



Overall Competitor Guide

Homecoming 2025

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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Homecoming Participant,

Since 1919, Penn State students have come together to celebrate the university that has shaped some of our most cherished memories, experiences, and friendships. The immense pride we display during Homecoming Week – and throughout the entire year – is truly unmatched. I am incredibly excited to witness everything you accomplish this year, from incredible floats to unforgettable moments. Together, we can create a Homecoming experience that will be remembered for years to come!

This Overall Competitor Guide is designed to provide you with the regulations and guidelines necessary to ensure the best possible Homecoming experience. While we strive to make this guide as comprehensive as possible, we encourage you to reach out at any time. Our Competition Director, Mackenzie Livingston (competition@homecoming.psu.edu), and I (director@homecoming.psu.edu) are always available to assist you. Additionally, the entire Homecoming Executive Committee is here as a resource – never hesitate to contact any director who can support your needs throughout the season.

This year's theme, "Find the Glory in your Story", celebrates the shared values that unite Penn Staters. It's a reminder that each of us contributes to the university's legacy, creating an inclusive and inspiring community. Thank you for your time, dedication, and enthusiasm. We look forward to working with you to honor the best of Penn State's past, present, and future!

For The Glory®,

Ethan Lemin
Executive Director
Homecoming 2025

1. Competition Overview

1.1 About Homecoming

Homecoming's mission is to celebrate tradition and instill pride in all members of the Penn State family. Together, we strive to educate, unite, and inspire by hosting exciting events and competitions that bring students, alumni, faculty, and staff together in meaningful ways.

1.2 Overall Competitor Requirements

Organizations that register as Overall Competitors must participate in all required events and compete for the Overall Homecoming Competition. Additionally, Overall Competitors may be paired with other competing organizations to enhance collaboration and engagement.

As an Overall Competitor, organizations are required to participate in the following competitions:

- Float
- Banner
- T-Shirt and/or Madhatter

If an organization fails to participate in any of the required events listed above, the Homecoming Executive Committee will review their eligibility to remain in the Overall Competition.

1.3 Additional Competitions

Throughout the year, various competitions provide additional opportunities for organizations to engage with the community and earn points. These include:

- Legacy
- Day of Service
- Information Sessions
- Allen Street Jam (ASJ)
- Past 2 Present (P2P)
- Best of Penn State Carnival (BOPS)
- For The Glory (FTG) Talent Show
- HOPE (Homecoming Operations Protecting the Environment)

2. Winners & Prizes

2.1 Prize Distribution

- **1st Place Prize** - \$1500 to go to organizations' national philanthropy.
- **2nd Place Prize** - \$1000 to go to organizations' national philanthropy.
- **3rd Place Prize** - \$500 to go to organizations' national philanthropy.

2.2 Guidelines

- Prize winnings will be evenly distributed among organizations within a pair or triad. If a winning organization does not have a national philanthropy, they may designate a charity of their choice to receive the funds (**excluding THON, though donations to Four Diamonds are permitted**)
- The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place Overall Competitors will be announced during the **Homecoming Football game**.
- Prize money will be transferred to the winning organization(s), and they are expected to donate the funds to their chosen philanthropy. **Organizations must then provide confirmation of the donation.**

3. Informational Meetings

Each organization or pair is required to attend both a Fall and Spring Information Meeting scheduled based on availability. The date and time will be determined in coordination with Homecoming and the organization.

3.1 Attendance Requirements:

- Attendance at both the **Fall and Spring Info Meetings is mandatory** for all participating organizations.
- **Each organization's Homecoming Chair must be present**, except in cases of family or health-related emergencies or class conflicts.
- Excused absences must be submitted in advance to competition@homecoming.psu.edu for approval by the **Competition Director**.

4. Registration & Pairing

Organizations registering as Overall Competitors will be assigned to a pair or triad, working together throughout the year to earn points toward the Overall Competition.

4.1 Registration

- The registration form will be available on the [Homecoming website](#).
- Organizations must complete the registration form by **April 7, 2025**.
- No payment is required at the time of registration.
- A **\$150 security deposit** is due by the end of the semester.

