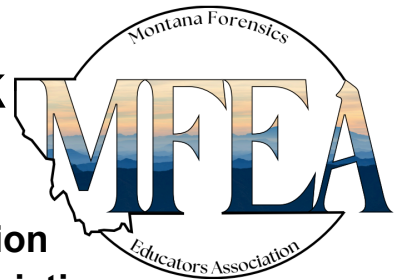




MHSA Handbook 2026-2027

Montana High School Association
Montana Forensic Educators Association



WELCOME TO COACHING SPEECH, DRAMA, AND DEBATE IN MONTANA!
AS A COACH, YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO:

1. Communicate with our MHSA liaison, Amy Bartels at abartels@mhsa.org to let her know your preferred email and phone contact information.
2. Read and follow the Forensic and Drama Rule Book.
3. Read the MFEA Constitution and the MHSA website at mhsa.org.
4. Check the MHSA website regularly for updates.
5. Pay coaches' dues to the MFEA Treasurer.
 - a. Dues paid on or before December 1st are \$40/coach, after December 1st are \$60/coach.
 - b. ***Coaches whose dues are not received by the treasurer by Jan. 1 will not be allowed to enter the tab room at Divisionals or State (See IX.B.3, X.B.3).***
 - c. Mail dues to: Becky Nay, Huntley Project HS, 1477 Ash Street, Worden, MT 59088.
6. Register your team for invitational and postseason meets in a timely fashion with the most accurate information available.
7. Schedule your invitational tournament.
 - a. Meet with your Athletic Director to select an available date to host.
 - b. Have your AD confirm the date with MHSA.
 - c. Reach out to fellow coaches for help organizing and hosting.
8. For more information, access the MFEA website: [MFEA Website](#)
9. For tournament information contact the host coach of the tournament.

MHSA Handbook

2026-2027

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SCHOOLS REGISTERED FOR FORENSIC AND DRAMA ACTIVITIES

School list may be accessed on the MHSA website or follow the link below. www.mhsa.org
[2026-2027 Registered Schools - Forensic and Drama Activities](#)

INTRODUCTION

This booklet contains detailed information concerning all interschool speech and drama events in which member schools of the Montana High School Association may participate. Persons receiving this booklet are urged to read it carefully and retain it for reference purposes.

Much of the information contained in this booklet is also found under the Forensic and Drama Section of the Montana High School Association Handbook. Coaches are encouraged to visit the MHSA website for additional information.

Items Changed Since Last Year in Bold and Italic Print

All rule and regulatory revisions, changes, and new items are noted in bold, italic print throughout this booklet.

Montana High School Association

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MHSA Forensic and Rulebook Committee

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Doug McConnaha, A Representative

Cody Marney, B Representative

Jeri Gustafson, C Representative

Amy Bartels, MHSA

Whitefish

Helena

Huntley Project

Glendive

Bozeman

Corvallis

Choteau

Culbertson

Helena

FORENSIC AND DRAMA RULES AND REGULATIONS

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Supervision

1. The state shall be divided into a convenient number of forensic and drama divisions by the Executive Board upon recommendation of the MHSA Forensic and Drama Committee.
2. The Montana High School Association shall supervise and control interschool forensic and drama activities in those divisions.
3. The regular MHSA bulletins shall carry information to member schools concerning speech, debate, and drama activities similar to the information carried concerning athletic and other activities.

B. Approval of Participation

1. Any school not participating in forensics and drama the previous year may request permission for placement to participate competitively on an interschool basis by indicating its desire to do so by written notice to the Executive Director's office by September 1 of the current school year.

C. Rules and Regulations

1. In the interests of uniformity, standing rules will be formulated by the MHSA Forensic and Drama Committee and the Executive Board. Such rules will be followed in conducting Divisional, State, and invitational speech, debate, and drama meets unless specified in the letter of invitation.
2. The Executive Board of the Montana High School Association shall authorize publication in the annual Association Handbook a section on speech, debate, and drama activities containing the rules and regulations.

D. Record Keeping

1. The state association office shall keep a complete file and record of all speech and drama activities. It shall be the depository for filing records and other speech, debate, and drama materials necessary to carry out the complete speech, debate, and drama program.
2. Such information will be furnished to member schools as is approved by the MHSA Forensic Committee and the Executive Board.

II. ORGANIZATION

A. Forensic and Drama Divisions

1. Schools will be divided into three classes, Class AA, Class A, and Class B-C. The sixteen schools classified as Class AA for athletics shall be classified as Class AA for speech activities. All other schools that participate in speech, debate, and/or drama will be classified as Class A or B-C.
2. For competition among the Class AA schools, only a State meet will be held. There shall be four conferences within two divisions among the Class A schools as follows: The Eastern Division will consist of the Northeast and Southeast Conferences, and the Western Division will consist of the Northwest and Southwest Conferences. There shall be three divisions among the B-C schools as follows: Eastern, Northern, and Southern.

3. Each forensic and drama division shall select officers from member schools to conduct interschool speech, debate, and drama activities in that division. They shall determine the organization of the speech debate, and drama contests in the division. They shall determine the Divisional meet site in the A and B-C divisions and conduct Divisional speech, debate, and drama activities in accordance with the rules and regulations established by the Montana High School Association.

B. Teams and Student Eligibility

1. Only teams from member high schools may participate in MHSA Divisional and State forensics tournaments.
2. For a student to be eligible to represent his/her school in any interschool speech, debate, and/or drama activity, s/he must comply with the following criteria:
 - a) A student must be enrolled twenty hours per week and in regular attendance ten hours per week at the school where the student participates. Regular attendance is defined as actual physical presence in the building (bricks and mortar).
 - b) A student who is enrolled in the eighth grade shall be eligible to participate in all MHSA events. There is no restriction in place for participation of this 8th grade student at his/her middle school and/or high school of which s/he will be participating. All eighth-grade students participating must meet the academic requirements. All eighth-grade students participating in a high school contest must adhere to all other MHSA rules and guidelines. Committed to a contest at the high school level, the eighth-grade student may not also participate in that same sport at a level under high school concurrently.

INTERPRETATION: Each individual MHSA school district must adopt by school board action policies whether or not they allow 8th grade participation.

Exception: students who are enrolled and participating in a transformational learning program in their school that meets a district's proficiency-based learning requirements pursuant to the adopted policies of the local school board are exempt from the ten hours per week bricks and mortar requirement.

