WIAA/DAIRY FARMERS OF WASHINGTON/GESA CREDIT UNION

2025-26 Bound for State Regulations



March 19-21, 2026

University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA

Introduction and Purpose

This manual serves as the official guide for all interscholastic forensic activities in Washington. Its goal is to ensure that schools, directors, administrators, and tournament hosts have a clear understanding of activity structures and administrative responsibilities.

- Official Authority: These regulations, along with the WIAA Handbook, constitute the official rules for forensic activities in Washington State.
- Effective Date: These regulations are current as of February 1, 2026.

Our Philosophy

The primary goal of forensics is to foster good citizenship through educational experiences. While tournaments provide an opportunity to showcase excellence, the focus remains on maximum participation and student growth, rather than winning.

Students will develop critical skills, including:

- Investigation, evidence evaluation, and formal argumentation.
- Distinguishing sound reasoning from fallacies.
- Public speaking, interpretation, and effective communication.
- Analyzing political, economic, and social philosophies.

Invitational Tournaments

An invitational tournament is any event held at an accredited school or university where awards are presented.

Host Requirements

Schools wishing to host a tournament must contact Erika Pinto-Moore (WSFA Secretary) at epinto-moore@auburn.wednet.edu to be added to the Official WSFA Calendar.

Tournament Regulations

By hosting or attending a tournament, schools agree to the following standards:

1. Governance & Personnel

- Supervision: A Director or Coach must be present on-site to supervise their students throughout the entire event.
- Tabulation: Each tournament must use at least two high school forensics coaches in an advisory capacity for the tabulation room.
- Eligibility: Unaffiliated competitors (clubs or international teams not associated with a school) may not compete against Washington state school teams.

2. Scheduling & Recognition

- Start Times: No round may start after 9:00 PM. (Exception: Double-octafinal rounds may start by 10:00 PM).
- Awards: The WSFA recommends recognizing the top 20% of participants in each event.

3. Competition Rules

- Debate Topics: Hosts must use the official WSFA debate questions and the "Rules of Evidence." No local revisions to resolutions are permitted.
- Novice Policy: Between October and December, tournaments must follow the WSFA Novice CX Case List.
- Individual Events: State rules and time limits must be strictly followed.

4. Technology & Evidence

- Computer Use: Computers are permitted, but students assume all risk for equipment failure. No extra prep time is granted for technical issues.
- Internet: If internet access is used, it must be available to both teams.
- Evidence Sharing: All evidence read during a round must be shared with the opposing team (paper or digital) with the specific portions read clearly marked.
- Communication: Competitors and coaches may not communicate once a round begins. This includes electronic messaging. Violations may result in disqualification.

5. Recording & Privacy

- Full rounds of Debate or Individual Events may not be recorded.
- Individual speeches may only be recorded with express permission from the speaker, coach, and parent.

Travel Requirements

For all contests (interstate or local), participating schools must obtain formal permission to attend from their local school board.

STATE DEBATE TOURNAMENTS

Tournament Structure

All Policy, Lincoln-Douglas (LD), World Schools, and Public Forum teams are guaranteed **six preliminary rounds**.

Software & Tabulation

- **Primary Tool:** Tabroom.com is the official software for pairing and tracking.
- **Safety Checks:** Tab staff must use "disaster checks" before posting rounds and are encouraged to back up data frequently.
- **Flexibility:** Staff may switch to alternate software if it is deemed more efficient for the tournament.

Pairing Procedures

Rounds are paired based on regional designations (WIAA districts) and current win-loss records.

Preliminary Rounds (1–6)

Rounds	Pairing Method	Constraints/Notes
1 & 2	Randomly Preset	Maximizes matches between different WIAA districts.
3	High-High	Teams with similar records are paired (strongest vs. strongest).

4–6 High-Low Teams within the same win-loss bracket are paired (top vs. bottom).

