

### 8.3.0 SPEECH

#### 8.3.1 PHILOSOPHY

The Wyoming Speech and Debate Association and The Wyoming High School Activities Association believe that speech, as an activity, offers an unexcelled potential for promoting the democratic ideal. It follows that speech activities programs should be broad enough to provide adequate areas for maximum student participation. Furthermore, opportunities should be provided for each student to take an active part at the level of his or her ability to communicate.

An effective speech training program is designed to create a responsible citizen by offering realistic situations requiring judicious listening, intelligent speaking, and mature patterns of behavior. With proper guidance and motivation, a student, through the many speech activities, soon begins to develop leadership abilities and express ideas reasonably and persuasively. Through various speech experiences, a student should become more confident and poised.

By competing with contemporaries in the areas of communication, a student soon learns the value of careful preparation, disciplined rehearsal, and appreciation for excellence. It is necessary that everyone visualizes speech tournaments and interscholastic meets not as ends in themselves, but as important teaching devices. They provide the means by which students and teachers can evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of presentations. By correcting weaknesses and by capitalizing on strengths, students are guided into self-improvement programs.

#### 8.3.2 GENERAL RULES

These are the expectations for all WHSAA High School Speech and Debate competitions held in the State of Wyoming. Rules specifically governing the State Tournament may differ and are articulated in section 8.3.3. Programs and/or individuals found in violation of these rules will be reported to the WHSAA for appropriate actions toward the school/program.

##### 1) The Number of Allowable Speech and Debate Tournaments:

Each high school student is allowed seventeen preliminary meets a year. Of those meets, a maximum of twelve meets may be in person, plus the State Speech and Debate Tournament and National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) National Qualifying Tournament (Districts). Competing as a novice (a novice competitor is similar to a junior varsity competitor in other activities) counts toward this total. Out-of-state tournaments count toward this total.

- a) This means each individual competitor is allowed to attend seventeen tournaments, plus the State Tournament and NSDA National Qualifying Tournament. Out-of-state tournaments also count toward these totals.
- b) Schools that violate this rule will not be eligible for team Sweepstakes awards at the season's State Tournament and will be reported to the WHSAA for appropriate actions.

##### 2) The Speech and Debate Season:

The speech and debate tournament season will run from the Friday of WHSAA calendar week 17 through the NSDA National Qualifying Tournament or the State Tournament, whichever is later. Workshop events may be held at any time. A "workshop" is an event primarily educational in nature, intended to give students a feel for how tournaments are run, and where no final individual or team placings are tabulated or NSDA points entered for the student, other than service points.

##### 3) Wyoming Speech and Debate Association Membership (WSDA):

Any interested Wyoming school may become a voting member of the Wyoming Speech and Debate Association by paying an annual fee of \$35.00. Any individual person may become a member by paying their \$35.00 fee.

##### 4) Participating and Voting:

Each school in good standing may exercise a vote on matters coming before the WSDA and fully participate at the State Tournament. Each voting member school is allowed only one vote per school. Schools must be members in good standing prior to the State Tournament meeting. "In good standing" means:

- a) The school has paid its fees to WSDA before the first coaches meeting at the state tournament.
- b) Schools have not had students who have attended more than the maximum number of allowed tournaments.
- c) Schools have not knowingly entered varsity competitors into junior varsity competition.
- d) Any individual person may become a member by paying their \$35 fee, entitling them to attend all meetings and conferences, voice their positions and ideas, but may not vote on issues put before the voting membership.

5) Novice Competitor Definition:

A novice is a student who is in their first year of competition of their high school career. They will be considered novice for any October, November or December tournaments of their first season of high school competition. After Jan. 1 of any high school season, all competitors become varsity. A student will be considered varsity if they competed in any tournament in any portion of any previous high school competitive season. During the novice season, novice competitors in CX Debate will use the novice case limits as provided by NSDA. In all other debate events, Novice competitors will use the same topics Varsity competitors use. Tournament Directors hosting tournaments resolve to follow this definition.

6) Lincoln-Douglas Debate Topics:

Bi-monthly the Lincoln-Douglas debate topic is designated by the NSDA as posted on their website and will be used at all Wyoming tournaments for those months. In late February, tournament hosts are encouraged to use the March/April topic at their tournaments.

7) Cross-Examination Debate Topic:

Each year the Policy Debate topic designated by the National Federation of High School Activities (NFHS) and the NSDA will be used at all Wyoming tournaments for the entire season.

8) Public Forum Debate Topics:

Each month the public forum debate topic is designated by the NSDA as posted on their website and will be used at all Wyoming tournaments for that month. In late February, tournament hosts are encouraged to use the March topic at their tournaments.

9) Congressional Debate:

- a) Any WSDA member school hosting an event should be resolved to publish legislation used in Congressional Debate competition at their competition no later than the Sunday evening prior to the start of their event.
- b) All legislation should be submitted to the point person assigned by the Fall Coaches Conference, who will place the legislation into the Google Drive folder shared by the point person in PDF format prior to the deadline given by the Tournament Director.

10) WHSAA Obscenity Clause:

- a) CHOICE OF MATERIAL:
  - i) It is strongly recommended that coaches use good judgment in selection of the material that is high school appropriate. Judges and community members may be offended, the reputation of the team may be tarnished and competitors may be ranked lower because of their choice in selections.
- b) Obscenity Clause and Procedure for Grievance:
  - i) It is up to each school's coaching staff to determine that each piece brought to Wyoming high school competitions is not significantly offensive and that the obscenity, as defined by the Supreme Court of the United States of America, has been eliminated. Any incident of obscenity clause violation must be reported to a member of the WSDA executive committee as soon as reasonably possible.
  - ii) In the event of a reported incident, the WSDA Executive Committee will:
    - (1) Contact the coach to investigate the reported violation and to advise the coach about appropriate action. It will then be decided to move forward or to drop the grievance. Students performing material against their coach's advice and approval should be removed from competition.
    - (2) In the event that a resolution is not attained, the Executive Committee may choose to contact the administration of the school to discuss the incident and decide what further action needs to occur at that level.
    - (3) If the Executive Committee and administration of the offending school deem it appropriate, the WSDA Executive Committee officers will provide a written statement to WHSAA regarding the conditions and pertinent information about the infraction.
    - (4) WHSAA will review written statements and decide what further actions are necessary:
      - (a) Charges dropped
      - (b) Meeting with coach and administrative representative and WHSAA Board
      - (c) Removal of WHSAA placing or All-State accolades
      - (d) Warning/Probation (if persistent complaints possible suspension from competition)

11) Public Observation

All speech and debate performances that are part of regular tournament competition are open to public observation and, with the exception of legal limitations, there shall be no restriction as to who may watch, take notes, or "flow" the round. Audio and video recording, or internet streaming is not allowed unless approved in advance by the WSDA officer body.

12) Artificial Intelligence:

- a) In Wyoming Speech and Debate, generative artificial intelligence should not be cited as a source; while something like ChatGPT may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and sources, the original source of any quoted or paraphrased evidence must be available if requested.
- b) Students are prohibited from quoting or paraphrasing text directly from generative AI sources like ChatGPT in events in which speeches must be the original created work of a competitor.

13) Tournament Hosting:

In order for a school to be eligible for sweepstakes at the Wyoming State Tournament, a team must have hosted or co-hosted a regular season tournament within that competitive season. Head coaches can apply for exemptions. The exemption process would be determined and enforced by WSDA and WHSAA.

14) Tournament Schedule:

Tournament schedules will be set for the following competitive season by the end of May in the school year prior. This means that each team hosting a tournament will have their tournaments locked in for the upcoming year by June 1st.

15) Intent to Attend:

Individual teams will finalize and communicate intended tournament attendance for the upcoming year at the Fall Coaches Conference.

16) Sweepstakes Eligibility:

In order to compete for sweepstakes at the Wyoming State Tournament, a school must show they have attended at least 51% of their tournaments in Wyoming. This would be determined and enforced by WSDA and WHSAA. A section will be added to the registration process for State where schools would fill out their tournaments attended that season.

17) School Classification:

Active Speech and Debate programs will be split into three classifications 4A, 3A, 1A/2A. Active will be defined as a program that has paid WHSAA dues & has hired (or is in the process of hiring as confirmed by the AD for the school) a coach for the season. All programs will be defined as active or non active as of October 15 of the current season. Active programs will then be split into thirds based on school population size (numbers released by WHSAA based on a rolling average). These are released at the beginning of the school year every two years. More information can be found [here](#). If there is an uneven number, the extra spots will be filled from the bottom up. After this date, the classifications will be frozen for the season, meaning no program will move into another classification category for the remainder of the year. If a program joins after October 15, they will be placed into the appropriate category based on their school population size for the current season. This system will be reviewed each year. The classification system for the season will be released by the coaching body and to WHSAA by the WSDA state officers by Nov. 1.

### 8.3.3 STATE TOURNAMENT RULES

#### A. State Tournament Administration

1. Preliminary Considerations in Advance of the State Tournament

- i. The State Tournament Director will activate online registration five weeks prior to the state tournament. The WSDA President will send email notification to all eligible schools. The individual school's Forensic Director is responsible for complying with the instructions therein.
- ii. State entry forms must be submitted online (or emailed, as appropriate), complete in all particulars, including accompanying judge information. Congressional Debate legislation emailed by the deadline dates as outlined in the online registration procedures, in order for a school to be eligible for sweepstakes.

2. Eligibility

- i. No entry will be accepted unless signed by the coach in charge and by the high school principal, who shall attest each student's eligibility.
- ii. Cancellations at registration (not substitution) will cost the infringing school \$20.00 for each student dropped and \$50.00 in the case of each debate team (Policy, Public Forum or L-D) entry. These

penalties can be avoided by contacting the Tournament Director regarding cancellations prior to registration on Thursday before the tournament begins.

- iii. The entry form must be accompanied with the appropriate fees. There will be no refunds for those students who are registered but do not attend.

3. Fee Schedule

School Registration Fee	-\$75.00
Each Cross-X Debate Team	-\$14.00
Each Public Forum Debate Team	-\$14.00
Each L-D Debate Team	-\$14.00
Each Duet Interpretation Team	-\$14.00
Each Student Congress Entry	-\$ 9.00
Each Individual Event Entry Slot	-\$ 9.00

4. Entry Limitations

- i. A student is limited to two events at the State Tournament. Each individual may enter the following:
- A single event
  - OR
  - Any two events in any pattern (excluding debates, congress, or extemp)
  - OR
  - A debate event, congress, or extemp and another event not scheduled at the same time.
- ii. A high school is limited to a total of 20 entry slots. Each student entered in any event slot constitutes an entry. All team events count as one entry. An individual student who is entered in two events counts as two entry slots. Schools may enter their allowable 20 entry slots distributed among the various events as they wish, so long as the maximum number of entry slots per school remains at 20.

