



# TECHNOLOGICAL SKILLS CHALLENGES

EXPLORE  
YOUR **INTERESTS.**  
DISCOVER  
YOUR **FUTURE.**  
CREATE  
YOUR **CAREER.**

## 2026 DSBN REGIONAL HAIRSTYLING SKILLS CHALLENGE SECONDARY LEVEL SCOPE

**CHAIR:** Donna Girvan-DiSalvo  
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### **PURPOSE OF THE CONTEST:**

To test the knowledge and skills of students in the area of Hairstyling and to help prepare each student for a career in Hairstyling.

### **EVENT DETAILS:**

**Date:** Wednesday March 4, 2026

**Time:** 8:15 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

**Location:** Niagara College - Welland Campus, RM SALON-P110  
100 Niagara College Boulevard  
Welland, ON L3C 7L3

### **SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO BE TESTED:**

This level of competition will allow young stylists to demonstrate their technical skills and creative ability in the following testing areas, which represent fashion conscience clients' requests, found in upscale salons:

- **Long Hair by design**
- **Naturally Textured Hair Design by design**
- **Women's Salon Cut and Style by design**

No written test will be administered. The theoretical knowledge will be relevant in the performance of the practical tests.

## **SAFETY REQUIREMENTS:**

Competitors are required to follow all industry safety standards during the competition

## **EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS, TOOLS, AND SUPPLIES:**

### **Notes:**

- All services will be administered on mannequins
- Instruction and training from professionals within the trade is encouraged prior to the commencement of this contest only
- All hand-held blow dryers cannot exceed 1800 watts
- All curling irons cannot exceed 125 volts, 60 Hz, 75 Amps
- Competitors cannot borrow supplies from others

### **Equipment Supplied by the Contest Coordinator:**

- One tabletop mirror
- One double electrical outlet per competitor (extenders permitted)
- Workstation

### **Equipment and tools Supplied by the Competitor:**

- All tools and supplies necessary for the completion of all services outlined in these scope sheets
- Although there are some tripods available, please bring any tripod that you might have for the mannequins
- Long-haired mannequin to be used for the **Long Hair by design**
- One mannequin with textured hair for **Naturally Textured Hair by Design**
- Mannequin for **Women's Salon Cut and Style by design**

## **CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS:**

Casual business attire must be worn with DSBN Skills Tees

## **JUDGING CRITERIA:**

## **PROJECT AND COMPETITION EXPECTATIONS:**

### **Test 1: LONG HAIR-UP BY DESIGN**

**Time:** 1.5 Hours

#### **Description**

Long Hair-Up will be a technical up-style design on long hair meant to be worn for a red carpet event, session work, runway or wedding.

## Design

The design will be determined by Independent Project Designers. Competitors will receive the Design for the look just before the start of the competition. The design may come in the form of picture(s) or mannequin as per the Project Designers. Competitors must follow the design to the best of their abilities.

- 1. REPORT TO FLOOR-** Mannequins will be with clean dry hair and no pre-setting of any kind (rollers or pre-set)
- 2. HAIR LENGTH-** Minimum hair length in the back to the bottom of shoulder blades. The front may have light fringes not to extend further back than 1 inch from the hairline. The top of the head may have lengths no shorter than jaw length.
- 3. TOOLS AND PRODUCTS-** Any electric tools may be used during comb out time. Styling products and hairsprays are allowed.
- 4. HAIR PIECES-** No hair pieces of any kind or extensions.
- 5. HAIR COLOUR-** No colour

## **Test 2: Naturally Textured Hair Design by Design**

**Time:** 1.45 Hours

### Description

Naturally Textured Hair Design will be a protective design meant to preserve natural hair and maintain hydration.

### Wishes

The competitor must follow the project design which will be provided with a picture(s) and or a mannequin. The design must reflect the picture /mannequin provided. All areas completed per the picture/mannequin, area(s) that remain unseen will be the competitor's choice of design while staying within the components used as per the category. Competitors must respect the clients' wishes. The end result must reflect industry standards.

