Contest Description
Hairstyling
Post-Secondary

1. Schedule

DATE: Monday, April 5, 2027	LOCATION: Willis College(Halifax)
TIME	**TASK**
7:30am – 8:00am	Registration
8:00am – 8:30am	Set up & briefing test #1
8:30am – 12:00am	Test #1: _Ladies Commercial Cut, Color and Style
12:00pm – 12:30pm	Lunch
12:30pm – 12:45 pm	Briefing test #2
1:00pm – 3:00pm	Test #2: Ladies Natural Textured Hairstyling
3:15pm – 4:15pm	Clean up, pack up & judging
4:30pm	Closing ceremonies, medal presentations

2. Purpose of the Contest

To enable the industry as well as observers to view the level of skills taught within the post-secondary programs and to encourage interaction between the various sectors. This relationship will ensure the skills gained by young hairstylists at all levels of training are geared to the demands of the beauty industry.

3. Number of Stations / Competitors

There are 15 stations available.

4. Knowledge, Skills and Abilities to be assessed

The level of this competition will allow the young stylists to demonstrate their technical skills and creative ability in the following two (2) tests:

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Test #1: LADIES commercial cut, color and style.

- Mannequin TBA.
- The cut will be a 'ladies commercial cut' as seen in the most modern salons that follow the current fashion trends.
- All cutting tools are allowed.
- The cut should allow for ease of styling and should flow seamlessly in the finish, as a well-sculpted cut should. Cuts will be checked before the finishing styling is completed
- The **form or cutting technique used must reflect** the photo provided by Redken Canada, revealed at the beginning of the competition.
- Color is open and free to the competitors' own creativity and vision- in keeping with the category and possible wishes. Sponsor, Redken, may choose a color you will need to incorporate to your color palette and if supplied is must be used as one of the colors. Competitors will need to bring a cool and a warm palette of color to the competition. The placement must complement the cut and enhance the design, it also must fit within the category of commercial haircut.
- Color pallet must consist of dark, medium, and light either warm or cool, palette and with addition 1 fashion color.
- The finished look will show expertise in finishing a blow-dried styled design and reflect any wishes, requested by Redken Canada.

Test #2: LADIES natural texture HAIR STYLING Catwalk (Time allotted – 1 hr. 30 mins.)

- Looks may include braiding techniques: all braiding techniques: cornrows, twists: flat or hanging, box braids: flat or hanging and Bantu knots. May be half up/down, thermal styling down in loose curls or waves, used in Catwalk looks. Competitors should be prepared for any techniques used on naturally textured hair styling.
- The choice of style will reflect the picture chosen by a Redken affiliate.
- All competitors will be surprised with a textured hair mannequin – TBA.
- Heads will be provided by Skills Canada NS.
- Mannequin will not be cut or colored.
- All hot tools are allowed for creative styling.
- Hair ornamentation MAY be supplied by Redken affiliate, and picked to work with the chosen design.
- If ornaments are provided then the whole item provided must be used, it must be incorporated into and flow with the design. Ornaments should be placed to enhance the overall theme or may need to reflect a picture.

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Competitors will receive demerits for the following: 1-5 demerits

- Failure to treat the mannequin as you would a client in the salon.
- Not sweeping and disposing of all recyclable materials appropriately.
- Keeping workstation organized and cleaning out the sink after use.
- Out of category styles.
- Out of category color.
- For color staining and for missing color due to improper application; 1 demerit per area.
- Safety will also be monitored and demerits can also be given for failure to follow safety guidelines as per CANS and OH&S, not wearing PPE (personal protective equipment), gloves, apron or smock, proper footwear with hosiery/anklets, socks in – closed toed shows, heels not above 2 inches. Not using tools that have become contaminated, if barbicide is available competitors must use disinfection procedures, or removing item so as not to be reused. Sweeping up hair, and wiping up water spills as needed. Not having combustible materials next to hot tools.
- Not following provided list of checkpoints – areas in the competition that the competitor will stop, show the sages the task completed then resume working.

List of checkpoints:

- Using appropriate PPE (personal protective equipment); COVID- wearing masks and as per instructions.
- Cleaning out sink after using.
- Mixing chemicals as per manufacturer's instruction. Use of timer(s).
- Sweeping after haircut and before blow drying.
- Checking color bowls for overuse of product, no more than 10mls. Left in the bowl, when finished with the application, for all mixtures for all applications used during the service.
- Getting the mannequin checked to see that all color has been removed, no staining after sink but before styling, and no missed spots. Once dry, before hot tools are used.