5. Awards

- i. Schools shall compete in the classification designated in section 8.3.2.17 School Classification for the year. The Wyoming High School Activities Association will provide appropriate awards for the winners in each category of competition. The Wyoming Speech and Debate Association will be in charge of the awards ceremony.
- ii. Individual Events:  
1st place through 6th place medals. All finalists shall be recognized with a medal. (Duet Interpretation: 2 medals for each team.
- iii. Student Congress:  
1st place through 6th place medals.
- iv. Lincoln-Douglas Debate:  
1st place,
- v. Cross-X Debate:
- vi. Public Forum Debate:
- vii. Sweepstakes:
- viii. Contestant Awards by Class:

6. Coding

- i. Contestants must be coded for tournament scheduling purposes. The contestant coding system shall be determined by the Tournament Director. Name tags are not to be issued to participants.
- ii. The Tournament Director will distribute a "school code" sheet to coaches at registration.
- iii. Judges will not be coded except to indicate school affiliation.

7. Ballot Verification

- i. All participant ballots will be released to coaches during the designated ballot verification periods:
- ii. At the end of the preliminary rounds of debate and individual events (according to the tournament schedule). Rankings and ballot comments for preliminary rounds will be visible to coaches during the ballot verification periods but visibility will be retracted at the conclusion of the ballot verification periods until the end of the tournament.
- iii. Preliminary and culminating round rankings and ballot comments will be released in full to coaches and competitors at the conclusion of the tournament.

8. Conflict Patterns

- i. A student is limited to two events at the State Tournament, and may enter two events scheduled at the same time. Students may enter 2 events in the same pattern unless one is coupled with Congress, Extemp, or a Debate.
- ii. The following conflict pattern shall be in operation at the State Tournament:

Pattern (A):	Pattern (B):
--------------	--------------

Cross-Examination Debate	Extemporaneous Speaking
Lincoln-Douglas Debate	Memorized Humorous Interpretation
Public Forum Debate	Original Oratory (Memorized)
Memorized Dramatic Interpretation	Informative Speaking (Memorized)
Memorized Duet Interpretation	Student Congress
Manuscript Program Oral Interpretation	Manuscript Poetry Interpretation
Impromptu	

9. Adjudication Procedures

- i. A Tournament Adjudication Committee shall be established which consists of the elected WSDA officers and the Tournament Director (hereinafter referred to as the Tournament Committee). The Tournament Committee shall have full power to adjudicate any disputes and to clarify interpretations of these rules. The Tournament Committee's decision shall be final.
- ii. Problems, questions, protests, and points of disagreement must be submitted to the Tournament Director in writing. The Tournament Director will then arrange a meeting of the Tournament Committee.
- iii. Under exceptionally extraordinary circumstances, the Tournament Committee has the authority to modify the rules governing the operation of the State Tournament. The exercise of such authority shall be communicated to all coaches as soon as possible.
- iv. Should a member of the Tournament Committee be unavailable or involved as a party to a protest, the other members of the Tournament Committee shall appoint a replacement to insure timely consideration of the issue.
- v. In general, protests concerning debate evidence shall follow all general, currently-in-place adjudication procedures. Specifically, the following procedures shall also apply:
  - Protests shall be filed as soon as the infraction has been noted.
  - The evidence in question shall be examined by the Tournament Committee and proof of authenticity shall be required to be submitted within two (2) hours. This proof of authenticity shall include: original or photocopies of the evidence and/or complete source citations of the evidence and/or other additional substantiation as deemed necessary by the Tournament Committee.
  - Once the validity of the protest has been determined by the Tournament Committee, the burden of proof lies with the school whose evidence has been called into question.
  - The Tournament Committee shall be accorded maximum flexibility in the exercise of their duties.

10. Disqualification

The Tournament Committee has the authority to disqualify a student's continued participation in an event due to a breach of state tournament rules.

11. Tab Room

- i. The tab room shall be closed to all high school personnel except as necessary for the officers of the WSDA to adjudicate problems and answer questions and except for those coaches assigned to and serving on the tournament staff.
- ii. The executive committee will serve in an oversight role at the State Tournament. They shall be available to handle questions and general tournament procedures.

12. Judges

- i. Judge assignments at the State Tournament are the responsibility of the tournament staff. Except for the strike procedures as stipulated herein, coaches and students are relieved of any further involvement in the process of assigning judges.
- ii. From participating schools: Coaches and "Accompanying Judges" the following commitment shall be required from those schools participating in the State Tournament:
  - 6 or less entry slots: 1 judge who can judge eight rounds or a combination of judges who will judge 8 rounds.
  - 7-12 entry slots: 2 judges who can judge 8 rounds each or a combination of judges who will judge 16 rounds.
  - 13 + entry slots: 3 judges who can judge 8 rounds each or a combination of judges who will judge 24 rounds.
- iii. Schools will be obligated for judging no more than the following rounds:
  - 6 or less entry slots: eight rounds of judging

- 7-12 entry slots: sixteen rounds of judging
  - 13-20 entry slots: twenty-four rounds of judging
- iv. No school shall be required to judge rounds in excess of their commitment. Schools may provide for all rounds of judging with as many judges as they wish to provide. They may specify which judge is to cover which part of the obligation. No judge may be obligated to judge more than eight rounds.
  - v. Exceptions to judging requirements will be determined on a case-by-case basis at the decision of the WSDA Executive Committee. All exceptions will be due when State entries are due.
  - vi. The Commissioner of The WHSAA shall communicate this judging requirement to the Superintendents of Schools and/or Principals of all Wyoming high schools in advance of the State Tournament.
  - vii. The entry form will require coaches to indicate which events they prefer and are competent to judge. Coaches and "accompanying" judges will not be assigned to judge students from their own schools. Coaches and "accompanying" judges shall receive no personal compensation for judging.
  - viii. In the case of schools with co-directors of forensics, one coach must serve "personally" and the other coach must serve as an "accompanying" judge. The intent of this rule is to prevent co-directors from sharing one judging assignment/obligation.
  - ix. Each coach should personally judge a minimum of two rounds, regardless of the number of "accompanying" judges provided.
  - x. Each coach of a school entered in debate (either Cross-X and/or L-D) will be expected to judge debate (either Cross-X and/or L-D) or provide an "accompanying" debate judge (either Cross-X and/or L-D).
  - xi. Accompanying judges may be substituted for a different accompanying judge upon submission of a judge information form.
  - xii. Former Wyoming high school students who are one year out of high school and who were active participants in competitive speech activities shall not be permitted to serve as "accompanying" judges.
  - xiii. In Congressional Debate coaches and "accompanying" judges may be assigned to judge or serve as parliamentarian in this event.
    - Every judge will only judge one session. Judges in Congressional Debate may not be from schools which have contestants entered in the event; however, only parliamentarians who have no affiliations with members in their assigned house of congress must be used.
    - The same parliamentarian must be used for all sessions of congress within a given house.
  - xiv. Coaches and "accompanying" judges are expected to standby when they are not assigned to judge. "Accompanying" judges should check in at the judges' table 10 minutes prior to the start of each round and, if not assigned, should remain available within earshot until all ballots have been distributed. Coaches should be generally available for standby purposes, also.
  - xv. If an "accompanying" judge should, on a flagrant basis, fail to show up and fulfill standby responsibilities or should fail to perform judging responsibilities in a professional manner, then a conference shall be called involving officials of the WHSAA, the WSDA, the Tournament Director, and the coach of the school which brought the "accompanying" judge.
  - xvi. JUDGE USE PROCESS
    - During preliminary rounds, an attempt will be made to balance the mix of judges to maximize the probability that every student will be judged by a judge from each of the pools.
    - During out rounds, panels will be balanced by using one judge from each of the four pools when four judges are used; and three from differing pools when three judges are used.
    - No judge that judges an out round of a given event will judge an out round in the same event unless the tournament director is able to have them judge entries they have not judged before in out rounds.
    - In Congress, to the extent possible, the parliamentarian and the judges in that house will come from different pools.
  - xvii. Judge pools will be defined as:
    - Hired: Those paid judges hired by the tournament director. No more than one-third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) of the pool of hired judges will be affiliated with any single college or institution; or be graduates from the same high school.
    - Local: These judges are provided by the tournament host. No local judges will be assigned to judge students from the hosting school or institution.
    - Coach: These are Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches as identified by the school on their registration. Coaches will not be scheduled during the two coaches' meetings.
    - Accompanying: These are the judges schools bring who are not identified as coaches. Judges not affiliated with the host school/ community [they come from other communities and are not paid] who volunteer to judge will be assigned as accompanying judges.
  - xviii. Hired Guest Judges
    - The WHSAA shall determine the payment amounts and the payment system for all hired judges.
    - The Tournament Director shall send pertinent information from the State Tournament Rules to all hired-guest judges in advance of the tournament. This data shall include payment information, event and tournament rules, judging instructions, the tournament schedule, and sample ballots.
    - Former Wyoming high school students who are one year out of high school and who were active participants in competitive speech activities shall not be permitted to serve as

hired-guest judges. No single college campus should provide more than one-third of the hired judges.