Exception: Non-public or home school students who meet the requirements of 20-5-109 can participate in MHSA member school extra-curricular activities with the following stipulations:

- 1) The same standards for participation must be met as those required of full-time students enrolled in the school (besides enrollment).
- 2) The same rules of the MHSA apply including age, semesters, and academics (see #3).
- 3) The academic eligibility for extracurricular participation for a student attending a nonpublic school must be attested by the head administrator of the nonpublic school. The academic eligibility for extracurricular participation for students attending a home school must be attested in writing by the educator providing the student instruction with verification by the MHSA school principal. Academic eligibility includes provisions 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4.
- 4) The student may only participate in the school in the student's attendance area and cannot transfer.

- c) A grading period is defined as one semester. A semester is defined as one half of a school year (approximately 18 school weeks or 90 days). This definition is applicable to all schools regardless of the type of class scheduling format utilized (i.e. block, traditional, trimester, etc.).
 - d) A student must have received a passing grade and received credit in at least twenty periods of prepared class work or its equivalent in the last previous semester, at the school where the student participates.
 - e) A student must have received a passing grade and received credit in at least twenty periods of prepared work per week or its equivalent during the last preceding semester in which he/she was enrolled.
 - f) If a student is assigned an "incomplete" or a "condition" in a subject, s/he has not received a passing grade in this subject. The record at the end of the semester is final.
 - g) No student may establish eligibility concurrently at two-member schools. Dual enrollment is not recognized for the purpose of eligibility in MHSA activities.
 - h) This rule is not applicable to IDEA '04 and Section 504 students when their individual education plans (IEP) under IDEA or their educational accommodation plans under Section 504 certify that the students are not required to meet this minimum academic requirement to have passed twenty hours of prepared work per week. However, all students must be enrolled in twenty hours per week and in regular attendance ten hours per week. Special education or Section 504 certification that the student is not required to meet the minimum academic requirements may not be enacted retroactively (after grades have been assigned at the end of the previous semester).
 - i) A student: 1) must not be a graduate of a four-year high school or of a secondary school with similar graduation requirements, 2) must not have earned enough credits to have graduated and completed eight semesters of high school, and 3) must not have a GED or HiSET.
- 3. The team that shall represent any high school member shall be selected by that school in any manner agreed upon by the principals, teachers, and students at that school.
 - 4. The MHSA prohibits any use and/or possession of tobacco, alcohol, or other mood-altering drugs during competition. Violation will cause the coach or participant to be disqualified from further participation in that event.

C. Student Special Considerations

- 1. Special considerations implemented for a student identified under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or 504 shall not infringe upon the rights of other competitors. Accommodation should be made as not to create an unfair advantage but rather level the playing field.
- 2. When accommodation needs to be made, the individual team or coach should attempt to do so within the rules and regulations mandated by MHSA and MFEA.
- 3. Requested accommodations to rules must be an inherent part of a current IDEA Individual Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan.
- 4. It is the coaches' responsibility to inform event organizers of needed accommodations so that the information can be disseminated to those impacted.

D. Season and Tournaments

1. Practice and competition for interschool speech and drama shall begin October 1st or the first full week in October and conclude with the MHSA State Speech and Drama Meets on the last weekend in January EXCEPT, member schools holding a valid NSDA (National Speech & Debate Association) membership will be permitted to participate in the Montana District, the NSDA High School National Tournament, and the NSDA Last-Chance Qualifier, after the speech and drama meets.
2. Individual instruction (coaching) is acceptable after the season on a one-on-one basis - i.e. one entry per coach(es). Instruction on a one-on-one basis out of season cannot be required of any student. The intent of allowing one-on-one instruction is to provide the opportunity for a student to improve his/her skills if s/he requests assistance.
3. The team coaching rule is suspended from June 1 - July 31. This means a coach of a team can coach his/her speech/drama students anytime, anywhere, during this period.
4. Students cannot be required to attend out-of-season practices, camps, or contests.
5. Schools cannot in any way sponsor, finance, promote, or be affiliated with any out-of-season events or tournaments. During the regular season, a student may travel to only six two-day meets. If his/her school is hosting a two-day meet, this will not count in the limitation of the six two-day meets. The MHSA Divisional, State, or NSDA District meets will not count toward the limit of two-day meets.
6. During the regular season, a student may participate in a maximum of eleven interschool meets. The limit on the number of meets that a student may participate in shall not include MHSA Divisional and State tournaments, or the Montana District National Speech & Debate Association tournament for member schools.
7. Approval will not be granted for any member school to participate in any speech and/or drama meet lasting longer than two days.

Any student that is found to be in violation of the above rules will be ineligible for Divisional and State meets for the current year and, in addition, his or her school may be subject to a penalty to be imposed by the Executive Board of the Montana High School Association.

8. Invitational meets: Any interstate meet in which four or more schools participate or which involves three or more state high school associations, any interstate meet where travel is more than 300 miles one way, or any interdivision meet involving three or more schools must have prior approval of the Montana High School Association Forensic and Drama Committee and Executive Board. See Rule (I4), Association and Executive Board Rules and Regulations. The MHSA Executive Board has authorized the Executive Director to approve the invitational schedule.
9. Online NSDA Springboard Scrimmage events taking place during the regular season are exempt from the interstate meet restrictions and will not count toward a student's 11 interschool meet maximum. Any costs incurred due to participation in these events will be the responsibility of the individual competitors.
10. In circumstances where a school brings a JV squad to an invitational in addition to its varsity squad, and under a separate code number, that JV squad shall not compete for sweepstakes rankings.
11. Opportunity for extra entries must be stated in the invitation.
12. Tournament hosts must clearly indicate in the original invitation all entry deadlines and fees, including drop fees and any deviations from the MHSA/MFEA rulebook.

13. Tournaments must initially offer all sanctioned events of their classification (See Section II.E.) during their tournament registration periods. If fewer than 8 participants are registered for an event once the registration deadline has passed, tournament directors may cancel the event. Tournament directors should communicate with participating schools on these issues in an attempt to seek resolutions in the best interest of participating students.
14. Tournament directors are strongly encouraged to distribute approved judging instructions with each judge's comment sheet **and offer a judge training**.
15. Only coaches who are paid coaches or are MFEA members or volunteer coaches pre-approved by the tournament director may be in the tab room.

