

# 2025-26

# DEBATE, SPEECH & DRAMA MANUAL

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## Kansas State High School Activities Association

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# WELCOME

The official manual for high school Debate, Speech & Drama with information concerning speech/debate regulations and festival/tournament management.

The speech program for Kansas high schools had its beginning in the Debate League, which was organized in 1910 and centered in the Extension Division of the University of Kansas. It has grown from a small number of schools, interested only in debate, to a full-scale interscholastic speech activities program. Marked increases in participation by both schools and students have been noted each year during the past two decades.

We believe that all the information necessary to implement an effective program is contained in this *Debate, Speech & Drama Manual*. Please read it carefully and if you have any questions, contact us immediately.

All entry forms for debate, speech and drama festivals, and speech championships scheduled during the school year are available online at [www.kshsaa.org](http://www.kshsaa.org) (see principal for school's code). No additional entry forms will be provided unless requested.

We appreciate your continued support of the speech activities program and welcome your suggestions for its improvement.

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## Calendar Dates

### **August 18 - October 3 - Debate and Speech Rules Meetings**

August 21 - Due date for Debate participation to KSHSAA - Fall Activity Participation Form

### **September 19 - Opening date for Debate tournaments**

October 7 - Due Date for Speech Participation to KSHSAA - Form - Winter Activity Participation Form

November 3 - Due date for Regional (4-Speaker) Debate participation to KSHSAA

December 19-20 - Regional (4-Speaker) Debate Tournaments

December 22 - Due date for State (2-Speaker) Debate entries to KSHSAA

### **December 23-27 - Holiday Non-Participation dates. No Debate-Speech practice allowed.**

January 9 - Last day for acceptance of late State (2-Speaker) Debate entries to KSHSAA

### **January 9 - Opening date for Speech competition**

### **January 16-17 - State (4-Speaker) and State (2-Speaker) Debate Tournaments**

April 2 - Due date for Regional Speech and Drama Festival entries to KSHSAA

April 2 - Email the Regional Festival Stage Setting for One-Act Play form

April 18 - Regional Speech and Drama Festivals

### **April 20 - Due date for State Speech and Drama Festival entries to KSHSAA**

April 20 - Email the State Festival One-Act Play Stage Setting and Cast Form to state manager

April 20 - Due date for State Speech Championship entries to KSHSAA

April 22 - Last day for acceptance of late State Speech Championship entries to KSHSAA and championship manager

### **May 2 - State Speech and Drama Festivals and State Speech Championships**

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# IMPORTANT NOTICES

This manual is published for the 2025-26 school year. Refer to the KSHSAA website ([www.kshsaa.org](http://www.kshsaa.org)) and the KSHSAA Activities Journal for dates, locations and managers of clinics, tournaments, festivals and championships sponsored by the KSHSAA.

All changes in debate, speech and drama regulations, effective 2025-26, are shown in reverse type.

Neither a member school nor an approved school shall take any action to prevent a judge from officiating a contest because of the judge's race, sex, religion or national origin. Neither shall a member school or an approved school participate in a contest for which a judge has been excluded from officiating because of the judge's race, sex, religion or national origin.

## **Generative AI Rule (Speech and Debate)**

### **Generative Artificial Intelligence:**

1. In events in which speeches must be the original created work of a competitor (OO, INF10, INF7, FX, DX, IMP), and in introductions of Interpretation and Acting events, students are prohibited from quoting or paraphrasing text directly from generative AI sources. Generative AI should not be cited as a source. The exception is that a student delivering a speech about the topic of AI may quote AI to illustrate their points about AI, in accordance with existing quoted word limits. While generative AI may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and sources, the original source of any quoted or paraphrased evidence must be available if requested.
2. In debate events (Policy Debate & Lincoln Douglas Debate), generative AI should not be cited as a source; while generative AI may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and sources, the original source of any quoted or paraphrased evidence must be available if requested.
3. In Interpretation and Acting events, students are prohibited from performing material created by generative AI sources. Generative AI should not be used as a source of material; while generative AI may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and material, the original source of any material that is performed must be available if requested.

# 01 STUDENT HEALTH & SAFETY

## Concussion Management / Kansas Law

Below is a summary of our recommendations to our member schools to comply with the state law and the NFHS playing rule. A complete and detailed version can be found on the KSHSAA website in the sports medicine and safety section.

1. If concussion consistent signs or symptoms are observed in an athlete, the athlete should be immediately removed from the practice or contest.
2. The athlete should not be allowed to return to any practice or contest until written clearance is obtained from a health care provider (MD or DO).
3. The KSHSAA and the NFHS strongly recommend the athlete not be allowed to return to the practice or contest the same day the concussion consistent signs or symptoms were observed.
4. A gradual return-to-play protocol should be followed before the athlete is allowed to return to unrestricted participation in their sport.
5. The signed concussion and head injury information release form must be on file with the school.
6. Be sure all of your coaches view the free online course from the NFHS: Concussions in Sports, What You Need to Know. This course can be accessed through the sports medicine and safety section of our website or directly through [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com). Schools may choose to use this course in group settings with parents, students or with school staff at in-service meetings.

## Statement on Performance Enhancing Drugs and Nutritional Supplements

In order to promote the health and safety among all student-athletes, reduce health risk, maintain ethical standards as well as reduce liability risk, students should not use any drug, medication (over-the-counter or prescription) or nutritional supplement, as defined by the World Anti-Doping Agency, for the purposes of performance-enhancement. All school personnel, including coaches and school nurses, should never recommend the use of any drug, medication (over-the-counter or prescription) or nutritional supplement, as defined by the World Anti-Doping Agency, for the purposes of performance-enhancement.

School personnel should not dispense or administer any drug, medication (over-the-counter or prescription) or nutritional supplement, unless the student-athlete is under the direct care of a licensed health professional, licensed to practice in the state of Kansas and practicing within their scope of practice as defined by the Kansas Board of Healing Arts, and only as prescribed.

We recommend that coaches, athletic directors, nurses and other school personnel develop strategies that address the prevalence and growing concerns of using any drug, medication or nutritional supplement for the purpose of performance-enhancement. Athletes should be encouraged to pursue their athletic goals through hard work, appropriate rest, proper hydration and good nutrition, not unsubstantiated shortcuts. School personnel, coaches and parents should allow for open discussion about dietary supplement use, and should strongly encourage obtaining optimal nutrition through a well-balanced diet.

*(adopted by the KSHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee and Executive Board, April 2017)*

## KSHSAA Recommended Procedures to Consider When Inclement Weather Occurs During an Activity

**The safety of participants, spectators, coaches/directors, school personnel and all others present at an activity must be the first and foremost concern to the activity officials and building administrators.**

1. When an interscholastic activity has been scheduled and dangerous conditions exist or severe weather is anticipated, the following should be considered:
  - a. Prior to beginning an activity when severe weather is anticipated, the director/manager of the activity and the principals of each school, or designees, will review the suspension and/or postponement procedures.

- b. The host school administrator will be responsible for informing activity officials, visiting school administrators and, if applicable, the individual responsible for public address announcements of designated shelter areas.
  - c. If a tornado WATCH has been issued, the host building administrator and the director of the activity will notify coaches/directors, school administrators and, if applicable, the individual responsible for public address announcements, that the possibility of abrupt suspension of the event exists.
  - d. If a tornado WARNING has been issued, the activity should be suspended immediately. Participants, spectators and all personnel involved with the activity will be advised to "take cover." The procedure will be announced, when available, over the public address system.
  - e. When lightning is observed in the vicinity of an activity conducted outdoors, the event should be suspended.
  - f. If any other life-threatening condition occurs, the event should be suspended immediately, and predetermined directions to safe locations will be announced.
2. When a suspension of an activity occurs, the following should be considered:
- a. If the suspension is 45 minutes or greater, resuming at a later date should be considered.
  - b. When it appears that weather conditions are no longer a threat to the safety of participants, spectators or activity officials, administrators from all schools involved will meet with the director of the activity to determine if the event will continue. If any administrator or the director of the activity casts a negative vote for the event to resume, the suspension should continue.
  - c. If the event is to be resumed, participants will be given at least a 15 minute warm-up period prior to the scheduled event.

## **The KSHSAA Code of Ethics for Coaches, Directors, Aides, Adjudicators, Judges and Officials**

Believing that mine is an important part in the nationwide school activity program, I pledge to act in accordance with these principles:

- 1. I will honor contracts regardless of possible inconvenience or financial loss.
- 2. I will study the rules, observe the work of other coaches, directors, adjudicators, judges, or officials and will, at all times, attempt to improve myself and the activity.
- 3. I will conduct myself in such a way that attention is drawn not to me but to the young people participating in the contest.
- 4. I will maintain my appearance in a manner befitting the dignity and importance of the activity.
- 5. I will cooperate with the news media in the interpretation and clarification of rules and/or other areas relating to good sportsmanship, but I will not make statements concerning decisions made during the contest.
- 6. I will uphold and abide by all rules of the KSHSAA and the National Federation.
- 7. I will shape my character and conduct so as to be a worthy example to the young people who participate under my jurisdiction.
- 8. I will give my complete cooperation to the school which I serve and to the KSHSAA which I represent.
- 9. I will cooperate and be professional in my association with other coaches, directors, adjudicators, judges or officials and will do nothing to cause them public embarrassment.
- 10. I will keep in mind that the contest is more important than the wishes of any individual.
- 11. I will make responsible decisions about consumption of alcohol, including abstinence from alcohol at least 12 hours prior to a contest in which I will be involved.
- 12. I will not use tobacco or e-cigarette products while directly involved in interscholastic activities.

# KSHSAA POLICY INFORMATION

## KSHSAA Coach/Sponsor CPR/AED Training Requirement

In April 2019 the KSHSAA Board of Directors adopted a rule requiring any head or assistant coach/sponsor for any KSHSAA sanctioned activity be certified or trained in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) administration (*KSHSAA Handbook Rule 10-1-9*).

### Components of the rule are as follows:

1. Following an initial 30-day grace period from the start of the season, personnel are not eligible to work as a coach or sponsor for their school until proof of completion of CPR/AED training is on file with their school.
2. Every coach/sponsor must complete CPR/AED training every 2 years.
3. The training shall be coordinated by a certified CPR instructor.
4. Online only training courses are not accepted.
5. There must be a hands-on educational component to the training process.
6. On an annual basis by activity, a school administrator must acknowledge through the KSHSAA website that each coach/sponsor is currently trained in CPR/AED administration. To acknowledge rule compliance, a school administrator should login to the KSHSAA website and go to the Coach/Sponsor Requirements page. Select the activity and enter the date of CPR/AED training next to each coach/sponsor name. If you do not see the coach/sponsor listed, add that person through the Update Directory process online. All head and assistant coach/sponsors should be listed for every activity!

## Speech and Citizenship/Sportsmanship: Rule 52

Activities are an important aspect of the total education process in American schools. They provide an avenue for participants to grow, to excel, to understand and to value the concepts of CITIZENSHIP/SPORTSMANSHIP and teamwork. They are an opportunity for speech coaches and school staff to teach and model CITIZENSHIP/SPORTSMANSHIP, to build school pride and to increase student/community involvement; this ultimately translates into improved academic performance.

As professional educators, desirable and unacceptable behavior should be demonstrated and discussed in and out of the classroom. The following six “desirable” and “unacceptable” behavior illustrations are encouraged and recommended by the Kansas State High School Activities Association.

### 1. Be courteous to all:

**Desirable Behavior**—As we participate in speech activities, we should appreciate the efforts of other schools and students. Students meeting with other students after an event in a congratulatory manner and appropriate behavior during the performance are a positive show of appreciation.

**Unacceptable Behavior**—Disrespectful actions, noises or gestures show disrespect for the efforts of others (students or teachers); disturbing or entering a performance room in progress.

### 2. Know the rules, abide by and respect decisions:

**Desirable Behavior**—Utilize every opportunity to promote understanding of the rules of the competition or festival within the school and community; accept the decisions of the judges; respond in a positive manner; utilize proper avenues for challenges; cooperate with the host managers and aides in interpretation and clarification of rules.

**Unacceptable Behavior**—Disrespectful display concerning a decision; criticizing the merits of the judges; displays of temper and arguing with judges and host managers; derogatory remarks towards the judges, host managers and aides.

### 3. Win with character and lose with dignity:

**Desirable Behavior**—Handshakes between different schools, students and teachers at the end of the activity, regardless of outcome; opposing students, coaches and fans engaging in friendly conversation before and following the activity; treating festivals or competitions as an educational activity (not a battle); appropriate response at the end of performances for all students.

**Unacceptable Behavior**—Words that antagonize other students and schools; refusing to give recognition for a good performance; blaming ratings or rankings on judges, hosts or other circumstances.



#### **4. Display appreciation for good performances regardless of the school:**

Desirable Behavior—Teachers, students, parents searching out participants to recognize them for outstanding performances; recognizing an outstanding performance with appropriate response; discussing outstanding performances of schools and students with others in attendance.

Unacceptable Behavior—Laughing, gesturing or other types of movements in an attempt to distract; degrading an excellent performance by other students or schools.

#### **5. Exercise self-control and reflect positively upon yourself, students and school:**

Desirable Behavior—Support other schools and students by a display of total unity; respect the efforts and facilities of the host school.

Unacceptable Behavior—Display of anger, boasting, use of profanity, antics which draw attention to you; trashing, vandalizing, or showing disrespect for the host school's facilities or personnel.

#### **6. Permit only positive sportsmanlike behavior to reflect on your school or its activities:**

Desirable Behavior—Positively encourage those around you to display only sportsmanlike conduct; report poor citizenship/sportsmanship to school, administration or host managers; member schools insist that citizenship/sportsmanship be a priority; administrators help teachers to teach, model and reinforce citizenship/sportsmanship; recognize teachers for sportsmanlike conduct; teachers need to acknowledge students who display positive citizenship/sportsmanship; teachers and administrators need to take appropriate action to insure sportsmanlike behavior.

Unacceptable Behavior—Teachers, students or other school supporters unwilling to get involved and take a stand to defend one of the main tenets of school activities, teaching and promotion of Citizenship/Sportsmanship.

Speech educators should be leaders in the development of citizenship/sportsmanship. The attitude developed in the classroom reflects what is displayed by students at events. Speech coaches need to read and abide by the rules and regulations set forth for each event. Breaking rules through loopholes is not a way to justify improper actions or conduct. Host managers volunteer their time and facilities for speech activities. Coaches who verbally abuse managers and talk negatively about judges to their students and parents cannot expect students or parents to display respect or positive attitudes at speech activities. Coaches' actions set the tone for others in attendance. It is important to keep the educational value of the activity at a high level.

**Citizenship/Sportsmanship, Rule 52, is a positive development for activities in Kansas. The continued growth of speech activities requires the need for ethical conduct to become as much a teaching tool in the classroom as the development of speech fundamentals.**

## **KSHSAA Multimedia Use Policy**

*Adopted by the Executive Board at their November 20-21, 2024 meeting.*

The member schools of the KSHSAA understand capturing images of student participants before, during, and after competitions/performances allow stakeholders the opportunity to share and reflect upon the experience. It is also a teaching and learning opportunity for student journalists. Photographing or video taping of events should never delay or disrupt an event nor compromise the safety of participants or photographers. School and event administrators may designate specified areas or times for photographers at any event.

### **Event/Competitor Pre-scout by Schools**

Member school staff or designees may not film any school's activity contest in which they are not a participant without advanced written permission from the principals of all schools involved in a contest/performance.

### **General Public**

1. Spectators of a KSHSAA event may not live stream any event. The host or designee are responsible for approving member schools and members of the media for livestreaming approval.
2. Video or photos should not be taken of individual students if the person taking the video or photos is not directly related to or preapproved by the student or member school administrator to capture video or photographic images.

### **Media**

Professional media should follow expectations and codes of conduct detailed by the Kansas Press Association, Kansas Broadcasters Association, and the KSHSAA.

# ADMINISTRATION OF DEBATE ACTIVITIES

## Individual Eligibility

The provisions of the Eligibility Rules shall apply to all pupils who participate in the interschool debate activities. Rules governing these events are found in the *KSHSAA Handbook* under **Rule 47, Debate and Speech**.

A ninth grade junior high school student may participate in senior high school debate, with the approval of both principals, provided both schools are under the same board of education or school board. A student who does this shall be ineligible for further junior high school competition in that activity.

## Individual Awards — KSHSAA Handbook, Rule 20

### Interpretations

**Question 1:** May the members of the winning team in an invitational tournament or festival receive trophies or gifts?

**Answer: No.** Medals, ribbons and certificates are the only type of individual recognition which may be given to the individual members of a winning team.

**Question 2:** May an individual student receive an **award** as the outstanding debater of the year from their school?

**Answer: Yes.** *KSHSAA Awards Rule 20-1-a* sets forth guidelines for allowable awards.

**Question 3:** May an outside agency give the outstanding **debater** of the year a trophy or gift?

**Answer: No.** Please study **Rule 20 - Awards** before presenting or accepting any individual awards, or any awards from outside agencies.

**Question 4:** May an outside agency give the **school** a plaque with a plate for the engraved name of the outstanding debater?

**Answer: Yes,** provided the plaque is given to and retained by the school.

## Approval of Events, Sanctions — KSHSAA Handbook, Bylaw XIV

Managers issuing invitations to out-of-state schools must apply for official sanction from the Association office one month (30 days) in advance of their tournament. State associations will not grant permission for their schools to participate unless they receive approval from the KSHSAA. *KSHSAA Handbook Article XIV, Sections 4*, states:

**Sec. 4.** Any KSHSAA **member school** desiring to host an out-of-state member school or to participate in an out-of-state activity shall limit travel distance in dual competition (two schools) so it shall not exceed **500 road miles** from the border (perimeter) of the state of Kansas.

KSHSAA **member schools** desiring to host or participate in a multiple-interscholastic event (three or more schools) involving an out-of-state school(s) shall be limited to those within **500 road miles** of the border (perimeter) of the state of Kansas.

Each event must be approved by the KSHSAA **and the out-of-state high school's association**. Such approval must be initiated by the host member school not later than 30 days prior to the date of the activity. Application forms are provided by the KSHSAA or the out-of-state high school's association.

**EXCEPTION:** The Executive Board may approve interstate activities for individual schools when mileage is in excess of those stated provided the travel distance is less than for a similar event in Kansas.

When a KSHSAA **member school** competes with an out-of-state school, it may not waive or exceed any KSHSAA standards.

**The following is KSHSAA's position on students who do not follow KSHSAA rules, particularly concerning the 500 mile Bylaw XIV.**

*If a student who is a member of a school's team chooses to attend a:*

- *non-sanctioned KSHSAA competition or event, or*
- *competition or event beyond the sanctioned 500 road mile limit Bylaw XIV, the student/the school clearly violates KSHSAA policy and will be subject to KSHSAA penalties.*

*If a student chooses not to be on a school's team and operates as an "independent" competitor or team, the student would not be under the bylaws, rules and policies of the KSHSAA. However, the school cannot provide financial support for entry fees and/or travel expenses. No adult school representation/coach will be allowed to accompany student(s) as "independent(s)." The school and school coach cannot be involved. (This does not prevent a student from being enrolled in an academic class for credit during school hours only.)*

## Debate Entry Forms

The following forms for debate are available online at [www.kshsaa.org](http://www.kshsaa.org) (see principal for school's code):

Fall Activity Participation Form - Athletic director must submit this form.

