

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

Speech, Debate and One-Act Play

Pages are numbered to correspond with the OSSAA Rules and Regulations Handbook.

SEE RULES AND POLICIES IN THE OSSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS HANDBOOK
LOCATED IN THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

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It is OSSAA's expectation that all judges are:

- Attentive: Act as a silent observer while students present. Make it clear you are giving performers your full attention.
- Impartial: Enter each round with an open mind. Do not let your personal opinions regarding content, students' dress, hairstyling, etc., influence your decision.
- Kind: Speech/Drama/Debate is an educational activity. Students gain growth and confidence via this supportive environment.

NOTE: ALL NEW RULES, REGULATIONS, AND POLICIES ARE UNDERLINED.**I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. Purpose: The purpose of the OSSAA speech contests is to provide statewide speech competitions that foster high performance standards, nurture aesthetic development and reinforce the many functions of speech within the society. Although the OSSAA will support individual and group objectives, it is the responsibility of the director/coach to define and meet these goals within the students' educational, socio-cultural environment.
- B. Legislative Procedure: Like all OSSAA regulations, the speech competition regulations have been formulated by the OSSAA Board of Directors and can be changed only by that group. These regulations, however, are under constant study and the Speech Advisory Committee may make recommended changes to the OSSAA Board of Directors.

II. ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- A. The Speech Advisory Committee is composed of two representatives from each speech classification. A coach who participates in more than one classification is eligible to represent only the larger classification.
 - 1. Classes 5A and 6A: One member from each classification shall be from schools in the Greater Oklahoma City Area and schools assigned to the West 5A-6A Regional Speech and Debate Tournament and one member from each classification shall be from schools in the Greater Tulsa Area and schools assigned to the East 5A-6A Regional Speech and Debate Tournament.
 - 2. Classes 3A and 4A: One member from each classification shall be from the NW or SW quadrants and one member from each classification shall be from the NE or SE quadrants. Each quadrant shall be comprised of the OSSAA Board of Directors zones NW, NE, SW, and SE with a distribution of member schools as equal as permitted of approximately nineteen or twenty counties per quadrant.
 - 3. Each quadrant shall comprise the following counties:
 - a) NW QUADRANT: Alfalfa, Beaver, Blaine, Cimarron, Custer, Dewey, Ellis, Garfield, Grant, Harper, Kay, Kingfisher, Logan, Major, Oklahoma, Roger Mills, Texas, Woods, and Woodward.
 - b) NE QUADRANT: Adair, Cherokee, Craig, Creek, Delaware, Lincoln, Mayes, Muskogee, Noble, Nowata, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Osage, Ottawa, Pawnee, Payne, Rogers, Tulsa, Wagoner, and Washington.
 - c) SW QUADRANT: Beckham, Caddo, Canadian, Carter, Comanche, Cotton, Garvin, Grady, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Jefferson, Kiowa, Love, McClain, Murray, Stephens, Tillman, and Washita.
 - d) SE QUADRANT: Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Cleveland, Coal, Haskell, Hughes, Johnston, Latimer, LeFlore, Marshall, McCurtain, McIntosh, Pittsburg, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Pushmataha, Seminole, and Sequoyah.
- B. ELECTIONS: One member from classes 3A and 4A and one member from classes 5A and 6A will be elected by all member speech schools each year. Nominations shall be made by primary ballot from members of the school classification they represent. The names of the two nominees having the highest number of votes in the primary election shall appear on a ballot to be submitted to all speech member schools.
- C. VACANCIES: Not more than two new members will be elected each year. Cases of death, resignation, removal, or disqualification from office will result in appointment by the Advisory Committee at least 7 days prior to the next scheduled speech advisory committee meeting to fulfill the remainder of the term.
- D. TERM OF OFFICE: A regular term of office is four years and may be extended to avoid electing more than two new members in one year. A member is not limited to the number of terms he or she may serve if elected.
- E. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: The OSSAA Speech Director will serve as chairman of the Speech Advisory Committee. Unless a special meeting is called, the committee will meet annually in May.
- F. SPEECH ADVISORY COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES
 - 1. To work in the tab room at the state tournament for the duration of the contest.
 - 2. To work in the tab room at the regional tournament.
 - 3. To set up and break down the state and regional speech tournament as requested by the OSSAA.
 - 4. To attend the Fall Coaches Meeting.
 - 5. To attend all OSSAA Speech Committee meetings for their duration as set by the OSSAA office.
 - 6. To contact in writing the schools represented.
 - 7. To represent the best interests of all students and schools in one's class by collecting information concerning the activity throughout the year.
 - 8. To serve in an advisory capacity to the OSSAA Director of Speech Activities.

ELECTION CYCLES - SPEECH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 2027	East 6A	East 3A
September 2028	East 5A	West 4A
September 2025	West 6A	West 3A
September 2026	West 5A	East 4A

SPEECH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
6A East	Robert Walters	August 2027
6A West	Kasey Harrison	August 2029
5A East	Jennifer Denslow	August 2028
5A West	Merrie Palmer	August 2026
4A East	Stormy Howell	August 2026
4A West	Nick Bradt	August 2028
3A East	Jody Batie	August 2027
3A West	Lindsay Skelton	August 2029

III. GENERAL REGULATIONS**A. Eligibility**

1. Member schools and associate member schools shall be eligible by complying with the constitution and rules of the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association. Schools participating in the competitive speech program will be assessed a \$40 fee in addition to the regular service fee.
2. All students shall comply with the eligibility rules governing non-athletic activities as outlined in the Speech and Debate Manual of the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association.
3. Student(s) participating at a qualifying, regional or state tournament must be accompanied by a certified teacher employed by that school district for a minimum of one class period daily or an administrator employed by that school district. For schools using the A-B Block, the teacher must be employed for a minimum of one class period per A-B cycle. Failure to comply will result in disqualification of all students from that school at that tournament. Appropriate drop fees will be charged. Exception: medical emergencies arising during tournament.
- *4. Any student found using tobacco destroying property, violating any rules of the host site, and/or violating any law on the grounds of the tournament shall be disqualified and expelled from the tournament.
5. A team roster using first and last names must be submitted to the OSSAA before a school is eligible to compete in qualifying tournaments. Rosters must be amended to reflect any new competitors.
6. The OSSAA Rule Affidavit must be submitted by the coach(es) before a school is eligible to compete in qualifying tournaments.
7. Any qualifications earned prior to submitting a roster and Rule Affidavit to OSSAA will be nullified and the next student moved up to the qualifying slot.
8. A student who has previously qualified for regionals and/or state competition loses those qualifications upon changing schools. This loss of qualification will not result in moving up another contestant from those previous tournaments.

B. New Rules For the 2025-2026 Season

All new rules will be underlined.

IV. ENTRY PROCEDURES**A. Qualifying Tournament**

1. Entry Form - Enter by invitation only. Call or write the tournament director for an invitation and entry form.
2. Entry Deadline - Determined by qualifying tournament director.
3. Entry Fee - Entry fees for OSSAA qualifying contest will be a maximum of \$4 per individual event and \$8 per duet, \$5 per Lincoln-Douglas debater and \$10 per cross examination debate team and public forum team.
4. Fee/Cancellation - Entry fees will be assessed based on the entry on Monday prior to the tournament. Entry fees are owed as of that time regardless of the participation of the school or the individual student. Exception for weather: The school principal or superintendent must notify the host tournament director to cancel their participation if the weather is deplorable and dangerous to the safety of the participants to travel on the day of the tournament. A 25% levy against the entry fee or \$30, whichever is lower, must be paid by all schools entered if the tournament is cancelled because of weather and cannot be rescheduled.
5. The tournament director may set a drop and add fee of \$5 maximum for each event dropped or added after 4 PM on Tuesday prior to the contest. CX-LD-PF drop fees: \$25 after 9 AM the day of the tournament; \$50 drops at registration, no shows, or forfeits. IE drop fee: \$20, if reported at registration; \$25, if not. In debate events, all students unable to return to scheduled competition on Saturday must notify the tournament director before registration, Changes made after registration will be counted as "Drop at Registration" and fees will be assessed by the tournament director. Students marked as "Not Returning" will not be reinstated after Round 1 has begun.
6. Judging Requirement - A school must provide one coach or a person who meets the qualifications for judging to serve as a judge for each twelve (12) individual event entries or portion thereof; 1 CX judge for 3 Cross examination teams, 2 judges for 5 teams, 3 judges for 7 teams, 4 judges for 9 teams, 5 judges for 11 teams, 6 judges for 13 teams, and continue the same for all above 13 teams; 1 judge per four (4) public forum teams and 1 LD judge per four (4) Lincoln-Douglas entries or portion thereof. Failure to provide said judges will result in an additional flat fee of \$25 per missing IE judge and \$25 per missing debate judge per day that debate rounds are held. Fees will be assessed for a missing judge in each area (i.e., LD, CX, PF). Pro-rata fees may be charged for judges not available for all rounds. **Coaches will be expected to judge. Tournament directors may charge coaches up to \$10 per missed round.**
7. Penalty - Schools that have not cleared their financial obligations (entry fees/drop fees) by April 15th will be placed on WARNING, if not cleared by May 15th will be placed on PROBATION, if not cleared by June 15th will be placed on SUSPENSION and will be ineligible for participation in OSSAA speech events the following year until bills are cleared.

B. Regional Tournament

1. Entry Form – Electronic entry form must be submitted by the deadline date.
2. Entry Deadline - The entry deadline is stated on the Qualifying Tournament Schedule and the Regional Entry Form.
3. Entry Fee - Entry fees for the regional contest will be \$6 for each individual or Lincoln-Douglas entry and \$12 for each cross-examination, public forum or duet entry. **A copy of the invoice must accompany each check.**
4. Fee Refund - Entry fees are not refundable.
5. Fee/Cancellation - A fee of \$5 will be charged for each individual event dropped or changed after 9 AM on the Monday prior to the tournament. A fee of \$25 will be charged for cross-examination/Lincoln-Douglas/public forum entries dropped or changed after 9 AM on the Monday prior to the tournament. A \$50 drop fee will be charged for debate drops at registration or no shows/forfeits. A \$20 drop fee will be charged for individual events dropped at registration. A \$50 drop fee will be charged for individual event no shows. The school principal or superintendent must notify the host tournament director to cancel their participation if the weather is deplorable and dangerous to the safety of the participants to travel on the day of the tournament. In debate events, all students unable to return to scheduled competition on Saturday must notify the tournament director before registration, Changes made after registration will be counted as "Drop at Registration" and fees will be assessed by the tournament director. Students marked as "Not Returning" will not be reinstated after Round 1 has begun.
6. Judging Requirement - A school must provide one coach or a person who meets the qualification for judging to serve as a judge for each five (5) individual event entries or portion thereof; 1 CX judge for 2 cross-examination teams, 2 judges for 3 teams, 3 judges for 4 teams, 4 judges for 5 teams, 5 judges for 6 teams, 6 judges for 7 teams, and continue the same for all above 7 teams; 1 judge per two (2) public forum teams and 1 LD judge per two (2) Lincoln-Douglas entries or portion thereof. Failure to provide said judges will result in an additional fee of \$50 per missing judge. Fees will be assessed for a missing judge in each area (i.e., CX, LD, PF). Note: Judging responsibilities in Section VIII, Subpoint D, 6 and 7. **Coaches will be expected to judge. Required judges must be available 75% of all rounds.**

7. Penalty - Schools that have not cleared their financial obligations (entry fees/drop fees) by April 15th will be placed on WARNING, if not cleared by May 15th will be placed on PROBATION, if not cleared by June 15th will be placed on SUSPENSION and will be ineligible for participation in the OSSAA speech events the following year until bills are cleared.
- C. State Tournament
 1. Entry Form - Electronic entry form must be submitted by the deadline date.
 2. Entry Deadline - The entry deadline is stated on the Qualifying Tournament Schedule and the Regional Entry Form.
 3. Entry Fee - Entry fees for the state contest will be \$6 for each individual or Lincoln-Douglas entry and \$12 for each cross-examination team, public forum or duet entry. **A copy of the invoice must accompany each check.**
 4. Fee Refund - Entry fees are not refundable.
 5. Fee/Cancellation - Coaches must notify immediately the state tournament director of drops so that the next regional participant may be moved up. Any drop after 9 AM on Monday will result in a \$25 drop fee. A \$50 drop fee will be charged for drops at registration, no shows, or forfeits.
 6. Judging Requirement - A school must provide one coach or a person who meets the qualification for judging to serve as a judge for each five (5) individual event entries or portion thereof; 1 CX judge for 2 cross-examination teams, 2 judges for 3 teams, 3 judges for 4 teams, 4 judges for 5 teams, 5 judges for 6 teams, 6 judges for 7 teams, and continue the same for all above 7 teams; one judge per two (2) public forum teams, and one (1) LD judge per two (2) Lincoln-Douglas entries or portion thereof. Failure to provide said judges will result in an additional fee of \$100 per missing judge. Fees will be assessed for a missing judge in each area (i.e., CX, LD, PF). Note: Judging Responsibilities in Section VIII, Subpoint D, # 6 and 7. **Coaches will be expected to judge. Required judges must be available 75% of all rounds. Required debate judges that do not pick up assigned ballots for the quarter-final, semi-finals and final rounds of the state tournament a \$100 fine per missed round will be assessed per ballot missed.**
 7. Penalty - Schools that have not cleared their financial obligations (entry fees/drop fees) by April 15th will be placed on WARNING, if not cleared by May 15th will be placed on PROBATION, if not cleared by June 15th will be placed on SUSPENSION and will be ineligible for participation in OSSAA speech events the following year until bills are cleared.
- D. Regional One-Act Play
 1. Entry Form - Electronic entry form must be submitted by the deadline date.
 2. Entry Deadline - The entry deadline is stated on the Qualifying Tournament Schedule and the Regional One-Act Entry Form.
 3. Entry Fee - **A copy of the invoice must accompany each check.** Fees should be paid prior to participation.
 4. Fee Refund - Entry fees are not refundable.
 5. Fee/Cancellation – A \$50 fee will be imposed for any play that drops prior to 9 a.m. the Monday of the contest. After 9:00 a.m. Monday, the drop fee becomes \$100.
 6. Penalty - Schools that have not cleared their financial obligations (entry fees/drop fees) by April 15th will be placed on WARNING, if not cleared by May 15th will be placed on PROBATION, if not cleared by June 15th will be placed on SUSPENSION and will be ineligible for participation in OSSAA speech events the following year until bills are cleared.
 7. OSSAA will only fund the contest day of the regional and state competition. All other cost for rehearsal time will be assumed by the participating school.
- E. State One-Act Play
 1. Entry Form - Electronic entry form must be submitted by the deadline date.
 2. Entry Deadline - The entry deadline is stated on the Qualifying Tournament Schedule and the State One-Act Entry Form.
 3. Entry Fee - **A copy of the invoice must accompany each check.**
 4. Fee Refund - Entry fees are not refundable.
 5. Fee/Cancellation – A \$50 fee will be imposed for any play that drops prior to 9 a.m. the Monday of the contest. After 9:00 a.m. Monday, the drop fee becomes \$100.
 6. Penalty - Schools that have not cleared their financial obligations (entry fees/drop fees) by April 15th will be placed on WARNING, if not cleared by May 15th will be placed on PROBATION, if not cleared by June 15th will be placed on SUSPENSION and will be ineligible for participation in OSSAA speech events the following year until bills are cleared.

V. CLASSIFICATION**A. Senior High**

1. High schools will be placed in one of four classes every year according to their ADM of grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 as compiled from the records sent to the State Department of Education of the previous year of re-classification.
2. Class 6A, ADM of 1150 and above; Class 5A, ADM of 550 to 1149.99; Class 4A, ADM of 250-549.99; Class 3A, all schools with ADM 249.99 and below.
3. A school may petition to compete in a higher classification by indicating that on their roster at the beginning of each school year. A school that petitions up must remain in that class for the entire school year. A school may not compete in a class below their regular classification.
4. Schools will be placed in three classes for one-act plays after entries are received in the OSSAA office. The top one-third according to the ADM of grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 as compiled from the records sent to the State Department of Education of the year used for speech reclassification will be 6A; the next one-third Class 5A; and the remaining one-third Class 4A.

B. Ninth Grade

1. Ninth graders may be classed independently according to the ADM of the ninth-grade pool from which these competitors may be drawn. **This must be reflected by a separate team roster for that squad.** ADMs between 62.4 and below will compete in 3A; 62.5-129.9 will compete in 4A; 130-287.4 will compete in 5A; and 287.5 and above will compete in 6A.
2. Students below the ninth grade may not participate in qualifying, regional, or state tournaments or one-act play competitions.
3. A ninth-grade student may represent either a high school or ninth grade squad, but his/her submission on the team roster will determine the classification he will represent for the entire year.
4. Junior High Schools competing in One Act Play competition (9th graders only) will be placed in Class 5A.

VI. EVENTS**A. Group I Events**

1. Original Oratory
2. Standard Oratory
3. Prose
4. Dramatic or Humorous Interpretation
5. Foreign or Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking
6. Monologue
7. Lincoln-Douglas Debate
8. Poetry
9. Informative Speaking
10. Program of Oral Interpretation

B. Group II Events

1. Cross-Examination Debate
2. Humorous or Dramatic Duet
3. Public Forum Debate (open 3A/4A open 5A/6A)

VII. PARTICIPATION**A. Limitations**

1. A school is limited to a total of eight (8) qualifying tournaments.
2. No student may enter more than eight (8) qualifying tournaments during a school year. Exception: A student changing schools may enter up to eight (8) qualifying tournaments representing the new school.
3. No student may enter more than three different events (including group events) in any tournament. A student may not enter both divisions of extemp or two or more divisions of debate in the same tournament. A student may not enter an event more than once at the same tournament.
4. In all events (except cross-examination debate, public forum debate, extemporaneous speaking and Lincoln-Douglas debate) Previously qualified students may enter into the qualifying division in subsequent tournaments, up until Dec. 1. However, this does not prevent the student from entering some other event at a subsequent tournament. Materials used in qualifying tournaments may be changed for regional and state competition.
5. In Class 6A only, a tournament director may require previously qualified students in debate and extemp to enter the championship division providing the fees are no more than the qualifying division. The tournament director must indicate this requirement in the tournament invitation.