E. Sanctioned Events

1. The following events are approved for Classes AA, A, B, and C except as noted:
 - a) Extemporaneous Speaking - solo event
 - b) Impromptu Speaking - solo event
 - c) Informative Speaking - solo event
 - d) Memorized Public Address - solo event
 - e) Oral Interpretation of Literature - Humorous - solo event
 - f) Oral Interpretation of Literature - Dramatic - solo event
 - g) Original Oratory - solo event
 - h) Lincoln-Douglas Debate - solo event
 - i) Policy Debate - duo event
 - j) Legislative Debate - solo event (Class AA only)
 - k) Duo Oral Interpretation of Literature - duo event
 - l) Program Oral Interpretation of Literature - solo event
 - m) Public Forum Debate - duo event
 - n) Humorous Acting - solo and theatre event (Classes A and B-C)
 - o) Dramatic Acting - solo and theatre event (Classes A and B-C)
 - p) Classic Theatre - theatre event (Classes A and B-C)
 - q) Pantomime - solo event (Classes A and B-C)
 - r) Spontaneous Oral Interpretation - solo event (Class B-C only)

****On October 1 in years ending in an odd number, B/C schools will host Public Forum Debate as an event. On October 1 in years ending in an even number, B/C schools will host Policy Debate as an event.***

F. Divisional and State Tournaments

State tournaments

All Classes _____ **January 29-30, 2027**
 AA - Great Falls A - East Helena B-C - Choteau

1. The schools classified as Class AA will be allowed to enter the State tournament without qualification through a Divisional tournament.

2. There are two Divisional tournaments for the schools classified as Class A and the contests for all speech, debate, and drama events will be held on the same dates. Each tournament will be hosted in a single school district. The contestants will qualify to enter the State Class A Tournament by placing in the Divisional meet.
3. There are three Divisional tournaments for the schools classified as Class B-C and the contest for all speech, debate, and drama events will be held on the same dates. Each tournament will be hosted in a single school district. The contestants will qualify to enter the State Class B-C Tournament by placing at the Divisional meet. Each contestant in Divisional and State tournaments will be allowed to enter one speech or one drama event.
4. No school is required to take part in any tournament, but when once entered under the plan outlined, schools shall carry out their part of the program in fairness to all other schools represented.
5. Dates: The dates for the Divisional and State speech, debate, and drama meets shall be determined by the Executive Board of the Montana High School Association.
6. Sites and directors: The sites and directors of the State speech, debate, and drama meets shall be determined by the MHSA Executive Board upon recommendation of the MHSA Forensics and Drama Committee.
7. ***All schools hosting a postseason event are required to submit an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) to the MHSA. All judges and event staff must be provided with a copy of the EAP to ensure that every room with participants has a clear understanding of procedures in the event of an emergency.***
8. Rules: All MHSA rules must apply. Tournament procedure accepted by MHSA must be followed.
9. The Divisional tournament managers and State tournament managers shall make the final decision concerning coach conduct. The Divisional tournament managers are selected by the division membership, and the State tournament managers are selected by the MHSA Executive Board.
10. Arbitration: The Executive Committee from the Montana Forensics Educators Association, which consists of the president and vice president of the M.F.E.A. and chairperson of the Class AA and the A and B-C interim committees, shall serve as an arbitration committee between the tournament directors and the high school coaches.

III. ETHICS

1. A debater may not watch another debate round until eliminated.
2. Spectators taking notes in a debate will be allowed only if all four team debaters or both LD debaters approve. In elimination rounds spectators, excluding paid or volunteer coaches, will be allowed to take notes.
3. No electronic recordings of any competition rounds will be allowed.
4. At Divisional and State tournaments, no coach who has a student competing shall spectate any event until finals; however, they are eligible to judge rounds that do not have competitors from their school.
5. Student competitors shall be identified by an arbitrary code number and students shall not make any reference to or identify themselves with their own school or community during forensic competition.
6. Students shall not deliberately cause bloodshed during any acting or speaking rounds.

7. Competitors are required to follow the policy of no guns in schools. This includes fake or “toy” guns. Dangerous items of any type – real weapons, open flames, etc. – are not allowed.
8. During competition:
 - a) All audience members, excluding competitors who are double-entered, must remain in the room until all competitors have spoken; double-entered competitors must go to their second event immediately after presenting in their first event, and must remain in their second event until the end of the round (with the exception of Extempers, who may return to the drawing room no earlier than 15 minutes prior to the start of the next draw time). Students double-entered in Informative Speaking will be allowed to drop off and pick up their materials.
 - b) No audience member may communicate with a judge in the round.
 - c) No audience member may use a cell phone or have it visible during the round, gesture or otherwise attempt to affect the performance of any competitor.
 - d) Students may use cell phones as timers but must store them out of sight as soon as their performance is over. The use of laptops, iPods, or other electronic devices during rounds is prohibited except when permitted by specific event rules. Devices may also be used in any event for medical purposes.
9. Plagiarism of positions in debate is expressly prohibited.
10. Artistic Plagiarism: Videos of previous final round performances and/or other video media are intended to provide educational examples for coaches and students. They are not intended to serve as a model to directly imitate or duplicate in performance. Although universal human emotions may lead to similarities in portrayal of characters, wholesale impersonations, including cutting, blocking, and/or interpretation (verbal and/or nonverbal portrayal of characters and text) of material of previous Semifinal round, Final round, and other video media performance is prohibited and grounds for penalty. Given the extent of the artistic plagiarism, the performance penalty may range from lowering the ranking in the round to disqualification. It is the burden of proof of the individual filing the protest to provide documented evidence of the artistic plagiarism demonstrated in the performance. This includes providing access to the plagiarized video material and written verification of examples to substantiate the complaint.
11. ***Generative Artificial Intelligence: In events in which speeches must be the original created work of a competitor, students are prohibited from quoting or paraphrasing text directly from generative AI sources. Generative AI should not be cited as a source. The exception is that a student delivering a speech about the topic of AI may quote AI to illustrate their points about AI, in accordance with existing quoted word limits. While generative AI 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. In debate events, generative AI should not be cited as a source; while generative AI 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. In Interpretation events, students are prohibited from performing material created by generative AI sources. Generative AI should not be used as a source of material; while generative AI may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and material, the original source of any material that is performed must be available if requested. This rule is superseded by event-specific rules related to usage of AI in the handbook.***
12. Statements that are cited or quoted that are presented as factual in any event must be verifiable immediately following the round if asked by the tournament director.

13. No competitor shall be in competition rooms without a judge or coach present.
14. Material must be appropriate for all audiences.
15. Any violation of these rules may result in penalties ranging from last in round to disqualification.

A. Materials Used in Events

1. Duplicate materials: If a student has competed in the Divisional or State tournaments with a certain material, that student will not be allowed to use that same material in succeeding years. The same material shall be interpreted as material from the same play, novel, etc. Violation of this rule shall result in disqualification of that student from the tournament.

B. Evidence Fabrication/Distortion

Competitors shall be prohibited from using fabricated or distorted evidence.

1. "Evidence" is defined as material which is represented as published fact or testimony and offered in support of a claim.
2. "Fabricated" evidence refers to the citing of a fact or opinion that is either from a source that is found to be nonexistent or not contained in the original source of the material in question.
3. "Distorted" evidence refers to the misrepresentation of the actual or implied content of factual or opinion evidence.