- **Regional Constraints:** Used only in Rounds 1 and 2 to ensure inter-district play.
- **Side Constraints:** (LD/Policy/World) Strictly enforced for even-numbered rounds (ensures balance of Aff/Neg).
- **Byes:** Assigned to the team with the worst record who hasn't had one yet. Byes cannot be refused and count as a win.
- **Repeats:** Teams will not meet more than once in preliminary rounds. There are no school constraints (teammates may be paired against each other).

Elimination Rounds

The tournament shifts to a single-elimination, triple-judged format after the preliminary rounds.

Qualification

- All teams with a **4-2 record or better** advance to elimination rounds.
- **Seeding Tiebreakers:** 1. Win/Loss 2. High/Low Points 3. Total Points 4. Opponent Wins $\rightarrow$ 5. Judge Variance.

Side Selection

- **LD/Policy/World:** If teams met in prelims, they switch sides. Otherwise, sides are set by Tabroom.
- **Public Forum:** Sides are always determined by a coin flip.

School Sweepstakes

Schools earn points toward a championship trophy based on their students' final placements.

Point Values

Placement	Points
1st Place	10 pts
2nd Place	8 pts
3rd & 4th Place	6 pts

Quarterfinalists	4 pts
Octafinalists	2 pts

***Policy Debate Note:** Policy results only count toward sweepstakes if there are at least 12 teams from at least two different WIAA districts.

Tiebreaking

If two schools have the same number of sweepstakes points, the school with the **highest individual placement** wins the tie.

Protests

If a rule violation or technical error occurs, a protest must be filed with the Tab Room staff. This protest **must be made by the head coach** of the school involved.

Congressional Debate

Eligibility and Attendance

- Active School Status: To compete at State, a school must have participated in at least two (2) interscholastic Congress tournaments by December 15.
- Berths: The WIAA allocates spots to each district. Each school is limited to one legislator per chamber.
- Structure: State Congress consists of three preliminary chambers and one final "Super Congress." ○ State Congress consists of three preliminary chambers that are 2.5hrs in length, and one final super congress to be 3hrs in length.

2. Officials and Scoring

The Parliamentarian

- Appointed by the WSFA Congressional Debate Chair to supervise the house and intervene if procedure stalls.
- Remains for the entire competition and serves as the final authority on rules.
- Ranks all contestants and Presiding Officers (POs) at the end of Session 3 and at the end of the Final "Super Congress"

Scorers

- Staffing: Three (3) scorers per prelim chamber; five (5) for Super Congress.
- Ranking: At the end of a session, scorers rank the top eight (8) students (1 =best). All other students receive a rank of 9.
- Collaboration: Scorers and Parliamentarians may only speak to one another to verify speech counts.

3. Legislation and Dockets

- Source: Legislation for preliminary sections is to be pulled from the Fall and Spring packets for preliminary sections only. Legislation for the final Super Congress to be pulled from the Fall and Spring packets Super Congress sections only.
- The Docket: Set one week before the tournament by a committee of district student representatives virtually.
- The docket cannot be amended.
- Time Limits: Debate on a single piece of legislation cannot exceed 1/3 of the total session time.

4. Presiding Officers (POs)

- Selection: Students must be nominated (either by self or others) in session. Each chamber elects a PO by vote for each session.
- PO will be nominated at the end of each session or at the beginning of the following session ● Scoring: The Parliamentarian gives the PO a speech score for each hour served. This counts toward the PO's priority and recency.
- Duties: POs follow NSDA rules first, then *Robert's Rules of Order*. They must use a stopwatch and provide clear time signals.

5. Super Congress (Finals)

- Advancement: The 5–7 students with the lowest total ranks from each prelim chamber advance. The Parliamentarian's rank breaks any ties. No more than 21 students total.
- PO Auditions: The top-ranked PO from each prelim chamber who advances to Super Congress gets an "audition" period. The chamber then elects one final PO for the remainder of the session. ● Awards: Winners are determined by the lowest total rank from the five scorers. The Super Congress Parliamentarian breaks ties.

