



2026 DSBN REGIONAL FASHION DESIGN SKILLS CHALLENGE SECONDARY LEVEL SCOPE

FASHION DESIGN - CONTEST DETAILS:

Date: Wednesday March 11, 2026

Time: 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Location: St Catharines Collegiate, 34 Catharine St, St Catharines, ON L2R 5E7
Fashion Room (120)

ENTRY: Students must contact their challenge/tech teacher in order to register online with all the required information completed to be eligible to participate.

Technical Chair:

Kylie Mitchell, St Catharines Collegiate, kylie.mitchell@dsbn.org

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There may be a newer version available: This Document was last updated April 11th, 2025.

Please check the website to ensure you have the latest version.

<https://www.skillsontario.com/skills-ontario-competition#Scopes>

1. Purpose of the Contest:

- a. Provide Fashion Design students with an opportunity to apply their technical skills and creativity into the development of a marketable garment for the Fashion Industry.
- b. Recognize outstanding students for their excellence in apparel applications and technology.
- c. Evaluate each competitor's level of preparation for employment in the competitive Fashion Industry.
- d. Prepare for Provincial and National Level Competitions

2. Technical Committee:

- a. Kylie Mitchell, kylie.mitchell@dsbn.org

Any questions regarding this scope must be sent at least two weeks prior to the contest date to be guaranteed a response.

3. Contest Schedule:

Wednesday, March 11, 2026	
8:00 - 8:30 AM	Sign-in at contest site
8:30 - 9:00 AM	Orientation
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Contest
12:00 - 12:30 PM	Lunch
12:30 - 3:00 PM	Contest & Submission
3:00 - 3:30 PM	Clean-up

Competitors must be on time for their contest or may be disqualified at the discretion of the Technical Committee.

4. Skills and Knowledge to be tested

A) PRIOR TO THE COMPETITION, the competitor will:

1. Read this scope thoroughly with a mentor. Prior to attending the Skills Ontario Competition, students should be competent in the use of the tools and equipment listed in scope, as well as, what safety precautions will be observed.
2. Brainstorm ideas (sketching and research), in order to narrow-down and select a final design concept for an oversized notched-collar jacket with center front bound button closure for a 15–20-year-old client.

3. Print pattern (provided by Skills Ontario) in full-scale.
4. Set-up a "training schedule" with a mentor in order to research and practice:
 - a. the development of the pattern for the design,
 - b. the order of operations for construction of the garment,
 - c. time management (ie.: aim to complete project in 7 hours by creating mock competitions)
 - d. finishing techniques for components like:
 - i. notched collar,
 - ii. easing of set-in sleeve (ie.: no puckers), closure with front facing,
 - iii. pockets,
 - iv. 2 design details chosen, and
 - v. proper hem and seam finishings (ie.: especially where front facing meets the hem)
5. Draw and submit a final design: (this is done PRIOR and MUST be submitted upon registration on competition day)
 - a. an artistic colour illustration of the design (on a body) and
 - b. a technical drawing (not on a body) in black ink

***A returning competitor cannot use a previous year's design.**

6. Draft and develop the pattern using the one provided by Skills Ontario and bring your FINISHED pattern to the competition.

B) DURING THE COMPETITION, the competitor will:

7. Use the prepared pattern to cut-out, sew and finish the garment.

C) REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGN:

- Maximum length to be no longer than 15" (38 cm), from the waist
- Mandatory components that must be maintained:
 - sleeve cap shape,
 - collar shape,
 - Neckline,
 - shoulder length,
 - armhole shape, and
 - center front of front piece
- Minimum of (2) two dart transfers or conversions;
- Mandatory addition of (1) one vent with mitred corners (length and location must suit design)
- Mandatory (2) two bound buttonholes as indicated on pattern
- Integrate (2) two of the following design details to the (front or back) body of the garment:
 - yoke,
 - overlay,
 - design or style line(s),
 - pleat(s),
 - gathers,

- vent with mitred corners (*in addition to the mandatory vent),
- slit with mitred corners,
- belt with tabs,
- epaulettes

***Note:** competitors must identify their 2 chosen design details on their technical drawing

• Integrate a minimum of 1 (one) additional design detail of competitor's choice (NOT from the list above) To clarify: this is an opportunity for competitors to be more creative and to have their garments stand-out!

- Incorporate 2 (two) identical patch pockets:
 - finished pocket length: must suit design
 - finished width: 7" (18 cm) from the folded edges at the opening,

Note: Competitors should recognize the need to go beyond a basic patch pocket to showcase their creativity and demonstrate advanced construction skills.

