

VASE Rules & Policies 2025 Updates

HIGHLIGHTED CHANGES



VASE Mission:

High School (9-12) – Middle School (6-8) – Elementary (PK-5)

The mission of the TAEA Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE) is to recognize exemplary student achievement in the Visual Arts by providing art students and programs a standard of excellence in which to achieve.

TEAM, Junior VASE, High School VASE, and State VASE: Equal Partners Under TAEA



VASE Structure:

State Director: TEAM
Tracey Hall

State Director: Junior VASE
Larry West

State Director: High School VASE
Chris Cooper

State Director: State VASE Event
Amy Semifero

VASE Blue Ribbon Committee:

Each year, the State Directors of VASE, under the TAEA Executive Director and President, select and convene the Blue Ribbon Committee to address concerns from VASE participants, and recommend changes needed to VASE Rules & Policies. This Board represents VASE events from all levels, and all parts of Texas.

The 2024 Blue Ribbon Committee met in July and confirmed that Junior VASE and High School VASE program events for 2025 remain in person, and for TEAM 2025 to remain online. This Committee continually strives to make VASE a positive learning experience to help guide Visual Arts students in developing their creative potential, while exercising each artist's expressive spirit. The safety of all involved is a driving priority.

A few Rules & Policies were modified, mostly to clarify the spirit of the rule, and to update language within the rules regarding required forms. TEAM's Rules & Policies still contains an addendum that outlines modifications to rules for their 2025 online events.

In order to make the VASE Rules & Policies shorter and easier to read, Blue Ribbon Committee and State VASE Rules & Policies are separate documents. Each is referred to with directions to its live link within the body of the VASE Rules & Policies PDF.

VASE Rules & Policies modifications for 2025:

Section I.1: GENERAL REGULATIONS (B) STUDENT ELIGIBILITY:

All participating students must be academically eligible on the day of the VASE event, in accordance with the TEA UIL Side by Side Academic Requirements (No Pass/No Play) TEC 33.08C. A student need not be enrolled in an art class to have his/her work considered for submission. **A student's VASE artwork creation must be both SUPERVISED by, and the student's entry SPONSORED by,** the same individual TAEA member from their campus/**studio** of record who SUPERVISED the creation of the work. *(p.1 of all Rules)*

This rule was clarified to state that an entry must be supervised by the teacher (sponsor) who entered it. It can't be created or worked on in a private lesson studio unless it is the teacher of record who both enters their student, and also gives the student private lessons.

VASE Rules & Policies modifications for 2025:

VASE Rules Section I.2: ENTRY REGULATIONS (A) RULES AND GUIDELINES (1)

Originality: (a) All student artwork in its entirety must have only original sources (original with the student). (p.2 of all Rules)

v. Family photos of close family members **and/or family events may be used as a source if not taken by a professional photographer or artist. The artwork should not be simply a compositional replication of the family photo. The source photo must be used **to create as a part of** new visual or conceptual **composition material**. **Simply removing the source photo's background and/or changing its color(s) does not add personal creativity to the composition.****

Spirit of the modification:

A sentence was added to state that colorizing or removing the family photo background isn't enough. The composition can include a replicated family photo, but the student's design must also incorporate additional creative content.

VASE Rules & Policies modifications for 2025:

VASE Rules Section I.2: ENTRY REGULATIONS (A) RULES AND GUIDELINES (1) Originality: (a) All student artwork in its entirety must have only original sources (original with the student). *(p.2 of all Rules)*

vi. Images generated by AI (artificial intelligence) apps cannot be used at any stage in the development of a work of art intended to be entered in any VASE program level. AI tools scan other artists' works for their style and subject matter; use of such images constitute plagiarism and do not abide by the VASE artwork originality rule.

Rewritten to spell out more clearly that AI cannot be used in any way in a VASE entry at any level.

VASE Rules & Policies modifications for 2025:

VASE Rules Section I.2: ENTRY REGULATIONS (A) RULES AND GUIDELINES

(1) Originality: (a) All student artwork in its entirety must have only original sources (original with the student). *(p.2 of all Rules)*

xi. Photographic references must be taken by the student artist. A student-directed photograph that is taken by another person (teacher, family or friend) must include the student artist in the photo.

