**NAIL CARE COMPETITION STANDARDS 2024**

*(Please note major changes highlighted in yellow, to conform to National competition.)*

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**PURPOSE**

To evaluate each contestant’s preparation for employment and to recognize outstanding students for excellence and professionalism in the field of nail care.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Open to active SkillsUSA members enrolled in programs with cosmetology as the occupational objective.

**CLOTHING**

**CONTESTANTS –**

* White Polo shirt or white dress shirt
* Black Dress Slacks (no jeggings or leggings, no spandex, no yoga pants, no skin-tight pants, no denim)
* Black belt with no ornamentation (if slacks have belt loops)
* Black dress socks or black or skin-tone hose is allowed under slacks
* Black leather work shoes (closed toe).

Hair must be pulled back and away from the face.

Jewelry is allowable, as long as it conforms to professional attire and is not a safety issue.

*If students show up in attire that is unprofessional, they are not allowed to compete.*

**MODELS *(Must be SkillsUSA Members)* –**

* White Polo shirt or white dress shirt
* Black Dress Slacks (no jeggings or leggings, no spandex, no yoga pants, no skin-tight pants, no denim)
* Black belt with no ornamentation (if slacks have belt loops)
* Black dress socks or black or skin-tone hose is allowed under slacks
* Black leather work shoes (closed toe).

**EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS**

**Supplied by the Technical Committee**

* Tables
* Timer / time-keeper
* Electrical outlet
* First Aid Kit and Blood Spill Kit
* Contestant's diagram/picture of haircuts
* Solution for foot basin
* All necessary information for the judges and tally committee.

**Supplied by the Contestant**

* Heavy Duty Extension Cord (at least 6-foot)
* 6-Outlet Power strip with Surge Protector
* Pen / Pencil
* Note Pad (for Oral Communications Segment)
* 1 Trash Bag for soiled items and such
* Sanitation / Disinfectant for work area and implements
* Resume
* Optional Suggested Items: Oil and lotion, Sealer to finish nail art, Brush Cleaners, Manicure table lamp, Cushion for chair
* **NAIL CARE KIT –**
* White Towels or Wubbies - enough for both manicure and pedicure tasks
* Water bottle filled with water
* Safety glasses for contestant **AND** model
* **Acrylic Nail Kit** – all items needed to complete 5 sculptured acrylic nails
  + ***Monomer, Polymer and Primer*** *MUST have manufacturer’s original label and be SEALED and from the same manufacturer.*
  + **You will need to use pink and white** to complete the 2-tone **French Manicure** for sculptured nails.
* **Gel Nail Kit** – all items needed to complete 5 tips and 5 gel nails. Can be a hard gel or a hybrid gel / acrylic product.
* Odorless / low-odor Product
* Dark Red crème lacquer/polish required
* Top coat
* Nail Tips - Any tips may be used.
* Gel light
* Finger Bowls
* Brushes
* Buffers
* Polish remover
* Gloves
* Cotton
* Dappen Dishes with covers
* All items needed to complete flat paint nail art application
* Portable kit organizer
* **Pedicure Supplies Kit** – All items needed to complete the Pedicure technical procedure. Lotion, masks, scrubs, and /or callus removers must be from the same professional manufacturer.
* Plastic Foot Basin (non-electric)
* Pedicure Slippers

**GENERAL CONTEST INFORMATION**

* **Contestant Folder –** Contestants are to prepare a folder to present to the Chairperson at orientation. Contents of the folder should include:
* **Written description for the Nail Art Theme -** a 3x5 notecard with a specific theme to be carried out on all 5 fingers
* **Resume –** All contestants will turn in a typed, 1 page, professional resume.
* **Items Not Allowed –**
* Tip benders
* Electric files or drills
* Displays of any kind for nail art
* **Cell phones or other electronic devices** are ***NOT*** allowed in the competition area.
* **Talking –** No talking to other contestants, instructors, or audience members during the competition is allowed. Doing so may result in disqualification. If you have a question, raise your hand and a sage or the competition chairperson will see to your needs.
* **Once you are seated** in the competition area, you are NOT permitted to touch the model’s hands.
* **Breaks –** Breaks will be given during competition. Contestants are not allowed to leave the area except with a chaperone for restroom visits or emergencies. If contestant gets sick during the competition and need to leave the contest area, no extra time will be allotted.
* **Work Time** **–** You can begin the contest when the chairperson signals so and you must stop when time is called. Continuing to work will result in point deductions. All contestants must participate in all phases of the competition, including written (if applicable) and Oral Communications.
* **Model –** A live model must be used for the competition. The contestant CANNOT be their own model – a separate person as the model must be used. (Models must be SkillsUSA Members.)
* **Safety glasses** are to be worn by contestant and model during appropriate times.
* **Sanitation** – Contestant must disinfect and clean-up their work station/area, which includes a total breakdown of their work station/area. 1 Trash Bag is required, no labeling needed. ***THIS IS NOT STATE BOARD SANITATION*** *– Just what we are requiring for this competition.* Sanitation for this contest includes –
* Sanitizing the workspace at the beginning,
* Sanitizing the workspace at the end,
* Items are not thrown on the floor throughout the competition, and
* All used items go in the trash bag*.*
* Secondary contestants will compete against secondary and postsecondary will only compete against postsecondary.
* JUDGES DECISIONS ARE FINAL

**SCOPE OF THE CONTEST**

**Orientation –**

* Contestants will be assigned a station and a number. No school names should be visible during the contest.

