



2026 DELAWARE SCHOOL BUS ROADEO

Competitor Handbook

Official Guide for Competitors

October 3, 2026

Appoquinimink School District
Fairview Campus
570 Tony Marchio Drive
Townsend, Delaware 19734

Prepared by
Delaware Department of Education
School Transportation Office

Delaware School Bus Roadeo Competitor Handbook

About This Handbook

The Delaware School Bus Roadeo provides school bus drivers from across Delaware with the opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and professionalism required to safely transport students.

This handbook explains the competition requirements, event procedures, scoring methods, and expectations for all competitors participating in the 2026 Delaware School Bus Roadeo.

Competitors are encouraged to carefully review this handbook before competition day to become familiar with the course events and competition procedures.

Questions regarding the competition should be directed to the Delaware Department of Education School Transportation Office.

Official Publication Statement

This handbook is the official competitor guide for the 2026 Delaware School Bus Roadeo. In the event of any conflict between this handbook and the official Delaware School Bus Roadeo scoring sheets and this handbook, the official scoring sheets and competition officials' rulings shall govern the administration and scoring of the competition.

Delaware School Bus Roadeo Competitor Handbook

Table of Contents

Section	Topic	Page Number
Section 2	Competitor Welcome Letter	Pg. 4
Section 3	Competition Information	Pg. 5
Section 3	Competitor Parking	Pg. 6
Section 4	General Competition Rules	Pg. 7
Section 5	Competition Overview	Pg. 9
Section 6	Knowledge Test	Pg. 11
Section 7	Pre-Trip Inspection	Pg. 12
Section 8	Ed TV Interview	Pg. 14
Section 9	School Bus Staging Area	Pg. 15
Section 10	Offset Alley	Pg. 17
Section 11	Railroad Crossing	Pg. 19
Section 12	Curb Line	Pg. 21
Section 13	Left Turn	Pg. 23
Section 14	Simulated School Bus Stop/Stop Line	Pg. 25
Section 15	Back-Up Stall/Alley Dock	Pg. 27
Section 16	Straight Line	Pg. 30
Section 17	Parallel Park	Pg. 32
Section 18	Diminishing Clearance	Pg. 35
Section 19	Right Turn	Pg. 37
Section 20	Awards, Results, and Closing Information	Pg. 39

Delaware School Bus Roadeo Competitor Handbook

Section 2 – Welcome

Welcome to the 2026 Delaware School Bus Roadeo!

On behalf of the Delaware Department of Education School Transportation Office, **thank you for participating in this year's competition.**

The Delaware School Bus Roadeo celebrates the professionalism, dedication, and driving skills of Delaware's school bus drivers. Every day, school bus drivers safely transport thousands of students to and from school. This competition recognizes that commitment to safety while providing an opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge and skills that make Delaware's school transportation system one of the safest in the nation.

Whether you are participating for the first time or returning as a veteran competitor, we encourage you to enjoy the experience, learn from fellow drivers, and take pride in representing your school district or contractor.

This handbook has been developed to help you prepare for competition day by explaining the event schedule, competition rules, judging procedures, and scoring for each event. Please read it carefully before arriving at the competition.

The Delaware Department of Education extends its sincere appreciation to the school districts, transportation contractors, judges, volunteers, sponsors, and host site personnel whose support makes the Delaware School Bus Roadeo possible each year.

We wish every competitor a safe, enjoyable, and successful competition.

Thank you for your commitment to student transportation and best of luck in the 2026 Delaware School Bus Roadeo!

Delaware Department of Education

School Transportation Office

Delaware School Bus Roadeo Competitor Handbook

Section 3 – Competition Information

3.1 Competition Information

Location

2026 Delaware School Bus Roadeo

Date

Saturday, October 3, 2026

Host Location

Appoquinimink School District – Fairview Campus
570 Tony Marchio Drive
Townsend, Delaware 19734

The Delaware School Bus Roadeo will be conducted on the Fairview Campus. Competition activities, parking, and check-in locations will be clearly marked upon arrival.

3.2 Competitor Eligibility

- Submit a completed registration application before the published deadline.
- Hold a valid Class B Commercial Driver License (CDL) or higher with Passenger (P) and School Bus (S) endorsements for a minimum of one year.
- Have successfully completed all required Delaware school bus driver training.
- Be an active school bus driver operating daily for a Delaware public school district, charter school, or authorized school transportation contractor.
- Have not been involved in a preventable school bus accident since December 31, 2025.
- Meet all additional eligibility requirements established by the Delaware Department of Education.

A maximum of 25 school district drivers and 25 school transportation contractor drivers will be selected to compete. If eligible applications exceed available positions, the Delaware Department of Education will work with school districts and contractors to ensure statewide representation.

3.3 Registration

Registration is an application to participate and does not guarantee selection as a competitor. Registrations will be provided one of the following statuses after review.

- Approved
- Wait List
- Not Eligible

Delaware School Bus Rodeo Competitor Handbook

3.4 Competition Schedule

Activity	Time
Competitor Check-In	8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Welcome/Event Overview	Following Check-In
Knowledge Test	9:15 a.m.
Course Overview	Following Knowledge Test
Driving Competition	10:30 a.m.
Lunch	Provided to registered competitors
Awards Ceremony	Approximately 3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Odessa High School Auditorium)

Competitors must complete registration by 9:00 a.m. Competitors will be assigned numbers and check-in times for the driving course and competition stations.

3.5 Competitor Parking

Competitor, judge, volunteer, and spectator parking is available on the Fairview Campus. Primary parking is located in the Middle School Bus Parking lot. Overflow parking will be available in the sports field parking lot if primary parking reaches capacity.



Delaware School Bus Rodeo Competitor Handbook

Section 4 – General Competition Rules

4.1 Professional Conduct

All competitors are expected to conduct themselves professionally throughout the Delaware School Bus Rodeo.

