

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization is the Nevada State Speech and Debate Association (NSSDA).

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES

- Section 1** To encourage and promote a broader, more extensive speech program at the high school level; to aid in the development of curricular and extracurricular public speaking activities.
- Section 2** To assist in the organization of the State Speech & Debate Tournament which determines the State winners in Individual Events, Debate, and Student Congress.

ARTICLE III – STRUCTURE

Section 1 Membership

- A. Membership in the Nevada State Speech and Debate Association will be open to all schools in the State of Nevada upon payment of state dues.
- B. School membership is represented by the head coach, a person appointed by the school to advise speech and debate activities.

Section 2 Functions

- A. The NSSDA decides all constitutional concerns.
- B. The NSSDA serves as a hearing committee to hear any coach who does not agree with policies or decisions made by the NSSDA.

Section 3 Voting

- A. Each school has one vote regardless of how many individuals coach at that school.
- B. A quorum will consist of the member schools present at officially designated meetings.
- C. A coach may give a proxy vote to another coach or school district employee if a coach is unable to attend the State Tournament.

Section 4 Dues

- A. The dues are set at \$55.00 per school. Each Nevada school must be notified by November 15 of each year as to the name and addresses of the association treasurer.
- B. Annual fees are payable with State Tournament entry fees.
- C. **Schools awarded any sweepstakes trophies or bowls are responsible for bringing the award(s) to the state tournament. If the award is misplaced, the school is responsible for paying for its replacement.**
- D. **Schools owing outstanding balances, or trophies/bowls, will not be allowed to compete at the state tournament.**
- E. Dues payment directly supports the State Tournament.
- F. Upon approval of the Executive Committee, monies may be used to cover additional expenses.

ARTICLE IV – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Section 1** The executive committee is comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Host. If the tournament Host fulfills another duty on the committee, an at-large member will be elected..

Section 2 The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the NSSDA, along with the Host of the State Tournament, will be elected by the NSSDA membership every year at the State Forensic Tournament. The President and Host must be from the same region. No more than 3 committee members may be from the same region of the state.

Section 3 Executive Committee

- A. Oversees the planning of the State Forensics Tournament.
- B. Follows the NSSDA constitutional procedures as its top priority. These procedures may be adjusted only in an emergency and with a unanimous vote of the committee.
- C. Determines exceptions to all deadlines.
- D. Is not empowered to make constitutional changes during the State Forensic Tournament.
- E. Establishes coach duties and assign responsibilities, maintaining parity between regions, for the State Tournament.
- F. Meets virtually or in-person when necessary to discuss constitutional concerns.

Section 4 President

- A. Obtains a current mailing list of active members by communicating with representatives in each region.
- B. Reminds the treasurer to notify all Nevada Schools to pay their Association dues.
- C. Arranges for tabulation software.
- D. Ensures paneling of the tournament.
- E. Posts the tournament invitation.
- F. Ensures the invitation includes the deadline for congress legislation with enough time for schools to receive legislation and have two weeks of prep time.
- G. Reminds schools to bring sweepstakes trophies to the State Tournament.
- H. Sees to the provision of proper ballots and tabulation sheets. (See attached ballots). [Ballots to be designed by committee and attached following acceptance]
- I. Prepares and disseminates a printed agenda to be used at the State coaches meeting.
- J. Presides at all NSSDA meetings.
- K. Resolves minor tournament problems.
- L. Hosts awards assembly.

Section 5 Vice President

- A. Coordinates Congressional Debate according to NSDA guidelines:
 - 1. Collects student legislation.
 - 2. Sets the docket according to random draw.
 - 3. Distributes legislation and docket to all schools a minimum of two weeks prior to the tournament.
- B. Oversees Congressional Debate during the State Tournament, or works with an appointed Congressional Debate Coordinator.

Section 6 Secretary

- A. Takes minutes of the State Tournament coaches' meeting.
- B. Updates the Constitution.
- C. Sends copies of the minutes and the updated Constitution to the member schools.
- D. Maintains NSSDA records (trophy list, vendor information, minutes, budgets, etc. as determined by Committee) in hard copy to be transferred to next secretary at each State Tournament.
- E. Keeps a permanent record of the location of the sweepstakes trophies.

Section 7 Treasurer

- A. Coordinates with the President to supply correct information regarding the State Tournament Invitation to all members of the NSSDA.
- B. Receives and disburses the funds of the Association as directed by the President and/or the Committee and/or the membership.
- C. Keeps financial accounts current.
- D. Gives financial accounting at the State coaches meeting.
- E. Arranges for trophy replacements as needed.
- F. Sends suggested budget to the Host, including last three Tournaments' expenses.
- G. Sends Treasurer's report to Secretary for inclusion in NSSDA history.

