

NCEMSFS EMS Skill Competition Overview and Rules

The NCEMSFS EMS Skills Competition at the Annual NCEMSFS Conference is designed as a fun and challenging experience. Its three scenarios aim to force participants to use all of their collective experiences and abilities to succeed. As such, team-work and communication are essential aspects of the competition. Every year, NCEMSFS chooses new patient scenarios to highlight different aspects of patient care. Teams can compete every year and always have a different experience! The teaching points that were brought to light during the scenarios are discussed at the follow-up companion lecture/interactive discussion that occurs on the last day of the conference. NCEMSFS encourages participants to attend this session to get the most educational experience out of the competition. Ultimately, the most important objective of the competition is for teams to have fun.

The Skills Competition features a medical scenario, a trauma scenario and a team-building scenario. There are separate scenarios for BLS and for ALS teams. The three scenarios are graded based upon a point system, in which points are awarded for achieving specific objectives and performing specific skills appropriately. Skills tested typically include patient assessment, physical exam (including vital signs), appropriate patient care interventions, destination choice and patient summary report. The scenarios are all timed and all objectives must be completed within the designated time period. Teamwork is also essential as is professionalism. Scoring for each team will occur concurrently with the scenario.

After all teams have competed, the scores will be tabulated. Winners of the EMS Skills Competition will be announced during the Awards Ceremony on Saturday night. Additionally, based upon a combination of the results and other designated criteria, six teams will be chosen to participate in the public finale – Friday evening – “EMS as a Spectator Sport” (see the Conference Program for further details). Additional prizes will be awarded for this part of the competition – scoring for this, however, is independent of the rest of the competition results and a team can win the competition without competing in the finale.

To ensure consistency with the rules and regulations, only the designated NCEMSFS EMS Skills Competition Coordinator will be permitted to render an interpretation of the rules and regulations, officially address team concerns or make on-site operational/administrative decisions.

I. Team Entry and Composition

Each collegiate EMS squad may enter a maximum of one team in the BLS Competition and one team in the ALS Competition.

A team consists of four individuals from one collegiate EMS squad.

1. These individuals need not be the same for each scenario (i.e., teams may swap out members)
2. A maximum of 12 members can participate in the Skills Competition for each team (i.e., teams may change members completely between stations)
3. Substitutions cannot occur between the BLS and ALS Competitions (i.e., no team member may compete in both competitions).

Teams entering the BLS Competition must adhere to the following criteria:

1. At least one team member in each scenario must be a currently certified Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B) or Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate (EMT-I)
2. Every team member, at minimum, must be currently certified to the Certified First Responder (CFR) level.

3. No team member may be currently certified as a Paramedic (EMT-P) or Critical Care EMT (EMT-CC) – (EMT-I is acceptable for the BLS competition)
4. No team member can have competed in the ALS Skills Competition.

Teams entering the ALS Competition must adhere to the following criteria:

1. The collegiate EMS squad that is entering the team must provide on-campus service to the Critical Care EMT (EMT-CC) or Paramedic (EMT-P) level (i.e., a squad member who happens to be an EMT-CC or EMT-P does not qualify the team as ALS if the squad does not operate at that level.
2. At least one team member in each scenario must be a currently certified Critical Care EMT (EMT-CC) or Paramedic (EMT-P).
3. Every team member, at minimum, must be currently certified to the Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B) level.
4. No team member can have competed in the BLS Skills Competition

II. Online Registration, On-site Registration and Entry Fee

Registration for the NCEMSF EMS Skills Competition is available online at the Conference website. It closes one week prior to the conference. Teams must be registered one week prior to the conference to ensure participation. A limited number of on-site registrations may be available at the check-in booth – register in advance to ensure you are allowed to compete. The entry fee is \$10.00. This can be paid via cash or check upon check-in and must be paid prior to competing. The fee is non-refundable.

III. Uniforms

All team members are required to wear squad uniforms during the Skills Competition and Finale.

IV. Team Reporting and Time-slots

1. All teams initially must report to the Skills Competition Check-in booth at the start of the competition, or as soon as all members have completed Conference Check-in.
2. Competition time-slots will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.
3. The team must take the next available time slot. There will be no exceptions.
4. Teams should provide a contact cell phone number at the check-in booth so that coordinators can update teams on start times and contact participants for the finale
5. After receiving a time-slot, teams should participate in the other NCEMSF scheduled activities until the designated time. Coordinators will call if needed sooner.
6. Teams should report to the competition area fifteen (15) minutes before their assigned start-time.
7. Teams that fail to report fifteen (15) minutes before their assigned start-time will be disqualified and cannot compete in the Skills Competition. The entry fee is not refundable upon disqualification.

V. Spectators, Photograph and Videography

No photographers or videographers are permitted in the scenario rooms, besides the official NCEMSF photographer and videographer. Spectators are encouraged to attend the Finale, but are prohibited from viewing the scenarios.

VI. Cell phones and Internet-capable devices

Cell phones, smart phones, internet-capable devices (iPod, iPad, etc.), may not be used during the scenarios or any part of the competition while a team is competing.

VII. Equipment

Teams must be prepared to supply:

1. Pens
2. Paper
3. Watch
4. Stethoscope

5. Shears

All other equipment will be provided by NCEMSF or its sponsors. No reference cards can be used during the Skills Competition or Finale.

VIII. After the Traditional Competition...The Finale

After completing the scenarios, teams should monitor the cell phone number that they provided at Check-in. Teams selected to participate in the Finale will be contacted at this number by 10:30PM. All teams participating in the Skills Competition must assume they may be selected to participate in the Finale. All teams participating in the Skills Competition must be prepared to report at 10:30 PM to the designated location and be available for the entire Finale (10:30 PM until 12:30 AM). Teams selected for the Finale will be given more specific instructions on where and when to report by 10:30 PM on Friday night. Teams must remain in uniform during the Finale. Teams selected to compete in the Finale will not be permitted to use cell phones, smart phones etc. from the time of being selected until completion of the final scenario.

IX. Drugs and Alcohol

The general conference policies apply. The consumption of alcohol by those younger than the federal legal minimum drinking age of 21 years as well as the use of drugs or other illegal substances by attendees of any age is strictly prohibited. Open containers containing alcohol are also forbidden in all conference common areas. Furthermore, during the competition, even those of legal age are forbidden from imbibing alcohol.

X. Awards

The winners of the Skills Competition and Finale will be announced during the Annual NCEMSF Awards Ceremony on Saturday night and prizes will be awarded at that time.

XI. Lecture and Discussion of the Scenarios

A lecture and discussion of the scenarios will occur on Sunday morning. This lecture and interactive discussion will highlight important teaching points built into the scenarios and the medicine underlying the scenarios. Individual team performance and scoring will not be supplied or discussed.