4.2 Competition Integrity

To ensure a fair competition, competitors may not knowingly receive signals or assistance from spectators or other individuals during any competition event. Only judges and authorized competition officials may communicate with competitors while participating.

4.3 Driver Requirements

Throughout the driving competition, competitors shall remain properly seated, wear the seat belt correctly, keep the service door closed unless required by an event, and operate the bus with headlights on.

4.4 Prohibited Actions

Smoking, eating, drinking, using communication devices, placing any part of the body outside the driver's window, modifying the driver's seat, or adjusting mirrors after the official adjustment period are prohibited.

4.5 Mirror Adjustment

Competition buses comply with FMVSS 111. Competitors may adjust the driver's seat and mirrors during the staging process only. Mirrors may not be readjusted once competition begins.

4.6 Competition Scoring

Competitors are identified only by assigned competitor number during judging. Individual score sheets are placed in the competitor's score packet following each event. Upon completion of the final driving event, the score packet is sealed and delivered to the scoring team. Scores are reviewed by the Delaware Department of Education and a committee of Transportation Supervisors before being finalized. After scores have been finalized and winners announced, no score changes or appeals will be accepted. Individual event score sheets will not be distributed.

Following the awards presentation, a cumulative scoring spreadsheet listing each competition event and the score earned by every competitor (identified by competitor number) will be displayed for participants to review. The same cumulative scoring spreadsheet will be published on the Delaware School Bus Rodeo website as the official record of results.

Delaware School Bus Rodeo Competitor Handbook

4.7 Tie Breaking

Ties will be broken using the combined fastest recorded time from Back-Up Stall / Alley Dock, Parallel Park, and the Surprise Event (if applicable).

4.8 Competition Point Values

Event	Maximum Points
Knowledge Test	100
Pre-Trip Bus Inspection (Bugged Bus)	50
ED TV Interview	5
School Bus Staging Area	10
Offset Alley	75
Railroad Crossing	50
Curb Line	50
Left Turn	50
Simulated School Bus Stop & Stop Line	100
Back-Up Stall / Alley Dock	50
Straight Line	50
Parallel Park	50
Diminishing Clearance	50
Right Turn	50
Total	740

Delaware School Bus Roadeo Competitor Handbook

Section 5 – Competition Overview

The Delaware School Bus Roadeo consists of three competition components:

- Knowledge Competition
- Competition Stations
- Driving Skills Course

Competitors must complete each component of the competition in the order assigned by Delaware Department of Education officials.

5.1 Knowledge Competition

Each competitor will complete a written Knowledge Test designed to evaluate their understanding of school bus safety, Delaware school bus regulations, defensive driving practices, and railroad crossing procedures.

The Knowledge Test consists of 25 questions with a 30-minute time limit.

Maximum Points: 100

5.2 Competition Stations

Competitors will also complete the following station activities:

- Pre-Trip Bus Inspection (Bugged Bus)
- ED-TV Interview
- School Bus Staging Area

These activities are completed according to the schedule assigned during competitor check-in.

5.3 Driving Skills Course

After completing the station activities, competitors will proceed through the driving course.

Competitors will complete each event in the order established by the Delaware Department of Education.

The driving skills course consists of:

- Offset Alley
- Railroad Crossing
- Curb Line
- Left Turn
- Simulated School Bus Stop & Stop Line
- Back-Up Stall
- Straight Line
- Parallel Park

Delaware School Bus Roadeo Competitor Handbook

- Diminishing Clearance
- Right Turn

Competitors must wait for the judge's signal before entering each event.

After completing an event, competitors must remain stopped until the judge has completed scoring and instructs them to proceed.

5.4 Competition Vehicles

Competition buses are provided by the Delaware Department of Education and participating school transportation partners.

Prior to beginning the driving course, competitors will be given time to:

- Adjust the driver's seat.
- Adjust all mirrors using the provided mirror grids.
- Become familiar with the location and operation of vehicle controls.
- Competitors may request assistance from competition officials regarding the operation of switches and controls before beginning the course.
- Once the competition begins, mirrors may not be readjusted.

5.5 General Course Expectations

Throughout the driving competition, competitors are expected to:

- Follow all instructions provided by judges and competition officials.
- Operate the bus safely and smoothly.
- Observe all event time limits.
- Keep the bus in continuous forward motion unless an event requires otherwise.
- Stop only when directed or when required by an event.
- Wait for the judge's signal before proceeding to the next event.

Delaware School Bus Rodeo Competitor Handbook

Section 6 – Knowledge Test

Event Summary

Maximum Points	100 Points
Time Limit	30 Minutes
Event Type	Knowledge Competition
Questions	25 Multiple-Choice and True/False Questions

Objective

The Knowledge Test evaluates a competitor's understanding of school bus safety, Delaware school bus laws and regulations, defensive driving practices, school bus operations, and railroad crossing procedures.

Event Description

Each competitor will complete a written examination consisting of 25 multiple-choice and true/false questions. The examination may be administered electronically or in paper format at the discretion of the Delaware Department of Education.

Competitors will have 30 minutes to complete the examination.

Recommended Study Resources

- Delaware School Bus Driver & Aide Handbook
- Delaware Commercial Driver License (CDL) Manual
- Operation Lifesaver school bus railroad crossing materials
- This Competitor Handbook

Competition Procedure

- Report to the Knowledge Test area at your assigned time.
- Follow all instructions provided by competition officials.
- Complete the examination within the 30-minute time limit.
- Return all testing materials before leaving the testing area.

The Knowledge Test is a closed-book examination. Competitors may not use notes, reference materials, electronic devices, or communicate with other competitors during the examination. Violation of these requirements may result in disqualification.

Scoring

Each correct answer is worth 4 points.