Section 8 Tournament Host

- A. The Host is the coach of the school where the tournament is located.
 - 1. Duties:
 - a. Secures facility.
 - b. Provides for coaches and judges rooms.
 - c. Coordinates with the President for all tab room supplies and ballots.
 - d. Blocks rooms and provides a list of motels to the President to be sent out with the entry forms.
 - e. Provides a concession stand for students.
 - f. Provides hospitality for the coaches and judges.
 - g. Submits itemized receipts to treasurer for reimbursement.
 - h. Assists with awards assembly.
 - i. Orders State Tournament trophies.

Section 9 Vacancies

- A. The President may appoint a coach to fill a vacant office maintaining regional parity.
- B. If the President's office is vacated, the Executive Committee will promote a committee member to president.

ARTICLE V – THE STATE TOURNAMENT

Section 1 Tournament Personnel

- A. Tabulation Room Personnel
 - 1. Check entry forms for accuracy and completeness and follows the procedures to correct problems.
 - 2. Review paneling of tournament.
 - 3. Audits tournament results.
- B. Judges
 - 1. Distribute/Assign and collect ballots
 - 2. Check ballots for errors
 - 3. Judges will be provided by the host region.

Section 2 Entries

- A. The following events will be offered at this tournament:
 - 1. Policy Debate
 - 2. Lincoln-Douglas Debate
 - 3. Public Forum Debate
 - 4. Congressional Debate
 - 5. Oratory

6. Dramatic Interpretation
 7. Humorous Interpretation
 8. Duo Interpretation
 9. Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking
 10. International Extemporaneous Speaking
 11. Informative Speaking
 12. Program Oral Interpretation
- B. Each school may have two (2) entries in Policy Debate, two (2) entries in Lincoln-Douglas Debate, two (2) entries in Public Forum, three (3) entries in Congressional Debate, and two (2) entries in each Individual Event.
 - C. A student may enter one event in debate, and up to two events in speech/individual events. Students may not enter both extemporaneous events.
 1. Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum, Congressional Debate
 2. Original Oratory, Humorous Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, International Extemporaneous Speaking, Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking, and Expository Speaking.
 - D. Entry fees are \$12.00 per student per event; team events are \$24.00.
 - E. Fee invoices will reflect entry fees assessed at the registration deadline. Fees will be set at the entry deadline.
 - F. The deadline for entry fee payment is fourteen (14) days after the tournament. Schools that do not meet the 14-day deadline will be assessed a \$50 late fee. Schools will not be eligible for the following year's state tournament until their balance, including the late fee, has been paid.
 - G. The host region is responsible for providing judges based on judge quota.
 - H. Each school of the host region must provide one judge for every four (4) entries or fraction thereof of their entries for the entire tournament.
 - I. A contestant may not use the same Oratory or Expository speech in competition for more than one school year.
 1. Oratory and Informative are two separate events, requiring two separate speeches.
 - J. Interpretive Event script selection, cuttings and performance must follow NSDA Guidelines.
 - K. Scripts
 1. Interpretation
 - a. See Addendum I for cover sheets, which must be filled out and brought with the entry form and available at State.
 - b. Xeroxed copies of the following must be brought with the entry form and submitted to the tab room:
 1. Title page
 2. Copyright page
 3. Pages from which the cutting was taken
 - c. Typed copy of introduction and any transitions must be included with the script.
 - d. Actual words used must be highlighted or underlined on the xeroxed copy.
 2. Oratory and Informative
 - a. See Addendum II for cover sheets, which must be filled out and sent with entry form and available at State.
 - b. A xeroxed copy of typed script must be submitted with registration
 - c. Quoted material must be underlined or highlighted and cited.

Section 3 Event Rules

- A. The rules for policy, lincoln-douglas, public forum debate and all individual events should be the same as those for the National Speech and Debate Association.
- B. If a student is called to speak and is present but doesn't speak, then the student should be declared a *no show*. Only a majority vote by the executive committee can overturn this decision.
- C. No one is allowed to flow a debate round except those two teams competing in the round and the assigned judges.
- D. Any complaints for violations of rules should be brought to the executive committee for

adjudication.