Rewritten to emphasize that all student-directed photos must have the student artist in the photo.

VASE Rules & Policies modifications for 2025:

VASE Rules Section 1.2: ENTRY REGULATIONS (A) RULES AND GUIDELINES

(2) Art Production

(c) The number of credits for a student entered must be according to the current number of credits earned at the time of the regional event. Each semester counts as .5 (half) credit. **Students not currently enrolled in an art class can enter VASE if a sponsoring teacher on their campus supervises the entry. If the student participates in VASE more than one year, they must move up a division each year.**

Spirit of the modification:

A sentence was added to document what has been approved practice in VASE about students who are not currently enrolled in art.

VASE Rules & Policies modifications for 2025:

VASE Rules Section I.2: ENTRY REGULATIONS (A) RULES AND GUIDELINES

(2) Art Production

(e) A TAEA member/teacher may enter student artwork produced under their direct supervision. VASE student artwork entries cannot be worked on or produced under any other private teacher's or non-member's supervision.

Clarification: Along with VASE rule 1.B, this re-write clarifies that student artwork cannot be supervised by anyone other the teacher of record.

VASE Rules & Policies modifications for 2025:

VASE Rules Section 1.2: ENTRY REGULATIONS (A) RULES AND GUIDELINES

(3) Specifications of Three-dimensional Artwork (including Digital):

(a) The following subject matter is inappropriate for VASE and is prohibited.

i. Artworks that include profane references to a deity, obscene language, drug abuse or drug paraphernalia, images of suicide/self-harm, or criminal violence.

ii. Artworks that include any image or language that is recognized as negative discriminatory toward any race, ethnicity, religion, culture, disability or gender/identity.

Spirit of the modification: We added self-harm as inappropriate in point i. We also added to and strengthened point ii.

VASE Rules & Policies modifications for 2025:

Section II: Policy, Procedures and Code of Ethics E. Disqualification Due Process: Procedure, Disciplinary Action, and Addressing and Resolving Challenges:

1. Procedure: Failure by any VASE participant to uphold these rules, guidelines, or policies will result in disqualification of the artwork. The teacher/sponsor is notified of the disqualification and the teacher must then communicate the rationale for the disqualification to the student and parents (if applicable) because the compliance to VASE rules and guidelines is the responsibility of the teacher/sponsor. Teachers/sponsors may **no longer challenge a disqualification with the regional director once jurors have been dismissed;** final judgment must be accepted professionally and with integrity. Disqualified artworks will be allowed to complete the jury process with a “No Rating” status. Jurors will interview the student and place comments on the Regional Juror Rating Form for student growth, but no numeric rating will be given. The artwork will not be considered for advancement to the State VASE Event.

Clarification: this has been standard practice at VASE Events, but never spelled out in the Rules & Policies.

VASE Rules & Policies modifications for 2025:

Throughout the VASE Rules & Policies documents, wording and procedures have been edited to reflect the following:

- ***Universal Artwork Release Form*** replaces ***Student Agreement & Artwork Release Form***. This form will be turned in at Teacher Registration for HS & JR VASE In-Person Regional Events.
- ***Artwork ID Form*** and ***Student Intent Form*** replace ***Student Intent & Artwork Identification Form*** for all VASE levels.
- For HS & JR VASE, ***Regional Certification/Teacher Check-In & Out Form*** remain together, not separated. This form will be turned in at Teacher Registration for In-Person Regional Events. *(The two parts will be separated out for State VASE.)*
- For TEAM, the ***Regional Certification Form*** remains an upload. The ***Universal Artwork Release Form*** remains an upload for Virtual Events. *(no ***Teacher Check-In/Out Form*** needed for Virtual Events)*

CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

State Directors of VASE

TEAM: Tracey Hall team@taea.org

Junior VASE: Larry West jrvase@taea.org

High School VASE: Chris Cooper hsvase@taea.org

HS State Event: Amy Semifero statevase@taea.org