Questions	Points per Question	Maximum Score
25	4	100 Points

Delaware School Bus Rodeo Competitor Handbook

Section 7 – Pre-Trip Bus Inspection (Bugged Bus)

Event Summary

Maximum Points	50 Points
Time Limit	5 Minutes
Event Type	Competition Station
Defective Items	5

Objective

The Pre-Trip Bus Inspection (Bugged Bus) evaluates a competitor's ability to identify defective or unsafe items during a school bus pre-trip inspection.

Event Description

Competitors will inspect a school bus that has been intentionally prepared with five defective items ("bugs"). During the inspection, competitors must locate each defective item and report it to the judge.

The event is designed to evaluate a competitor's knowledge of school bus safety inspections and their ability to recognize equipment defects before operating a school bus.

Competition Procedure

Report to the Bugged Bus station at your assigned time.

Do not begin the inspection until instructed by the judge.

You will have 5 minutes to inspect the school bus.

As defective items are identified, report each item to the judge. Competitors may report defects as they are found or wait until the conclusion of the inspection, provided all identified defects are reported before the five-minute time limit expires.

When the judge announces that time has expired, the inspection is complete.

Delaware School Bus Roadeo Competitor Handbook

Scoring

Competitors receive 10 points for each correctly identified defective item.

Defective Items Identified	Points Earned
1	10
2	20
3	30
4	40
5	50

Maximum Score: 50 Points

Delaware School Bus Rodeo Competitor Handbook

Section 8 – ED-TV Interview

Event Summary

Maximum Points	5 Points
Time Limit	Approximately 2–3 Minutes
Event Type	Competition Station

Objective

The ED-TV Interview provides competitors with an opportunity to introduce themselves and share their experiences as a Delaware school bus driver. The interview also highlights the professionalism and dedication of Delaware's school bus drivers and helps promote school transportation to the public.

Event Description

Each competitor will participate in a brief recorded interview conducted by the Red Clay ED-TV team. The interviews may be used by the Delaware Department of Education and its partners to promote the Delaware School Bus Rodeo and recognize the important role school bus drivers play in safely transporting students.

Competition Procedure

- Report to the ED-TV Interview station at your assigned time.
- Follow any instructions provided by the ED-TV staff.
- Participate in the recorded interview by answering the questions presented.
- Interviews are intended to be conversational and give competitors an opportunity to share their experiences and enthusiasm for student transportation.

Questions may include topics such as:

- How long have you been a school bus driver?
- How many times have you participated in the Delaware School Bus Rodeo?
- What do you enjoy most about being a school bus driver?

Questions may vary from year to year.

Scoring

Each competitor who participates in the ED-TV Interview will receive 5 points.

Participation	Points
Completes Interview	5

Maximum Score: 5 Points

Delaware School Bus Rodeo Competitor Handbook

Section 9 – School Bus Staging Area

Event Summary

Maximum Points	10 Points
Event Type	Competition Station
Required Credentials	Delaware CDL with P & S Endorsements and Delaware School Bus Driver Green Card

Objective

The School Bus Staging Area allows competitors to prepare for the driving competition by verifying required credentials, becoming familiar with the assigned competition bus, and making all necessary driver adjustments before entering the course.

Event Description

Before beginning the driving course, each competitor will report to the Staging Area at their assigned time. Competition officials will verify required credentials and provide an opportunity to become familiar with the assigned school bus.

Competitors may adjust the driver's seat and mirrors using the mirror grids provided and may ask questions regarding the location and operation of vehicle controls before entering the course.

Competition Procedure

- Report to the Staging Area at your assigned time.
- Present your valid Delaware Commercial Driver License (CDL) with Passenger (P) and School Bus (S) endorsements.
- Present your valid Delaware School Bus Driver Green Card.
- Enter the assigned competition bus.
- Adjust the driver's seat for safe and comfortable operation.
- Adjust all mirrors using the mirror grids provided.
- Become familiar with the location and operation of vehicle controls.
- Ask competition officials any questions about the operation of the assigned bus before entering the course.
- When instructed by the judge, proceed to the first driving event.
- Once the competition begins, mirrors may not be readjusted.

Scoring

Item	Demerits
Failure to present a valid CDL with P and S endorsements	5
Failure to present a valid Delaware School Bus Driver Green Card	5

Maximum Score: 10 Points

Delaware School Bus Roadeo Competitor Handbook

Competitor Reminder

Before reporting to the Staging Area, make sure you have:

- Valid Delaware CDL with P and S endorsements
- Valid Delaware School Bus Driver Green Card

Failure to present either credential will result in the appropriate demerits.

Delaware School Bus Roadeo Competitor Handbook

Section 10 – Offset Alley

Item	Information
Maximum Points	75 Points
Time Limit	2 Minutes
Event Type	Driving Event

Objective

The Offset Alley event evaluates a competitor's ability to safely maneuver a school bus through a series of offset travel lanes while maintaining smooth, continuous forward movement and avoiding contact with markers or barriers.

Event Description

The Offset Alley consists of three sets of offset barriers that require competitors to guide the school bus through alternating left and right travel paths.

The objective is to complete the course without striking any marker flags or barriers while maintaining continuous forward motion.

Competition Procedure

- Wait for the judge's signal before entering the event.
- Enter the first set of barriers and continue through each offset lane.
- Drive smoothly through the entire course while maintaining continuous forward motion.
- Avoid contact with all marker flags and barriers.
- Do not back the bus during the event.
- Continue through the final set of barriers until the entire bus has cleared the course.
- Stop only after completely clearing the event and wait for the judge's instructions before proceeding.

Time begins when the front bumper enters the first set of barriers and ends when the rear bumper clears the final set of barriers.