6. When identifying additional qualifiers created by previously qualified students, additional qualifiers must have competed in finals.

B. Substitution

1. In case of an emergency situation, a school will be allowed to substitute one team member at the regional and/or state level if the substitution is approved by the Association. A substitution cannot be made at any tournament after competition begins. Substitution will be considered but not limited to illness, death, ineligibility, transfer or removal from the speech program. Substitution will be considered only for individuals who are not present at the competition.
2. At least one of the originally qualified members of the team must remain at all levels of competition.

C. Material

- *1. Material used by a student in a state or NSDA national tournament from a previous year may not be used again by that student in any event as long as he/she participates in high school activity. Material shall be defined as "title and author."
- *2. Published material shall be defined as any material which is published and available to the general public. This excludes any home high school publications (ex: literary anthology, newspaper, school website). Scripts from the Internet are acceptable if they include proof of the source. Blogs are unacceptable sources. Material written by students is prohibited in literature-based events: hd, dd, hi, di, pr, po, mo, poi. If protested: schools are responsible for providing proof of legitimacy which is defined as being under the control of the original artist or producer. The decision of the tournament director and adjudication panel shall be final.
- *3. After a protest has been filed with the tournament director, upon notification the coach shall make available a photocopy, electronic scans, photos, or other direct facsimiles of the original source that is in question to the tournament director within 30 minutes. 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 proper form is disqualification.
- *4. All performances must be void of profanity, vulgarity, nudity, obscenity, and hate speech. Hate speech can be defined as speech that is derogatory to a person or group based on race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual preference, or disability. Use of these may result in lowered ranking by the judges and a protest filed with the tournament director.
- *5. All performances must remain faithful to the author's intent.
- *6. Original scripts are not allowed except in Original Oratory.
- *7. Transcriptions of audio and video performances are not allowed unless provided by the original artist or producer.
- *8. Additional wording may be added only for the purpose of introduction, transition, and conclusion. Transitions must be a vehicle for time or location change only. Total time of introduction, conclusion and all transition may not exceed two (2) minutes. Authors' wording may not be altered except to delete vulgarities and offensive language.
9. In tournament and one-act performances where sensitive material will be discussed (suicide, sexual assault, abuse, etc.) the OSSAA allows Trauma warnings to be disclosed by performers form the audience prior to their performance. Trauma Warnings will not be timed and students who feel they should sent to the hallway prior the performance will be allowed to do so without penalty. Students who choose to step out due to Trauma Warnings should re-enter the room following the performance.
10. Visual aids are not permitted with the following exceptions: Informative speaking may have visual aids within the confine of its specific rules. Prose, poetry and POI may use the book itself as a prop (with no other visual aids, including but not limited to images, the removal of pages, etc.)

D. Scouting

1. Notes or flow sheets may be taken by students and coaches during any event.
2. No audio or video recorders will be allowed at any time.

E. Violation - A violation is an infraction for which the following penalties will be enforced:

1. In individual events, the offender shall be treated as if he/she had never entered the event. His/her name will be stricken from the list of entries and will, therefore, be deprived of any ranking or rating.
2. In team events the entire team will be treated as if it had not entered the tournament and will, therefore, be deprived of any ranking or rating.
3. No final rounds will be rerun as a result of disqualification.

4. In those individual and team events in which participants are ranked 1, 2, 3, etc., the next highest participant will be moved up to fill the vacancy. The rankings of other contestants in the event will be adjusted to reflect the disqualification at both the Regional and State tournaments.
- *5. A student discovered entering a qualifying tournament in an event in which they have previously qualified after Dec 1. will be disqualified in that at that tournament (except in debate and extemp).
- *6. A student who intentionally harasses or disrupts a contestant during presentation will cause his/her school to be disqualified in all events when reported to the tournament director by the judge.
- *7. Plagiarism in original oratory or falsification of evidence in oratory, extemp, or debate shall result in suspension in that event for that competition.
8. Plagiarism is defined as claiming, indicating, or implying that the ideas, sentences, or words of another writer are your own. The use of AI to create an oratory, extemporaneous, or debate speech is considered plagiarism and is subject to disqualification. It includes copying the work of another and presenting it as your own, failing to get away from the language of the original text when paraphrasing, failing to identify the source of a quotation or paraphrase, and following the work of another as a guide to ideas and expression that are then presented as your own.
- *9. Falsification is when evidence alters the conclusion of the author.
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 a 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.

F. Protest Procedure

1. Protests must be filed with the tournament director within two (2) hours after the conclusion of the round in question or until the start of the awards assembly. (Exception: Original oratory plagiarism and evidence falsification must be reported by May 1st of that school year.)
2. A protest may be filed by a coach or a judge citing the specific violation(s) in writing. The name of the person filing the protest will not be disclosed.
3. There is a 30-minute time limit for producing a script and/or articles once the coach has been notified of a protest.
4. At qualifying tournaments, a protest will be handled in the following way:
 - a. The tournament director will bring together the judge(s), the coach, and an adjudication panel made up of two impartial coaches and the tournament director.
 - b. After review, the tournament director and the two-coach panel will render a decision and the tournament director will announce the decision to the coach.
5. At regionals the regional committee will investigate, and the tournament director will announce the decision to the coach. At state the state committee on site will investigate, render a decision, and the tournament director will announce the decision to the coach.
6. Applicable penalties will be imposed.
7. Plagiarism, falsification of evidence and egregious violations involving obscenity, profanity, vulgarity, nudity, or hate speech are subject to further action by the OSSAA. **Protests involving a Report for Improper Performance must complete Speech Form N and file with protest.**
8. All protests at a tournament shall be forwarded to the OSSAA on Speech Form N.
9. One-Act Play (see Section XIII, Subpoint E., 7)
10. Only rules marked with an asterisk are subject to protest. The penalty for violating an asterisked rule shall be disqualification.

G. Breaking Ties

1. Penalty for time violations will be the first criterion for breaking ties. (See Section IX, D.)
2. Two-way ties will be broken by judges' preference. Based on the ranks given to the two contestants, each judge ranked one of the contestants more favorably than the other. One contestant is always preferred over the other by two judges.
3. Three-way ties will be broken by converting rank score to percentages with places being awarded by highest percentages. Example: First 100%, second 50%, third 33 1/3%, fourth 25%, fifth 20%, sixth 16 2/3%, seventh 14 1/4%, eighth 12 1/2 %. If two (2) contestants are still tied by percentage, then judges preference will be used.
4. In the event of an unbreakable tie for the final qualifying spot at a qualifying tournament, all students will qualify.
5. For samples of using judges preference, see E., 3 under One-Act Play.

H. Audible pagers and cellular phones are not allowed in any round.

- I. Correction of Errors: Clerical and tab room errors may be corrected up to 9 a.m. Tuesday morning after the conclusion of the contest or tournament unless another time period is specified in advance by the contest manager/tournament director and the OSSAA.
- J. Qualifying, Regional, and State tournament directors and the state committee are ethically obligated to act upon known rules violations absent a protest. Violations brought to the attention of the tournament director and/or committee members must be in the form of a protest.

VIII. JUDGING

- A. Qualifications - A person serving as a judge in a qualifying, regional, or state tournament should be a speech, debate, or drama teacher; a college student who is majoring in the field of speech, debate, or drama; a lay person who has had experience in speech activities, or a classroom teacher whose cognate field or practical experience qualifies him/her as a competent judge. High school students may not be used to judge in qualifying division.
- B. Number of Judges
 - 1. Quarter-final, semi-final and final rounds of qualifying and regional tournaments will have three judges. Exceptions must be approved by the OSSAA. At qualifying tournaments in debate events, one judge may be used in semis & finals if all participants will qualify for regionals. In finals rounds of all IE's, where all finals participants will qualify for regional tournaments, tournament directors have the option to use just one judge.
 - 2. In final rounds, should two judges of a three-judge panel report a judge incapacitation, the tournament director, regional committee, or state committee shall determine the appropriate course of action which may include re-running the round or determining placement based on the remaining judges ballots. In preliminary rounds at regionals and state, should two judges of a three-judge panel or one judge of a two judge panel report a judge incapacitation, the round must be re-run.
- C. School Judging Requirement
 - 1. Qualifying Tournament - A school must provide one coach or a person who meets the qualifications for judging to serve as a judge for each twelve (12) individual event entries or portion thereof; ; 1 CX judge for 3 Cross examination teams, 2 judges for 5 teams, 3 judges for 7 teams, 4 judges for 9 teams, 5 judges for 11 teams, 6 judges for 13 teams, and continue the same for all above 13 teams;;1 judge per every four (4) public forum teams or portion thereof, and 1 LD judge per four (4) Lincoln-Douglas entries or portion thereof. Failure to provide said judges will result in an additional flat fee of \$25 per missing IE judge and \$25 per missing debate judge per day that debate rounds are held. Fees will be assessed for a missing judge in each area (i.e., CX, LD, PF). Note: Judging Responsibilities in Section VIII, Subpoint D, 6 and 7. Coaches **will be expected to judge. Pro-rata fees may be charged for judges not available for all rounds. Tournament directors may charge coaches up to \$10 per missed round.**
 - 2. Regional Tournament - A school must provide one coach or a person who meets the qualification for judging to serve as a judge for each five (5) individual event entries or portion thereof; ; 1 CX judge for 2 cross-examination teams, 2 judges for 3 teams, 3 judges for 4 teams, 4 judges for 5 teams, 5 judges for 6 teams, 6 judges for 7 teams, and continue the same for all above 7 teams;1 judge per two (2) public forum teams; and 1 LD judge per two (2) Lincoln-Douglas entries or portion thereof. Failure to provide said judges will result in an additional fee of \$50 per missing judge. Fees will be assessed for a missing judge in each area (i.e., CX, LD, PF). Note: Judging Responsibilities in Section VIII, Subpoint D, # 6 and 7. Coaches will be expected to judge all rounds. Judges must meet the judging criteria and be present at least 75% of the rounds to be counted as a judge.
 - 3. State Tournament - A school must provide one coach or a person who meets the qualification for judging to serve as a judge for each five (5) individual event entries or portion thereof; 1 CX judge for 2 cross-examination teams, 2 judges for 3 teams, 3 judges for 4 teams, 4 judges for 5 teams, 5 judges for 6 teams, 6 judges for 7 teams, and continue the same for all above 7 teams;; 1 judge per two (2) public forum teams; and 1 LD judge per two (2) Lincoln-Douglas entries or portion thereof. Failure to provide said judges will result in an additional fee of \$100 per missing judge. Fees will be assessed for a missing judge in each area (i.e., CX, LD, PF). Note: Judging responsibilities in Section VIII, Subpoint D, # 6 and 7. Coaches will be expected to judge all rounds. Judges must meet the judging criteria and be present at least 75% of the rounds to be counted as a judge.
- D. Responsibilities of Judges
 - 1. The judges shall not confer among themselves until all ballots are marked and sealed.
 - 2. The decision of the judge or judges in all rounds is final. Any pressure or harassment may result in the disqualification of teams and/or individuals of the protesting school.

3. The Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association office will send to the tournament director judging instructions and critique sheets in order that the tournament director will make available to all judges a copy to be studied by the judge in ample time before the start of the tournament.
4. A coach or other individuals shall not request the tournament director to make a change in the judging assignment. Judges shall not exchange ballots without permission from the tournament director.
5. No smoking will be allowed in the rooms designated for use in competition.
6. Judges are required to judge one round past their school's elimination. This applies both to elimination rounds of debate and final rounds of individual events. Coaches who do not pick up assigned ballots without prior approval of the tournament director risk disqualification of their team(s).
7. Coaches and judges are responsible for ballots assigned by the tournament director throughout the tournament. This may necessitate coaches and judges judging in time slots and events in which their students are not competing.
8. All decisions are to be rendered to the tab room within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the round.
9. Oral critiques are discouraged. If an oral critique is rendered, it should be constructive in nature, devoid of profanity, and brief.
10. An entry from a school may be disqualified if a coach interferes with a judging panel.
11. Debate judges must remain to listen to the whole round, including cross-examination and prep time. Additional assessments will be made for infractions.
12. It is an ethical obligation of coaches, judges connected with a school, and any independent judges not connected with a school to maintain the highest level of integrity and professionalism to give their undivided attention to the judging of the students in the round and not to be engaged on lap tops and/or cell phones playing games, instant messaging, texting, participating in Facebook viewing or conversations or any other distracting activities. If a violation is brought to the attention of the tournament director, the round may be re-run.

IX. TIMING

- A. Time will not begin until the first word is spoken or character movement made.
- B. A thirty (30) second grace period will be allowed in all events.
- C. Penalty for overtime (beyond 30 second grace period) will be loss of one ranking point per judge administered in the tab room. Penalty will be assessed when it is verified that a stopwatch or a digital timing device was used by the judge(s). All judges are required to keep time. If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student has gone beyond the time limit.
- D. In tabulating time penalties, when dropping rank(s) creates a tie, the contestant who performs within the time limits will rank/advance ahead of the contestant who fails to perform within the time limits.

X. TOURNAMENTS

- A. Qualifying Tournament
 1. Qualifying tournaments shall be invitational tournaments sponsored by any college or high school and approved by the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association. Tournaments sanctioned by the OSSAA for the current school year will be required to have three (3) Oklahoma schools actually compete in a class to be sanctioned again for that class for the following school year. Exceptions may be made by the OSSAA Administrator for Speech Activities. It is recommended that qualifying tournaments be on Saturday and no tournament begin before 2 PM Friday, and no round begin after 9 PM on Friday. If a coach fails to check the eligible schools list and allows an ineligible school to compete at their tournament, the coach will be put on probation. If the same coach fails to check the eligible schools list and allows an ineligible school to compete at their tournament a second year, the coach will not be allowed to host a tournament for one (1) year.
 2. All events must be offered.

3. When three Oklahoma schools are represented in a particular classification at a tournament, the following formula will be used to determine the number of students qualifying for regionals in each event in that classification: 32 students or fewer who actually compete, 3 qualify; 33-45 who actually compete, 4 qualify; 46-60 who actually compete, 5 qualify; 61-75 who actually compete, 6 qualify; 76-90 who actually compete, 7 qualify; 91-105 who actually compete, 8 qualify; 106-120 who actually compete, 9 qualify; 121 or more who actually compete, 10 qualify. When (2) two schools are represented, only (2) two schools will qualify in each event for the regionals. When one (1) school is represented, only one school will qualify in each event for regionals. Tournament directors must notify participating schools by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday if three (3) schools have not entered a qualifying division. Disqualifications will not affect the numbers advancing to the next level of competition. In team events: PF, HD, DD, and CX, the qualifications will be based on the number of students that compete not the number of entries. In all debate events where a championship division is not offered, at time of entry and not to be changed, participants may be declared as non-qualifying, which means they cannot advance to elimination debate, place or be awarded sweepstakes points. Wins will be recorded as wins and losses will be recorded as losses. (No sweepstakes points will be awarded in 3A/4A public forum debate during the 2017-2018 pilot year.)
4. The names of all qualifiers are to be listed, with their rank on the proper form, and sent to the Association office.
5. Entry fees - See Section IV, Subpoint A, 3.
6. If an event has more than four sections, the next round must be semi-finals with at least two contestants advanced from each section. No section is to exceed eight (8) contestants at any time. If an event has more than twelve (12) sections, 96 competitors, the next round must be quarter-finals with one (1) judge. A semi-finals with three (3) judges must follow.
7. Judges are to rank all contestants in preliminaries and final rounds.
8. Fee/Cancellation - See Section IV, Subpoint A, 4.
9. All tournaments will follow the sweepstakes rules outlined in the OSSAA Speech Regulations. Note: No event is to be deleted. Sweepstakes awards for qualifying tournaments will be determined by the following point system: **Cross-examination debate** -- First place, seven(7) points; Second place, six(6) points; third place, five (5) points; fourth place, four (4) points. All teams not placing first, second, third or fourth, but in the quarter-finals, two (2) points; octa-finalists two (2) points. When quarter-finals do not occur, (2) points will be awarded to 5th through 8th place. **Lincoln-Douglas debate** - First place, seven (7) points; second place, six (6) points; third place, five (5) points; fourth place, four (4) points. All quarter finalists not placing first, second, third, or fourth, two (2) points; octa-finalists one (1) point. When quarter-finals do not occur, (2) points will be awarded to 5th through 8th place. **Public Forum debate** – First place, seven (7) points; second place, six (6) points; third place, five (5) points; fourth place, four (4) points. All finalists not placing first, second, third, or fourth, two (2) points. **Duets** - First place, six (6) points; second place, five (5) points; third place, four (4) points; fourth place, three (3) points. All finalists not placing first, second, third, or fourth, two (2) points. **Individual events** - First place, five (5) points; second place, four (4) points; third place, three (3) points; fourth place, two (2) points. All finalists not placing first, second, third, or fourth, one (1) point.
10. No out-of-state schools may participate in qualifying division of competition.
11. Violation of OSSAA rules or failure to return results within one week of the tournament may result in forfeiture of hosting an OSSAA sanctioned speech event.
12. Drop Fee - See Section IV, Subpoint A, 5.

B. Regional Tournament

1. Regional tournament sites will be determined by the Board of Directors of the OSSAA.
2. Classes 6A and 5A will have two (2) regionals with a minimum of eight (8) students or teams qualifying for state in each event. See Rule #21 for specific formula.
3. Classes 4A and 3A will have four (4) regionals with four (4) students or teams qualifying for state in each event. See Rule #21 for specific formula.
4. A regional committee will be appointed by the OSSAA Office. The tournament director will be included plus a representative from each class and an alternate from each class.
5. Duties of the committee will be the following:
 - a) To preside over decisions concerning rules violations and/or interpretations.
 - b) To assist tournament director in bracketing, sectioning, and securing of judges.
 - c) To tabulate results.