Regional (4-Speaker) Debate Tournament Entry Form

State (2-Speaker) Debate Tournament Entry Form

## Debate Rules Meetings Are Required

All high school debate head coaches are **required to attend** a KSHSAA sponsored debate rules meeting each year. This year coaches will have an option of attending a face-to-face meeting or completing the requirement online. The online meeting will be available for credit from August 18 until October 3. Instructions for how to log on and view the online meeting will be available online. The *Debate, Speech & Drama Manual* will be mailed to athletic directors by early August. Coaches attending a face-to-face meeting should bring the debate attendance form and turn it in at the face-to-face meeting. This form is available online at [www.kshsaa.org](http://www.kshsaa.org) (see principal/AD for school's code and coach's password). Schools with coaches failing to attend a face-to-face meeting or complete the online meeting by October 3 will be subject to a \$100 fine and their school will be listed in the *Activities Journal*.

# DEBATE TOURNAMENTS & INFORMATION

## Regional (4-Speaker) Debate Tournaments - December 19-20, 2025

Location of the regional tournament sites for each classification and the school assignments to these centers can be found at [www.kshsaa.org](http://www.kshsaa.org)>Non-Athletic>Debate in early November.

## State 4-Speaker & 2-Speaker Debate Tournaments - January 15 (6A only), January 16-17, 2026

Classes 6A, 5A - TBD

Classes 4A, 3-1A - Coffeyville-Community Elementary

## KSHSAA Debate Regulations

**Section 1. Participation Fees**—An annual participation fee for each school represented in debate activities shall be set by the Executive Board.

**Sec. 2. Student Eligibility**—The *KSHSAA Handbook*—**Rule 47** states: Students representing member schools in **debate** activities shall be required to meet the same qualifications as those representing their school in all other interscholastic activities. A list of students shall be certified on the official eligibility form (**Form CW**) to be **retained by the school** prior to the first debate tournament. *Non-Athletic Activity Eligibility Worksheets (Form CW)* are available at [www.kshsaa.org](http://www.kshsaa.org) (see principal for school's code).

**Sec. 3. Debate Season**—

- School-organized debate practice shall not begin prior to Monday of SCW #7.
- Invitational debate tournaments shall not begin prior to Friday of SCW #11.
- Debate season shall close at the conclusion of the KSHSAA State Debate Tournament during SCW #28.
- Debaters may not enter speech events until the Friday of SCW #27.

**Sec. 4. Outside Competition** *KSHSAA Handbook, Rule 22* — A student who is a member of a school's debate squad, Tuesday following Labor Day through the conclusion of state debate tournaments, may not participate as a member of an **outside team or as an independent competitor** in debate activities.

**Sec. 5. Scrimmages**—Interscholastic scrimmages (practices) in all activities shall be prohibited as specified in **Rule 30-1-5, Seasons of Activities**, of the *KSHSAA Handbook*.

**Sec. 6. Supervisor**—No team (or students) shall represent his or her school at any time in connection with interscholastic debate unless accompanied by a coach or another appointed advisor. **The appointed person must remain at the activity.**

**Sec. 7. Disqualification**—Disqualification shall be interpreted to mean: the individual team in violation is removed from the tournament immediately and ALL records earned for that team shall be forfeited.

**Sec. 8. Unacceptable Behavior**—No **individual** (student, coach, parent, relative, friend, etc.) shall negatively confront a judge during a debate tournament. An infraction by a **debater** will result in disqualification and loss of records. An infraction by a **coach or observer** shall result in a letter of **reprimand** sent to the school's administrator by the KSHSAA. Further action may be taken by the KSHSAA Executive Board.

**Sec. 9. National Tournament Qualifiers**—Students who qualify via competition standards to an approved national tournament may participate in an additional three (3) debate activities beginning SCW#29. No student shall exceed a total of five (5) tournaments after SCW#29, including those national tournaments they attend. The national tournaments must be approved by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) as required by the **KSHSAA Bylaw, Article XIV**.

**Temporarily Suspend Section 3 of Bylaw XIV – Approval of Events which indicates the following:**

**Any contest or activity under the jurisdiction of the KSHSAA sponsored by an outside agency which is on the approved list of the National Association of Secondary School Principals shall be considered automatically approved.**

**The NASSP is discontinuing the service of approving events. At this time, no other agency or process has been identified to provide this service. The Executive Board recommends the Board of Directors temporarily suspend **Bylaw XIV, Section 3**, and utilize the roster of all events historically approved by the NASSP and attended by KSHSAA member schools to be approved for the next school year. Staff will identify and recommend a new protocol prior to the April 2026 Board of Directors meeting.**

- Out-of-state debate tournaments, as defined in **KSHSAA Bylaw, Article XIV**, count toward the three (3) allowable activities.  
**No in-state high school debate tournaments may be hosted or conducted by a KSHSAA member school beginning SCW #29.**
- Interschool scrimmages (practices) **may be** conducted but count toward the three (3) allowable activities. Scrimmages (practices) between schools can be for educational comments **ONLY**. No results, no rankings, no scoring and no awards can be “tabbed” or determined.
- In addition to the three (3) allowable debate activities, NSDA or NCFL National Tournament student qualifiers may also represent their school in eight (8) speech and drama festivals or tournaments. (See **KSHSAA Rule 47-2-9.**)

**Sec. 10. Type of Debate**—KSHSAA’s debate season governs the competition of “policy debate” or “cross examination debate.” This form of debate consists of two teams consisting of two members, and all competitors debate the current KSHSAA/NFHS high school policy debate topic in the format included herein.

## Invitational Debate Tournaments

**Sec 1. Debate Competitions**—No student may represent his/her high school in more than **eight** competitive debate events, either invitational or duals, including league and out-of-state. Each student is limited to **seven** competitive debate events, except that should his/her school host an in-person league or invitational tournament, then he/she may participate in eight competitive debate events. If a school attempts to host a tournament and is unable to do so, it may appeal to the Executive Board for a waiver of this regulation to permit its students to enter eight tournaments.

**Sec. 2.** Unless otherwise stated by the host school, it will be understood the KSHSAA regional and state debate guidelines will apply to invitational tournaments.

**Sec. 3. Judging**—No coach of a team entered in an invitational tournament shall be required to judge in more than two rounds per day. However, schools may be required to provide judges for a number of rounds as specified by the host manager.

- **No student (grades 7-12) may judge at invitational, regional or state debate tournaments.**

*EXCEPTION: Third- and fourth-year experienced debaters will be allowed to judge at novice tournaments as long as that information is included in the invitation by the host school.*

**Sec. 4.** The use of a non-speaking third person in a round of debate shall not be permitted.

**Sec. 5. Host School Debaters**—The host school of a local debate tournament may use its debaters as replacement teams where necessary so long as the host school is not in contention for any of the awards or that the host school’s team(s) do(es) not use its own tournament for state debate qualification. This participation will **not** count as one of the eight allowable tournaments during the semester. (See Section 1.)

**Sec. 6. Tournament Reports**—All tournament managers shall send a complete report of the results, including schools in attendance, to the KSHSAA. **Do not return copies of the ballots from invitational tournaments. These should be retained by the host school.**

**Sec. 7. Registration**—Invitational debate tournament competitions may not begin prior to 3 p.m. (Central Standard Time) on school days.

**Sec. 8. Types of Tournaments**—

- **Novice:** A novice tournament shall be defined as one for those students in their first season of debate. A novice shall be defined as a student in his/her first season of debate. *NOTE: A novice who debates in an open tournament does not lose his/her status as a novice for further novice tournaments.*

- **Open:** An open tournament shall be defined as one in which both novice and experienced debaters may participate.

**Sec. 9. Contracts**—Contracts signed by the school principal shall be used for all invitational debate tournaments.

**Sec. 10 Virtual Tournaments**—Schools may host and attend virtual invitational tournaments. Virtual tournaments still count towards the 7 or 8 in which a student may participate, and schools must host an in-person tournament for their students to be eligible to compete in 8 invitational tournaments. All KSHSAA handbook rules, such as the 500 road mile rule, must still be followed in virtual competition.

## Information for Invitational Managers

**Ballots**—Judges' ballots may be obtained from the KSHSAA. See debate and speech order form in this manual.

**Invitations**—If managers plan to invite more teams than it is possible to schedule, they should explain that the first teams to register will be the ones accepted for the tournament. *NOTE: Some managers have listed deadline dates for fees, and schools have been disappointed to have their entries returned.*

**Trophies**—Managers are instructed to award trophies which are in keeping with the size of those awarded in regional and state tournaments.

**Code of Ethics**—Please read, and make available to your judges and coaches, the KSHSAA Code of Ethics published on the inside back cover.

# REGIONAL & STATE DEBATE TOURNAMENTS

## Debate Regulations

- Sec. 1.** For participation in regional and state debate tournaments, all schools shall be divided into four Classes: 6A, 5A, 4A and 3-2-1A as specified in **Article XII** of the *KSHSAA Handbook*.
- Sec. 2.** The Executive Board shall arrange regional (4-speaker) debate tournaments to be held as qualifying meets for state (4-speaker) debate tournaments. The Executive Board shall arrange for state (2-speaker) debate tournaments with qualifying standards.
- Sec. 3.** Regional and state debate tournaments shall be held at times and sites designated by the Executive Board.
- Sec. 4.** The question for debate shall be the National High School Debate Proposition, subject to the approval of the KSHSAA Executive Board.
- Sec. 5.** If a school refuses to accept a decision rendered by the KSHSAA Executive Board, it automatically defaults and forfeits its privilege of continuing in the regional or state tournament.
- Sec. 6.** All debate managers appointed by the KSHSAA shall send to the KSHSAA a complete report of the results of the debate tournament.
- Sec. 7.** At all tournaments the debaters shall be separated from the audience and shall receive no coaching while the debate is in progress.
- Sec. 8.** Electronic Retrieval Devices—

If the host is able to offer guest wireless access to participants, the following Internet Use Rules will apply:

- A. Contestants may use electronic devices (including laptop computers, tablets, and/or cell phones) to access the internet during debate rounds with the following conditions:
  1. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information for competitive advantage from non-competitors (coaches, assistant coaches, other students) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs. Information that would be restricted would include but not be limited to coach/non-participating competitor generated arguments, advice on arguments to run, questions to ask during cross examination, and other information not generated by the participating competitors.
  2. Internet access may be used to retrieve files, exchange evidence and/or arguments, research arguments, and partner to partner communication. These electronic device guidelines do not limit communication between debate partners during the debate round.
- B. Penalty: Contestants found to have violated these provisions will be disqualified from the tournament.
- C. Availability of Evidence: Upon request, contestants electing to use computers have the responsibility to promptly provide a copy of any evidence read in a prior debate for inspection by the judge or opponent.
- D. Contestants electing to use computers are responsible for providing their own computers, batteries, extension cords, and all other necessary accessories. Tournament hosts will not be responsible for providing computers, printers, software, paper, or extension cords for contestants. Tournament hosts are not responsible for tech support for participants who are unable to access the guest network.
- E. Contestants choosing to use laptop computers and/or related devices accept the risk of equipment failure. Judges and/or contest directors will give no special consideration or accommodation, including no additional debate time or prep time, should equipment failure occur.

If the host is unable to offer guest wireless access to participants, the Electronic Retrieval Devices rules below shall apply:

- A. Electronic devices may not be used to send or receive information from ANY source during the round, whether that source is inside or outside the room in which the competition occurs. Internet access, use of email, instant messaging of any sort, texting, or other means of receiving information from sources inside or outside the competition room is prohibited. It is the responsibility of the contestant to disable the communication ability of electronic devices.

- B. Sanctions: Contestants found to have violated Section A could forfeit the round of competition with a loss on a 7, with zero rating/quality points if those are given at the tournament or could be disqualified from the tournament and shall forfeit all rounds, even those debated previous to the violation.
- C. Availability of Evidence: Refer to Section 16 on page 17.
- D. Contestants electing to use electronic devices are responsible for providing their own electronic devices, batteries, extension cords and all other necessary accessories. Tournament hosts shall not be responsible for providing computers, printers, software, paper, extension cords or specific facilities for contestants. Contestants choosing to use electronic devices accept the risk of equipment failure. No special consideration or accommodations, including no additional prep time or speech time, will be given by judges, contest directors or tournament hosts should equipment failure occur. The host school is not liable for damage or theft of contestants' equipment.
- E. By choosing to use electronic devices in the round, debaters are consenting to give tournament officials the right to search their files and any relevant software on the electronic device used. Debaters who do not wish to consent to a search should not use electronic devices in a round.

**Sec. 9. Time and Order**—In regional and state debate tournaments, the cross-examination style of debating shall be used. The time and order of speeches shall be as follows and no part of any one speaker's time shall be given to another. Speech times may not be substituted for or used to extend other speech times (e.g. unused constructive speech time may not be used as additional cross-examination or prep time; prep time may not be used to extend cross-examination).

Constructive		Rebuttal	
1st Aff. Constructive Speech	8 min.	Negative	5 min.
1st Aff. is questioned by a Neg. speaker	3 min.	Affirmative	5 min.
1st Neg. Constructive Speech	8 min.	Negative	5 min.
1st Neg. is questioned by an Aff. speaker	3 min.	Affirmative	5 min.
2nd Aff. Constructive Speech	8 min.		
2nd Aff. is questioned by the other Neg. speaker	3 min.		
2nd Neg. Constructive Speech	8 min.		
2nd Neg. is questioned by the other Aff. speaker	3 min.		

Each debater will give one constructive speech and one rebuttal speech. A speaker may switch from first to second speaker (or from second to first) for the rebuttal speech.

**Sec. 10. Speakers** are allowed to give a "road map" of the order of their speeches before their speech time begins. A road map is NOT an introduction or an overview of the content of the arguments, it is simply the order of the debate for organizational purposes.

**Sec. 11. Timekeepers**—An alternate debater from each participating school shall serve as timekeeper, and shall follow and time for the affirmative half of the team which he/she represents.

**Sec. 12. Speakers** shall be entitled to such warning signals as they shall direct.

**Sec. 13. Prep Time**—At regional and state debate tournaments, each team shall be given a total of eight (8) minutes per round for preparation time before their speeches. The timekeeper shall record this time. If a team exceeds the eight (8) minutes, the additional time shall be subtracted from that team's next speech.

**Sec. 14. Sharing of Evidence**—When called for by an opposing team, debaters will make available to the opposing team, in a form usable by the opposition, evidence that was read in the round. The team who is currently speaking, or the team whose prep time is currently running, shall have the right, upon request, to access all evidence that has been read to that point in the debate. All physical property, including paper evidence, must be returned to its owner at the end of the round.

**Sec. 15. Grievances**—The following procedure shall be used for all challenges and protests at regional and state debate tournaments:

- A. A grievance committee, composed of three coaches and the championship manager, will handle written protests concerning the violation of any KSHSAA rule. The committee shall be appointed by the championship manager and MUST BE head coaches. It is recommended the KSCA representative be on the grievance committee. An alternate head coach shall be named in the event a committee member's school is involved.
- B. The tournament manager will serve as facilitator for the grievance committee and is not a voting member. The facilitator may be present for all committee discussions.



- C. Evidence protests must be made according to the procedures in Section 16.
- D. The judges shall be instructed to hold a decision until the grievance committee can consider the arguments of both parties involved.
- E. The decision of the grievance committee is final. In the event the grievance committee determines that a rule has been violated, that decision **MUST** include a letter from the KSHSAA to the coach's administration and one or more of the following actions: warning, loss of round, last rank in the section, disqualification which may or may not include prior rounds, rerun a round with new judges, or remove a judge from the pool and replace with the school head coach.
- F. Results of the panel hearing shall be announced to all coaches in that classification attending the tournament.
- G. It is understood that simply because a challenge is made and upheld by the grievance committee, it will not necessarily dictate to the judges the round must be lost to the challenged team.
- H. The tournament will be **stopped** until the grievance committee has made their decision and the judges informed so the ballots can be completed before the next round begins.

## Sec. 16. Evidence Rules

### 16.1 Responsibilities of Contestants Reading Evidence

- A. **Evidence defined**—Debaters are responsible for the validity of all evidence they introduce in the debate. Evidence includes, but is not limited to: facts, statistics, or examples attributable to a specific, identifiable, authoritative source used to support a claim. Unattributed ideas are the opinion of the student competitor and are not evidence.
- B. **Oral source citation**—Contestants are expected to, at a minimum, orally deliver the following when introducing evidence in a debate round: primary author(s)' name (last) and year of publication. Any other information such as source, author's qualifications, etc., may be given, but is not required. Should two or more quotations be used from the same source, the author and year must be given orally for the first piece of evidence from that source. Subsequently, only the author's name is required. Oral citations do not substitute for the written source citation. The full written citation must be provided if requested by an opponent or judge.
- C. **Written source citation**—To the extent provided by the original source, a written source citation must include:
  1. Full name of primary author and/or editor
  2. Publication date
  3. Source
  4. Title of article
  5. Date accessed for digital evidence
  6. Full URL, if applicable
  7. Author qualifications
  8. Page number(s)
- D. **Ellipses prohibited**—In all debate events, the use of internal ellipsis (...) is prohibited unless it is a replication of the original document. Debaters may omit the reading of certain words; however, the text that is verbally omitted must be present in the text of what was read for opposing debaters and/or judges to examine. The portion of the evidence read, including where the debater begins and ends, must be clearly marked.
- E. **Availability of evidence**—
  1. For reference, any material (evidence, cases, written citations, etc.) that is presented during the round must be made available to the opponent and/or judge during the round if requested. When requested, the original source or copy of the relevant pages of evidence read in the round must be available to the opponent in a timely fashion after it has been read in a speech and/or judge at the conclusion of the round. Nothing in this rule shall change a team's responsibility to return evidence as set forth in Section 14 of these rules.
  2. Original source(s) defined. Understanding that teams obtain their evidence in multiple ways, the original source for evidence may include, but is not limited solely to, one of the following:
    - a. Accessing the live or displaying a copy of a web page (teams/individuals may access the Internet to provide this information if requested).
    - b. A copy of the page(s) the evidence is on, the page preceding, and the page following, or the actual printed (book, periodical, pamphlet, etc.) source.

- c. Copies or electronic versions of published handbooks (i.e., Baylor Briefs; West Coast Debate, etc.).
- d. Electronic or printed versions or the web page for a debate institute, the NDCA-sponsored Open Evidence Project, or similar sites.
- 3. Debaters, even if they have acquired the evidence other than by original research, are responsible for the content and accuracy of all evidence they present and/or read.
- F. **Distinguishing between which parts of each piece of evidence are and are not read in a particular round—**Debaters must mark their evidence in two ways:
  - 1. Oral delivery of each piece of evidence must be identified by a clear oral pause or by saying phrases such as “quote/unquote” or “mark the card.” The use of a phrase is definitive and may be preferable to debaters. Clear, oral pauses are left solely to the discretion of the judge.
  - 2. The written text must be marked to clearly indicate the portions read in the debate. In the written text, the standard practices of underlining what is read, or highlighting what is read, and/or shrinking the font of unread text, is definitive and may be preferable to debaters. The clarity of other means of marking evidence is left to the discretion of the judge.
- G. **Private communication prohibited—**Private, personal correspondence or communication between an author and the debater is inadmissible as evidence.

## 16.2. Definitions of Evidence Violations

- A. “Distortion” exists when the textual evidence itself contains added and/or deleted word(s), which significantly alters the conclusion of the author (e.g., deleting ‘not’; adding the word ‘not’). Additionally, failure to bracket added words would be considered distortion of evidence.
- B. “Non-existent evidence” means one or more of the following:
  - 1. The debater citing the evidence is unable to provide the original source or copy of the relevant pages when requested by their opponent, judge, or tournament official.
  - 2. The original source provided does not contain the evidence cited.
  - 3. The debater is in possession of the original source, but declines to provide it to their opponent upon request in a timely fashion.
- C. “Clipping” occurs when the debater claims to have read the complete text of highlighted and/or underlined evidence when, in fact, the contestant skips or omits portions of evidence.
- D. A “straw argument” is a position or argumentative claim introduced by an author for the purpose of refuting, discrediting, or characterizing it. Reliance on a straw argument occurs in a debate round when a debater asserts incorrectly that the author supports or endorses the straw argument as their own position.