6. Debate Rules & Procedures

- Speech Limits: All speeches are 3 minutes.
- Questioning: * A mandatory 2-minute questioning period follows the first Pro and first Con speech.
    - All subsequent speeches have a 30-second direct questioning period.
- Authorship: The school that wrote the bill has the first right to the authorship speech. If they are absent, any member may sponsor it based on precedence/recency.
    - Sponsorship: If the author of the legislation is absent then any member may sponsor it based on precedence/recency. All legislation at the State Tournament will be Sponsorship only
- Amendments:
    - Must be submitted in writing and be "germane" (relevant) to the bill.
    - Requires a 1/3 second to be debated. Should 1/3 second be met an amendment can be moved to previous question (vote) or debated
    - The author of an amendment is not guaranteed a speech; priority is determined by recency.

7. Technology & Conduct

- Electronic Devices: Internet-enabled devices are allowed per NSDA rules.
- Prohibited Communication: Students may not communicate with anyone outside the round (coaches, other students, etc.) once the session begins.
- Sanctions: Violations can result in a rank of "9" for the session or total disqualification.
- Decorum: Arguing with the PO is strictly prohibited.

Tiebreaking Procedure
The school with the highest individual placement between the tied schools will receive the higher sweepstakes placing.

Top PO… 5 points 1st Place 10 points 2nd Place 8 points 3rd Place 6 points 4th Place 4 points 5th Place 4 points 6th Place 4 points 7th Place 4 points 8th Place 4 points 9th Place 2 points 10th Place 2 points 11th Place 2 points 12th Place 2 points

General Judging Guidelines

Applicable to all debate events at the State Tournament.

Judge Requirements

- **Paradigms:** Every judge (school-provided or hired) must post a **judging philosophy or paradigm** on Tabroom.com.
- **Coaches as Judges:** The WSFA expects all coaches to be in the judge pool. Any request for an exception must be submitted to the WSFA at least one week before the tournament.

Conducting the Round

- **Notes:** Judges must take notes (flow) throughout the debate to inform their decision.
- **No Conferring:** In multi-judge panels, judges must **not** discuss the round with each other.
- **Continuity:** Judges should not interrupt or stop a round unless a major infraction occurs.
- **Timing:** All events must be timed. Judges must provide time signals upon request in Policy, LD, and Public Forum.

The Ballot

- **Clarity:** Decisions must clearly identify the winner and loser.
- **Written Feedback:** Judges must provide written "Reasons for Decision" on the ballot. Simply stating "oral critique" is not acceptable.
- **Low-Point Wins:** If a judge awards the win to a team with fewer speaker points, this must be explicitly marked on the ballot.

Infractions

If a judge violates tournament rules, the tournament committee will meet with the judge and their coach. Potential penalties include:

1. A verbal warning.
2. Removal from the current tournament.
3. A permanent ban from judging any WIAA/WSFA sanctioned events.

State Individual Events Tournament

This section details the requirements for Interpretation events and the logistical procedures for the State Speech Tournament.

Interpretation (Interp) Script Verification

To ensure fairness and authenticity, all Interp events (Dramatic, Duo, Humorous, and POI) must follow a two-step verification process.

Step 1: Pre-Tournament Submission (Due Feb 25)

Coaches must submit the following to the Script Check Committee:

- **Cover Sheet:** Includes school, student name, coach name, and bibliographic info.
- **Original Source Copy:** A scan of the original published source with all spoken lines **highlighted**. (Number the sections if they are performed out of order).
- **Final Script:** A word-processed copy of the speech exactly as it will be performed.

Step 2: At-Tournament Requirements

- **Availability:** Competitors must have their script materials (per "Bound for State" rules) with them during every round.
- **Inspection:** Materials must be available for judge inspection upon request.

  [!NOTE] No changes to titles or substantial content are allowed after the district submission deadline (usually 10–14 days before State).

Tournament Matching & Pairing

All competitors are guaranteed **three preliminary rounds**.

Round	Pairing Logic	School/Geographic Constraints
Round 1	Random	Teammates will **not** meet; districts are separated.
Round 2	Power-protected	Students from the same Round 1 panel are separated.
Round 3	Random	Teammates will **not** meet (where possible).