Delaware School Bus Rodeo Competitor Handbook

Scoring

Maximum Score: 75 Points

Action	Demerits
Each instance of stopping forward motion	8 (Maximum 16)
Touch 1 marker	7
Touch 2 markers	21
Touch 3 markers	42
Touch 4 markers	50
Touch 5 markers	62
Touch 6 markers	75
Bus touches a barrier (excluding the base)	50
Backing during the event	75
Failure to complete the event within the 2-minute time limit	75
Failure to wear seat belt	50
Failure to keep service door closed	50
Failure to operate with headlights on	50

Competitor Reminder

Maintain smooth, continuous forward motion throughout the event. Unnecessary stops increase demerits, and backing is not permitted.

Image of Maneuver:



Delaware School Bus Roadeo Competitor Handbook

Section 11 – Railroad Crossing

Item	Information
Maximum Points	50 Points
Event Type	Driving Event

Objective

The Railroad Crossing event evaluates a competitor's ability to safely approach, stop, observe, and cross a railroad crossing using Delaware school bus operating procedures.

Event Description

Competitors will approach a simulated railroad crossing and perform the required safety procedures before crossing the tracks.

The bus must stop no closer than 15 feet and no farther than 50 feet from the nearest rail before completing the crossing.

Competition Procedure

- Wait for the judge's signal before entering the event.
- Approach the railroad crossing safely.
- Activate the four-way hazard warning flashers.
- Stop the bus no closer than 15 feet and no farther than 50 feet from the nearest rail.
- Place the transmission in Neutral and set the parking brake.
- Open the service door and driver's window.
- Look and listen for approaching trains.
- When safe, close the service door.
- Proceed across the tracks.
- Continue until the rear of the bus has completely cleared the crossing by at least 15 feet.
- Cancel the four-way hazard warning flashers after clearing the crossing.
- Stop where directed and wait for the judge's instructions before proceeding.

Delaware School Bus Rodeo Competitor Handbook

Scoring

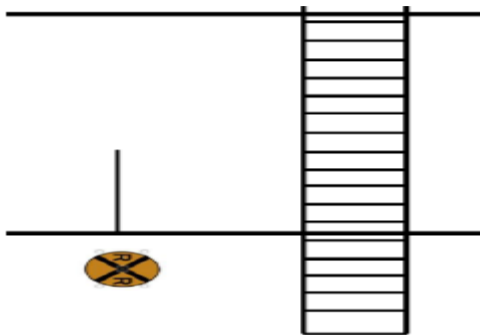
Maximum Score: 50 Points

Action	Demerits
Failure to activate four-way hazard warning flashers	25
Improper activation of school bus warning lights	50
Failure to open the service door and driver's window	25
Failure to look left and right before crossing	10
Failure to place the transmission in Neutral and set the parking brake	25
Stop closer than 15 feet or farther than 50 feet from the nearest rail	50
Failure to close the service door before crossing	25
Failure to clear the rear of the bus at least 15 feet beyond the nearest rail	25
Failure to cancel the four-way hazard warning flashers after crossing	10

Competitor Reminder

Remember to perform the railroad crossing exactly as you would during normal student transportation operations. Focus on completing each required safety step in the proper sequence before proceeding across the tracks.

Image of Obstacle



Delaware School Bus Rodeo Competitor Handbook

Section 12 – Curb Line

Item	Information
Maximum Points	50 Points
Time Limit	2 Minutes
Event Type	Driving Event

Objective

The Curb Line event evaluates a competitor's ability to safely position a school bus parallel to a curb while demonstrating proper mirror use, signaling, and vehicle control.

Event Description

Competitors will enter a designated parking area and position the school bus parallel to the curb line without striking the curb or any barriers. After the bus has been measured, competitors will safely exit the parking area without backing or striking any barriers.

The objective is to position the bus as close to the curb line as possible while maintaining safe vehicle control throughout the maneuver.

Competition Procedure

- Wait for the judge's signal before entering the event.
- Activate the proper directional signal before entering the parking area.
- Use your mirrors throughout the maneuver.
- Enter the parking area without striking any barriers or the curb line.
- Position the bus parallel to the curb line.
- Place the transmission in Neutral, set the parking brake, and sound the horn to indicate you are ready to be scored.
- Wait for the judges to measure the bus.
- When directed, activate the proper directional signal and safely exit the parking area.
- Continue using your mirrors while exiting.
- Stop after completely clearing the event and wait for the judge's instructions before proceeding.

Time begins when the front bumper passes the rear barrier and ends when the competitor sounds the horn after parking the bus.

Delaware School Bus Rodeo Competitor Handbook

Scoring

Maximum Score: 50 Points

Action	Demerits
Backing during the event	50
Bus touches a barrier	50
Bus stops more than once	25 each (Maximum 50)
Tire or tire tread touches the curb line on approach	50
Failure to operate with headlights on	50
Failure to wear lap/shoulder belt	50
Failure to perform required 5-point mirror check while entering	25
Failure to activate the proper directional signal while entering	25
Failure to place the transmission in Neutral and set the parking brake	50
Failure to complete the event within the 2-minute time limit	50
Failure to activate the proper directional signal while exiting	25
Failure to perform required 5-point mirror check while exiting	25

Bus Position

The bus will be measured using the furthest measurement from the curb line (front or rear).

Distance from Curb Line	Demerits
0 to 12 inches	0
More than 12 inches to 18 inches	25
More than 18 inches	50

Competitor Reminder

Position the bus as close to the curb line as possible without touching it. Complete all required 5-point mirror checks and use the proper directional signals when entering and exiting the parking area.

Image of Maneuver



Delaware School Bus Rodeo Competitor Handbook

Section 13 – Left Turn

Item	Information
Maximum Points	50 Points
Time Limit	15 Seconds
Event Type	Driving Event

Objective

The Left Turn event evaluates a competitor's ability to safely execute a left turn while maintaining proper lane position, using the correct turn signal, and accurately tracking the left rear outermost tire tread through the designated scoring templates.

