

2024-25 Competitive Events Guidelines

Business Plan



Business plans are an effective tool for evaluating, organizing, and selling a new business concept. A well-developed business plan can be a key component of a successful business start-up. Business Plan provides members with the opportunity to prepare a business plan. This competitive event consists of a pre-judged report and presentation component.

Event Overview

Division: High School

Event Type: Team of 1, 2 or 3 members

Event Category: Presentation

Event Elements: Pre-judged Report & Presentation

Pre-judged Component: 17-page report submitted by SLC due date and May 13, 2025, for NLC

Presentation Time: 3-minute set-up time, 7-minute presentation time, 3-minute question & answer time

NACE Connections: Career & Self-Development, Critical Thinking, Communication, Leadership, Professionalism, Teamwork

Items Competitor Must Provide: Technology and presentation items for preliminary and final round presentation, conference-provided nametag, [photo identification](#), attire that meets the [FBLA Dress Code](#)

Items FBLA Provides: Table for preliminary round presentation; table, power, projector & screen for final round presentation

The business must not have been in operation more than 12 months.

Region

This event begins at the State Leadership Conference.

State

Reports are due uploaded to Blue Panda by the annual SLC due date. The reports will be prejudged as the preliminary score to determine finalists. The top ten (10) scoring reports chapters will present at the State Leadership Conference. Finalists will be announced the week of the conference if the event is on Friday; if the event is on Saturday, finalists will be announced at the opening session.

National

Required Competition Items

	Items Competitor Must Provide	Items FBLA Provides
Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technology and presentation items• Conference-provided nametag• Photo identification• Attire that meets the FBLA Dress Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Table

Important FBLA Documents

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

2024-25 Competitive Events Guidelines

Business Plan



Eligibility

- FBLA membership dues are paid by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on March 1 of the current school year.
- Members may compete in an event at NLC 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.
- Members must be registered for the SLC/NLC and pay the conference registration fee to participate in competitive events.
- Members must stay in an official FBLA hotel block to compete.
- Each chapter may submit one entry; states may submit four entries.
- Each competitor can only compete in one individual/team event and one chapter event (American Enterprise Project, Community Service Project, Local Chapter Annual Business Report, Partnership with Business Project) at the national level. SLC competitors may compete in one objective test/one performance event/ and one chapter event.
- Only competitors are allowed to plan, research, prepare their pre-judged component. They must also set up their presentation by themselves.
- Each competitor must compete in all parts of an event for award eligibility.
- All members of a team must consist of individuals from the same chapter.
- Picture identification (physical or digital: driver's license, passport, state-issued identification, or school-issued identification) matching the conference nametag is required when checking in for competitive events.
- If competitors are late for their assigned presentation time, they will be allowed to compete with a five-point penalty until such time that results are finalized, or the accommodation would impact the fairness and integrity of the event.
- Some competitive events start in the before the Opening Session of SLC/NLC. The schedules for competitive events are displayed in the local time of the NLC location. Competitive event schedules cannot be changed.

Recognition

- The number of competitors will determine the number of winners. The maximum number of winners for each competitive event is 10/NLC; 5/SLC.

Event Administration

- This event has two parts: pre-judged report and presentation
- The business must not have been in operation more than 12 months.
- Pre-judged Report: The Business Plan
 - **Submission Deadline:** A PDF of the report must be uploaded in the conference registration system by the annual SLC Due Date for state competition and by May 13, 2025, for national competition.
 - **Number of Pages:** The report will be no more than seventeen (17) pages.
 - The first page (front cover) should include the name of school, competitor names, state, name of the event, and school year (2024-25) on the cover.
 - The second page must include a table of contents and each page must be numbered.
 - Divider pages and appendices are optional and must be included in the page count.

