

GENERAL RULES: 2025 - 2026 NFYFC COMPETITION RULES

1. Eligibility & Representation

- 1.1. Check the Eligibility & Representation rules that are recorded in individual competition rules.
- 1.2. For further information see papers on Eligibility & Representation in the Competitions resources online.
- 1.3. All competitors will be required to produce on the day of each round of the competition their **current digital or printed NFYFC membership card** that has the member's photograph attached. A valid card will state the number of the County for which the member is able to compete for.
- 1.4. All competitors must be registered on the NFYFC Silo Database on or before the County Round of any competition they compete in. This rule applies to any substitutes that are used at any round of a competition. ***In the absence of a County Round, members must be signed up on the NFYFC Silo Database prior to the first round that the member/team competes in a competition.***
- 1.5. This rule also applies to members in their last year of competition, where the NFYFC Final falls into the following year. Associate members, although not eligible to compete in 2025-26 competitions, must hold a 2025-2026 membership card to compete in the NFYFC Finals held on or after 1 September 2025 for the competition they competed in the previous membership year.
- 1.6. Failure to produce a membership card on the day of a competition will require the member to pay a £20 fine and prove their ID. Members aged 18 or over will need to confirm their ID using another form of official photo-ID and members under 18 will be identified via another form of photographic ID or the parental consent forms submitted prior to the competition. For all 2025 - 2026 competitions a second form of Photographic ID (i.e., Passport, Driving License, Shotgun certificate etc) will be required at all NFYFC Competition Finals for all members aged over 18, members must present their identification when booking in.
- 1.7. A Member who fails to produce their card on the day of a competition must, within 7 days of the competition, confirm that they are a member of a YFC Club affiliated to the NFYFC. If this is not confirmed to the NFYFC Competitions desk (post@nfyfc.org.uk), the competitor/the whole team will be automatically disqualified from the competition and marks will be re-awarded accordingly.
- 1.8. The NFYFC competitions steering group reserves the right to ask all YFC competitors to show another form of official photographic identification that clearly states the competitors date of birth.

2. Health & safety & safeguarding

- 2.1. All competitions carried out at every level must comply with Health and Safety and Safeguarding legislation and meet the relevant safety standards.
- 2.2. All competitors must be a paid-up member of the County they are representing, with a valid membership card for insurance purposes.
- 2.3. All members aged under 18 must complete a NFYFC Parental Consent form (in the form of a JotForm). The Parental Consent form must be completed and signed by a Parent/Guardian & the responsible person over the age of 18 who is present on the day of the competition. The parental consent form is required for any competition or Presentation of Awards Ceremony.
- 2.4. It is the responsibility of the County Federation to ensure these forms are completed and returned to NFYFC no later than 10 working days prior to the competition.
- 2.5. It is recommended that members under the age of 18 carry a copy of the completed Parental Consent form with them on the day of the NFYFC Final.

Please Note: NFYFC will not accept responsibility for any members under the age of 18 who have not produced their Parental Consent Form either in advance to NFYFC or on the day of the NFYFC Final. If the relevant forms are not received by the time of the NFYFC Final then, in accordance with the Federation's Safeguarding Policy, members will not be allowed to take part.

Dual Membership (member of more than one County)

3. Spirit of fair competition within YFC - Conditions applied to the NFYFC competitions programme for members that join more than one club.

3.1. Joining more than one club in the same county federation

- 3.1.1. A county policy is used to manage this and the points awarded for county trophies (which club is awarded points) – to be prepared and decided by the county federation.
- 3.1.2. This does not affect the Area or NFYFC rounds of competitions – *county federation* teams enter these rounds.
- 3.1.3. No action required by the NFYFC Council.

3.2. Joining more than one club in different county federations

- 3.2.1. **A member with more than one membership may represent each club they belong to in the NFYFC competitions programme with the following conditions.**
 - 3.2.1.1. **They may compete in each NFYFC competition just once – e.g. if they participate in the county round at county A, they cannot compete at any other county round in the same competition.**
 - 3.2.1.2. For example they may participate in the Show Choir competition at the county round of the Home County or at the Visiting [and so on], once competed, they cannot compete in the Show Choir at any other county round.
 - 3.2.1.3. They can compete at another county for **another (different)** competition in the programme that year. For example Tug of War for Home County but not their Visiting County – however, they could take part in Performing Arts for their Visiting County.

- 3.2.1.4. At NFYFC finals, a member **may participate in one final only on each day of competition with the following exceptions.**
- 3.2.1.5. Competitors may compete in
 - 3.2.1.5.1. YFC member of the Year 18 & over
 - 3.2.1.5.2. YFC member of the year 17 & under
 - 3.2.1.5.3. Situations Vacant, Clay Pigeon Shooting, Auctioneering, Cube Exhibit
 - 3.2.1.5.4. and **one other final being held on the same day.**
- 3.2.2. To assist with monitoring this, **the NFYFC entry forms must be used and the NFYFC will adjust entry form templates for the 2025/26 competitions programme to show when a person holds membership in more than one club.**
- 3.2.3. Timetabling will be a consideration for County/Area/Wales rounds of competitions, and County Federations, Area Committees and Wales FYFC will prepare the necessary rules for each day of competitions.
- 3.2.4. The NFYFC Competitions Year runs from the 1st September – 31st August, 2026.
- 3.2.5. A County Federation may enter a composite team at any round of the competition, provided all competitors are signed up on the NFYFC Silo Database on or before the date of the County final or first round they compete at. This applies to home or visiting County.