Preliminary Rounds (Double Judged)The Final Round (Triple Judged)

The **top 7 contestants** advance to the final round based on their total preliminary ranks (all 6 ballots).

- **Tiebreakers for Finals:** 1. Preliminary Ranks 2. Reciprocals 3. Adjusted Ratings 4. Unadjusted Ratings.
- **Judging:** Panels will be balanced by gender and region; at least one coach must be on every final panel.

Determining Awards & Sweepstakes

Individual Placement

Winners are determined by the following hierarchy:

1. Final round ranks
2. Judge preference in the final round
3. Total accumulated ranks (all rounds)
4. Final round ratings
5. Total round ratings

School Sweepstakes Points

Points are awarded to schools based on where their students place in the final round:

Final Placement	**Sweepstakes Points**
1st Place	10 pts
2nd Place	8 pts

3rd Place 6 pts

Finalist (4th–7th)	3 pts
Semifinalist	1 pt

Tiebreaking: If schools are tied in points, the school with the single highest-placing student wins the tie.

Protests:

- **Procedure:** Judges finish the round first, then report concerns to the Tab Room
- **Student Role:** Students cannot protest directly; all protests must be filed by their **head coach**.
- **Consistency:** Competitors must use the exact same script in every round of the tournament.

General Timing Rules

- **Official Time:** All events must be timed. While students in certain events may use their own timers, the judge's timing device is the official record.
- **Accuracy:** Judges must use a device with a **stopwatch function** for precision.
- **Minimums:** There is no minimum time requirement for any speech.

Timing by Event Category

Event Category	**Time Signals Required?**	**Student Self-Timing?**
Limited Prep (Extemp, Impromptu)	**Yes**	**Allowed**
Prepared Events (Interp, Oratory, Informative)	**No**	**Prohibited**

The 30-Second Grace Period

Most speech events have a maximum time limit plus a **30-second grace period**.

1. **Notification:** If a student exceeds the 30-second grace period, the judge must show the student their timepiece (stopwatch) as proof.
2. **The Penalty:** If a student goes over the grace period, they **cannot be ranked 1st** in that round. 3. **Judge Discretion:** Aside from the "No 1st Place" rule, there are no other mandatory penalties. Each judge may decide how much further to lower the student's rank based on the overtime. 4. **Multiple Judges:** In rounds with a panel of judges, **all judges must agree** that the student exceeded the grace period before the "No 1st Place" penalty is applied.

Summary Table: Timing Requirements

Rule	Limited Prep (Extemp/Impromptu)	Prepared (Interp/Oratory/Info)
Judge gives signals?	Yes	No
Student can self-time?	Yes	No
30-second grace?	Yes	Yes

Penalty for over-time? Cannot rank 1st.

Debate Topics and Eligibility

Topic Selection: Washington uses the National Policy Debate Resolution selected by the NFHS. The WSFA votes on these topics at their Fall meeting.

- **Student Eligibility:** Students must meet **WIAA Handbook** standards.
- **Rule Violation:** Any student violating tournament rules will be expelled from that tournament **and** the next tournament their school attends.

Levels of Competition: To ensure fair play, tournaments provide three experience levels. Awards are cumulative across both Team (Policy/PF) and LD debate.

Level	Name	Eligibility Requirements
	Level 1 Novice	First year of debate **OR** 6 rounds of total experience **AND** no trophies from large invitationals (15+ schools).
Level 2	**Junior Varsity**	1st or 2nd year of experience **AND** has not won a trophy at two large invitationals **AND** has not placed 1st–4th at State.

Level 3 Varsity/Open Open to all debaters, regardless of experience or past awards.

Internet and Electronic Devices

Contestants may use laptops, tablets, and phones to access the internet during rounds under these conditions:

- **Prohibited:** Communicating with coaches or non-competing students for advice, arguments, or cross-examination questions.
- **Allowed:** Researching, retrieving files, exchanging evidence with opponents/judges, and communicating with their own partner.
- **Search Consent:** By using a device, debaters consent to a search by tournament officials if a protest is filed. Refusing a search results in losing the protest.
- **Risk:** Equipment failure (dead batteries, no Wi-Fi) is the student's responsibility. No extra prep time or speech time will be granted.