REGIONAL COMMITTEES

Northwest Committee	Nick Bradt, Tournament Director 4A Chris Eckhardt, Alva 3A Jason Paris, Cherokee	Kimberly Weast, Site Coordinator Alicia Harris, Marietta Dakota Davis, Pond Creek-Hunter
Southwest Committee	Nick Lyon, Tournament Director 4A Linda Soudek, Mount St. Mary 3A Mary Turner, Rush Springs	Matt Dorr, Site Coordinator Rebecca Owen, Mount St. Mary Eva Hamlin, Crescent
Northeast Committee	Jody Batie, Tournament Director 4A Stormy Howell 3A Davida Smith, Mounds	Jody Batie, Site Coordinator Deleea Meeker, Inola Leila Martin, Foyil
Southeast Committee	Krista Clark, Tournament Director 4A Chris Larcade, Muldrow 3A Charlotte Fitzgerald, Talihina	Krista Clark, Site Coordinator Catherine Blair, Mannford Sam Caton, Stratford
West Committee	Kasey Harrison, Tournament Director 5A Brett Young, Bishop McGuinness 6A Ish Kissinger, Moore	Tyler Abbott, Site Coordinator Lori Crews, Bishop McGuinness Merrie Palmer, Ada
East Committee	Jennifer Denslow, Tournament Director 6A Robert Walters, Broken Arrow 5A Keith Denslow, Skiatook	Vicki Engledow, Site Coordinator Betty Fisher-Stanton, Jenks Erin Clark, Bishop Kelley

6. Regional tournament assignments and contest sites may be found on Schedule B. If a school is not listed, the coach should contact the OSSAA office by Oct. 1 to be assigned. Schools may be asked to attend a different regional to equalize the contest size. Schools may be required to attend a different regional due to a change in school classification.
7. The names of all finalists are to be listed with their rank on the proper form and sent to the Association office. Four alternates in each event, listed in order, should also be sent to the Association office.
8. No student may enter more than three different events (including group events) at the regional tournament.
9. Sweepstakes awards for regional tournaments will be determined by the following point system: **Cross-examination debate** - First place, seven (7) points; second place, six (6) points; third place, five(5) points; fourth place, four (4) points. All teams not placing first, second, third or fourth but in the quarter finals - two (2) points; octa-finals - two (2) points. When quarter-finals do not occur, (2) points will be awarded to 5th - 8th place. **Lincoln-Douglas debate** - First place, seven (7) points; second place, six (6) points; third place, five (5) points; fourth place, four (4) points. Debaters who reach quarter finals, two (2) points; octa-finals, one (1) point. When quarterfinals do not occur, 2 points will be awarded to 5th - 8th place. When quarter-final rounds are held in debate, no shows will not be awarded sweeps points. Exception: When teams from the same school meet themselves. **Public Forum debate** – First place, seven (7) points; second place, six (6) points; third place, five (5) points; fourth place, four (4) points. All finalists not placing first, second, third, or fourth, one (2) points. **Duets** - First place, six (6) points; second place, five (5) points; third place, four (4) points; fourth place, three (3) points. All finalists not placing first, second, third, or fourth, two (2) points. **Individual events**: First place, five (5) points; second place, four (4) points; third place, three (3) points; fourth place, two (2) points. All finalists not placing first, second, third or fourth, one (1) point. Sweepstakes ties will not be broken. Note: No event is to be deleted (no sweepstakes points will be awarded in 3A/4A public forum debate during the 2017-2018 pilot year.)
10. Entry Fee - Drop Fees - See Section IV, Subpoint B 3, 4, 5
11. All individual events will be conducted so that each contestant will perform in two (2) preset preliminary rounds before two or three judges in each round. In events with uneven numbers of contestants in sections, students in the long section(s) shall have their ranks adjusted so that no one receives a ranking lower than the last place ranking in the shortest section unless the shortest section contains fewer than four (4) contestants, in which case the adjusted ranking will not be a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in that round. At the conclusion of the two (2) preliminary rounds, the top eight (8) will be advanced to finals. No section is to exceed eight (8) contests at anytime. When advancing ties, if the number requires more than eight (8) in the final section, the tournament director will break the tie by the percentage system listed under Section VII, Subpoint G. If a tie exists after this procedure, adjusted ranks will be returned to their original ranking. If a tie exists after this procedure the tournament director, in the presence of two (2) coaches will draw by lot to determine who will compete.

12. The tournament director must determine the number of judges that will be used in preliminary rounds. The number of judges shall be kept consistent in all preliminary events.
13. The tournament director must make available to coaches the results of the preliminary rounds and ballots prior to final rounds. Results of final rounds and ballots must be made available at the conclusion of the tournament.
14. Finals will occur in all individual events with all participants present.
15. In Classes 5A/6A: When 24 or more compete in CX, PF or LD debate, a minimum of five preliminary rounds will occur to determine the quarter-finalists, no more than 2 of which may be pre-set. Each subsequent round to be power-matched (power against power). Power matching will be based on results of rounds up to that point.
16. In Classes 3A-4A: When 10 or more compete in CX or LD debate, the double elimination bracket will be used. When eight or fewer teams are entered, the round-robin system will be used.
In regional tournaments, with nine teams entered, the four teams with the best records from preliminary rounds will qualify for bracketing. When ten or more teams are entered, eight teams will qualify for bracketing.
17. In classes 5A/6A regional cx debate teams will debate a minimum of two affirmatives and two negatives, qualify for elimination debates. If a Bye exists, teams will debate no more than twice on the same side.
18. Speaker points for byes will be awarded on average of speaker points of other rounds debated. A team who forfeits receives 0 speaker rates and speaker ranks of 3 and 4. A team who is forfeited to receives an average of their speaker ratings and ranks of 1 and 2.
19. In a single elimination bracket, debaters/teams from the same school should not be paired against each other in the first elimination round. The minimum amount of bracket movement to achieve this criterion must be used. No brackets shall be broken after the first elimination round has occurred. When moving debaters/teams to break the bracket, move the lower seeded debater/team.
20. Number that qualify at regionals for state (Disqualifications will not affect the numbers advancing to the next level of competition.)

3A-4A

when 16 to 20 compete, take 5
when 21 to 29 compete, take 6
when 30 or more compete, take 7

5A-6A

when 25 to 31 compete, take 9
when 32 to 39 compete, take 10
when 40 to 47 compete, take 11
when 48 or more compete, take 12

Debate will be determined after finalizing entries.

In 5A/6A individual events, when a disparity of more than eight regional entries that actually compete exists in a specific event, the smaller region will be guaranteed eight qualifications to state and the larger region will get eight qualifications to state plus additional qualifications at a rate of one to four ratio of whole numbers with no rounding for fractions up to a maximum of 24 total entries to state in that particular event. When the number of entry disparity between the two regions is eight or less, the original state qualification formula will be applied.

In 3A/4A individual events, when a disparity of more than eight regional entries that actually compete exists in a specific event, the smaller region will be guaranteed the given qualifications to state and the other regions will get four qualifications to state plus additional qualifications at a rate of one to four ratio of whole numbers with no rounding for fractions up to a maximum of 24 total entries to state in that particular event. When the number of entry disparity between the regions is eight or less, the original state qualification formula will be applied. In the event of more than 24 qualifications, the region(s) with the least amount of disparity, will lose an additional qualification.

C. State Tournament

1. The date and place of the state tournament will be determined by the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association.
2. Separate contests will be held for classes 6A, 5A, 4A and 3A. There will be no run-off between classes.
3. A list of contestants qualifying for state competition will be sent to the OSSAA office by the regional tournament directors.
4. A student or students qualifying for state must be accompanied by a certified teacher from that school district.
5. No one student may enter more than three different events (including group events) at the state tournament.
6. Sweepstakes awards for state tournament will be determined by the following point system: **Cross-examination debate** - First place, seven (7) points; second place, six (6) points; third place, five (5) points; fourth place, four (4) points. All teams not placing first, second, third or fourth but are in the quarter finals - two (2) points. **Lincoln-Douglas debate** - First place, seven (7) points; second place, six (6) points; third place, five (5) points; fourth place, four (4) points. Debaters who reach quarter finals, two (2) points. **Public Forum debate** – First place, seven(7) points; second place, six (6) points; third place, five(5) points; fourth place, four (4) points. All finalist not placing first, second, third, or fourth, two (2) points. **Duets** - First place, six (6) points; second place, five (5) points; third place, four (4) points; fourth place, three (3) points. All finalists not placing first, second, third or fourth, two (2) points. - **Individual events:** First place, five (5) points; second place, four (4) points; third place, three (3) points; fourth place, two (2) points. All finalists not placing first, second, third or fourth, one (1) point. Sweepstakes ties will not be broken. (No sweepstakes points will be awarded in 3A/4A public forum debate during the 2017-2018 pilot year.)
7. Entry Fee - Drop Fees - See Section IV, Subpoint C, 3, 4, and 5.
8. Sectioning of IE Events
 - a. The first priority is avoiding scheduling competitors from the same school in the same sections. When a school has more than 3 competitors in an event those competitors will be distributed equally throughout the sections.
 - b. In 5A/6A: The regional champions should never be scheduled in the same section. In 3A/4A: The regional champions should always be sectioned with two sections having one regional champion and the remaining section having two. Every effort should be made so that a regional champion is never scheduled against another regional champion more than once.
 - c. Every effort should be made to balance the relative power of each section using regional placement as the guide to determine relative power.
 - d. No competitors should compete against each other more than twice.
 - e. When moving competitors to achieve the above, tournament officials should trade competitors from sections with as close to the same regional placement as possible.
 - f. Speaking order goals:
 - a. To the extent possible, competitors from the same school speaking back-to-back should be avoided. To the extent possible, competitors' speaking positions should be varied in each round.

9. All individual events will be conducted so that each contestant will perform in three (3) preliminary rounds before two (2) judges. Low ranks will be dropped from the six (6) judges before the cumulative tally. In events with uneven numbers of contestants in sections, students in the long section(s) shall have their ranks adjusted so that no one receives a ranking lower than the last place ranking in the shortest section unless the shortest section contains fewer than four (4) contestants, in which case the adjusted ranking will not be a 1st, 2nd or 3rd in that round. No section is to exceed eight(8) contestants at any time. If the number requires more than eight (8) in the final section, the tab staff will break the tie by the percentage system listed under Section VII, Subpoint G. If a tie exists after this procedure high and low ranks will be tallied to break the tie of the involved contestants. If a tie exists after this procedure, adjusted ranks will be returned to their original ranking.
If a tie exists after this procedure the tournament director, in the presence of two (2) coaches will draw by lot to determine who will compete. There are to be at least four preliminary rounds of debate before one or more judges.
10. To determine final placement the ranks from the three final round judges shall be added to the cumulative preliminary ranking. The lowest resulting cumulative total shall be the state champion with subsequent placement also determined by the lowest cumulative rank. In case of ties, the placement shall be determined by the competitor's position as determined by the three final round judges' rankings. Should a tie still exist, that will be broken by using judges' preference in the case of a two-way tie and percentages/reciprocal fractions in the case of a tie between more than two competitors. Should a tie still exist, the dropped ranks from prelims shall be counted only for tie breaking purposes. Final speaker order will be determined by random draw. Schools will not be separated. The champion in each event in each class will be named All-State in Speech and Debate.
11. The results of the three (3) preliminary rounds will be made available to coaches for inspection prior to the beginning of the final round. All final round results will be available to coaches at the conclusion of the tournament. Results of the sweepstakes tabulation will be made available by the tournament director to coaches at the conclusion of the tournament.
12. Single elimination will be used in all divisions of debate.
13. Final results and debate ballots will be released at the tournament director's discretion.
14. It is unethical for a student to attend the state tournament with no intention of completing all rounds at the tournament. A letter of reprimand will be sent to the principal from the OSSAA.

XI. REGULATIONS GOVERNING EACH EVENT

All violations of rules marked with an * are subject to the protest process which leads to disqualification.

A. Original Oratory

- *1. The original oration is a speech that may be on any subject the student chooses. It must be written by the student, although the teacher may offer suggestions as to organization, content, style, etc., and must be memorized. Use of script is not permissible.
- *2. No more than 150 words may be quoted directly. Extensive paraphrasing violates the spirit of the event. Plagiarism is defined as claiming, indicating, or implying that the ideas, sentences, or words of another writer are your own. It includes copying the work of another and presenting it as your own, failing to get away from the language of the original text when paraphrasing, failing to identify the source of a quotation or paraphrase, and following the work of another as a guide to ideas and expression that are then presented as your own.
3. The maximum time is not to exceed ten (10) minutes.
- *4. Original work from previous years' state or nationals may not be repeated by that student.
- *5. All performances must be void of profanity, vulgarity, nudity, obscenity, and hate speech. Use of these may result in lowered ranking or disqualification by the judges and a protest filed with the tournament director.
- *6. Verbal prompting from the audience is not allowed.
- *7. A typed, double-spaced copy of the oration delivered must be available. Quoted words must be highlighted and counted; paraphrases must also be highlighted. At State, a correctly formatted copy of the oratory must be submitted.

B. Standard Oratory

- *1. This event is limited to students in grades nine and ten.
- *2. For the purpose of this contest, a standard oration is defined as a speech, editorial or essay written by a person other than the speaker and must be memorized. Use of a script is prohibited. Plays, poetry, and fictional monologues are unacceptable.
3. Each participant is to include a short introduction in which s/he acquaints the audience with the author, and the reason why this particular material was chosen for delivery, i.e., why it is worth giving.
4. The maximum time including the introduction is not to exceed ten (10) minutes.
- *5. Verbal prompting from the audience is not allowed.
- *6. All performances must be void of profanity, vulgarity, nudity, obscenity, and hate speech. Use of these may result in lowered ranking or disqualification by the judges and a protest filed with the tournament director.

C. Prose

- *1. This event is limited to students in grades nine and ten.
- 2. The purpose of this contest is to stimulate the student to find the meaning of printed prose and to communicate the meaning orally to his listeners. Participation in the contest should also assist a student to develop critical techniques in the evaluation of prose to convey subtleties of meaning and feeling through vocal control.
- 3. 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.
- *4. Prose for the purpose of this contest is defined as any published material of literary merit (novel, short story, or essay), except poetry or drama. For this contest, the competitor may use a single work or a collection of shorter works by the same author or a collection of shorter works that are thematically related.
- 5. The reader may edit or cut his material as he sees fit.
- *6. The book or manuscript must be in the hands of the reader.
- 7. The time limit, including the introduction, is eight (8) minutes.
- *8. All performances must be void of profanity, vulgarity, nudity, obscenity, and hate speech. Use of these may result in lowered ranking or disqualification by the judges and a protest filed with the tournament director.
- *9. Significant movement (ie, walking, pacing) is not allowed.
- *10. In the event of protests regarding material, consult 7C on SPE7.

D. Poetry

- *1. This event is limited to students in grades 11 and 12.
- 2. Each contestant is to give an introduction to his program. The purpose of the introduction is: (a) to arouse and stimulate the interest of the audience in what is to follow; (b) to reflect adequate understanding by the reader of the author and his works, particularly in the selection read; (c) to make the audience feel that the reader appreciates an opportunity to read to them, and that the interpreter has a real, lively, and enthusiastic interest in the selection.
- 3. 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.
- *4. Material used in the performance must be all published poetry.
- 5. The reader may edit or cut his material as he sees fit. For this contest, the competitor may use one poem or a collection of poems by the same author or a collection of poems thematically related.
- *6. The book or manuscript must be in the hands of the reader.
- 7. The time limit including the introduction is eight (8) minutes.
- *8. All performances must be void of profanity, vulgarity, nudity, obscenity, and hate speech. Use of these may result in lowered ranking or disqualification by the judges and a protest filed with the tournament director.
- *9. Significant movement (ie, walking, pacing) is not allowed.
- *10. In the event of protests regarding material, consult 7C on SPE7.

E. Monologue

- *1. Monologue is to be defined for purposes of this contest as material from published worthwhile literature in which only one character speaks. Lines performed must be taken from one (1) character's speech(es) and not those of several characters spliced together. Material taken from a recording will not be accepted.
- *2. The monologue performance will consist of two (2) contrasting pieces, one humorous and one serious. These selections may or may not center on one theme. Actor versatility and believability within the author's intent will be of prime importance.
- *3. Original wording shall be used only for the introduction. A brief introduction shall be presented at the beginning of the program. It shall be designed to prepare the audience favorably for the contrasting materials.
- *4. There shall be no spoken transition or conclusion.
- 5. Maximum time is not to exceed six (6) minutes.

6. The cutting must be presented without scenery, special lighting, costume and adjustment of clothing, make-up, sound effects, props, or furniture (other than one simple chair furnished by the student or host school and the chair may be used as a prop). The use of a chair is optional.

- 7. All performances must be void of profanity, vulgarity, nudity, obscenity, and hate speech. Use of these may result in lowered ranking or disqualification by the judges and a protest filed with the tournament director.
- 8. Verbal prompting from the audience is not allowed.
- 9. This is a memorized event. Use of script is prohibited.
- 10. In the event of protests regarding material, consult 7C on SPE7.

F. Humorous and Dramatic Interpretation

- *1. Dramatic and humorous interpretation are to be defined as a monologue or material in which persons or characters other than, or in addition to, the author speak throughout. The material should have sufficient merit to justify careful study and preparation by the student.
- *2. Material must be from a single work of published worthwhile literature using the same diction that the author has used in the original manuscript. Materials taken from a recording will not be accepted.
- 3. The performance should include an introduction designed to prepare the audience favorably for the material to be presented.
- 4. The maximum time including the introduction is not to exceed ten (10) minutes.
- *5. The cutting must be presented without scenery, special lighting, costume and adjustment of clothing, make-up, sound effects, props, or furniture.
- 6. Blocking appropriate to the scene is permitted.
- *7. This is a memorized event. Use of a script is prohibited.
- *8. Verbal prompting from the audience is not allowed.
- *9. All performances must be void of profanity, vulgarity, nudity, obscenity, and hate speech. Use of these may result in lowered ranking or disqualification by the judges and a protest filed with the tournament director on Speech Form N.
- *10. In the event of protests regarding material, consult 7C on SPE7.