Note: A debater who acknowledges using a “straw argument” when verbally first read in the round would not be misrepresenting evidence. However, if the debater fails to acknowledge the use of a “straw argument” and their opponent questions the use of such an argument, then that debater has committed an evidence violation.

## 16.3. Procedures for Resolving Evidence Violations

- A. Judges are responsible for resolving disputes between debaters regarding oral citations (16.1.B), written source citations (16.1.C), and distinguishing between what parts of each piece of evidence are and are not read in a particular round (16.1.F). When the judge(s) have such a dispute in the round, they must make a written note on the ballot or inform the tournament manager of the dispute. They must do so particularly if it impacts the decision in the debate.
- B. An appeal can only be made if the issue has been raised in the round, with the exception of the issues listed below in 16.3.C. Appeals may only be made if judge(s) have misapplied, misinterpreted, or ignored a rule.
- C. A formal allegation of violation of the evidence rules is permitted during the round only if the debater(s) allege a violation of 16.2.A (distortion), 16.2.B (nonexistent evidence), 16.2.C (clipping). If a formal allegation of violation of these rules is made during a round, the following procedures must be followed:
  - 1. The team/individual alleging a violation must make a definitive indication that they are formally alleging a violation of an evidence rule.
  - 2. The team/individual alleging the violation of the evidence must articulate the specific violation as defined in 16.2.A, 16.2.B, and/or 16.2.C.

3. The judge should stop the round at that time to examine the evidence from both teams and render a decision about the credibility of the evidence.
  - a. If the judge determines that the allegation is legitimate and an evidence violation has occurred, the team committing the violation will be given the loss in the round with 7 speaker points. Other sanctions may apply as well, as articulated in 16.3.E.
  - b. If the judge determines that the allegation is not legitimate and that there is no violation, the team making the challenge will receive the loss in the round.
  - c. If the judge is unwilling or unable to make a determination, the round will continue from that point as though the violation did not occur, and the decision may be appealed to the tournament manager as set forth in 16.3.D.

**Note:** Teams/individuals may question the credibility and/or efficacy of the evidence without a formal allegation that requires the round to end. Teams/debaters may make in-round arguments regarding the credibility of evidence without making a formal allegation of violation of these rules. Such informal arguments about the evidence will not automatically end the round, and will be treated by the judge in the same fashion as any other argument.

- D. The tournament manager and grievance committee are authorized to hear (1) appeals, pursuant to 16.3.B, claiming that a judge ignored, misinterpreted, or misapplied rules; (2) appeals from a judge's decision, pursuant to 7.3.C., on a formal in-round allegation of distortion or non-existent evidence; and (3) a formal allegation of distortion or nonexistent evidence that is made for the first time after the conclusion of the debate.
- E. The procedures for making an appeal or post-round formal allegation are as follows:
  1. A coach or sponsor from the school(s) competing in the debate, or a judge from the round, must notify the tournament manager of intent to submit an appeal or formal post-round allegation within 20 minutes of the end of the debate round. The 20-minute time period begins once the last ballot from all rounds has been collected by the tabulation room.
  2. The coach must submit the post-round formal allegation to the tournament manager within 10 minutes of the formal notification of the intent to appeal. The allegation must be in writing and articulate the specific evidence violation that is being challenged. The challenged contestants and coach will then be notified.
  3. If the grievance committee determines that the original protest has merit, the coach or sponsor and contestants being challenged will be given 20 minutes to provide evidence denying, or to the contrary of the claim. If such evidence cannot be offered, the challenged debaters will be given the loss in the round with 7 speaker points and may be subject to additional penalties. If the grievance committee determines that the allegation is not legitimate and that there is no violation, the team/individual making the challenge will receive the loss in the round.
  4. The tournament manager and grievance committee have the discretion of extending the time limits for these actions if circumstances do not allow a coach or school-affiliated adult to be available within the prescribed time limits.
- F. If appeals are made in rounds in which multiple judges are being used, normal procedures should be followed to ensure each judge reaches their decision as independently as possible. Judges will be instructed not to confer or discuss the charge and/or answer to the potential violation. It will be possible for one judge to determine that an evidence violation has occurred and the other judge(s) to determine no violation has occurred. The tabulation room will record the panel's decision in the same fashion as a normal win or loss; the outcome is thus tabulated in the same fashion as a round in which an evidence violation has not occurred. If the majority of the panel finds an evidence violation did not occur, no sanction may be applied to the team/individual charged with the violation. If the majority finds a violation has occurred, the appropriate penalties will be administered.

#### **16.4. Penalties for Evidence Violations**

- A. If the judge determines that an entry has violated one of the rules listed in 16.3.A and 16.1.G (oral citation, written citation, indication of parts of card read or not read, use of private communication), the judge may at their discretion disregard the evidence, diminish the credibility given to the evidence, take the violation into account (solely or partially) in deciding the winner of the debate, or take no action.
- B. If a debater commits an evidence violation for "clipping" (16.2.C), the use of a "straw argument" (16.2.D), or the use of "ellipses" (16.1.D), it will result in a loss for the team committing the evidence violation. The judge should award the loss on 7 speaker points and indicate the reason for decision on the ballot.
- C. If a debater commits an evidence violation of "distortion" (16.2.A) or has used "non-existent evidence" (16.2.B), the offending team will lose the debate and be disqualified from the tournament. However, if a team loses a

round due to “non-existent evidence” (16.2.B) violation during an in-round formal allegation, but can produce it after the round within 20 minutes to the tabulation committee, the committee may decide not to disqualify the entry. The loss that was recorded by the judge may not be changed. If a post-round protest is levied against a team for not providing evidence or an original source in round (non-existent evidence), and the judge confirms they in fact did not provide the evidence in a timely fashion when requested in round, the team will lose the round and be disqualified from the tournament. However, if a team produces the evidence within the post-round challenge period, the team may avoid disqualification.

#### **16.5. Tournament Adjustments**

- A. Under no circumstance will a tournament or part of a tournament be re-run because of a violation of these rules.
- B. In the case of the disqualification of a team, all ranks and decisions of other teams made prior to the start of the round being protested stand and no revision of past round ranks will take place.
- C. When a round has been held between the round being protested and a final decision regarding the protest, the result of that round will be recorded as follows:
  - 1. If the protest is upheld and a team is disqualified, the opponent of the disqualified team will receive a forfeit win.
  - 2. In all other cases, no revision of other results will occur.
- D. If a team is awarded a loss and/or is disqualified for a violation of these evidence rules, their opponent in the round about which the grievance was filed shall win the debate on 3 speaker points.

#### **Sec. 17. Debate Judge Constraint Language**

Fair competition requires not merely the absence of impropriety but also the absence of the appearance of impropriety. A conflict of interest is a relationship that might reasonably be thought to bias a judge toward or against a competitor. Such relationships may themselves be quite innocent, but they could reasonably be thought to compromise a judge's impartiality.

To the extent possible, these judge constraints should be declared in advance of the tournament, so that the championship manager and tab staff can prepare as needed.

A judge **must** recuse themselves from judging a student under the following conditions:

- A. The judge and the student may be perceived to have a competitive or financial agreement that may bias the judge's impartial evaluation of the round. Examples include but are not limited to:
  - 1. The student attends a school that the judge recently (in the past 3 years) attended or coached for.
  - 2. The judge has a coaching or consulting relationship with the student or school during the same academic year.
  - 3. The judge has received or provided expressed or implied offers to provide future coaching or consulting to a school or student.
- B. The judge and the student may be perceived to have a personal or social arrangement that may bias the judge's impartial evaluation of the round. Examples include but are not limited to:
  - 1. The judge and the student are or have been in a familial, physical, or emotional relationship.
  - 2. The judge and the student have communications of a personal nature over email, telephone, or the internet including social networking sites that goes beyond casual exchanges.
- C. The judge does not believe they are able to fairly and impartially adjudicate a competition involving a particular student for whatever reason.

#### **Sec. 18. Student Privacy**

No recording equipment may be used to record audio or video of students participating in a debate round.

### **4-Speaker Debate Regulations**

**Sec 1.** In regional and state (4-speaker) debate tournaments each school may be represented by one 4-speaker team, plus two alternates. For each round of debate, the coach may designate any two students to represent the affirmative and any two to represent the negative. This may be done so long as no student meets the same school more than once.

**Sec. 2. Regional Assignments**—The following formula is a guideline to aid in the determination of sites and team assignments for the KSHSAA Regional 4-Speaker Debate Tournaments: (The numbers turned in on the due date for the Regional 4-Speaker Debate Entry Card will be utilized as the guideline to determine sites and team assignments.)

- 22 or More Teams Competing in a Classification
  - o 4 Regional Sites Selected
    - Top 2 teams from each site advance to state
- 17-21 Teams Competing in a Classification
  - o 3 Regional Sites Selected
    - Top 3 teams from each site advance to state
- 16 or Fewer Teams Competing in a Classification
  - o 2 Regional Sites Selected
    - Top 4 teams from each site advance to state

**Sec. 3. State Qualifications**—Eight or nine (4-speaker) teams advance through regional tournaments to state in each school classification depending on the number of teams in the regional. In the case of an unbreakable tie, then additional team advances to state. The school qualifies versus the individuals in (4-speaker) debate.

**Sec. 4.** Students who debate at a regional (4-speaker) debate tournament, but do not qualify for the state (4-speaker) debate tournament may debate in the state (2-speaker) debate tournament providing all (2-speaker) qualifying debate regulations are met. Students who participate in and qualify for the state (4-speaker) debate tournament may **NOT** enter the state (2-speaker) debate tournament.

**Sec. 5. Spectators**—In regional and state (4-speaker) debate tournaments, **spectators may follow their own teams.** Tape recorders and/or video cameras may not be used.

**Sec. 6.** In all **regional (4-speaker) debate tournaments**, the round robin type of schedule shall be arranged, with each school meeting every other school in its class on both sides of the question. Placement of schools on the schedule shall be on a blind draw basis by participating coaches.

**Sec. 7.** Win/loss record and speaker rankings shall be revealed collectively to coaches only, round by round, at **regional tournaments**, **unless** the majority of all coaches at **regional tournaments** vote to close the results until the final assembly. If the tab room is open, the head coach and/or assistant coach may enter.

**Sec. 8.** In the **state (4-speaker) debate tournaments**, the round robin type of schedule shall be arranged, with each school meeting every other school in its class on both sides of the question. Placement of schools on the schedule shall be on a blind draw basis by participating coaches.

**Sec. 9.** Win/loss record and speaker ranking shall be revealed collectively to coaches only, round by round, at **state tournaments**. The tab room is open to the head coach and/or assistant coach.

**Sec. 10. Judging Panels**—*All classes* shall use panels of three judges in each round at **regional and state (4-speaker) debate tournaments**. Judges shall be set according to the master schedule provided by the KSHSAA for the number of teams involved. At the state tournaments, judges from Class 6A will judge Class 5A and vice versa. Judges from Class 4A will judge Class 3-1A and vice versa.

**Sec. 11. School Judging Requirements**—Regional and State (4-Speaker) Debate Tournaments:

- A. All schools at regional (4-speaker) debate tournaments must provide two qualified school judges.
- B. All schools at state (4-speaker) debate tournaments must provide two qualified school judges to serve in an alternate school classification.
- C. Schools not providing the required number of qualified debate judges shall be disqualified from regional and state tournaments.
- D. If a judge is removed by a grievance committee for a Rule 52 violation, the school coach will be required to serve as their replacement.

**Sec. 12. School Judging Qualifications**—Regional and State (4-Speaker) Debate Tournaments:

- A. A judge must not have been a high school student or debater in the current school year.
- B. In a debate round, the judge should be able to take notes in a manner that allows him/her to chart the development of arguments as they progress through the round.

- C. A judge must have judged at an invitational tournament or on the topic during the current debate season.
- D. Immediate family members of a competitor, including at least those who live in the same household as that competitor, shall not judge in the same regional pod or state classification in which that competitor is entered.
- E. A judge must complete an electronic paradigm prior to the tournament in a format which can be shared among participating coaches prior to the tournament. Acceptable electronic paradigms include, but are not limited to, Tabroom.com or a Google Form created by the championship manager.

**Sec. 13. Tiebreaker Procedure**—Regional and State (4-Speaker) Debate Tournaments:

- A. Regional and state tournament winners will be determined by win/loss records.
- B. If two (2) or more schools tie in the number of decisions won, the school receiving the greatest number of judges' ballots shall be declared the winner.
- C. In case of a tie in judges' ballots, the school having the lowest total speaker points shall be declared the winner.
- D. In tournaments in which a single judge is used for some debates and three judges for others, the total number of judges' ballots shall **not** be considered. The decision, in case of a tie between two (2) or more schools, shall be determined on the basis of the lowest total speaker points of the individual debaters.
- E. If two (2) or more teams are tied on win/loss record and speaker points, the tie is broken by consulting the results of the debate in which the tied teams met. A team will be declared the winner if it is found to have defeated the opposition on both sides of the question. If the decisions were split, then the total speaker points of the debate in which the tied teams met will next be considered. If still tied, affirmative win/loss record will be considered. If still tied, affirmative speaker points will be used.
- F. If there is a tie for **first** place in a **regional** tournament, the two (2) teams shall receive duplicate trophies and shall represent their regional in the state tournament. No second place trophy shall be awarded.
- G. If there is a tie for **second** place in a **regional** tournament, the two (2) teams shall receive duplicate trophies and shall represent their regional in the state tournament. If this tie should occur, three (3) teams instead of two (2) will represent the regional.
- H. If a tie for **first** place occurs in a **state** tournament and that tie cannot be broken by speaker points, then duplicate trophies shall be awarded. No second place trophy shall be given.
- I. If there is a tie for **second** place in a **state** tournament, duplicate trophies shall be awarded and no third place trophy shall be given.
- J. If there is a tie for **third** place in a **state** tournament, duplicate trophies shall be awarded.

**Sec. 14. Forfeiture**—

- A. Any team more than ten (10) minutes late from the scheduled starting time of a round shall forfeit the round unless there is an emergency or unforeseen circumstance approved by the tournament manager.
- B. Any team, at the regional or state debate tournaments, failing to return for the second day of competition shall forfeit those rounds won the preceding day.
- C. In the event a team forfeits a round(s), the team receiving the forfeit wins on a 1-2 (*speaker ranking*); the team forfeiting loses on a 3-4 (*speaker ranking*).

**Sec. 15. Entries and Cancellations**—

- A. If a school "formally" (written notice to the KSHSAA) cancels from the regional tournament by **December 1**, the regional entry fee will not be refunded but no additional penalty will be assessed.
- B. If a school cancels from the regional tournament after **December 1**, no refund will be made and the school will not be privileged to enter next year's regional debate competition without paying a \$50 penalty plus the regular entry fee, which is \$100 per team/school for regionals and \$100 per team/school for state.
- C. Schools submitting late entries (those received after **November 3** and up until regional assignments are posted) will be assessed a \$10 late fee. Schools entering regionals after assignments are posted will be assessed double entry fees. Any late assignment which is made after the regional assignment posting date through December 3 will be placed at the site that best facilitates management. This may or may not be the closest site. No late assignment will be made after December 3 unless it would even out a regional, i.e. make a 7-6 regional 7-7 and is acceptable by the host school.

- D. The penalty described in “b” shall also apply to those schools failing to appear for the tournament or who do not return their squads for the second day of **regional** and/or **state** debate competition. Sickness, weather or similar unavoidable circumstances may be accepted upon written request to the KSHSAA, made within five days of the tournament by the high school principal.

## 2-Speaker Debate Regulations

**Sec. 1.** In state (2-speaker) debate tournaments each school may be represented by up to four 2-speaker teams (**no alternates, no singles, no “mavericks”**).

**Sec. 2 State Qualifications**—Any round debated as a maverick cannot be counted for state qualifications. Each school's individual debater shall have qualified during the current school year in the following ways:

- A. Qualified in tournaments in which at least five (5) schools are in attendance.
- B. Qualified in a minimum of **three (3)** tournaments above the novice division.
- C. Each individual debater must have participated in at least four (4) rounds of competition at each qualifying tournament.
- D. Each individual debater must have a **cumulative** win/loss record of 50 percent or better over **three (3) in-state** tournaments above the novice division. (You may choose any **three** tournaments, with four rounds or more, and total up the number of wins/losses your team participated in to determine the 50% or above qualification. You may **NOT** take out certain rounds within a qualifying tournament to make your win/loss higher. You must count all rounds the team actually participated in or no rounds from each tournament. ~~You may NOT count only prelim rounds unless these were the only rounds the team participated in.~~ **Exception: Students may choose to count only prelim rounds when calculating a team's record for state qualification purposes.**

**Sec. 3.** Students who debate at a regional (4-speaker) debate tournament, but do not qualify for the state (4-speaker) debate tournament may debate in the state (2-speaker) debate tournament providing all (2-speaker) qualifying debate regulations are met. Students who participate in and qualify for the state (4-speaker) debate tournament may **NOT** enter the state (2-speaker) debate tournament.

Exception: No more than three students from a school who qualified for 4-speaker state may enter the 2-speaker debate tournament if they meet the 2-speaker qualifying standards AND the school forfeits their 4-speaker state entry prior to the start of the tournament. This exception shall not permit a school to enter more than the maximum number of entries to the 2-speaker state tournament.

**Sec. 4. Debate Entries**—School entries must be sent on or before **December 22**. Late entries (\$10 late entry fee per team) will be accepted until **January 8**. No entries will be accepted after that date. **Entry fees are \$30 per team.**

**Sec. 5. Cancellations**—

- A. Cancellations of teams need to be made by **January 14 at 3 p.m. if at all possible**. Coaches must contact the KSHSAA at **785-273-5329** to make any changes.
- B. Schools failing to appear for the tournament or who do not return their squads for the second day of competition will not be privileged to enter next year's **state** debate competition without paying a \$50 penalty plus the regular entry fee. Sickness, weather or similar unavoidable circumstances may be accepted upon written request to the KSHSAA, made within five days of the tournament by the high school principal.

**Sec. 6. Substitutions**—Substitutions may be made at registration providing the substitute(s) did not compete in a **regional (4-speaker) debate tournament**. No substitutions will be allowed after Round I begins.

**Sec. 7. Forfeiture**—

- A. Any team more than ten (10) minutes late from the scheduled starting time of a round shall forfeit the round unless there is an emergency or unforeseen circumstance approved by the tournament manager.
- B. Any team that fails to compete in a scheduled round shall forfeit that round.
- C. Any team that formally withdraws from the tournament will no longer be scheduled in the tournament. (This withdrawal does not affect previous rounds' decisions.)
- D. When a team forfeits prior to the start of a round, that round shall be re-matched. If a team forfeits after a round has begun, a **bye** will be given to the opposing team.

## **Sec. 8. 2-Speaker Debate Elimination Rounds**

1. If a division has 60 or more entries at registration, that division will advance 32 teams to elimination rounds (double octafinals).
2. If a division has between 36 and 59 entries at registration, that division will advance AT LEAST 16 teams to elimination rounds (octafinals).
3. If a division has between 20 and 35 entries at registration, that division will advance AT LEAST 8 teams to elimination rounds (quarterfinals).
4. If a division has 19 or fewer entries at registration, that division will advance AT LEAST 4 teams to elimination rounds (semifinals).
5. All teams with 2 or fewer losses in the preliminary rounds shall advance to elimination rounds, unless this breaks more than 32.
6. In a "partial" elimination round, the lowest seeds are paired to debate, and higher seeds will receive byes.
7. Brackets may be broken in a partial elimination round as in other rounds, but no team who is currently slotted to have a bye will have their seeding adjusted to avoid a like-school matchup. (e.g., if 17 teams are to advance and #16 and #17 are from the same school, no adjustment will be made to the bracket.)
8. All school judges are obligated for the first FULL elimination round in their classification, in addition to the partial round if it occurs.

