OSSAA
OKLAHOMA SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
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August 2026

To: All Speech, Debate, and Theatre Teachers

Dear Teachers,

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

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

If you are returning to your school in the same capacity then you should be able to login using your credentials from last year. If you are new to your school, new to your role, or your school has not competed recently, you or a colleague will need to register at ossaaspeech.com/registration.aspx.

Please note that only one representative from each school may register your school account. This means that every speech, debate and theatre educator in your school will use that person's email address and a shared password. If you have multiple people from your school who will use the website and you are the person who registers your school, please do not use your super-secret password that only you can know. We recommend that instead you collaborate on a password everyone would like to use instead and maybe even take a moment to register together. On the Profile page, under the Affidavit, you will find a place to list each person's individual email address allowing each of you to receive our OSSAA emails and acting as your signed affidavit for the activity for which you are responsible. If you have trouble, check with your colleagues at your site first, and then feel free to contact India Graham at igraham@ossaa.com or (405) 840-1116.

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

The "2026-2027 Speech Rules and Regulations Manual" is available for downloading. The manual is one of these many important resources found online at www.ossaa.com. Once there, click on "Activities" and then "Speech & Debate". You can download and even print the manual for your convenience.

Please plan to attend the coach's meeting/workshop on September 12, 2026. This meeting will once again be held in person at SNU in Bethany, with a tentative schedule of 8:30 am-1:30 pm. We will have several break-out sessions to discuss important issues, including the popular and helpful "New Teachers Workshop"! This is a great way for new teachers or teachers new to our state to get updated on the OSSAA rules and procedures. More details will be emailed after the school year begins, but please know this is a very helpful event for both new and experienced coaches. We value your input, and this event also provides you the opportunity to share your opinion on important speech/debate issues and how they affect our students here in Oklahoma.

*As we expect all coaches/directors to attend our annual Coaches Meeting on September 12, it is very important for Tournament Directors to attend. Please be sure to pick up your hosting packet while there to help you prepare for your tournament. If you are hosting a tournament and absolutely cannot attend the meeting, please let me know well in advance of the meeting, if possible. Failure to do so can cause your tournament to be canceled.

Speech and Debate classifications and One-Act Play classifications are updated yearly. One-Act classifications are determined after the entry deadline since they are based on the number of schools participating. Around the first of August, we will post the tentative ADM numbers to be voted on by our executive board on August 12. After the meeting, we will post the official ADM numbers and updated Speech & Debate classifications. You will be able to view the classifications both at ossaa.com and in our Speech Rules and Regulations Manual. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO DOUBLE-CHECK YOUR CLASSIFICATION IN BOTH PLACES. Through helping us ensure accuracy, we can provide your students with the best possible experience- THANK YOU!!

Your speech advisory committee suggested some changes in last May's meeting, and the OSSAA board approved *most* of them in June. Several significant changes were approved. To help avoid surprises, please be sure to read about these starting on page SPE 50 of our Speech & Debate Regulations Manual.

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

1. The Affidavit has been submitted electronically.
2. Qualifying Speech Participants Roster has been submitted electronically.
3. All speech payments from the 2025-2026 school year are paid.

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

Sincerely,
Alex Claussen
OSSAA Fine Arts Director
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