- Alumni of a particular high school shall not be permitted to judge that school unless three (3) years have elapsed since graduation.
- If a hired-guest judge should, on a flagrant basis, fail to fulfill judging responsibilities in a professional manner, then payment (per round, mileage, per diem) from the WHSAA could be in jeopardy. This is a determination to be made by the Tournament Committee.

xix. "Walk-On" Judges

- "Walk-On" judges are those individuals whom the Tournament Director did not expect to attend the State Tournament. As a general rule, the reliance on "walk-on" judges shall be discouraged by every means possible in advance of the tournament.
- However, should "walk-ons" materialize, the following procedures and rules shall apply:
  - a. "Walk-ons" shall be held in abeyance so that they are not permitted to judge for a period of at least 2 hours after arrival.
  - b. During this 2 hour period, the "walk-on" judges must confer with the President of WSDA as to judging procedures and criteria.
  - c. During this 2 hour period, the "walk-on" judges' names and prospective events to be judged will be posted on the posting boards in the coaches' lounges;
  - d. It is the responsibility of each coach to check the posting board for this data. Coaches who are judging will be notified concerning "walk-ons".
  - e. Coaches must contact the Tournament Director if the coach wishes to revise his or her judge strike sheets (by adding the "walk-on" and deleting a previously struck judge if applicable). This revision of the strike sheets must occur at least 45 minutes before the beginning of the round in which the "walk-on" is to be used as a judge.
  - f. "Walk-on" judges who are one year out of a Wyoming high school and who were active participants in competitive speech activities shall not be permitted to serve as judges.
  - g. "Walk-on" judges who are alumni of a particular school shall not be permitted to judge that school unless three (3) years have elapsed since graduation.
  - h. "Walk-on" judges, if utilized, are not eligible to receive payment per round, mileage, nor per diem.
  - i. "Walk-on" judges must fill out required judges' information.

xx. Judge Strikes

Each school is allowed three overall individual judge strikes. This means the individual judge will be struck against all entries from the school making the strike. This will apply to all events except Congress. For Congress, tab staff **will attempt to honor strikes but will reserve the right to override a strike if needed due to a shortage of judges.** Strike sheets will be made available to coaches 48 hours before the start of registration. Strikes must be completed by coaches 24 hours prior to the start of registration. If additional judges are added during this 48 hour window, additional strike sheets will be made available at registration. If a school would like to "swap" one of their original strikes in order to strike one of these new judges, they may do so at registration, in which case strikes for the first round may not be guaranteed.

13. Entry Deadline

- i. The entry deadline will be stipulated in the State Tournament Brochure which will be available online five weeks in advance of the tournament.
- ii. After the expiration of the entry deadline, schools who are entered in the State Tournament will be allowed to change, correct, update, or otherwise modify their State Tournament entry form provided that they promptly notify the Tournament Director by email, phone or in writing two days prior to the State Tournament. Two days prior to and through the day of registration, only name changes or substitutions will be allowed. It is the responsibility of the high school coach to update any corresponding fee assessment, based on changes made after the entry deadline, with the Wyoming High School Activities Association office.
- iii. Any "drops" occurring at registration will be charged the appropriate cancellation fee as indicated in Section 8.3.3.A.3. No "additional" entries will be permitted at registration.
- iv. In general, high school coaches are expected to be extremely conscientious in regard to the State Tournament entry forms and the additional information which they are required to submit. They should ensure the accuracy of their school's entry in the State Tournament.

14. Sweepstakes

- i. The high school with the largest accumulated total of sweepstakes points in each class is the winner of that class.
- ii. The point system to determine the sweepstakes winners in each class is as follows:

Debate & Interp & Congress	1st place	9 points
Debate & Interp & Congress	2nd place	8 points

Debate & Interp & Congress	3rd place (semifinalists in debate)	7 points
Interp & Congress	4th place	6 points
Interp & Congress	5th place	5 points
Interp & Congress	6th place	4 points
Interp & Congress	7th place	3 points
Non-advancing Interp and Congress	Semis & Supers	2 points
Non-advancing Interp	Quarters	1 point
Non-advancing Debate	Quarters	3 points
Non-advancing Debate	Octafinals	1 point

\*In the case that we need to break 8 to finals in an event, the 8th place will earn 2.5 points

15. Harassment and Discrimination Policy

- i. WSDA Harassment and Discrimination policy: The Wyoming Speech and Debate Association is committed to providing its participants, judges, and coaches the opportunity to pursue excellence in their endeavors. This opportunity can exist only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. The WSDA Prohibits all forms of harassment and discrimination. Accordingly, all forms of harassment and discrimination, whether written or oral, based on race, color, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, citizenship, national origin, age, disability, neurodivergence, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by any applicable federal, state, or local law are prohibited, whether committed by participants, judges, coaches, or observers. Individuals who are found to have violated this policy will be subject to the full range of sanctions, up to and including removal from the tournament premises. WSDA will highlight, continue to refine, and promote best practices for diversity, equity, and inclusion within the speech and debate community.
- ii. The State Tournament will provide and staff an equity office.

B. Individual Events

1. There will be four preliminary rounds, a possible quarterfinal, and a semifinal round, and a final round in all individual events at the State Tournament.
2. Individual events which have 60 or more competitors, will break to quarterfinals. The first priority will be to break closest to 24. Secondly, to the extent that multiple options in break points are available, the second priority will be to advance more rather than fewer students. A minimum of 20 and a maximum of 32 May Advance into quarterfinals, depending on where the clean break occurs.
3. For the preliminary rounds, the low "rank/points" (with rank having priority) will not be cumulated. The low score will not figure into the determination of student qualification for subsequent qualifying rounds. This "dropped" low score will be identified at the ballot verification period for individual events. A special note: a "no show" is indicated by a rank of 9 and 0 speaker points (rating). This "no show" designation is not dropped as the low score.
4. For the elimination rounds, there will be three (3) judges in any subsequent qualifying rounds for the individual events. Only ranks in the round will be tabulated; speaker points will not be used. Should ties have to be broken, the "judge preference" system of tiebreaking shall be employed. If ties cannot be broken, tied speakers will advance or place.
5. Judge Preference System: To the extent that any two speakers are tied on total ranks (with three judges), then an examination/analysis of those tied will reveal who was "preferred" by the judges in terms of a comparison only between those who tied.  
For example:

	Judge X	Judge Y	Judge Z	Total	Place
Speaker A	1	6	3	10	4th
Speaker B	4	4	6	14	6th
Speaker C	3	5	1	9	2nd
Speaker D	5	2	2	9	3rd



Speaker E	2	1	4	7	1st
Speaker F	6	3	5	14	5th

In the tie between speakers C and D:

Judge X prefers C over D

Judge Y prefers D over C

Judge Z prefers C over D

therefore, Speaker C is preferred over D by 2 out of 3 judges and should receive the higher placement.

In the tie between speakers B and F:

Judge X prefers B over F

Judge Y prefers F over B

Judge Z prefers F over B

therefore, Speaker F is preferred over B by 2 out of 3 judges and should receive the higher placement.

The following schematic illustrates the system to be employed:

# of students	Students per panel	Semifinal system
10	5 each	
11	5 & 6	2 panels per semifinal advance 3 from each panel into finals
12	6 each	
13	6 & 7	
14	7 each	
15	5 each	
16	5 & 5 & 6	3 panels per semifinal advance 2 from each panel into finals
17	5 & 6 & 6	
18	6 each	
19	6 & 6 & 7	
20	6 & 7 & 7	
21	7 each	

6. In the interpretation of events of Poetry, Drama, Humor, POI, and Duet the following provision shall apply: individual events cuttings/ material must be from sources of literary merit.
7. Any source material is permitted as long as it meets the standards outlined below:
  - i. Original source material must not be written by the competitor who is performing it.
  - ii. Original source material must be publicly accessible throughout the duration of the tournament. Digital printed publications such as web pages and PDFs retrieved or purchased from web pages are permitted as long as the web page is publicly accessible throughout the duration of the tournament. Digital unprinted publications such as videos, audio files, and films are permitted as long as the original source is publicly accessible throughout the duration of the tournament and the competitor can obtain an official transcript of the original source. (See ii.d for official transcript details.)
    - a. For print publications such as novels, short stories, plays, or poetry, the original source is the physical book or e-book. Photocopies of original literature are not acceptable. Presenting the physical book or e-book is sufficient to prove that a printed publication is publicly accessible.
    - b. For digital printed publications such as web pages, original source material is no longer required to come from online publishing sources listed on the NSDA Approved Websites List. The original source must be publicly accessible for viewing or purchase by a simple internet search or by a URL not requiring passwords or access codes. Competitors must also present a printed manuscript to be used in the case of a protest, but presenting a

printed copy of a website is not alone sufficient to prove that a digital printed publication is publicly accessible.

- c. PDFs are permitted as long as the website from which the PDF is retrieved or purchased is publicly accessible for viewing or purchase by a simple internet search or by a URL not requiring passwords or access codes. Competitors must also present a printed copy of the PDF to be used in the case of a protest, but presenting a printed copy of the PDF is not alone sufficient to prove that a PDF is publicly accessible.
  - d. For digital unprinted publications such as videos, audio files, and films, the original source must be publicly accessible for viewing or purchase by a simple internet search or by a URL not requiring passwords or access codes. Competitors must also present a printed official transcript of the original source to be used in the case of a protest, but presenting an official transcript is not alone sufficient to prove that the original source is publicly accessible. An official transcript is one approved by the original source's producer, licensing agent, or copyright holder. As long as approval has been granted, an official transcript may be obtained through the aforementioned parties or through an official transcription service such as TranscribeMe, Scribie, or iScribed, which use non-automated, manual transcription.
8. In the prepared individual events of Oratory, Poetry, Drama, Duet, POI, Informative, and Humor the following provisions shall apply: **A contestant may not use the same cuttings/material or any portion of that content, in more than one prepared event at the State Tournament.** A contestant may not substantially change cuttings/material content in subsequent rounds at the State Tournament.
  9. No student may use an interpretive selection that he/she has used in any previous competitive season if the selection has two of the following three aspects: Author, Title or Source.
  10. Presentations shall be without the use of visual aids or costume, with the exception of Informative which allows visual aids.
  11. Literature Interpretation Events: All interpretation competitors must have immediately available either (1) a photocopy of the title page (author, title, source and copyright date) as well as the performed-portion of the original script, or (2) the original edition of the unedited literature being used in competition.
  12. Online sources may be accepted if they fulfill the requirements of printed sources. Published sources may not include work created in part or in whole by the student. Online sources must include a printed copy of the script as published online including the web address and clear evidence that the source is copyrighted on this site, from which it is taken.
  13. Either must also include: 1. Any words/terms spoken must be highlighted. Lines not mentioned should be left unmarked. 2. Any changes and/or additions must be indicated clearly in ink. Transitional material spoken by the student should be clearly indicated on the script.
  14. Please see section 8.3.3.12.xx for information concerning the "Judge Strike System" for interpretation and public speaking events.
  15. Please see section 8.3.2.10 for choice of material, obscenity clause and procedure for grievance.
  16. Extemporaneous Speaking
    - i. Time Limits

Extemporaneous speeches must not be less than five (5) nor more than seven (7) minutes. A 30 second grace period is allowed. Timers will show time to each speaker, from seven minutes down, changing the displayed time card as each minute elapses. If the speaker's time expires, the timer will stand. In rounds where no timer is present, the judge will show the extemper by some cue or hand signal when five minutes of speaking has elapsed. The judge may provide additional time cues, but the judge may not penalize a speaker for being overtime without having provided the five minute signal. Extemper may use their own timer, or the judge may provide one for the extemper. A performer who exceeds the time limit by more than 30 seconds may not be ranked first. No other penalty is required.
    - ii. Topics

All extemporaneous questions should be taken from the past three months of NFHS and NSDA extemporaneous practice topics.
    - iii. Procedures

Each participant, thirty minutes prior to his or her speaking assignment, will draw three topics. The participant will select one topic and prepare the speech. Judges will have copies of the questions labeled by speaker number. Contestants may make notes during the preparation time, but the use of notes, cards, briefs, or other aids is prohibited during the speech. If a student does use notes they must be moved to the bottom of the rankings. It is the responsibility of the student to adhere to the time limits. Timekeepers in extemporaneous speaking and debate will be instructed to notify the judge as to the actual speaking time for each speech.
    - iv. The following formatting for extemporaneous questions should be used instead of the draw of three pieces of paper with three questions on them, and these questions will be placed in the judges' ballot envelopes. Thus, all first speakers will have the same three choices for questions, for example.

