4-H Contest General Rules
(appplies to all PASE and Life Challenge contests)

PRE-REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY FOR ALL CONTESTS. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PARTICIPATING IN STATE 4-H LIFE CHALLENGE, QUIZ BOWL, LIVESTOCK, MEATS, DAIRY OR POULTRY JUDGING CONTESTS, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION OFFICE.

While a contest with individual placings is in progress, a contestant shall not communicate with others, except as directed by the Superintendent of the contest. Participants will be informed of regulations at the beginning of each contest.

Dress code:

No hats, caps or other types of headgear are to be worn and no county or club identification is permitted. If PASE T-shirts are available, contestants are encouraged, but not required, to wear these during contest competition.

General PASE and Life Challenge Eligibility:

1. 4-H members are eligible to participate in judging, skill and identification contests regardless of project enrollment.

2. All participants in events must be at least 10 years of age as of January 1 of the current year.

3. Contestants must be pre-registered through 4-H Online.

4. To represent Nebraska at a regional or national 4-H contest, all members of the team entered in the qualifying state contest (including the alternate on a four member team) must have reached their 14th birthday and not passed their 19th birthday by January 1 of the current year and all (including the alternate) must meet the requirements of the regional or national contest in which they participate.

5. Verification of eligibility is based on information provided by county extension staff.

6. The final year of eligibility for all contests is the final year of 4-H membership, regardless of year in school. 4-H members who have competed with a collegiate judging team or those that have completed college-level courses specific to the contest subject matter are ineligible to compete in PASE or Life Challenge contests. (Examples: completion of a college-level introductory animal science course would eliminate eligibility for the livestock quiz bowl; completion of a livestock judging class or participation with a community college livestock judging team would eliminate eligibility for the livestock judging contest).

7. 4-H'ers become ineligible to compete on a team if they have represented Nebraska in the designated National 4-H contest. Designated National 4-H contests are:
Livestock Judging - National 4-H Contest in Louisville, KY
Meats Judging - National 4-H Contest (Manhattan, KS)
Poultry Judging - National 4-H Contest in Louisville, KY
Dairy Judging - National 4-H Contest in Madison, WI
Quiz Bowl - National 4-H Invitational Livestock Quiz Bowl in Omaha, NE
Skill-a-thon - National 4-H Livestock Skill-a-thon Contest at Louisville, KY

8. Individuals that are selected and compete in a national contest based on their individual placing in the state level contest (rather than county team placing) are eligible to return to the state contest and judge on a county team.

9. 4-H'ers who have competed in a national or regional level contest that is not the designated contest are eligible to compete for team and individual honors.

10. High point individuals may return to state competition and compete again for individual and/or team honors.

Judging Team Entries

In Meats, Poultry and Livestock Judging, teams shall consist of up to 4 members, with the top 3 scores making up the total team score for each species and overall scores. The contestant with the lowest score is still eligible for individual awards. Teams may be entered by a single county or extension unit name. Each county may enter up to 2 teams per judging contest and division (intermediate & senior). If a county does not have enough youth to complete a team, there are two options. Team members may be added from an adjacent county to complete a team OR the youth may enter to compete as individuals. All counties associated with a multi-county team must have representation during the actual contest. If all counties are not represented, the team will be dissolved and remaining members entered as individuals representing their home county. Multi-county teams are considered to be affiliated with those particular counties and will count against the maximum number of teams that may be entered by any given county.

NO county/unit teams should solicit team members without the knowledge and support of extension staff of counties/units from which other team members are recruited. Any one county may enter up to 2 teams and 10 additional individuals for a maximum participation in each contest and division of 18 youth

Individual Awards:

Medals: Gold (1st), Silver (2nd), and Bronze (3rd)

Gift Cards: 1st through 5th high overall individuals in the Meats and Poultry contests, 1st through 10th high overall individuals in the Livestock Intermediate and Senior divisions.

Placing ribbons: 1st through 10th high overall individuals
Team Awards:

Placing Ribbons: 1st through 5th highest point teams (one ribbon per team member).

Award Announcement:

Foods Challenge, Clover Challenge, Meats and Poultry team and individual placings will be announced on Monday following the evening meal. Livestock contest placings will be announced on Tuesday afternoon, following the contest and discussion of official placings (provided tabulation is completed). Wardrobe and Design Challenge results will be announced Tuesday following the completion of all presentations. All youth and visitors are encouraged to stay for awards announcements.

National Contest Representation:

Life Challenge does not have a national competition.

Livestock Judging: Eligibility for the national competition is limited to participants in the senior division. All team members competing in a national contest must meet age requirements dictated above. Choices of these contests will be determined in order of their placing in the state contest.

1st Place Senior Team – Choice of the following national livestock judging contests:
- National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest (Louisville, KY)
- American Royal 4-H Livestock Judging Contest (Kansas City, MO)
- National Western Roundup (Denver/Fort Collins, CO)

2nd and 3rd place Senior Teams will have the choice of the remaining trips in their respective finishing order. For example: If the 1st place team chooses to attend the National Western Roundup the 2nd place team will have the choice between the National 4-H Contest in Louisville or the American Royal 4-H Contest in Kansas City. The 3rd place team would then have the option of attending the contest not chosen by the 2nd place team.

The opportunity to attend either the National 4-H Contest in Louisville, The American Royal, or the National Western Roundup contests will be extended only as far as the 5th place team, if declined by higher placing teams. Under this format, it is possible for Nebraska to not have representation at one or more of these national competitions.

Participation in the National 4-H Contest in Louisville, KY will prohibit team members from competing at the State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest for team awards and other national contest trips in future years, providing they are still eligible for competition based on age. However, they will still be eligible to compete and receive individual awards. Participation in the American Royal Livestock Judging Contest or National Western Roundup will not deem a team and its individual members ineligible for team awards in future years. Additionally,
teams that have chosen to attend either the American Royal Livestock Judging Contest or National Western Roundup in previous years will not be allowed to return to the same national competition in future years, per the rules put forth by those respective contests.

The Top-3 Senior Teams are also all eligible and encouraged to compete at the Ak-Sar-Ben Livestock Judging Contest in Omaha, NE. The opportunity to participate in this contest will be extended as far as needed until 3 teams have accepted the opportunity. The number of teams able to attend Ak-Sar-Ben may be subject to change based on rules put forth by that respective contest.

**Meats for Consumers:** The highest ranking eligible team will have the opportunity to participate at the National 4-H Meats Judging Contest. Competition in the national contest will deem that team and its individual team members ineligible for further team competition on the state level. The opportunity to compete will be extended no further than 5th place.

**Poultry:** The highest ranking eligible team will have the opportunity to participate at the National 4-H Poultry Judging Contest in Louisville, Kentucky. Competition in the national contest will deem that team and its individual team members ineligible for further team competition on the state level. The opportunity to compete will be extended no further than 5th place.

**Quiz Bowl:** The highest ranking eligible team will have the opportunity to participate in the Ak-Sar-Ben National 4-H Invitational Livestock Quiz Bowl Contest. Competition in the national invitational contest will deem that team and its individual team members ineligible for further team competition on the state level. The opportunity to compete will be extended no further than 5th place.

**Skillathon:** The highest ranking eligible team will have the opportunity to participate in the National 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest in Louisville, Kentucky. Competition in the national contest will deem that team and its individual team members ineligible for further team competition on the state level. The opportunity to compete will be extended no further than 5th place.