G. Extemporaneous Speaking (Foreign and Domestic)

- 1. Contestants will be expected to prepare on all significant topics (within the areas of international or national) that have received emphasis in the major magazines and newspapers since September 1st of the current school year. Topics will be selected by or under the supervision of the respective tournament director and phrased in the form of a question specific enough for the judges to determine whether the speech is relevant to the topic drawn.
- *2. Speakers will draw at seven-minute intervals and have thirty minutes for preparation. Students will be allowed to draw five (5) topics, from which one must be selected within a few minutes and reported to the person supervising the drawing; the topic chosen must be recorded. Speakers must remain in the extemp prep until dismissed by extemp officials. Extemp speeches, handbooks, briefs, and outline are prohibited from the extemp prep room.
- *3. Students are not to consult with coaches or others after the topic has been drawn.
- 4. The student must hand the question to his/her judge(s) before s/he speaks; failure to do so shall be reported to the tab room. As part of the introduction of the speech, the contestant is to state the topic in the exact words.
- *5. At the end of 30 minutes, the student will deliver his speech on the recorded topic drawn. He may use no more than 50 words of notes. Numbers, symbols, and abbreviations will count as words. Judges may only check the card after the speech. If they suspect a violation has occurred, they should ran the speaker as if no violation has occurred and give the card in question to the tournament director.
- 6. The participant is to speak not more than seven (7) minutes. Time signals will be given. No student will be penalized if time signal is not given by the timekeeper.
- *7. A student may not compete in both divisions of extemporaneous speaking at any one tournament including regional and state.
- *8. The use of laptop computers in extemporaneous speaking is allowed in extemp draw. The host school is not required to provide internet access.
 - a. Extemporaneous speaking contestants may make use of electronic retrieval devices. Extemporaneous speaking contestants may make use of electronic retrieval devices. Electronic retrieval devices are defined as laptop computers, cell phones, smart phones, netbooks, iPads, tablets or other portable devices.
 - b. Students can retrieve extemporaneous files to read but cannot write speeches or organize their thoughts on the computers.
 - c. This rule in no way prevents students from still utilizing traditional paper copy files to enable the competitor to successfully compete in extemporaneous speaking. The OSSAA takes no position on which form of file storage is preferable for use at tournaments.
 - d. Texting while in the preparation room is grounds for disqualification.
 - e. Source Materials: Students may consult published books, periodical articles, newspaper articles, think tank articles, government reports or journal articles saved on their electronic retrieval device or present in hard copy form provided:
 - 1. There are no notations made within or on the saved article other than citation information and subject index.
 - 2. Bolding, italicizing, or any other manipulation of the original text of sources (other than highlighting or underlining as previously stipulated) is prohibited.

- f. Power Source: Power plugs or outlets may not be used in the prep room at any time. All computers used in the prep room must be battery operated at all times. Competitors are responsible for making certain their electronic retrieval devices are fully charged at the start of each competition day and for proper power management ensuring that their device remains functional throughout the competition day. Contestants may not use external power sources in the prep room, such as wall outlets and/or extension cords.
- g. Liability: Extemporaneous speaking competitors accept full responsibility for the safety and security of their electronic retrieval devices throughout the entire course of any tournament.
 - 1. The OSSAA does not assume any liability for the computers.
 - 2. Students are welcome to use Kensington locks or other such devices to secure their computers in the prep room.
 - 3. Students, parents, and coaches should be aware that the students are bringing and using the computers at their own risk.
 - 4. The OSSAA is not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken computers. It is the coaches' affirmative duty to make sure that students have on file a liability waiver before bringing electronic equipment to a tournament.
- h. File Monitoring: The OSSAA and/or the tournament officials retain the right to view and search any electronic retrieval devices to ensure compliance with any and all rules at any tournament.
- i. Devices should be muted in the prep room. Contestants should not play games or engage in other distracting activities on their electronic devices in the prep room. Tournament officials may ask a student to power-off the device if it becomes distracting.
 - j. Students from the same school may share computers during preparation.
- *9. No one is allowed in the extemp draw except the contestants and tournament officials.
- *10. Directly cited articles must be available upon request by the tournament director.
- *11. Judges are prohibited from asking a question at the conclusion of the speech.
- *12. All performances must be void of profanity, vulgarity, nudity, obscenity, and hate speech. Use of these may result in lowered ranking or disqualification by the judges and a protest filed with the tournament director.
- *13. Plagiarism or falsification of evidence in oratory, extemp, or debate shall result in suspension in that event for that competition.

H. Humorous and Dramatic Duet

- 1. This event will be divided into two (2) divisions - Humorous Duet and Dramatic Duet.
- *2. Duet teams must qualify together as a team. In all events (except cross-examination debate, public forum debate, extemporaneous speaking, and Lincoln-Douglas debate) a student who qualifies for regionals may not enter the same event at any subsequent qualifying tournament prior to regionals. In case of an emergency situation, a school will be allowed to substitute one (1) team member if the substitution is approved by the Association (See Rule VII, Section B). No substitutions will be allowed after the contest begins.
- *3. The event shall consist of a cutting from a single work of published, worthwhile literature containing two or more characters using the same diction the author has used in the original manuscript. Materials taken from a recording will not be accepted. In no case may a school use more than two (2) students to interpret all characters and perform all these functions.
- *4. The cutting must be presented without scenery, special lighting, costume and adjustment of clothing, make-up, sound effects, prop, or furniture (other than two simple chairs furnished by the student or host school and the chairs may be used as props). The use of chairs is optional.
- 5. Maximum time of ten (10) minutes includes all expositions.
- *6. This is a memorized event. Use of script is not permissible.
- *7. Verbal prompting from the audience is not allowed.
- *8. All performances must be void of profanity, vulgarity, nudity, obscenity, and hate speech. Use of these may result in lowered ranking or disqualification by the judges and a protest filed with the tournament director.
- *9. In the event of protests regarding material, consult 7C on SPE7.

I. Cross-examination Debate

- 1. Debate teams must qualify together as a team and two debaters must participate in every round by giving a constructive speech, a rebuttal speech, and asking and answering questions during cross-examination. When a three-person team qualifies, any two of those team members will be considered qualified for regionals. In case of an emergency, a school will be allowed to substitute one (1) team member if the substitution is approved by the Association. No partner substitutions will be allowed after the debate competition begins. In team debate, no debater may qualify for regionals more than three separate times. Any subsequent qualification will be invalid for that debater and his/her partner(s).
- 2. The following order and times shall be observed and the timekeeper shall say stop at the end of regulation time for each speech:
 - a) First Affirmative Constructive 8 minutes
 - b) Cross-examination 3 minutes

c) First Negative Constructive 8 minutes
 d) Cross-examination 3 minutes
 e) Second Affirmative Constructive 8 minutes
 f) Cross-examination 3 minutes
 g) Second Negative Constructive 8 minutes
 h) Cross-examination 3 minutes
 i) First Negative Rebuttal 5 minutes
 j) First Affirmative Rebuttal 5 minutes
 k) Second Negative Rebuttal 5 minutes
 l) Second Affirmative Rebuttal 5 minutes
 m) Preparation time will not exceed eight (8) minutes per team. Data transfer between teams must occur during this time. No additional prep time will be given.

3. Each judge will award the decision to the affirmative or negative team; will rank each debater 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th (no ties); and will award speaker points on a 1-6 point scale.

4. All debaters shall have available during each round complete citations for each piece of evidence introduced to include the name of the author, qualifications, complete source title, complete date and page number. Lack of a full citation shall void any effect of that piece of evidence in the round. Should two or more quotations be used from the same source, the complete citation need be given only for the first piece of evidence used from that source. Either no internal ellipsis (Ellipses occur after the first word of the quotation and before the final word) may be used in evidence cited on a card, or ellipses may be shown on cards, if the original source or a copy is present. The evidence may be read in ellipse form, but the entirety of the evidence must be available in one of the two ways cited. Personal letters or telegrams shall not be admissible as evidence.

5. Judges may read evidence after the round for a period of time not to exceed five (5) minutes.

*6. Plagiarism or falsification of evidence in oratory, extemp, or debate shall result in suspension in that event for that competition.

*7. The use of profanity and vulgarities is forbidden and may result in a speaker rating of 0 or disqualification and a protest being filed with the tournament director.

8. Verbal prompting other than calling time is considered a violation of ethics and will result in a speaker rating of 0.

9. The debate question will be chosen by the NFHS Wording Committee and made available through the office of the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association.

10. The semi-final losers shall debate for third place if necessary to determine qualification.

*11. A debate team may consist of two (2) or three (3) members. Each team member must debate at that contest. Only two (2) members of the team may participate in any way during the round. On a three (3) member team, team members will be designated by the coach for each round at the time of entry.

12. Forfeiting a round to gain an advantage for the school will be a violation except in elimination rounds.

13. After teams have debated preliminary rounds (including round robin), qualifying for the placement on the bracket will be based on the following criteria: (1) win-loss record; (2) (only used to break a two-way tie) head-to-head meeting; (4) total speaker points; (3) total speaker ranks; (5) opponents' win-loss records; (6) opponents' speaker ranks; and (7) opponents' speaker points. In all divisions of debate, when only 3 rounds occur, all winning records must advance.

a) Placing teams on a 16 point bracket will be in this manner: See bracket on page SPE26.
 b) Placing teams on an eight-point bracket from preliminary rounds will be in the following manner: SPE29.

14. In qualifying tournaments the round-robin or bracket system is optional and will be determined by the tournament director. At least three (3) preliminary rounds must occur to result in regional qualification. If sixteen (16) or more compete, eight (8) must be advanced to elimination rounds. If thirty-two (32) or more compete, at least sixteen (16) must be advanced to elimination rounds. If sixty-four (64) or more compete, at least thirty-two (32) must be advanced to elimination rounds. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, to avoid the elimination from competition of debaters with exact win-loss records, partial-elimination brackets will be allowed, giving sufficient byes to the higher seeded contestants to fill the bracket. Partial-brackets will not be broken.

15. In 3A/4A regional tournaments that use double elimination, when nine (9) teams are entered, the four (4) teams with the best records from the preliminary rounds will qualify for bracketing. When ten (10) or more teams are entered, eight (8) teams will qualify for bracketing.

16. Speaker points for byes will be awarded on average of speaker points of other rounds debated. A team who forfeits receives 0 speaker ratings and speaker ranks of 3 and 4. A team who is forfeited receives an average of their speaker ratings and ranks of 1 and 2.

17. Teams from the same school should not be paired against each other in the first elimination round. The minimum amount of bracket movement must be used. No brackets shall be broken after the first elimination round has occurred. When moving teams to break the bracket, move the lower seeded team. Partial elimination rounds are not considered the first elimination round for the purpose of breaking brackets.
18. At all double elimination tournaments, brackets will not be broken to prevent two teams from the same school from meeting.
19. When mixed classes debate in qualifying divisions, wins will be recorded as wins; losses will be recorded as losses, and elimination rounds must be separated by class.
20. In all debate events, all students unable to return to scheduled competition on Saturday must notify the tournament director before registration. Changes made after registration will be counted as a “Drop at Registration”: and fees will be assessed by the tournament director. Students marked as “not returning” will not be reinstated after round 1 has begun.
21. Internet access is allowed in all forms of debate.
 - a) Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information from any sources not competing in the debate
 - b) * Sanction: Contestants found to have violated the provision above shall be disqualified from the tournament and shall forfeit all rounds. Contest directors shall be empowered with the final decision concerning disqualification.
 - c) Availability of evidence: Contestants electing to use computers shall have the responsibility to promptly/immediately provide access to any evidence read in a speech for inspection by the judge or opponent. Printers may be used. Evidence may be printed in the round but must be provided in a format readable by the opposing team and the judge.
 - d) Contestants electing to use computers are responsible for providing their own computers, batteries, extension cords, and all other accessories. Tournament hosts shall not be responsible for providing internet access, computers, printers, software, paper, or extension cords for contestants.
 - e) Sanction: Contestants found to have violated provisions a-c above shall forfeit the round of competition and receive zero points. Contestants found to have violated provision d above shall be disqualified from the tournament and shall forfeit all rounds. Contest directors shall be empowered with the final decision concerning disqualification.

J. Lincoln-Douglas Debate

1. Only two (2) speakers are involved: one fulfilling the affirmative case responsibilities and the other, the negative. The following format is used:
 - a) First Affirmative Constructive 6 minutes
 - b) Cross examination 3 minutes
 - c) First Negative Constructive 7 minutes
 - d) Cross examination 3 minutes
 - e) First Affirmative Rebuttal 4 minutes
 - f) First Negative Rebuttal 6 minutes
 - g) Second Affirmative Rebuttal 3 minutes
 - h) Each debater will be allowed a total of four (4) minutes preparation time during the course of the debate.
2. The national topic from the NSDA will be used for competition. The topic designated for March and April will be used for regionals and state. The OSSAA will notify the schools of the topic.
3. Each judge will award the decision to the affirmative or negative and will award speaker points on a 1-6 point scale.
4. Judges may read evidence after the round for a period of time not to exceed five (5) minutes.
- *5. Plagiarism or falsification of evidence in oratory, extemp, or debate shall result in suspension in that event for that competition.
- *6. The use of profanity and vulgarities is forbidden and may result in 0 speaker points or disqualification and a protest being filed with the tournament director.
7. After debaters have debated preliminary rounds (including round robin), qualifying for the placement on the bracket will be based on the following criteria: (1) win-loss record, (2) head-to-head meeting (only used to break a two-way tie), (3) total speaker points, (4) opponents' win-loss record; (5) opponents' speaker points. In all divisions of debate, when only 3 rounds occur, all winning records must advance.
 - a) Placing teams on a 16 point bracket will be in this manner: See bracket on page SPE26.
 - b) Placing teams on an eight-point bracket from preliminary rounds will be in the following manner: See bracket on page SPE29.
8. In qualifying tournaments, at least three preliminary rounds must occur to result in regional qualification. If sixteen (16) or more compete, eight (8) must be advanced to elimination rounds. If thirty-two (32) or more compete, at least sixteen (16) must be advanced to elimination rounds. If sixty-four (64) or more compete, at least thirty-two (32) must be advanced to elimination rounds. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, to avoid the elimination from competition of debaters with exact won-loss records, partial-elimination brackets will be allowed, giving sufficient byes to the higher seeded contestants to fill the bracket. Partial-brackets will not be broken.
9. In 3A/4A regional tournaments with nine (9) teams entered, the four (4) teams with the best records from preliminary rounds will qualify for bracketing. When ten (10) or more teams are entered, eight (8) teams will qualify for bracketing. In regional and state tournaments, when eight (8) or fewer teams are entered, the round robin system will be used.
10. Debaters from the same school should not be paired against each other in the first elimination round. The minimum amount of bracket movement must be used. No brackets shall be broken after the first elimination round has occurred. When moving debaters to break the bracket, move the lower seeded debater. Partial elimination rounds are not considered the first elimination round for the purpose of breaking brackets.
11. Forfeiting a round to gain an advantage for the school will be a violation except in elimination rounds.
12. At all double elimination tournaments, brackets will not be broken to prevent two people from the same school from meeting.
13. When mixed classes debate in qualifying divisions, wins will be recorded as wins; losses will be recorded as losses; and elimination rounds must be separated by class.
14. In all debate events, all students unable to return to scheduled competition on Saturday must notify the tournament director before registration. Changes made after registration will be counted as a "Drop at Registration": and fees will be assessed by the tournament director. Students marked as "not returning" will not be reinstated after round 1 has begun.
15. Internet access is allowed in all forms of debate.

- a) Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information from any sources not competing in the debate.
- b) * Sanction: Contestants found to have violated the provision above shall be disqualified from the tournament and shall forfeit all rounds. Contest directors shall be empowered with the final decision concerning disqualification.
- c) Availability of evidence: Contestants electing to use computers shall have the responsibility to promptly/immediately provide access to any evidence read in a speech for inspection by the judge or opponent. Printers may be used. Evidence may be printed in the round but must be provided in a format readable by the opposing team and the judge.
- d) Contestants electing to use computers are responsible for providing their own computers, batteries, extension cords, and all other accessories. Tournament hosts shall not be responsible for providing internet access, computers, printers, software, paper, or extension cords for contestants.
- e) Sanction: Contestants found to have violated provisions a-c above shall forfeit the round of competition and receive zero points. Contestants found to have violated provision d above shall be disqualified from the tournament and shall forfeit all rounds. Contest directors shall be empowered with the final decision concerning disqualification.