EXAMPLE:  
Round One  
Speaker One

1. Was the federal government's decision to lift restrictions on manufacturing lethal viruses in a laboratory setting wrong?
2. Who is ultimately responsible for the resignation of Lebanon's Prime Minister?
3. What long-term steps must the International Olympic Committee take to prevent a repeat of the Russian doping scandal?

Speaker Two

1. How will the GOP tax cuts impact the unemployment rate in the United States?
2. In the wake of the FCC's decision on net neutrality, what steps can industry take to reassure the public of continued access to the resources of the Internet?
3. How will new sanctions against Russia impact the relationship between Russia and the United States?

Speaker Three

1. What steps must congressional leaders take to protect congressional employees from sexual harassment and assault at work?
2. What is the appropriate role of the federal government in protecting consumers from identity theft?
3. How will the new government of Zimbabwe differ from that led by Robert Mugabe?

ETC.

- v. During the final extemporaneous round, each speaker will be asked one question by the previous speaker at the conclusion of the speech. First speaker will take a question from last speaker - who will watch the first speaker and, then after the cross-examination, will retire to prepare his or her own speech. The questioner is allowed to take notes during the speech, but he or she may not use those notes during the cross-examination. The questioner has up to one minute to ask a question; the speaker has up to two minutes to respond to the question. The quality of the question asked and the quality of the answer given are a part of the total presentation and should be considered with the ranking of the speakers. No one from the same school can question a teammate if there are 2 from the same team in finals, unless it is unavoidable because a team has more than half the people in the finals.

vi. Preparation

- a. The speaker may bring files of notes or clippings on various subjects to assist in the 30 minute preparation period.
- b. An adult supervisor shall remain in the extemporaneous speaking preparation room until each round is completed. This supervisor shall be responsible for the topic draw process and for maintaining decorum. Extemporaneous speakers must not be "coached" by any person during this preparation period. Coaching by anyone constitutes grounds for disqualification.
- c. Students may consult published books, magazines, newspapers and journals or articles provided:
  1. The materials are either the originals or xeroxed copies of the originals.
  2. That the text of the original article or copy is intact and uncut.
  3. There are no additional written comments on the original or copy.
  4. A topical index without annotation may be present.
- d. No other sources will be allowed in the extemp prep room other than the above. Extemp speeches, handbooks, briefs or outlines shall be banned.
- e. The use of laptop computers in extemporaneous speaking preparation is permitted as outlined in the most current version of the NSDA national tournament manual.

17. Original Oratory (Memorized)

i. Time Limits

Orations must be not less than five (5) nor more than ten (10) minutes. A 30 second grace period is allowed. It is the responsibility of the student to adhere to the time limits. A performer who exceeds the time limit by more than 30 seconds may not be ranked first. No other penalty is required.

ii. Quotations

An original oration must be the student's own work. Not more than 150 words may be quoted and it is presumed that the quotations will be properly identified. Any appropriate subject may be used, but the orator must be truthful. Any such nonfactual reference, especially a personal one, must be identified. Violations of this section constitute grounds for disqualification.

iii. Submission of Copies

Copies of orations to be entered in the State Tournament must be in the hands of the Tournament Director by the close of registration, or the student will not be allowed to compete in this event.

iv. Standards and Delivery

- a. Orations are to be delivered entirely from memory, but an oration is to be evaluated by the same standards that apply to any oral communication, with a slight shift of emphasis. Since the wording and delivery of an oration are presumed to have been carefully worked out and practiced well in advance, more polished results will be expected in both of these aspects than would be expected of the same speaker in, for example, debate or extemporaneous speaking.
- b. Any oration used in a previous school year is not acceptable. A contestant may not use material from Oratory in any other prepared event at the State Tournament. A contestant may not substantially change the content of the Oratory in subsequent rounds at the State Tournament.

18. Memorized Dramatic Interpretation

i. Time Limits

Presentations of memorized dramatic interpretation, including introduction, must not be less than five (5) nor more than ten (10) minutes. A 30 second grace period is allowed. It is the responsibility of the student to adhere to the time limits. A performer who exceeds the time limit by more than 30 seconds may not be ranked first. No other penalty is required.

ii. Standards

- a. Selections for memorized dramatic presentations will be essentially of a serious nature and will create a solemn and thoughtful mood. Material may be a short story or a cutting from a short story, a personal essay, a single incident or a cutting from a novel, biography, speech, or a poetic or prose play.
- b. The material must be from sources of literary merit. Any source material is permitted as long as it meets standards outlined in section 8.3.3.B.7.
- c. A student may not use the same selection that he/she has used in any previous competitive season. A contestant may not use material from his or her memorized dramatic interpretation in any other prepared event at the State Tournament. A contestant may not substantially change the content of his or her memorized dramatic interpretation in subsequent rounds at the State Tournament.

iii. Delivery

- a. In Memorized Dramatic Interpretation, the material must be presented from memory. No manuscript or notes are allowed.
- b. Those using a manuscript will be disqualified.
- c. The interpreter does not act out the character or characters involved, but by changes in voice and in poise, facial expression and modified gesture, SUGGESTS the character and gives the audience an indication of attitude and frame of mind for the material being presented.
- d. The presentation may not use physical objects or costuming. During the presentation the contestant must name the author and the book or magazine from which the cutting was made. Additionally:
  1. Adaptations to material may only be used for the purpose of transition. The gender stated by the author must be honored. However, a female contestant may play a male role, and a male contestant may play a female role.
  2. A performer may play one or more characters.
  3. Monologues are acceptable in Dramatic Interpretations. If the selection is prose or poetry and contains narration performers may present the narration.
- e. Reuse: A student may not use a cutting from a work of literature the student used in district or national competition in any previous contest year. A student entered in two events may not use the same selection of literature in both events.

iv. Introduction

An introduction must include verbal identification of title(s) and author(s) of selections.

19. Memorized Duet Interpretation

i. Time Limits

Presentations of memorized duet interpretation must not be less than five (5) nor more than ten (10) minutes, including introduction. A 30 second grace period is allowed. It is the responsibility of the student to adhere to the time limits. A performer who exceeds the time limit by more than 30 seconds may not be ranked first. No other penalty is required.

ii. Entries

A memorized duet interpretation team consists of two members.

iii. Standards

- a. Memorized duet interpretation involves the portrayal of two or more characters presented by two individual contestants as a team. Selections for Memorized Duet Interpretation may be of a serious nature to create a solemn and thoughtful mood or may be of a light or amusing nature to create a mood of enjoyment and gaiety. Material may be a short story or a cutting from a short story, a personal essay, a single incident or a cutting from a novel, biography, speech, or a poetic or prose play. The material must be from sources of literary merit. Any source material is permitted as long as it meets standards outlined in section 8.3.3.B.7.
- b. Students may not use the same selection that he/she has used in any previous competitive season. Contestants may not use the same material from their memorized duet interpretation in any other prepared event at the State Tournament. Contestants may not substantially change the content of their memorized duet interpretation in subsequent rounds at the State Tournament.

iv. Delivery

- a. The presentation is memorized, and the focus is off stage and not to each other. The use of a manuscript is not allowed. Those using a manuscript will be disqualified.
- b. Performance: The presentation may not use physical objects or costuming. During the presentation the contestant/team must name the author and the book or magazine from which the cutting was made. Additionally:

1. Adaptations to material may only be used for the purpose of transition. The gender stated by the author must be honored. However, a female contestant may play a male role, and a male contestant may play a female role.
  2. Duo interpretation selections must be presented from memory.
  3. In Duo Interpretation each of the two performers may play one or more characters so long as performance responsibility in the cutting remains as balanced as possible.
  4. If the selection is prose or poetry and contains narration, either or both of the performers may present the narration.
  - c. Focus: In Duo Interpretation, focus may be direct during the introduction (the performers may look at each other) but must be indirect (off-stage) during the performance itself.
  - d. Reuse: A student may not use a cutting from a work of literature the student used in district or national competition in any previous contest year. A student entered in two events may not use the same selection of literature in both events.
  - v. Introduction  
An introduction must include verbal identification of title(s) and author(s) of selections.
20. Manuscript Poetry Interpretation
- i. Time Limits  
Presentations of manuscript poetry interpretation must not be less than five (5) nor more than ten (10) minutes, including introduction. A 30 second grace period is allowed. It is the responsibility of the student to adhere to the time limits. A performer who exceeds the time limit by more than 30 seconds may not be ranked first. No other penalty is required.
  - ii. Standards
    - a. The material presented may be a single poem, a cutting from a longer poem, or a group of related short poems (e.g., contrasting themes by one poet or the same theme as dealt with by different poets). The selection or selections should be from works of literary merit.
    - b. Literature written in verse or free-verse may originate in print and/or digital forms. Digital sources can include online text versions, transcripts of video performances, or self-generated transcripts of video poetry performances. Digital sources will require students to have a printed transcript of the poem presented. Students should also be able to provide a link to the website where the text and/or video is presented.
    - c. Any source material is permitted as long as it meets standards outlined in section 8.3.3.B.7.
    - d. A contestant may not use the same selection that he or she has used in any previous competitive season. A contestant may not use material from manuscript poetry interpretation in any other prepared event at the State Tournament. A contestant may not substantially change the content of the manuscript poetry interpretation in subsequent rounds at the State Tournament.
  - iii. Delivery
    - a. In manuscript poetry interpretation, the material should be read from a book or manuscript. Some form of script must be used.
    - b. Performance: The presentation may not use physical objects other than the required manuscript.
      1. The manuscript may be used for bookwork within the performance if the performer maintains control of the manuscript at all times. Book work in the poetry section shall be defined as any movement with the book or body.
      2. Pictures, visuals, or any additional words beyond the manuscript will not be permitted on the inside or outside of the book.
      3. Closing books for transition or effect will be permitted.
      4. During the presentation the contestant must name the author and the book or magazine from which the cutting was made. Additionally:
        - i. Adaptations to material may only be used for the purpose of transition. The gender stated by the author must be honored. However, a female contestant may play a male role, and a male contestant may play a female role.
        - ii. A performer may play one or more characters.
        - iii. If the selection contains narration, the performer may present the narration.
    - c. Reuse: A student may not use a cutting from a work of literature the student used in district or national competition in any previous contest year. A student entered in two events may not use the same selection of literature in both events.
  - iv. Introduction  
An introduction must include verbal identification of title(s) and author(s) of selections.
21. Memorized Humorous Interpretation
- i. Time Limits  
Presentations of memorized humorous interpretation must not be less than five (5) nor more than ten (10) minutes, including introduction. A 30 second grace period is allowed. It is the responsibility of the student to adhere to the time limits. A performer who exceeds the time limit by more than 30 seconds may not be ranked first. No other penalty is required.
  - ii. Standards