Sensitive Material and Mental Health

Debate can cover traumatic topics. The WSFA prioritizes student well-being over the ballot.

- **Content Warnings:** Giving a warning or disclosing cases before the round is highly encouraged.
- **Opting Out:** Students may choose not to debate a specific round if the content is harmful to their mental health. Judges should not demand an explanation; the student should simply notify Tabroom or a DEI official.
- **Backups:** Coaches should encourage students to have "backup" cases/contentions to use if an opponent or judge is uncomfortable with a sensitive topic.

The Rules of Evidence

Evidence includes facts, statistics, or examples from authoritative sources. Unattributed ideas are considered "opinion," not evidence.

Oral Citation Requirements

At a minimum, debaters must say the **author's last name** and **year of publication**. If using multiple quotes from one source, say the author/year for the first, and just the author for others.

Written Citation Requirements

If requested by a judge or opponent, a full citation must be provided. It must include:

- Author name, date, and source title.
- Author qualifications and page numbers.
- For digital sources: Access date and full URL.

Evidence Integrity and Challenges

1. **Marking:** Evidence must be clearly marked to show exactly what was read. If a debater "clips" (skips parts of the text), they must orally mark the spot where they stopped.
2. **Fabrication:** Adding or deleting words to change an author's meaning is strictly prohibited.
3. **Formal Allegations:** If a debater alleges **Distortion, Fabrication, or Clipping**, the judge **must stop the round** immediately.
    - **If the violation is real:** The offending team gets an automatic loss.
    - **If the allegation is false:** The team that made the challenge gets an automatic loss.

Policy Debate

- Team Composition: 2–4 students per school, though only 2 compete in a single round.
- Prep Time: 6 minutes per team.
- Format:
    - Constructives: 8 minutes each.
    - Cross-Examinations (CX): 3 minutes each (immediately following the speech).
    - Rebuttals: 5 minutes each.
- Speaker Roles: Each student must speak in one constructive and one rebuttal, and must both question and be questioned.
    - Note: Affirmative speakers may switch positions for rebuttals, but Negative speakers cannot.

Lincoln-Douglas (LD) Debate

- Focus: A "one-on-one" debate focused on Propositions of Value (what *ought* to be) and philosophical logic.
- Prep Time: 4 minutes per competitor.
- Format:
    - Affirmative Constructive: 6 minutes.
    - Negative CX: 3 minutes.
    - Negative Constructive: 7 minutes.
    - Affirmative CX: 3 minutes.
    - Affirmative Rebuttal 1: 4 minutes.
    - Negative Rebuttal: 6 minutes.
    - Affirmative Rebuttal 2: 3 minutes.
- Key Rules: Judges evaluate based on general principles and clarity. New arguments are not allowed in rebuttals.

Public Forum (PF) Debate

- Focus: Advocacy of a position on a current event topic; no formalized "plans" or "counterplans" are allowed.

- Team Composition: 2–4 students per school; 2 participate per round.
- Prep Time: 3 minutes per team.
- The Coin Flip: Conducted before every round. The winner chooses either the Side (Pro/Con) or the Speaking Position (1st/2nd).
- Crossfire:
    - Standard Crossfire: Two debaters "hold the floor" and alternate questions.
    - Grand Crossfire: All four debaters participate simultaneously.
- Format:
    - Constructives/Rebuttals: 4 minutes each.
    - Crossfires: 3 minutes each.
    - Summaries: 3 minutes each.
    - Final Focus: 2 minutes each.

Congressional Debate

● Officials: * Parliamentarian: The technical supervisor and final authority on rules. ○ Scorers: Award points ($1-6$) per speech and rank the top 8 students at the end of the session. ● Legislation: Schools submit Bills (law-like) and Resolutions (general statements) from the seasonal packet. The docket is set by random draw.

- Procedures:
    - Speeches: 3-minute limit.
    - Questioning: 2 minutes after the first Pro/Con; 30 seconds for all others.
    - Presiding Officer (PO): Elected by peers to run the session using *Robert's Rules of Order*. ● Super Congress: The top 5–7 students from each prelim chamber advance to a final session (max 21 students).