Important Notes

- There is no age-limit at the provincial or national competitions.
- Competitors may choose to only complete in one skills project – either of the ladies' projects – 'Ladies Natural Textured Hairstyling' and 'Ladies consumer color and cut'. This is acceptable however you will only be eligible for prizes in that category and will not be considered for any medals.
- Only the 'Ladies commercial cut, color, and style' mannequins will be given to the competitor at the end of the day.
- Textured mannequin must be taken down, shampooed, and conditioned at the end of the day by the competitors, once the judging is complete, failure to do so will result in 5 demerits.

- Only competitors that complete two (2) tests will receive medals.
- To do one competition only is perfectly acceptable; however, the competitor will not qualify for the SCNC. All competitors will be eligible for prizes in any category in which they enter.
- No written test will be administered. Theoretical knowledge will be apparent in the performance of the practical tests.
- Prizes procured by the PTC and not SCNS will be awarded. The registration fee includes a t-shirt, lunch and low or no cost to the competitors for mannequins (pending sponsorship).

Career Skills Exhibited:

- Haircutting – using shears, razor, texturizing shear. Ladies cut/color competition only competitors may use clippers and edger's no guards allowed. Cuts will be checked for workmanship and accuracy.
- Hairstyling – blow-drying, finishing and good knowledge of products and their usage, to achieve desired look. Hot tools, such as curling iron. Crimper, flatiron, up do techniques, twists, coils, bantou knots, curly hairstyling, session work, catwalk- all looks may incorporate the use of hair ornamentation to enhance the long hair design.
- Hair color application and techniques, lightening and toning techniques.

6. Prerequisites

SCNS Prerequisites

All Post-Secondary competitors must meet the following criteria in the current school year:

- Be enrolled in a community college, university, private school OR be a registered apprentice with the Department of Labour and Advanced Education (Apprenticeship Agency);
- Be registered as a competitor with Skills Canada – Nova Scotia;
- The competitor cannot have received their journey-person certification prior to March 1 of the competition year.
- Possess Canadian citizenship or Permanent Resident (Landed Immigrant) status and be a resident of Nova Scotia; or be a registered International Student. Competitors are responsible for verifying this information if requested;
- Have been earning post-secondary credits in a sector relevant to the one in which they wish to compete (i.e. to compete in carpentry, the student would be earning credits in any construction-related trade) at any time during the academic school year (September to June);
- All competitors must be able to show either current apprenticeship status and/or proof of enrollment in a post-secondary institution upon request of the Provincial Technical Committee (PTC) or Skills Canada – Nova Scotia.
- Have completed and submitted a signed release form

7. Required Equipment and Clothing

- As per industry standard in a professional salon, PPE, heels no higher than 2", and with stockings of some type are required.
- Competitors will be asked to show footwear and stockings to judges at the start of the day.
- Each contestant will be provided with a work area/station, hydraulic chair or non-hydraulic and one electrical outlet.
- Tentatively-Mannequins are provided through sponsorship between Maritime Beauty and Skills Canada – Nova Scotia.
- Only the 'Ladies Commercial Haircut and Style' mannequins will be given back to each competitor after the competition. Skills Canada – Nova Scotia will keep the textures hair mannequins for next year. Once competition judging is completed the PTC have given the OK, competitors will be instructed to brush out the style, shampoo and condition the mannequin.
- We will supply Redken shampoos and conditioners – HCC, Color Extend, and Extreme.

What Competitors Must Supply:
All working tools for cutting, all tools for styling, tripod, PPE (Personal Protective Equipment- gloves, smock or color apron must be utilized during color services), towels, draping materials. See below more detailed list:

- PPE- Smock or color apron, safety glasses and masks when mixing are optional.
- Clean and comfortable work attire as would be worn by professionals working in a modern hair salon. Demerits will result if these rules are not followed.
- Closed toed shoes with hosiery must be worn at all times. Competitors will not be allowed onto the floor without proper footwear and hosiery, no heels higher than 2" will be allowed.
- Supply all working tools; water bottle, towels, cape(s), color apron or smock, color tools and foil, cutting implements, combs, brushes, clips, blow dryer, hot tools, and timer(s), clippers for ladies cut are optional- no guards- 000 blade. Scale for color if using cream color.
- All draping materials, neck strips, towels, capes- child size capes may be used.
- Competitors should bring their own tripod, if not available let Debra Ross know (Contact info located at the end of this document).
- Contestants should come prepared, commercial supplies can be provided per campus/school and shared amongst those competitors.
- Competitors should not be talking with one another once the competition has commenced, this will be interpreted as cheating.
- Only one electrical tool may be plugged in at a time, if a hood dryer is needed, please bring a portable hood dryer.

