

**NEW BRUNSWICK 4-H PROVINCIAL
COMMUNICATIONS COMPETITION
RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR ALL LEVELS (CLUB, DISTRICT, PROVINCIAL)**

1. In New Brunswick, 4-H members are not required to participate in a Public Speaking competition. Each 4-H Club must include a communications component, so if the club is not doing a public speaking competition, they must still include some form of communications.
2. Several 4-H Clubs do make public speaking mandatory in order to achieve. In these Clubs, the communication requirement *must* be completed in order for a member to achieve – IE, successfully complete his/her 4-H year. The Provincial 4-H Communications Competition is to be held each year before the end of April. The competition is coordinated by the “host” 4-H District and the Provincial 4-H Office.
3. All Organizational Leaders **must pre-approve the topics and make sure the members are in the correct competition categories**. A 4-H member is not permitted to use a speech or demonstration from a previous year or from another 4-H member. Members **MUST** write their own speech.
4. In New Brunswick, the Communications Competition is divided into two (2) divisions, each of which has four (4) age categories.
5. The two Divisions are:
 - **the Public Speaking Division** (includes speeches with or without minimal visual aids, and a Cloverbud poster option)
 - **the Demonstration Division** (includes single and double demonstrations)
6. The New Brunswick 4-H Program has four age categories in Communications Competitions. All ages are as of January 1st:
 - **Clover Bud** – ages 6 through 8 years.
 - **Junior** –ages 9 through 11 years.
 - **Intermediate** – ages 12 through 14 years; and
 - **Senior** –ages 15 years and older.

7. Time Limits:

TIME LIMITS	PUBLIC SPEAKING	SINGLE DEMONSTRATIONS	DOUBLE DEMONSTRATIONS
Clover Bud	1-2 minutes	2-3 minutes	3-5 minutes
Junior	2-4 minutes	3-5 minutes	5-7 minutes
Intermediate	4-6 minutes	5-7 minutes	7-9 minutes
Senior	6-8 minutes	7-9 minutes	8-10 minutes

8. A **speech with or without minimal visual aids** is a way of informing, persuading, entertaining, and arousing interest or the action of an audience on a topic of (community) interest. Visual aids may include pictures, posters, singular items for reference, etc. However, the aids must not distract from the speaker and/or the speech. Seniors will be required to present an impromptu speech, which will be scored out of an additional 20 points.

***Cloverbuds** may choose to do either a speech, or a poster presentation. The poster presentation will not be eligible to move past club level. They can come up with a topic, or be given a topic from their O.L. and will have to create a poster. The judge will go around and ask questions to each Cloverbud on their chosen poster topic.

9. A **demonstration** is a verbal presentation showing HOW TO DO or HOW TO MAKE something, showing as many steps as possible. A demonstration is the combination of speech and action with the use of materials, props and visual aids. Posters can be either digital or created on Bristol board and will be used to illustrate, list the steps and summarize the process. Demonstrations will have a tangible item to display at the end of the presentation. There are two (2) categories of demonstrations:

- A **single demonstration** is presented by one person.
- A **double demonstration** is presented by a team of two members who work together and who share the roles of telling and showing. No demonstration with more than two (2) participants will be permitted in competition. If the participants are of different ages, then they will compete in the age category of the oldest member.

11. **Alternate Communications:** As stated in the Achievement Requirements, each member is to participate in some form of communications to achieve. If a member is unable to attend the communications competition (seniors away at school), then they must get approval from N.B. 4-H Council on an alternate means of communication.

12. The emphasis of the Communications aspect of the 4-H Program is on learning through participation. However, it is appreciated that many 4-H members enjoy perfecting their “Communications” skills through participating in competitions, thus progressive levels of competition are available. The levels of competition are:

1. Clubs
2. District
3. Provincial
4. National – Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture (For senior members)

13. The same presentation must be made at all levels of competition within the province, however, improvements may be added, if necessary. The National