Misrepresentations may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Quoting out of context: selecting text from an article in such a way that the claim made with the selected text is clearly inconsistent with the author's position as that position is manifest in the article, book, or other source from which the quotation is taken as a whole.
 - b) Internally omitting words from a quotation or adding words to a quotation in such a way that the meaning evident in the resulting modified quotation deviates substantially in quality, quantity, probability, or degree of force from the author's position as manifest in the quotation in question prior to modification.
 - c) Omitting words internally from a quotation or adding words to a quotation without indicating, either on the written form of the quotation or orally when the quotation is delivered to an opponent or judge, that such a deletion or addition has been made.
 - d) Instance of inability to provide complete documentation, to the extent provided by the original source (source, qualifications, location of quotation, complete data, and/or page numbers).
4. Fabricated/Distorted evidence is so defined without regard to whether the person who uses it was the person who fabricated or distorted it.

C. Rules Challenges and Protest Procedures

1. Rules: All MHSA rules must apply. Tournament procedure accepted by MHSA must be followed. Rules questions should be addressed to first, the coach of the competitor involved in the infraction, then, the tournament director, and finally, the Rules Committee. Any violation (not including a time violation) that results in a score change must include the tournament director or tournament director designee.

2. Rules will be interpreted by members of the Rules Committee present at the State meet with reference to a case book.

In the event of fewer than three members of the Rules Committee being present at a tournament, the tournament director will appoint coaches necessary to make a committee of three to make rulings at that tournament.

3. An official protest is defined as:
 - a) The code # of the challenged competitor(s)
 - b) The challenge
 - c) The name of the challenger
 - d) Submitted in writing by a coach
4. Procedure for protest
 - a) Challenges must be submitted by a coach in a timely fashion.
 - b) If the challenge requires observation, then the tournament director will send an observer to the following round or
 - c) If the challenge does not require observation, the Rules Committee will examine evidence.
 - d) If the protest justifies pursuit, then the Rules Committee will meet with all parties concerned. Should any member of the Rules Committee be involved in the appeal, either as the coach of the accused or the accusers, that member will refrain from active participation in the hearing procedure and, at the discretion of the tournament director, will be replaced for purposes of the hearing by another coach chosen by the tournament director.
 - e) No further rounds in that event will be posted until a decision is reached. Penalties will range from warnings to disqualification as recommended by the Rules Committee. The MHSA sexual harassment policy is in effect for all MHSA events. Any allegations of sexual harassment or bullying during speech/debate/drama events must be reported by the tournament director to the administration of the school(s) involved and to the MHSA Executive Director.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

The MHSA believes that all individuals should be treated with respect and dignity. Students should be able to participate in MHSA sponsored activities in an environment that is free from sexual harassment and sexual violence. Each member school is responsible for taking such action and enacting such policies as may be necessary to address incidents of sexual harassment and sexual violence and to ensure that an environment free of such prohibited conduct is maintained. Any member school which sponsors or tolerates such activity is subject to expulsion from the MHSA.

 - f) The Rules Committee shall submit a written report of the proceedings and recommendations to the tournament director. The director will submit the report at the Spring MFEA meeting.
5. Specific procedures for rules challenges in debate are found in Section IV. H.
6. Clerical or team scoring errors must be submitted in writing within 24 hours after the tournament, to the meet manager and the MHSA Forensics liaison **Amy Bartels**, abartels@mhsa.org, for a ruling determination by the MHSA Executive Director.

IV. RULES FOR DEBATE EVENTS

A. Topics for Debate Events

1. Policy Debate
 - a) The question debated each year shall be that chosen for high schools by the National Federation Committee on Debate, unless changed by the MHSA Forensic Committee upon recommendation of the Montana Forensic Educators Association and approved by the MHSA Executive Board.
 - b) The policy debate topic for **2026-2027 is Resolved: The United States federal government should establish national health insurance in the United States.**
2. Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, and Legi Debate
 - a) The topic to be debated shall be the NSDA topic.
 - b) The Debate Committee has the option of replacing the NSDA topic, providing a majority of the members agree to the decision and the new topic. The March-April LD and Public Forum topics from the previous season will be the potential replacement topics for the current season, should one become necessary.
 - c) Nominations for the future LD and Public Forum replacement topics must be submitted to the Debate Committee chairperson prior to the Debate Committee meeting on Friday of the spring MFEA meeting.
 - d) The LD and Legi topics shall switch from the September/October topic to the November/ December topic on November **23** and to the January/February topic on January 1.
 - e) The September/October Public Forum topic from the NSDA shall be utilized from the start of the season through November **22**. The topic shall switch to the November/December topic on November **23**, to the January topic on January 1, and to the February topic on February **1**.

B. Policy Debate

1. The following form of the Oregon Style of debating shall be used:

First Affirmative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Cross examined by the Second Negative	3 minutes
First Negative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Cross examined by the First Affirmative	3 minutes
Second Affirmative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Cross Examined by the First Negative	3 minutes
Second Negative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Cross Examined by the Second Affirmative	3 minutes
First Negative, Rebuttal	5 minutes
First Affirmative, Rebuttal	5 minutes
Second Negative, Rebuttal	5 minutes
Second Affirmative, Rebuttal	5 minutes

2. It is permissible for either constructive speaker to give the first rebuttal so long as each speaker gives and answers cross examination and gives a rebuttal.
3. Preparation time may be utilized by the affirmative and negative teams but shall not exceed eight minutes total per team during the course of the entire debate.
4. All road maps or pre-summaries will be included as part of the time for constructive or rebuttal speeches.
5. Each debater or team will time each portion of the debate, timing down using a timer with minutes and seconds and an audible alarm.
6. Prior to each speech, each speaker will show his/her timer to the judge.

C. Lincoln-Douglas Debate

1. The format to be followed shall be:

Affirmative Constructive Speech	6 minutes
Cross Examination by the Negative	3 minutes
Negative Constructive Speech	7 minutes
Cross Examination by the Affirmative	3 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	4 minutes
Negative Rebuttal and Summary	6 minutes
Affirmative Summary	3 minutes

2. Preparation time may be utilized by the affirmative and negative speakers but shall not exceed four minutes total per competitor during the course of the entire debate.
3. Each debater or team will time each portion of the debate, timing down using a timer with minutes and seconds and an audible alarm.
4. Prior to each speech, each speaker will show his/her timer to the judge.
5. All road maps or pre-summaries will be included as part of the time for constructive or rebuttal speeches.

