

The word "EXCEL" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter "X" is a lighter shade of gray. Behind the text is a faint, light gray silhouette of a mountain range. The entire logo is enclosed within a black rectangular border.

EXCEL

OREGON | Student Convention

*"Making my good better, and my better best."*

# General Guidelines

## JUDGING

Decisions of the judges are final. Judge's Forms with judges' notations are returned to the contestants or sponsors following the Convention. Please do not ask the Convention Judges to make suggestions and comments for contestants' improvement.

*After performances and judging are complete, convention staff will do their best to return Judge's Forms to participants or a school representative. These items may be picked up in the display area and/or other areas announced during the convention.*

## AWARDS

Ribbons, certificates, and/or medals will typically be awarded to the top three places in each category. When ties occur, each contestant will receive an award. Awards will be presented during evening rallies at the Convention.

## APPEARANCE

The dress code, as stated in the guidelines, must be observed by everyone officially associated with the EXCEL Convention. Participants, contestants, sponsors, and coaches are asked to dress in conservative, appropriate, modest attire that will bring honor to the Lord and demonstrate a high standard of holiness in appearance. An image of Christian discretion and modesty is to be portrayed at all times. Fad clothing is not appropriate and will not be allowed. Jewelry other than wristwatches and wedding rings is not allowed. Participants are asked to show deference to the intent of the appearance guidelines. Violators may be requested to either bring their appearance into conformance with the guidelines or to withdraw from the Convention. Dress requirements must be followed throughout the entire convention, including arrival and departure.

## DRESS GUIDELINES

### GENERAL

#### **Male**

- Standard, conservative haircut required. The hair is to be tapered, off the collar and above the ears, with sideburns no longer than to the middle of the ears. Those who require a haircut *will not be permitted to participate* until they have located a barber and complied with the Student Convention standards. Must not have "punk" or "mod" hair styles.
- Button-up Shirts and Long Trousers - Only the top button may be left unbuttoned, when the shirt is worn without a tie at appropriate events.
- Belts are required with trousers that have belt loops.
- Contestants must be clean shaven.
- Not Allowed - T-shirts, shorts, tank tops, form-fitting (tight) clothing

#### **Female**

- Skirts or dresses must cover the knee. Slits must be below the knee. If the slit in the skirt or dress extends above the knee, please sew it closed. Pinning gives a "tacky" appearance. No slits are allowed on the platform.
- Shirts or jackets must cover the elbow and come to the neckline in front (to the clavicle bone) and back (to the bottom of the neck), without see-through material.
- Not Allowed - T-shirts, slacks, shorts, gauchos, V-neck "see-through" dresses or blouses, sleeveless dresses or blouses, form-fitting (tight) clothing

### FREE TIME

#### **Male**

- Casual clothes must follow the general guidelines above. Full length jeans or casual trousers, and tennis shoes are permitted.

#### **Female**

- Casual clothes must follow the general guidelines above. Casual or jean skirts covering the knees and casual shoes or tennis shoes are permitted.

## PERFORMANCE

Dignity and good grooming should be apparent. Uniformity of dress is recommended for groups. Applies to events where costumes are not worn.

### **Male**

- Button-up dress shirt (tucked in) and tie with a suit, or slacks and sports coat. A jacket is not required during Bible Memory and Spelling.
- No blue jeans or tennis shoes are allowed.

### **Female**

- Dress clothes which comply with the general appearance guidelines above, and dress shoes.
- Oregon District UPCI policy does not allow slits in dresses or skirts to be worn on the platform.