**Set-Up and Sanitation –**

* Table set-up can consist of only items needed for the specific contest application in progress.
* Time will be allowed in between each contest application to re-set the table.
* All products and solutions must be properly identified with the manufacturer’s original packaging and labeling and cannot be defaced.
* Required tools must be professionally organized.
* Jewelry is NOT to be worn on the hands of the model for any application.
* Pre-written Theme Card.

**Professional and Organizational Skills –**

* The following will be evaluated –
* Cleanliness and organization of the working environment
* Safety and sanitation should be followed throughout the competition
* Communication skills
* Appropriate conduct and sportsmanship (contestant/instructor)
* Pre-written Theme Card and Sketch/Picture for Nail Art

**RIGHT HAND: Acrylic / Dark Red Lacquer / Polish Application –**

* 60 minutes
* Sculpt all five fingers of model’s right hand with acrylic using forms, no tips, in a two-tone (pink and white technique). Two or more colors of acrylic may be used,
* Judges will look for smoothness of the acrylic, a correct and natural smile line, neatness, coverage, evenness, and no cuticle involvement.
* 2 coats of dark red crème lacquer/polish are to be applied to all five fingers of model’s right hand.
* Judges will score polish application while contestant is performing Nail Art Application to the LEFT hand.
* No base coat or top coat is allowed.

**LEFT HAND: Gel Nail & Tip Application with Nail Art**

* 120 minutes
* Apply nail tips and light-cured gel or a light-cured hybrid/acrylic gel to all five fingers of model’s left hand.
* Flat nail art is to be applied to all five fingers of the model’s left hand.
* Nail Art: A specific theme is to be carried out throughout on all 5 fingers.
* Prepare a 3x5 notecard with a specific theme to be carried out on all 5 fingers, and present to judges at the beginning of the contest. Include a written description and a picture/sketch of the work to be done.
* All items allowed to complete the flat nail art application: Medium choices: acrylic paints, polishes/lacquers, colored powders (acrylic and dip), gel polish, rhinestones sizes 20ss and under, glitters and dusts, and adhesives, i.e., gel top coats/glue. No prepared items can be used; items are limited to those intended for use on nails. (Red base color is optional on this hand.)
* Topcoat or sealer is allowed for Nail Art application ONLY.
* Judges will look for smoothness of gel, coverage, evenness, no cuticle involvement, creativity, theme, artistic expression, color coordination, level of difficulty, complexity of design, precision, neatness and clarity of lines.
* Judges will score Flat Nail Art while contestants clean up their work area and storage of all personal items.
* Nail models will remain at workstations until judges have completed scoring.

**PEDICURE:**

* 30 minutes
* Put on a clean pair of gloves. Soak foot for 5 minutes to soften and cleanse the foot before beginning the procedure.
* Thoroughly dry the foot.
* Remove polish, beginning with little toe and moving across foot.
* Carefully clip the toenails straight across and even with the ends of the toes.
* Carefully file the nails, rounding slightly at the corners.
* Apply cuticle remover and push back the cuticle, cleaning under toenails and refining skin.
* Dip foot into foot bath and brush the toenails with a nail brush to remove debris.
* Thoroughly dry foot.
* Apply lotion and massage foot.
* Remove traces of lotion with polish remover.
* Polish nails with dark red crème polish.
* Judges will look for nails neatly shaped and filed, cuticle unbroken and neatly maintained, polish is applied evenly and smooth, no cuticle involvement, and final appearance.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS SCENARIO:**

* A three- to five-minute mock nail care consultation on the benefits of natural nail care. The competitor will address the judges as if they are a new client of theirs in the salon. Props may be used.
* The consultation should include the following points:
* Examination and Observation of the client’s natural nails (25 points)
* Recommended natural nail care services (25 points)
* Results the client should expect (25 points)
* The home care products the client would need to purchase and use to obtain these results (25 points)

**SCORING INFORMATION**

* Initial Preparation – 50 points
* Acrylic Application – 150 points
* Tip and Gel Application – 150 points
* Lacquer / Polish Application – 150 points
* Flat Nail Art Application – 150 points
* Pedicure – 200 points
* Professionalism & Organizational Skills – 50 points
* Oral Communications / Professional Development Assessment – 50 points
* Written Test – 50 points
* Point Penalty Categories:
* Late Arrival penalty – 200 point deduction
* Sanitation / Clean-up – up to 100 point deduction.
* Kit Check – up to 30 point deduction
* Clothing penalty – up to 10 point deduction
* Resume penalty – 10 point deduction