D. Public Forum Debate

1. The topic will be the national topic which changes each month. Public Forum Debate focuses on the advocacy of a position derived from the issues presented in the resolution, not a prescribed set of burdens.
2. Procedure:
 - a) 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 speaker 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 position and sides have been determined, the debate can begin.

- b) Each speaker shall have four minutes for constructive argument, alternating between pro and con. (The debate may begin with a con speech.) 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 first question must be asked by the speaker who spoke first. After that question either debater may question and/or answer at will.
- c) At the end of the first crossfire, the four-minute constructive arguments are continued by the students yet to speak. At the conclusion of the last two constructive arguments, another three-minute crossfire takes place between the two debaters who just spoke using the crossfire procedure discussed above.
- d) Following the four constructive speeches and two crossfire segments, the first speakers for each team will give a three-minute summary continuing established alternation. The summary speeches should include the arguments his or her team is winning and refuting arguments it is losing.
- e) 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 first question must be asked by the speaker who gave the first summary speech.
- f) At the conclusion of the grand crossfire, the second speakers will each give a two-minute “final focus” speech. The final focus is a persuasive final restatement of why a team has won the debate.

3. Time Schedule

1st Speaker - Team A	4 minutes
1st Speaker - Team B	4 minutes
Crossfire	3 minutes
2nd Speaker - Team A	4 minutes
2nd Speaker - Team B	4 minutes
Crossfire	3 minutes
Summary - 1st Speaker - Team A	3 minutes
Summary - 1st Speaker - Team B	3 minutes
Grand Crossfire	3 minutes
Final Focus - 2nd Speaker - Team A	2 minutes
Final Focus - 2nd Speaker - Team B	2 minutes
Prep Time (Per Team)	3 minutes

4. Plans/Counter Plans

In Public Forum Debate, a plan or counter plan is defined as a formalized, comprehensive proposal for implementation. Neither the pro nor the con side is permitted to offer a plan or counter plan; rather, they should offer reasoning to support a position of advocacy. Debaters may offer generalized, practical solutions.

5. Prompting Philosophy Oral prompting, except time signals, either by the speaker's colleague or by any other person while the debater has the floor is prohibited and may be penalized by some judges. Debaters may, however, refer to their notes and materials and may consult with their teammate while they do not have the floor during the grand crossfire.
6. Each team will time each portion of the debate, timing down using a timer with minutes and seconds and an audible alarm. Prep time for each team is three minutes.
7. Ready case

A team may decide, when asked by the opposing team for a copy of their case, whether or not to provide it; if the team refuses, they shall not be penalized in any way.

8. As this is a debate event, students are encouraged to do research and writing of positions before they come to a tournament. Rules for use of evidence will be the same as those for other debate events (LD and Policy Debate).
9. Judge adaptation and accessibility to any member of society should be emphasized by the debaters. The use of jargon and technical terms should be minimized to emphasize communication and persuasion/argumentation.
10. All road maps or pre-summaries will be included as part of the time for constructive rebuttal speeches.

E. Legislative Debate

1. Structure of Legislative Debate

- a) Legislative Debate will be conducted using five preliminary rounds, breaking the top sixteen contestants to the Semifinal round, and then the top eight contestants will advance to the Final round.
- b) Entries shall be divided into panels of eight or fewer. Competitors are to be changed from one panel to the other to avoid competitors from the same school in the same panel.
- c) All preliminary rounds will be paired randomly.
- d) Each round will have no more than eight competitors and last no longer than 75 minutes, to be timed by the judge. At the end of 75 minutes, the judge will announce the end of the debate and the current presiding officer will immediately close the session. ***Semifinals and Finals will last no longer than 90 minutes, to be timed by the judge. At the end of 90 minutes, the judge will announce the end of the debate and the current presiding officer will immediately close the session.***

2. Student Preparation

- a) Students will come to tournaments with one or more prepared bills on the current topic. Students will bring adequate copies to distribute to ten other individuals for each competitive round.
- b) Bills (or resolutions) will be typed and no more than one single-sided page. A full MLA or APA citation must be provided for all evidence used with the bill. These citations must be placed on the back of the bill.
- c) All bills and rules will address the general topic as assigned from the viewpoint of the United States Congress.

- d) Any competitor who attempts to compete without a bill will be disqualified from the tournament.

3. Topics

- a) Topics will be general in nature and cover broad debatable issues.
- b) Topics will be one foreign and one domestic. Topics will alternate beginning with domestic (round 1), then foreign (round 2), then domestic (round 3) etc. In the Final round, a competitor may present either topic. Topics will follow the Lincoln-Douglas debate topic pattern and will be selected per the debate.

4. Round Procedure

- a) At the beginning of each round, the posting will indicate the order of competitors serving as presiding officer, with the first competitor listed being the presiding officer, and so forth. The posting will also indicate the order of initial speaking precedence, such being the reverse of the order for presiding officer, with the last competitor listed on the posting having precedence and so forth.
- b) The speaker assigned to the first position of precedence will collect one bill from each competitor anonymously, place them without reference to author or code in an envelope or folder, and present these bills to the judge. The judge will then decide the bill order and within ten minutes announce the title of the first bill of consideration.
- c) Those entering the round late will be eliminated from the first consideration.
- d) Be determined by posting order, with the first competitor listed being the first presiding officer, and so forth. Each presiding officer will serve for an equal number of minutes. At the end of the time, the current speech will be allowed to end, and the next PO will begin his/her assignment.
- e) Each bill will be debated using the following format:

Authorship Speech	5 minutes maximum
Open Cross-Examination Controlled by Author	3 minutes maximum
Affirmative and Negative Alternating Speeches	3 minutes maximum
Open Cross-Examination Controlled by the Speaker of Each Aff/Neg Speech	1 minute maximum
Rebuttal Speech	2 minutes maximum

- f) All speeches will be tracked using precedence and recency. This will be used to determine the speaking order of the competitors who wish to speak, the competitor with the least recent speech will speak next.
- g) Procedure rules shall be drawn by Robert's Rules of Order. Allowed motions are main, second, point of order, previous question, amendment, and voting.
- h) When a motion to amend is made and seconded, the maker of the motion is assigned the floor for a one-minute cross examination period (not a speech). Recency will resume after the one-minute cross-examination period.

- i) ***The process for amending is as follows: speaker must have recency to amend. Speaker moves to amend. Within that motion, they must state the full amendment they wish to do to the quorum within a brief statement (as they would with any other motion). Refer to Robert's Rules of Order chapter on Amendments for specific wording and types of amendments. Motion must be seconded. After a second, one minute cross-ex will ensue (a justification of the amendment is not permitted outside of this one-minute cross-ex). Cross-ex counts toward recency. Determination of Germaneness is subject to this cross-ex and the vote on the amendment, not the PO.***

5. Tabulation

Legislative Debate will use the scoring procedures for speech events, described in Section VIII B: Speech and Drama Scoring and Tie-breaking Procedures.