Event Description

Competitors will complete a left turn by guiding the left rear outermost tire tread through the entry and recovery scoring templates. The objective is to make a smooth, continuous turn while remaining within the scoring templates and avoiding contact with the curb.

Competition Procedure

- Wait for the judge's signal before entering the event.
- Activate the left turn signal before beginning the turn.
- Enter the turn smoothly and maintain continuous forward motion.
- Guide the left rear outermost tire tread through the entry scoring template.
- Continue the turn while maintaining proper lane position.
- Guide the left rear outermost tire tread through the recovery scoring template.
- Complete the turn within the 15-second time limit.
- Stop only after clearing the event and wait for the judge's instructions before proceeding.

Time begins when the left rear outermost tire tread enters the entry scoring template and ends when it exits the recovery scoring template.

Scoring

Maximum Score: 50 Points

Color Board Scoring

The left rear outermost tire tread is scored at both the entry and recovery scoring templates.

Tire Position	Demerits
Yellow	0
Black	10
Red	20
Off Template	25

Delaware School Bus Rodeo Competitor Handbook

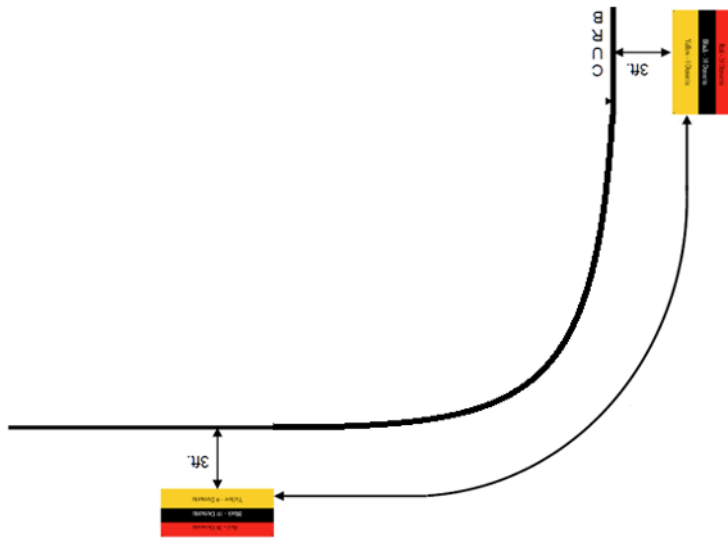
Additional Demerits

Action	Demerits
Failure to activate the left turn signal	10
Failure to cancel the left turn signal	10
Each stop during the turn	5 (Maximum 25)
Tire tread touches the curb line	50
Backing during the event	50
Failure to complete the turn within 15 seconds	50
Failure to keep the service door closed	50
Failure to wear the seat belt	50
Failure to operate with headlights on	50

Competitor Reminder

Look well ahead through the turn and maintain smooth, continuous steering. Your score is based on the path of the left rear outermost tire tread through both scoring templates.

Image of Maneuver



Delaware School Bus Roadeo Competitor Handbook

Section 14 – Simulated School Bus Stop & Stop Line

Item	Information
Maximum Points	100 Points
Time Limit	2 Minutes
Event Type	Driving Event

Objective

The Simulated School Bus Stop & Stop Line event evaluates a competitor's ability to perform a safe Delaware school bus loading procedure while accurately stopping at a designated stop line using proper mirror checks, warning light procedures, and vehicle control.

Event Description

Competitors will approach a simulated school bus stop, perform the required Delaware school bus loading procedure, accurately stop at the designated stop line, and then safely depart the stop.

The objective is to safely complete the loading procedure while positioning the front bumper as close to the designated stop line as possible without extending beyond it.

Competition Procedure

- Wait for the judge's signal before entering the event.
- Approach the simulated school bus stop safely.
- Perform the required mirror checks while approaching the stop.
- Activate the overhead warning light system.
- Stop the bus at the designated stop line.
- Place the transmission in Neutral and set the parking brake.
- Use the public address system.
- Perform the required mirror checks before departing the stop.
- Safely depart the simulated school bus stop.
- Stop after clearing the event and wait for the judge's instructions before proceeding.

Time begins when the front bumper enters the event and ends when the competitor sounds the horn after parking the bus at the designated stop line.

Delaware School Bus Rodeo Competitor Handbook

Scoring

Maximum Score: 100 Points

Stop Line Position

Measurement is taken from the closest point of the front bumper to the designated stop line.

Distance from Stop Line	Demerits
0–2 inches	0
Over 2–4 inches	3
Over 4–6 inches	6
Over 6–8 inches	9
Over 8–10 inches	12
Over 10–12 inches	15
Over 12–14 inches	18
Over 14–16 inches	21
Over 16 inches	25
Front bumper extends beyond the stop line	50

Additional Demerits

Action	Demerits
Bus brought to a stop more than once	25 each instance (Maximum 50)
Failure to activate the overhead warning light system	50
Failure to place the transmission in Neutral and set the parking brake	50
Failure to check mirrors while approaching the stop	50
Failure to use the public address system	50
Failure to check mirrors before departing the stop	50

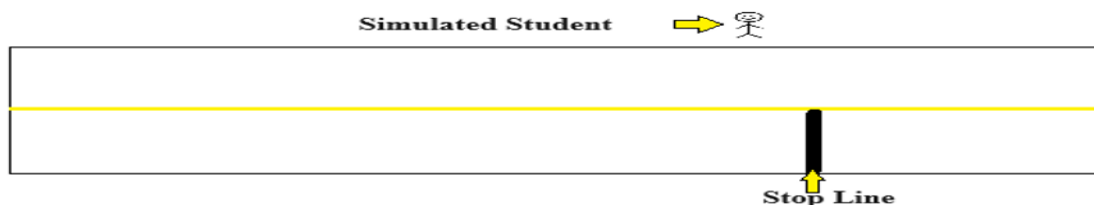
Competitor Reminder

This event evaluates two important skills:

- Performing a safe Delaware school bus loading procedure.
- Accurately stopping at the designated stop line.