**Sec. 9.** Each team will debate three (3) rounds on the affirmative side and three (3) rounds on the negative side of the resolution in the preliminaries.

**Sec. 10. School Judging Qualifications**—School judges for state (2-speaker) debate tournaments shall meet the following qualifications:

- A. A judge must not have been a high school student or debater in the current school year.
- B. In a debate round, the judge should be able to take notes in a manner that allows him/her to chart the development of arguments as they progress through the round.
- C. A judge must have judged at an invitational tournament or on the topic during the current debate season.
- D. Immediate family members of a competitor, including at least those who live in the same household as that competitor, shall not judge in the same classification in which that competitor is entered.
- E. A judge must complete an electronic paradigm prior to the tournament in a format which can be shared among participating coaches prior to the tournament. Acceptable electronic paradigms include, but are not limited to, Tabroom.com or a Google Form created by the championship manager.

**Sec. 11. School Judging Requirements**—Each school is required to provide the following judge(s):

One (1) judge per 1-2 teams entered

Two (2) judges per 3 teams entered

Three (3) judges per 4 teams entered

If a judge is removed by a grievance committee for a **Rule 52** violation, the school coach will be required to serve as their replacement.

**Sec. 12. School Judging Responsibilities**—

- A. Prior to Round I, schools failing to provide the required judges shall have team(s) disqualified from the tournament.
- B. Schools failing to provide the required judges after Round I shall forfeit the round unless there is an unforeseen circumstance approved by the tournament manager. The team(s) to be dropped will be drawn at random by tabulation room staff.
- C. All school judges shall remain through the first full elimination round and are also obligated for any partial elimination round. Thereafter, school judges shall remain one round beyond the school team's elimination.

**Sec. 13. School Judging Classifications** — Judges shall judge within their school's classification during the preliminary rounds. During the elimination rounds, judges will cross over classifications in the following manner:

- A. One judge will be used in each preliminary round and panels of three judges will be used in each elimination round.



- B. **Double-Octafinals**—a panel of three judges from within their own classifications
- C. **Octafinals**—a panel of three judges from within their own classification
- D. **Quarterfinals**—a panel of three judges from within their own classification
- E. **Semifinals**—a panel of three judges comprised of one judge from each of the other three (3) classifications. If separate sites are used for 6A, 5A and 4A, 3-1A, then a panel of three judges from the other classification will judge (6A judges 5A and vice versa, 4A judges 3-1A and vice versa).
- F. **Finals**—a panel of three judges with judges from Class 6A judging Class 5A and vice versa. Judges from Class 4A will judge Class 3-1A and vice versa.

**Sec. 14.** The top eight teams in each classification will advance to the quarterfinal round based on total win/loss record, speaker points, opposition record and opposition points, in this order, to break any ties.

**Sec. 15. Spectators**—In state (2-speaker) debate tournaments **spectators may follow their own teams**. Tape recorders and video cameras may not be used.

**Sec. 16.** The tab room is open to both the head coach and/or assistant coach. NOTE: The tabulation room committee shall be appointed by the championship manager.

## 2-Speaker Debate Scheduling

### Registration

**Round I** will be randomly preset according to school code numbers based upon entries. Scheduling will be done by the host site manager and/or designated individuals prior to registration.

- A. Code numbers will be determined by the number of schools entered. EXAMPLE: If there are five schools entering four teams each, school code number 1 through 5 will have A, B, C and D teams, and so forth until there are code numbers equal to the number of teams entered in the specific classification. Assign half of these code numbers affirmative and half negative.
- B. At the tournament registration, schools with one team will draw for their code assignment from the pool of school code numbers with only one entry. Schools with two teams will draw from the pool of school codes with two entries. Schools with three or four teams will draw from their appropriate pool for code numbers.

### Round I

**Round I** will be scheduled adhering to the following restrictions:

- A. If a **bye** is necessary, it should be drawn first, before scheduling begins.
- B. If there is an uneven number of teams, a **bye** will be randomly drawn from the teams entered. No school may receive more than one **bye** in **Round I**.
- C. Teams will not meet the same team twice in preliminary rounds. No team will meet a team from its own school in preliminary rounds.
- D. During **Round I**, no school should meet the same school twice unless a small number of entries makes this unavoidable.

### Rounds II - VI

**Rounds II through VI** will be straight-power matched as follows:

- A. Definitions
  - 1. **Power:** Power shall be defined as win/loss record only.
  - 2. **Bracket:** A bracket shall be defined as those teams with the same win/loss record.
- B. If a **bye** is necessary, it should be given to the lowest ranked team based upon win/loss record and speaker points. If more than one team is eligible for the **bye**, a blind draw shall decide the **bye** from those teams eligible for the **bye**. Teams receiving a **bye** will have 1-2 wins recorded.
- C. Once the **bye** is decided, the power match cards should be sorted into groups containing the same number of wins.

1. A team is an independent unit and will be paired and assigned sides based upon its own record. The opponents debated or sides debated by other teams from its school are irrelevant and must not be considered when pairing or assigning sides.
  2. Starting with the **undefeated**, sort the cards into those due affirmative and those due negative.
  3. If there is an odd number of teams with like records, pull up the top team in the category with one less win needing to uphold the side which would best balance the affirmative/negative split. If more than one team is eligible, a blind draw should determine the team to break the brackets.
  4. Rank the cards in the affirmative and negative piles starting with the team with the fewest speaker ranks. Rank last any team pulled up from the lower bracket.
  5. Match the affirmative team with the lowest speaker ranks with the negative team with the lowest speaker ranks, and so on. Do not forget the “matching priorities” listed below.
  6. When there becomes an imbalance in affirmative and negative sides, blind draw to even the sides and continue matching.
  7. When the undefeated bracket is finished, move the one (1) loss bracket following the same procedure.
- D. Order of matching priorities:
1. A team will not meet another team from its own school in the **preliminary** rounds.
  2. Win/loss record
  3. Each team should debate three (3) affirmative rounds and three (3) negative rounds in the preliminaries. Teams will alternate sides within win/loss brackets. **Sides should be balanced as much as possible in Round IV and must be balanced in Round VI (unless it requires a team to meet its own school).** If side alternation cannot be preserved within brackets, then sides will be determined by blind draw to preserve brackets.
- In 2018, 5A piloted the following: sides will be balanced in Rounds IV and VI.
4. Teams who have met previously should not meet again unless no other match is possible due to higher priorities. If two teams meet a second time, sides should be switched.
  5. Speaker ranks
- E. Teams will break to elimination rounds based on the following:
1. Win/loss record
  2. Speaker points
  3. Opposition win/loss record
  4. Opposition speaker points
- F. In octafinals, quarterfinals and/or semifinals, brackets will be broken so that teams from the same school will not meet. During finals, teams from the same school may meet. The opponents debated, or sides debated, by other teams from the same school are irrelevant after the preset rounds. It is possible to meet the same school numerous times.
- In breaking brackets, the team with the stronger ranking should remain in its original position and the team with the weaker ranking should move. Keep the teams as close to their original rankings as possible (for example, adjust a team ranked 6 with 7 or 5).
- G. In semifinal and final rounds, if brackets can no longer be broken to avoid two teams from the same school meeting, the school head coach shall have the option of (1) holding the debate as scheduled or (2) selecting one team to advance as the winner of that round.

## “Small Tournament” 2-Speaker Debate Scheduling

### Registration

Round I will be randomly preset according to school code numbers based upon entries. Scheduling will be done by the host site manager and/or designated individuals prior to registration.

- A. Code numbers will be determined by the number of schools entered. EXAMPLE: If there are five schools entering four teams each, school code number 1 through 5 will have A, B, C and D teams, and so forth until there are code numbers equal to the number of teams entered in the specific classification. Assign half of these code numbers affirmative and half negative.
- B. At the tournament registration, schools with one team will draw for their code assignment from the pool of school code numbers with only one entry. Schools with two teams will draw from the pool of school codes with two entries. Schools with three or four teams will draw from their appropriate pool for code numbers.
- C. At tournament registration, if the entry pool is below 20 teams the tournament manager will be given the right to poll the participating coaches in order to adjust the amount of rounds in the tournament to five preliminary rounds.

## Round I

Round I will be scheduled adhering to the following restrictions:

- A. If a bye is necessary, it should be drawn first, before scheduling begins.
- B. If there is an uneven number of teams, a bye will be randomly drawn from the teams entered. No school may receive more than one bye in Round I.
- C. If the pool is above 20 entries, then teams will not meet the same team twice in preliminary rounds. However, if the pool is below 20 entries, teams will be allowed to meet the same team twice in preliminary rounds on opposite sides if it cannot be helped. No team will meet a team from its own school in preliminary rounds.

## Rounds II - VI

Rounds II through VI will be straight-power matched as follows:

- A. **Definitions**
  - 1. **Power:** Power shall be defined as win/loss record only.
  - 2. **Bracket:** A bracket shall be defined as those teams with the same win/loss record.
  - 3. **Five Rounds:** If there are five rounds the sides must be balanced going into Round IV.
- B. If a bye is necessary, it should be given to the lowest ranked team based upon win/loss record and speaker points. If more than one team is eligible for the bye, a blind draw shall decide the bye from those teams eligible for the bye. Teams receiving a bye will have 1-2 wins recorded.

## Computer Tabulation Option

Each year, the majority of coaches within a classification may vote to adopt the tabulation procedures below as a replacement for the "2-Speaker Debate Scheduling" procedures described in this Manual. If chosen, an online platform such as Tabroom.com shall serve as the electronic tab room for the tournament.

## Registration

- A. **Round I** will be randomly preset by computer draw after all teams have arrived. This random draw will be done without respect to sides; thus, a school may have more teams on the affirmative than on the negative, or vice versa. There shall be no code draw at registration.
- B. Schools shall be required to register the names of their competitors and judges, along with judge availability, using the selected online platform.

## Judge Assignment

- A. If available, the use of online balloting is recommended, but paper ballots generated by the tabulation software may be used as a backup option.
- B. Once software has selected the judges for a debate, those judges should only be removed in the case of (a) tabulation/pairing error, (b) judge recusal, or (c) changes in judge availability. If a judge replacement is needed, whenever possible, that replacement should be made randomly by two coaches who are not involved in the debate.

## Rounds II - VI

**Rounds II through VI** will be straight power matched as follows:

- A. Power shall be defined as SOP (seed + average opponents' seed).
- B. If a bye is necessary, it should be given to the lowest ranked team based upon power.
- C. The remaining rounds should be paired "Hi-Lo" within brackets. If a pull up is necessary, the teams to be pulled up should be those with the worst opposition seed using SOP.
- D. In rounds II, IV, and VI, sides shall be equalized. At no time should a team have two debates more on one side than the other.
- E. A team shall not meet another team from its own school.
- F. Teams who have met previously should not meet again unless no other match is possible. If two teams meet a second time, sides should be switched.
- G. The opponents debated, or sides debated, by other teams from the same school are irrelevant after the preset rounds. It is possible to meet the same school numerous times.

## Elimination Rounds

- A. Teams will break to elimination rounds based on the following:
  - 1. Win/loss record
  - 2. Speaker points (ranks)
  - 3. Opposition win/loss record
  - 4. Opposition speaker points (ranks)
- B. In elimination rounds, brackets will be broken whenever possible so that teams from the same school will not meet. In breaking brackets, the team with the stronger ranking should remain in its original position and the team with the weaker ranking should move. Keep the teams as close to their original rankings as possible (for example, adjust a team ranked 6 with 7 or 5). For the purpose of breaking brackets, teams who defeat a higher-seeded team should be considered as inheriting their seed; e.g., if the 16 seed defeats the 1 seed in the octafinal round, they should be considered as the 1 seed if quarterfinal brackets need to be broken.

## Information for Regional and State Managers

### Assignments

Schools which have paid their fees for the initial registration and the regional (4-speaker) debate tournaments, shall receive notification of their assigned center and manager on the KSHSAA website ([www.khsaa.org](http://www.khsaa.org)>Non-Athletic>Debate).

### Awards

Trophies and medals will be sent to each KSHSAA debate manager several weeks in advance. **First and second place plaques and medals shall be awarded at regional debate tournaments.** First, second and third place trophies shall be awarded at state debate tournaments, as well as first, second and third place medals. Fourth place and octafinal medals will be presented at state (2-speaker) debate tournaments. If awards are not received in perfect condition, please notify the KSHSAA immediately.

With open tab rooms, all coaches are responsible for double checking results throughout the tournament. Consequently **all results are final** once announced at the awards assembly.

### Expenses

- **The host sites for regional (4-speaker) debate tournaments shall receive 35% of the receipts + \$100 stipend for expenses.**
- **The host site for the state (4-speaker) debate tournament shall receive 35% of the receipts for expenses.**
- **The host site for the state (2-speaker) debate tournament shall receive 35% of the receipts for expenses.**
- **A complete report of all expenses shall be sent to the KSHSAA**

## Fees

Regional tournament fees will be sent to your regional festival host site. The entry form is available online at [www.kshsaa.org](http://www.kshsaa.org) (see principal for school's code and password).

State tournament invoices will be emailed to athletic directors by the KSHSAA. The entry form is available online at [www.kshsaa.org](http://www.kshsaa.org) (see principal for school's code and password).

**NOTE:** *The submission of the entries will be a commitment by the school to pay all fees, including cancellations, additions and penalties.*

## Scheduling

- Regional and state tournaments should begin on Friday afternoon, unless the number of entrants makes it possible to schedule a one-day event on Saturday.
- It is recommended no more than five rounds shall be scheduled at regional or state tournaments for one day and no more than four rounds may be scheduled for a half-day period.
- Each debate during each round shall have a timekeeper whose duties shall be to ascertain whether correct teams and judge are present. The timekeeper shall hand the judge the correct envelope for that round of debate and shall collect the sealed envelope at the conclusion of the debate, to be delivered to the tournament manager. It shall be the duty of the timekeeper to report any disturbances which might affect the speakers.
- In an opening assembly, welcome coaches and debaters. Give coaches information regarding the meeting place, room locations and eating establishments. Advise them of tournament procedure and regulations.
- Awards shall be presented in an auditorium or large room where all participants can be seated. The manager will be in charge of the presentations.
- After ballots are counted, the original copy shall be retained by the manager and the carbon copies shall be given to the coaches of the respective teams. **All original copies shall be sent by the manager to the KSHSAA with the reports.**
- Regional decisions shall be faxed or texted to the KSHSAA on Saturday after the awards assembly.

## Information for Debate Judges

The following information should be given to each judge before the tournament:

The judges, who shall sit apart during the debate, shall judge the contest as a debate, voting "affirmative" or "negative" without consultation, on the merits of the debate, irrespective of the merits of the question. In deciding which team has done the more effective debating, the judges shall take into consideration thought and delivery in constructive, cross-examination period and rebuttal speeches. Each judge shall sign and seal his/her vote and deliver it to a teller appointed by the tournament director. Rebuttal speeches shall be directed against the argument of the opposing speakers. If, in the opinion of the judges, the rebuttal speeches seem to be memorized and given without specific reference to the argument of the opponents, the judges shall discount the argument accordingly.

## Debate Decisions

- A. The judge shall vote "affirmative" or "negative" on the merits of the debate, irrespective of the merits of the question.
- B. Do not allow any spectator to distract the speaker. Do not interrupt the speakers during or between speeches. Only comments of a general nature relative to the debate should be made following the conclusion of the round.
- C. Rank each individual speaker 1, 2, 3, 4. (The best speaker will be No. 1.) No two individual speakers are to receive the same ranking. The **winning** team may receive **equal** but **not more** total speaking points than the **losing** team.

## Debate Judges

The following criteria shall be used for selecting regional and state tournament debate judges:

- A. Two school judges for regional and state (4-speaker) debate tournaments shall be provided by participating schools. (See **Sec. 11**, page 21.)
- B. Community judges for regional and state (4-speaker) tournaments shall be provided by the host school.

- C. Judge(s) for state (2-speaker) debate tournaments shall be provided by participating schools. (See **Sec. 11**, page 24.)
- D. **School judges** for regional and state (2-speaker and 4-speaker) debate tournaments shall meet the following qualifications:
  - 1. A judge must not have been a high school student or debater for 12 consecutive months, beginning July 1 following the judge's graduation from high school.
  - 2. In a debate round, the judge should be able to take notes in a manner that allows him/her to chart the development of arguments as they progress through the round.
  - 3. A judge must have judged at an invitational tournament or on the topic during the current debate season.

In preparing for the assignments, all judges are asked to study the *"Information for Debate Judges"* or the *KSHSAA Debate, Speech and Drama Manual* sections which pertain to ballots and regulations governing regional and state tournaments. This information shall be supplied by the school or host providing the judges.

Judges are asked to report any disturbances or infraction of the rules to the manager.

**No smoking is allowed where an event is being held**, nor may smokeless tobacco in any form be used.

# ADMINISTRATION OF SPEECH AND DRAMA

## Individual Eligibility

The provisions of the Eligibility Rules shall apply to all pupils who participate in the interschool speech and drama activities. Rules governing these events are found in the *KSHSAA Handbook* under **Rule 47, Debate and Speech**.

A ninth grade junior high school student may participate in senior high school forensic and drama events with the approval of both principals, provided both schools are under the same board of education or school board. A student who does this shall be ineligible for further junior high school competition in that activity.

## Individual Awards — KSHSAA Handbook, Rule 20

### Interpretations

**Question 1:** May the members of the winning team in an invitational tournament or festival receive trophies or gifts?

**Answer: No.** Medals are the only type of individual recognition which may be given to the individual members of a winning team.

**Question 2:** May an individual student receive an **award** as the outstanding speaker of the year from their school?

**Answer: Yes.** KSHSAA **Awards Rule 20-I-a** sets forth guidelines for allowable awards.

**Question 3:** May an outside agency give the outstanding **speaker** or **actor** of the year a trophy or gift?

**Answer: No.** Please study **Rule 20 - Awards**, before presenting or accepting any individual awards, or any awards from outside agencies.

**Question 4:** May an outside agency give the **school** a plaque with a plate for the engraved name of the outstanding speaker or actor?

**Answer: Yes,** provided the plaque is given to and retained by the school.

## Approval of Event, Sanctions — KSHSAA Handbook, Bylaw XIV

Managers issuing invitations to out-of-state schools must apply for official sanction from the Association office one month (30 days) in advance of their tournament. State associations will not grant permission for their schools to participate unless they receive approval from the KSHSAA. *KSHSAA Handbook Article XIV, Section 4*, states:

**Sec. 4.** Any KSHSAA **member school** desiring to host an out-of-state member school or to participate in an out-of-state activity shall limit travel distance in dual competition (two schools) so it shall not exceed **500 road miles** from the border (perimeter) of the state of Kansas. KSHSAA **member schools** desiring to host or participate in a multiple-inter-scholastic event (three or more schools) involving an out-of-state school(s) shall be limited to those within **500 road miles** of the border (perimeter) of the state of Kansas.

Each event must be approved by the KSHSAA **and the out-of-state high school's association**. Such approval must be initiated by the host member school not later than 30 days prior to the date of the activity. Application forms are provided by the KSHSAA or the out-of-state high school's association.

**EXCEPTION:** The Executive Board may approve interstate activities for individual schools when mileage is in excess of those stated provided the travel distance is less than for a similar event in Kansas. When a KSHSAA member school competes with an out-of-state school, it may not waive or exceed any KSHSAA standards.