- level, Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture has specific topics for participants to choose.
13. For competition purposes, each 4-H member may compete in one category in Public Speaking or Demonstrations in one 4-H Club each year. **Should a member wish to participate in more than one category he/she may do so – for pleasure only. The member (s) should decide – before the event begins – in which category he/she will be competing.**
 14. If a 4-H member is a member in more than one 4-H club and participation in Communications is a requirement in each, then, the member must participate in both Clubs. The member should decide in which Club her/his participation is for competition before participating in either Club's event.
 15. Members will receive 4-H Program ribbons for participation in Communications at the Club and District levels. The ribbons and score sheets are to be ordered from the Provincial 4-H Office (Gagetown) 3-4 weeks before the date they will be needed.
 16. **There cannot be ties as one needs to move on to the next competition level.**
 17. **Timing:**
Competition organizers are responsible to ensure all speeches and demonstrations are properly and officially timed. Timing will start when the first word is spoken and ends before questions.
 18. One (1) point is to be deducted for every fifteen-(15) seconds a speech or demonstration is shorter or longer than the time limit.
 19. In the Demonstrations categories the time for questions from the audience is not included in the time limits. There is a time allowance of five (5) minutes to set-up and five minutes to takedown each demonstration, however, these times are not included in the time limits for the actual demonstration. **Penalty points** will be deducted from the member's /team's score at the rate of five (5) points for each minute he/she/they exceed 5 minutes in setting-up and or taking-down. The member can ask for help from the MC/designated helper, but **cannot** be helped by anyone else including parents.
 20. **Senior Public Speaking participants are required to present an impromptu speech at the following levels of competition: Club, District and Provincial. The topic is to be chosen by the judges.**
 - A. Each participant is to have two (2) minutes to prepare and two (2) minutes to deliver his/her impromptu speech.
 - B. At the Club level, each senior member could be given the same topic, or, each one could be given a different topic (but all topics would be of equal difficulty).

C. At the District and Provincial levels, all senior members are to be given the same topic.

21. **Judges:**
The hosting district is responsible for prepping the judges accordingly. At each level of presentation, each speech or demonstration is to be evaluated by a team of judges. The suggested number is three so there is an uneven tie breaker.
- 22b. The judges will use their completed score sheets, their team consultation, and, any penalty points assessed for time infractions in determining final scores and placing of members. The judges can consult at the end and make their final decision.
22. The judges are to be briefed that the “comment sections” of the score sheets will be given to the members and that they, the judges, are encouraged to add written comments on their personal impressions as well as constructive criticisms. Such notes are meaningful and help the members prepare for the next level of competition.
23. **No judges should have any immediate connection to any 4-H member he/she would be judging.**
24. At the District and Provincial level no one on the team of judges can have already judged (in a 4-H Communications Competition) any of the 4-H members competing in the Division which they are judging, during the current 4-H year.
25. The decisions of the judges are final.
26. **Each participant is to receive the comment section only of the judges’ score sheets for their presentation. The score section of each sheet is to be cut off before the sheets are given to the members.**
27. At the District level, each Club is eligible to have one entry in which they had one or more participants at the Club level. At the Provincial level, each District is eligible to have one entry in each category in which they had one or more participants at the District level.
28. In each category, the opportunity to compete at the next higher level is to be offered to the highest placed presentation in that category. If for some reason that member, or team, cannot or does not wish to participate/compete – **then that opportunity shall pass to the second placed member (s).**
29. “Communications” **participants must wear a visible 4-H Crest** and should be well groomed and dressed neatly and appropriately for their presentation. Members should be dressing business Casual – clean and professional. No light jeans or jeans with holes. If dressed inappropriately, the judges will deduct 5 points off of their final score.

30. Anyone wishing to videotape must gain permission from the organizing committee in advance of the day of competition.
31. The use of live animals for demonstration purposes is not encouraged. Should members want to have access to a live animal for their presentation, they would need to seek approval from the organizers/venue. Members must be prepared to present their presentation WITHOUT the live animal if not prohibited by the venue.
32. The Provincial 4-H Office must receive the results from each District Communications Competition before the Provincial Competition.
33. The five (5) 4-H Districts In New Brunswick host the Provincial Competition on a rotational basis:

2023 – Southern	2026 – Eastern
2024– Northeast	2027 – Western
2025 – Central	2028 – Southern
34. The top New Brunswick Senior 4-H member in the Public Speaking category will be chosen to attend the Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture Competition in Toronto. This competition is held in connection with the Royal Winter Fair and gives our 4-H member the opportunity to share his/her opinions, ideas, and concerns about the Canada agri-food industry in a prepared presentation. Only seniors who present a speech with be eligible for this opportunity.