- a. Selections for memorized humorous interpretation presentations will be essentially of a light or amusing nature with the interpreter endeavoring to create a mood of enjoyment and gaiety. Literature written in verse or free-verse may originate in print and/or digital forms. Digital sources can include online text versions, transcripts of video performances, or self-generated transcripts of video poetry performances. Digital sources will require students to have a printed transcript of the poem presented. Students should also be able to provide a link to the website where the text and/or video is presented. Any source material is permitted as long as it meets standards outlined in section 8.3.3.B.7.
    - b. A student may not use the same selection that he/she has used in any previous competitive season. A contestant may not use material from Humorous Interpretation in any other prepared event at the State Tournament.
    - c. A contestant may not substantially change the content of his or her memorized humorous interpretation in subsequent rounds at the State Tournament.
  - iii. Delivery
    - a. In Memorized Humorous Interpretation, the material must be presented from memory. No manuscript or notes are allowed.
    - b. Those using a manuscript will be disqualified.
    - c. Performers may play one or more characters so long as performance responsibility in the cutting remains as balanced as possible.
    - d. Monologues are acceptable in Humorous Interpretations. If the selection is prose or poetry and contains narration, the performer may present the narration.
  - iv. Reuse
 

A student may not use a cutting from a work of literature the student used in district or national competition in any previous contest year. A student entered in two events may not use the same selection of literature in both events.
  - v. Introduction
 

An introduction must include verbal identification of title(s) and author(s) of selections.
- 22. Program Oral Interpretation
  - i. Time Limits
 

There is a time limit of ten minutes, with a thirty second grace period. It is the responsibility of the student to adhere to the time limits. A performer who exceeds the time limit by more than 30 seconds may not be ranked first. No other penalty is required.
  - ii. Standards
    - a. Using selections from Prose, Poetry and Drama, students create a ten minute performance around a central theme. Program Oral Interpretation is designed to test a student's ability to intersperse multiple types of literature into a single, cohesive performance.
    - b. A manuscript is required and may be used as a prop within the performance if the performer maintains control of the manuscript at all times.
    - c. Program Oral Interpretation relies on the performer's ability to portray a wide range of characters and literature all held together under a common theme. Each program must contain at least two of the three genres and students are encouraged to include all three. Prose expresses thought through language recorded in sentences and paragraphs: fiction (short stories, novels) and non-fiction (articles, essays, journals, biographies). Poetry uses a selection or selections of literature, students provide an oral interpretation of poetry. Drama uses a play, short story, or other published work.
    - d. Any source material is permitted as long as it meets standards outlined in section 8.3.3.B.7.
  - iii. Introduction
 

An introduction must include verbal identification of title(s) and author(s) of selections.
- 23. Informative Speaking
  - i. Time Limits
 

There is a time limit of ten minutes, with a thirty second grace period. It is the responsibility of the student to adhere to the time limits. A performer who exceeds the time limit by more than 30 seconds may not be ranked first. No other penalty is required.
  - ii. Quotations
 

Not more than 150 words of the speech maybe direct quotation.
  - iii. Submission of Copies
 

Quotations must be identified orally and in a printed copy of the speech supplied prior to registration.
  - iv. Subject Matter
    - a. Students author and deliver a ten-minute speech on a topic of their choosing. Competitors create the speech to educate the audience on a particular topic. All topics must be informative in nature; the goal is to educate, not to advocate.
    - b. Topics are varied and interesting. Whether it be a new technological advance the audience is unaware of or a new take on a concept that everyone is familiar with, Informative is the student's opportunity to teach the audience. Types of topics and structure vary greatly.
  - v. Standards
    - a. Informative is a speech written by the student with the intent to inform the audience on a topic of significance. Informative gives students the unique opportunity to showcase their personality while educating the audience.
    - b. An Informative is not simply an essay about the topic — it is a well researched and organized presentation with evidence, logic and sometimes humor to convey a message.

- c. Audio/visual aides may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. If used, the audio/visual aids should enhance or support the message rather than distract from the overall effectiveness of the presentation.
      - d. Visual aids may not violate policies dictated by local and state laws (weapons, drugs, etc.).
      - e. The host school is not responsible for providing any facilities, equipment, including tables, chairs, or easels, or assistance in contestant's use of visual aids.
      - f. Expedient set up and take down of aids is expected.
      - g. If a visual aid displays published pictorial material, the source must be included in the work-cited page but does not need to be cited orally.
    - vi. Delivery
      - a. The speech is delivered from memory.
      - b. During the presentation, no electronic equipment is permitted. Electronic equipment is defined as any object requiring an electrical cord, battery, or solar power to operate it (projectors, cell phones, radios, iPads, computers, etc.).
      - c. The use of animals or any additional people as visual aids is not allowed during the speech.
      - d. Items of dress put on and/or removed for illustration during the course of the presentation are considered costumes and may not be part of the contestant's presentation.
24. Impromptu
- i. Time Limit
 

The maximum time limit is 7 minutes with a 30-second "grace period," which includes both preparation and speaking. If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student has gone beyond the grace period. Should a student go beyond the grace period, the student may not be ranked 1st. There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period. The ranking is up to each individual judge's discretion. Judges who choose to time are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices. No minimum time is mandated.
  - ii. Topics
 

Topics will include proverbs, abstract words, events, quotations, and famous people. The State Tournament director will be responsible for creating topics. The State Tournament Director will send out topic areas for each round of the State Tournament to coaches 14 days before the start of the tournament. The State Tournament Director will be in charge of distributing the topics before the start of each round at the tournament.
  - iii. Drawing
 

A judge in each section/room shall be provided a uniform set of topics, with a different subject area used for each round. Each speaker will draw three topics, choose one, and return the other two.
  - iv. Preparation and Delivery
 

The speaker has seven minutes in which to prepare a response and present a speech without consultation of prepared notes or electronic retrieval device.
  - v. Notes: No notes shall be used during presentation.
  - vi. Pattern: Impromptu will be held in the Pattern (A) at the State Tournament.
- C. Debate
- 1. Preliminary Round Pairings
    - i. Cross Examination, Lincoln Douglas and Public Forum Debate. Note: Sides debated will not be a criterion for pairing Public Forum Debate.
    - ii. Preliminary Round Pairings -- Rounds 1, 2: These rounds will be "preset", completely at random. No attempt will be made to avoid intra-district pairings. Competitors from the same school will not meet each other. Within any given debate division, no school shall meet the same school twice during the first two rounds, whenever possible. As a general rule, each CX team and LD debater will end the second round having had one affirmative and one negative. Byes, if necessary, will be at random.
    - iii. Preliminary Round Pairings -- Round 3: This round will be power-matched high-high (similar records insofar as possible) based on the results of the first two rounds. A CX team or LD debater may debate any side in round three. Byes, if necessary, will go at random to a CX or PF team or LD debater in the lower one-third of the field from a school not having previously received a bye.
    - iv. Preliminary Round Pairings -- Round 4: This round will be power-matched high-low within brackets based on the results of the first three rounds. A bracket is operationally defined as the win-loss record as apportioned into approximately one-quarter, or one-third, or one-half the field. Side constraints apply to this round so that, as a general rule, each CX team or LD debater will end the fourth round having had two affirmatives and two negatives. Byes, if necessary, will go at random to a CX or PF team or LD debater in the lower one-third of the field from a school not having previously received a bye.
    - v. Preliminary Round Pairings -- Round 5: This round will be power-matched high-high, based on the results of the first four rounds, using the same parameters as Round 3.
    - vi. Preliminary Round Pairings -- Round 6: This round will be power-matched high-low within brackets based on the results of the first five rounds, using the same parameters as round 4.
    - vii. In addition to the above, the following rules shall apply for the preliminary rounds:
      - a. During the preliminary rounds, no CX or PF teams or LD debaters from the same school shall compete against each other.

- b. During the preliminary rounds, no CX or PF team or LD debater shall compete against a team or debater which it has competed against in previous preliminary rounds at this tournament.
- 2. Elimination Round Pairings
  - i. Teams will advance to octafinals or quarterfinals based on the results of the six preliminary rounds. These criteria will determine, in rank order, which teams shall advance to qualifying rounds:
    - a. won-loss record
    - b. strength of opposition throughout all preliminary rounds (total wins of opposition)
    - c. Cross Examination Debate- cumulative team ranks (low is best)  
Public Forum Debate- ranking points of all four debaters  
Lincoln-Douglas Debate- cumulative speaker points (high is best, drop high-low)
    - d. Cross Examination Debate- cumulative team speaker points (high is best, drop high-low)  
Public Forum Debate- quality rating of the two teams
  - ii. The break-point for qualifying for subsequent qualifying rounds will be announced at the ballot verification period for debate; the teams qualifying for quarter finals will also be announced at that time.
  - iii. The number of entries in Cross-Examination Debate teams, Public Forum Debate teams or Lincoln Douglas will determine the appropriate out rounds. With 12 or fewer entries, elimination rounds will begin with Semi-finals. With more than 12 but less than 44 elimination rounds will begin with quarterfinals. With more than 44 teams/competitors, elimination rounds will begin with octafinals, allowing 12 teams/competitors bracketed high-low in eight brackets. In all cases, partial elimination rounds at the next level will be required to assure that all teams/competitors with a 4-2 record could advance.
  - iv. The following schematic is the bracket for quarterfinals:



This bracket may be broken if two teams from the same school are scheduled to meet in the quarterfinals. Should the bracket have to be broken, the smallest possible shift in relative position should occur. Should three teams (or more) from the same high school advance to the semifinal rounds, then a conference shall be held with the coach involved to determine the best way to proceed.