World Schools Debate (WSD)

- Team Composition: 3–5 students; only 3 compete in a given round. Others may observe but cannot take notes or communicate with the active team.
- Motions: A mix of Prepared (released early) and Impromptu (given 1 hour before the round).
- Format:
    - Substantive Speeches: 8 minutes each.
    - Reply Speeches: 4 minutes (Opp first, then Prop). Reply must be given by the 1st or 2nd speaker.
- Points of Information (POI):
    - Allowed between the 1st and 7th minute of substantive speeches.
    - Not allowed during protected time (first/last minute) or reply speeches.
- Impromptu Prep: * 1 hour of prep time.
    - No electronic devices allowed.
    - Teams may use only one paper reference book (dictionaries, almanacs, etc.).

Extemporaneous, Impromptu, Informative, Oratory, and Interpretation: This section covers the rules for individual speech events.

General Conduct & Safety

- **Comfort & Safety:** Any student who finds a fellow competitor's performance disturbing may politely leave the room and return afterward without penalty.

● **Inappropriate Content:** If a judge finds a performance explicit or flagrantly inappropriate, they should rank the student lower and may file an **Interpretive Complaint Card (ICC)**. ○ If a student receives ICCs from 50% or more of their preliminary judges, they are disqualified.
● **Memorization:** For events that require memorization (Oratory, Interp), students using a script cannot be ranked above those who have memorized their piece.

Limited Preparation Events

Extemporaneous Speaking (Extemp)

Students synthesize current events into an original 7-minute speech.

- **The Draw:** 30 minutes before speaking, students draw four topics (2 domestic, 2 international) and choose one.
- **Preparation:** Students prepare alone. They may use printed articles or electronic files. ● **Evidence:** Articles must be intact, uncut, and highlighted in only **one color**. No prepared outlines or briefs are allowed.
- **Internet:** Allowed for research during prep, but communication with coaches or others is strictly prohibited.

Impromptu Speaking

A test of quick thinking and organization.

- **Topics:** Students choose one of three options: a word, a quotation, or a social comment.
- **Timing: 6 minutes total** for both preparation and speaking.
- **Notes:** No notes are allowed during preparation or the speech.

Prepared Speech Events

Interpretation Events

(Dramatic, Humorous, Duo, and Program Oral Interpretation)

Material Rules

- **Sources:** Must be from a single published, publicly accessible work (novels, plays, poems, or verified digital sources).
- **POI:** Unlike other Interp events, **Program Oral Interpretation (POI)** must use a manuscript and multiple sources.
- **Digital Sources:** Allowed if they are publicly accessible (not behind a password) and a printed manuscript is provided for verification.

Performance Rules

- **Focus:** Duo performers must use **indirect (off-stage) focus** and may not have physical contact.
- **Adaptations:** You may only add words for transitions or to remove profanity. You cannot change the "voice" (e.g., changing "she" to "I") or create new dialogue by combining distant words.
- **Aids:** No costumes or props are allowed.

Verification Checklist for Coaches

Each student must have a "Script Folder" available at all times containing:

1. **The Original Source:** A physical book, e-book, or verified PDF.
2. **The Highlighted Copy:** Every page used, with performed lines highlighted and unused lines unmarked.
3. **The Typed Manuscript:** A word-processed copy of the final cutting.

Timing & Penalties

The standard for almost all individual events is as follows:

Event	Max Time	Grace Period	Penalty for Overtime
Extemp	7 Min	30 Seconds	Cannot be ranked 1st
Impromptu	6 Min (Total)	30 Seconds	Cannot be ranked 1st
Oratory/Info/Interp	10 Min	30 Seconds	Cannot be ranked 1st

Signals: Judges **must** give time signals in Extemp and Impromptu.

Verification: If a student goes over the 30-second grace period, the judge must show them the stopwatch. If there is a panel of judges, they must all agree the student was over time to apply the penalty.

