

Additional Scoring Guidance: When to Use 1, X, or NS

Before Assessment

- Site, network, or organization decides if any items or scales are not to be scored (marked as NS for “not scored” in Scores Reporter).
- Reasons for an “across the board” decision to score NS might include:
 - Certain items are deemed not applicable the purpose or modality of the program
 - A network, site or larger organization has decided to focus on and assess only certain scales
 - The item is not applicable to virtual programming. (The Weikart Center has guidance on when a program might score NS when scoring virtual programming.)
 - Implications for how NS affects scale, domain, and total scores have been considered.
- Assessor finds out which, if any, items or scales are not to be scored.
- Assessor marks on Observation Guide any items that are not to be scored. (When entering scores into Scores Reporter, mark these items NS.)

During Observation

- Pay attention to whether the practice described in an item occurred.
- Pay attention to context and situations that do or do not occur.
- Take observational notes.

When Scoring and Entering Scores

When to score 1:

- In general, **score 1 if you do not observe the staff practice** the item describes
- Use even if the day of the assessment was a “bad” or unusual day for some reason
- Use even if it would have been challenging, difficult, or take extra planning or imagination to incorporate the staff practice in that situation

When to score “X”

- Only when the situation or circumstance needed to score an item did not occur: no conflict or no use of outdoor spaces that day etc. The situations for which scoring an “X” is an option are written in the right-hand column of the tool.
- Also, if the assessor is not present at the beginning of the program, the assessor does not know if there was a greeting or not—it cannot be scored, so score X.
- **Do not use “X” instead of a “1”**

When entering scores in Scores reporter

- Fill in program details from Observation Guide
- Indicate the observation modality: live in-person, virtual, or from recording
- If it was determined ahead of time that no score was desired for an item, score NS for that item.

Scoring Guide Summary: When to score 1, X, or NS			
	1	X	NS
What does it mean?	The practice should have been observed but it was not, or the presence of low-quality practice described was observed	The situation needed to score the item did not occur in the session observed.	In advance the site, network, or organization has decided they are not going to score the item.
When should I typically use this?	Most of the time if a practice is not seen, except in the situations described under X and NS.	When it is not possible to score because the situation or context required for scoring did not occur in that session. See the right-hand column in the tool for whether scoring X is an option for that item and under what circumstances.	When the site, network, or organization decides in advance that particular items are not applicable to their program offerings or not relevant to their organization for strategic reasons. This could be applicable to any item.
Examples	No intentional reflection was observed (whether this was due to lack of planning, running out of time, or the program format makes it challenging to include reflection.)	Youth do not need special safety equipment for the session activities being observed. No conflict between youth was observed that day, so Reframing Conflict items are scored X.	In advance, virtual or online programs decide not to score most physical environment items because all young people are not in the same physical space. An organization decides to only assess the scales highlighted in their improvement plan.
Implications	The site reflects on implications Information about potential areas for improvement are identified The score is averaged into the scale score.	There is no score for the item. It is not averaged into the scale score. If less than 50% of the items in a scale are given a 1,3, or 5 score, no scale score will be computed. If less than 50% of the scales in a domain have scores, no domain score will be computed. If less than 50% of the domains in the tool have scores, no Total Score will be computed.	There is no score for the item. It is not averaged into the scale score. If less than 50% of the items in a scale are given a 1,3 or 5 score, no scale score will be computed. If less than 50% of the scales in a domain have scores, no domain score will be computed. If less than 50% of the domains in the tool have scores, no Total Score will be computed