K. Public Forum Debate

- *1. Debate teams must qualify together as a team and two debaters must participate in every round by giving a four-minute speech, a two-minute speech, and participating in Crossfire. No partner substitutions will be allowed after the debate competition begins. No debater may qualify for regionals more than three separate times. Any subsequent qualification will be invalid for that debater and his/her partner(s).
- 2. Sides will be randomly assigned by the tournament director. In tournaments that have 4 prelim rounds, each team should debate the pro twice and the con twice unless a team has received a bye. In tournaments that have 3 rounds, sides in round 3 will be randomly assigned by the tournament director ensuring that no team debate the same side 3 times.
- 3. The following order and times shall be observed and the timekeeper shall say stop at the end of regulation time for each speech:
 - a) First Speaker, Pro, 4 minutes
 - b) First Speaker, Con, 4 minutes
 - c) Crossfire between the First Speakers 3 minutes
 - d) Second Speaker, Pro, 4 minutes
 - e) Second Speaker, Con, 4 minutes
 - f) Crossfire between the Second Speakers 3 minutes
 - g) Summary First Speaker, Pro, 3 minutes
 - h) Summary First Speaker, Con, 3 minutes
 - i) Grand Crossfire between all four speakers 3 minutes
 - j) Final Focus Pro, 2 minutes
 - k) Final Focus Con, 2 minutes
 - l) Preparation time will not exceed three (3) minutes per team. Crossfire is to be shared between the two sides, but the first question should come from Team A.
- 4. Each judge will award the decision to the Pro team or the Con team and will award speaker points for each speaker on 1-6 point scale.
- 5. All debaters shall have available during each round complete citations for each piece of evidence introduced to include the name of the author, qualifications, complete source title, complete date and page number. Lack of a full citation shall void any effect of that piece of evidence in the round. Should two or more quotations be used from the same source the complete citation need be given only for the first piece of evidence used from that source. Either no internal ellipsis (Ellipses occur after the first word of the quotation and before the final word) may be used in evidence cited on a card, or ellipses may be shown on cards if the original source or a copy is present. The evidence may be read in ellipse form but the entirety of the evidence must be available in one of the two ways cited. Personal letters or telegrams shall not be admissible as evidence.
- 6. Judges may read evidence after the round for a period of time not to exceed five (5) minutes.
- *7. Plagiarism or falsification of evidence in oratory, extemp, or debate shall result in suspension in that event for that competition.

- *8. The use of profanity and vulgarities is forbidden and may result in a speaker rating of 0 or disqualification and a protest being filed with the tournament director.
- 9. Verbal prompting other than calling time is considered a violation of ethics and will result in a speaker rating of 0.

- 10. The debate topic will follow the NSDA's nationally released topic. The January topic will also be used in February in the qualifying division and the March topic will be used for Regional and State.
- 11. The semi-final losers shall debate for third place if necessary to determine qualification.
- 12. Forfeiting a round to gain an advantage for the school will be a violation except in elimination rounds.
- 13. After teams have debated preliminary rounds (including round robin), qualifying for the placement on the bracket will be based on the following criteria: (1) win-loss record; (2) head-to-head meeting; (only used to break a two-way tie), (4) total speaker points; (3) Speaker ranks; (5) opponents' win-loss records; (6) opponents' speaker points. In all divisions of debate, when only 3 rounds occur, all winning records must advance.
 - a) Placing teams on a 16 point bracket will be in this manner: See bracket on page SPE26.
 - b) Placing teams on an eight-point bracket from preliminary rounds will be in the following manner. See bracket on page SPE29.
- 14. In qualifying tournaments the round-robin or bracket system is optional and will be determined by the tournament director. At least three (3) preliminary rounds must occur to result in regional qualification. If sixteen (16) or more compete, eight (8) must be advanced to elimination rounds. If thirty-two (32) or more compete, at least sixteen (16) must be advanced to elimination rounds. If sixty-four (64) or more compete, at least thirty-two (32) must be advanced to elimination rounds. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, to avoid the elimination from competition of debaters with exact won-loss records, partial-elimination brackets will be allowed, giving sufficient byes to the higher seeded contestants to fill the bracket. Partial-brackets will not be broken.
- 15. In 3A/4A tournaments with nine (9) teams entered, the four (4) teams with the best records from preliminary rounds will qualify for bracketing. When ten (10) or more teams are entered, eight (8) teams will qualify for bracketing. In regional and state tournaments, when eight (8) or fewer teams are entered, the round robin system will be used.
- 16. Speaker points for byes will be awarded on average of speaker points of other rounds debated. A team who forfeits receives 0 speaker points. A team who is forfeited to receives an average of their speaker ratings.
- 17. Teams from the same school should not be paired against each other in the first elimination round. The minimum amount of bracket movement must be used. No brackets shall be broken after the first elimination round has occurred. When moving teams to break the bracket, move the lower seeded team. Partial elimination round sare not considered the first elimination round for the purpose of breaking brackets.
- 18. In all debate events, all students unable to return to scheduled competition on Saturday must notify the tournament director before registration. Changes made after registration will be counted as a "Drop at Registration": and fees will be assessed by the tournament director. Students marked as "not returning" will not be reinstated after round 1 has begun.

- 19.
 - a) Internet access is allowed in all forms of debate.
 - b) Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information from any sources not competing in the debate.
 - *c) Sanction: Contestants found to have violated the provision above shall be disqualified from the tournament and shall forfeit all rounds. Contest directors shall be empowered with the final decision concerning disqualification.
 - c) Availability of evidence: Contestants electing to use computers shall have the responsibility to promptly/immediately provide access to any evidence read in a speech for inspection by the judge or opponent. Printers may be used. Evidence may be printed in the round but must be provided in a format readable by the opposing team and the judge.
 - d) Contestants electing to use computers are responsible for providing their own computers, batteries, extension cords, and all other accessories. Tournament hosts shall not be responsible for providing internet access, computers, printers, software, paper, or extension cords for contestants.

L. Informative Speaking

- *1. The Informative is a speech that may be on any subject the student chooses and should inform rather than persuade. It must be written by the student, although the teacher may offer suggestions as to organization, content, style, etc., and must be memorized. Use of script is not permissible.
- *2. No more than 150 words may be quoted directly. Extensive paraphrasing violates the spirit of the event. Plagiarism is defined as claiming, indicating, or implying that the ideas, sentences, or words of another writer are your own. It includes copying the work of another and presenting it as your own, failing to get away from the language of the original text when paraphrasing, failing to identify the source of a quotation or paraphrase, and following the work of another as a guide to ideas and expression that are then presented as your own.
- 3. The maximum time is not to exceed ten (10) minutes.
- *4. Original work from previous years' state or nationals may not be repeated by that student.
- *5. All performances must be void of profanity, vulgarity, nudity, obscenity, and hate speech. Use of these may result in lowered ranking or disqualification by the judges and a protest filed with the tournament director.
- *6. Verbal prompting from the audience is not allowed.
- *7. A typed, double-spaced copy of the speech delivered must be available. Quoted words must be highlighted and counted; paraphrases must also be highlighted. At State, a correctly formatted copy of the speech must be submitted.
- *8. Visual aids are permitted, except that speakers may not use electronics of any kind (defined as anything that requires an electrical cord, a battery, or solar power to operate), other humans, or live animals as visual aids. The host school is not responsible for providing any equipment for the speaker's use, including chairs, tables, or easels."

M. Program Oral Interpretation

- * 1. POI is a program of oral interpretation of thematically-linked selections chosen from two or three genres: prose, poetry, drama (plays). At least two pieces of literature that represent at least two separate genres must be used. The title or author of all selections must be verbally identified in either the introduction and/or transitional phrases. The title may identify the primary source (e.g., book, anthology, journal, magazine, newspaper, approved website, etc.) or the specific title within the primary source (e.g., a poem, a play, a short story, a journal/magazine article, a newspaper article, etc.). If more than one author is attributed to the source, at a minimum, the primary author should be verbally cited.
- * 2. The use of a manuscript during the performance is required. Common practices include the use of a binder or folder. Reading from a book or magazine is not permitted. The intact manuscript may be used by the contestant as a prop, so long as it is in the contestant's control by remaining in contact with the body at all times. The contestant must address the script; however, introduction and transitional material may be memorized..
- *3. The time limit including the introduction is ten (10) minutes.
- *4. All performances must be void of profanity, vulgarity, nudity, obscenity, and hate speech. Use of these may result in lowered ranking or disqualification by the judges and a protest filed with the tournament director.

XII. CITATIONS REQUIRED FOR ELECTRONIC RETRIEVAL OF DEBATE AND EXTEMP MATERIALS**A. Citing Online Databases**

1. Citations of publications from online databases require some elements that citations of printed sources do not:
 - a) Publication medium. Many databases online are also published in other formats and may not be exactly the same in each. You must therefore include the publication medium (Online) in your [citation]....
 - b) Name of computer service or computer network. Online publications are accessed through a computer service such as BRS, Dialog, Dow Jones News Retrieval, CompuServe, Nexis, OCLC, and Prodigy or a computer network, such as the Internet. For your [citation] to be complete, you have to state the name of the service or network that provided your source.
 - c) Date of access. Since each online publication must be considered unique, you may need to indicate two dates in your citation. For example, if the online database indicates that the material you are using was originally published in the New York Times on April 1, 1998, you must, of course, include that date in the citation. In addition, to acknowledge that what you are using may differ from not only the printed version but also any past or future online version, state the date when you accessed the material.

B. Material Accessed Through a Computer Service

1. Documents and data from online databases available through computer services can be divided into two groups:
 - a) Material that indicates publication information for a printed source or printed analogue.
 - b) Material that does not indicate a specific print counterpart.

C. Publication Information For a Printed Source

1. Many databases collect and present materials previously or simultaneously made available in print.
2. If a printed source or analogue is indicated for the material you are citing, your [citation] should consist of the following items:
 - a) Name of the author (if given)
 - b) Publication information for the printed source or analogue (including title and date of print publication)
 - c) Title of the database (underlined)
 - d) Publication medium (Online)
 - e) Name of the computer service
 - f) Date of access

D. No Printed Source Specified

1. If no specific printed source or printed analogue is indicated for the material you are citing, your [citation] should consist of the following items:
 - a) Name of the author (if given)
 - b) Title of the material accessed (in quotation marks)
 - c) Date of the material (if given)
 - d) Title of the database (underlined)
 - e) Publication medium (Online)
 - f) Name of the computer service
 - g) Date of access

E. Material Accessed Through A Computer Network

1. Electronic journals, electronic newsletters, and electronic conferences (e.g., moderated forums, such as discussion lists)
2. Electronic texts.

F. Journals and Newsletters

1. Your [citation] from an electronic journal, electronic newsletter, or electronic conference document should be similar to one for an article in a print periodical though there are a few necessary differences. The entry should consist of the following items:
 - a) Name of the author (if given)
 - b) Title of the article or document (in quotation marks)
 - c) Title of the journal, newsletter, or conference (underlined)
 - d) Volume number, issue number, or other identifying number
 - e) Year or date of publication (in parentheses)
 - f) Number of pages or paragraphs (if given) or p. pag. ("no pagination")
 - g) Publication medium (Online)
 - h) Name of the computer network
 - i) Date of access
2. At the end of the entry, you may add as supplementary information the electronic address you used to access the document; precede the address with the word Available.

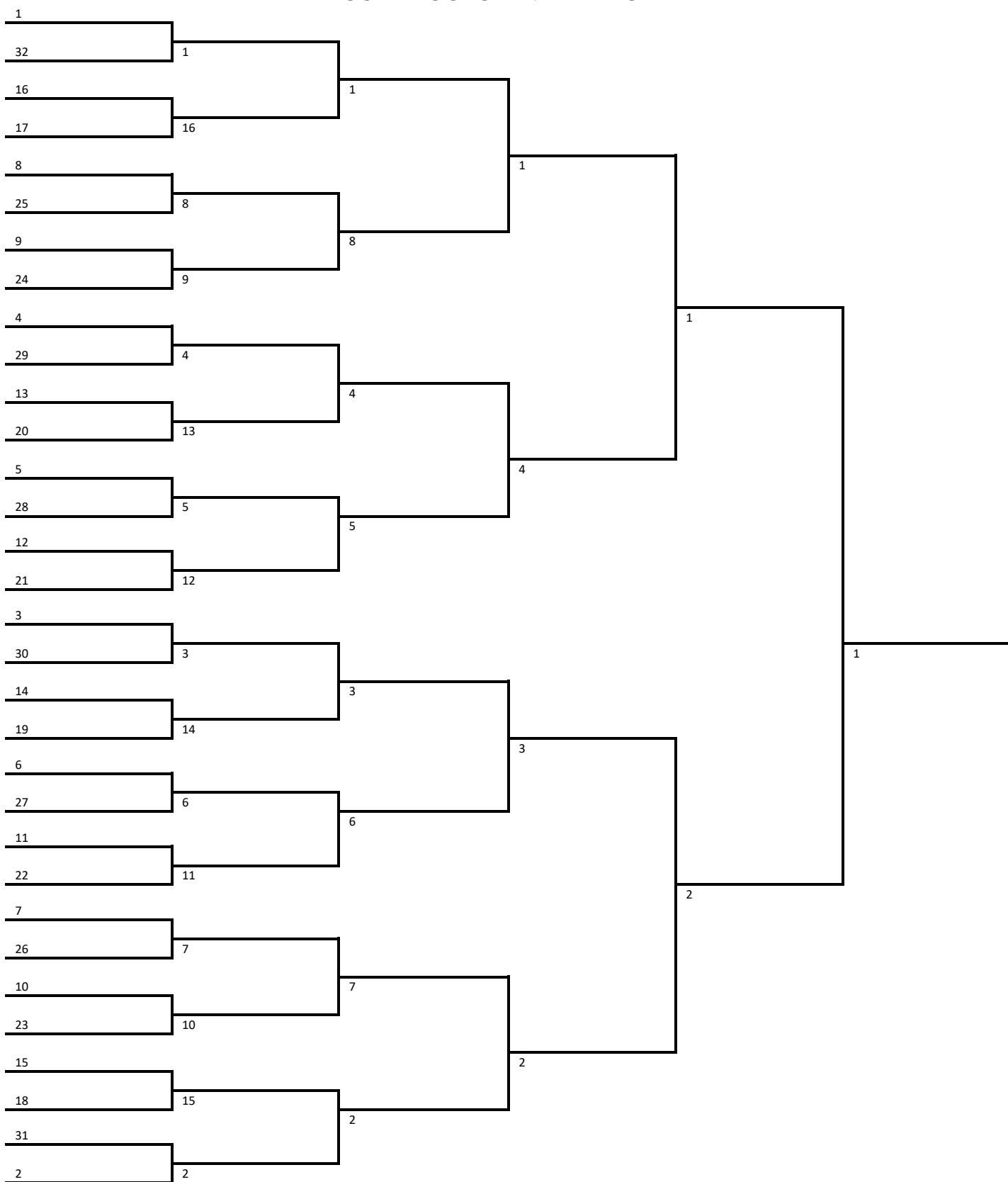
G. Electronic Texts

1. A great variety of texts, such as literary works and historical documents, are available through computer networks.
2. If you plan to study an electronic text, remember that not all texts are equally reliable or authoritative. Be sure to use a text that states the title, editor, and date of the edition serving as its source.
3. Your citation of an electronic text should contain the following items:
 - a) Name of the author (if any)
 - b) Title of the text (underlined)
 - c) Publication information for the printed source
 - d) Publication medium (Online)
 - e) Name of the repository of the electronic text (e.g., Oxford Text Archive)
 - f) Name of the computer network
 - g) Date of access
4. At the end of the entry, you may add as supplementary information the electronic address you used to access the document; precede the address with the word Available.

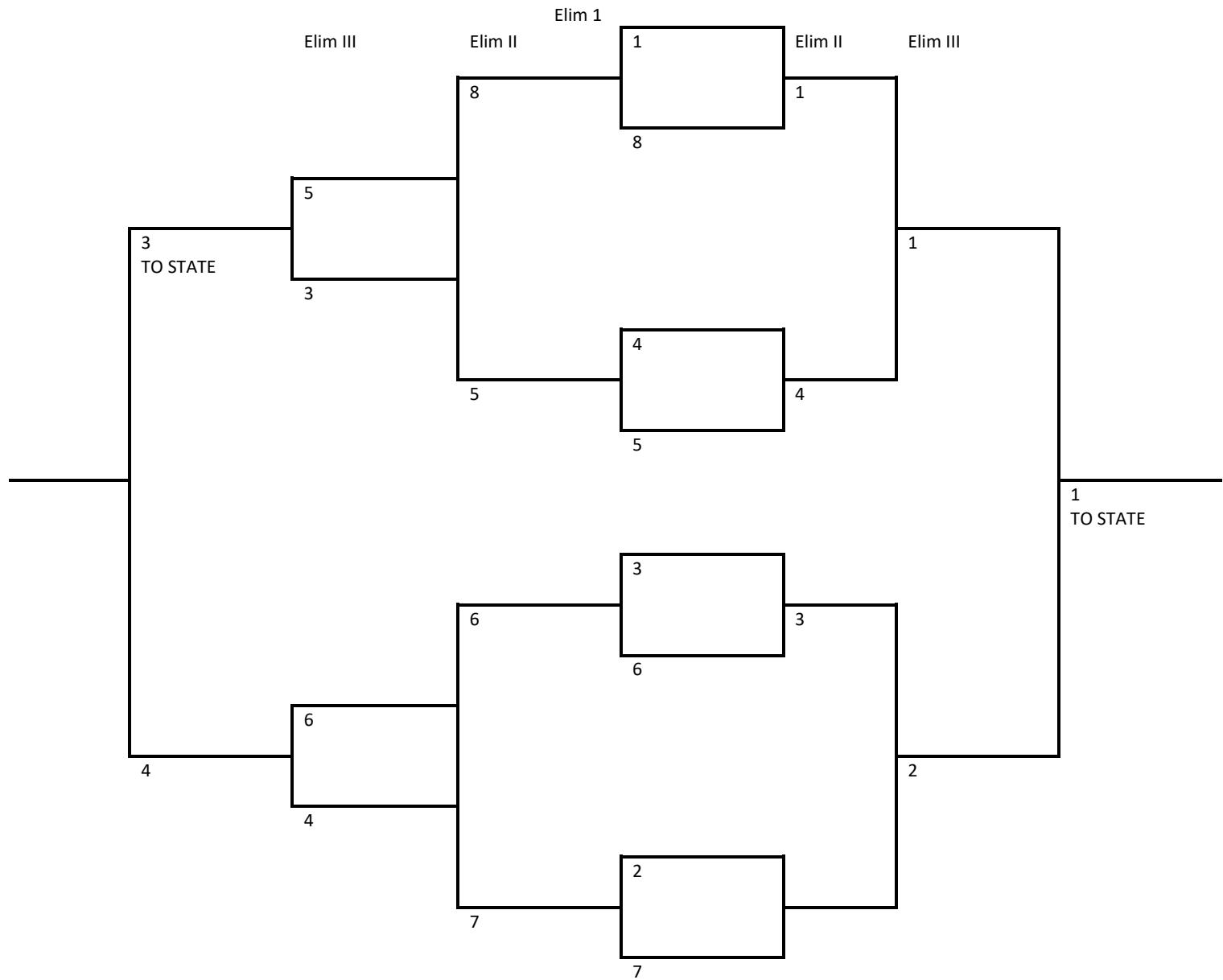
*(For further information see the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, Fourth Edition, by Joseph Gibaldi.)*

