



August 2024

To: All Speech, Debate, and Theatre 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.

Our Speech/Debate/Theatre Website (ossaaspeech.com) is now back up and running! You will see that the biggest change is that **only one representative from each school may register your school account**. This means that every speech, debate and theatre educator in your school will use that person's email address and a shared password. If you have multiple people from your school who will use the website and you are the person who registers your school, please do not use your super-secret password that only you can know. We recommend that instead you collaborate on a password everyone would like to use instead and maybe even take a moment to register together. On the Profile page, under the Affidavit, you will find a place to list each person's individual email address allowing each of you to receive our OSSAA emails and acting as your signed affidavit for the activity for which you are responsible.

Please do not forget to populate your student roster. The roster will be shared by everyone at your school who uses the ossaaspeech.com site so do not delete a student unless you are certain they are not enrolled in any of the programs that use the site.

If you wish to login to the ossaaspeech.com website and your school is already registered, you will not be able to register again. You will need to use the email and password that was provided for registration. **Before contacting the OSSAA for the login credentials, please check with your colleague(s)**. Once you are logged in, click on the "Profile" tab, check the affidavit, add your email address and cell number.

If you are not familiar with the ossaaspeech.com site, you will use this site throughout the year to enter your students into contests such as One-Act Play Regionals or Speech & Debate tournaments. This is also where you will access and print your invoices (the OSSAA does not send invoices to you.) **Please take some time to familiarize yourself with both this site and the Speech & Debate page at ossaa.com**. Many resources can be found on our page at ossaa.com.

Please now find a few minutes very soon to register at ossaaspeech.com/registration.aspx. You can access the OSSAA speech site by going straight to ossaaspeech.com or by going to ossaa.com and navigating to our Speech page under the Activities tab. You will find a link to ossaaspeech.com there.

The **"2024-2025 Speech Rules and Regulation Manual"** is available for downloading. The manual is one of these many important resources found online at www.ossaa.com. Once there, click on

“Activities” 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 7, 2024**. This meeting will once again be held in person **at Southern Nazarene University**, 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 14, **Tournament Directors are required to attend. Note- We will be changing our procedure to help keep track of attendance this year- more details will be shared soon.** 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. Failure to do so can cause your tournament to be canceled.

Speech and Debate classifications and One-Act Play classifications are done on a year-to-year basis. We received the attendance reports we need to create the ADM numbers just this week so our office plans to have the final ADM numbers and organization classifications posted by August 9th at the latest. At that point, the 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. 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 2023-2024 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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