4.2 Pairing

- Pairings will be **randomized**.
- Finalized pairings will be announced via email by the end of the semester.
- For all intents and purposes other than registration, an "Overall Competing Triad" will be treated as an "Overall Competing Pair" and may be referred to as a "pair" moving forward.

5. Expectations of Participating Organizations

Organizations participating in Penn State Homecoming are representatives of the University and are expected to **uphold the Penn State Student Code of Conduct at all times**. By registering for any Homecoming event, organizations agree to comply with:

- [The Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [Policies and Rules for Student Organizations](#)
- The rules and regulations outlined in the Homecoming Guide

Failure to adhere to these policies may result in penalties or disqualification.

5.1 Accountability & Compliance

- **Shared Responsibility:** Organizations participating as a pair or triad are jointly accountable for all actions and compliance with Homecoming rules. Any penalties for missing the required meetings, failing to meet event requirements, or violating Homecoming policies will apply to all organizations within the pairing, regardless of individual fault.

- **Exceptions:** In cases where an organization is disqualified, the Homecoming Executive Committee will determine whether the paired organizations will be treated separately moving forward.

5.2 Event Participation & Conduct

- The Homecoming Executive Committee reserves the right to deny participation to any organization or individual at its discretion.
- **Prohibited Content:** All Homecoming-related activities must remain professional and inclusive. The following are strictly forbidden:
 - Political propaganda
 - Profanity
 - Alcohol or drug references
 - Nudity or sexually explicit content

5.3 Decision Authority & Policy Updates

- Homecoming Captains & Committee Members **may provide guidance, but their decisions are not final.** All rulings are subject to review by the Homecoming Executive Committee.
- **Policy Revisions:** The Homecoming Executive Committee **may update or modify the Homecoming Guide at any time.** Any changes will be publicized via the Homecoming listserv and website.

5.4 Violations & Consequences

Organizations that fail to comply with the Homecoming Guide will face automatic review by the Homecoming Executive Committee. Consequences may include:

- Immediate disqualification from Homecoming 2025
- Restrictions on future participation in Homecoming events

6. Registration Financial Information

Organizations with outstanding fines must settle their balances before they are permitted to register for Homecoming.

6.1 Registration Process & Deadlines

- Final registration for Overall Competitors opens on **March 3, 2025**, and closes on **April 7, 2025** via the [Homecoming website](#).
- To be considered a participant, all registration forms and payments must be submitted by the deadline.
- By registering, organizations commit to **competing in all required Homecoming events**.

6.2 Payment Methods & Requirements

- Payments must be made via check payable to **“Penn State Homecoming.”**
- Personal checks will not be accepted – all checks must come from the competing organization’s official account
- **Memo Line Requirement:** The organization's name must be written on the memo line of the check.

6.3 Payment Submission Deadline

- Checks must be delivered to 227B HUB by **April 25, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.** to avoid penalties.
- Organizations should refer to the “Financial Obligations” section for additional details on financial commitments.

6.4 Late Fees & Consequences

- Payments received **after April 25, 2025**, will incur a \$10 late fee per day, up to a maximum of \$100.
- Organizations that miss the **April 7, 2025**, registration deadline may register late as an Overall Competitor for an additional \$30 fee.
- If full payment is not received by the registration due date, an extension may be granted at the Financial Management Director’s discretion, with late fees continuing to accrue following the extension deadline.
- If payment is not submitted by the end of the extension period, the organization will be disqualified from Homecoming 2025 participation.

7. Financial Obligation Information

Each Overall Pair is collectively responsible for the **full payment** of all required fees. However, organizations within a pair may split costs at their discretion, provided that the total payment is submitted in full by the registration deadline.

7.1 Payment & Refund Policies

- **All fees are non-refundable**, and security deposits will be cashed immediately upon submission.
- Security deposits will be reimbursed via electronic transfer to an organization's ASA account after Homecoming, provided all requirements are met.
- If an organization does not have an active ASA account, a single reimbursement check will be issued to one designated organization within the pair or triad.
- **Full reimbursement** will only be granted if:
 - All security requirements were met.
 - All equipment was returned undamaged by the scheduled return date.