OCTO FINAL BRACKET

DOUBLE OCTO FINAL BRACKET



DEBATE BRACKETS CLASSES 3A-4A

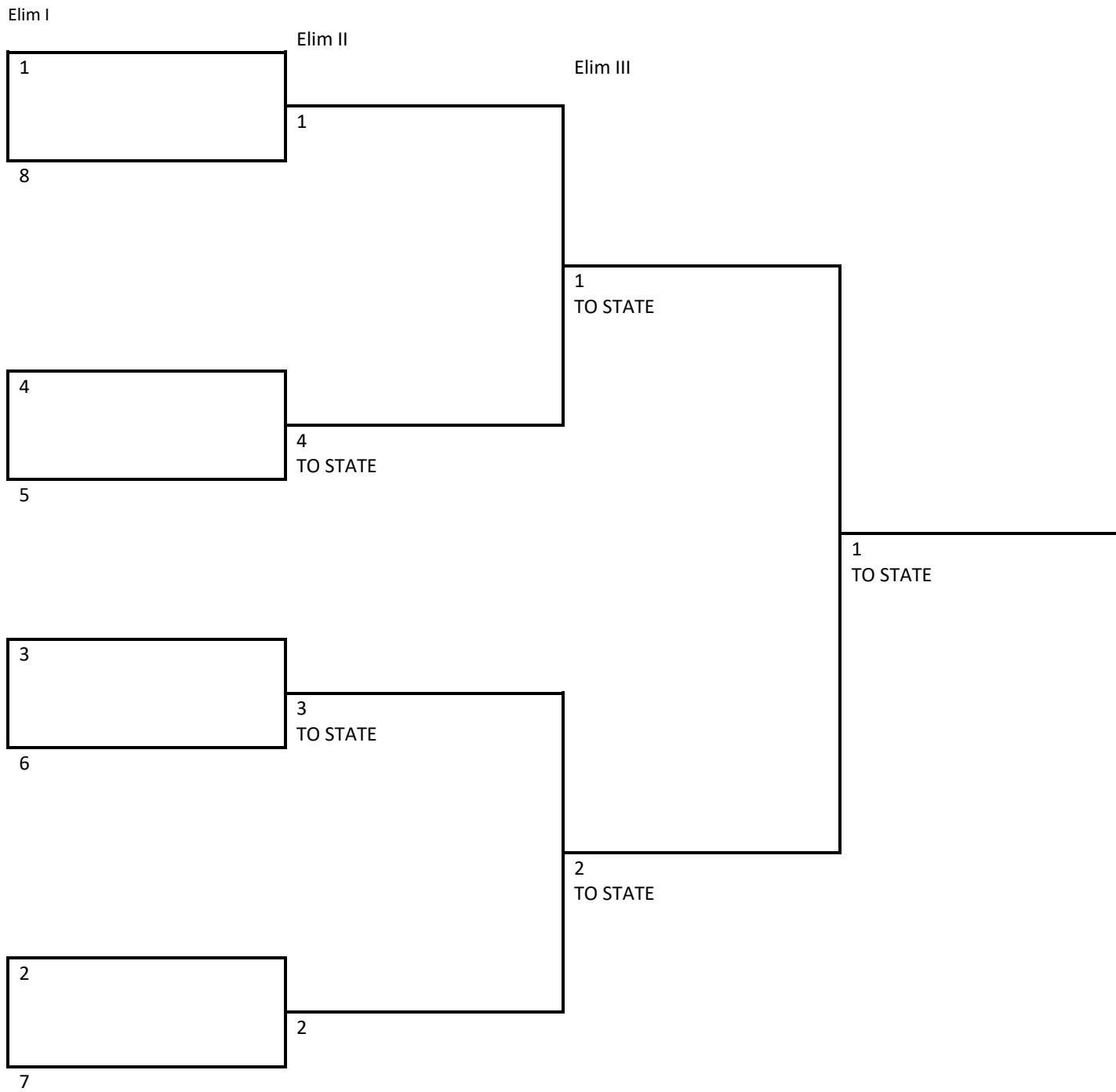


Elim III on winners side is coaches option

If a 5th qualifies for state, losers of Elim III meet for 5th slot

Brackets shall not be broken to prevent schools from meeting.

Debate for 3rd and 4th will occur only if both coaches agree.

DEBATE BRACKETS CLASSES 5A-6A

Elim II & III is coaches option

Round Robin Schematics

3 teams

Round I

<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>
A	B
C	bye

Round II

<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>
B	C
A	bye

Round III

<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>
C	A
B	bye

Opponent Grid

A	meets	B	bye	C
B	meets	A	C	bye
C	meets	bye	B	A

Aff/Neg Grid

A	Aff	bye	Neg	1-1
B	Neg	Aff	bye	1-1
C	bye	Neg	Aff	1-1

4 teams

Round I

<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>
A	B
C	D

Round II

<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>
B	C
D	A

Round III

Flip for sides			
A	meets	C	
B	meets	D	

Opponent Grid

A	meets	B	D	C
B	meets	A	C	D
C	meets	D	B	A
D	meets	C	A	B

Aff/Neg Grid

A	Aff	Neg	Flip	2-1 or 1-2
B	Neg	Aff	Flip	2-1 or 1-2
C	Aff	Neg	Flip	2-1 or 1-2
D	Neg	Aff	Flip	2-1 or 1-2

5 teams

Round I

<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>	<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>
B	A	E	A
C	D	B	C
E	Bye	D	bye

Round II

<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>
D	E
B	bye

Round III

<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>	<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>
A	C	E	B
B	bye	C	bye

<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>
D	B
C	E

Opponent Grid

A	meets	B	E	C	D	bye
B	meets	A	C	bye	E	D
C	meets	D	B	A	bye	E
D	meets	C	bye	E	A	B
E	meets	bye	A	D	B	C

Aff/Neg Grid

A	neg	neg	aff	aff	bye	2-2
B	aff	aff	bye	neg	neg	2-2
C	aff	neg	neg	bye	aff	2-2
D	neg	bye	aff	neg	aff	2-2
E	bye	aff	neg	aff	neg	2-2

6 teams

<u>Round I</u>		<u>Round II</u>		<u>Round III</u>		<u>Round IV</u>		<u>Round V</u>	
<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>	<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>	<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>	<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>	**flip for sides**	
A	F	E	A	A	D	C	A	A	B
B	C	F	B	B	E	D	B	E	C
D	E	C	D	F	C	E	F	D	F

Opponent Grids

A meets F E D C B
 B meets C F E D A
 C meets B D F A E
 D meets E C A B F
 E meets D A B F C
 F meets A B C E D

Aff/Neg Grids

A	aff	neg	aff	neg	flip
B	aff	neg	aff	neg	flip
C	neg	aff	neg	aff	flip
D	aff	neg	neg	aff	flip
E	neg	aff	neg	aff	flip
F	neg	aff	aff	neg	flip

7 teams

<u>Round I</u>		<u>Round II</u>		<u>Round III</u>		<u>Round IV</u>	
<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>	<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>	<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>	<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>
A	E	E	D	C	E	E	B
B	F	F	A	D	F	F	C
C	G	G	B	A	G	G	D
D	bye	C	bye	B	bye	A	bye

Round V

<u>Round V</u>		<u>Round VI</u>		<u>Round VII</u>	
<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>	<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>	<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>
B	C	B	A	A	C
D	A	C	D	D	B
E	F	G	E	F	G
G	bye	F	bye	E	bye

Opponent Grid

A meets E F G bye D B C
 B meets F G bye E C A D
 C meets G bye E F B D A
 D meets bye E F G A C B
 E meets A D C B F G bye
 F meets B A D C E bye G
 G meets C B A D bye E F

Aff/Neg Grid

A	aff	neg	aff	bye	neg	neg	aff	3-3
B	aff	neg	bye	neg	aff	aff	neg	3-3
C	aff	bye	aff	neg	neg	aff	aff	3-3
D	bye	neg	aff	neg	aff	neg	aff	3-3
E	neg	aff	neg	aff	aff	neg	bye	3-3
F	neg	aff	neg	aff	neg	bye	aff	3-3

G	neg	aff	neg	aff	bye	aff	neg	3-3
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

8 teams

Round I

<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>
------------	------------

A	E
B	F
C	G
D	H

Round II

<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>
------------	------------

H	A
E	B
F	C
G	D

Round III

<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>
------------	------------

A	G
B	H
C	E
D	F

Round IV

<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>
------------	------------

F	A
G	B
H	C
E	D

Round V

<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>
------------	------------

A	B
C	D
E	F
G	H

Round VI

<u>Aff</u>	<u>Neg</u>
------------	------------

D	A
B	C
H	E
F	G

Round VII

flip for sides

A	C
B	D
E	G
F	H

Opponent Grid

A	meets	E	H	G	F	B	D	C
B	meets	F	E	H	G	A	C	D
C	meets	G	F	E	H	D	B	A
D	meets	H	D	F	E	C	A	B
E	meets	A	B	C	D	F	H	G
F	meets	B	C	D	A	E	G	H
G	meets	C	D	A	B	H	F	E
H	meets	D	A	B	C	G	E	F

Aff/Neg Grid

A	aff	neg	aff	neg	aff	neg	(flip)
B	aff	neg	aff	neg	neg	aff	(flip)
C	aff	neg	aff	neg	aff	neg	(flip)
D	aff	neg	aff	neg	neg	aff	(flip)
E	neg	aff	neg	aff	aff	neg	(flip)
F	neg	aff	neg	aff	neg	aff	(flip)
G	neg	aff	neg	aff	aff	neg	(flip)
H	neg	aff	neg	aff	neg	aff	(flip)

XIII. ONE ACT PLAY**A. Regional and State Contests**

1. The Board of Directors of the OSSAA will assign all regional contests. Regional and state judges will be selected by the tournament director from a list of judges selected by a committee of teachers and will be supplied by OSSAA. The number of regional contests in each class will be determined by the number of entries. The number of plays from each regional qualifying for state contest will be determined by the number of regional contests required. The number of plays in the state contest shall not exceed nine (9) plays from each class.
2. A school may enter only one (1) play in the regional contest. The school grouping must be consistent with that used by the school during speech and debate tournaments. A school district may not enter separate plays based upon building structure and then combine into one school for other competition.
3. Three impartial judges with no current affiliation with the competing school districts will be used in the regional and state contests. At the state contest, one (1) judge will be from professional or community theater, one (1) from college theater, and one (1) from high school theater. For regional, not more than two (2) can come from any one of these categories. Judges will come from an approved OSSAA judge list unless exception be approved by the OSSAA.
4. Substitutions at the state contest must be approved by OSSAA.
5. A school may video tape their own production but not the production of other schools without the coaches' permission.
6. Royalties - The OSSAA assumes no responsibility for the payment of royalties or other fees connected with the performance of any material in the speech contest series. Permission to perform must be submitted with entry.
7. Regional and state performance order will be determined by random draw.
8. OSSAA will only fund the contest day of the regional and state competition. All other cost for rehearsal time will be assumed by the participating school.
9. If one of the regional one-acts qualifies but cannot attend state, the next place play from the region will be asked to attend.

B. Contest Regulations

1. A school may use published one-act play, part of full length play, or screenplay. Specifically prohibited are shows listed as musicals, operas, operettas, and musical revues. Published material shall be defined as any material which is published and available to the general public. Original and/or unpublished plays are allowable so long as the producing school demonstrates that it has acquired the appropriate permissions from the creator(s). In cases of original, devised work, producing schools will supply a notarized letter from the director acknowledging that the devised material is the work of the producing school and free of plagiarism and licensed intellectual property. Transcriptions of audio and video performances are not allowed unless provided by the original artist or producer. If protested, schools are responsible for providing proof of legitimacy. The choice to produce original work confers no competitive advantage or disadvantage. The play presented in the regional and state contests must be void of profane language, vulgar gestures, nudity and obscene scenes. The play must meet the above requirements. Use of profanity, vulgarity, nudity, obscenity, and hate speech may result in lowered ranking or disqualification by the judges and a protest filed with the tournament director. It is the school's responsibility to make arrangements with the author or publisher for the right to use the play selected and to pay any royalty which may be due. Sponsoring institutions and officials shall in no case be held responsible for any irregularities that may occur.
2. The time a school may have possession of the stage during the meet, including the time for setting the stage, presenting the play, and clearing the stage for the next cast, is not to exceed forty-five minutes. The lunch hour and time before the contest starts cannot be used for the purpose of placing furniture or sound equipment on the stage. All schools are required to stay within the forty-five minute time limit. Violation of this rule will drop the play one ranking point per judge by the tournament director. (Timekeeper must be provided by host school.) Time is not to be announced to the judges. A maximum one-minute grace period will be allowed before a penalty is imposed. Any play which exceeds 48 minutes will be disqualified and treated as if the entry never competed at the contest. All fee obligations still apply.
3. The main emphasis of the contest is based on the acting ability of the students in the cast and how they perform before an audience. The host school will not be required to provide any special props or furniture, nor are they required to furnish special lighting equipment.
4. Make-up, costuming, hand properties, and standard sound effects are allowable and will be judged on the basis of their appropriateness. Sound effect, such as doorbells, wind, thunder, etc., may be provided by the host school, if available. Participating schools should check with the host school regarding sound effects to be used.
5. Any one-act plays that do not comply with the regulations will be disqualified from further competition.
6. Oral critiques should be done in a private situation with only one (1) judge present.
7. Judges are not to confer about rankings until ballots are given to the tournament director.
8. No student below the ninth grade shall be eligible for competition.

9. Judges rank all plays without ties.
10. Tournament director will add the three (3) judges ranking and add a three (3) point penalty for overtime.
11. Two-way ties shall be broken by judges' preference. Three-way ties shall be broken by percentages first, and then judges' preference. (See VII, Subpoint G).
12. Use of any and all flames (matches, lighters, etc.) and weapons in one-act must be in compliance with state law, disclosed at time of entry to the tournament director, and subject to the approval of the host contest site.

C. Function of the Contest Manager

1. The primary function of the Contest Manager is to fully organize the contest.
2. The Contest Manager is responsible for administration and enforcement of all OSSAA Rules at the contest site. The manager at any level in the One-Act Play Contest, represents the OSSAA.
3. The Contest Manager must be available during both the rehearsals and performances. Exception: The manager may designate an adult assistant contest manager who must be present at rehearsals and performances. Thirty minutes (no more, no less) must be given to each school prior to the day of the contest for rehearsal and/or technical preparation. At State, this time will be assigned in the order of performance.
4. It is the contest manager's responsibility to operate the contest in accordance with OSSAA rules and regulations. The manager can hardly expect to operate the contest effectively and fairly unless they are completely familiar with matters pertaining to the play director and critic judge.
5. The Contest Manager should secure an assistant contest manager, door-keepers, two timekeepers (one of which must be an adult), and backstage crews. Accurate stop watch or digital timing device must be provided for the timekeepers. A judge may not serve as timekeeper, present awards or assume any other contest responsibility.
6. The OSSAA will mail to the contest manager the following:
 - a. Play Ballots (three for each play)
 - b. Ranking Form (one for each judge)
 - c. Panel Tabulation Form for the manager (one for each class of plays)
 - d. Outstanding Individual Ballot (one for each judge)
 - e. A sheet of instructions for the judges
 - f. Winners Report Form
 - g. OSSAA Speech Manual for University and College sites
 - h. A list of one act judges
 - i. Plays assigned to the site with performance times
 - j. Site Expense Claim
 - k. Manager Expense Claim
 - l. Judge's Expense Claims

The contest manager should contact the OSSAA, if they fail to receive all of the above material.

D. Instructions for Judges and the Contest Manager

1. Judges are prohibited from conferring with each other about the plays, the director or the company before or during the contest.
2. At Regionals, each judge will be required to provide an oral critique of the play and all its elements to each of the participating schools. Oral critiques should be done in a private situation with only one (1) judge present. This critiques needs to be a positive and truthful event for each school. The judge needs to keep in mind that these are high school performers and that the one-act competition is designed to be an educational experience.
3. The judge should give the completed ballots with play rankings, Ranking Form and the Outstanding Individual Performance Ballot to the contest manager for tabulation. Judges are not to confer about the performances or rankings until after the ballots, Ranking Form and the Outstanding Individual Performance Ballot have been given to the contest manager.
4. Specific Points are used only to help the judges arrive at a rank score. **Points are not to be used in any other way.** Points are just a tool to be used to arrive at a rank. Example: if there are eight (8) plays there will be 8 rank scores 1 through 8 with the most points assigned to the 1st rank.
5. Specific points must be assigned to each of the three areas being judged according to the following values:

Acting	0 to <u>70</u> points
Directing	0 to <u>15</u> points
Technical	0 to <u>15</u> points

The sum of these three scores will appear as the total point score in the bottom right-hand corner of the ballot. **There can be no ties; therefore, each judge must avoid giving two or more plays the same total points.** After all the plays have been performed, the judge must then convert the point scores to rank scores according to the point score awarded to each play. Example: If there were eight (8) plays in the contest there would be eight (8) different point scores. The play with the most points would Rank 1st and the other would follow to the 8th rank.) The rank can now be placed on each of the plays' ballot. **Each judge will be given a Ranking Form before the contest starts.** The Rank Form must be turned into the contest manager after the last performance. Note: Scores may not be altered after they have been turned into the contest manager except to correct clerical or addition errors.