6. Semifinals and Finals Rules and Procedures

- a) The Semifinals and Finals shall be conducted as the preliminary contest.
- b) One judge shall be assigned to serve as judge chair. The individual shall decide and announce bill order.

F. Participation in Debate Events

1. In team debate two speakers shall debate both sides of the question. If one member of the team cannot debate, the team will forfeit the round. If one member of a qualifying debate team cannot attend the State meet, the school may substitute for this member. If neither member can attend, no substitution may be made.
2. Any school which is not ready to debate within ten minutes of the time specified by the tournament director shall forfeit the debate.
3. Novice is defined as a student who is competing in a first year of debate or a second year of debate if s/he participated in no more than ten combined rounds of Policy or LD or Public Forum or Legislative debate in his/her first year of debate.

G. Debate Evidence Presentation and Sharing

1. Exchange of tangible evidence or debate-related materials between schools at a tournament outside of a round is not allowed.
2. Primary evidence in the form of personal correspondence, including via the internet, is not admissible as evidence in debate. Evidence must be issued by the publisher.
3. Any item used as evidence during debate must, upon request, be provided for review/inspection to the opposing debater(s) during the round. The provision of the evidence must provide a meaningful opportunity for review. Debaters shall comply with this obligation either by specifically pointing out the portion(s) of the evidence read or used in the debate to the opponents, or by providing specific and accurate page reference(s) to the portions that were used. This includes the text of plan, counter plan, and textual alternative of kritiks presented in the round. Failure to comply shall be treated as distortion of evidence under rules Section III. B. (Intent of the rule: Students are to conduct themselves with decorum and professionalism when requesting and providing evidence.
4. In all debate events, debaters are expected to, at a minimum, orally deliver the following when introducing evidence in a debate round: primary author(s) last name(s) and year of publication. If paraphrasing is used,

the debater will be held to the same standard of citation and accuracy as if the entire text of the evidence were read. To the extent provided by the original source, debaters also must have and be able to provide all information required by full MLA or APA citations, in addition to the qualifications of the author(s), for any evidence they introduce into the debate round. Internet-based sources must also include the title of the website, database, or access point; the date accessed; and the web address.

The additional citation required for online sources must appear on all evidence but need not be read. Oral citations do not substitute for the written source citation.

5. Evidence requiring oral citation includes, but is not limited to: facts, statistics, or examples attributable to a specific, identifiable, authoritative source used to support a claim.
6. No charts, graphs, handouts, or individual materials may be presented to the judge except on judge-initiated request.
7. Competitors may not provide their opponents or the judge with materials that have been altered from what was presented in the round. These materials include, but are not limited to, citations, evidence, plan text, etc.
8. Visual aids are prohibited in debate. A visual aid is defined as: an item of illustrative matter, such as a film, slide, or model, designed to supplement written or spoken information so that it can be understood more easily.
9. The use of electronic devices is permitted in any debate event provided no information is accessed in a manner requiring communication other than between competitors in the course of the round.
 - a) Receiving information from sources outside of the competition room is prohibited, whether via internet access, use of email, instant messaging, texting, or any other means.
 - b) Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information from any sentient source (coaches, assistants, and teammates included but debate partner and/or opponent(s) excluded) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs (This does not prohibit communication between competitors during a round).
 - c) Availability of Evidence: Competitors electing to use computers have the responsibility to promptly provide a copy of any evidence read in a speech for inspection by the judge or opponent throughout the round.

Printers may be used. Evidence may be printed in the round or produced electronically but must be provided in a format viewable by the opposing team and the judge. It is the positive duty of any debater utilizing an electronic device either to print evidence on request or to provide a viewing device available to opponents for the duration of the round and to the judge, if requested, at the conclusion of the round.

- d) Competitors electing to use electronic devices are responsible for providing their own devices, batteries, extension cords, and all other necessary accessories (including accessories for the required viewing device).
- e) Because public speaking decorum remains an important element of debate, all debaters are expected to stand at the front of the room facing the judge while speaking.

- f) Contestants choosing to use electronic devices and related equipment accept the risk of equipment failure. Judges and/or contest directors will give no special consideration or accommodation, including no additional speech time or prep time, should equipment failure occur.
- g) Time required for data/evidence transfer is to be subtracted from the entry originally presenting the evidence in question.

H. Rules Challenges in Debate

1. Challenges should be made only as a last resort after reasonable attempts to secure a mutually acceptable resolution through private discussion about the evidence in question have failed. Failure to do so will render official challenges void.
2. Challenges should be supported by appropriate documentation (e.g. a copy of the original source) when possible and submitted to the tournament director for a ruling. Typical consequences will be loss of round, or in legislative debate receive a ranking of last in the round, no higher than a 5 (no additional penalty, i.e. no loss of speaker points) to disqualification. If disqualification is the consequence, the following procedure will be used:
 - a) The tournament director will give a loss to the team or debater committing the infraction and zero points, or in legislative debate receive a ranking of last in the round, no higher than a 5. That team will be eliminated from further competition in the tournament.
 - b) The offending team will receive no sweepstakes points or awards.
 - c) The team winning the round based on a ruling by the Rules Committee will be awarded points as an average of all preliminary rounds as in the case of byes.
 - d) The change in any debate decision based on the violation of this rule will not be retroactive for the purposes of power matching but will apply to all subsequent pairings.
3. If either party is dissatisfied with the ruling of the tournament director, the complaint may be presented to the MFEA Rules Committee members present at the tournament. The committee will then act on the charge that alleged violations of these standards have occurred.
4. Should any member of the Rules Committee be involved in the appeal, either as the coach of the accused or the accusers, that member will refrain from active participation in the hearing procedure and, at the discretion of the tournament director, will be replaced for the purposes of the hearing by another coach chosen by the tournament director.
5. In instances of proven evidence distortion, fabrication, or any violation of provision IV.G.9.a or b, will be subject to penalty by the Rules Committee according to IV.H.2:
 - a) The tournament director will give a loss to the team or debater committing the infraction and zero points, or in legislative debate receive a ranking of last in the round, no higher than a 5. That team will be eliminated from further competition in the tournament.
 - b) The offending team will receive no sweepstakes points or awards.
 - c) The team winning the round based on a ruling by the Rules Committee will be awarded points as an average of all preliminary rounds as in the case of byes.

- d) The change in any debate decision based on the violation of this rule will not be retroactive for the purposes of power matching but will apply to all subsequent pairings.
- e) In instances of timing procedure abuse: The tournament director will give a loss with no additional penalty.
- f) The change in any debate decision based on the violation of this rule will not be retroactive for the purposes of power matching but will apply to all subsequent pairings.

