



August 2023

To: All Speech, Drama, and Debate Teachers

Dear Teachers,

Welcome to the new school year, I hope all of you enjoyed your summer! I am looking forward to a great year with you. This letter has helpful information intended to make your year easier for you and your students so please read through it carefully and share it with your colleagues.

Please find a few minutes in the next NOW to REGISTER AT OUR SPEECH WEBSITE if you have not already done so. If you have previously registered, you will not have to register again, you will simply need to click on the “Profile” tab once you are logged into the OSSAA Speech website and update your student roster **AND CLICK ON THE AFFIDAVIT AGAIN!** If you have not previously registered, this is very important to do and there are detailed instructions included below. The affidavit, your speech roster and many other things are completed online, and the sooner you register the smoother everything will be for all of us. Contact information and students who have qualified for Regionals and State will be posted as the year unfolds. In addition, you will use the website to enter Regional and State competitions for One-Act Plays, and Regional and State tournaments for Speech and Debate.

Please be aware that you can access the OSSAA speech site by going to the Speech page at www.ossaa.com and clicking on the link or by directly going to www.ossaaspeech.com. **There is important information directly related to your students’ success on both the Speech page at ossaa.com AND at ossaaspeech.com- please become familiar with both sites.**

The **“2023-2024 Speech Rules and Regulation Manual”** is available for downloading **after July 1.** The manual is one of these many important resources found online at www.ossaa.com . Once there, click on “Non-Athletic” and then “Speech/Debate”. You can download and even print the manual for your convenience.

I highly encourage you to attend the coach’s meeting/workshop on **September 9, 2023.** This meeting will once again be held in person **at Rose State College**, with a tentative schedule of 8:30 am-1:30 pm. We will have several break-out sessions to discuss important issues, including the ever popular and super helpful “New Teachers Workshop”! This is a great way for new teachers or teachers new to our state to get updated on the OSSAA rules and procedures. More details will be emailed after the school year begins, but please know this is a very helpful event for both new and experienced coaches. We value your input, and this event also provides you the opportunity to share your opinion on important speech/debate issues and how they affect our students here in Oklahoma.

*Though all coaches are encouraged to attend our meeting/workshop on September 9, **Tournament Directors are required to attend**. Please be sure to pick up your hosting packet while there to help you prepare for your tournament. If you are hosting a tournament and absolutely cannot attend, please let me know well in advance of the meeting, if possible. There could be an opportunity to connect in Tulsa later in the fall, otherwise you will be required to come to the OSSAA office to pick up your packet and have a short orientation at least two weeks before your tournament. Failure to do so can cause your tournament to be canceled.

Speech and Debate classifications are done on a year-to-year basis. The latest ADM numbers can be found at www.ossaa.com, under classifications. **PLEASE DOUBLE-CHECK YOUR CLASSIFICATIONS.** (One-Act classifications will be determined after the entry deadline since they are based on participation.)

Your speech advisory committee suggested some changes in last May's meeting, and the OSSAA board subsequently approved them in June. **Several significant changes have been approved, including the addition of two new events that will be piloted this year. Be sure to read starting on page SPE 48!**

Please note- **before you are allowed to enter any tournaments or One-Act competitions, your school must be considered eligible.** Once you sign into the OSSAA Speech site, you can access the list of eligible schools under the "Eligible Schools" tab. A school is considered eligible to compete when:

1. The Affidavit has been submitted electronically.
2. Qualifying Speech Participants Roster has been submitted electronically.
3. All speech payments from the 2022-2023 school year are paid.

If I can help in any way, feel free to reach out. Thank you for your time and have a great year!

Sincerely,

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Activities- the other half of education.