6. Overtime Penalty: The judges are not involved with any overtime penalty. The One-Act Manager will add the Three (3) judges' ranking and add a three (3) ranking point penalty for overtime.
7. At the conclusion of the competition the judge will use the Outstanding Performance Ballot to select the All-Star/All-State cast. This ballot should be used for the ten most outstanding acting performances whether they are all from one play or distributed throughout all play performances. It is important that the judges not confer about the plays before they have given their final selection of outstanding performers.
 - a. Outstanding Individual Performance Ballot: (Judge) This is one ballot that is to be given each judges before the first performance. Each individual judge will use this ballot to select and rank in order the individuals that they feel gave the most outstanding performance during the competition.
 - b. Outstanding Individual Performance Ballot: (Contest Manager)
 1. The contest manager will take all three of the judges ballots to compile the All-Star/All-State Cast list.
 2. The manager will take all characters that have been given at least two (2). Should that tabulation result in fewer than ten members, the top single nominated student from each of the three judges' ballots that did not receive a second nomination shall be selected. Following the tabulation, the contest manager shall compile these results to be announced alphabetically at the awards assembly and mailed to the OSSAA office.
8. The Outstanding Stage Crew/Tech Performance will be awarded at both Regionals and State to the team with the highest Technical point totals. Ties will be broken first by judges preference; then if a tie still exists, by show placement.
9. The choice to produce original work confers no competitive advantage or disadvantage and should not be considered in ranking the production.

E. Ranking Plan for Judging One-Act Play Contests

1. The contest manager will collect each judge's ranking form and play ballots and total the points from the ballots to certify the judge added correctly to arrive at the rank score. Rank scores will be added to arrive at a total rank score. The total low rank score will be ranked first followed by the next lowest. After any corrections, the contest manager will then total the ranks and place them on the form provided. It is essential that the contest manager be assisted in all totaling of the judges' ballots and rank form and determine the winners by a responsible, unbiased adult that understands how to determine "**Judges' Preference**" in case of a tie.
2. The contest manager will announce the final results to the audience and contestants after all plays and All-Star/All-State Casts have been carefully verified. At the conclusion of the contest and prior to the announcement of results, the contest manager will show the panel tabulation form and the All-Star cast results to the directors only (for the purpose of verification). The panel tabulation form shall be shown immediately following tabulation to the directors only. Approximately fifteen minutes shall be allowed for the participating directors to question tabulation errors.
3. Using the samples as guides, ranking to determine "Judge's Preference" in case of a tie will be as follows:
 - a. Penalty for time violations will be the first criterion for breaking times. (See Section IX, D.)
 - b. Two-way ties will be broken by judges' preference. Based on the ranks given to the two plays, each judge ranked one of the plays more favorably than the other. One play is always preferred over the other by two judges.

Sample Totaling of Play Contest Ballots

Breaking a tie using Judges' Preference (Two way tie)

	Play	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Total	Ranking
I	Play M	2	1	3	6	2nd
II	Play N	7	6	4	17	
III	Play O	1	4	1	6	1st
IV	Play P	4	5	7	16	
V	Play Q	3	2	2	7	3rd
VI	Play R	5	3	5	13	
VII	Play S	6	7	6	19	

(Plays M and O are tied in total score as a sample of a three member panel, but they are not tied by “judges’ preference.”) Judge 1 preferred “O”; Judge 2 preferred “M”; Judge 3 preferred “O”)

c. In the event three or more plays are tied, you then use percentages. First 100%, second 50 %, third 33 1/3%, 4th 25%, fifth 20%, sixth 16 2/3 %, seventh 14 1/4 %, eighth 12 1/2 %.

Example of a tie broken by percentages

	Play	Judge	Judge	Judge	Total	Ranking
I	Play M	2 (50)	5 (20)	1 (100)	8 (170)	2nd
II	Play N	1 (100)	1 (100)	6 (16.6)	8 (216.6)	1st
III	Play O	3 (33.3)	2 (50)	3 (33.3)	8 (116.6)	3rd
IV	Play P	6	7	7	20	
V	Play Q	4	3	2	9	
VI	Play R	5	4	4	13	
VII	Play S	7	6	5	18	

d. If a three-way tie still exists, to keep from advancing more than 2 plays, a three-way tie would be broken from the following criteria: 1) total acting points; 2) total points; 3) number of people selected for the all-star cast, and 4) lowest cumulative rank of all-star cast members.

e. If a two-way tie exists after using percentages, judges’ preference will be used to break the two-way tie.

Three Way Tie

	Play	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Total	Ranking
I	Play A	1 (100)	4 (25)	3 (33 1/3)	8	2 nd (158 1/3)
II	Play B	3 (33 1/3)	1 (100)	4 (25)	8	3 rd (158 1/3)
III	Play C	2 (50)	5 (20)	1 (100)	8	1 st (170)
IV	Play D	5	2	2	9	
V	Play E	4	3	5	12	

(Play A and B are still tied after using percentages Judge 1 preferred “A”; Judge 2 preferred “B”; Judge 3 preferred “A”)

4. If there is any doubt about the tabulations, a verification telephone call shall be made to the OSSAA administrative assistant in charge of speech activities BEFORE the awards are announced. The OSSAA administrative assistant decision on questionable tabulations shall be final.

5. The One-Act Play Panel Tabulation Form shall be submitted along with the judge and site expense forms to the OSSAA.

6. Corrections Of Errors

Clerical and Tab Room Errors may be corrected up to Monday morning 9:00 a.m after the conclusion of the contest or tournament unless another time period is specified in advance by the contest manager/tournament director and the OSSAA.

7. Protest Procedure

a. Protest must be filed with the contest manager within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the final show.

b. A protest may be filed by a coach or a judge citing the specific violation(s) in writing.

c. At Regional and State One Act play contest a protest will be handled in the following way:

1. The contest manager will contact the OSSAA representative. The OSSAA representative will contact two (2) impartial committee members. This committee will render a decision.

2. After review, the contest manager will announce the decision to the coach.

3. Applicable penalties will be imposed.

4. All protest forms/Improper Performance forms will be available to involved parties at the time of protest.

5. Protest involving a Report For Allegations Of Improper Performance must complete speech Form Q and file with protest. All other protests should use Form P.

6. All forms will be mailed or faxed to the OSSAA the Monday following the contest by the contest manager.

7. The OSSAA will establish penalties, if any, after a review, concerning the issue.

XIV. AWARDS**A. Trophies**

1. Regional Speech: First, second and third place trophies will be awarded in each classification.
2. Regional One-Act: First, second and third place trophies will be awarded in each classification.
3. Regional One-Act: First in Outstanding Stage Crew/Tech Performance (plaque or certificate).
4. State Speech: First, second, third and fourth place trophies will be awarded in each classification.
5. State One-Act: First, second and third place trophies will be awarded in each classification.
6. State One-Act: First in Outstanding Stage Crew/Tech Performance (plaque or certificate).

B. Medals

1. Regional Speech: First, second, third and fourth place medals will be awarded in Classes 4A and 3A in each event at the four (4) regional sites. Eight (8) medals will be awarded in Classes 6A and 5A in each event at the two (2) regional sites.
2. State Speech: First, second, third and fourth place medals will be awarded as well as all finalist and quarter finalists in debate in all classes. The state champion in each event will be awarded an All-State certificate.
3. Medals will be awarded to the All-State Cast in each classification.
4. Medals will be awarded to the All-Star Cast in each classification.

C. Scholastic Award for High Schools - The OSSAA will recognize speech squads that excel in academic achievement and also participate in regionals. The application is found online.

1. Two levels of awards (must participate in OSSAA contest designated for that particular group).
 - a) Academic Achievement Certificate - Speech squads with over-all GPA of 3.25 (based on 4 point grading system). Round to the nearest thousandth percentile.
 - b) Distinguished Academic Plaque - Top four (4) speech squads in each class with over-all GPA of 3.5 to 4.0 (based on 4 point grading system). Round to the nearest thousandth percentile.
2. Group Qualifications
 - a) Classes 3A-4A: Eighty-five percent of the total membership of the speech squad that qualified and competed in the OSSAA regional speech tournament must be counted in the GPA for Classes 3A and 4A. Exception: Must have a minimum of seven (7) students to be eligible and no less than seven (7) students must be counted in the GPA. Grades are based on first semester.
 - b) Classes 5A-6A: Eighty-five percent of the total membership of the speech squad that qualified and competed in the OSSAA regional speech tournament must be counted in the GPA for Classes 5A and 6A. Exception: Must have a minimum of ten (10) students to be eligible and no less than ten (10) students must be counted in the GPA. Grades are based on first semester.
3. Entry by local school is optional (application is found online.) Deadline is April 1, 2024.
4. Award Presentations: Certificates and plaques will be presented at the state speech tournament or mailed to the school to be presented during a school function (assembly, school board meeting, banquet, etc.).

2025-2026 Speech dates and schedules

These are the only sanctioned classes for qualifying tournaments. Competing in a non sanctioned class will not lead to regional qualification.

DATE	SITE	CLASSES				NOV	CHAMP	DIRECTOR	PHONE		
Sept. 2	DEADLINE FOR REGIONAL ONE-ACT PLAY										
Sept. 6	Coaches Meeting										
Sept. 6	ACT Test Date										
Sept. 13	East Demo Day					Racinda Spatz	918-770-1532				
Sept. 18	West Demo Day					Rylee Blythe	405-585-7188				
Sept. 26-27	Southern Nazarene	6A	5A		X		Dennis Savill	405-305-8000			
Sept. 26-27	Charles Page (Sand Springs)	6A	5A		X		Coy Moses	918-849-9908			
Oct. 3-4	Moore	6A	5A		X		Ish Kissenger	405-735-4700			
Oct. 4	SAT Test Date										
Oct. 9	CLASS 5A REGIONAL ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST										
Oct. 11	CLASS 4A REGIONAL ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST										
Oct. 14	CLASS 6A REGIONAL ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST										
Oct. 18	ACT TEST										
Oct. 21	DEADLINE FOR STATE ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST ENTRY										
Oct. 24-26	JW Patterson @ Heritage Hall	Non Qualifying		Debate Only			Bryan Gaston	405-749-3033			
Oct. 30	CLASS 6A STATE ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST										
Nov. 1	CLASS 5A STATE ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST					TBA					
Nov. 4	CLASS 4A STATE ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST					TBA					
Oct. 31-Nov. 1	Riverfield		4A	3A	X		Zach Haskins	918-446-3553			
Nov. 7-8	Broken Arrow	6A	5A		X		Robert Walters	918-200-3820			
Nov. 7-8	Mounds		4A	3A	X		Davida Smith	918-827-6100			
Nov. 7-8	El Reno	6A	5A		X		Stacy Haberland	405-808-2098			
Nov. 7-8	Mount St. Mary		4A	3A	X		Linda Soudek	405-631-8865			
Nov. 8	SAT Test										
Nov. 14-15	Bishop Kelley	6A	5A		X		Erin Clark	918-627-3390			
Nov. 21-22	Sequoyah Tahlequah		4A	3A	X		Amanda Ray	918-453-5156			
Nov. 21-22	Marlow		4A	3A	X		Rylee Blythe	405-585-7188			
Dec. 5-6	Tulsa Central		4A	3A	X	X	Rodney Clark	918-833-8457			

Speech**2025-2026**

Dec. 5-6	Booker T Washington	6A	5A			X	Micah Cash	918-706-6238
Dec. 6	SAT Test Date							

Dec. 12-13	Muskogee	6A	5A	4A	3A	X	Penny McGill	918-684-3750	
Dec. 12-13	Crescent			4A	3A	X	Nick Lyon	405-969-3738	
Dec. 13	ACT Test								
Jan. 9-10	Edmond Memorial	6A	5A			X	Sara Nichols	918-859-4994	
Jan. 9-10	Stratford		5A	4A	3A	X	Sam Caton	580-272-6824	
Jan. 16-17	Lawton Academy			4A	3A	X	Bria Saintcross	580-695-9954	
Jan. 16-17	Union	6A	5A	4A	3A	X	Racinda Spatz	918-770-1532	
Jan. 16-17	Norman North	6A	5A			X	Morgan Brown	405-203-5454	
Jan. 23-24	Alva			4A	3A	X	Nick Bradt	580-327-3682	
Jan. 23-24	Muldrow			4A	3A	X	Chris Larcade	479-629-3325	
Jan. 23-24	Norman	6A	5A			X	Hannah Dedmon	405-420-6835	
Jan. 23-24	Jenks	6A	5A	4A	3A	X	Betty Stanton	918-629-4410	
Jan. 30-31	Bartlesville	6A	5A			X	Michelle Johnson	918-336-3311	
Jan. 30-31	Oklmulgee			4A	3A	X	Stormy Howell	918-758-2075	
Jan. 30-31	Comanche			4A	3A		X	Steven Austin	580-439-2933
Jan. 30-31	Edmond Santa Fe	6A	5A			X	Kasey Harrison	405-640-5136	
Feb. 6-7	Commerce		5A	4A	3A	X		Blanchard McKibbon	918-675-4343
Feb. 6-7	Owasso	6A	5A			X	David Galoob	918-899-5921	
Feb. 6-7	Rush Springs			4A	3A	X	Mary Turner	580-476-3172	
Feb. 6-7	Pond Creek			4A	3A	X	Dakota Davis	405-853-0137	
Feb. 13-14	Haskell			4A	3A	X	X	Jody Batie	918-482-5221
Feb. 13-14	Ada		5A	4A	3A	X	X	Merrie Palmer	580-310-7220
Feb. 14	ACT Test Date								
Feb. 20-21	Cherokee			4A	3A		X	Jason Paris	580-596-3391
Feb. 20-21	Seminole			4A	3A		X	Krista Williams Clark	405-382-1415
Feb. 20-21	Deer Creek	6A	5A			X	X	Matt Cheek	405-348-5720
Feb. 27-28	Last Qualifying Tourn.								
Feb. 27-28	Okeene			4A	3A		X	Quinton Wray	580-822-3219
Feb. 27-28	Inola			4A	3A	X	X	Delecia Meeker	918-266-7227
Feb. 27-28	Bixby	6A	5A			X	X	Wyatt Freeman	580-504-0297
Feb. 27-28	Southmoore	6A	5A			X	X	Nicholas Toscani	405-203-6841

MARCH 3 -DEADLINE TO ENTER REGIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE TOURNAMENT

MARCH 27-28 - REGIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE ALL CLASSES

MARCH 31 -DEADLINE TO ENTER STATE SPEECH AND DEBATE TOURNAMENT-All Classes

APRIL 1 DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

APRIL 1 DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT FOR 26-27

APRIL 16-18 STATE SPEECH & DEBATE FOR ALL CLASSES

2025-2026 LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE TOPICS

Rostrum Topics will be used. Access topics at www.speechanddebate.org

Sept. - Oct.: Use September-October Rostrum Topic
Nov. - Dec.: Use November-December Rostrum Topic
Jan. - Feb.: Use January-February Rostrum Topic
Mar. - Apr.: Use March-April Rostrum Topic

2025-2026 CROSS EXAMINATION DEBATE TOPIC

Resolved: The United State federal government should significantly increase its exploration and/or development of the Arctic.

REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS AND SITES

Listed below are the regional tournament assignments and contest sites. If a school is not listed, they must contact the OSSAA office by Oct. 3 to be assigned. Schools may be asked to attend a different regional to equalize the contest size. (Schools may be required to attend a different regional due to a change in school classification.) ADM is not released until late July, so some schools might change classifications from the previous year based on the most current numbers. Some sites may/will change!

