



2026 Pipefitting Competition

FACT SHEET

Project Manager

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For questions related specifically to the pipefitting competition, contact Ronnie Balentine at rdbalentine@sbec.com. For all event questions, contact Jarrell Jackson, National Craft Championships director, at (202) 595-1789 or jackson@abc.org.

Specific Competition Eligibility

The pipefitting competition has no competition-specific eligibility requirements. Please refer to overall eligibility requirements listed on page 3 of the guidebook.

Written Exam

Competitors will have one (1) hour to complete the 50-question exam. Every competitor should thoroughly understand the craft in which he/she is registered. All exams/tests are based on the standardized craft training process. In addition to the knowledge and skills required for each competition, all competitors should have completed the NCCER Core Curriculum modules. All competitors must sit for the exam or face disqualification from the NCC. The written exam makes up 25% of one's overall competition score. ABC will provide pencils, scratch paper, and a calculator for mathematical problems (if necessary). Scientific/graphing calculators and loose notes are prohibited. No reference materials are permitted except for the 2020 NEC Code book and the Pipefitter's Blue Book. All reference materials are subject to inspection. *Please refer to the 2026 NCC Guidebook for more details.*

Practical Performance Test Description

Competitors will perform three tasks utilizing various skills within the NCCER pipefitting curriculum. The tasks will be in the areas of threaded pipe fabrication, welded pipe fabrication and flanged pipe makeup.

Pipefitting Task: Threaded Pipe Fabrication

Each competitor will be given an isometric drawing from which to work and be required to calculate material take offs and cut lengths of pipe. The pipe will then be cut, threaded and fabricated to the drawing. They will utilize pipe threading skills, math calculating skills and threaded pipe makeup skills to complete this project. Each project will have a time limit in which it must be completed.

Pipefitting Task: Welded Pipe Fabrication

Each competitor will be given an isometric drawing from which to work and be required to use their math skills to calculate material take-offs and cut lengths of pipe. There will be various types of fittings involved, such as welded fittings, socket weld fittings and slip-on fittings. The pipe will then be cut, cleaned and fabricated to the drawing specifications. Various hand tools and power tools will be used for this project. The project will be tacked together utilizing a provided tack welder. Each project will have a time limit in which it must be completed.

Pipefitting Task: Flanged Makeup

Each competitor will bolt their fabricated pipe spools into a fixture per the fabrication iso provided so that flange alignment and bolt-up skills can be assessed. Each project will have a time limit in which it must be completed.

Knowledge and Skills Required

The knowledge and skills for this competition are based on all levels of the NCCER pipefitting curriculum, with particular emphasis on the following modules:

- Pipefitting Hand Tools
- Pipefitting Power Tools
- Drawings and Detail Sheets
- Identifying and Installing Valves
- Pipefitting Trade Math
- Threaded Pipe Fabrication
- Socketweld Pipe Fabrication
- Butt-Weld Pipe Fabrication
- Standards and Specifications
- Advanced Trade Math
- Advanced Blueprint Reading
- Advanced Pipe Fabrication

Tools Competitors Are Required to Bring

Each competitor should bring **only the items listed below** to the competition. Items will be examined prior to the practical performance test and additional tools will be stored until the competition has concluded. If a tool necessary to complete the practical performance test is not listed, the National Craft Championships Committee will provide it:

- Leather work gloves
- Non-programmable construction calculator. **No Texas Instruments calculators will be allowed.**
- Long-sleeve work shirt (for grinding and tacking)

Tools that will be supplied by ABC:

Welded Pipe Fabrication Project

- 24-inch level
- 24-inch framing square
- Speed square
- Torpedo level
- 25-foot tape measure
- Wrap around
- Soap stone
- 4-inch grinder w/ 1/4-inch disc
- Band Saw
- 1 1/16 Wrenches
- 2-hole pins
- Lock Jaw Pliers
- Face shield
- Ball Peen Hammer
- Tripod stand with chain vise
- Jack stand
- Welding leads/ground

Threaded Pipe Fabrication

- 14-inch pipe wrench
- 14-inch chain wrench
- Tripod with yoke vise
- Jack stand
- Threading machine
- 7/8 Wrenches
- 2-hole pins
- Lock Jaw Pliers

Review the safety scope for the highlighted power tools listed above

- Tack welders to be shared by all competitors
- Air Movers

Sample Score Sheet

The following sample score sheet is provided to give competitors an **example** of the criteria that may be included in the practical performance test. **However, this score sheet is only a sample and not intended to act as a study guide in preparation or to imply specific criteria that will be judged during the actual practical performance test.**

ABC National Craft Championships Pipefitting Sample Score Sheet

Judging Criteria	Competitor Identification Numbers					
	Maximum Points					
Flange Alignment						
Proper bolt-up						
Configuration						
Threaded engagement						
Dimension tolerance						
Mock-up bolt-up fit						
Bolt-hole orientation						
Pipe end preparation						
Butt-weld alignment						
Sequence of work						
Care and use of tools						
General – ability to follow directions, quality of workmanship, neatness, best use of time and completion						
Project disassembly						
SUBTOTAL:	160					
Safety – housekeeping						
Safety Task Analysis						
PPE usage						
Use of hand tools						
Use of power tools						
SUBTOTAL:	40					
GRAND TOTAL:	200					
Tie Breaker #1						
Tie Breaker #2						