Only one stop is permitted during this event.

Image of Maneuver:



Delaware School Bus Roadeo Competitor Handbook

Section 15 – Back-Up Stall / Alley Dock

Event Summary

Item	Information
Maximum Points	50 Points
Time Limit	3 Minutes
Event Type	Driving Event

Objective

The Back-Up Stall / Alley Dock event evaluates a competitor's ability to safely back a school bus into a designated parking stall while maintaining proper vehicle control, positioning the bus accurately within the stall, and exiting the stall safely.

Event Description

Competitors will back the school bus into a designated stall from the right side. The objective is to position the bus as close to the center of the stall as possible while remaining within the boundary lines and stopping within the designated parking zone.

After the bus has been measured, competitors will safely exit the stall between the front upright standards.

Competition Procedure

- Wait for the judge's signal before entering the event.
- Approach the stall from the right side.
- Back the bus into the designated stall.
- One back-up maneuver is permitted before forward movement demerits are assessed.
- Position the bus as close to the center of the stall as possible.
- Place the transmission in Neutral, set the parking brake, and sound the horn to indicate you are ready to be scored.
- Wait while the judges measure the final position of the bus.
- When instructed, pull forward and exit the stall between the front upright standards.
- Stop after clearing the event and wait for the judge's instructions before proceeding.

Time begins when the front bumper passes the first upright standard.

Delaware School Bus Rodeo Competitor Handbook

Scoring

Maximum Score: 50 Points

Automatic Demerits

Action	Demerits
Tire tread touches front wheel limitation line	50
Bus touches front upright standards	50
Tire tread touches stall side marker line	50
Failure to pull out between the front upright standards	50
Failure to park the bus, set the parking brake, and sound the horn within the 3-minute time limit	50
Failure to wear seat belt	50
Failure to keep the service door closed	50
Failure to operate with headlights on	50

Forward Movements

One back-up maneuver is permitted before forward movement demerits are assessed.

Forward Movements After First Back-Up	Demerits
Each forward movement	5 (Maximum 50)

Bus Centering

Only the greatest measurement (front or rear) from the center line will be scored.

Distance from Center Line	Demerits
0–1 inch	0
Over 1–2 inches	2
Over 2–3 inches	4
Over 3–4 inches	6
Over 4–5 inches	8
Over 5–6 inches	10
Over 6–7 inches	12
Over 7 inches	14

Parking Depth

Bus parked forward of the one-foot free zone

Distance	Demerits
Each 6-inch increment	5 (Maximum 50)

Bus parked behind the one-foot free zone

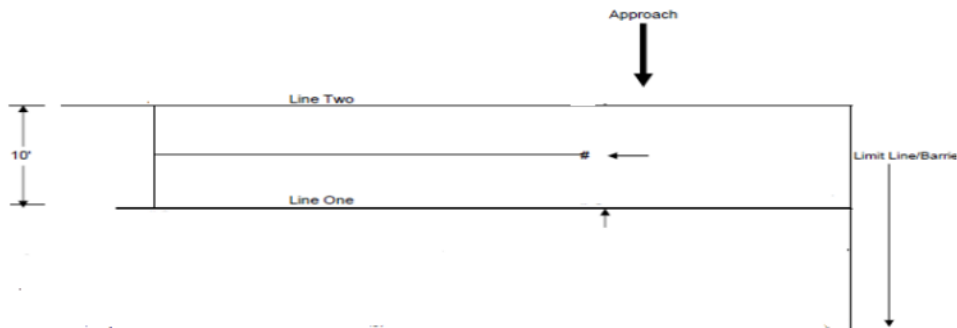
Distance	Demerits
Each 6-inch increment	10 (Maximum 50)

Delaware School Bus Rodeo Competitor Handbook

Competitor Reminder

Take your time and use your mirrors. Accurate positioning within the stall is more important than completing the maneuver quickly. Remember to set the parking brake and sound the horn when your bus is properly positioned.

Image of Maneuver:



Delaware School Bus Roadeo Competitor Handbook

Section 16 – Straight Line

Event Summary

Item	Information
Maximum Points	50 Points
Event Type	Driving Event

Objective

The Straight Line event evaluates a competitor's ability to accurately guide the right front tire and right rear dual tires through a designated straight-line course while maintaining smooth, continuous forward motion.

Event Description

The Straight Line course is 75 feet long and is marked with four pairs of tennis ball markers, spaced 25 feet apart.

The objective is to guide the right front tire and right rear dual tires between each pair of tennis ball markers without touching or displacing any markers.

Competition Procedure

- Wait for the judge's signal before entering the event.
- Enter the course smoothly and maintain continuous forward motion.
- Guide the right front tire and right rear dual tires between each pair of tennis ball markers.
- Avoid touching or displacing any tennis ball markers.
- Do not stop unless required for safety.
- Continue through the course until the entire bus has cleared the final pair of tennis ball markers.
- Stop after clearing the event and wait for the judge's instructions before proceeding.

Delaware School Bus Roadeo Competitor Handbook

Scoring

Maximum Score: 50 Points

Action	Demerits
Each instance of jerky or uneven movement	2 (Maximum 20)
Each instance of stopping forward motion	4 (Maximum 20)
Each tennis ball marker touched or displaced	5 (Maximum 50)
Driving to either side of a pair of tennis ball markers	10 (Maximum 50)
Failure to complete the event	50
Backing during the event	50
Failure to wear the seat belt	50
Failure to keep the service door closed	50
Failure to operate with headlights on	50

Competitor Reminder

Focus on the path of your right front tire through the course. If the right front tire is properly positioned, the right rear dual tires will naturally follow the same path.