**The following is KSHSAA's position on students who do not follow KSHSAA rules, particularly concerning the 500 road mile Bylaw XIV.**

*If a student who is a member of a school's team chooses to attend a:*

- *Non-sanctioned KSHSAA competition or event, or*
- *Competition or event beyond the sanctioned 500 road mile limit Bylaw XIV, the student/the school clearly violates KSHSAA policy and will be subject to KSHSAA penalties.*

*If a student chooses not to be on a school's team and operates as an "independent" competitor or team, the student would not be under the bylaws, rules and policies of the KSHSAA. However, the school cannot provide financial support for entry fees and/or travel expenses. No adult school representation/coach will be allowed to accompany student(s) as "independent(s)." The school and school coach cannot be involved. (This does not prevent a student from being enrolled in an academic class for credit during school hours only.)*

## Speech Rules Meetings Are Required

All high school speech and drama head coaches are **required to attend** a KSHSAA sponsored speech and drama rules meeting each year. This year coaches will have an option of attending a face-to-face meeting or completing the requirement online. The online meeting will be available for credit from August 18 until October 3. Instructions for how to log on and view the online meeting will be available online. The Debate, Speech & Drama Manual will be mailed to athletic directors by early August. Coaches attending a face-to-face meeting should bring the speech attendance form and turn it in at the face-to-face meeting. This form is available online at [www.kshsaa.org](http://www.kshsaa.org) (see principal/AD for school's code and coach's password). Schools with coaches failing to attend a face-to-face meeting or complete the online meeting by October 3 will be subject to a \$100 fine and their school will be listed in the Activities Journal.

## A Code of Ethics for Speech Activities

School administrators and coaches are responsible for the actions of their students and sponsors. The Code of Ethics should be considered a minimum list of suggested responsibilities. Failure to comply with the Code will result in disciplinary action by the KSHSAA.

- A. The coach or sponsor shall be present or available at all times for supervision of students at the activity. (This includes time spent in motels and hotels.)
- B. Vandalism, use of intoxicants and illegal drugs, or other conduct unbecoming a school representative shall not be tolerated.
- C. Coaches shall direct any criticism only to the tournament managers and to the KSHSAA.
- D. Care should be exercised by those schools hosting tournaments that pre-tournament programs, awards and after-tourney activities for students, coaches and sponsors should contain nothing in poor taste or offensive to the visitors.
- E. Students and coaches shall conduct themselves in a courteous manner while attending tournaments.
- F. It is recommended that students shall be in their respective rooms by 11 p.m.; lights out by 11:30 p.m.
- G. It shall be the responsibility of all coaches to report any violations of this code to the coach and/or administration of the offending individual. An approved list of sponsors, sanctioned by the Board of Education, shall be used to supervise overnight trips by speech students. A tournament form, located in the *Debate, Speech & Drama Manual*, shall be used by all schools hosting invitational debate or speech contests. This form should be used to report the general conduct of participants, supervision of students, sportsmanship, etc., as per the Code of Ethics listed above.



# SPEECH & DRAMA FESTIVALS AND TOURNAMENTS

## KSHSAA Speech and Drama Regulations

**Sec. 1.** The Executive Board shall have authority to sanction speech and drama festivals and tournaments, and formulate regulations for their administration.

A. An annual participation fee for each school represented in speech activities shall be set by the Executive Board.

**Sec. 2. Student Eligibility**—The *KSHSAA Handbook*, **Rule 47** states: Students representing member schools in **speech and drama** activities shall be required to meet the same qualifications as those representing their school in all other interscholastic activities. A list of students shall be certified on the official eligibility form (**Form CW**) to be **retained by the school** prior to the first speech tournament. *Non-Athletic Activity Eligibility Worksheets (Form CW)* are available online at [www.kshsaa.org](http://www.kshsaa.org) (see principal for school's code).

**Sec. 3. Speech and Drama season**—

A. Speech and drama festivals or tournaments shall not begin prior to the Friday of SCW #27.

B. Speech and drama activities shall culminate with the KSHSAA State Speech Festivals and Championships.

**Sec. 4. Judging**—No student (grades 7-12) may judge at invitational, regional or state speech and drama festivals/tournaments. Schools may be required to provide judges for a number of rounds as specified by the host manager. *EXCEPTION: Third and fourth year experienced forensics students will be allowed to judge at novice forensics tournaments as long as that information is included in the invitation by the host school.*

**Sec. 5. Supervisor**—No team (or student) shall represent his/her school at any time in connection with interscholastic speech activities unless accompanied by a coach or another appointed advisor. **The appointed person must remain at the activity.**

**Sec. 6.** Tape recorders, cell phones and/or **video cameras** are prohibited during performances at **invitational, regional and state** speech and drama festivals/tournaments.

**Sec. 7. Royalties**—The Association assumes no responsibilities for the payment of royalties or other fees connected with the performance of any material at a speech tournament. In the event a challenge by the representative or holder of the copyrighted material is filed with any invitational, league, regional or state contest manager regarding whether material has received proper clearance for performance, the performing school will be required to verify payment of royalty or clearance for use. Failure to provide such verification will result in disqualification for the school in that event(s).

**Sec. 8. Duplication**—

A. A student shall be disqualified for competition the day of the festival/tournament for duplicating the speech and/or cutting selection at that festival/tournament in any two competitive events at invitationals, regional and state festivals/tournaments. (*e.g. If a student performs Act I of a play in Duet Acting, performing Act III of the same play in Solo Acting would be a violation of Sec. 8a.*)

B. A student cannot repeat the same selection, cutting or speech more than one season of activity (*see Sec. 3*). Violation of this policy will result in disqualification.

**Sec. 9. Acting and Interpretation Events**

In all acting and interpretation events, participants will adhere to the language of the original published work with minimal adaptation for transition.

**Sec. 10. Definition of Published**—Selections must come from literature that is published and copyrighted. "Published" literature shall be defined as any material that is available to the general public with the exception of original material published by local high school publications such as a newspaper, literary magazine or yearbook.

Scripts from the Internet are acceptable if they include:

A. a receipt or photocopy of the receipt of purchase for the complete work from commercial sources, or

B. proof of current Internet source's existence, such as its inclusion on an electric-reader or indication of valid URL.

**Sec. 11. Disqualification**— Disqualification shall be interpreted to mean: the individual entry in violation is removed from the festival or tournament immediately and ALL tournament sweepstakes earned for that entry shall be forfeited. This counts as one (1) of their eight (8) tournaments.

**Sec. 12. Unacceptable Behavior**—No **individual** (student, coach, parent, relative, friend, etc.) shall negatively confront a judge during a speech festival/tournament. An infraction by a **student competitor** will result in disqualification and loss of all awards, ratings/rankings and school sweepstakes points. An infraction by a **coach or observer** shall result in a letter of **reprimand** sent to the school's administrator by the KSHSAA. Further action may be taken by the KSHSAA Executive Board.

## Invitational Festivals and Tournaments

**Sec. 1. Speech Competitions**—No student may represent his/her high school in more than **eight** competitive speech events, either invitational or duals, including league and out-of-state. Each student is limited to **seven** competitive speech events, except that should his/her school host an in-person league or invitational tournament, then he/she may participate in eight competitive speech events. If a school attempts to host a tournament and is unable to do so, it may appeal to the Executive Board for a waiver of this regulation to permit its students to enter eight tournaments.

**Sec. 2.** Unless otherwise stated by the **host school**, it will be understood the KSHSAA regional and state speech guidelines will apply to invitational tournaments.

### **Sec. 3. Types of tournaments—**

- A. **Novice:** A novice tournament shall be defined as one for those students in their first season of competitive speech. A novice shall be defined as a student in his/her first season of competitive speech. *NOTE: A novice who participates in an open tournament does not lose his/her status as a novice for further novice tournaments.*
- B. **Open:** An open tournament shall be defined as one in which both novice and experienced speech students may participate.

**Sec. 4.** The KSHSAA **does not provide** topics for the Extemporaneous Speech or the Improvised Duet Acting events at invitational festivals. The Association **does provide** the topics for regional and state festivals and state speech championships.

**Sec. 5. Awards**—No trophy shall be awarded to any student for individual achievement in any event. *Any award, other than a ribbon, certificate or medal, is considered to be in the same category as a trophy.*

**Sec. 6 Virtual Tournaments**—Schools may host and attend virtual invitational tournaments. Virtual tournaments still count towards the 7 or 8 in which a student may participate, and schools must host an in-person tournament for their students to be eligible to compete in 8 invitational tournaments. All KSHSAA handbook rules, such as the 500 road mile rule, must still be followed in virtual competition.

**Ballots** — Judges' ballots may be obtained from the KSHSAA. See debate and speech order form in this manual.

# REGIONAL AND STATE SPEECH & DRAMA FESTIVALS

## Regional Speech and Drama Festivals - April 18, 2026

Entries must be submitted online on or before April 2

## State Speech and Drama Festivals - May 2, 2026

- One-Act Plays with dual entered students will be on Friday, May 1, 2026
- Entries must be submitted online on or before April 20

Assignments to regional festivals for all schools and locations of regional and state festival sites will be found on the KSHSAA website ([www.kshsaa.org](http://www.kshsaa.org)>Non-Athletic>Speech).

## Festival Regulations

**Sec. 1.** The Executive Board shall have authority to sanction regional and state speech and drama festivals, individual events and formulate regulations for their administration. **NOTE: Schools are to enter their nearest state festival site or the festival site located in conjunction with their state championship. Schools may not enter their students (grades 9-12) in more than one festival site.**

**Sec. 2.** In events where schools participate according to classes, the classification shall be the same as **State Speech Championship (6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A).**

**Sec. 3.** Participants in all regional and state speech and drama festivals shall be rated according to a four-point scale, those in the highest class of performers to receive First Division ratings. The others shall be given Second Division, Third Division or Fourth Division ratings in keeping with the decisions of the judges.

**Sec. 4. Entries—** *The names of the participants and the titles of their selections must be placed on the entry blank for the regional and state festivals.* If a student is entered in two events, it must be so indicated.

- A. At the **regional and state festivals** each school shall have **unlimited individual entries, plus one one-act play.**
- B. Each student may represent his/her school in no more than three events, in addition to being a member of a one-act play cast. **No student may enter twice in the same event.**
- C. An individual student may **not** enter both state championship and state festival even though he/she may have qualified for both. **EXCEPTION: One-Act Play participants may enter both state championship and state festival, in such case their one-act play will be scheduled on Friday.**

**Sec. 5. Entry Fees—** Entry fees as set by the Executive Board shall be charged for each participant in both the regional and state speech and drama festivals.

- A. **All schools will be assigned to their closest regional, whether they choose to participate or not.**
- B. **Fees—**Entries will be submitted online at [www.kshsaa.org](http://www.kshsaa.org) (see principal for school's code). The submission of entries will be a commitment by the school to pay all fees, including cancellations, additions and penalties.
- C. **Penalty—** The maximum penalty which can be assessed against any school for late entries shall be a double entry fee. The penalty fee will be a minimum of \$12, maximum of \$50.

**Sec. 6. Substitutions—** Pupils who have qualified for state speech and drama festivals may be substituted in only two instances. Twenty-five percent of a one-act play cast may be substituted. Should a school have qualified a number of entries in an event using the tournament method, then any of the qualifiers may be used at state festival. No substitutions will be allowed the day of the State Speech and Drama Festival.

**Sec. 7.** The state shall be divided into a convenient number of regions and the Association shall sponsor speech and drama festivals in those regions, the time and place of each to be determined by the Executive Board.

**Sec. 8. State Qualifications** –Participants may qualify for State Speech and Drama Festival by any one of the following methods:

- A. Attend a regional festival and receive a **First Division** rating.
- B. Participate in an invitational, open or league festival at which at least **five** schools are in attendance, receive a **First Division** rating and receive a **ranking** that meets the qualifying standards for individual events (see box below).
- C. Participate in an invitational, novice, open or league tournament at which at least **five** schools are in attendance and receive a **ranking** that meets the qualifying standards for individual events (see box below).

Qualifying standards for individual events:

- 6-10 entries in the event - **first and second place** qualify
- 11-15 entries in the event - **first, second, third and fourth place** qualify
- 16-19 entries in the event - **first, second, third, fourth and fifth place** qualify
- 20+ entries in the event - **first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth place** qualify

Qualifying standards for One-Act Plays: (seven school requirement does not apply)

- 2-3 plays perform - **first division** rating and a **first place** ranking
- 4-5 plays perform - **first division** rating and a **first or second place** ranking
- 6 or more plays perform - **first division** rating and a **first, second or third place** ranking

NOTE: Students from the **host school** may participate and qualify for state speech and drama festivals.

**Sec. 9. Timekeepers**— No participant shall be disqualified from receiving a First Division rating for time violations if an official timekeeper has not been assigned by the tournament manager, and/or is not present in the room when the event takes place. The judge shall not serve as official timekeeper. Timekeepers shall be assigned for Extemporaneous Speech and Improvised Duet Acting FIRST. **NOTE: See "Time Procedures and Penalties," pages 37-38.**

**Sec 10. Disqualification**— Disqualification in any individual event shall be interpreted to mean: the individual entry in violation is removed from the regional or state festival immediately and all ratings forfeited.

## Information for Festival Managers and Coaches

### Awards

**Medals** shall be presented to all **First Division** winners in **regional** festivals, including an individual medal for each member of a one-act play, duet acting and improvised duet acting event. **Certificates** shall be presented to all **Second Division** winners, including an individual certificate for each member of a one-act play, duet acting and improvised duet acting event.

**Medals** shall be awarded to all individuals winning a **First Division** rating in **state** festivals, including each member of a one-act play, duet acting and improvised duet acting cast. **Certificates** shall be awarded to all **Second Division** winners, including each member of a one-act play, duet acting and improvised duet acting cast.

It is suggested that local managers **NOT** fill out the certificates at the time of presentation. Schools appreciate the opportunity to choose the type of lettering to be used on the awards earned by their students.

### Entries Allowed

Each school may enter the following 12 events in any combination: Original Oratory, Informative Speech (7 or 10), Extemporaneous Speech, Humorous Solo Acting, Serious Solo Acting, Duet Acting, Oral Interpretation of Prose, Oral Interpretation of Poetry, Improvised Duet Acting, Impromptu, Program of Oral Interpretation and One-Act Play.

**Regional:** Each school has unlimited individual entries, plus one one-act play.

*NOTE: No student may enter three times in the same event, and no student may enter in more than three events in addition to being a member of a one-act play cast.*

**State:** Each school has unlimited individual entries, plus one one-act play.

*NOTE: Names of participants and titles of selections MUST be included on STATE entry forms. No student may enter twice in the same event, and no student may enter in more than three events in addition to being a member of a one-act play cast.*

## Regional Entry Forms

**Regional entries must be submitted online at [www.kshsaa.org](http://www.kshsaa.org).** Schools with a one-act play must complete the Regional One-Act Stage Setting form and email it to the regional manager by April 2.

On the day of the festival, the speech instructor will report to the registration desk, report any cancellations and pick up enough ballots for each entry submitted. The student will fill out the top portion of this ballot before submitting it to the judge just before presenting the selection. The form is then sent to the tabulating room to be used in entering the rating for each student.

## State Entry Forms

**State entries must be submitted online at [www.kshsaa.org](http://www.kshsaa.org).** The state festival will be scheduled by the state manager. Schools with a one-act play must complete the State One-Act Stage Setting form and email it to the state manager by April 20.

## Expenses

**Regional:** Hosts shall be allowed 30% of the receipts for general operating expenses (*telephone calls, stationery, postage, stage crews, hospitality room, etc.*). If the remaining 70% of the receipts is not sufficient to pay judges' fees, travel and meals, the KSHSAA will make up any deficit.

Report forms are provided by the KSHSAA. Send expense reports and judge evaluations to Megan Hagaman, KSHSAA, 601 SW Commerce, Topeka, KS 66615 or email [mhagaman@kshsaa.org](mailto:mhagaman@kshsaa.org).

**State:** The KSHSAA pays all judges and allows the host 30% of the receipts for general operating expenses (*stationery, stage crews, postage, phone calls, hospitality room, etc.*)

## Fees

A fee shall be charged for each entrant in each event, including each member of a one-act play, duet acting and improvised duet acting cast. If a student enters more than one event, he/she shall pay a fee for both. (*No student may enter in more than two events.*)

All regional and state speech IE entry fees are \$12 per student. Fees for a One-Act Play are \$10 per member with a \$30 minimum and \$50 maximum. Regional fees will be sent to the regional host manager. State invoices will be emailed to athletic directors by the KSHSAA.

Penalties: Schools sending late entries shall be admitted only upon payment of a double entry fee, total not to exceed \$50. The submission of entries will be a commitment by the school to pay all fees, including cancellations, additions and penalties.

**Festival Judges:** All judges are assigned by the KSHSAA. They will be emailed expense sheets and "Important Festival Information for Judges."

Judges will receive an honorarium, plus all **receipted** expenses including transportation and meal expenses. Judges are expected to travel together as assigned. **Judges assigned to regional and state festivals shall present a completed expense form to their festival manager or the KSHSAA for payment.**

Judges will study the rules, ballots, manager's regulations and entry forms. The number or percentage ratings given in each division is determined by the assigned judge. It is hoped that he/she will require a high standard of performance for a First Division rating.

- A. It is suggested that the judge listen to four or five performances before rating the students in order to establish a standard, **but then should rate each performance immediately following its presentation.** Judges are asked to help create a festival atmosphere so that those attending will find it a learning experience rather than a contest.
- B. Written comments from judges concerning the different phases of the festival will be welcomed. Judges' reactions to students, directors, managers, assistants, schedule plans and general arrangements can aid in improving these events. Managers are asked to send comments of this nature to the KSHSAA.
- C. Judges are not to criticize coaches in front of their students for the selection of any speech material or play.
- D. The following standards of the **Four Rating Plan** will assist in arriving at ratings for presentations. **Use no plus or minus signs with ratings.**

**Rating I** — An outstanding presentation with few technical errors and exemplifying a truly excellent presentation. **This rating should be reserved for the truly outstanding performance.**

**Rating II** — A good presentation in many respects, but not worthy of the highest rating due to minor defects in presentation techniques or interpretation. The presentation usually shows the results of sound, fundamental training, but lacks the polish and finesse to qualify for Rating I.

**Rating III** — A presentation showing accomplishment and marked promise. Lacks one or more essential qualities and indicates room for improvement in many of the fundamental items listed on the judge's comment sheet.

**Rating IV** — A poor presentation with many technical errors, poor speech conception and lack of interpretation. This classification represents a presentation which is generally weak and uncertain. There are numerous errors and the presentation reveals basic weakness in most of the fundamental facts listed on the judge's comment sheet.

## Scheduling

Managers will do everything possible to arrange schedules to benefit all concerned. **Requests for special consideration must be sent with entries.** It is to be understood, however, that no changes can be made after the programs are completed. Several days prior to the festival, schedules will be posted online.

Schools traveling the greater distances should be scheduled later than those within the immediate area. Try to schedule all entrants from one school during the same half day. Attempt to schedule one-act plays according to school classifications—Classes 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A.

Managers may schedule the festival by using the school name or a number assigned the school, and numbers or letters as identification for each student in each event.

Do not arrange schools in a block pattern. For example, schools X, Y and Z should not be judged by the same judge for more than one event. Neither shall these three schools be grouped together in more than one division.

Two entries from the same school shall not follow each other on the program. When possible, the two entries should have different judges. Please list all schools entered on a separate sheet at the beginning of your program. This will prevent overlooking anyone when the programs are mailed.

Please do not request coaches to present one-act plays before they have had their designated 15 minutes.

## Programming

Judges should be scheduled for events in which the KSHSAA has stated they are qualified. Judges may be assigned to multiple events. Judges are to be notified when they are to report for their day's assignment. Advise them when judging ballots are to be collected.

See that timekeepers and doorkeepers receive a program schedule. Notify them of the time when ballots are to be collected from judges. Instruct them not to allow visitors to enter the room during a performance.