Informative Speaking

- **Goal:** To describe, explain, or define a topic so the audience gains knowledge.
- **Visual Aids:** Optional. No electronic equipment (items requiring a cord or battery) or live animals/people are allowed. You cannot distribute items to the audience.
- **Limit:** 10 minutes. Max 150 quoted/paraphrased words.

Original Oratory

- **Goal:** To persuade the audience on a specific issue.
- **Focus:** Judges look for effective rhetoric, original thought, and sincere delivery.
- **Rules:** Must be memorized. No visual aids. Max 150 quoted words.
- **Limit:** 10 minutes.

Program Oral Interpretation (POI), a unique event that blends multiple literary genres into a single themed performance.

POI Basics

- **The Goal:** Create a program of selections linked by a common theme.
- **Genre Requirement:** You must use at least **two different genres** (Prose, Poetry, or Drama).
    - **Prose:** Short stories, novels, articles, or journals.
    - **Poetry:** Writing focused on rhythm, sound, and stanza form.
    - **Drama:** Plays or scripts.
- **Balance:** Competitors should try to give roughly equal time to each genre used.

Citations and Sources

- **Verbal Citations:** You must verbally identify the **title and author** of every selection during your introduction or transitions.
- **Works Cited:** A full list of all sources must be available if requested by a judge or official
- **Source Rules:** All literature used must follow the standard publication and verification rules for Interpretation events.

The Manuscript and Performance

- **Manuscript Required:** You **must** use a manuscript (typically in a small black binder). Reading directly from a original book or magazine is not allowed.
- **Using the Binder:** The binder may be used as a prop, but it must remain in contact with your body at all times.
- **Visual Aids:** You may not display pictures, graphics, or illustrations, even if they are in your binder. ● **Memorization:** While the introduction and transitions may be memorized, you must "address" (look at/interact with) the script during the performance.

Adaptations and Editing

- **Transitions:** You may only add or change words to provide a logical transition between pieces or to remove profanity.
- **Integrity of the Work:** * Do **not** change the "voice" (e.g., do not change "he" to "I"). ○ Do **not** "splice" words from different pages to create dialogue or plot points that didn't exist in the original text.
- **Marking:** Any added or changed words must be clearly marked in **ink** on your script.

Timing and Penalties

- **Limit:** 10 minutes maximum.
- **Grace Period:** 30 seconds.
- **Penalty:** If you exceed 10:30, you **cannot be ranked 1st** in the round. All judges on a panel must agree the student was over time for the penalty to apply.

Quick Comparison: POI vs. Other Interp Events

Feature	**Standard Interp (HI, DI, Duo)**	**POI**
Number of Sources	Single work only	Multiple sources
Genres	Single genre	At least two genres

Manuscript	Must be memorized	**Must use binder**
Time Limit	10 minutes (+30s grace)	10 minutes (+30s grace)

Original Spoken Word Poetry, an event focused on the performance of student-written verse.

Event Overview

- **The Material:** Students must perform poetry they have written themselves. The work should be designed specifically for performance, using sound, rhythm, and meaning to express ideas or emotions
- **Originality:** The poem must be the student's original work.
- **Quotations:** No more than **150 words** of the performance may be quoted from other sources. All quoted material must be clearly identified in a printed copy of the poem.
- **Introduction:** A formal introduction is allowed but is not required.

Performance and Delivery

- **Memorization:** The performance must be **fully memorized**. Students are prohibited from using a book, binder, or script during the round.
- **Style:** While delivery styles vary, the focus is on the creative arrangement of language and the emotional impact of the performance.

Timing and Penalties

- **Time Limit:** 5 minutes.
- **Grace Period:** 30 seconds.
- **Recording Rule:** If the tournament is held via recording, the time spent walking to and from the camera **counts** toward the total performance time.

Timing Penalties

- **The "No 1st Place" Rule:** If a student exceeds the **5:30 limit**, they cannot be ranked 1st in that round.
- **Judge Consensus:** In panels with multiple judges, all judges must agree that the student exceeded the grace period for the penalty to be enforced.
- **Discretion:** Aside from losing the 1st place rank, any further reduction in ranking is at the judge's individual discretion.
- **Minimums:** There is no minimum time requirement.

