



## Texas TSA State Conference Chapter Judging Obligation Policy – 2026

### Purpose and Philosophy

Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) play a vital role in preparing students for college and career readiness. Advisors, administrators, and adult supporters are not only chaperones or volunteers at the Texas TSA State Conference 2026, they are key partners in ensuring a fair, professional, and meaningful competitive experience for students.

Judging by knowledgeable adults helps ensure competitions reflect classroom instruction, industry standards, and real-world expectations. This policy establishes a chapter-based judging obligation that distributes responsibility equitably across participating schools while maintaining the integrity and quality of conference events.

### Chapter Judging Obligations

Beginning with the 2026 Texas TSA State Conference, judging requirements will be assigned at the **chapter level** rather than to individual advisors.

Judging obligations are based on a chapter's total number of student entries at the State Conference:

- **Chapters with 5 or less entries**
  - Required to provide a minimum of **4 hours of judging**
- **Chapters with 6 - 100 entries**
  - Required to provide a minimum of **8 hours of judging**
- **Chapters with 101 or more entries**
  - Required to provide a minimum of **16 hours of judging**
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#### Judging hours:

- May be fulfilled by **multiple individuals**
- May be completed through a combination of:
  - **Virtual judging (pre-conference)**
  - **On-site judging during the State Conference**
  - **On-site VEX volunteer**
  - **Test Proctor**

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The total number of required judging hours for the conference is calculated annually based on the previous year's total entry count. These hours are then distributed among all participating chapters to determine each chapter's obligation.

## Who Is Eligible to Judge

The following individuals are eligible to serve as judges:

- CTE Administrators
- Parents or Guardians
- Faculty Members
- Alumni
- CTSO Advisors

**All judges must be adults and must meet any training or orientation requirements established by Texas TSA.**

## Judge Registration and Fee Waivers

Chapters may register eligible adults as judges during the conference registration process, including:

- Secondary advisors
- Chaperones
- Administrators

### Adults registered as judges:

- Will **not be charged a conference registration fee**
- Are expected to complete a minimum of **8 hours of judging per registered judge**
- While registered judges are expected to complete a minimum of 8 hours of judging, chapters are only responsible for fulfilling their total assigned judging obligation.

### If a registered judge does not complete their required judging time:

- The chapter will be billed \$150 for each registered judge who does not fulfill their 8 hour judging requirement.
- This billing will occur after the conference based on verified judging hours.

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## Opt Out Option

If a chapter is unable to meet its required judging obligation, it may opt out by paying a **\$150 judging opt-out fee**.

- This fee will be used by Texas TSA to hire qualified judges.
- The opt-out fee must be submitted according to conference deadlines.
- Opting out fully satisfies the chapter's judging obligation for that conference year.

## Event Coordination and Judging

Event coordination and judging are separate responsibilities.

- **Event coordination time does not count toward a chapter's judging obligation**
- Event Coordinators receive compensation for their coordination duties
- Advisors who serve as Event Coordinators are strongly encouraged to recruit judges from their school or chapter to help meet their required judging hours
- Please ensure judges recruited by coordinators are signing up in accordance with Texas TSA judging policies. Please do not just bring your judge

***This distinction ensures adequate staffing for both coordination and evaluation roles while maintaining fairness across all participating chapters.***

## Accountability and Enforcement

Chapters are responsible for:

- Tracking their assigned judges
- Ensuring all required judging hours are completed
- Communicating clearly with registered judges regarding expectations

***Failure to meet judging obligations or resolve billing for incomplete hours may impact future conference participation or result in additional fees, as determined by Texas TSA.***

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## Judging Credit and Event Completion

To ensure fairness and consistency, judging assignments must be completed in full to receive credit.

Judging credit is awarded **only upon the full completion of an assigned event or judging assignment.**

- Judges must complete the **entire judging assignment** for an event to receive credit for any judging hours.
- Partial completion of an event will **not** result in partial judging credit.
- If an event requires more time than a judge's minimum required hours, the judge is still expected to **remain for and complete the entire event.**
- To ensure fairness and consistency, judging assignments must be completed in full to receive credit.

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