2024-25 Competitive Events Guidelines

Business Plan



- Competitors must prepare reports. Advisers and others are not permitted to write reports. Reports must be original, current, and not submitted for a previous NLC.
- Pages must be formatted to fit on 8 ½" x 11" paper.
- The report is judged before the SLC/NLC.
- Pre-judged materials will not be returned. Reports submitted for competition become the property of FBLA. These reports may be used for publication and/or reproduced for sale by FBLA.
- Research: Facts and data must be cited and secured from quality sources.
- Restricted Items: QR codes and links cannot be included in the report.
- Reports will follow this sequence, mirroring the rating sheet:
 - *Executive Summary*: Provides a brief synopsis of the key points and strengths included in the plan.
 - *Company Profile*: Includes basic details of the business, including an overview, mission statement, location, legal structure and governance, organization and goals.
 - *Industry Analysis*: Provides an analysis of the larger industry in which the business will belong, analyzes key trends and strategic opportunities in the industry, demonstrates an understanding and awareness of external business decisions.
 - *Target Market*: Provides a brief overview of the nature and accessibility of the targeted audience. Analyzes the market's potential, current patterns, and sensitivities.
 - *Competitive Analysis*: Includes an honest and complete analysis of the business' competition and demonstrates an understanding of the business' relative strengths and weaknesses.
 - *Marketing Plan and Sales Strategy*: Demonstrates how the business' product or service will be marketed and sold, includes both strategic and tactical elements of the marketing and sales approach.
 - *Operations*: Provides an overview of business operations on a day-to-day basis, including production processes, physical facility reviews, use of technology, and processes followed to ensure delivery of products or services.
 - *Management and Organization*: Describes the key participants in the new business venture and identifies human resources the business can draw upon as part of the management team, employee pool, consultants, directors, or advisers. It also portrays the role each will play in the business' development and discusses compensation and incentives.
 - *Long-Term Development*: Gives a clear vision of where the business will be in three (3), five (5) or more years. It offers an honest and complete evaluation of the business' potential for success and failure and identifies priorities for directing future business activities.
 - *Financials*: Indicate the accounting methodology to be used by the business. Discuss any assumptions made in projecting future financial results. Present projections honestly and conservatively.

2024-25 Competitive Events Guidelines

Business Plan



- *Appendix:* Includes copies of key supporting documents (e.g., certifications, licenses, tax requirements, codes, letters of intent or advance contract, endorsements, etc.).
- Presentation
 - **Equipment Set-up Time:** 3 minutes
 - **Presentation Time:** 7 minutes (one-minute warning)
 - **Question & Answer Time:** 3 minutes
 - **Internet Access:** Not provided
 - **The business must not have been in operation more than 12 months.**
 - The presentation is judged at the SLC/NLC. Presentations are not open to conference attendees.
 - Timing: The presentation time is exclusive to the allotted times. Once the set-up time has been reached, the presentation time automatically begins. The presentation time shall not exceed the stated time, meaning that the set-up and Q&A time cannot be used as presentation time.
 - Technology
 - Competitors present directly from a device which includes a laptop, tablet, mobile phone, or external monitor (approximately the size of a laptop screen). Competitors can present with one or two devices. If presenting with two devices, one device must face the judges and one device must face the competitors.
 - Projectors and projector screens are not allowed for use, and competitors are not allowed to bring their own.
 - Wireless slide advancers (such as a presentation clicker or mouse) are allowed.
 - External speakers are not allowed. Only device audio can be used.
 - Power is not available.
 - Non-technology Items: Pre-judged reports, materials, notecards, visual aids, and samples related to the project may be used during the presentation; however, no items may be left with the judges or audience.
 - Restricted Items: Animals (except authorized service animals), Food (for display only; may not be consumed by judges during the presentation), Links and QR codes (for display only; cannot be clicked or scanned by judges before, during, or after the presentation)
 - Teamwork: If performing as a team, all team members are expected to actively participate in the presentation.
 - Research: Facts and data must be cited and secured from quality sources.
 - Presentation should cover:
 - Business Concept and Company Profile
 - Marketing Aspects
 - Operations and Management Plans
 - Financial Documents & Projections
 - Risks & Adverse Results
 - Long-Term Goals

2024-25 Competitive Events Guidelines

Business Plan



Scoring

- The report score will be used to determine the finalists.
- The report score will be used to break a tie.
- All announced results are final upon the conclusion of the SLC/NLC.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- FBLA meets the criteria specified in the Americans with Disabilities Act for all competitors with accommodations submitted through the conference registration system by the registration deadline.

Recording of Presentations

- No unauthorized audio or video recording devices will be allowed in any competitive event.
- Competitors in the events should be aware FBLA reserves the right to record any presentation for use in study or training materials.

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.

