

**OSSAA Speech Advisory Committee**

**May 8, 2025**

**Present: Alex Claussen, OSSAA; Kasey Harrison, Edmond Santa Fe; Robert Walters, Broken Arrow; Brett Young, Bishop McGuinness; Jennifer Denslow, Oologah; Paula McConnell, Marlow; Stormy Howell, Okmulgee; Jason Paris, Cherokee; Jody Batie, Haskell**

- 1. Make Jody Batie 3A/4A state tournament director.**

**Moved: Paula McConnell      2nd: Stormy Howell**

**Passed: 8-0**

- 2. Make Jennifer Denslow 5A/6A state tournament director.**

**Moved: Kasey Harrison      2nd: Brett Young**

**Passed: 8-0**

- 3. Move the top of 3A to 249.9 ADM and the bottom of 4A to 250 ADM.**

**Moved: Paula McConnell**

**2nd: Jody Batie**

**Passed: 8-0**

- 4. Delete "original script: on rule VII-C-3 and substitute "original source" to clarify that coaches should have a copy of the original source the material comes from, not a typed copy based on the original.**

**Moved: Jennifer Denslow**

**2nd: Jody Batie**

**Passed 8-0**

- 5. Cut "A copy from the original published script must be available. This copy must have all lines highlighted if they are to be performed. A typed copy of the introduction and all transitions must also be available. Each separate transition must be numbered, with the correct corresponding number placed in the script at the appropriate location. Penalty for failure to have available or follow proper form is disqualification." from: Rule XI C \*4, XI D \*4, XI E \*8, XI F \*8, XI H \*7, XI M \*5 (Prose, Poetry, Monologue. HD/DD, HI/DI, POI) to provide only one place where instructions for a properly formatted script appears.**

**Moved: Jennifer Denslow**

**2nd: Kasey Harrison**

**Passed 8-0**

6. Add POI to the list of literature-based events in rule VII C 2 on page SPE7.

Moved: Kasey Harrison

2nd: Brett Young

Passed: 8-0

7. End the pilot program of POI and Informative and make them regular events. These events will count toward the three permitted and sweeps will be awarded in the same way as prose, poetry, and oratory.

Moved: Kasey Harrison

2nd: Brett Young

Passed 8-0

8. Delete rule XI M 3 on page SPE 24: "Gestures are allowed but the interpreter is to get his effect primarily through vocal changes and changes in facial expressions. Character voices are acceptable. Eye contact should be directed toward the audience."

Moved: Jennifer Denslow

2nd: Robert Walters

Passed 8-0

9. Visual aids not permitted, with the following exceptions: Informative Speaking may have visual aids within the confines of the specific rules, and Prose, Poetry, and POI may use the book itself as a prop with no other visual aids, including but not limited to images, or the removal of pages.

Moved: Stormy Howell

2nd: Paula McConnell

Passed: 8-0

10. On rule XI K 10 SPE 23, change the second sentence to read: "The January topic will be used in qualifying tournaments in January and February, the March topic will be used for regionals and state.

Moved: Kasey Harrison

2nd: Jody Batie

Passed 8-0

11. On rule XI B 3, cut "precede his selection" and insert "include a short introduction".

Moved: Jody Batie

2nd: Paula McConnell

Passed: 8-0

12. Add to the rules on SPE 8 to become VII E 10, “ Artistic Plagiarism: Videos of NSDA final round performances and/or other video media are intended to provide educational examples for coaches and students. They are not intended to serve as a model to imitate or duplicate in performance directly. Although universal human emotions may lead to similarities in portrayal of characters, impersonation, including blocking, and/or interpretation (verbal and/or nonverbal portrayal of characters and text) of material of previous NSDA semifinal round, final round, and other video media performances is prohibited and grounds for disqualification. It is the burden of the individual filing the protest to provide documented evidence of the artistic plagiarism demonstrated in the performance. This includes providing access to the plagiarized video material and written verification of examples to substantiate the complaint.”