- 3. Responsibilities of debaters reading evidence
  - i. Each debater is responsible for the validity of all evidence they read in the debate.
  - ii. In all rounds debaters shall orally deliver during each round for each piece of evidence introduced the name or the author and date. The team reading the evidence must have along with the information delivered orally the author's qualifications, complete source, date accessed, and the complete url and/or hyperlink available (Full Citation). Lack of an available full citation shall void any effect of that piece of evidence in the round.
  - iii. 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 ellipsis may be shown on cards if the original source or a photo copy is present. The evidence may be read in ellipses form, but the entirety of the evidence must be available in one of the two ways cited.
  - iv. Personal letters or telegrams shall not be admissible as evidence.
  - v. All evidence must be read aloud to be considered in a decision. The use of visual aids, charts, handouts, etc. shall not be allowed in Policy, LD or PF.
  - vi. All evidence delivered orally in each round must be made available to the opposing debaters for inspection and review immediately before or immediately after the speech in which it was delivered. Debaters can accomplish the exchange of evidence either by giving the opposing debaters a physical or electronic copy of the evidence or by allowing the opposing debaters to inspect and review the evidence on whatever medium upon which it was read.
- 4. Responsibilities of debaters challenging evidence
  - i. Indictments or protests of the validity of evidence must be made on substantive grounds. A challenger must have either the original source or a photocopy of the source being cited, or:



- ii. A challenger must demonstrate that reasonable search has not been able to locate the source - photocopies of relevant pages in Book in Print, Reader's Guide, or P.A.I.S.
  - or:
  - iii. A challenger must prove that they have not been able to locate an electronic source, service, publication, etc.
- 5. Use of laptop computers
  - i. The use of laptop computers shall be allowed in Public Forum, Lincoln Douglas, and Policy debate as outlined in the latest NSDA National Tournament Manual.
  - ii. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information from any person (coaches or assistants included) inside or outside the room in which the competition occurs.
  - iii. Internet access, use of e-mail, instant messaging, or other means of receiving information from persons inside or outside the competition room are prohibited. (This does not prohibit communication between debate partners during prep time.)
    - a. Sanction: Contestants found to have violated this provision shall be disqualified from the tournament and shall forfeit all rounds.
    - b. At the Wyoming State Tournament the Executive Committee shall make the final decision concerning disqualification.
    - c. At local tournaments using the state rules, the tournament director may disqualify a team for such violation.
  - iv. The use of the internet during rounds shall only be permitted if there is public internet available to all at the competition site.
    - a. Contestants found to have violated this provision (for example : using a hotspot if public internet is not available) shall forfeit the round of competition and receive zero points.
  - v. Contestants electing to use computers are responsible for providing their own computers, batteries, extension cords and all other necessary accessories.
    - a. Tournament hosts shall not be responsible for providing computers, printers, software, paper, or extension cords for contestants.
  - vi. Contestants choosing to use computers and related equipment accept the risk of equipment failure.
    - a. No special consideration or accommodations, including no additional prep time or speech time, will be given by judges or contest directors should equipment failure occur.
- 6. Availability of Evidence
  - i. Contestants electing to use computers shall have the responsibility to promptly provide a copy of any evidence read in a speech for inspection by the judge or opponent.
  - ii. Printers may be used. Evidence may be printed in the round or produced electronically, but must be provided in a format readable by the opposing team and the judge.
- 7. Because public speaking decorum remains an important element of debate, all debaters are expected to stand (if physically able) at the front of the room facing the judge while speaking.
- 8. Definitions
  - i. A "Serious distortion" exists when evidence itself contains added or deleted word(s) which do not clarify, but - in fact -change the position of the author with respect to the issues in question.
  - ii. "Nonexistent evidence" means that:
    - a. Reasonable search is unable to produce the original source and/or the team reading the evidence is unable to provide the original source or a photocopy of the relevant pages during the round should the opposing debaters challenge the validity of evidence.
    - b. A failure to have available a Full Citation, as defined above, when requested by the opposing debaters.
    - c. The evidence cited is not located in the original source cited. Typographical errors in citation will not automatically result in the evidence being labeled nonexistent, if the debater(s) reading the evidence can produce the correct information.
- 9. Penalties
  - i. Penalties for use of nonexistent evidence or evidence which seriously distorts the intention of the original source.
    - a. An infraction of serious distortion or nonexistent evidence rules as defined in section C.8.i, C.8.ii.a, and C.8.ii.c shall result in the disqualification of the offending debater(s) from the tournament.
    - b. Any debater(s) found by the State Officers to be using nonexistent evidence as defined in C.8.ii.b shall forfeit the round in which the evidence was challenged but will not be disqualified from the tournament unless the forfeiture of the round results in a forfeiture of an elimination round.
- 10. Cross-Examination Debate
  - i. Entries and General Procedures
    - a. A cross-examination debate team consists of two members. Each team shall be prepared to debate both negative and affirmative sides of the resolution.
    - b. Each debate team will debate six preliminary rounds, generally three affirmative and three negative (although not necessarily in alternating order).

- c. All debates at the State Tournament will be judged on a win-loss basis and all debaters will be rated on a speaker-point scale.
- d. Team members may switch cross-exam periods or rebuttal speeches, but not both.
- e. Please see Section 8.3.3.12.xx for information concerning the "Judge Strike System" for Cross-Examination Debate.
- f. Debate postings and ballots shall not show the school name.

ii. Standards

Debate is regarded as competitive oral persuasion. Debaters are not attempting to solve a social problem, but rather to convince the judge of the desirability or undesirability of the particular solution set forth in the proposition debated.

iii. Time Limits

Cross-Examination Debate:

Aff.	8 minutes constructive speech
Neg.	3 minutes cross-x period
Neg.	8 minutes constructive speech
Aff.	3 minutes cross-x period
Aff.	8 minutes constructive speech
Neg.	3 minutes cross-x period
Neg.	8 minutes constructive speech
Aff.	3 minutes cross-x period
Neg.	5 minutes rebuttal speech
Aff.	5 minutes rebuttal speech
Neg.	5 minutes Rebuttal speech
Aff.	5 minutes rebuttal speech
Each cross-x debate team will be allowed eight (8) minutes of preparation time without penalty.	

It is the responsibility of the student to adhere to the time limits.

11. Lincoln-Douglas Debate

i. Entries and General Procedures

- a. A Lincoln-Douglas "team" shall consist of one member prepared to debate both negative and affirmative sides of the resolution.
- b. Each L-D debater will debate six preliminary rounds, generally three affirmative and three negative (although not necessarily in alternating order).
- c. All L-D debates at the State Tournament will be judged on a win-loss basis and all L-D debaters will be rated on a speaker point scale.
- d. Please see Section 8.3.3.12.xx for information concerning the "Judge Strike System" for Lincoln-Douglas Debate.
- e. Debate postings and ballots shall not show that school name.

ii. Time Limits

Aff.	6 minutes. constructive speech
Neg.	3 minutes cross-x period
Neg.	7 minutes constructive speech
Aff.	3 minutes cross-x period
Aff.	4 minutes rebuttal speech

Neg.	6 minutes rebuttal speech
Aff.	3 minutes rebuttal speech
Each Lincoln-Douglas debater will be allowed four (4) minutes of accumulated preparation time without penalty.	

It is the responsibility of the student to adhere to the time limits.

## 12. Public Forum Debate

### i. Entries and General Procedures

- A Public Forum Debate team shall consist of two members. Each team shall be prepared to debate both pro and con sides of the resolution.
- Each public forum debate team will debate six preliminary rounds. Sides for all rounds will be determined by the flip of a coin with the winning side determining either which side of the resolution they will defend, or whether they will go first or last in speaking order. The other team will then choose from the remaining option of its side or whether to go first or last. In no instance, including the meeting of two teams for the second time, will sides be determined by any other method than by the flip of a coin between the two teams debating.
- Please see Section 8.3.3.12.xx for information concerning the "Judge Strike System" for Public Forum Debate.

### ii. Standards

Debate is regarded as competitive oral persuasion. Public Forum debaters are encouraged to focus upon a social problem defined monthly by the NSDA. Because this event attempts to model media debate, judges may be active coaches who teach in a classroom or are community judges.

### iii. Time Limits

Public Forum Debate:

Speaker 1 Team A	4 minutes constructive speech
Speaker 1 Team B	4 minutes constructive speech
Crossfire	3 minutes
Speaker 2 Team A	4 minutes rebuttal speech
Speaker 2 Team B	4 minutes rebuttal speech
Crossfire	3 minutes
Speaker 1 Team A	3 minutes summary speech
Speaker 1 Team B	3 minutes summary speech
Grand Crossfire	3 minutes
Speaker 2 Team A	2 minutes final focus speech
Speaker 2 Team B	2 minutes final focus speech
Each Public Forum debate team will be allowed three (3) minutes of accumulated preparation time without penalty.	

It is the responsibility of the student to adhere to the time limits.

Procedure and Order of Speeches:

Prior to EVERY round and in the presence of the judge(s), a coin is tossed by one team and called by the other team. The team that wins the flip may choose one of two options: EITHER the SIDE of the topic they wish to defend (pro or con) OR the SPEAKING POSITION they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate). The remaining option (SIDE OR SPEAKING POSITION) is the choice of the team that loses the flip. Once the speaking positions and sides have been determined, the debate begins (the con team may lead, depending on the coin flip results). Following the first two constructive speeches, the two debaters who have just given speeches will stand and participate in a three-minute "crossfire". In "crossfire" both debaters "hold the floor". However, the speaker who spoke first must ask the first question. After that question, either debater may question and/or answer at will. At the conclusion of the summary speeches, all four debaters will remain seated and participate in a three-minute "Grand Crossfire" in which all four debaters are allowed to cross-examine one another.