Quick Summary Table

Rule	Requirement
Author	Student (Original Work)

Max Time	5 Minutes (+30s Grace)
Memorization	Required (No scripts)
Quoted Material **Primary Penalty**	Max 150 words Cannot rank 1st if over 5:30

WSFA's Code of Conduct regarding safety, respect, and the procedures for handling reports of harassment or discrimination.

WSFA Commitment to Safety

The WSFA believes that excellence in forensics can only be achieved in a safe, secure educational environment built on **mutual respect**.

Prohibited Conduct

The WSFA strictly prohibits all forms of harassment and discrimination. This policy applies to all participants, judges, coaches, and observers, and covers actions that are:

- **Intentional or Unintentional**
- **Direct or Indirect** (including harassment through a third party)
- **Written, Oral, Electronic, or Physical**

Protected Characteristics

Discrimination is prohibited based on race, color, religion, sex, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, marital status, citizenship, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, socio-economic status, or any other legally protected characteristic.

Procedures for Handling Issues

If an incident occurs, the following steps are recommended to ensure a fair and safe resolution.

1. Initial Reporting

- **Informal Resolution:** For minor issues, coaches may request that the Tournament Director or Ombudsperson facilitate a conversation between the parties involved.
- **Formal Issues:** Serious concerns should be brought directly to the Tournament Director or Ombudsperson.

2. Fact-Finding

- The Director/Ombud will meet with the involved coaches and students to establish what happened.
- **Requirement:** A student's coach **must** be present for these discussions.

3. Leadership Council Review

The Director will convene a **Leadership Council** to review the findings.

- At the State Tournament, this council consists of State Executive Officers.
- At local tournaments, hosts are encouraged to appoint this council before the event begins.

Findings and Sanctions

The Leadership Council's primary goals are:

1. **Ensure Safety:** Immediate action will be taken to protect participants. In severe cases, this may result in **immediate dismissal** from the tournament.
2. **Evaluate Patterns:** The council will determine if the behavior is a singular event or a recurring pattern.
3. **Coordinate with Schools:** The council will check tournament, school, and district policies and may contact school administrators for follow-up.

> [!IMPORTANT] **Disclaimer:** This policy does not replace established school or district procedures. Tournament hosts are encouraged to make their specific local policies available to all participants.

Disciplinary Actions

If the Leadership Council or Tournament Director determines that a violation has occurred, they may issue one or more of the following sanctions:

- **Loss of Round:** The participant may receive an automatic loss or a last-place ranking on their ballot for the current round.
- **Administrative Notification:** The tournament will contact the administration of the school, district, or organization involved to report the incident.
- **Tournament Disqualification:** The participant or team may be removed from all further competition in their specific event(s).
- **Removal from Site:** In the most severe cases, the individual may be required to leave the tournament grounds immediately.

Judge Qualifications

To ensure high-quality feedback and fair evaluation, all judges at the State Tournament must be **experienced**. A judge is considered qualified if they meet at least one of the following criteria:

- They have judged at **two or more** tournaments.
- They have successfully completed **NSDA Level 1 training**. (Access training at speechanddebate.org)

Judging Burdens by Event

Schools must provide a specific number of judges based on the number of students they have entered in the tournament.

Event Category	Requirement
Individual Events (IEs)	1 judge for every **4** entries
Debate (Policy, LD, PF, World Schools)	1 judge for every **1** entry
Congressional Debate	1 judge per school

Special Rule for Congressional Debate

If a school has **three entries** in Congress, the judge they provide must be **neutral**. This means the judge cannot be affiliated with any of the competing schools in the Congress division.

Summary of Judge Expectations

- **Philosophies:** All judges must have a posted "paradigm" on Tabroom.com.
- **Attendance:** Judges are expected to be available for the duration of the tournament or the specific rounds they are assigned.
- **Professionalism:** Judges must follow the WSFA Statement on Harassment and the specific timing/ballot rules for each event.