- E. An entry will forfeit a round if the individual or team arrives fifteen minutes late provided that the judge shall have been waiting for that period of time unless approved by Tab.
- F. Unless the judge deems it necessary to excuse unruly audience members, all rounds are open.
- G. Any student using a script in OO, INF, DI, HI, or DUO or note cards during an extemp round will be disqualified from the tournament. A formal protest must be made to the State Committee and an inquiry conducted into the allegation. Disqualification will happen from the round the protest was issued and previous round ranks will be adjusted.

Section 4 Congressional Debate Rules

- A. Legislation
 - 1. Two pieces of legislation may be submitted per school. One piece of legislation should be designated "Preliminary Round," and the second piece should be designated "Super Congress." Unlimited 'at-large' legislation may be submitted by all schools.
 - 2. Legislation and docket order will be distributed at least two weeks prior to the tournament.
 - 3. NSDA guidelines must be followed for the presentation of legislation (line numbering, etc.).
 - 4. There will be no authorship speeches.

- B. Presiding Officer
 - 1. Qualified Presiding Officers will be determined by regions prior to the tournament.
 - 2. During the preliminary sessions, no more than four students will serve as temporary chair.
 - 3. If more than four qualified students wish to be chair, students will draw lots.
 - 4. There may not be more than one student from each school trying out for Presiding Officer in each chamber.
 - 5. The Permanent Presiding Officer will surrender his/her #5 priority card for his/her first hour of presiding, his/her #4 priority card for the second hour of presiding, etc.
 - 6. By plurality in each chamber, student legislators shall select the presiding officer.
 - 7. Each Presiding Officer will run for one 2 hour session at a time.

- C. Preliminary Round Scoring
 - 1. There will be two 2 hour preliminary sessions
 - 2. Each preliminary round will be scored by a different judge.
 - 3. Depending on entry size, judges will rank the top 5-7 students in each chamber. Students not marked up will receive a score of 6-8 (depending on entry size) for the round.
 - 4. Students will use the same set of priority cards in all preliminary rounds. Each student will receive a total of 5 priority cards.
 - 5. Judges shall not consult in preparing their ballots. Ballots must be prepared and submitted independently.
 - 6. One judge is mandatory for each preliminary session, but two judges are preferred.
 - 7. The Parliamentarian will remain the same throughout all three preliminary sessions. At the conclusion of the last preliminary session, the Parliamentarian will rank all students in the chamber. Parliamentarian ranks will be used according to the NSDA scoring parameters.

- D. Semi-Finals Congress
 - E. The five to seven (depending on entry size) competitors with the lowest cumulative rank from each chamber will advance to Semi-finals in Congress
 - F. No legislator who has given less than two speeches may become one of the six top speakers in a chamber.
 - G. There will be no authorship speeches.
 - H. There will be no student presiding officer. One coach will serve as presiding officer and one coach will serve as parliamentarian in each chamber. In order to maintain

geographical balance, when possible, one coach should be from the North and one from the South.

- I. The Parliamentarian will rank all students in the chamber at the end of the Semi-finals Congress session. Parliamentarian ranks will be used according to the NSDA scoring parameters.
 - J. Competitors will begin Semi-finals Congress with a clean slate. There will be no prior records, and all students will receive a new set of priority cards.
 - K. Each chamber shall have three judges for the Super Congress session.
- L. Super Congress (finals)
1. The five to seven (depending on entry size) competitors with the lowest cumulative rank from each semi-final chamber will advance to the Super Congress.
 2. No legislator who has given less than two speeches may become one of the six top speakers in a chamber.
 3. There will be no authorship speeches.
 4. There will be no student presiding officer. One coach will serve as presiding officer and one coach will serve as parliamentarian in each chamber. In order to maintain geographical balance, when possible, one coach should be from the North and one from the South.
 5. The Parliamentarian will rank all students in the chamber at the end of the Super Congress session. Parliamentarian ranks will be used according to the NSDA scoring parameters.
 6. Competitors will begin Super Congress with a clean slate. There will be no prior records, and all students will receive a new set of priority cards.
 7. There shall be three judges for the Super Congress session.

