBLA Competitive Events Guide.

National Only Events

Four events are offered by National FBLA that offer qualification for competition at the National Leadership Conference without qualification at the regional or state conferences. These events are administered by National FBLA directly and members compete in these events at their home schools. National FBLA will notify the top winners who are eligible to compete in these events at the National Leadership Conference. Refer to National FBLA’s Competitive Event Guidelines for more details for the following events:

- LifeSmarts
- Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS)—Excel
- Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS)—Word
- Virtual Business Management Challenge

Individuals and teams may participate in these events and also participate in the Regional and State Competitive Events Program. Registration for these events is handled directly with National FBLA, not Maryland FBLA.

If an individual or team qualifies to compete at the NLC in one of these National-only events, they cannot compete in another individual or team event should they qualify at the SLC for an event in the State Awards Program. For example, if a student qualifies to compete at the NLC in the Microsoft Office Specialist – Excel event and also comes in 1st place at the SLC in Accounting I (and therefore is eligible to compete in Accounting I at the NLC), the student must choose which of the two events they will actually compete in at the NLC. They cannot compete in more than one event at the NLC.

National FBLA Competitive Events Online Reference Guide

National FBLA has created an online resource that will be invaluable for you and your students when preparing for competitive events. Included in the online reference guide are links to each events’ guidelines/rating sheets, sample test questions, and examples of reports, presentations, and other prejudged materials. Please review this

important online tool to improve your chances of placing at regionals and states and share this information with your students. The online reference guide can be found at: <http://www.fbla-pbl.org/docs/ct/fblareferenceguide.asp>

Eligibility Guidelines for Regional Leadership Conferences and the State Leadership Conference

Regional Leadership Conference

For all online test events that are offered at the Regional Leadership Conference, each chapter may enter up to four individuals/teams in each event.

For all performance only events that are offered at the Regional Leadership Conference, each chapter may enter up to three individuals/teams in each event.

State Leadership Conference

The number of students eligible to compete at the State Leadership Conference remains the same as last school year. A summary is as follows:

- For **objective test only** events, seven individuals per region are eligible to compete at the SLC.
- For **events with an objective test and a performance component**, seven individuals or teams per region are eligible to compete at the SLC. At the SLC, all individuals or teams will take the objective test. The top ten individuals or teams (depending on the event) with the highest objective test score will advance to the performance round.
- For **events with an objective test and a production test component**, three individuals or teams per region are eligible to compete at the SLC.
- For **performance only events** (those that don't also have an objective test or pre-judged component), three individuals or teams per region are eligible to compete at the SLC.
- For **pre-judged events and reports that are individual or team events**, each chapter may submit four entries at the SLC. **(This is a change from the prior year. The number of entries has increased from two to four per chapter.)**
- For **chapter report events**, each chapter may submit one entry at the SLC.

Deadline for submitting pre-judged materials and reports

The receipt deadline for pre-judged materials and reports is 5 p.m. on March 4, 2016. All required materials and reports for the following events must be RECEIVED by the Competitive Events Committee by 5 p.m. on March 4, 2016:

<u>Pre-judged Events</u>	<u>Pre-judged Reports</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Businessperson of the Year ▪ Computer Game & Simulation Programming** ▪ Desktop Application Programming** ▪ Digital Video Production ▪ E-Business ▪ FBLA-PBL Week ▪ Gold Seal Chapter Award of Merit ▪ Mobile Application Development** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ American Enterprise Project ▪ Business Financial Plan ▪ Business Plan ▪ Community Service Project ▪ Local Chapter Annual Business Report ▪ Partnership with Business Project

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outstanding Chapter Award of Merit and Chapter of the Year ▪ Website Design ▪ Who's Who in Maryland FBLA 	
--	--

All events that have pre-judged materials (report, URL, etc.) with the exception of the list below will be uploaded to the Competitive Events Committee electronically. Links to the entry forms to submit the materials for these events can be found in the Appendix of the Maryland Competitive Events Guide.

****The following events have an online entry form in addition to mailing the prejudged materials to the Competitive Events Committee:**

- Computer Game & Simulation Programming
- Desktop Application Programming
- Mobile Application Development

The pre-judged events listed above that must be mailed in require an online entry form to be completed and the pre-judged materials to be mailed. The links for the online entry forms, as well as mailing instructions, can be found in the Appendix of the Maryland Competitive Events Guide.

Gold Seal Chapter Award of Merit – Revised guidelines and special chapter rebate program

We are pleased to offer updated guidelines for the Gold Seal Chapter Award of Merit chapter event and continue the rebate incentive program for being recognized as a Gold Seal Chapter. The revised guidelines and entry form are included in the Maryland Competitive Events Guide. This is an important event and the Board of Directors is strongly encouraging all chapters to actively participate.

Conference Rebate Program is back for 2016!!-----Every chapter recognized as a Gold Seal Chapter at the 2016 State Leadership Conference is eligible for a \$10 rebate for each individual registered for the conference. To qualify for the rebate, your chapter must meet the requirements of the Gold Seal Chapter Award of Merit event and submit the entry form and all other required information by the deadline. See the current *Maryland State Handbook – Competitive Events Guide* (revised October 2015) for the entry form, guidelines, and deadline information. All chapters who are recognized as Gold Seal Chapters at the 2016 SLC will receive a rebate check shortly after the conference. The rebate will be calculated as follows: # of paid attendees x \$10. Attendees include all paid attendees from your chapter (advisors, chaperones, guests, students, etc.).