

Utah 4-H State FCS Contest – Mixed-County Team Guidelines

The purpose of allowing mixed-county teams is to provide senior 4-H members with an opportunity to participate in State FCS Contests when they are unable to form a complete team within their own county. Mixed-county teams should be used when needed to create a complete, competitive team and must receive approval from the Utah 4-H FCS Working Group prior to registering for the State FCS Contest.

Eligibility and Team Requirements

- All team members must be **senior-aged 4-H youth (grades 9–12)** and currently enrolled members of Utah 4-H.
- A mixed-county team is defined as a team consisting of youth from **two or more Utah counties**.
- Youth should first make a reasonable effort to recruit team members from within their own county before requesting approval to form a mixed-county team.
- Mixed-county teams must be **formed and submitted for approval by June 1**.
- Each team must declare the **specific State FCS Contest** in which it plans to participate.
- Each team must identify a **coach** at the time the request is submitted.
- The coach listed on the request must be the individual who is prepared to **coach/accompany the team to the national contest** if the team qualifies. Any requested changes to the designated coach must be approved by the FCS Working Group.
- Team composition must meet the participant requirements established for the selected contest.

Appropriate Use of Mixed-County Teams

- Mixed-county teams are **not intended to create an advantage** by selecting top-performing youth from multiple counties to form a strong team.
- Mixed-county teams are **not intended to allow youth to form teams primarily based on friendships, personal preference, or convenience** when a county-based team is available.

- Youth should first make a reasonable effort to form or join a team within their home county before requesting approval for a mixed-county team.
- Mixed-county team request will be reviewed to ensure they support the intent of increasing access to participation while maintaining fairness in the State FCS Contests.

Mixed-County Team Approval Request

To request approval, the following information must be submitted by **June 1**:

1. **Contest:** Identify the State FCS Contest in which the team plans to compete.
2. **Youth Information:** Provide the full name and county of each team member.
3. **Coach Information:** Provide the name and county of the team's designated coach.
4. **Reason for Request:** Explain why the youth are requesting permission to form a mixed-county team.
5. **County Recruitment Efforts:** Describe the efforts made to recruit eligible team members from each youth's home county before forming a mixed-county team.

Approval and Registration

Submitting a mixed-county team request **does not automatically register or approve the team for the State FCS Contest**. Requests will be reviewed by the Utah 4-H FCS Working Group.

☐ **Acknowledgment:** I understand that submitting this request does not register the youth or team for the State FCS Contest. The team must receive approval from the Utah 4-H FCS Working Group before completing State Contest registration.

Once approval is received, **each youth must register through Zsuite** for the appropriate State FCS Contest. Registration information must accurately identify the **youth's name, home county, and approved coach**.

Teams should not consider their mixed-county team approved or finalized until they have received confirmation from the Utah 4-H FCS Working Group and completed all required State Contest registration steps.

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