***When program is completed, please email one copy to [mhagaman@kshsaa.org](mailto:mhagaman@kshsaa.org).***

## Time Procedures and Penalties

- A. Performances in all events shall be within set time limits.

EVENT	MINIMUM TIME	MAXIMUM TIME
One-Act Play	15	30
Improvised Duet Acting	4	7
Duet Acting (Humorous and Serious)		10
Solo Acting (Humorous and Serious)		10
Prose Interpretation		7
Poetry Interpretation		7
Program Oral Interp		10
Original Oration		10
Informative Speaking		7
Extemporaneous Speaking		7
Impromptu Speaking		5

- B. **If no official timekeeper is present, no participant(s) or event shall be penalized. THE JUDGE SHALL NOT SERVE AS THE OFFICIAL TIMEKEEPER.**
- C. If a tablet, laptop or similar viewable electronic device is made available to the timekeeper, the screen with a running clock may be displayed to the competitor during their performance in lieu of timecards. The competitor may request that time either count up or down depending on their preference.
- D. Timekeepers shall be at least middle/junior high age.
- E. If an **official timekeeper** is present:
1. Time shall be **visible** to the performer(s).
    - Sit where you can be easily seen by the performer, but not where you will be distracting or obvious. The best position is to the side and in front of the judge.
    - A stopwatch is recommended. A timepiece with some method of keeping track of the seconds is essential.
    - Time cards (if used) shall be visible and easily read. The minimum acceptable size is 3 x 5, with written numbers of at least 1/4-inch in width. The set shall include a "1/2"-time card and a "STOP" card.
    - The card shall be continuously visible. Do not simply flash it as the time changes. This is extremely distracting.
    - Count DOWN. Begin with the card for the time limit of the event and after one minute has passed lay that card down so that the next number appears. It is helpful if, when there are 15 seconds left, you turn the "1/2"-time card sideways.
  2. Timing is to begin when the performer initiates the performance by either word or action. Introductions are to be considered part of the performance and be included in the timing.
    - Do NOT call "time" or say "stop" when the time limit is reached. After the "STOP" card goes up, there shall be a 15-second grace period.
    - When the performance has exceeded 15 seconds, the timekeeper shall stand, holding the "STOP" card and keep timing until the performance is over.
    - If the performer is overtime, report time to the judge. Otherwise do not give time to the judge unless it is requested.
  3. One-Act Play: The use of time cards or similar procedures indicating time to performers may be omitted for One-Act Play since darkened performance halls often make it impossible to see.
- F. Overtime Performances:
1. Any performance in excess of the 15-second grace period shall not receive the First Division rating.
  2. Any performance under the four-minute minimum time limit in Improvised Duet Acting shall not receive the First Division rating.
  3. One-Act Play performances which do not fall within the time limits of the event (grace period included) shall not receive a First Division rating. *Note: At invitational speech tournaments where rankings are given, One-Act Play performances shall **NOT** be awarded the First Place ranking for time limit violations.*

## Materials

The KSHSAA will provide the following materials:

**Awards**—Medals for First Division winners at regional and state festivals. Second Division Certificates can be filled out and printed off directly from the KSHSAA website.

**Certificate of Recognition**—Certificate for each event participant at state festivals. These can be filled out and printed off directly from the KSHSAA website.

**Extemporaneous Speech Topics**—A list of topics will be provided for every regional and state festival site. *(See Extemporaneous Speech event description section for explanation.)*

**Improvised Duet Acting Topics**—A list of topics will be provided for every regional and state festival site. *(See Improvised Duet Acting event description for explanation.)*

**Impromptu Speech Topics**—A list of topics will be provided for every regional and state festival site. *(See Impromptu Speech event description for explanation.)*

**Judges' Ballots**—Supplies will be sent for each event to the festival manager.

# STATE SPEECH CHAMPIONSHIP

## State Speech Championship - May 2, 2026

Lincoln-Douglas Debate will be Friday, May 1, 2026

Entries must be submitted online on or before April 20.

Late entries will not be accepted after April 22.

Location of the championship sites for each classification will be found on the KSHSAA website ([www.kshsaa.org](http://www.kshsaa.org)>Non-Athletic>Speech) and in the *Spring Activities Journal*.

## Championship Regulations

**Sec 1.** The Executive Board shall have authority to sanction State Speech Championships, individual events and formulate regulations for their administration.

**Sec. 2.** In events where schools participate according to classes, the classification shall be Class 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A.

### Sec. 3. Entries—

- A. Each school shall be limited to a maximum number of 16 entries in any combination of the nine/eleven events selected by its respective classification.
- B. Each classification will be allowed to choose what events would be offered for its own championships.
  - Eleven events will be selected on a three-year cycle for **ALL** classifications.
  - The events receiving the most votes will be selected for that classification.
  - All events must be ones which are listed in the KSHSAA *Speech & Drama Manual*.
  - If a classification chooses to split an event, BOTH divisions must be taken (e.g., serious duet and humorous duet) and count as two event selections.
  - Event selection balloting will occur at the fall rules meeting for the spring season.
  - This selection process does NOT affect L-D Debate, One-Act Play or regional and state festivals.
- C. Each school shall be allowed a maximum of two Lincoln-Douglas debaters. L-D debaters may be **triple**-entered in individual events on Saturday.

**Sec. 4. State Qualifications—**Participants shall have qualified in the following ways:

- A. Qualified in an **“Open”** tournament in which at least **five** schools are in attendance.
  - An individual may participate but not qualify in his/her school's own invitational tournament for state champs but may qualify for state festival.
- B. Must have received final ranking as result of participating in at least two preliminary rounds and final round, at least one of which was conducted live in-person or synchronously in a virtual setting, rather than via pre-recorded video.
- C. Qualifying standards:
  - 6-25 entries in the event - **first and second place** qualify
  - 26-40 entries in the event - **first, second and third place** qualify
  - 41-60 entries in the event - **first, second, third and fourth place** qualify
  - 61-80 entries in the event - **first, second, third, fourth and fifth place** qualify
  - 81- above entries in the event - **first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth place** qualify

*NOTE: Qualification is based on actual entries competing—not the total entries in the event.*



D. **Previous Qualification** - When a student places in a qualifying position in an event that they have previously qualified, the tournament manager will mark that entry as "PQ" on the KSHSAA report form. The next highest placing entry in finals who is not previously qualified will earn a state qualification. Only entries who compete in the final round are eligible to be moved up for a state qualification.

E. An individual student may **not** enter both state championship and state festival even though he/she may have qualified for both. *EXCEPTION: One-Act Play participants may enter both state championship and state festival, in such case their one-act play will be scheduled on Friday.* L-D state festival competition will be scheduled on Friday; thus L-D participants may also enter either state championship or state festival individual events on Saturday.

F. **Like Events (DI and SSA or HI and HSA or DUO and Duet Acting)**—A student **MUST** qualify **twice to double enter** in like events. A student who qualifies for SSA in an invitational tournament may enter DI at state or vice versa. A student who qualifies for HI in an invitational tournament may enter HSA at state or vice versa. A student who qualifies for DUO in an invitational tournament may enter Duet Acting at state or vice versa. Obviously at state, in each of these cases, they must comply with all rules of the specific event they enter.

G. Lincoln-Douglas debate requires no qualification for state speech championships, thus L.D. students may compete in their own tournaments unlike IE and Debate.

H. All 3-1A Lincoln-Douglas entries will be combined and this tournament will be held and managed by the 3A State Championship site.

**Sec. 5.** Each student is limited to three events and may not enter twice in the same event. *NOTE: Students may enter only one "Draw" or "Preparation" event, with the exception of Impromptu. A student may enter L-D and three individual events.*

**Sec. 6.** Event definitions, time limits, subject matter, etc., as described in this manual for the individual events, shall be the same for regional and state speech and drama festivals and state speech championships.

**Sec. 7. Timekeepers**— No participant shall be penalized for time violations if an official timekeeper has not been assigned by the tournament manager, and/or is not present in the room when the event takes place. **The judge shall not serve as official timekeeper.** Timekeepers shall be assigned to Impromptu Speaking, Extemporaneous Speech and Improvised Duet Acting FIRST.

For the 2025-2026 Season in Class 6A, 5A and 1A the following pilot language will apply to Timekeepers: The Judge may serve as the official timekeeper. (See Page 46-47 for Timekeeping procedures and penalties.)

**Sec. 8. Awards**— First through sixth place medals shall be awarded in each individual event by classification. A sweepstakes trophy for first, second and third place shall be awarded in each classification.

With open tab rooms, all coaches are responsible for double checking results throughout the tournament. Consequently **all results are final** once announced at the awards assembly.

**Sec. 9. Judging Requirements**— Each school is required to provide the following judge(s) to serve during preliminary, semifinal and final rounds of the tournament:

**School Judge Requirements:**

One (1) judge per 1-4 entries

Two (2) judges per 5-8 entries

Three (3) judges per 9-12 entries

Four (4) judges per 13-16 entries

School judges shall remain one round beyond the school team's elimination in order to ensure an adequate judging pool for the elimination rounds. In addition to this requirement, any school participating in Lincoln-Douglas debate shall bring an extra judge for that event. **A school not providing the required number of judges shall have one or more entries disqualified from competition** unless there is an unforeseen circumstance approved by the championship manager. If a judge is removed by a grievance committee for a Rule 52 violation, the school coach will be required to serve as their replacement.

**Sec. 10. Judging Qualifications**— School judges for state speech championships shall meet the following qualifications:

A. A judge must not have been a high school student or competitor in the current school year.

B. In a forensics round, the judge should be able to take notes in a manner that allows him/her to evaluate the performance being observed.

C. A judge must have judged at an invitational tournament or "practice" round during the current forensics season.

- D. Immediate family members of a competitor, including at least those who live in the same household as that competitor, shall not judge in the same event in which the competitor is entered.

**Sec. 11. No entries will be accepted after the late deadline date even though additional tournaments may be held at which students qualify.**

**Sec. 12. Substitutions**—Pupils who have qualified for state speech championships may be substituted (not added):

- A. for unlike events through a swap deadline of the Monday preceding the tournament.
- B. for like events prior to the start of competition.

**Sec. 13. Grievances** — A grievance committee, composed of three coaches and the championship manager, will handle written protests concerning the violation of any KSHAA rule. The committee shall be appointed by the championship manager and MUST BE head coaches. It is recommended the KSCA representative be on the grievance committee. An alternate head coach shall be named in the event a committee member's school is involved.

- A. The championship manager will serve as facilitator for the grievance committee and is not a voting member. The facilitator may be present for all committee discussions.
- B. In a timely manner, any participant in a round may file a written protest through a head coach or that coach's designee.
- C. The head coach (or designee) shall notify the championship manager who will convene the grievance committee.
- D. The committee will:
  - hear from the protesting head coach (or designee)
  - hear from the head coach (or designee) of each competitor directly involved in the protest
  - hear from other persons the grievance committee deems necessary (judges, competitors, timekeepers, etc.)
  - review necessary materials (ballots, sources, etc.)
  - in a closed session discuss and resolve the protest.
- E. The grievance committee will announce their decision to the protesting coach and coaches (or designees) who had students directly involved.
- F. The decision of the grievance committee is final. In the event the grievance committee determines a rule has been violated, that decision must include a letter from the KSHSAA to the coach's administration and one or more of the following actions: warning, loss of round, last rank in the section, disqualification which may or may not include prior rounds, rerun a round with new judges, or remove a judge from the pool and replace with the school head coach.
- G. When the list of titles (for performance at state) comes from KSHSAA, any coach with a protest regarding publication or genre has until the Wednesday noon before the Saturday of the state tournament to file that protest with the tournament manager. For the challenge, the coach must provide some proof of non-compliance with publication guidelines or event guidelines. To prove publication and/or genre compliance, the responding coach need provide only one source of verification. The decision of the grievance committee will be rendered within 24 hours of filing and shall be considered final.

**Sec. 14. Competing in Wrong Room**—Students that compete in the wrong room at the state speech championship tournaments will be ranked at the bottom of the round unless it is the fault of the tournament. The grievance committee will consider the issue if a coach chooses to appeal the decision of the tournament manager in regard to fault.

**Sec. 15. Disqualification**—Disqualification in any individual event shall be interpreted to mean: the individual entry in violation is removed from the state speech championship tournament immediately and ALL sweepstakes earned for that entry shall be forfeited. There will be no alterations of any other contestants' scores.

**Sec. 16.** Failure to compete in any round of a state speech championship tournament will result in elimination from the tournament unless, due to extenuating circumstances, the championship manager reinstates the contestant.

- A. Failure to compete as a result of tournament scheduling will not result in elimination.
- B. Failure to compete in all rounds will eliminate the student(s)' team sweepstakes point and individual medal(s).
- C. Failure to compete in the semifinal or final rounds will advance the next eligible contestant(s).
- D. As determined by cumulative rankings, contestant(s) shall be on stand-by for advancement into the semifinal or final rounds due to withdrawal(s) or disqualification(s).

**Sec. 17.** The tab room is open to both the head coach and/or assistant coach. NOTE: The tabulation room committee shall be appointed by the championship manager.

## Championship Scheduling

The championship manager (or designee) shall schedule the tournament by using a number assigned to the school and a letter assigned to each student from that school. (*Student letters in different events **may** be the same—school numbers by student and event **shall always** be the same.*)

During the three preliminary rounds every effort shall be made to rotate student assignments by round, so if a student performs first in Round I, they should be near the end of Round II and the middle of Round III. Students from the same school, if possible, should never appear in the same section of the same event.

Efforts shall be made to prevent “like” titles meeting during the preliminary rounds of acting and interpretation events. Every effort shall be made to vary competition so that competitors shall not meet in more than two preliminary rounds per event.

Preliminary sections should be **no smaller than five students** and **no larger than seven students** with **six being preferable**. Contestants (preliminary rounds) participating in sections of more than five students shall receive a ranking of no lower than fifth.

Semifinal rounds will be held in all events regardless of the number of entries.

- During the semifinal round, students from the same school, if possible, should never appear in the same section of the same event.
- For the final round, entry cards of finalists may be shuffled and the order of appearance, thus, be left to chance.
- If two students from the same school qualify for finals, they should not follow each other in the final round.

Sweepstakes points shall be counted for all preliminary, semifinal and final rounds.

- Sweepstakes points shall not be counted for Lincoln-Douglas debate entries.

## Final Placement Procedures

1. Advancing from preliminary to semifinal rounds
  - A. The minimum number of entries advancing to semifinals in each event shall be 12 (or 16 in an event with 55 or more participants who actually compete in Round 1).
  - B. Advance the top entries according to these criteria, in order:
    - i. Total preliminary round ranks, truncated to no more than five (5) (lower is better)
    - ii. Sum of reciprocals of preliminary round ranks, truncated to no more than five (5) (higher is better)
    - iii. If still tied, advance all tied entries to semifinals.
  - C. Semifinal rounds should be “snaked” as much as possible to balance power. The ideal sectioning is 1-4-5-8-9-12 and 2-3-6-7-10-11. The manager should adjust sections as needed to avoid members of the same school seeing each other, when possible. Speaker order in semifinals should be randomized.
2. Determining sweepstakes points for semifinals (cumulative ranks)
  - A. The cumulative rank for each semifinal round is used for sweepstakes purposes only; it is not a factor in determining which students advance to finals.
  - B. Rank each semifinal section according to these criteria, in order:
    - i. Total actual (not truncated) ranks in semifinal rounds (lower is better)
    - ii. Judge’s preference in the semifinal round
    - iii. Sum of reciprocals of ranks in the semifinal round alone (higher is better)
    - iv. If an unbreakable triple tie is still not resolved, all three contestants shall be given the middle rank.
3. Advancing from semifinal to final rounds
  - A. The minimum number of entries advancing to finals in each event shall be six (6).
  - B. Advance the top entries according to these criteria, in order:
    - i. Total truncated ranks in prelims plus actual ranks from each judge in semifinals (lower is better)
    - ii. Sum of reciprocals of all truncated preliminary ranks and actual semifinal ranks (higher is better)

- iii. If still tied, advance all tied entries to finals.
- C. Speaker order in the final round shall be randomized. When possible, entries from the same school should not speak consecutively.
- 4. Determining final placement
 

Final placement in each event will be determined using the criteria below, in order:

  - i. Total cumulative ranks, adding truncated preliminary ranks, actual semifinal ranks, and actual final ranks (lower is better)
  - ii. Judges' preference in the final round only
  - iii. Rank total in the final round only (lower is better)
  - iv. Sum of reciprocals of ranks in the final round only (higher is better)
  - v. If a three (or more) way tie remains unbreakable, all will be awarded the tied highest placement and the next placements will not be awarded. (Example: Triple tie for 1st = 1st, 1st, 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th)
- 5. Determining sweepstakes points

Sweepstakes points will be earned by each entry, as follows:

Rank	Preliminary Rounds	Semifinal Cumulative Ranks	Final Placements
1	5	8	11
2	4	7	10
3	3	6	9
4	2	5	8
5	1	4	7
6	1*	4	7
All others	1*	3	6

\*Preliminary ranks should be truncated to 5, either by hand or by automated software, for all other calculations.

## Lincoln-Douglas Debate (Friday May 1, 2026)

- If the tournament has five (5) or fewer entries, the event will be cancelled.
- If the tournament has six to seven (6-7) entries, the matches shall be a "Round Robin" format.
- If the tournament consists of eight (8) or more entries, there shall be three or four preliminary rounds as determined by the championship manager and the L-D debate coaches.
- If the tournament has 24 or more entries at registration on Friday of the event, there shall be four preliminary rounds and quarterfinals on Friday, and semifinals and finals on Saturday.
  - A. **Bye** will be counted as a **win** with averaged quality points. **Forfeiture** will be counted as a **loss** at the lowest level of quality points.
  - B. **Round I** will be scheduled adhering to the following restrictions:
    - 1. If a **bye** is necessary, it should be drawn first, before scheduling begins.
    - 2. If there is an uneven number of debaters, a **bye** will be randomly drawn from the debaters entered. No school may receive more than one **bye** in **Round I**.
    - 3. A debater will not meet the same debater twice in preliminary rounds. No debater will meet a debater from its own school in preliminary rounds.
    - 4. During **Round I**, no school should meet the same school twice unless a small number of entries makes this unavoidable.

- C. Beginning with **Round II**, rounds will be straight-power matched as follows:
1. Definitions:
    - a. **Power:** Power shall be defined as win/loss record only.
    - b. **Bracket:** A bracket shall be defined as those debaters with the same win/loss record.
  2. If a **bye** is necessary, it should be given to the lowest ranked debater based upon win/loss record and speaker points. If more than one debater is eligible for the **bye**, a blind draw shall decide the **bye** from those debaters eligible for the **bye**. Debaters receiving a **bye** will have wins recorded and averaged quality points.
  3. Once the **bye** is decided, the power match cards should be sorted into groups containing the same number of wins.
    - a. Starting with the **undefeated**, sort the cards into those needing affirmative and those needing negative.
    - b. If there is an odd number of debaters with like records, pull up the top debater in the category with one less win needing to uphold the side which would best balance the affirmative/negative split. If more than one debater is eligible, a blind draw should determine the debater to break the brackets.
    - c. Rank the cards in the affirmative and negative piles starting with the debater with the fewest speaker ranks. Rank last any debater pulled up from the lower bracket.
    - d. Match the affirmative debater with the highest quality points with the negative debater with the highest quality points, and so on. Do not forget the "matching priorities" listed below.
    - e. When there becomes an imbalance in affirmative and negative sides, blind draw to even the sides and continue matching.
    - f. When the undefeated bracket is finished, move to the one (1) loss bracket, following the same procedure.
  4. Matching priorities:
    - a. A debater should not meet another debater from its own school in the **preliminary** rounds.
    - b. Win/loss record
    - c. Debaters will alternate sides within win/loss brackets. **Sides should be balanced as much as possible.** If side alternation cannot be preserved within brackets, then sides will be determined by blind draw to preserve brackets.
    - d. Debaters who have met previously should not meet again unless no other match is possible due to higher priorities. If two debaters meet a second time, sides should be switched.
    - e. Quality points (20-30 point scale)
- D. If a quarterfinal round is held, the top eight debaters shall advance. If no quarterfinal round is held, the top four debaters shall advance to semifinals. If possible, brackets will be broken so that debaters from the same school will not meet.
- Pairings shall be determined by:
1. Win/loss record
  2. Speaker points
  3. Opposition record
  4. Opposition speaker points
- E. The top two debaters will advance to the final round receiving first and second place as determined by the debate.
- F. Awards for third through sixth places shall be determined in the following order:
1. Win/loss record
  2. Speaker points
  3. Opposition record
  4. Opposition speaker points

G. Forfeiture—

1. Any team more than ten (10) minutes late from the scheduled starting time of a round shall forfeit the round unless there is an emergency or unforeseen circumstance approved by the tournament manager.
2. Any team that fails to compete in a scheduled round shall forfeit that round.
3. Any team that formally withdraws from the tournament will no longer be scheduled in the tournament. (This withdrawal does not affect previous rounds' decisions)
4. When a team forfeits prior to the start of a round, that round shall be rematched. If a team forfeits after a round has begun, a **bye** will be given to the opposing team.