## **Test 3: COMMERCIAL HAIRCUT BY DESIGN**

**Time:** 1.5 Hours

### Description

Commercial Haircut will be a reflection of a fashion forward wearable design. Extreme avant-garde styles will not be permitted.

## Wishes

The competitor must follow the project design which will be provided with a picture(s) and or a mannequin. The design must reflect the picture /mannequin provided. All areas completed per the picture/mannequin, area(s) that remain unseen will be the competitors choice of design while staying within the components used as per the category. Competitors must respect the clients wishes. End result must reflect industry standards.

1. **WET HAIR**- Mannequin's hair must be wet throughout and combed straight back before the competition begins. Penalties will be given if judges must wet the hair.
2. **HAIR LENGTH**- One inch (2.5cm) of the hair must be cut throughout the head. Failure to do so will result in demerits. The judges will check the length before and again during the competition to assure that the length is visibly changed. Any hair length in fashion, which suits the model, may be applied.
3. **HAIR COLOUR**- No colour allowed
4. **TOOLS AND PRODUCT**- Any hair-cutting tool may be used, including styling aids, flatirons, curling irons and apply a light spray finish.
5. **CLOTHING**- no clothing allowed on mannequin

## JUDGING CRITERIA:

Judging will be performance-based and ranked according to the "30 point International System". The top three competitors with the highest cumulative average of all testing units will rank into the following categories:

- 1 - Gold Medalist**
- 2 - Silver Medalist**
- 3 - Bronze Medalist**

The top three medalist placement is announced, however final rank (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>) will be announced only at the **DSBN Annual Celebration of Excellence**.

Demerits may be given for any rule infractions. Any communication between competitors and audience during contest times may be seen as coaching and could cause demerits to be awarded.

### **Penalty Points:**

- **Length = 1-3 points**
- **Colour (during or prior to contest) = 1-5 points**
- **Use of tools = 1-3 points**
- **Out of category = 1-5 points**
- **Coaching on site in the duration of the agenda =**  
first warning will incur 1-5 points,  
second warning = disqualification

**ENTRY:** Please connect with a teacher advisor at your school to complete your registration for this competition to be eligible to participate. Teachers should also forward a list of competitors participating from their school to the contest Advisor, Donna Girvan-DiSalvo, 7 days prior to the date of the contest.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Students are responsible for their own transportation

**TEACHER'S ROLE:**

Instructors are expected to acquaint their student participants with all of the enclosed guidelines. Teachers may accompany their students or visit any time during the competition, but may not assist the competitors during the challenge

**COMPETITION AGENDA:**

<b>8:15 - 8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Sign in/ Arrival/ Set up</b>
<b>8:30 - 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Orientation</b>
<b>9:00 - 10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Long Hair- by design</b>
<b>10:30 - 10:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Clean up</b>
<b>11:00 - 12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Women's Salon Cut and Style by design</b>
<b>12:30- 12:40 p.m.</b>	<b>Clean up</b>
 <b>12:40 p.m. - 1:05 p.m. ***** Lunch *****</b>	
<b>1:05 - 1:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Set up for Next Challenge</b>
<b>1:15 - 3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Naturally Textured Hair Design by design</b>
<b>3:00 - 3:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Clean Up &amp; Judging</b>

**\*\* Medalist top 3 announcements to be made at DSBN Celebration of Excellence**

**\*\* Competitors must be on time for their contest and may be disqualified if they do not sign-in at their contest site prior to the start of orientation. At the discretion of the technical committee chair, the competitor may be permitted to compete but would not receive any additional time. Each competitor will be given a number by their coordinator upon registration at the location and will be judged anonymously during the competition.**

**Mannequins to be supplied by CSS (ahead of time)**

- #1. Fiona-NP GROUP
- #2. Jamie- NP GROUP
- #3 Fiona- NP GROUP

\* These are suggestions only, mannequins from other suppliers are also allowed.