A) REMINDERS:

- 1) Pattern placement on fabric- BEFORE** competitors begin cutting their fabric, they must advise a member of the technical committee in order to have their layout documented for assessment.
- 2) Construction-** this section of the competition is worth the MOST in points; therefore, the majority of competitors' time should be dedicated to perfecting these skills.
(*This is especially important when practicing before the competition.)
- 3) Competitors must draft** (develop) their pattern using the Skills Ontario pattern, **cut** their pieces with the fabric provided, **sew** and **finish** their garment in the allotted **6-hour** period.
- 4) Competitors are responsible for- and will be assessed (Safety- 3 pts), for tidying their workstation** before they leave the contest site and officially submit their project. Thirty (30) minutes are allotted at the end of competition for this purpose.

5. A- Judging Criteria

A. Colour illustration (on a body)	minus 2 pts if not submitted
B. Technical Drawing (in black ink) drawn flat- not on a body, 2 chosen design details indicated at top right	7
C. Creativity and Suitability of the Design	7
D. Draft / Pattern Development	20
E. Garment Construction	58
F. Quality Control	5
G. Safety	3
Total	100

Note: In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined by the "Judging Criteria" in the following order:

1. The highest score in the “Garment Construction” component of the competition.
2. The degree of difficulty in sewing construction.
3. The highest score in “Draft/Pattern Development” component of the competition.

Rule infractions will result in appropriate mark deductions at the discretion of the Technical Committee. Any disqualifications will be reviewed by the Director of Competitions.

5. B - Judging Information

A. Colour illustration - *minus 2 pts if not submitted upon registration on competition day.*

- ‘Fashion illustration’ **in colour** and in any style using whichever medium that showcases competitor’s creativity, artistic strengths and understanding of their intended client.
- Include **front and back views on a body**.

B. Technical Drawing - 7 pts.

- In **black ink** drawn as if garment was laid flat on a table (**NOT on a body**)
- Front and back views included
- All design details are shown on the technical drawing including any topstitching.
- 2 (two) chosen design details have been identified at the top right-hand corner
- DO NOT colour the technical drawing
- Rulers and curves have been used to provide a professional and neat rendering

C. Creativity & Suitability of the Design - 7 pts.

- Your design **MUST**:
 - Be suitable for a 15 to 20-year-old person
 - Include the required criteria
 - Be your own creation; do not copy other people’s work

D. Draft / Pattern Development - 20 pts.

- Develop your pattern to match your technical drawing. The following are part of this evaluation:
 - pattern has been modified;
 - 2 dart manipulation or conversion;
 - seam alignment (Do the pattern pieces fit well together?);
 - 1.2 cm (1/2 inch) seam allowance are even;
 - notches where necessary;
 - hem allowances (all pattern pieces match with uniform hem allowances);
 - cutting out of the pattern (pattern pieces are carefully and neatly cut on the cutting lines);
 - design details (i.e., Placement and values for pleats and pocket) are indicated clearly;
 - labelling;
 - neatness and completion.

Notes:

1. A basic pattern is provided which includes a ½ inch / 1.27 cm seam allowance;
2. Modifications are to be made **clearly** and **directly** on the provided pattern pieces;
3. It is not necessary to re-draw each pattern piece;
4. Competitors may **neatly** use tape to alter or modify patterns, for example;
5. Be sure to **legibly indicate on the pattern piece** what is being altered.
6. The following information must be labeled on each pattern piece submitted:
 - Your competitor number on your draft and on every pattern piece
 - Grainlines, seam allowances, hem allowances, and where applicable - darts, gathers, pleats, etc.;
 - Number of pieces to cut for each type of fabric (i.e., main- or “self” fabric, contrast fabric and interfacing- or “fusing”);
 - Label for front, facings, back, sleeve, collars, and any other pattern pieces needed for design (i.e., yoke, pockets) and
 - Notches/dots - identify and place these wherever they will benefit construction.

E. Garment Construction - 58 pts.**General Construction Expectations:**

- Construct garment from the pattern made during the competition.
- All exposed seams must be finished (i.e., using serger, or other appropriate treatment suitable for the fabric)
- Garment must be finished; that includes the hem and functional closure.
- The following are parts of this evaluation:
 - pattern layout on fabric,
 - interfacing,
 - top and bottom collars,
 - front and back body,
 - front and back facing,
 - closure,
 - dart manipulation and/or darts,
 - pockets,
 - seams,
 - top and under stitching,
 - sleeves (sewn in the round) and
 - hem
 - two (2) chosen design details,
 - additional details; and
 - degree of difficulty of design elements.