## Information for Championship Managers and Coaches

### Awards

**Medals**—First through sixth place medals shall be awarded in each individual event by classification. This shall include a medal for each member of a duet acting and improvised duet acting cast.

**Trophies**—A sweepstakes trophy for first, second and third place shall be awarded each classification. If there is a tie for **first** place and that tie cannot be broken, then duplicate trophies shall be awarded. No second place trophy shall be given. If there is a tie for **second** place, duplicate trophies shall be awarded and no third place trophy shall be given. If there is a tie for **third** place, duplicate trophies shall be awarded.

### State Speech Championship Entries

Entries are submitted online. Each class will decide if they are using the KSHSAA online program or Tabroom.com. State Speech Championships will be scheduled by the championship manager.

### Expenses

The KSHSAA pays all judges and allows the championship manager 30% of the receipts for general operating expenses (*stationery, postage, telephone calls, hospitality room, etc.*).

### Extemporaneous Speech, Improvised Duet Acting and Impromptu Speech Topics

The KSHSAA will furnish these topics to each manager. The Lincoln-Douglas debate topic shall be that topic used by the NSDA during the months of **March** and **April** of the current year. **Championship managers are required to provide timekeepers for these events.**

### Fees

A fee shall be charged for each entrant in each event, including each member of a duet acting, duo and improvised duet acting team. If a student is entered in two events a fee must be paid for both events. (*No student may enter in more than two events.*)

All state speech entry fees are \$12 per student. Athletic directors will be invoiced by the KSHSAA.

**Penalties:** Schools sending late entries shall be admitted only upon payment of a double entry fee, total not to exceed \$50. Schools will not be accepted after the **"last day for acceptance"** date. *NOTE: The submission of the entries will be a commitment by the school to pay all fees, including cancellations, additions and penalties.*

## Time Procedures and Penalties

1. Performances in all events shall be within set time limits.

EVENT	MINIMUM TIME	MAXIMUM TIME
Improvised Duet Acting	4	7
Duet Acting/Duo Interpretation (Humorous and Serious)		10
Solo Acting (Humorous and Serious)		10
Dramatic/Humorous Interpretation		10
Prose Interpretation		7
Poetry Interpretation		7
Original Oration		10
Informative Speaking		7
Extemporaneous Speaking (Foreign and Domestic)		7
Impromptu Speaking		5

2. **If no official timekeeper is present, no participant(s) or event shall be penalized. THE JUDGE SHALL NOT SERVE AS THE OFFICIAL TIMEKEEPER.**
3. If a tablet, laptop or similar viewable electronic device is made available to the timekeeper, the screen with a running clock may be displayed to the competitor during their performance in lieu of timecards. The competitor may request that time either count up or down depending on their preference.
4. Timekeepers shall be at least middle/junior high age.
5. If an **official timekeeper** is present, procedures for timekeeper are:
  - A. Time shall be **visible** to the performer(s).
    - Sit where you can be easily seen by the performer, but not where you will be distracting or obvious. The best position is to the side and in front of the judge.
    - A stopwatch is recommended. A timepiece with some method of keeping track of the seconds is essential.
    - Time cards (if used) shall be visible and easily read. The minimum acceptable size is 3 x 5, with written numbers of at least 1/4-inch in width. The set shall include a "1/2"-time card and a "STOP" card.
    - The card shall be continuously visible. Do not simply flash it as the time changes. This is extremely distracting.
    - Count DOWN. Begin with the card for the time limit of the event and after one minute has passed lay that card down so that the next number appears. It is helpful if, when there are 15 seconds left, you turn the "1/2"-time card sideways.
  - B. Timing is to begin when the performer initiates the performance by either word or action. Introductions are to be considered part of the performance and be included in the timing.
    - Do NOT call "time" or say "stop" when the time limit is reached. After the "STOP" card goes up, there shall be a 15-second grace period.
    - When the performance has exceeded 15 seconds, the timekeeper shall stand, holding the "STOP" card and keep timing until the performance is over.
    - If the performer is overtime, report time to the judge. Otherwise do not give time to the judge unless it is requested.

6. If an official timekeeper is present, procedures for judge are:
  - A. Any performance in excess of the 15 second grace period shall not receive the "1" ranking in the round.
  - B. Any performer(s) exceeding 30 seconds over the time limit shall receive the lowest ranking in the round. If more than one performance exceeds the 30 second time limit, they shall be ranked at the bottom of the performances according to the quality of the performance.
  - C. Any performance under the four minute minimum time limit in Improvised Duet Acting shall not receive the "1" ranking in the round.

**7. For the 2025-2026 Season in Class 6A, 5A and 1A the following pilot language will apply to Timekeepers:**

**The Judge may serve as the official timekeeper.**

- 1. In all events, judges are expected to keep time using an electronic device such as a stopwatch, computer, or cell phone.**
- 2. Timing devices should be set to count from 0 and should have no alarms or other sounds.**
- 3. A contestant's time should begin at the first word or clear non-verbal action which is part of the performance.**
- 4. The judge should hold up a STOP sign or a closed fist when time has elapsed and may instruct the performer to stop if the grace period has expired.**
- 5. Judges may choose to provide time signals at competitors' request.**
- 6. Competitors may use an electronic device (in airplane mode) solely to keep and view their unofficial time; however, the judge's time shall be the official time for the round.**
- 7. In events with a panel of multiple judges, the panel may designate one judge to serve as the official timekeeper for the round.**
- 8. If judges fail to keep accurate time for any reason (including, but not limited to, device malfunction or oversight), competitors may not be penalized for going beyond time limits.**



# POSTSEASON SPEECH AND DRAMA FESTIVALS & CHAMPIONSHIPS

## Extemporaneous Speech (Domestic and Foreign)

**Sec. 1.** The extemporaneous speech is a spontaneous, original oral expression of ideas on a given subject about which the speaker has had previous knowledge, preparation and planning. The speaker may or may not use a note card during presentation.

**Topics:** The general subject for extemporaneous speech shall be "Current Affairs." Topics shall cover both domestic and foreign affairs. Specifically, U.S. domestic **and** U.S. foreign policy (domestic affairs); and domestic affairs of foreign countries and the foreign affairs of all countries, including the United States (foreign affairs). The topics shall be worded in question form and be selected from a variety of print and non-print news sources. Topics shall be selected from issues published between **December 1** and **April 15** of the current school year.

- A. The topics shall be used in regional and state speech and drama festivals and shall be supplied by the KSHSAA.
- B. The topics shall be used in state speech championships and shall be supplied by the KSHSAA.
- C. At **regional** and **state speech and drama festivals**, there shall be two general subject divisions: *Foreign* and *Domestic*. Students may draw from either subject division.
- D. At **state speech championships** there shall be two general subject divisions: *Foreign* and *Domestic*. Potential topic areas for this draw event will be narrowed to five broad *Foreign* and *Domestic* categories each.
  - One-half hour before the initial draw for each round, a category for that round's questions will be determined by blind draw.
  - All questions drawn for that round will come from that category only.
  - After a category has been used, it cannot be used for a future round.
  - Students may draw from either subject division depending upon the qualification requirements for their classification.

**Sec. 2. Drawing:** Each participant shall draw three topics, choose one and return the other two. The other participants shall draw in like manner, in the order of speaking, at intervals of ten minutes. A participant drawing a topic on which she/he has spoken previously in the tournament shall return it and draw again.

**Sec. 3. Preparation:** As soon as a topic is chosen, the participant shall withdraw and prepare a speech without consultation and without references to prepared notes. Students may consult originals or photocopies of published books, magazines, newspapers, journals, articles or **unannotated indices**.

If the host is able to offer guest wireless access to participants, then students may access the Internet during extemporaneous prep, subject to the following restrictions:

- A. Students may not use the Internet to gain help from coaches, other students, or any other person, in a way that would prevent the speech from being the competitor's original work.
- B. Students are prohibited from accessing outlines and speeches that have been prepared prior to their draw time.
- C. Tournament hosts are not responsible for tech support for participants who are unable to access the guest network.

If the host is unable to offer guest wireless access to participants, then the following electronic use rules will apply:

No electronic communication or Internet access is allowed in the extemporaneous prep room. Contestants may make use of electronic retrieval devices to store and to retrieve their subject files as long as wired or wireless connection devices are disabled and remain disabled while in the prep room. Contestants may retrieve extemporaneous files to read, but cannot write speeches or organize their thoughts on the electronic device.

- A. Electronic devices may not be used to send or receive information from ANY source during the round, whether that source is inside or outside the room in which the competition occurs. Internet access, use of email, instant

messaging of any sort, texting, or other means of receiving information from sources inside or outside the competition room is prohibited. It is the responsibility of the contestant to disable the communication ability of electronic devices.

- B. Sanctions: Contestants found to have violated provision A above shall be disqualified from the tournament and shall forfeit all rounds, even those rounds previous to the violation.
- C. Source materials: Students may consult a variety of news sources saved on their electronic retrieval device or present in hard copy form provided:
  - There are no notations made within or on the saved article other than citation information.
  - Any highlighting or underlining of the articles is done in only one color within each article. Bolding, italicizing or any other manipulation of the original text of sources (other than highlighting or underlining as previously stipulated) is prohibited.
  - No other source materials will be allowed in the prep room other than stated above. Pre-written extemporaneous speeches, handbooks, briefs or outlines are prohibited from the prep room, whether stored electronically or present in hard copy form.
- D. Contestants electing to use electronic devices are responsible for providing their own electronic device, batteries, extension cords and all other necessary accessories. Tournament hosts shall not be responsible for providing electronic devices, printers, software, paper, extension cords or specific facilities for contestants. Contestants choosing to use electronic devices accept the risk of equipment failure. No special consideration or accommodations, including no additional prep time, will be given to the contestant should equipment failure occur. The host school is not liable for damage or theft of contestants' equipment.

By choosing to use electronic devices in the prep room, contestants are consenting to give tournament officials the right to search their files and any relevant software on the electronic device used. Contestants who do not wish to consent to a search should not use electronic devices in the prep room.

No other material shall be allowed in the extemporaneous prep room. Extemporaneous speeches, handbooks, briefs and outlines shall be barred from the extemporaneous prep room. Underlining or highlighting will be allowed if done in only one color on each article or copy. There shall be a full 30 minutes of preparation time for each student. Students are not allowed to consult other individuals and shall remain in the extemporaneous preparation room the full 30 minutes.

**Sec. 4. Notes:** During the speech, brief notes **may be** used but they must be on a single card no larger than a 4 x 6 note card. The judge is expected to enforce this rule. The ethics committee shall decide on the penalty of disqualification for the use of more copious notes.

**Sec. 5. Time:** The extemporaneous speech shall be no longer than **seven (7) minutes**.

## Informative Speech

**Sec. 1.** An informative speech is one which provides a learning experience for the listener by instructing or by giving information in an interesting manner.

**Sec. 2.** Informative speeches shall be the work of the student.

- A. If a student qualifies for regional or state speech and drama festival or state speech championship and it is found he/she has been guilty of plagiarism, he/she shall be disqualified. Plagiarism shall be defined as a quotation of more than four words without giving the source.
- B. Students should be encouraged to use good informative format: Introduction (attention device, sign-posting/preview of topics, etc.), Body and Conclusion.

**Sec. 3.** Speeches shall not be more than **seven (7) minutes** in length.

**Sec. 4.** Informative speeches shall be memorized and given without notes. Prompting shall not be allowed. Charts, displays, maps, graphs or any other materials which could be used for demonstration purposes **are not permissible**.

## Informative 10 (or Informative Speech 10)

**Sec. 1.** An informative speech is one which provides a learning experience for the listener by instructing or by giving information in an interesting manner. The use of audio/visual aids is optional. (See # 5 on Aids.)

**Sec. 2.** Informative speeches shall be the work of the student.

- A. If a student qualifies for regional or state speech and drama festival or state speech championship and it is found he/she has been guilty of plagiarism, he/she shall be disqualified. Plagiarism shall be defined as a quotation of more than four words without giving the source.
- B. Students should be encouraged to use good informative format: Introduction (attention device, sign-posting/preview of topics, etc.), Body and Conclusion.

**Sec. 3.** Speeches shall not be more than ten (10) minutes in length.

**Sec. 4.** Informative speeches shall be memorized and given without notes. Prompting shall not be allowed.

**Sec. 5.** Audio/visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. If used, the audio/visual aids should enhance or support the message rather than distract from the overall effectiveness of the presentation.

- A. During the presentation, no electronic equipment is permitted. Electronic equipment is defined as any object requiring an electrical cord, battery, or solar power to operate it (projectors, cell phones, radios, iPads, computers, etc.).
- B. The use of live animals or any additional people as visual aids is not allowed during the speech.
- C. Items of dress put on and/or removed for illustration during the course of the presentation are considered costumes and may not be part of the contestant's presentation.
- D. Visual aids may not violate policies as dictated by local and state law (weapons, drugs, etc.) Contestants may not distribute items to the judges or audience before, during, or after the round. This includes but is not limited to food, objects, handouts, flyers, and promotional merchandise.
- E. The host school is not responsible for providing any facilities, equipment, including tables, chairs, or easels, or assistance in a contestant's use of visual aids.
- F. Expedient set up and take down of aids is expected. If a visual aid displays published pictorial material, the source must be included in the work-cited page but does not need to be cited orally.

**Sec. 6.** Not more than 150 words of the speech may be direct quotation and such quotations must be identified orally and in a printed copy of the speech available at the tournament. The script must identify the quoted materials, state the number of quoted words, include a work-cited page in APA or MLA format.

**Sec. 7.** A student may not use an informative speech the student used in district or national competition in any previous contest year.

## Original Oration

**Sec. 1.** An original oration shall be defined as a memorized, original persuasive speech with a unique approach to a universal theme.

**Sec. 2.** Original orations shall be the work of the student.

- A. If a student qualifies for regional or state speech and drama festival or state speech championship and it is found he/she has been guilty of plagiarism, he/she shall be disqualified. Plagiarism shall be defined as a quotation of more than four words without giving the source.
- B. Students should be encouraged to use standard persuasive format such as Monroe's Motivated Sequence (Attention, Need, Satisfaction, Visualization, Action) or Problem-Cause-Solution.

**Sec. 3.** Original orations shall not be more than **10 minutes** in length.

**Sec. 4.** Original orations shall be memorized and given without notes. Prompting shall not be allowed. Charts, displays, maps, graphs or any other materials which could be used for demonstration purposes **are not permissible**.

## Impromptu Speech

**Sec. 1.** The impromptu speech is an original interpretation by the speaker of the designated topic as supported by varied materials and gives the contestant the opportunity to be creative and imaginative. **Topics:** Impromptu topics will include proverbs, abstract words, events, quotations and famous people.

**Sec. 2. Drawing:** Five (5) minutes before the round is to begin, the first speaker shall draw three topics, choose one, and return the other two. The other contestants shall draw in a like manner, in the order of speaking, at intervals of six (6) minutes. The same list of topics shall be used for the drawing by each section. A different subject area will be used for each round.

**Sec. 3. Preparation:** As soon as a topic is chosen, the contestant shall withdraw and prepare a speech without consultation and without references to prepared notes. Students may consult published books, magazines, newspapers, journals or articles therefrom, provided:

- A. they are originals or photocopies of originals;
- B. that original article or copy is intact and uncut;
- C. there is no written material on original or copy;
- D. topical index without annotation is allowed.

No other material shall be allowed in the impromptu prep room other than the stated above. Speeches, handbooks, briefs and outlines shall be barred from the prep room. Underlining or highlighting in materials will be allowed if done in one color on each article or copy. No electronic retrieval device may be utilized, but printed materials from "online" computer services may be utilized.

**Sec. 4. Prep Time:** Preparation time, including draw, will amount to **five (5) minutes** for each competitor per round.

**Sec. 5. Recuse:** A student may not leave the impromptu prep room without permission of the proctor.

**Sec. 6. Notes:** No notes shall be used during the presentation.

**Sec. 7. Time:** There is NO minimum qualifying time, but the contestant must cover the subject adequately. The impromptu speech shall be no longer than five (5) minutes.

## Oral Interpretation of Poetry

**Sec. 1.** Poetry is writing which expresses ideas, experience or emotion through the creative arrangement of words according to their sound, their rhythm and their meaning. Poetry relies on verse and stanza form.

**Sec. 2. Time:** Presentations shall not last more than **seven (7) minutes** including required introduction which will state at least the title(s) and author(s). The introduction must be memorized. Introductions shall be the original work of the student. Any quotation of four or more words shall be considered plagiarism if the source is not identified. The participant may complete a sentence after time is called. If an official timekeeper is assigned, a participant shall be penalized if the time limit is exceeded.

**Sec. 3. Selection:** One or more selections of poetry shall be **presented from the printed manuscript** during the performance.

- A. "Printed" shall be interpreted to mean the printed manuscript, a typewritten copy, or a word processed copy. The use of a printed manuscript on an electronic reading device or tablet computer is allowed.
- B. Only published printed words may be used. Selections may be taken from published works of humorous or serious literature and shall NOT be transcribed from records, tapes, television, movies, or be the original work of the student or coach. Original material published in a local high school publication such as a newspaper, literary magazine or yearbook is prohibited. No play scripts or other material in script form may be used. In the event of a challenge of material, the coach or sponsor must produce the original or copy of the publication at regional and state festivals or championships.
- C. Poetry may be in free verse
- D. The selection or selections need not be memorized.
- E. Selections shall be made by the student and prepared before the tournament.
- F. No properties shall be allowed, including electronic or computer-generated sound effects or visuals.

**Sec. 4. Presentation:** Performances must be from a manuscript (which may be in a folder). Reading from a book or magazine is not permitted. Since the contestant will be holding a manuscript, use of that manuscript may be an integral part of the performance. Responsive use of the body (i.e., spontaneous changes in posture and gesture) is permissible so long as this active use of the body is appropriate to the demands of the selection and a natural outgrowth from the literature being performed. Along with appropriate, effective physical presentation, the contestant will also be evaluated in terms of technique (breathing, tone, pitch, enunciation, phrasing, pace, etc.) and artistry (presentation of mood and imagery, vocal characterization, etc.). The final test of good interpretation is the ability to use all these factors so successfully and unobtrusively that the audience forgets that this is a contest in a created atmosphere and is carried into the real or imagined world of the selection(s).

## Oral Interpretation of Prose

**Sec. 1.** Prose expresses thought through language recorded in sentences and paragraphs. Prose includes fiction (short stories, novels) and non-fiction (articles, essays, journals, biographies). No play scripts or other material in script form may be used.