2024-25 Competitive Events Guidelines

Business Plan



Business Plan Pre-Judged Report Rating Sheet

Expectation Item	Not Demonstrated	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations	Points Earned
<p>Executive Summary</p> <p>Provide brief and concise Executive Summary. Convince reader that business concept is sound and has a reasonable chance of success</p>	<p>No Executive Summary</p>	<p>Executive Summary is provided but does not show evidence of sound business concept OR reasonable chance of success</p>	<p>Executive Summary is proved AND show evidence of sound business concept and reasonable chance of success</p>	<p>Executive Summary serves as a strong introduction and transitions into the remainder of the report</p>	
	0 points	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 points	
<p>Develop Company Profile</p> <p>Legal form of business Effective date of business Company mission statement/vision Company governance Company location(s) Immediate development goals Overview of company's financial status</p>	<p>More than one of the components listed is not addressed</p>	<p>Description of one or more components is limited OR one or more components is not described</p>	<p>All components are described adequately</p>	<p>All components are described adequately with supporting documentation</p>	
	0 points	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 points	
<p>Present Industry Analysis</p> <p>Description of industry (size, growth rates, history) Trends and strategic opportunities with industry</p>	<p>More than one of the components listed is not addressed</p>	<p>Description of one or more components is limited OR one or more components is not described</p>	<p>All components are described adequately</p>	<p>All components are described adequately with supporting documentation</p>	
	0 points	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 points	
<p>Present Target Market</p> <p>Target market defined (size, growth, potential, needs) Effective analysis of market's potential, current patterns, and sensitivities</p>	<p>More than one of the components listed is not addressed</p>	<p>Description of one or more components is limited OR one or more components is not described</p>	<p>All components are described adequately</p>	<p>All components are described adequately with supporting documentation</p>	
	0 points	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 points	
<p>Discuss Competition</p> <p>Key competitors identified Effective analysis of competitors' strengths and weaknesses Potential future competitors Barriers to entry for new competitors identified</p>	<p>More than one of the components listed is not addressed</p>	<p>Description of one or more components is limited OR one or more components is not described</p>	<p>All components are described adequately</p>	<p>All components are described adequately with supporting documentation</p>	
	0 points	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 points	
<p>Marketing Plan & Sales Strategy</p> <p>Key message to be communicated identified Options for message delivery identified and analyzed including Web process Sales procedures and methods defined</p>	<p>More than one of the components listed is not addressed</p>	<p>Description of one or more components is limited OR one or more components is not described</p>	<p>All components are described adequately</p>	<p>All components are described adequately with supporting documentation</p>	
	0 points	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 points	
<p>Operations</p> <p>Business facilities described Production plan defined and analyzed Workforce plan defined and analyzed Impact of Technology</p>	<p>More than one of the components listed is not addressed</p>	<p>Description of one or more components is limited OR one or more components is not described</p>	<p>All components are described adequately</p>	<p>All components are described adequately with supporting documentation</p>	
	0 points	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 points	

2024-25 Competitive Events Guidelines

Business Plan



Expectation Item	Not Demonstrated	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations	Points Earned
Management & Organization Key employees/principals identified and described Board of Directors, advisory committee, consultants, and other human resources identified and described Plan for identifying, recruiting, and securing key participants described Compensation and incentives plan	<i>More than one of the components listed is not addressed</i>	<i>Description of one or more components is limited OR one or more components is not described</i>	<i>All components are described adequately</i>	<i>All components are described adequately with supporting documentation</i>	
	0 points	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 points	
Provide Long-term Development Goals for three, five, or more years are identified and documented Risks and potential adverse results identified and analyzed Strategy in place to take business toward long-term goals	<i>More than one of the components listed is not addressed</i>	<i>Description of one or more components is limited OR one or more components is not described</i>	<i>All components are described adequately</i>	<i>All components are described adequately with supporting documentation</i>	
	0 points	1-9 points	10-16 points	17-20 points	
Financials Type of accounting system to be used is identified Financial projections are included and reasonable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 monthly cash flow • Year 1 monthly income statement • Yearly income statements for Years 1, 3 and 5 	<i>More than one of the components listed is not addressed</i>	<i>Description of one or more components is limited OR one or more components is not described</i>	<i>All components are described adequately</i>	<i>All components are described adequately with supporting documentation</i>	
	0 points	1-9 points	10-16 points	17-20 points	
Substantiates and cites sources used while conducting research	<i>Sources are not cited</i>	<i>Sources/References are seldom cited to support statements</i>	<i>Professionally legitimate sources & resources that support statements are generally present</i>	<i>Compelling evidence from professionally legitimate sources & resources is given to support statements</i>	
	0 points	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 points	
Report Format					
Guidelines followed and report arranged according to rating sheet (See above Expectation Items)	<i>Had more than specified page count, missing one or more sections and/or does not follow rating sheet</i>	<i>All information presented, but order inconsistent with rating sheet</i>	<i>Information arranged according to rating sheet</i>	<i>Presented in the correct order, correct page count, and includes written transitions between sections</i>	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
Format and design a business report	<i>Does not format document</i>	<i>Inconsistent formatting, excessive white space, and/or unrelated graphics and/or photos</i>	<i>Consistent formatting throughout the report</i>	<i>Utilizes full bleed, effective use of space, related defined graphics, and consistent formatting</i>	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
Include correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling	<i>More than 5 grammar, punctuation, or spelling errors</i>	<i>3-4 grammar, punctuation, or spelling errors</i>	<i>No spelling errors, and not more than 2 grammar or punctuation errors</i>	<i>No spelling error, and not more than 1 grammar or punctuation error</i>	
	0 points	1-2 points	3-4 points	5 points	
Report Total (200 points)					
Name(s):					
School:					
Judge Signature:					Date:
Comments:					

