

TAPT Special Needs Safety Road-e-o



Competition Regulations

All teams must be registered, qualified, and fees submitted by final deadline posted on the TAPT website.

To qualify for competition teams must meet the following criteria:

1. **Driver and Monitor:** Both Driver and Monitor must be currently employed in the daily transportation of students.
2. **Drivers** must meet the following requirements:
 - Be at least 18 years of age.
 - Have a valid **Texas CDL** – Class A or B with both a passenger and school bus endorsement.
 - Hold a current valid **TEA school bus certification card** (an enrollment certificate will not be accepted).
 - Have a current copy of a valid **DOT school bus physical medical certification**.
 - Must not have had a “preventable” school bus accident in the 2025-2026 school year (as defined by the National Safety Council Safe Driver Award Program)

Each team must register and compete as they competed in the Regional Competition.

Drivers and Monitors may not switch positions before, during, or at any time in the competition.

Regulations:

Prior to Event -

1. Local district team substitutions will NOT be allowed for the TAPT state competition.
2. If a team cannot compete for any reason listed above a designated alternate from the Regional competition will be allowed to replace that team.

Day of Competition:

1. Teams will be required to remain in the driver preparation area until called for competition. Contestants are not allowed on the course or adjacent to any of the events except during competition. Family members and observers are not allowed **on the course** during the event. There will be designated observer area.
2. It is understood that students are on the bus from the time the driver leaves the starting line and the teams must conduct themselves accordingly.
3. In all events the doors must remain closed unless the rules of an event require the door to be opened.
4. Teams must check in with the Team Leader after each event so they may be directed to the next event.
5. Each team will be allowed a maximum of six (6) minutes to familiarize him/herself with the instrumentation and controls of the school bus to be driven in competition. The driver may request assistance from a competition official in the adjustment of mirrors and seats within the manufactured specifications.
6. The team may be timed at selected events. The team's accumulated time for the timed events will be used to determine ranking in the case of a tie in the final total score. No changes will occur on the course set-up once competition starts. However, the Competition Chairman may determine to disqualify any event during competition and apply the point value equally to all teams.
7. Teams may notify the competition Head Judge at the final event in the course if they feel that an interference or problem affected their competition. Any concern must be reported immediately before exiting the competition vehicle. **Once the team has exited the competition vehicle, no grievance or concern will be accepted.** If interference or a problem is confirmed and the score of the individual competitor is affected, a determination will be made as to whether to allow a re-run of that event. If a re-run is granted, an official of the competition will escort the competitor directly to the event involved. If a re-run is allowed, the score of the re-run will become the official score and not the previous score that was recorded before the re-run. The determination by the competition Chairman will be final relative to the concern. Once the scores have been finalized and winners announced no grievance or changes in the score will occur.

No scores will be provided prior to the Awards Ceremony. Copies of individual score sheets will be provided to the teams at the conclusion of the Awards Ceremony.

Disqualifications:

Any of the following may result in disqualification of a team:

1. Any misconduct on the part of a participant such as the following:
 - A. Unprofessional behavior
 - B. Speeding and/or unsafe driving on the course
 - C. Use of drugs
 - D. Use of any alcohol during or immediately prior to the competition.
2. Any contestant who knowingly accepts signals from anyone may be automatically disqualified (this will also disqualify the team). For this reason, all spectators will be required to stay minimum of 50 feet from the perimeter of each event. A spectator area will be provided.
3. Failure to maintain proper driving position, (i.e. firmly in the driver's seat, hands on the wheel, etc.)
4. A contestant/driver is not allowed to place his/her head out the window. Making modifications to the driver's seat in any way, other than the manufacturer's standards, will disqualify the team and may disqualify any other team prior to the discovery. Drivers may use a driving cushion. No attachments to the brake or gas pedal will be permitted.
5. No smoking, eating or drinking beverages will be allowed **during** an event.
6. No communication devices of any type will be allowed on the bus during competition or to be operated while driving on the course (AM, FM, Disk Player, 2- way, CB, cell phones, Bluetooth's, Blackberries, etc.).
7. Drivers are required to produce a valid School Bus Driver's License, Certification Card, and Physical Card with which they normally operate at the time of registration.
8. Entry into the scoring area by a contestant or driving coach is not permitted. The Competition Chairman will make the final determination on any disqualification.

UPDATED 2-1-2026