Class 3A Regional Assignments March 27-28, 2026

Northwest Regional

NWOSU, Alva, OK 73717 - Tournament Site. Site Coordinator: Kimberly Weast

Nick Bradt, Tournament Director, Phone 580-327-6014, Alva High School, 501 14th St., Alva, OK 73717

Schools: Aline-Cleo, Arnett, Balko, Boise City, Buffalo, Burlington, Canton, Cashion, Cherokee, Cimmaron, Covington-Douglas, Deer Creek-Lamont, Dover, Fairview, Felt, Forgan, Freedom, Ft. Supply, Garber, Goodwell, Hammon, Hennessey, Hinton, Hooker, Hydro-Eakly, Kremlin-Hillsdale, Laverne, Leedey, Medford, Mooreland, Okeene, Oklahoma Bible, Pioneer-Pleasant Vale, Pond Creek-Hunter, Ringwood, Seiling, Shattuck, Taloga, Texhoma, Timberlake, Turpin, Tyrone, Vici, Waukomis, Waynoka, Yarbrough

Southwest Regional

SWOSU, 100 Campus Drive, Weatherford, OK 73096 - Tournament Site. Site Coordinator: Matt Dorr

Nick Lyon, Tournament Director, Phone: 405-593-0614, Crescent High School, 106 N Magnolia Crescent, OK 73028,

Schools: Arapaho, Binger-Oney, Blair, Bray-Doyle, Burns Flat, Canute, Carnegie, Cement, Central High, Chattanooga, Cheyenne, Comanche, Cordell, Crescent, Cyril, Duke, Elmore City, Empire, Fletcher, Frederick, Geary, Geronimo, Granite, Healdton, Hobart, Hollis, Lawton Academy, Lomega, Lone Wolf, Mangum, Merritt, Mulhall-Orlando, Navajo, Ninnekah, Okarche, Ringling, Rush Springs, Ryan, Sayre, Snyder, Sterling, Temple, Thackerville, Tipton, Walters, Watonga, Waurika, Wayne, Wilson, Wynnewood

Northeast Regional

Haskell High School, 900 N. Ohio, Haskell, OK 74017 - Tournament Site. Site Coord.: Stormy Howell. Jody Batie, Tournament Director, Phone (918) 482-5221, Haskell High School, P.O. Box 278, Haskell, OK 74436

Schools: Afton, Agra, Cave Springs, Chelsea, Chouteau, Colcord, Commerce, Dale, Depew, Dewar, Drumright, Fairland, Foyil, Frontier, Glencoe, Haskell, Hominy, Kansas, Ketchum, Kipp(Tulsa), Liberty, Luther, Mounds, Newkirk, Oaks, Oklahoma Union, Oktaha, Olive, Pawhuska, Pawnee, Porter Consolidated, Preston, Quapaw, Regent Prep, Schulter, Stroud, Tonkawa, Welch, Wellston, Wewoka

Southeast Regional

Seminole State College, Seminole, OK - Tournament Site. Site Coord: Krista Williams-Clark

Krista Williams- Clark, Tournament Director, Phone 580-320-0198, Seminole High School, P.O. Box 1031, Seminole, OK 74818

Schools: Allen, Asher, Battiest, Bennington, Bokoshe, Boswell, Bowlegs, Buffalo Valley, Butner, Caddo, Calera, Calvin, Canadian, Caney, Central (Sallisaw), Christian Heritage, Clayton, Coalgate, Colbert, Crowder, Dibble, Gans, Gore, Haileyville, Haworth, Howe, Indianola, Keota, Kiowa, Konawa, Latta, LeFlore, Legacy Christian, Midway, Moss, Moyers, Oklahoma Christian Academy, Paden, Pittsburg, Pocola, Porum, Quinton, Rattan, Red Oak, Savanna, Smithville, Springer, Stonewall, Stratford, Talihina, Vanoss, Velma-Alma, Wetumka, Wilburton, Wilson(Henryetta), Wister, Wright City

Class 4A Regional Assignments March 27-28, 2026Northwest Regional

NWOSU, Alva, OK 73717 - Tournament Site. Site Coordinator: Kimberly Weast
 Nick Bradt, Tournament Director, Phone 580-327-6014, Alva High School, 501 14th St., Alva, OK 73717
 Schools: Alva, Blackwell, Chisholm, Community Christian, Kingfisher, Madill, Perry

Southwest Regional

SWOSU, 100 Campus Drive, Weatherford, OK 73096 - Tournament Site. Site Coordinator: Jessica Salmans
 Paula McConnell, Tournament Director, Phone: 580-467-2249, Marlow High School, P.O. Box 73, Marlow, OK 73055,
 Schools: Anadarko, Bethel, Davis, Jones, Lexington, Lindsay, Little Axe, Marietta, Marlow, Millwood,
 Mount St. Mary, Oklahoma Christian School, Plainview, Purcell, Star Spencer, Sulphur

Northeast Regional

Haskell High School, 900 N. Ohio, Haskell, OK 74017 - Tournament Site. Site Coord.: Stormy Howell. Jody Batie,
 Tournament Director, Phone (918) 482-5221, Haskell High School, P.O. Box 278, Haskell, OK 74436
 Schools: Adair, Beggs, Berryhill, Bristow, Cascia Hall, Catoosa, Central (Tulsa), Chandler, Cushing,
 Daniel Webster, Dewey, Dove (Tulsa), Holland Hall, Inola, Jay, Kellyville, Keys (Parkhill), Keifer, Lincoln
 Christian, Locust Grove, Metro Christian, Morris, Okmulgee, Perkins-Tryon, Rejoice Christian, Salina,
 Sequoyah (Claremore), Sequoyah (Tahlequah), Sperry, Stigler, Verdigris, Victory Christian, Vinita, Westville,
 Wyandotte

Southeast Regional

Seminole State College, Seminole, OK - Tournament Site. Site Coord: Krista Williams-Clark
 Krista Williams-Clark, Tournament Director, Phone 580-320-0198, Seminole High School, P.O. Box 1031, Seminole,
 OK 74818
 Schools: Antlers, Astec, Atoka, Byng, Checotah, Cleveland, Crooked Oak, Dickson, Dove (OKC), Eufaula,
 Heavener, Henryetta, Holdenville, Hugo, Idabel, Kingston, Lone Grove, Mannford, Meeker, Muldrow,
 North Rock Creek, Pauls Valley, Prague, Riverfield Country Day, Roland, Seminole, Silo, Spiro, Tishomingo,
 Valliant, Washington,

Class 5A Regional Assignments March 27-28, 2026West Regional

Deer Creek High School - Tournament Site. Site Coordinator: Tyler Abbott 405-777-3710
 Kasey Harrison and Brett Young Tournament Site Directors, Phone: 405-640-5136 Deer Creek High School, 6101 NW
 206th St. Edmond, OK 73013
 Schools: Ada, Altus, Ardmore, Bethany, Blanchard, Bishop McGuinness, Bridge Creek, Cache, Carl Albert, Casady,
 Chickasha, Classen SAS, Clinton, Del City, Douglass, Duncan, Durant, El Reno, Elgin, Elk City, Guthrie, Guymon,
 Harding Fine Arts, Harrah, John Marshall, Newcastle, Noble, Pathways, Santa Fe South, Shawnee, Southeast, Tecumseh,
 The Academy of Classical Christian Studies, Tuttle, Weatherford, Western Heights, Woodward

East Regional

Bishop Kelley- Tournament Site. Site Coordinator: Erin Clark
 Jennifer Denslow, Tournament Director, Phone: 918-443-6231 Oologah H.S., PO Box 189, Oologah, OK 74053
 Schools: Bishop Kelley, Broken Bow, Collinsville, Coweta, East Central, Edison Prep, Ft. Gibson, Glenpool,
 Grove, Harding Charter Prep, Hilldale, McAlester, McLain, McLoud, Memorial (Tulsa), Miami, Nathan Hale,
 Oologah, Poteau, Pryor, Sallisaw, Skiatook, Stilwell, Tulsa School of Arts & Science, Wagoner, Will Rogers

Class 6A Regional Assignments March 27-28, 2026
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West Regional

Deer Creek High School - Tournament Site. Site Coordinator: Tyler Abbott 405-777-3710

Kasey Harrison and Brett Young Tournament Site Directors, Phone: 405-640-5136 Deer Creek High School, 6101 NW 206th St. Edmond, OK 73013

Schools: Capitol Hill, Choctaw, Crossings Christian, Deer Creek (Edmond), Edmond Memorial, Edmond North, Edmond Santa Fe, Eisenhower, Heritage Hall, Lawton High, Macarthur, Midwest City, Moore, Mustang, Norman, Norman North, Northwest Classen, Piedmont, Putnam City, Putnam City North, Putnam City West, Southmoore, U.S. Grant, Westmoore, Yukon

East Regional

Bishop Kelley- Tournament Site. Site Coordinator: Erin Clark

Jennifer Denslow, Tournament Director, Phone: 918-443-6231 Oologah H.S., PO Box 189, Oologah, OK 74053

Schools: Bartlesville, Bixby, Booker T. Washington, Broken Arrow, Claremore, Enid, Jenks, Muskogee, Owasso, Ponca City, Sand Springs, Sapulpa, Stillwater, Tahlequah, Union

SPEECH CLASSIFICATIONS 2025-2026

Class 6A - 1150 and above; Class 5A - 550-1149.99; Class 4A - 250-549.99; Class 3A - 249.99 and below
Please refer to the OSSAA home page for the most current ADM numbers as supplied by the state department of Education. These current numbers will be used to determine speech classifications each year. 2025-2026 classifications will be determined by the 2024-2025 ADM and will be posted at the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year.

FOUR YEAR CALENDAR

REGIONAL AND STATE CONTEST

	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
<u>STATE WORKSHOP</u> (Week 9 or 10)				
<u>DEMO-DAYS</u> (Week 11-12 or 10-11)				
Teachers Workshop	Sept 6	Sept 12	Sept 11	Sept 9
East Demo. Day	Sept 13	Sept 19	Sept. 18	Sept. 16
West Demo. Day	Sept 11	Sept 17	Sept. 16	Sept. 14
<u>REGIONAL ONE ACT</u> (Week 14 or 15)				
Class 4A	Oct. 11	Oct. 13	Oct. 7	Oct. 7
Class 5A	Oct. 9	Oct. 10	Oct. 12	Oct. 5
Class 6A	Oct. 14	Oct. 8	Oct. 9	Oct. 10
<u>STATE ONE ACT</u> (Week 17 or 18)				
Class 4A	Nov. 4	Oct. 29	Oct. 30	Oct. 31
Class 5A	Nov. 1	Nov. 3	Oct. 28	Oct. 28
Class 6A	Oct. 30	Oct. 31	Nov. 2	Oct. 26
LAST QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT WEEKEND (Week 34)	Feb. 27-28	Feb. 26-27	Feb. 25-26	Feb. 23-24
<u>REGIONAL SPEECH</u> (WEEK 36-37)				
Classes 3A-4A	Mar. 27-28	Mar. 26-27*	Mar. 24-25	Mar. 23-24
Classes 5A-6A	Mar. 27-28	Mar. 26-27*	Mar. 24-25	Mar. 23-24
<u>STATE SPEECH</u> (WEEK 40) or (41 when it falls on Easter Week)				
All Classes	Apr. 16-17-18	Apr. 15-16-17	Apr. 13-14-15*	Apr. 5-6-7* or 12-13-14

BOARD POLICIES

(See the OSSAA Rules & Regulations Handbook in the Principal's office to view all board policies and OSSAA rules.)

XV. MUSIC AND SPEECH PENALTIES**A. PENALTIES:** Penalties are defined as follows:

Depending on the severity of the violation of rules or regulations either mandatory or prohibitory, the school and/or its representative (Music: band/orchestra/stage band/choruses/ all solo/ensembles/ honor groups/ etc./Speech: speech/debate/one-act plays/ etc. shall be subjective to one of the following penalties.

NOTE: The board reserves the right to add to or take away from any of the following penalties.

1. **WARNING...**Private or Public Reprimand: A private reprimand may be oral in writing in which the penalty(ies) shall be published in the OSSAA Newsletter.

Penalty(ies)

Rating Contest: (I, II, III, IV, V) the rating earned by its band, orchestra, stage band, choruses, all solo/ensembles, speech, debate, one-act play, etc. will be lowered one division. Any further violation during the warning period shall subject the school, or individual, to a more severe penalty. The school or individual may compete for a rating or award during this period.

Ranking Contest: A school or individual shall forfeit all rankings (band, orchestra, jazz band, choruses, all solo/ensembles, honor groups, speech, debate, one-act play, etc. The school or individual may compete for a ranking or award during this period.

2. **PROBATION....**Public reprimand: A public reprimand shall be in writing and the penalty published in the OSSAA Newsletter.

Penalty(ies)

A school or individual shall forfeit all ratings, rankings or awards received during the period of violation. The school or individual may not compete for ratings, ranking and awards during the PROBATION period until the school has taken action to show the OSSAA corrective measures have been taken. Any further violation during the probation period shall subject the school or individual to a more severe penalty.

3. **SUSPENSION:** A school or individual shall forfeit all ratings, rankings, and awards during the period of violation. The school may not participate in OSSAA sponsored activities such as qualifying district, regional or state and/or invitational festivals and contests during the suspension period, not to exceed one year.

B. REPORTING VIOLATIONS

1. Any authorized representative of a member school may file a complaint against any school for violation of the rules and regulations of the Association. Such complaint shall be filed with the OSSAA officer responsible for non-athletics/or Executive Director of the OSSAA.
2. Upon receipt of a complaint, the OSSAA shall make an investigation of the charges contained in the complaint within a reasonable time. The penalty will be less severe if a school reports itself and/or the violation is found to be unintentional in nature. A more severe penalty will be issued if the violation was intentional.

C. LATE ENTRY PENALTY

1. All entries submitted after the deadline date will not be accepted.
2. **POLICY ON NON-PAYMENT OF SPEECH AND MUSIC ENTRY FEE** - Non-payment of Speech and Music Entry Fee. Schools that have not cleared their financial obligations (Entry Fee/Drop Fees) by April 15th will be placed on WARNING, if not cleared by May 15th will be placed on PROBATION, if not cleared by June 15th will be placed on SUSPENSION and will be ineligible for participation in OSSAA Speech and Music Events the following year until bills are cleared.

XVI. OSSAA MUSIC & SPEECH SANCTION & PARTICIPATION POLICY**A. OSSAA Sponsored Speech and Debate Contests**

1. Regional One Act play
2. State One Act play
3. Qualifying speech and debate (co-sponsor)
4. Regional speech and debate
5. State speech and debate

B. OSSAA Sponsored Music Contests**1. Vocal**

- a) District solo and ensemble contests
- b) State solo and ensemble contests
- c) District concert contests
- d) State concert contest

2. Instrumental

- a) Regional marching contests
- b) District solo and ensemble contests
- c) State solo and ensemble contests
- d) District concert contests
- e) State concert contest
- f) State jazz band contest
- g) State orchestra contest

C. Scheduling OSSAA Sponsored Music Events. The rationale for scheduling OSSAA sponsored contests is as follows:

1. Facilities- It may not be possible to secure the needed facilities on a non-school day.
2. Scheduling of Events- The essential activities involved in the event may require more than one day's duration.
3. Number of participants- There may be more participants scheduled to compete than can be accommodated in one day.
4. Staffing -A sufficient quantity of qualified officials, judges, etc. might not be available for the event on a non-school day. (Example) There would not be enough judges if all the district contests were scheduled on the same day.
5. Finances -The cost of officials, guest conductors, judges, etc. may be prohibitive to involve only non-school days.
6. State wide event may require the use of the same panel of judges for consistency of judging standards so the event can be used to evaluate both the marching, concert and Sight-Reading abilities of school music groups and to encourage musically well- balanced programs.
7. Finding dates - It may be necessary to use dates that do not conflict with other statewide OSSAA sponsored events.
8. Events that have been postponed due to weather conditions or unavoidable circumstances may need to be re-scheduled on a school day.

D. SANCTIONING OF NON-OSSAA SPONSORED CONTEST & EVENTS

The following is the sanctioning policy of the OSSAA Rule 20, Section 3: Non-Athletics, Music, Speech and Debate and One-Act Plays.

Recognizing that school music and speech programs have a community commitment that extends beyond the confines of strictly school events, and recognizing also there are events that extend beyond the desire or intent of the OSSAA to administer, the Executive Committee of the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association, acting under the authority granted in the constitution, sets forth the following regulations and recommendations for governing the participation of its member schools in events sponsored by agencies or schools other than this association during the academic year. NOTE: Sanctioning does not imply the event is free from conflict of dates with other sanctioned events. Music events should not conflict with music, speech should not conflict with speech, etc.

NOTE: It is imperative that you check closely any music or speech competition that is sponsored by any agency, school; or university other than the OSSAA Office. The OSSAA Rules may or may not apply for events that are not sanctioned by the OSSAA.

1. GENERAL REGULATIONS

- a. Competitive music and speech events (contest, festival, championship, honor groups, etc.) originating in Oklahoma should have the event sanctioned. All schools and participants must abide with OSSAA Rules to be sanctioned.

- b. Application for approval shall be submitted to the OSSAA no later than 30 days prior to the first event.
- c. Activities scheduled on the OSSAA activities calendar should be given priority in relation to programs sponsored by outside agencies.
- d. If the activity is not sponsored by the OSSAA, the legal matters will be the responsibility of the member school, non-public school hosts, or any non-school individual hosts.
- e. Programs must be open to all students, regardless of race, creed, sex or national origin.
- f. Whenever possible, non-OSSAA competitions should be held on non-school time (weekends, vacation, etc.).
- g. Multi-day events must make use of at least one day of the weekend.
- h. Member schools and students representing member schools should not compete for cash prizes. Schools may accept cash for large groups (bands, orchestras, choruses) to offset the expense of preparing for the event and transportation, meals, and other similar expense. Awards shall be appropriate in number, kind and value. Equipment awards relating to the student's skills are acceptable. Scholarships are always recommended.

2. SANCTIONING EVENTS

- a. Non-athletics: Intrastate events: Music, One-Act Play, Speech and Debate

All non- athletic events in grades 7 through 12 related directly or indirectly to any activity in which the Association sponsors a contest at a qualifying, district, regional or state level should be sanctioned. The responsibility lies with the participating schools as well as the host member school, non-public school host, or any non-school individual host. Non-school individuals or non-school groups must supply a certificate of insurance and be co-sponsored by a school or an approved organization in order to be considered for sanctioning.

Students may not be covered by catastrophic insurance unless the event is sanctioned.

All member schools, non-public school hosts, or any non-school individual hosts, should apply for OSSAA Sanction when three or more schools participate. Only events which are competitive in nature and where recognition, ratings or awards are given, or winners determined qualify. NOTE: OSSAA cannot sanction any co-curricular activity unless all schools are abiding by OSSAA Rules. Agreement: It is agreed to include on the entry form a statement to be signed by the Principal or Superintendent that all students entered are eligible to represent the school according to the Rules of the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association. Application for Approval should be at least 30 days before the event. The application form is in this manual.

- b. Non-Athletics-Interstate events: Music, One-Act Play, Speech and Debate Interstate events should be sanctioned through the OSSAA and the Host State Activities Association. Note: Some out-of-state schools will not allow their schools to participate unless the event is sanctioned by the OSSAA. All in-state schools must abide with OSSAA Rules and the invited states must abide by their high school association's rules. Out-of-State Agreement: It is agreed to include on the out-of-state entry form a statement to be signed by the Principal or Superintendent that all students entered are eligible to represent the school according to the Rules of invited state's Activities Association or governing body. In-State-Agreement: It is agreed to include on the in-state entry form a statement to be signed by the Principal or Superintendent that all students entered are eligible to represent the school according to the Rules of the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association. Application forms are provided by the OSSAA or the out-of-state high school's association.

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 sue 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

- **AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED BUT DID NOT HAVE A MOTION TO BE VOTED ON**
- 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
- Discussed regional debate out-round procedures
- Discussed requiring $\frac{1}{2}$ 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

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