2024-25 Competitive Events Guidelines

Business Plan



Business Plan Presentation Rating Sheet

Expectation Item	Not Demonstrated	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations	Points Earned
Describes business concept and company profile	<i>No evidence of business concept or company profile OR doesn't meet guidelines</i>	<i>Business concept OR company profile described</i>	<i>Business concept AND company profile explained</i>	<i>Business concept and company profile explained including how the concept matches the profile</i>	
	0 points	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 points	
Explains marketing aspects of business	<i>No marketing evident</i>	<i>One aspect of marketing explained</i>	<i>Two aspects of marketing explained</i>	<i>Three or more aspects of marketing to increase company presentation explained</i>	
	0 points	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 points	
Describes operations and management plans	<i>No evidence of company, operations plan, or management plan</i>	<i>Description of operations OR management plan</i>	<i>Description of operations AND management plan</i>	<i>Detailed description of operations and management with plan for future growth</i>	
	0 points	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 points	
Provides information on financial documents and projections	<i>No evidence of financial documents or company projections</i>	<i>Provides information on at least one financial document OR one projection</i>	<i>Provides information on two financial documents and at least one projection</i>	<i>Provides information on at least three financial documents and at least three projections</i>	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
Identifies and analyzes risks and adverse results and provides plan to avoid adverse results	<i>No evidence of risks or adverse results</i>	<i>One risk OR adverse result is given: no evidence of planning</i>	<i>Two risks and at least one adverse result identified; includes a plan with at least one step to avoid adverse results</i>	<i>Three risks and at least one adverse result identified; includes a plan with at least two steps to avoid adverse results</i>	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
Identifies long-term goals	<i>No goals identified</i>	<i>Only one goal identified</i>	<i>Two goals identified</i>	<i>Three or more goals identified with specific plan to achieve the goals</i>	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
Presentation Delivery					
Statements are well-organized and clearly stated	<i>Competitor(s) did not appear prepared</i>	<i>Competitor(s) were prepared, but flow was not logical</i>	<i>Presentation flowed in logical sequence</i>	<i>Presentation flowed in a logical sequence; statements were well organized</i>	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
Demonstrates self-confidence, poise, assertiveness, and good voice projection	<i>Competitor(s) did not demonstrate self-confidence</i>	<i>Competitor(s) demonstrated self-confidence and poise</i>	<i>Competitor(s) demonstrated self-confidence, poise, and good voice projection</i>	<i>Competitor(s) demonstrated self-confidence, poise, good voice projection, and assertiveness</i>	
	0 points	1-2 points	3-4 points	5 points	
Demonstrates the ability to effectively answer questions	<i>Unable to answer questions</i>	<i>Does not completely answer questions</i>	<i>Completely answers questions</i>	<i>Interacted with the judges in the process of completely answering questions</i>	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
Staff Only: Penalty Points (5 points for dress code penalty and/or 5 points for late arrival penalty)					
Presentation Total (100 max)					
Name(s):					
School:					
Judge Signature:					Date:
Comments:					