Please Note: Area Committees may apply to the NFYFC Competitions Steering Group Chair for a special dispensation, to allow an Area Composite Team (made up of County Federations within that Area only) to compete in an NFYFC Final, if there are no County teams taking part in an Area Final. No NFU Trophy points can be awarded to an Area Composite Team.

4. Participation in NFYFC competition finals

- 4.1. Competitors may take part in competitions as follows: -
 - 4.1.1. English Winter Fair - **one** competition per competition day
 - 4.1.2. Competitions Day - **one** competition per competition day**
 - 4.1.3. Sports Championships– **one** competition per competition day
 - 4.1.4. Great Yorkshire Show (Dairy judging & Sheep Shearing)- **one** competition per competition day
 - 4.1.5. Tug of War finals - **one** competition per competition day
 - 4.1.6. Stockjudging Weekend - **one** competition per competition day
 - 4.1.7. Malvern Autumn Show - **one** competition per competition day

****Competitors entering the national finals at the Competitions Day will be able to stage a static exhibit, but this must be done prior to all other competitions booking-in times. Competitors entering the Situation Vacant, Clay Pigeon Shooting, Auctioneering, Cube Exhibit, Junior Member of the Year National Final will be able to take part in one additional competition on the same day. To note: Competitors taking part in the Disco Dancing OR Show Choir may compete in ONE additional competition, a maximum of two competitions per member. This only relates to these two competitions. To Clarify: - Competitors may take part in both the Disco Dancing and Show Choir as their two chosen competitions on Competitions Day. Please see below for clarification.**

i.e. Competitor A – Can compete in Choir and Commercial Dance

Competitor B – Can compete in Commercial Dance and one other competition

Competitor C – Can compete in show Choir and one other competition

This applies to the Commercial Dancing and Show Choir Competitions only and still means that competitors will be limited to a maximum of TWO competitions on the day.

- 4.2. NFYFC is an inclusive organisation that encourages and supports the participation of all our members. If you require any additional support or resources to participate effectively in any element of the competitions, please contact the competitions department three weeks prior to the competition final to allow us to work with you so that specific arrangements can be made. This can include up to 50% extra time. If you would like any extra time to prepare for the competition, this can be arranged. Further information or advice to prepare for a competition can be sought from Dyslexia West Midlands at info@dyslexiawestmidlands.com.
- 4.3. Some NFYFC competitions require members to compete within a specific gender category (for example Men's or Ladies' Tug of War). Where a member would like to compete in a gender different to their biological sex assigned at birth, they will be required to notify NFYFC with a formal request received a minimum of 28 days prior to competition. NFYFC works in partnership with all associated sports' National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and diligently follows their rules and guidelines. Members' requests will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, liaising with the relevant NGB and in some cases medical information may be required. NFYFC will work with the member and the NGB to reach a decision on the request. If a member's request is not approved the member will still have the opportunity to compete in the gender associated with their biological sex assigned at birth.

5. Fines & Late Withdrawal of Entries (including Parental Consent Forms)

- 5.1. No deposits will be required prior to the NFYFC final.
- 5.2. **However**, withdrawals or cancellations made in the two (2) weeks before the day of the final will result in a fine of **£25**
- 5.3. Teams will be fined £100 for withdrawing within 48 hrs of the competition final
- 5.4. Individuals will be fined £40 for withdrawing within 48 hrs of the competition final
- 5.5. Competitors that fail to submit their parental consent form 48 hrs before the competition final will receive a fine amounting to £40. Entire teams that fail to submit their parental consent form 48 hrs before the competition final will receive a fine amounting to £100.
- 5.6. All fines are invoiced to County Federations and not the team/individual.
- 5.7. This rule applies to ALL Competitions at NFYFC Semi-finals and finals.
- 5.8. Area Finals held within the fine period will be subjected to the charges.
- 5.9. Fines will be imposed if the Area final is within the fine period

- 5.10. A fine of £75 will be imposed on those teams withdrawing from Fence Erecting on the day of the competition to cover the cost of the fencing materials
6. **Judges' decisions and complaints**
- 6.1. The Judges' decision is final.
- 6.2. Written notification of **intention to lodge a complaint or to dispute the result must be received by the Chief Steward on the day of the competition no later than 1 hour of the results being announced**
- 6.3. Following the above, the detail of the complaint or dispute of the results must be received in writing at the YFC Centre, Stoneleigh Park **within 3 working days of the competition final**. Email post@nfyfc.org.uk
- 6.4. Official complaints or disputes can be made by Competitors (finalists) or County Chair's only.
7. **Amendments**
- 7.1. The NFYFC reserve the right to amend or cancel any of the rules.
8. **Expenses**
- 8.1. The NFYFC is not responsible for any expenses incurred by competitors or for arrangements for accommodation or travel.
9. **Behaviour and Material Content**
- 9.1. Unacceptable behaviour by competitors or supporters of teams which brings YFC into disrepute; or which may be deemed to adversely affect other competitors/performances will be penalised.
- 9.2. YFC Members are reminded that material of a questionable nature should not appear in any performance or speech. Material of a questionable nature and characters to the extreme will be penalised. Judges reserve the right to disqualify teams/members they perceive to be offensive or discriminatory.
- 9.3. Filming of any competition is not permitted without prior consent from NFYFC and all competing teams
- 9.4. Mobile Device (Phone, Tablet, Laptop etc) use during any competition is strictly prohibited.
- 9.5. The NFYFC Competitions Winning Behaviour Policy is available on the NFYFC Website for reference.
10. **Awards**
- 10.1. All NFYFC Competitions will carry points towards the NFU trophy unless otherwise stated.
- 10.2. Members will be disqualified if they are not at the Presentation of Awards without prior permission being granted. County Organisers must submit an Absentee Form to NFYFC prior to the event.