8. Evaluation and Judging Criteria

International 30pt. System: Hair Arts and Sciences ABA Judging Panel of Canada. The National Skills CIS may be utilized to score points by the weight of the skill analyzed. Judges will be briefed on how to judge for measurement and for judgement marking for any work that will be completed from provided pictures or mannequins of the look.

All judging will be performed according to the criteria:

- The gold medalist must have completed all two (2) tests and have the highest combined score; the gold medalist will represent Nova Scotia at the Skills Canada National Competition May 27-28, 2026, in Toronto, Ontario.
- The contestant with the highest combined points from the two tests will be declared the Gold medalist, 2nd highest is Silver, 3rd highest is Bronze.
- Should there be a tie, the tabulator will look to the 'Ladies Commercial Haircut, color and style' to see the highest score and that person will be declared the winner.
- Demerits may be given for any rule infractions – see below.

Any communication between audience and competitor during contests times may be seen as coaching and will be given demerits to be awarded and in some extreme cases the competitor may be disqualified.

<u>Penalty Points: 1 pt. per infraction with maximum demerits not exceeding 5 points per infraction.</u>

- Not following safety protocol.
- Not sweeping after cutting and before blow drying.
- Not wiping up water spills.
- Not draping the mannequin as per salon services.
- Improper use of hot tools.
- Not treating mannequin as one would treat a client.
- Not cleaning out sinks after use.
- Missed spots with the color application (1 point per area; top, back, front, and each side).
- Staining of the mannequin with color (1 point per area back, front, and each side).
- Out of category work.
- Talking to other competitors once the competition has commenced is not permitted.
- Coaching from the audience is not permitted.
- No change in length in the cutting competitions – (1point per area).
- Color – (1 pt. per area missed) up to 5 points total (1 pt. per area stained) up to 5 points total.

- Use of tools – up to 5 points demerited for use of improper tools for the following – improper use of hot tools – no comb under iron, used clippers when they were not allowed. Using guards on clippers for ladies cut.
- Out of category cut, or color – up to 3 points for each.
- Treat mannequin as you would a client -1 to -5 points, not dragging her around by her hair or turning the head upside down to check cut or styling, leaving foils in face once section is completed.
- Not draping properly.
- Coaching from the audience – first warning will incur 1-5 points, second warning will be disqualification.
- Not respecting stop and start times (5 pts).
- No headsets, iPod, portable CD players or similar, or cellular phones allowed – disqualification.
- No technical support such as formulas, pictures, drawings, notes, etc. – disqualification, unless these were provided by PTC.
- Following the checkpoints – see the list provided in this doc. The list will be reviewed with competitors prior to start of each competition, points will be deducted when checkpoints are missed. (1 pt. per checkpoint will be deducted).

POINTS ALLOTTED	**POINTS**
Ladies Natural Textured Hair Styling	30 pts.
Ladies Commercial Haircut, and Style on pre-colored mannequin from a photo	70 pts.

SCORE – 30- point International Judging System	
Excellent – 30 points Great – 29 points Very Good – 28 points Good – 27 points	Average – 26 points Below Average – 25-22 points Poor – 21 or lower

Judging sheets provided by PTC will be finalized once wishes are known and judges determine criteria. Below is an example of a men's tapered cut:

Criteria #1 Value- 10% Taper reflects photo	Criteria #2 Value- 10% Sides are blended- reflects photo	Criteria #3 Value- 10% Top length reflects photo	Wish #1 Value- 10% Haircut is checked and given score 5-10	Wish #2 Value- 10% Styling- reflects photo – if part is correctly positioned, hard part is as per photo	Wish #3 N/A	Workmanship Value- 50% The design is well sculpted and flows- blended taper to sides into top as per photo, finish work is well done and reflects photo.
/10	/10	/10	/10	/10		/50 = Total /100

Health and Safety Industry standards must be followed throughout the competition.

10. PTC Contact Information

Name	*Employer*	*Email*
Debra Ross	Willis College	debra.ross@williscollege.ca
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