Image of Maneuver:



Delaware School Bus Rodeo Competitor Handbook

Section 17 – Parallel Park

Event Summary

Item	Information
Maximum Points	50 Points
Time Limit	3 Minutes
Event Type	Driving Event

Objective

The Parallel Park event evaluates a competitor's ability to safely park a school bus parallel to a curb while demonstrating proper vehicle control, mirror use, signaling, and accurate bus positioning.

Event Description

Competitors will parallel park the school bus between two barriers on the door side of the bus. The objective is to park as close to the curb line as possible without touching the curb or any barriers.

After the bus has been measured, competitors will safely exit the parking area without striking the curb or barriers.

Competition Procedure

- Wait for the judge's signal before entering the event.
- Time begins when the front bumper passes the rear barrier.
- Activate the proper turn signal before entering the parking area.
- Use your mirrors throughout the maneuver.
- Enter the parking space without contacting the curb or barriers.
- Two back-up maneuvers are permitted before demerits are assessed.
- Position the bus parallel to the curb.
- Place the transmission in Neutral, set the parking brake, and sound the horn to indicate you are ready to be scored.
- Wait while the judges measure the position of the bus.
- When directed, activate the proper turn signal and safely exit the parking area.
- Two back-up maneuvers are also permitted while exiting before demerits are assessed.
- Stop after completely exiting the parking area and wait for the judge's instructions before proceeding.

Delaware School Bus Roadeo Competitor Handbook

Scoring

Maximum Score: 50 Points

Entering the Parking Area

Action	Demerits
Failure to activate the proper turn signal	50
Bus touches a barrier	50
Tire tread touches the curb line	50
Each back-up after the second permitted back-up	5 (Maximum 25)

Bus Position

The bus will be measured using the farthest tire measurement from the curb line (front or rear).

Distance from Curb Line	Demerits
0–3 inches	0
More than 3–6 inches	3
More than 6–9 inches	6
More than 9–12 inches	9
More than 12–15 inches	12
More than 15–18 inches	15
More than 18 inches	50

Exiting the Parking Area

Action	Demerits
Failure to activate the proper turn signal	50
Failure to cancel the turn signal	10
Bus touches a barrier	50
Tire tread touches the curb line	50
Each back-up after the second permitted back-up	5 (Maximum 25)

Additional Demerits

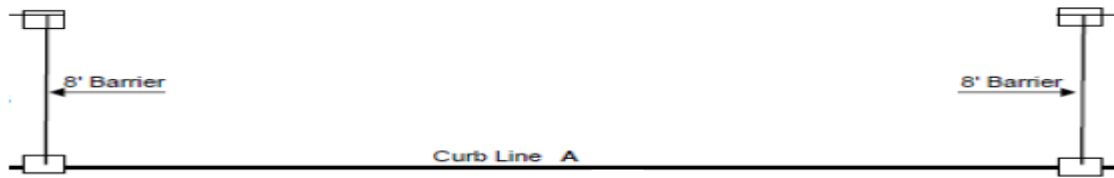
Action	Demerits
Failure to park the bus, set the parking brake, and sound the horn within the 3-minute time limit	50
Failure to wear the seat belt	50
Failure to keep the service door closed	50
Failure to operate with headlights on	50

Competitor Reminder

Use smooth steering and rely on your mirrors throughout the maneuver. Positioning the bus close to the curb is important, but avoid touching the curb or barriers. Remember that you are permitted two back-up maneuvers while entering and two back-up maneuvers while exiting before demerits are assessed.

Delaware School Bus Rodeo Competitor Handbook

Image of Maneuver:



Delaware School Bus Rodeo Competitor Handbook

Section 18 – Diminishing Clearance

Event Summary

Item	Information
Maximum Points	50 Points
Event Type	Driving Event

Objective

The Diminishing Clearance event evaluates a competitor's ability to safely maneuver a school bus through a progressively narrowing travel path while maintaining smooth, continuous forward motion and avoiding contact with the tennis ball markers.

Event Description

The Diminishing Clearance course consists of a straight travel lane that gradually becomes narrower as the bus progresses through the course.

The objective is to guide the school bus through the entire course without touching or displacing any tennis ball markers while maintaining smooth vehicle control.

Competition Procedure

- Wait for the judge's signal before entering the event.
- Enter the course smoothly and maintain continuous forward motion.
- Guide the bus through the progressively narrowing travel path.
- Avoid touching or displacing any tennis ball markers.
- Do not stop unless required for safety.
- Continue until the entire bus has cleared the course.
- Stop after clearing the event and wait for the judge's instructions before proceeding.

Scoring

Maximum Score: 50 Points

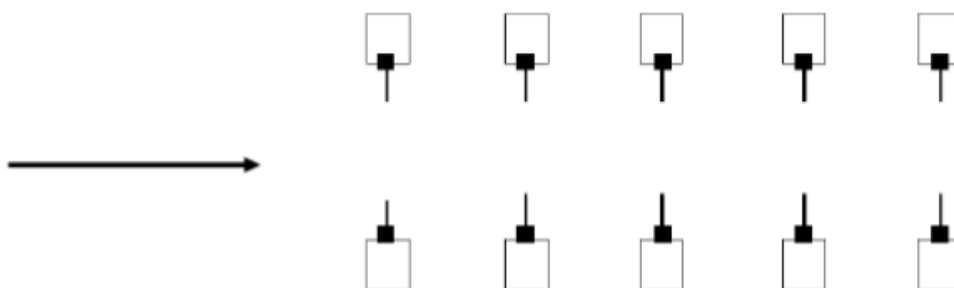
Action	Demerits
Each instance of jerky or uneven movement	2 (Maximum 10)
Each instance of stopping forward motion	4 (Maximum 20)
Each tennis ball marker touched or displaced	10 (Maximum 50)
Bus runs over a tennis ball marker stand	50
Failure to complete the event	50
Backing during the event	50
Failure to wear the seat belt	50
Failure to keep the service door closed	50
Failure to operate with headlights on	50

Delaware School Bus Roadeo Competitor Handbook

Competitor Reminder

Maintain smooth steering and continuous forward motion throughout the event. As the course narrows, continue using your mirrors and avoid making sudden steering corrections that could result in contact with the tennis ball markers.