F. Quality Control - 5 pts.

The following are part of this evaluation:

- pressing,
- threads clipped,
- seams:
 - clipped
 - graded

- secure
- all garment components are present and constructed correctly (ie: notched collar lies flat, sleeve hangs properly, no components are pulling, etc.
- garment is complete (ie: closure and hem finished)

G. Safety – 3 pts.

- Competitor adheres to proper safety procedures by:
 - wearing appropriate attire and footwear;
 - maintaining a safe and tidy work environment throughout the competition;
 - pins are kept in a pin cushion (ie.: they are NOT to be seen loose on table, on ironing board, on competitor's clothing, on floor, or in competitor's mouth)
 - pattern paper is recycled separately from fabric
 - no debris is found on the floor
 - wearing safety glasses when using the sewing machine;
 - following proper use of iron and cutting tools;
 - **immediately notifying technical committee members of:**
 - injuries;
 - spills;
 - issues with equipment (ie. sewing machine, sergers, iron)

SUBMISSION:

After garment is completed, competitors will:

1. Clean and tidy their work space.
2. Identify garment with competitor number:
 - Masking tape will be used to adhered to **“the wearer's right” at center front**
3. Take pictures of the garment (with or without your mentor, if desired).
4. Leave all pattern pieces and drafts NEATLY on table.
5. Place the garment on top of patterns.
6. Place technical drawing on top of garment.

6. EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

Supplied by Competitor:

- ◆ General pattern making and construction supplies: pencils, rulers, curves, squares, scotch tape, straight pins, tape measure, scissors, shears, weights, seam ripper, pressing tools (i.e., hams, press cloth, etc.)
- **rotary cutters and mats are permitted with safety equipment (ie.: safety glove) approved by the technical committee safety representative.*
- ◆ Iron
- ◆ Ironing board (to be placed on table)
- ◆ Safety glasses
- ◆ All general health and safety guidelines and protective equipment as noted in the Safety section
- ◆ Refillable water bottle

- ◆ Snacks
- ◆ Appropriate attire and footwear, wear flat soft-soled closed shoes – (sneakers are acceptable)

***The following items are NOT PERMITTED on the contest site:** books, written notes, diagrams, directions, listening devices, paper, scrap fabric, embellishing materials, sewing machine attachments, and electronic devices including smart watches.

Supplied by Skills Ontario:

- ◆ Basic pattern - to include front, front facing, back, top collar, bottom collar, sleeve; 1.27 cm / ½ inch seam allowance included on each pattern. **This will be found on the Skills Ontario website along with the scope** ***Note:** With the help of their mentors, competitors will be responsible for enlarging the ¼ scale pattern and printing it at full scale for practice
- **Fabric: Main colour ("self"): 3.0 m of medium-heavy weight fabric; (150 cm wide),**
Fusible Interfacing: 3.0 m (20"/50 cm) wide
- Shoulder pads (½")
- Thread to match and/or contrasting
- Sewing machine (**Husqvarna – Product #957288122**)
- Sewing needles, regular presser foot for sewing machine
- Lunch

7. SUGGESTED TIME MANAGEMENT

Layout / Cutting of Garment Pieces, Fusing and Markings on Pieces	1.5 hour
Garment Construction	6 hours
Quality Control	30 minutes
Total hours equal	8 hours

8. SAFETY

Safety is a priority at the DSBN Skills Competition. At the discretion of the judges and technical chairs, any competitor can be removed from the competition site for not having the proper safety equipment and/or not acting in a safe manner.

- It is mandatory for all competitors to wear CSA approved eyewear (including side shields for prescription eyewear).*
- It is mandatory for all competitors to wear closed toed footwear.*
- Jewellery such as rings, bracelets and necklaces or any items deemed unsafe by competition judges shall be removed.*
- Proper shop attire is to be worn (no loose straps, baggy sleeves). Any attire that is deemed unsafe by competition judges will not be permitted.*
- Tie back long hair.

*Competitors will not be permitted to compete until they have the needed safety equipment. Competition judges will have final authority on matters of safety.

Competitors must show competence in the use of tools and/or equipment outlined in this scope and can be removed at the discretion of the judges and technical chairs if he/she does not display tool and/or equipment competency.