Section 5 Paneling

- A. Competitors will be assigned a code that indicates school and individual/team.
- B. Individual Events
 1. There will be three preliminary rounds.
 2. Scheduling:
 - a. Prelims
 1. There will be 5 to 7 contestant in a panel, with 6 being ideal.
 2. Equal numbers from each of the two regions will be in every panel whenever possible.
 3. Pieces with the same title will not be placed in the same preliminary round, whenever possible.
 4. Contestants from the same school will not meet whenever possible.
 5. Contestants will not meet each other in subsequent rounds if avoidable.
 6. Same school contestants who have met previously will not be paired again.
 - b. Final Round
 1. There should be 5 to 7 contestants in a panel with 6 being ideal.
 - c. If, after preliminary rounds, the cumulative total ties at 6, the size of the round goes to 7. If it ties at 7, go to 5.
- C. Debate Pairings
 1. There will be four preliminary rounds.
 2. No teams from the same school will meet in preliminary rounds, quarters, or semis.
 3. Teams will be paired randomly, but teams will not meet teams from the same region when possible in Rounds I and II.
 4. Teams will not hit the same team in rounds 2 or 3 if possible. Same-team meetings should

be avoided in round 4 if possible.

5. Round III and IV:
 - a. Power high/low within the following brackets:
 1. Round III 2-0, 1-1, 0-2
 2. Round IV 3-0, 2-1, 1-2, 0-3
 - b. Pairing priorities are as follows (in order for most important to first to be broken): 1. School Protect, Priors Met, Side Constraints, Region Protect.
 - c. To accommodate uneven brackets, the top team from the next lower bracket will be moved up and paired against the top seed of the upper bracket.
6. Byes
 - a. Rounds I and II: Random from all schools. One school cannot get two byes. (THIS MUST BE DISCUSSED BY THE MEMBERSHIP!!!!)
 - b. Round III and succeeding rounds: Random from bottom bracket. Any school may receive a bye.
7. Out Rounds – Matched high/low. Flip for sides if debaters have not met before. Public Forum debaters will always flip.

D. Congressional Debate

1. The preliminary legislative sessions will total a minimum of five (5) hours.
2. Super Congress will be a minimum of two (2) hours.

E. Judges

1. One judge will be used per panel in preliminary rounds, except in Congress where three judges are preferred.
2. Three judges will be used in out rounds, including Super Congress.
3. **Judge's Instructions shall be given using the attached Judge's Instructions Guidelines (to be written by committee later).**
4. Hired judges may be used when necessary and approved by the Executive Committee.
5. **The use of Dirty judges:** Clean judges (meaning that judge has not judged any of the competitors in that same event at the tournament) will be used for prelim rounds. In the event that clean judges are not available for the semi-final and final rounds of debate, a dirty judge (meaning a judge that has seen one of the competitors in that event at that tournament) may be used if coaches from both teams agree to the use of a dirty judge.
6. **Strike Policy:** A school may strike up to three judges for the State Tournament. No questions asked. A re-strike may be called for if we need to use more judges, in the case of a re-strike, schools will be asked to re-evaluate their three strikes, and cut their list down to two, and so on as long as judges are needed to maintain progress of the tournament.

Section 6 Tabulation

A. Tie Breaking

1. Individual Events
 - a. Speaker rankings
 - b. Quality ratings
 - c. Judges' preference in final round
2. Debate
 - a. Win-Loss
 - b. Speaker Rank (Policy or PF) OR Speaker/Team Points (LD)
 - c. Speaker/Team Points (Policy or PF)
3. Congressional Debate
 - a. Judge's Preference
 - b. Reciprocal Fractions
 - c. Adjusted Cumulative Rank Total after dropping the highest and lowest ranks
 - d. Judge's Preference of Adjusted Cumulative Rank Total

- e. Reciprocals of Adjusted Cumulative Rank Total
- f. Rank by the Parliamentarian

B. Sweepstakes Points

1. Individual Events: In all individual events, total sum of prelims and finals be used to determine the final placement.
 - a. Preliminary rounds: Cumulative ranking equals points
 - 3 – 15 = 4 points
 - 6 – 18 = 3 points
 - 9 – 11 = 2 points
 - 12+ = 1 point
 - b. Final placement:
 - 1st place = 11 points
 - 2nd place = 8 points
 - 3rd place = 5 points
 - 4th place = 4 points
 - 5th place = 3 points
 - 6th/7th place = 2 point
2. Debate (Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, and Public Forum)
 - a. Preliminary rounds: Cumulative record equals points
 - 4 – 0 = 5 points
 - 3 – 1 = 4 points
 - 2 – 2 = 3 points
 - 1 – 3 = 2 points
 - 0 – 4 = 1 point
 - b. If there are a minimum of 30 teams, quarters finals will be held, with each non-advancing quarter finalists team receiving 4 sweepstakes points. If quarters can not be held due to lack of time or judge availability, then the following scoring system will be used.