Image of Maneuver:



Delaware School Bus Roadeo Competitor Handbook

Section 19 – Right Turn

Event Summary

Item	Information
Maximum Points	50 Points
Time Limit	15 Seconds
Event Type	Driving Event

Objective

The Right Turn event evaluates a competitor's ability to safely execute a right turn while maintaining proper lane position, using the correct turn signal, and accurately tracking the right rear outermost tire tread through the designated scoring templates.

Event Description

Competitors will complete a right turn by guiding the right rear outermost tire tread through the entry and recovery scoring templates. The objective is to make a smooth, continuous turn while remaining within the scoring templates and avoiding contact with the curb.

After completing the turn, competitors will stop as directed while the judge completes scoring.

Please Note: After this event has been scored, the designated judge will remove the competitor's score packet from the bus and place it into a sealed envelope for delivery to the scoring team. Competitors shall not leave the area until instructed to do so by the judge.

Competition Procedure

- Wait for the judge's signal before entering the event.
- Activate the right turn signal before beginning the turn.
- Enter the turn smoothly and maintain continuous forward motion.
- Guide the right rear outermost tire tread through the entry scoring template.
- Continue the turn while maintaining proper lane position.
- Guide the right rear outermost tire tread through the recovery scoring template.
- Complete the turn within the 15-second time limit.
- Stop after clearing the event and wait for the judge to complete scoring.
- Remain stopped until instructed to proceed.

Time begins when the right rear outermost tire tread enters the entry scoring template and ends when it exits the recovery scoring template.

Delaware School Bus Rodeo Competitor Handbook

Scoring

Maximum Score: 50 Points

Color Board Scoring

The right rear outermost tire tread is scored at both the entry and recovery scoring templates.

Tire Position	Demerits
Yellow	0
Black	10
Red	20
Off Template	25

Additional Demerits

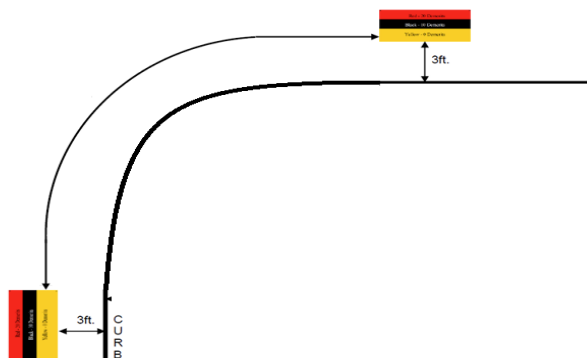
Action	Demerits
Failure to activate the right turn signal	25
Stopping during the turn (other than the initial stop, if applicable)	25
Tire tread rubs or hops the curb	50
Backing during the event	50
Failure to complete the turn within the 15-second time limit	50
Failure to wear the seat belt	50
Failure to keep the service door closed	50
Failure to operate with headlights on	50

Competitor Reminder

Look well ahead through the turn and maintain smooth, continuous steering. Your score is based on the path of the right rear outermost tire tread through both scoring templates.

After completing the turn, remain stopped until the judge has completed scoring and removes your score packet.

Image of Maneuver:



Delaware School Bus Roadeo Competitor Handbook

Section 20 – Awards, Results & Closing Information

Awards Ceremony

Following completion of the competition and final score verification, competitors, judges, volunteers, sponsors, and guests are invited to attend the Awards Ceremony.

The Awards Ceremony is expected to begin between 3:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. in the Odessa High School Auditorium.

All competitors will be recognized for their participation in the Delaware School Bus Roadeo.

Awards will be presented to the top competitors in both the:

- School District Division
- School Transportation Contractor Division

Final Scoring

Following completion of all competition events:

- Competition score sheets will be reviewed by the Delaware Department of Education and the Transportation Supervisors Review Committee to verify scoring accuracy.
- Once scores have been verified, they become final.
- No score changes or appeals will be accepted after the official announcement of the winners.

Individual judge score sheets will not be distributed.

Competition Results

Following the Awards Ceremony, the official cumulative competition scoring spreadsheet will be displayed for competitors to review.

The scoring spreadsheet will include:

- Competitor Number
- Score earned for each competition event
- Overall competition score

The official cumulative scoring spreadsheet will also be published on the Delaware School Bus Roadeo website following the competition.

Delaware School Bus Roadeo Competitor Handbook

National School Bus Driver International Safety Competition

The highest-scoring eligible competitors may qualify to represent Delaware at the National School Bus Driver International Safety Competition (NSTA).

Eligibility and participation are subject to current NSTA competition requirements and Delaware Department of Education procedures.

Qualified competitors will receive additional information following the Delaware School Bus Roadeo.

Thank You

The Delaware Department of Education extends its sincere appreciation to:

- All competitors
- School districts
- School transportation contractors
- Judges
- Volunteers
- Event sponsors
- Appoquinimink School District for hosting the Delaware School Bus Roadeo

Your dedication and commitment to safely transport Delaware's students makes this event possible and helps promote excellence in school transportation throughout our state.

We congratulate every competitor and thank you for your continued commitment to student safety.

Contact Information

Delaware Department of Education
School Transportation Office

401 Federal Street
Dover, Delaware 19901

Website
de.gov/schoolbusroadeo

Email
School.Transportation@doe.k12.de.us