## ATHLETICS

### **Male**

- Contestants must wear loose fitting, full length, sweat pants, warm-up pants or trousers.
- Uniformity in dress is mandatory for team events.
- Students competing in basketball may wear their athletic attire during their event only.
- Non-marking soles are required for all athletic shoes worn on gym floors.
- Shorts, and sleeveless shirts will NOT be allowed. (Exception: a numbered tank top over a colored T-shirt is acceptable for athletics)

### **Female**

- Loose-fitting skirts and tops are to be worn for competition. Skirts must be full and loose fitting. Skirts must touch the floor when the wearer is in an upright kneeling position.
- For modesty reasons it is recommended that:
  - white athletic clothing NOT be worn.
  - dark colored leggings be worn under the skirt.
- Non-marking soles are required for all athletic shoes worn on gym floors.
- Shorts, and sleeveless shirts will NOT be allowed. (Exception: a numbered tank top over a colored T-shirt is acceptable for athletics)

## ATTENDANCE

Sponsors and students must attend all services. All sponsors *must* sit with their group during the services. Sponsors are also expected to PROHIBIT students from booing or using flash attachments at inappropriate times, etc. *Each contestant must be present during the entire Convention.*

## CONDUCT

“Abstain from all appearance of evil” must be the guiding principle for all interaction between the young men and young ladies attending the convention. Maintaining the highest possible standard of behavior before the secular community at the convention is a God-given responsibility. Sponsors and staff should be constantly alert and should not hesitate to correct any behavior which is “unseemly.”

The “hands off” rule must be followed at all times. Couples should not isolate themselves from the group and should be properly chaperoned at all times. Respect for our Lord Jesus Christ and for each other requires that couples follow these guidelines.

Throughout the convention, all participants must uphold the highest standards of Christian conduct in keeping with the policies of the Oregon District United Pentecostal Church and the United Pentecostal Church, International.

At no time shall contestants be in cars, buses, or vans without a sponsor. Under no circumstances should any convention participant be in possession of items such as illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, weapons, fireworks or anything else out of harmony with the stated purpose of the convention.

## SPONSORS

Sponsors are the key to good attitudes among the students and a cooperative spirit at the Convention. For the most part, students will reflect the attitudes of the sponsors and school staff members. Help us display a positive attitude even in the face of problems should they arise. Learning to handle difficult situations while under pressure and yet maintain a spirit of good sportsmanship and brotherly love is important to your students' Christian education and development.

Each student *must* be directly responsible at all times to a specific sponsor. Sponsors are responsible for the safety and conduct of the students under their supervision. There must be no less than one male sponsor per ten boys and no less than one female sponsor per ten girls. Sponsors must be at least twenty-one years of age. In some cases, a school may assume responsibility for students from another school or home school provided this does not exceed the one-to-ten sponsor/student ratio. Sponsors must reside with their students throughout the convention.

Sponsors may bring their own children if they meet the requirements for attendance. Sponsors must adhere to the appearance dress code.

Make your students fully aware of the dress codes, and check their dress and appearance at the beginning of scheduled competition. Non-compliance with the dress code will negatively affect contestants' scoring on performance events. Don't allow your students to push the limits.

## SPECTATORS, GUESTS AND CHILDREN

Spectators are welcome and encouraged to attend events and services.

## MEDICAL

EXCEL Convention and its affiliates assume no responsibility for the safety and conduct of or the *medical or accident insurance coverage of students, sponsors, judges, spectators or guests.*

## DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROVISION

All students, parents of students, guardians of students, teachers, employees, volunteer workers, and sponsors attending or in any way associated with EXCEL Convention agree to submit to binding arbitration any matters which cannot otherwise be resolved, and expressly waive any and all rights in law and equity to bringing any civil disagreement before a court of law, except that judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. In the event of any dispute, claim, question, or disagreement arising out of or relating to the EXCEL Convention, the parties shall use their best efforts to settle such disputes, claims, questions, or disagreements as befits Christians. To this effect, they shall consult and negotiate with each other in good faith and seek to reach a just and equitable solution. If they do not reach such solution within a period of sixty (60) days, then upon notice by either party to the other, disputes, claims, questions, or differences shall be finally settled by arbitration as administered by the American Arbitration Association.