V. RULES FOR SPEECH EVENTS (CLASSES AA, A, AND B-C)

A. Original Oratory

1. Orations must be the original written work of the student. Orations are written by the student and must be persuasive in nature. Persuasion encourages the listener to adopt or reinforce a particular point of view. Not more than ten percent (10%) of an oration may consist of quoted material. The beginning and ending of all quotations must be clearly identified in the manuscript of the speech.
2. During the delivery of an oration, no manuscript may be held or referred to by the contestant. Memorization shall be mandatory. Contestants using notecards or a manuscript may not receive first in the round.
3. Ten minutes is the maximum time limit. There shall be no minimum time limit.
4. Coaches must bring manuscripts to Divisional and State and upload them to Tabroom or other MHSA approved software being used. Competitors must use the same material from the beginning to the end of the tournament. Cutting is allowed.

Manuscripts shall include the following:

- a) A title page including:
 - (i) The title of the speech
 - (ii) The author
 - (iii) The name and location of the high school represented by the speaker
 - (iv) The date and place of the tournament
 - (v) Total word count, and word count and percentage of quoted material.
 - b) A certificate affirming that the speech does not exceed ten percent (10%) quoted material and is otherwise the original work of the student.
 - c) The text of the speech with quotations clearly indicated
 - d) Wikipedia and other wiki sources may only be used as supplementary sources. A bibliography listing all references used in preparing the speech must be provided. Bibliographic references shall include title, publication, author, date, and page numbers or proper web citation.
5. No costumes or props may be used.

B. Memorized Public Address with Analysis

1. Material used in this event should include only an address which has originally been presented by the author as an address in a speaker/audience situation. The content of the address must have statewide, national, or international significance. Memorization shall be mandatory.
2. The speech shall consist of two parts, analysis and address. This analysis must be at least **twenty** percent (**20%**) by word count of the entire presentation and cannot exceed ten percent (10%) quoted material. The combined length of the analysis and address shall not exceed ten minutes. During the delivery of the speech no manuscript may be held by the contestant. Contestants using notecards or a manuscript may not receive first in the round.
3. Content of the main address cannot have been created for any competitive activity.
4. If the original uncut transcript is not in print, the original address will be transcribed and presented along with the contestant's manuscript. Coaches must bring manuscripts to Divisional and State and must upload manuscripts to Tabroom or other MHSA approved software being used.

Manuscripts shall include the following;

- a) A title page including:
 - (i) The title of the speech
 - (ii) The author
 - (iii) The name and location of the high school represented by the speaker
 - (iv) The date and place of the tournament
 - (v) Total word count, and word count and percentage of analysis, word count and percentage of quoted material in the analysis.
 - b) A certificate affirming that the analysis does not exceed ten percent (10%) quoted material and is otherwise the original work of the student.
 - c) The text of the manuscript with quotations (including the quoted speech) clearly indicated.
 - d) Wikipedia and other wiki sources may only be used as supplementary sources. A bibliography listing all references used in preparing the speech must be provided. Bibliographic references shall include title, publication, author, date, and page numbers or proper web citation.
5. Competitors must include in their analysis the historical and social context of the address, the author's background and purposes in presenting the address, and an analysis of the theme and effective use of rhetoric.
 6. No costumes or props may be used.

C. Informative Speaking

1. Competitors will orally deliver a speech to instruct, to demonstrate, or to enlighten. The object is to present the chosen subject matter without taking a position. Synthesis of the material for the speech must be original with the speaker. No more than ten percent (10%) of the speech shall be directly quoted material. The beginning and ending of all quotations must be clearly defined. The competitor must submit a certificate affirming that the speech does not exceed ten percent (10%) quoted material and is otherwise original with the competitor.

2. The chosen subject matter which is left to the discretion of the speaker should be serious and informative in tone and content
 - a) This is not to forbid the appropriate use of anecdotes.
 - b) Use of visual aids is optional.
 - c) Method of presentation is left to the discretion of the speaker. Notes, manuscripts, or memorization are permitted.
 - d) Costumes are not allowed
 - e) No live animals may be used as props.
3. Maximum time: 10 minutes.
4. Coaches must bring manuscripts to Divisional and State and must upload manuscripts to Tabroom or other MHSA approved software being used.

Manuscripts shall include the following;

- a) A title page including:
 - (i) The title of the speech
 - (ii) The author
 - (iii) The name and location of the high school represented by the speaker
 - (iv) The date and place of the tournament
 - (v) The total word count, and word count and percentage of quoted material.
- b) A certificate affirming that the speech does not exceed ten percent (10%) quoted material and is otherwise the original work of the student.
- c) The text of the speech with quotations clearly indicated.
- d) Wikipedia and other wiki sources may only be used as supplementary sources. A bibliography listing all references used in preparing the speech must be provided. Bibliographic references shall include title, publication, author, date, and page numbers or proper web citation.

D. Short Prep Topic Procedure

The tournament director shall send used impromptu and SPOI topics to the designated representative from AA and/or A, B-C. The topics will be sent as a Google Doc within a week of the tournament.

E. Impromptu Speaking

1. Length of preparation will be three minutes.
2. Format:
 - a) A 3x5 note card with a reproduced cartoon and/or quotation attached to the top will be presented to the speaker upon entering the room. The speaker may use this 3x5 card for notes. No other data or preparation will be allowed.
 - b) The judge shall receive a copy of the topic.

3. Topics:

- a) Topics should be of a general nature and concern themselves with cultural, moral, or social issues. The source of the quotation must be identified.
 - b) Topics shall be taken from sources published outside the tournament city.
 - c) Each speaker in all sections in a round will speak on the same topic.
 - d) The speaker must respond to the topic attached to the card.
 - e) Topics presented will involve a proportional balance of quotations and cartoons, alternating each round.
 - f) Class AA members of the short prep committee shall submit a maximum of four quotes and four cartoons for consideration for the Class A, B-C Divisional and State tournaments. These topics will be sent out to be voted on by AA committee members. The topics selected by the majority vote will be emailed by a AA committee member to the Class A and B-C Divisional and State tournament directors and to the MHSA speech, debate, and drama liaison no less than 4 days prior to the tournaments.
 - g) Source materials selected for impromptu rounds may not be repeated during a tournament. Source material is defined as the same author, speaker, comic, etc. but not publications.
 - h) Class A, B-C members of the short prep committee shall submit a maximum of three quotes and three cartoons for consideration for the Class AA State tournament. These topics will be sent out to be voted on by A, B-C committee members. The topics selected by the majority vote will be emailed by an A, B-C committee member to the Class AA State tournament director and to the MHSA speech, debate, and drama liaison no less than 4 days prior to the tournament.
4. Competitors per round will be staggered. As a competitor completes a speech, s/he will remain in the room for the remainder of the speeches and another competitor will be called forth. Students entered in two or more events may exit the room to compete in another event.
 5. Impromptu speech length: MAXIMUM speaking time is 5 minutes.
 6. No costumes or props may be used.