The speaker who gave the first summary speech must ask the first question. Teams should alternate asking and answering questions rather than allowing one team to dominate so that a balance between teams is achieved. All speakers are encouraged to participate in the Grand Crossfire. Speakers should listen respectfully to opponents' questions and answers.

Paraphrasing: authoritative source versus general understanding. If paraphrasing is used in a debate, the debater will be held to the same standard of citation and accuracy as if the entire text of the evidence was read. Paraphrasing may be used to shorten or clarify one specific portion of an original source. It should not be confused with a general summary of an entire book, chapter, study, etc., which may only be used for information that is widely considered to be common knowledge.

Paraphrasing focuses on a single idea, while summary focuses on a general concept. For example, if a debater references a specific theory by a specific author, the debater must also be able to provide an original source. If a debater were to reference social contract theory in general, that would not be an authoritative source that would require citation. However, if the debater references "John Locke's Social Contract," evidence would need to be available.

### 13. Congressional Debate

#### i. General Philosophical Statement

- a. Congressional Debate combines the very best of debate, extemporaneous speaking, and oratory. As well, it is desirable to maintain much of the decision-making processes in the hands of the competitors while continuing to ensure a high degree of competition.
- b. The setting, as the dialogue between the participants, should be as formal as possible to maintain the demeanor of the house. Dress, actions, and conversation, therefore, should be consistent with and conducted as if it were taking place in the Congress of the United States.
- c. Congressional Debate as in any democratic society, finds parliamentary procedure rooted in three principles: 1) the will of the plurality decides action and procedure; 2) the rights of the minority to address the assembly and otherwise participate are to be protected; and 3) the rules exist to serve the organization and are equally applicable to all of the membership.

#### ii. Entries

- a. Congressional Debate participants may double enter in any other event at the State Tournament so long as the other event is not in the same time schedule conflict pattern.
- b. Procedure and guidelines for the participation in this event can be found in the NSDA handbook, including time limits. No NSDA procedures or guidelines will be used at the State Tournament if they are in conflict with Congressional Debate procedures specifically stated in this document.

#### iii. Number of Sessions

There will be one (1) organizational session, four (4) preliminary sessions and two (2) super congress sessions at the State Tournament.

#### iv. Structure

- a. Experience has demonstrated that a house with too many members will be unmanageable and not provide students the opportunity to fully participate. Conversely, a house with too few students will not offer sufficient interaction to make the competition worthwhile. NSDA advises that the optimum membership in a house of a student congress is 20. Whenever possible during the course of the year but particularly during the State meet, this rule should be considered as inviolate as practical.
- b. **Congressional Debate participants will be informed as to which legislation will be debated in their house as soon as possible after the final split is determined**
- c. The formula Base of Three will be used. Coaches will be able to place up to three of their competitors within a given house, depending on the number of houses needed for Congressional Debate.
- d. Preset, randomized recency will be used in every round of Congressional Debate at the State Tournament.
- e. Direct questioning: The presiding officer will open the floor for questions following each speech. The presiding officer will recognize questioners for a cross-examination period of no more than 30 seconds. Questioners will be chosen according to a separate questioning recency.
- f. Direct questioning will be used in every round of Congressional Debate at the State Tournament.

#### v. Organization

- a. Each participant entered in Congressional Debate may submit one, and only one, Bill or Resolution. The Bill or Resolution must be properly typed on 8 1/2" x 11" white paper. All Bills and Resolutions received electronically at registration returned via email by the Tournament Director (or his/her staff) to all schools entered in Congressional Debate.
- b. Bills or Resolutions which are not electronically submitted with the official entry forms and which are "late," i.e. submitted after the entry deadline, will not be accepted for duplication or distribution by the Tournament Director. If "late" bills or resolutions are accepted for addition to the agenda order, they may be added only to the bottom of the agenda order, after all the pre-submitted bills have been debated. Sufficient copies of "late" Bills and

Resolutions must be provided by each school. The tournament staff will not duplicate "late" Bills or Resolutions at the site of the State Tournament.

- c. Students who pre-submit Congressional Debate legislation with their State Tournament Registration will be guaranteed an authorship speech when the legislation comes to the floor, prior to the application of other parliamentary or procedural rules.
- d. A Bill is an enumeration of specific provisions which, if enacted, will have the force of law. A Resolution is simply a generalized statement expressing a conviction. A Resolution will generally center debate on the broad principles of the concept; A bill is more apt to concentrate on the merits of the specific provisions it contains. Although they are not necessary, a Resolution may have "Whereas" clauses, but a Bill never has them.
- e. The most repetitive offenses in legislation are the lack of line numbers, lack of penalties when required, initiation date, and the misunderstanding of the intent of what a bill and resolution does and doesn't do and confusing the two.
- vi. **Parliamentarian's Duties and Obligations**
  - a. A parliamentarian shall be used for all sessions of an assigned house. That Parliamentarian may not have students from his or her school as members of that given house.
  - b. All houses will operate much more effectively and efficiently if the Parliamentarian does not fear to intervene in order to head off potential problems. This should not be construed to mean that the parliamentarian should run the session, rather that he/she should have a firm hand on the reins to avoid a runaway congress. The parliamentarian should not be "rushed" into making a hasty or improper decision. After all, his/her decisions are final and should be made after due deliberation. The parliamentarian's guide should be the NSDA Handbook and Robert's Rules of Order, tempered by common sense and a desire to see the session run as an orderly function. When the Parliamentarian is in doubt or the issues are clouded to the degree resolution cannot be attained without undue delay in the proceeding, the issue should be resolved by unrestrained debate of the participants; however, the Parliamentarian shall make this decision at his/her sole discretion and may elect to hear arguments from both sides of the issue for so long as it may take him/her to make a decision. Addresses to the problem by the members to the Parliamentarian shall not be counted as a speech and shall be considered by neither the judges nor the Parliamentarian in ranking the student.
  - c. Each school, which has congress competitors, will be allowed one parliamentarian strike. If not possible to honor all the strikes, the parliamentarian with the fewest strikes shall be used.
- vii. **Judging Criteria in General**
  - Evidence
  - Logic
  - Parliamentary Procedure
  - Public Speaking
  - a. As the figure above would indicate, there is a hierarchy of criteria upon which to help in the selection of the best legislator. Evidence to substantiate the assertions of the speaker or questioner, for instance, has a greater primacy over analogy, and much more than mere opinion. In like manner, discernible flaws in logic during debate and the use of parliamentary procedure are also distinguishing features.
  - b. One should clearly see the relationship of a superior speaker and his/her ability as related to the legislation within a structural framework of evidence, analysis and logic, extension and development of the issues, speaking ability, and leadership. Speakers who do nothing more than state the obvious or offer redundant arguments should be discouraged, although this should not preclude development of the issues. As well, one should not neglect assaults and justifications during the two-minute examination period which tests the extent of the speaker's knowledge and the questioner's ability to construct a foundation for later speeches or to later denigrate the position of the author or speaker. Elections of the best speakers, legislation and chair by the membership of the houses are done in conjunction with an independent parliamentarian and judges, however, this does not obviate the need for "political" activities and interaction of the members; indeed, it enhances this necessity. The officials should be acutely aware and sensitive to the "floor work" occurring in the chambers during the session.
- viii. **Judges Duties and Obligations**
  - a. One judge will be assigned for each session for each house that has fewer than 14 members. Two judges will be assigned for each session for each house that has 14 or more members.
  - b. Individual judges will consider the results of one or two rounds as the needs of the congress and the availability of a judging pool dictates. A ballot should be completed by the judge for all members of the given house judged, whether the participants spoke during the session or not. Judges are requested not to confer with others about their decisions, reasons for ranking, individual likes or dislikes, or reasons for decisions with students, coaches, or each other until all rounds of congress have been completed. Completed scoring sheets by the judges will be given only to the congressional monitor to avoid an impression of collusion.

- c. The judges will rank the highest scoring or the best participants. The ranks given will be one through seven (one being first place) at the end of each session. All other members of the session shall receive an eighth place.
    - d. Each School which has congress competitors will be allowed one Congress judge strike. If it is not possible to honor all these strikes, a preferential system will be used. That is, the judges with the least number of strikes will be used.
    - e. All Congressional Debate judge strike sheets will be held in confidence by the tournament staff.
  - ix. Tabulation
    - a. At the end of all preliminary sessions, the judges' rankings from each session will be added together, and the parliamentary ranking will be included.. Final placement will be determined by the lowest total cumulative score receiving first place, etc., on to the highest total receiving last place. In the event of a tie, the parliamentary's preference will prevail. When only one house is in session during the preliminary rounds, the top twenty legislators will advance to super congress. If two houses are in session during the preliminary rounds, the top ten legislators will advance to super congress from each house. If three houses are in session during the preliminary, the top six legislators will advance to super congress from each house.
    - b. **Mandatory ranking of chair:** Any student chairing a minimum of 1 hour at a Wyoming Speech and Debate event shall automatically earn a rank of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 5th place in that competitive round. A judge may choose to not rank a chair due to misconduct or poor performance but must clearly state on the ballot the reason for the non- ranking. Any ballot where the judge fails to rank a chair who has met the time requirement or where the judge has not clearly given the reason for non-ranking shall be audited by tab room personnel to note a 3rd place ranking (for the chair) in that round, thus moving all subsequent ranked students on that ballot one rank lower.
  - x. Tabulation- Super Congress  
The same procedure in 8.3.3.C.13.ix. Tabulation will be used to determine the top six legislators in Super Congress.
  - xi. Best Legislation
    - a. Nominations for Best Legislation will be taken from the floor at the end of the last session by the Parliamentarian, but will not number more than five. After balloting, the top two will be selected by the body.
    - b. The tab room will tabulate the top winners of best legislation from each house. The authors of the best legislation from each house will be recognized during the awards program.
  - xii. Best Chair
    - a. The Parliamentarian will nominate not more than three exceptional members of the congress for Best Chair. The body shall then make their will known by ballot.
    - b. The tab room will tabulate the top winner of best chair from each house. The best chair from each house, including super congress, will be recognized during the awards program.
  - xiii. Super Congress
    - a. All legislation for Super Congress at State would be generated from previous year's NSDA national super congress, which includes semi final and final legislation. Any legislation, which had been discussed, that are similar to the NSDA national super congress legislation will be eliminated by the tournament director. This legislation is available on the NSDA website. No copies will be provided to competitors.
    - b. A new parliamentarian and three judges will be appointed for Super Congress.
    - c. Two sessions of super congress will be held during the last day of the state forensic meet.
    - d. The parliamentarian will rank all members of the chamber. The parliamentarian will not reveal his or her ranks to the membership. The ranking ballot used by the parliamentarian should have "Parliamentarian" clearly marked on it. At the end of the Super Congress sessions, the judges' rankings from the session will be added together, along with the ranking of the parliamentarian. Final placement will be determined by the lowest total cumulative score receiving first place, ect., on to the highest total receiving last place. In the event of a tie, parliamentarian's preference will prevail.
    - e. Semifinal points will be awarded to non-ranked Super Congress participants.
- 8.3.4 GENERAL SUGGESTIONS
- A. Extemporaneous Speaking
    - 1. It is suggested that students expecting to participate in this event become familiar with the technique of writing a statement of purpose, a statement of central idea, and an outline in complete sentences of the main heading and supporting material. In reading and studying magazines, the extemporaneous speaker should try to trace and evaluate developments, trends, tendencies and relationships of current events.
    - 2. An extemporaneous speaker is not expected to display the preparation and polish of a debater or orator. The student is supposed to have gathered a considerable fund of information relevant to the topic selected and the extemporaneous speech should test the ability to quickly select, organize and present those ideas in a unified, significant communication.
  - B. Original Oratory

