

Floriculture State Finals Facilitation 2026 – Recap

In an act of transparency, the following is a clear summary of the events and decisions surrounding the facilitation of the 2026 Floriculture State Finals Contest.

Timeline of Events

June 2024

A Curricular Code Change proposal was submitted to reduce the number of Floriculture students participating on the second day (final round) of the contest to 60 (15 teams). This proposal was considered at the Floriculture Curricular Code meeting but did not pass.

May 2025

At the State Finals Floriculture Contest held at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, 80 students (20 teams) participated in the final round.

June 1, 2025

No Curricular Code changes were submitted for the Floriculture Contest by this date.

June 22, 2025

CDE State Staff received an email from the Cal Poly Host Coordinator stating that they would not host the contest at Cal Poly if 80 students (20 teams) were required to participate in the final round.

This email was discussed at the Pre-Conference Governing Board meeting. No formal action was taken because the contest was not open for Curricular Code changes at that time. However, a careful review of the current Curricular Code for Floriculture revealed that the code does not explicitly require 80 students (20 teams) in the final round. Instead, it states:

“To qualify for the final round, a team must be in the top 20 teams after the preliminary round.”

This sentence indicates that **up to 20 teams** (80 students) may participate in the final round, without specifying an exact number of students or teams that must participate.

To address the issue in an efficient and timely manner, it was decided that coaches of the top 5 Floriculture teams from 2025 would meet the next morning to develop a solution, with both a CDE State Staff member and a CATA representative present to facilitate the discussion.

June 23, 2025

A small group of Floriculture coaches met at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. After a thorough and collaborative discussion, they developed the following recommendations for the 2026 contest.

2026 California Floriculture CDE Recommendation

Based on the request of the State FFA Floriculture CDE Advisor to reduce the number of final-round teams from 20 to 15, a representative group of Floriculture coaches developed the following recommendation for the 2026 State Finals at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo:

Recommendation #1

Extend the length of Lab B by installing a temporary tent with tables to provide additional space for the construction component of the event. This addition will allow **20 teams** (80 students) to compete. Additional resources and funding will be needed to implement this recommendation.

Recommendation #2

If Recommendation #1 is not feasible or accepted, limit the final round of the 2026 Floriculture CDE State Finals to **15 teams** (60 students).

Future Action

By **June 1, 2026**, a request will be submitted to reopen the Floriculture CDE Curricular Code to address this matter for future years.

The recommendations from the group were forwarded to the Cal Poly Host Coordinator. At the time of this email no response has been received from the Cal Poly Host Coordinator about the recommendations.

When more information is available it will be shared with the membership.