**Sec. 2. Time:** Presentations shall not last more than **seven (7) minutes** including a required introduction which will state at least the title(s) and author(s). The introduction must be memorized. Introductions shall be the original work of the student. Any quotation of four or more words shall be considered plagiarism if the source is not identified. The participant may complete a sentence after time is called. If an official timekeeper is assigned, a participant shall be penalized if the time limit is exceeded.

**Sec. 3. Selection:** One or more selections of prose shall be **presented from the printed manuscript** during the performance.

- A. "Printed" shall be interpreted to mean the printed manuscript, a typewritten copy or a word processed copy. The use of a printed manuscript on an electronic reading device or tablet computer is allowed.
- B. Only published printed words may be used. Selections may be taken from published works of humorous or serious literature and shall NOT be transcribed from records, tapes, television, movies, or be the original work of the student or coach. Original material published in a local high school publication such as a newspaper, literary magazine or yearbook is prohibited. No play scripts or other material in script form may be used. In the event of a challenge of material, the coach or sponsor must produce the original or copy of the publication at regional and state festivals or championships.
- C. The selection or selections need not be memorized.
- D. Selections shall be made by the student and prepared before the tournament.
- E. No properties shall be allowed, including electronic or computer-generated sound effects or visuals

**Sec. 4. Presentation:** Performances must be from a manuscript (which may be in a folder). Reading from a book or magazine is not permitted. Since the contestant will be holding a manuscript, use of that manuscript may be an integral part of the performance. Responsive use of the body (i.e., spontaneous changes in posture and gesture) is permissible so long as this active use of the body is appropriate to the demands of the selection and a natural outgrowth from the literature being performed. Along with appropriate, effective physical presentation, the contestant will also be evaluated in terms of technique (breathing, tone, pitch, enunciation, phrasing, pace, etc.) and artistry (presentation of mood and imagery, vocal characterization, etc.). The final test of good interpretation is the ability to use all these factors so successfully and unobtrusively that the audience forgets that this is a contest in a created atmosphere and is carried into the real or imagined world of the selection(s).

## Program Oral Interpretation (POI)

1. Source: POI is a program of oral interpretation of thematically-linked selections chosen from two or three genres: prose, poetry, drama (plays).
  - A. At least two pieces of literature that represent at least two separate genres must be used, and competitors are encouraged to devote approximately equal times to each of the genres used in the program.
  - B. Prose expresses thought through language recorded in sentences and paragraphs: fiction (short stories, novels) and non-fiction (articles, essays, journals, biographies).

- C. The title and author of all selections must be verbally identified in either the introduction and/or transitional phrases. Introductions shall be the original work of the student. Any quotation of four or more words shall be considered plagiarism if the source is not identified.
- D. Only published printed words may be used. Selections may be taken from published works of humorous or serious literature and shall NOT be transcribed from records, tapes, television, movies, or be the original work of the student or coach. Original material published in a local high school publication such as a newspaper, literary magazine or yearbook is prohibited. In the event of a challenge of material, the coach or sponsor must produce the original or copy of the publication at regional and state festivals or championships.
- E. Competitors must have a Work Cited/Bibliography list of every source included in the performance available at tournaments in the event of a protest.

Contest: The use of a printed manuscript during the performance is required. "Printed" shall be interpreted to mean the printed manuscript, a typewritten copy, or a word processed copy. The use of a printed manuscript on an electronic reading device or tablet computer is allowed.

- A. Reading from a book or magazine is not permitted.
- B. The intact manuscript may be used by the contestant as a prop, so long as it remains in the contestant's control, by remaining in contact with the body, at all times.
- C. No costumes or props other than the manuscript are permitted.
- D. Pictures, graphics, and/or illustrations are considered a visual aid, even if included in the original manuscript, and may not be displayed.
- E. The contestant must address the script; however, introduction and transitional material may be memorized.
  - 1. The time limit is ten (10) minutes.
  - 2. Adaptations may be used only for the purpose of transition.
    - a. Any word changes (to eliminate profane language) and/or additions (for transition) must be indicated clearly in ink. Failure to clearly indicate the addition of words will be subject to disqualification.
    - b. Changes to the script may only be used for the purpose of transition or to eliminate profane language.
    - c. Transitions may be used to clarify the logical sequence of ideas. They are not to be used for the purpose of embellishing the humorous or dramatic effect of the literature

## Humorous Solo Acting/Humorous Interpretation (HI)

**Sec. 1.** Humorous Solo Acting and Humorous Interpretation (HI) shall not be more than **10 minutes** in length including an introduction. Introductions shall be the original work of the student. Any quotation of four or more words shall be considered plagiarism if the source is not identified. A student may participate and qualify in **both Serious Solo Acting/Dramatic Interpretation (DI) and Humorous Solo Acting/Humorous Interpretation (HI)**.

Contestants who qualify in Humorous Interpretation (HI) are eligible for Humorous Solo Acting at state speech championship and state speech and drama festival. Contestants who qualify in Humorous Solo Acting are eligible for Humorous Interpretation (HI) at state speech championship and state speech and drama festival.

**Sec. 2. Selections:** Memorized selections are presented without the use of notes, costumes or properties. Selections used in these contests shall be cuttings from published, printed novels, short stories, plays or poetry. Recorded material (videotape, DVDs, audio tape, CDs, phonograph recording or **recorded audio or video material**) is prohibited. Original material published in a high school publication such as a newspaper, literary magazine or yearbook is prohibited. Selections can include published play scripts, short stories, novels, poetry, monologues, and published television or movie scripts. During the presentation, the contestant must name the author and the book or magazine from which the cutting was made. Selections may not be the original work of the student or coach.

**Sec. 3. Source:** A cutting must be a single work of literature: one short story or one play or one novel or one or more poems. In the event of a challenge at regional and state festivals or championships, the coach or sponsor must produce the original publication as well as a complete script of the cutting used.

A complete script of the cutting would include:

- A. A photocopy of every page from which any line of the cutting is taken; pages are to be in the order in which they are performed.

- B. All words used from the script should be highlighted (any words/lines not used should be left unmarked).
- C. Any word changes (to eliminate profane language) and/or additions (for transition) must be clearly indicated in ink.

**Sec. 4. Focus:** The contestant should use only actions motivated by the language/characterization of the selection. Adaptations may only be used for the purpose of transition. A female contestant may play a male role, and a male contestant may play a female role.

- A. In Humorous Interpretation (HI), use of focal points and/or direct contact with the audience should be determined by the requirements of the literature being interpreted. The gender stated by the author must be honored. Stage makeup, costumes or properties shall be prohibited.
- B. In Humorous Solo Acting, the entire stage area may be used. Stage makeup, costumes or properties shall be prohibited with the exception of a chair.

**Sec. 5. Caution:** It shall be the affirmative duty of each coach and each student entered in KSHSAA contests to determine absolutely that the cutting being performed meets KSHSAA rules.

**Sec. 6. Reuse:** A student may not use a cutting from a work of literature the student used in any previous contest year.

## Serious Solo Acting/Dramatic Interpretation (DI)

**Sec. 1.** Serious Solo Acting and Dramatic Interpretation (DI) shall not be more than **10 minutes** in length including an introduction. Introductions shall be the original work of the student. Any quotation of four or more words shall be considered plagiarism if the source is not identified. A student may participate and qualify in **both Serious Solo Acting/Dramatic Interpretation (DI) and Humorous Solo Acting/Humorous Interpretation (HI)**.

Contestants who qualify in Dramatic Interpretation (DI) are eligible for Serious Solo Acting at state speech championship and state speech and drama festival. Contestants who qualify in Serious Solo Acting are eligible for Dramatic Interpretation (DI) at state speech championship and state speech and drama festival.

**Sec. 2. Selections:** Memorized selections are presented without the use of notes, costumes or properties. Selections used in these contests shall be cuttings from published, printed novels, short stories, plays or poetry. Recorded material (videotape, DVDs, audio tape, CDs, phonograph recording or **digitally recorded audio or video material**) is prohibited. Original material published in a high school publication such as a newspaper, literary magazine or yearbook is prohibited. Selections can include published play scripts, short stories, novels, poetry, monologues, and published television or movie scripts. During the presentation, the contestant must name the author and the book or magazine from which the cutting was made. Selections may not be the original work of the student or coach.

**Sec. 3. Source:** A cutting must be a single work of literature: one short story or one play or one novel or one or more poems. In the event of a challenge at regional and state festivals or championships, the coach or sponsor must produce the original publication as well as a complete script of the cutting used.

A complete script of the cutting would include:

- A. A photocopy of every page from which any line of the cutting is taken; pages are to be in the order in which they are performed.
- B. All words used from the script should be highlighted (any words/lines not used should be left unmarked).
- C. Any word changes (to eliminate profane language) and/or additions (for transition) must be clearly indicated in ink.

**Sec. 4. Focus:** The contestant should use only actions motivated by the language/characterization of the selection. Adaptations may only be used for the purpose of transition. A female contestant may play a male role, and a male contestant may play a female role.

- A. In Dramatic Interpretation (DI), use of focal points and/or direct contact with the audience should be determined by the requirements of the literature being interpreted. The gender stated by the author must be honored. Stage makeup, costumes or properties shall be prohibited.
- B. In Serious Solo Acting, the entire stage area may be used. Stage makeup, costumes or properties shall be prohibited with the exception of a chair.

**Sec. 5. Caution:** It shall be the affirmative duty of each coach and each student entered in KSHSAA contests to determine absolutely that the cutting being performed meets KSHSAA rules.

**Sec. 6. Reuse:** A student may not use a cutting from a work of literature the student used in any previous contest year.

## Duet Acting/Duo

**Sec. 1.** Duet Acting and Duo Interpretation are defined as acting exercises composed of two students who portray one or multiple character(s) in a cutting from a published work of literature. Prompting shall not be allowed. The scene shall not be more than **10 minutes in length**. A narrated introduction to the cutting shall be given by one or both members. This is included in the 10 minute time limit. Introductions shall be the original work of the students. Any quotation of four or more words shall be considered plagiarism if the source is not identified.

- A. In Duo Interpretation, each of the two performers may play one or more characters so long as the performance responsibility in the cutting remains as balanced as possible. If the selection is prose or poetry and contains narration, either or both of the performers may present the narration. The gender stated by the author must be honored. Stage makeup, costumes or properties shall be prohibited.
- B. In Duet Acting, a student may portray one or multiple character(s) in a scene. Cutting of multiple scenes may be bridged by memorized narration. Stage makeup, costumes, or properties shall be prohibited with the exception of two (2) chairs and a table. Standing on the table is not permitted.
- C. Contestants who qualify in Duo Interpretation are eligible for Duet Acting at state speech championship and state speech and drama festival. Contestants who qualify in Duet Acting are eligible for Duo Interpretation at state speech championship and state speech and drama festival.

**Sec. 2. Selections:** Memorized selections are presented without the use of notes or costumes. Selections used in these contests shall be cuttings from published, printed novels, short stories, plays or poetry. Recorded material (video-tape, DVDs, audio tape, CDs, phonograph recording **or recorded audio or video material**) is prohibited. Original material published in a high school publication such as a newspaper, literary magazine or yearbook is prohibited. Selections can include published play scripts, short stories, novels, poetry, monologues, and published television or movie scripts. During the presentation, the contestant must name the author and the book or magazine from which the cutting was made. Selections may not be the original work of the student or coach.

**Sec. 3. Source:** A cutting must be a single work of literature: one short story or one play or one novel or one or more poems. In the event of a challenge at regional and state festivals or championships, the coach or sponsor must produce the original publication as well as a complete script of the cutting used.

A complete script of the cutting would include:

- A. A photocopy of every page from which any line of the cutting is taken; pages are to be in the order in which they are performed.
- B. All words used from the script should be highlighted (any words/lines not used should be left unmarked).
- C. Any word changes (to eliminate profane language) and/or additions (for transition) must be clearly indicated in ink.

**Sec. 4. Focus:** The contestant should use only actions motivated by the language/characterization of the selection. Adaptations may only be used for the purpose of transition. The gender stated by the author must be honored. However, a female contestant may play a male role, and a male contestant may play a female role.

- A. In Duo Interpretation, focus may be direct during the introduction (the performers may look at and/or touch each other) but must be indirect (offstage) during the performance itself. Stage makeup, costumes or properties shall be prohibited.
- B. In Duet Acting, the entire stage area may be used. Stage makeup, costumes or properties shall be prohibited with the exception of two (2) chairs and a table. Standing on the table is not permitted.

**Sec. 5. Caution:** It shall be the affirmative duty of each coach and each student entered in KSHSAA contests to determine absolutely that the cutting being performed meets KSHSAA rules.

**Sec. 6. Reuse:** A student may not use a cutting from a work of literature the student used in any previous contest year. If double entered in Duet Acting and Duo, the student may NOT use the same piece/selection. It is permissible to be with different partners.



## Improvised Duet Acting (IDA)

**Sec. 1.** Improvised duet acting shall be defined as an improvised acting exercise composed of two students who portray an **original scene** created after drawing the subject. The scene should establish two characters, a situation or problem and a solution to the conflict.

### Sec. 2. Topics

- A. **Drawing:** Each IDA team shall draw three (3) topics from **EACH** of the following areas: **character, situation** and **location**. The drawing sequence may be in any order, but only one area (three topics) may be drawn at a time. **All three areas (nine topics) shall not be drawn at one time.**
  - Each IDA team shall draw 3 **characters**, select 2 characters and return 1 character.
  - Each IDA team shall draw 3 **situations**, select 1 situation and return 2 situations.
  - Each IDA team shall draw 3 **locations**, select 1 location and return 2 locations.
- B. Each area (**character, situation, location**) should be on a different colored paper. The area name and **ONE** topic shall be on each slip of paper. Topics should be “generic” in nature, which require **improvisation** and **NOT impersonation**. For example, proper nouns would not be appropriate topics.
- C. **Preparation:** The drawings for topics shall be held in a room apart from the preparation room. The chairperson of the preparation room shall be instructed to allow no visitors (or coaches) and to keep students from discussing their topic with others. Actors may not consult either printed matter, notes, manuscripts or other media.
- D. **Time Limit:** Each IDA team shall have **30 minutes** to prepare.

**Sec. 3.** Improvised Duet Acting shall not be more than **seven (7) minutes** in length with a **minimum of four (4) minutes**. This shall include the introduction. If an official timekeeper is assigned, participants shall be penalized if the time limits are not observed.

**Sec. 4.** An actor may portray only one character throughout the **seven (7) minute** presentation. No additional characters can be used for the introduction.

**Sec. 5.** A brief narrated introduction shall be used in establishing the setting and the characters in the scene.

**Sec. 6.** All dialogue must be the original work of the contestants.

**Sec. 7.** Stage properties or costumes shall be prohibited with the exception of two (2) chairs and a table. Standing on the table is not permitted.

**Sec. 8.** Students shall not repeat nor copy any scene they have previously performed at that tournament. **A repeated scene is defined as a repetition of dialogue, character(s) and conflict structure. (This means an IDA team must repeat all three (3) elements to be in violation of this rule.)**

**Sec. 9.** Any schools wishing to experiment with various formats in this event may do so as long as the tournament invitation expresses the regulations governing this experimentation. **No students entered in this experimental event may qualify for state festival or state championship competition.**

## One-Act Play (*Limit: one entry, Festival only*)

**Sec. 1.** A one-act play shall be defined as a theatrical performance **not less than 15 minutes nor more than 30 minutes** in length in which costumes, makeup and props are allowed. Emphasis shall be placed upon acting above technical effects.

- A. Plays not within these limits shall be disqualified for a First Division rating.
- B. If a performer chooses to use an introduction, the introduction shall be included as part of the time allowed.
- C. Fifteen (15) minutes shall be allowed by regional and state festival managers between plays. This shall be interpreted to mean that the stage shall be cleared by one cast and set by the second cast within the 15 minute period.

**Sec. 2.** One-act play selections shall be memorized and given without notes. Prompting shall not be allowed.

**Sec. 3.** All plays shall be presented before a neutral background.

**Sec. 4.** Participating schools shall be sent a list showing the lighting effects which will be available at each festival center. If additional lighting effects are desired, they shall be provided by the producing group in the time allotted. If possible, festival managers may provide divan and chair, dining table and four chairs, desk and chair. However coaches must

call ahead of time to check on what is or is not available at the host site. Coaches are responsible for additional properties. Remember that total setup time between plays is 15 minutes.

**Sec. 5.** Where possible, schools within the same classification shall be scheduled consecutively.

**Sec. 6.** Only those students eligible to represent a member school shall be allowed to enter regional and state festivals. In the past, children have been used in mob scenes. This will no longer be permissible.

**Sec. 7.** Substitution of cast members in a one-act play which receives a First Division rating at regional may be made at the state level so long as the number of substitutions does not exceed 25 percent of the original cast.

## **Lincoln-Douglas (L-D) Debate** (*Championship only*)

**Sec. 1.** Unlike team debate, the resolution to be debated is a proposition of value rather than a proposition of policy. Thus, the student is encouraged to develop argumentation on the resolution in its entirety based upon conflicting underlying principles and values to support his/her position. To that end, he/she is not responsible for practical applications; no plan will be offered by the affirmative.

**Sec. 2.** There are no prescribed burdens in L-D debate as there are in policy debate; no "burden of proof" and no "presumption." There is no "status quo." Therefore, decision rules are fair issues to be argued in the round.

**Sec. 3.** Evidence is not a primary consideration in L-D debate. Logical reasoning is of primary consideration as well as the maturity of thought. Examples and analogies are to be used for purposes of illustration only. The nature of proof shall be in the logic and the those of authoritative opinion.

**Sec. 4.** This event is not unrelated to oratory; as such there must be clash concerning the major arguments in the debate. The clash must relate to the values of argumentation. Cross-examination shall clarify and advance argumentation.

**Sec. 5.** Communication in L-D debate should approximate superior speaking to community groups.

**Sec. 6. Electronic Retrieval Devices:** Refer to Section 8 of Debate Regulations on pages 15-16.

**Sec. 7.** In making a decision as a L-D judge, one should be as objective as he/she possibly can. Remember, these are value propositions upon which one may have strong feelings of which the debaters are unaware. One should judge the round as it is debated, not as one personally feels. A judge might ask himself/herself the following questions:

- A. Which debater persuaded me that his/her position was more valid?
- B. Which debater communicated more effectively?
- C. Which debater logically supported his/her position more effectively?

### **Sec. 8. Speaking format:**

Affirmative Constructive	6 min.
Negative Cross-Examination	3 min.
Negative Constructive	7 min.
Affirmative Cross-Examination	3 min.
Affirmative Rebuttal	4 min.
Negative Rebuttal	6 min.
Affirmative Rebuttal	3 min.

### **Prep Time: 4 minutes per debater**

**Sec. 9.** The March-April topic from the NSDA website will be used at state.

**Sec. 10. Evidence Rules.** The evidence rules set forth in the Debate rules, Section 16, also apply to Lincoln-Douglas Debate.

# SPEECH & DEBATE BALLOT ORDER FORM

## Speech Ballots

PDFs are available online for all ballot types  
[www.kshsaa.org/Public/SpeechDrama/Ballots.cfm](http://www.kshsaa.org/Public/SpeechDrama/Ballots.cfm)

Amount
\$0.00/each

## Debate Ballots

Debate (*Triplicate, NCR*)

Amount	Quantity	Total
\$0.40/each	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Lincoln-Douglas Debate (*Triplicate, NCR*)

\$0.40/each	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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ORDER TOTAL:

Name of sponsor:

Name of School:

Contact email/phone:

Date needed:

Submit order:

Email: [kwilhelm@kshsaa.org](mailto:kwilhelm@kshsaa.org)

**\*Your school will be invoiced** for the amount due.