If there are a minimum of 20 entries, the 4 debaters/teams that rank fifth (5th) through eighth (8th) after 4 rounds will not advance into the semi-final rounds; however, they will be recognized as non-advancing quarter-finalists, and each debater/team will earn 4 sweeps points.
 - c. Semi-final round:
 - Win = 10 points
 - Loss = 5 points
 - d. Final round:
 - Win = 15 points
 - Loss = 10 points

C. Congressional Debate

- a. Preliminary rounds: Cumulative record equals points
 - 5-9 = 5 points
 - 10-19 = 4 points
 - 20-29 = 3 points
 - 29-39 = 2 points
 - 40+ = 1 point
- b. Each student who advances to Semi-Finals will receive .5 sweepstakes points.
- c. Each student who advances to Super Congress but does not place will receive one sweeps point.

- d. First through sixth place in each chamber shall be awarded the following sweepstakes points:
 - 1st place = 11 points
 - 2nd place = 8 points
 - 3rd place = 5 points
 - 4th place = 4 points
 - 5th place = 3 points
 - 6th/7th place = 2 point

D. Students must compete in all preliminary rounds (including byes) to be counted for Sweepstakes.

Section 7 Trophies

A. Types

- 1. Sweepstakes
 - a. Overall, first, second, and third place trophies shall be awarded to schools in the large school division. First and second place trophies shall be awarded schools in the small school division.
 - 1. Small School determination: Schools may apply for small school status if they meet one or more of the following criteria: 1. Small school size (1000 students or less) 2. Club only (schools that don't have a class) 3. Socioeconomic constraints 4. New programs. Schools will need to apply stating their reasons for wanting to be a small school using the above criteria. The state committee will decide before the tournament who is consider small school.
 - b. Traveling event bowls: Event sweepstakes bowls will be awarded to the school with the most points in respective events. In the case of a tie, the school with the competitor/team that places the highest in that event shall earn the bowl for that year.
- 2. Speech and Congressional Debate
 - a. Trophies will be awarded to 1st through 6th place finalists. Each member of a duo interpretation team in finals will receive a trophy.
- 3. Debate Events
 - b. Trophies will be awarded to 1st place, 2nd place, semi-finalists, and quarter-finalists in each debate. Trophies will be awarded to each member of a policy or PF team.

ARTICLE VI – PROTESTS

- A. During the Tournament: protests should be lodged in writing according to the following procedure:
 - 1. Coaches must present the protest in writing to the President.
 - 2. The President informs any other coaches involved in the protest.
 - 3. The President calls a meeting of the coaches involved in the dispute. In addition to the two coaches involved, the Executive Committee will be included in the meeting.
 - a. In the case of a protest involving a coach on the Executive Committee, another coach from that region will be temporarily appointed. The President will select the appointee to the committee.
 - b. In the case of a protest involving the President, the Vice-President will select the appointee.
 - 4. Each coach involved in the dispute will present his/her side.
 - 5. The Secretary will take minutes of the meeting.
 - 6. A secret written vote will be taken.
 - 7. The president votes in the case of a tie.
 - 8. The vote of the hearing committee is final.

B. After the Tournament

1. The coach with the complaint will write a letter to the President in office during the Tournament and to the other school(s) involved in the dispute, describing the problem.
2. The other schools involved will respond in writing to the President.
3. The letters will be forwarded to the Executive Committee members who held office during the Tournament.
4. The Executive Committee will vote.
5. An appeal may be made to all association members.
6. The members of the Association vote.
7. The vote of the Association is final.
8. At no time will a coach involved in the dispute be allowed to vote on the dispute.

Addendum I

Nevada State Speech & Debate Association

Humorous – Dramatic – Duo--POI

(Student Name)

(Title of Selection and Author's Name)

(Student's School)

(Number of Added Words)

Please attach this sheet to the front of your script. Coaches must have scripts with them at the tournament.

According to Article V Sec. 2-K (1):

Bring a photocopy of the typed script to the tournament with the following information:

1. Cover Page
2. Title Page
3. Copyright Page
4. Pages from which the cutting is taken
5. Typed copies of introduction and any transitions

(Student Signature)

(Coach Signature)

Nevada State Speech & Debate Association

Original Oratory – Informative

(Student Name)

(Title of Speech)

(Student's School)

(Number of Quoted Words)

Please attach this sheet to the front of your script. Coaches must have scripts with them at the tournament.

According to Article V Sec. 2-K (2):

Bring a photocopy of the typed script to the tournament with the following information:

1. Cover Page
2. Photocopy of the typed script.
3. Quoted material underlined or highlighted.
4. Quoted material referenced (footnote or works cited)

(Student Signature)

(Coach Signature)