7.2 Financial Assistance

Organizations facing monetary constraints are encouraged to reach out to competition@homecoming.psu.edu for potential assistance or alternative arrangements.

7.3 Overall Competition Fees

Security Deposit <i>This will be reimbursed at the commencement of Homecoming 2025 if organizations do not incur financial penalties.</i>	\$150
Competition Fees <i>Included:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Banner• Parade Participation• Float Competition	\$90 or \$75 for first time competitors
Flatbed Rentals <i>Decorations for floats purchases separately; split between all organizations in the pair/triad.</i>	Free for all competitors

7.4 Security Deposit Guidelines

- The **\$150 security deposit is mandatory** for all groups competing in the float competition.
- This deposit covers safety chains, quick-links, and reflectors for float safety.

- **Deposits will only be returned** once Penn State Homecoming receives clearance from R.B. Powell (owner of Nittany Mountain Trail Rides) confirming that the flatbed and equipment were returned in proper condition.

7.5 Payment Submission and Deadlines

7.5.1 For Student Organizations Paying via Check:

- Checks must be payable to: **“Penn State Homecoming”**
- **Memo Line Requirement:** The organization's name must be written on the check memo line.
- **Personal checks will not be accepted** – all checks must come from the competing organization’s official account.
- **Deadline:** Checks must be delivered to **227B HUB by 4:00 p.m.** on the final day of the registration period to avoid late fees.

7.5.2 For Organizations Using ASA Accounts:

- Payments can be made via Associated Student Activities (ASA) account transfer with Penn State Homecoming as the vendor.
- Transfer request forms are available in **240 HUB** and must be submitted to **227B HUB by 5:00 p.m.** on the final registration day.
- **Required Object Codes:**
 - Expense Code: 50251 (Registration/Tournament Fee)
 - Income Code: 41006
 - Homecoming Account Number: 8525

7.6 Security Deposit Reimbursement Process

- If all equipment is returned on time and in proper condition, the organization’s security deposit will be reimbursed electronically to their ASA account.
- **Organizations without an ASA account will receive a reimbursement check** issued to one organization within their pair or triad.
- If a **refund is not granted**, the organization will be **notified via email**.

8. Merchandise Information

8.1 General Merchandise Policy

- Organizations **do not need pre-approval** from the Merchandise Director for their merchandise.
- However, if any **merchandise is deemed inappropriate** by the Homecoming Executive Committee, the organization will be **disqualified from the event at which the merchandise was worn and forfeit any points earned at that event.**

8.2 Approved Vendors & Ordering Requirements

- Organizations must purchase merchandise from a **Penn State-approved licensed vendor.**
- Custom Ink is **NOT** an approved vendor.
- **Approved vendors include:**
 - Collegiate Pride
 - Shenk Company

8.3 Restrictions of Homecoming Branding & Logo

- Organizations **are NOT permitted** to use the **official Homecoming logo** or any **annual Homecoming logos** on their merchandise.
- Any unauthorized use of Homecoming branding **may result in disqualification** from Homecoming events and additional penalties as determined by the Homecoming Executive Committee.

8.4 Apparel Content & Restrictions

- All apparel must be **appropriate**, reflect Homecoming and Penn State in a positive light, and promote school spirit.
- The following are **strictly prohibited** on merchandise:
 - Sexually explicit content
 - Alcohol-related material
 - Drug references

8.5 Selling & Fundraising Policies

- Individuals or organizations may **NOT** sell Homecoming merchandise for personal profit.
- Any individual or organization found violating this rule will be required to:
 - Cease all sales immediately
 - Refund all customers who purchased merchandise
 - Pay a fine to Homecoming
- **Proceeds from Homecoming merchandise sales support the organization** and help keep registration fees low for competitors.
- **Unauthorized sales that divert profits** from Homecoming may result in **higher registration fees** for all competitors.

9. Acknowledgement of Guidelines

By signing below, I confirm that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the terms and responsibilities of being an Overall Competitor in Penn State Homecoming.

Printed Name: _____

Organization Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____