Moved: Jennifer Denslow

2nd: Kasey Harrison

Passed: 8-0

13. Shorten time limit in Standard Oratory to 8 minutes.

Moved: Paula McConnell

2nd: Jennifer Denslow

Failed 2-6

Aye: Paula McConnell, Jennifer Denslow

No: Kasey Harrison, Robert Walters, Brett Young, Stormy Howell, Jody Batie, Jason Paris

### **Discussion Points**

- Discussed renaming regions using numerical rather than geographical designations
- Discussed Tournament Directors and schools checking ADM for classification
- Discussed changing the 5A/6A ADM break
- Discussed requiring/encouraging Trigger Warnings
- Discussed not requiring schools with fewer than 4 entries at a tournament to provide a judge
- Discussed allowing more grace for judges with medical conditions regarding judge drops the night before a tournament
- Discussed Providing an example of what a script should look like when a protest is filed to help coaches know what is expected / will provide examples
- Discussed requiring all event manuscripts, debate constructives, speeches, etc. to be submitted to Tabroom one week before a tournament to expedite protests and save resources (paper, ink, etc.)
- Discussed requiring extemp speakers to submit all index cards and questions to the judge at the end of their speech
- Discussed prohibiting students from holding their question during extemp
- Discussed requiring extemp students to use a timer instead of a cell phone for self-timing
- Discussed providing definitions for foul language, vulgarity, and excessive
- Discussed providing more support to new coaches who wish to host a tournament
- Discussed switching the third tiebreaker in Policy and PF Debate from ranks to points to provide clearer tie-breaking criteria
- Discussed eliminating ranks and opponent ranks as tiebreakers in Policy and PF Debate
- Discussed limiting each school to one bye per event if four or more schools are entered

- Discussed 3-member Policy Debate rules teams for Regionals and State
- Discussed 3 qualification maximum rules teams for Policy Debate
- Discussed amending the current timing rule for all speech and acting events to reduce the grace period from 30 seconds to 15/10 seconds
- Discussed limiting schools from the same class judging each other as much as possible at Regionals and State
- Discussed removing Rule XI-F-7 on SPE 17
- Discussed establishing a time limit for setup in INFO
- Discussed restricting facial jewelry
- Discussed eliminating the rule regarding significant movement in prose/poetry
- Discussed clarifying the rule regarding significant movement in prose/poetry
- Discussed allowing students participating in duets to qualify with multiple partners
- Discussed increasing the maximum number of events students may take to Regionals and State to 4 or 5
- Discussed creating opportunities to build more community among coaches, including considering time for coaches to get to know each other at the September meeting
- Discussed having more judges in the final rounds at State
- Discussed ranking a student last in finals at State, rather than disqualifying them, if Rule VII-C-3 (providing a properly formatted script) is violated
- Discussed changing sweepstakes points in debate
- Discussed lowering the maximum time for 10 minute events to 8 minutes
- Discussed reducing the number of finalists in IE events at State and Regionals from 8 to 6
- Discussed aligning speech rules for private schools with existing athletic rules for private schools
- Discussed allowing protests only from coaches or independent judges and requiring that the protested school be informed of who filed the protest
- Discussed publishing All-State Speech & Debate and One Act Play jacket information on the Speech & Debate page at [ossaa.com](http://ossaa.com)
- Discussed regional debate out-round procedures
- Discussed requiring ½ points to be an option for debate speaker points
- Discussed creating a rule regarding the use of framework in PF debate
- Discussed adding a cutoff time of two minutes over the maximum time for each IE event
- Discussed revising the rule about AI
- Discussed prohibiting somersaults, cartwheels, forward and backward flips, splits, and other gymnastic moves in events that allow unlimited movement
- Discussed increasing entry fees at qualifying tournaments
- Discussed the State Speech daily start time, coach meeting time, and award assembly start time
- Discussed ensuring consistency between ballot rules and event rules
- Discussed addressing judge professionalism and conduct
- Discussed the shortage of awards and All-State certificates at Regionals and State
- Discussed the OSSAA T-shirt vendor's absence at 5A/6A State and issues with online ordering
- Discussed providing coaches with an editable copy of the rule change proposal form
- Discussed shows being assigned randomly and how host schools should utilize the 30 minutes of tech time
- Discussed reducing the top 3 shows from each One Act Regional advancing to State to the top 2, with the 3rd being an alternate
- Discussed recognizing a consistent 10 students for All-Star Cast and adding an additional 10 honorable mention students to regional and state One Act
- Discussed having four classes for One Act instead of three
- Discussed replacing points on the One Act ballot with a rating system, such as Superior, Excellent, etc
- Discussed allowing One Act schools to petition up a class, similar to the allowance in Speech & Debate
- Discussed encouraging One Act schools to make every effort to avoid changing performance times