

NALP National Collegiate Landscape Competition GENERAL RULES

As the National Collegiate Landscape Competition event has evolved over the years, it has become imperative that written rules and directions for event participation be established. Even though fixed guidelines are important, it is also mandatory they remain flexible enough to meet the needs and requirements of both two and four year colleges and technical schools, keeping in mind regional and administrative requirements. The host location (school) will have limitations and logistic demands that must be met.

Participating Schools and Students

Any school that has a landscape contracting, management or related degree program, i.e., landscape architecture, horticulture, turf management, irrigation, etc., qualifies to participate.

Only one "team" per school may compete for that school. However, students from different degree plans or majors may make up that team. Schools that are not registered NALP Chapter members will be charged an additional registration fee equal to NALP chapter dues, thus registering the school as a chapter member for the current year. This fee will be collected with other team registration fees for the NCLC and processed by the NALP office.

Any student enrolled in a qualified program may participate as long as he/she has a current degree plan on file and has not completed that plan of study. Graduate students from a four-year school may not compete if they have completed an undergraduate degree in the horticulture field or are acting as graduate teaching assistants. Even though no specific limit has been set, it is suggested that students from a two-year school be limited to four years of competition, and students from a four-year school be limited to six years of competition. These suggested limitations on the number of years an individual participated in the competition will be on an honor system administered by each institution.

Events

It is anticipated that the events at a given NCLC will be the same as the previous year. However, it is understood that local logistics, industry sponsors, and upgrading to keep abreast of the industry will also be important factors in determining the actual events held in any given year. Any changes in the list of events will be approved at the summer site inspection of the host school in the year prior to the actual event. Normally, the number of events will be limited to 20. However, this number can be changed as needed based on the host schools requirements and capabilities. Because of time restraints during the event, it is not suggested that any school plan more than 20 events. Changes in number and composition of events will be approved as previously stated.

Judges

Event sponsors will be responsible for the actual event planning, implementation and scoring, using guidelines generated by the host school. It is expected that event rules remain virtually unchanged from year to year, however, a certain flexibility must be accepted to accommodate the logistics and capabilities of the host school. No changes

will be accepted that will cause the event to create unsafe conditions for any participant or sponsor.

It is anticipated that event sponsors will recruit additional assistance from other industry members to administer the event and grade the tests. The host school may also need to assist in securing judges. If the host school does assist with acquisition of judges, these individuals should not be associated with the host school (i.e. faculty, staff, etc).

Participants

Any student may enter as many as five events if time permits. The time slots are not flexible and allowances will not be made for extra time for late entrees.

Each contestant must be registered and paid in advance.

Substitutions of entrants may not be made within two weeks of the event. No exceptions.

The event sponsors and judges will determine the order of the contestants. It is anticipated that the sponsors will be as flexible as possible with contestants based on schedule conflicts.

If a student is found to be competing under another student's name, both students will be disqualified and the total school points will not be counted for that event.

Equipment

Contestants will be expected to furnish the equipment noted in the event description sheets. All other equipment will be provided. All contestants must use the equipment provided in order to standardize the competition. No personal tools or equipment will be allowed except as noted in the event description.

Competition

Each event will be scored on a 100 point scale (100 maximum score) per person. In the case of the normal 20 events, each school will receive a possible 4,000 points, or the equivalent of a possible 200 points for each event. Individual events will be scored as follows:

For two person team events, the school team will receive a possible 200 points toward the cumulative school score total and each team member will receive a possible 100 points or one half of the team score. For example, in the Paver Installation event, if the team score is 180, then each of the two team members will receive a total individual score of 90 points.

For events which allow two competitors from each school that do not work as a team, each individual will receive a possible 100 points, with the school total being a possible 200 points.

For events which allow only one competitor, the individual has the possibility of 100 total points. An individual's actual score will then be doubled to acquire the school score for

that event. For example, if a student in the Skid-Steer competition makes a total score of 80 points, the school will then receive a score of 160 for that event.

Event judges will score each contestant on the basis of 100 possible points. All scores for each contestant will be recorded and submitted by the judges to the proper authorities.

The school whose participants earn the greatest number of points will be declared Career Day champion. The Robert Calloway traveling trophy will be awarded to the winning school.

The individual student competitor earning the greatest number of points will be declared Super Star and given awards as "Top Student In The Nation."

Before each event, the judges for the event will review the rules and amount of time allowed for the event with the contestants.

For those events requiring both written and performance competency, the written portion of the exam will be administered on Friday as part of the regular event schedule. The skill competency will be completed on Saturday as part of the regular Saturday event schedule. Students who entered these events must meet at the two times the event is scheduled. No student will be allowed to take a written exam at another time in order to compete in another overlapping event. Late entrants will not have additional time to complete the event. At the end of the time period allotted for an event, participants will cease all work and the judges will collect answer sheets.

Judges are to follow the event description and judging criteria as closely as possible.

No ties will be submitted by the judges to the scoring office. In case of a tie, judges will use suitable criteria to determine placing in the event. It is suggested that time of completion of the event be used as the first criteria for breaking a tie with safety and professionalism as additional factors. The event sponsors judges will make the determination as to how ties will be determined and ranked.

Timed Events

In all events, knowledge, skill and safety will be used as a basis for winner determination. Time will only be used as a tie breaker.

Time Allowed for Each Event

All events will begin with approximately 10 minutes of explanation and handing out of materials. The remainder of the allotted time will be devoted to the actual competition.

Sales Presentation will follow the schedule outlined in the event description.

It is expected that event sponsors will design their event to allow for completion using industry standards for time and difficulty as it pertains to each event.

General Safety

Any student demonstrating a lack of knowledge and skill in a way that jeopardizes his/her own safety or group safety will be stopped from event participation and scored accordingly. This decision will be at the discretion of the judges. No student should enter a competition unless he or she has full knowledge of all safety procedures required for successful performance.

Conflict Settlement

The NALP NCLC Committee Chairperson will appoint a NALP industry representative to be "Arbitrator" in the occurrence of a difference of opinion in event operation and/or scoring. If needed, the NALP NCLC Committee Chairperson will have ultimate authority in all matters.