1. Subject Matter: Theoretically, an orator may have any purpose. Students should be encouraged to deal with problems and subjects which concern them directly and of which they have personal knowledge and experience.
  2. Although emotional appeals are suitable in an oration, students should always support their main statements by evidence, explanation, comparison, factual or hypothetical illustrations, specific instances, testimony, or logical reasoning.
- C. Memorized Dramatic Interpretation
1. It is recommended that all selections should be obtained from the works of a writer of recognized stature, NOT from a "declamation agency" or a recording. It is recommended that overly dramatic or emotional material be avoided.
  2. Videos of previous final round performances are intended to provide educational examples for coaches and students. They are not intended to serve as a model to directly imitate or duplicate in performance. The wholesale interpretation of final round performances is strongly discouraged.
  3. Focus: In dramatic interpretation, use of focal points and/or direct contact with the audience should be determined by the requirements of the literature being interpreted.
  4. The interpreter of memorized dramatic literature should preface the interpretation by a few brief remarks to establish a personal contact with the audience and to help them achieve a receptive mood and frame of mind for the material to be presented. A dry, formal statement of biographical data should be avoided.
  5. Material should be thoroughly studied and analyzed, carefully practiced and prepared. The interpreter should remember, however, that the student is interpreting the author's work to the audience, not impersonating or directly presenting it.
- D. Memorized Duet Interpretation
1. The interpreters should preface their Memorized Duet Interpretation presentation by a few brief, informal extemporaneous remarks to establish a personal contact with the audience and to help them achieve a receptive mood and frame of mind for the material to be presented. A dry, formal statement of biographical data should be avoided.
  2. Material should be thoroughly studied and analyzed, carefully practiced and prepared. Thinterpreters should remember, however, that students are interpreting the author's work to the audience, not impersonating or directly presenting it.
  3. Videos of previous final round performances are intended to provide educational examples for coaches and students. They are not intended to serve as a model to directly imitate or duplicate in performance. The wholesale interpretation of final round performances is strongly discouraged.
- E. Manuscript Poetry Interpretation
1. Introduction. The interpreter in manuscript poetry interpretation should preface the reading by a few brief remarks to establish a personal contact with the audience and to help them achieve a receptive mood and frame of mind for the material to be read. A dry, formal statement of biographical data should be avoided.
  2. It is suggested that the reader have the materials to be read in a neat folder or notebook, easy to hold and handle, or a book, provided it can be easily handled. Loose paper, clippings, etc. should be avoided.
  3. Videos of previous final round performances are intended to provide educational examples for coaches and students. They are not intended to serve as a model to directly imitate or duplicate in performance. The wholesale interpretation of final round performances is strongly discouraged.
  4. Focus: In manuscript poetry, use of focal points and/or direct contact with the audience should be determined by the requirements of the literature being interpreted.
- F. Memorized Humorous Interpretation
1. Material should be thoroughly studied and analyzed, carefully practiced and prepared. The interpreter should remember, however, that the student is interpreting the author's work to the audience not impersonating or directly presenting it.
  2. Videos of previous final round performances are intended to provide educational examples for coaches and students. They are not intended to serve as a model to directly imitate or duplicate in performance. The wholesale interpretation of final round performances is strongly discouraged.
  3. Focus: In humorous interpretation, use of focal points and/or direct contact with the audience should be determined by the requirements of the literature being interpreted.
  4. The interpreter in memorized humorous interpretation should preface the presentation by a few brief remarks to establish a personal contact with the audience and to help them achieve a receptive mood and frame of mind for the material to be presented. A dry, formal statement of biographical data should be avoided.
- G. Program Oral Interpretation
1. Students who choose to compete in POI should focus on making an interesting argument that is supported in different ways by each piece of literature they select.
  2. A clear and significant theme should be evident
  3. Performances can also include an introduction written by the student to contextualize the performance and state the title and the author of each selection.

### 8.3.5 Constitution of of the Wyoming Speech and Debate Association

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be THE WYOMING SPEECH AND DEBATE ASSOCIATION.

## ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to unite those teachers with academic and professional interests in the field of speech and to facilitate the promotion and advancement of speech in all its phases in the schools of Wyoming. Activities will include cooperation with the Wyoming High School Activities Association in conducting inter-scholastic speech activities and meets, the development of speech curricula, the improvement of speech standards, the encouragement of professional affiliation, holding workshops and meetings, and other activities which will promote speech in Wyoming.

## ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Any teacher in Wyoming who is interested in speech may become a member upon the payment of annual dues.

Section 2: Only members who have declared their interests in speech and have paid their dues shall be eligible to vote or to seek office in the Association.

Section 3: Only paid-up members who are in good standing shall be considered in determining a quorum.

Section 4: Membership in the Association is not required of teachers or persons sponsoring students at the state forensics meet.

## ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

Section 1: The officers of the Association shall be a president, a vice-president/treasurer, a secretary and a public relations officer.

Section 2: The president shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the Association. He/she shall also preside at the meetings of the executive council, which he/she shall have the power to call. He/she shall have the power to appoint any necessary committees, and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, except the nominating committee. The president shall be authorized to represent the Association at meetings of other related organizations.

Section 3: The vice-president/treasurer shall act in the absence or disability of the president, and shall have all the powers and perform all the duties of the president. The vice-president/treasurer shall collect and keep all dues and other funds for the Association. He/she shall keep an accurate account of all receipts and expenditures and prepare a yearly financial statement to share with members at the fall state meeting. He/she shall maintain an official membership file and issue membership receipts.

Section 4: The secretary shall record the minutes of all regular and special meetings of the Association, as well as the minutes of all executive council meetings, to submit for approval at the state Association meetings for approval. B.J. He/she shall attend to the correspondence of the Association. The secretary shall communicate to the executive secretary of the Wyoming High School Activities Association all matters of Association business that pertain to the state forensics meet and other interscholastic speech activities. He/she shall have custody of the Constitution and the minutes archive document. He/she shall maintain an official membership file.

Section 5: The public relations officer shall be the administrator for the WSDA website, shall work to bring more public recognition to the Wyoming Speech and Debate community and shall facilitate communication among the WSDA members.

Section 6: It shall be the duty of all elected officers to attend the meetings of the executive council in order to handle the necessary matters of business that arise between other meetings.

## ARTICLE V: TERM OF OFFICE AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1: The officers shall serve for two years and shall continue in office until the end of the meeting at which new officers are elected.

Section 2: The election of officers shall be made during the spring meeting of the Association on odd-numbered years.

Section 3: Two nominations for each office shall be made by a nominating committee. Other Nominations may be made from the floor.

Section 4: A majority of the votes cast shall constitute an election to office.

Section 5: Vacancies in offices shall be filled by appointment made by the president, with the approval of the executive council.

## ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Section 1: The executive council shall consist of the elected officers of the Association and the immediate past president.

Section 2: The executive council shall conduct any necessary matters of business that arises between regular meetings. It may also serve in an advisory capacity in other matters of the Association.



## ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

Section 1: One regular meeting of the Association shall be held during the annual WHSFA Fall Convention, and one regular meeting shall be held during the annual state forensics meet in the spring.

Section 2: Special meetings may be called by the president and/or the executive council, if necessary, provided that all members are given ample notice of the meeting.

## ARTICLE VIII: VOTING

Section 1: On certain matters, such as election of officers and constitutional amendments, on which notices have been circulated to all members thirty days prior to the meeting, an absentee ballot may be cast.

Section 2: Absentee ballots must be delivered by voting time to the secretary in a signed and sealed envelope for counting.

Section 3: Voting for officers of the Association shall be done by using a ballot prepared by the nominating committee.

Section 4: Each member school or individual may exercise a vote on matters coming before the WHSFA. Each school has only one vote. Schools must be members in good standing prior to the State Tournament meeting.

## ARTICLE IX: QUORUM

Section 1: A quorum shall consist of at least 25% of the members in good standing.

## ARTICLE X: DUES

Section 1: The annual membership dues shall cover membership for one year beginning on October 1 and ending on September 30.

Section 2: In order to be a member school or individual, dues shall be payable at the fall meeting of the Association or before February 1.

## ARTICLE XI: COMMITTEES AND THEIR DUTIES

Section 1: A nominating committee of three people shall be elected at the fall meeting during the membership year in which new officers are to be elected. They will serve as a standing committee for that year.

The committee shall contact members about their interests and abilities to serve as an officer in the Association. The committee shall present two nominations for each office and prepare the voting ballot.

Section 2: A program committee of three people shall be appointed by the president to plan the program for the fall meeting. The plans for the program shall be submitted to the conference host for inclusion in the convention program.

Section 3: The president shall appoint any special committees and direct their duties at any time they are needed.

## ARTICLE XII: ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1: The order of business, for regular meetings of the Association shall be as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. Reading and approval of all minutes
4. Treasurers' report
5. Report from standing committees
6. Report from special committee
7. Unfinished business
8. New business
9. Program or other items
10. Adjournment

Section 2: There shall be no particular order of business for meetings of the executive council.

#### ARTICLE XIII: RULES OF ORDER

Section 1: All matters of procedures not specifically covered by this Constitution shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

#### ARTICLE XIV: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members in a regular meeting, provided that a written copy of the proposed amendment is presented to the secretary and to all members for consideration thirty days prior to the meeting voted upon.

March, 2002