New Mexico FFA Welding Series Rules

2026-2027

Purpose of the Contest:

The purpose of this contest is to simulate real-world working conditions found on any construction job site where metal fabrication and safe working skills are required.

Teams:

Team will consist of four (3) High School students and one (1) alternate student (*alternate students will only compete if one of the (3) team members is unable to attend after registration is complete),* under the supervision of their welding instructor/advisor or designated school official. Limited to two (2) teams per school. First come, first serve. **Only fifteen (15) teams total will compete.**

When and Where:

Welding Series Dates

Dexter High School – October 16, 2026
Tucumcari High School - November 6th, 2026
Tularosa High School – November 20, 2026
Roswell High School – December 11, 2026
Mayfield High School– December 18th, 2026
State Contest ENMUR- January 15th, 2027

State Weld-Off will be hosted by ENMU–Roswell. State qualification requirements will follow the 2026–2027 series rules as established by the welding series organizers.

State Qualifications include a team earning 6 points or more to be eligible for state competition or competing at all welding competitions during the year.

Series Points: Only the top three teams at each contest will receive series points.
1st Place – 10 points
2nd Place – 8 points
3rd Place – 6 points

Schedule of Events:

7:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m. - Check-in (45 mins)

8:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. - Safety Meeting (15 mins)

8:15 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. -Meeting with team advisor (15 mins)

8:30 a.m. - Build off Begins (Total build time 5 hrs.)

12:00 p.m.- Working lunch included with registration

(Sandwiches, Chips, Drink, Cookie for contestants and coach)

2 p.m.- Construction ends

2:30 pm.- Judging begins

3:00 p.m. Award Ceremony

Registration:

- Registration will be through judgingcard.com
- Teams must fill out a Liability Waiver for every student competing in the event. You can click the link on the flier to gain this document. This must be turned in by email to host school or brought the day of the event.
- Teams will have two options for payment.
    - They can either pay through Judging Card
    - Or they can pay onsite on the day of the contest.
    - Payment must be received by the start of the contest to be eligible to compete.
- Build-Off Registration fee is $200.00 per team entered or what is Deemed by Hosts.
- All BUILD-OFF entries must be made no later than *Registration Closing of the contest*.
- ***All entries are final and registration fees will not be refunded.***

• Tentative 2026 Weld-Off Series dates: Dexter – October 16, 2026; Tularosa – November 20, 2026; Roswell – December 11, 2026; Mayfield Weld-off December 18th, 2026, State Weld-Off – ENMU–Roswell, January 15th 2027.
• Series points will be awarded only to the top three teams at each contest: 1st Place – 10 points; 2nd Place – 8 points; 3rd Place – 6 points.
• Weld-Off projects will be open for the 2026–2027 school year. Participating programs may develop and prepare their projects while following all applicable contest rules and specifications.
• The State Weld-Off will be hosted by ENMU–Roswell.
• All Weld-Off Series contests will take place during the Fall season.

2026–2027 Series Updates:

Build-Off Rules:

- Team will participate with three (3) members and may only visit with the coach during the one time listed on the schedule.
- Each team will construct a project in the allotted time.
- Each team will be provided with detailed plans and all required parts. All materials will be placed in the team's designated work area prior to the start time.
- Each team must furnish all their own tools and equipment. Must bring a welding generator capable of using the SMAW process along with an Oxy-Acetylene cutting setup. NO GMAW, FCAW, or PAC machines allowed.
- *You must also bring a Fire Extinguisher per team, which must be charged, and useful.*
- All grinders must have safety guards in place. No Exceptions!
- No electricity will be provided to any team.
- Electrodes will be determined at each contest. *Welding Teams are to bring their own if the Host determines prior to start*. All welding electrode stubs are required to be picked up. Any electrode stubs or cut-off metal pieces not picked up by the start of judging will be counted against a team's score. All electrode stubs or cut-off metal pieces shall be secured in a metal trash can or bin.
- All teams must attend the safety/contest meeting at 8:00 a.m. A parts list will be discussed at this meeting. All teams must verify the parts given to them at the beginning of the contest. Should a discrepancy occur with the parts, the team must notify contest officials by 9:00 a.m.
- Each advisor will have approximately 15 minutes to discuss or answer any questions their students may have during the allotted time. When the 15 minutes have concluded, students are on their own to communicate, troubleshoot, construct, and problem-solve. *No teachers will be near the project during construction times except as noted in the schedule.*
- Safety will be constantly judged ALL DAY. Points will be deducted for unsafe acts. Teams will be notified of each unsafe act. If a team commits three noticeable safety violations, they will be disqualified by the judges.
- Safety glasses, FR or 100% cotton clothing (jeans with no holes/frays/cuffs and a long-sleeve shirt) hearing protection, closed-toe leather shoes, gauntlet-style leather

gloves, and grinding shields (when needed) are required by all team members ALL DAY! All PPE must be provided by each team.

- No structural changes will be allowed to the projects other than what is listed on the prints. All construction will cease at 2:00 p.m. Judging will start at 2:30 p.m.
- Registration for teams is on a first come first serve basis and space is limited to fifteen (15).
- All projects become the property of the competing team once the competition is completed. Please make sure you have a way to transport the project home.

Awards: Will be gathered up by the host school maybe similar but not have to be the same.

- 1st Place Team

  Lincoln Electric Welding Gear Pack for Each Team Member

- 2nd Place Team

  Sugar Scoop Welding Hood and Lens and Welding Gloves for Each Team Member

- 3rd Place Team

  Lincoln Electric FR Hoodies for Each Team Member

  Contact Welding Hosts for any questions

Judging Rubric

Judging Criteria:	**Points Possible**
Project is Complete	20
Correct Weld Placement	10
Weld Quality	10
Correct placement of all materials	20
Appropriate use of tools/equipment	10
Work area clean of electrode stubs/cut off metal by 1:45 pm	10
Safe Workmanship of all team members	20
Total Possible	100