F. Extemporaneous Speaking

1. The procedure for provision of questions in Extemporaneous Speaking shall be as follows:
 - a) Extemporaneous Speaking questions for all tournaments will be generated from the October, November, December, and January issues/updates of major news sources including: Newsweek, Time, Christian Science Monitor, The Economist, Washington Post, US News and World Report, NPR, Fox News, CNN, Al Jazeera, The New York Times, The Associated Press, Reuters News Agency, PBS, The BBC, The Wall Street Journal, The Guardian, The Financial Times, Spiegel International, Asia Times, and The Los Angeles Times.
 - b) For all tournaments, in preliminary and Semifinal rounds, questions will alternate national and international. In Finals, national and international questions will be mixed. Within each round, questions will have a consistent degree of difficulty.

- c) A total of at least five questions greater than the number of competitors in the largest section will be provided.
- d) For Semifinals and Finals, at all tournaments, there will be thirteen (13) original, comprehensive questions per round.

2. The procedure for conducting draw in Extemporaneous Speaking shall be as follows:

- a) Thirty minutes before speaking the competitor will draw by lot three specific speech questions, select one question, and return the other two to the draw chair. Draw shall be proctored by a minimum of one coach. For meets with three or more sections of Extemporaneous Speaking, as well as for Divisional and State tournaments, a minimum of two coaches shall be assigned to proctor the draw room in each round.
- b) Extemporaneous questions shall not be laid out for the purpose of drawing any earlier than five minutes before the draw.
- c) At no time shall a competitor be within arm's reach of extemporaneous questions before or during the draw other than for the specific purpose of drawing a question.
- d) Extemporaneous Speaking draw will be staggered. Competitors will draw questions at seven-minute intervals. To accommodate cross-examination in the semifinal and final rounds, each speaker shall be assigned a position in the speaking order and drawing shall be staggered at twelve (12) - minute intervals. Where less than five students are in the final round, there will be gaps of time between competitor draw times so that all have equal preparation time. Students will not be assigned to question a student from the same team unless unavoidable. If necessary, tabbers from at least one neutral party will help to manually reorder the round.
- e) At the draw, each competitor's selection will be recorded. No competitor will speak on the same question twice.
- f) The competitor will then have thirty minutes for the preparation of his/her speech. Each student must compose 100% of his or her own speech. Coaches and other students must not assist speakers with speech related preparation.
- g) In order to keep the draw on time, a competitor may request to move to the next draw position only one time during a tournament. Any other adjustments for that competitor may only be permitted by the tournament director or designated party.

3. Extemporaneous Speaking Computer Use Rules and Guidelines

- a) Extemporaneous Speaking competitors may make use of electronic retrieval devices to store and to retrieve their subject files at all MHSA tournaments. Students can retrieve extemporaneous files to read but cannot write speeches or organize their thoughts on the computers. This rule in no way prevents students from still utilizing traditional paper copy files to enable the competitor to successfully compete in Extemporaneous Speaking. The MHSA takes no position on which form of file storage is preferable for use at MHSA tournaments.
- b) Electronic retrieval devices are defined as laptop computers, netbooks, iPads, or other portable electronic retrieval equipment. Secondary devices such as flash drives or external hard drives are allowed as well. Cell phones or smartphones are prohibited from being used while preparing or before speaking at all MHSA tournaments except when used as timers in airplane mode.

- c) Source Materials: Students may consult published books, periodical articles, newspaper articles, think tank articles, government reports, or journal articles saved on their electronic retrieval device or present in hard copy form provided:
 - (i) There are no notations made within or on the saved article other than citation information.
 - (ii) Any highlighting or underlining of the articles is done in only one color within each article. Bolding, italicizing, or any other manipulation of the original text of sources (other than highlighting or underlining as previously stipulated) is prohibited.
- d) No other source materials will be allowed in the Extemporaneous prep room other than stated above. Prewritten Extemporaneous speeches, handbooks, briefs, or outlines are prohibited from the prep room, whether stored electronically or present in hard copy form.
- e) Internet: Extemporaneous Speaking competitors shall not communicate electronically with any other individual during their prep time at any MHSA tournaments. All computers must comply with the following provisions:
 - (i) Wired connections (Ethernet or phone) during rounds of competition are not permitted.
 - (ii) Electronic communication with any outside source (coaches or assistants included) is prohibited once a competitor has begun their prep time. Competitors found to have violated this provision will be disqualified from the tournament and will forfeit all sweepstakes points.
 - (iii) Host schools are encouraged but not required to provide wifi access. Host schools should indicate internet availability on their invitation. Students must be prepared with alternate resources should technology access fail.
- f) Liability: Extemporaneous Speaking competitors accept full responsibility for the safety and security of their electronic retrieval devices throughout the entire course of any MHSA tournaments. The owner of each individual computer assumes all liability for the computer. Students are welcome to use Kensington locks or other such devices to secure their computers in the prep room. Students, parents, and coaches should be aware that the students are bringing and using the computers at their own risk. Neither MHSA, any school, nor any individual who is not the owner of the electronic retrieval device is responsible for lost, stolen, or broken devices.
- g) Devices should be muted in the prep room. Competitors should not play games or engage in other distracting activities on their electronic devices in the prep room. Tournament officials may ask a student to power off the device if it becomes distracting.
- h) Students from the same school may share computers during preparation. However, communication among competitors during preparation time is strictly prohibited.
- i) Generative Artificial Intelligence: Speeches must be the original created work of a competitor. Students are prohibited from utilizing generative AI during prep time. Quoting or paraphrasing text from generative AI sources is prohibited.

4. Guidelines for Electronic Device Use in Extemporaneous Speaking

- a) Preparation: As soon as a question is chosen, the competitor will prepare a speech without consultation and without references to prepared notes. Students may consult published books,

magazines, newspapers and journals, or articles, including internet enabled devices either used in the draw or those materials published from internet sources provided:

- (i) They are originals or copies of whole pages.
 - (ii) Those originals or copies are uncut.
 - (iii) There is no written material on that original or copy other than citation information.
 - (iv) A topical index without annotation may be present.
 - (v) They are files stored either on a computer or electronic device, hard drive, or cloud storage system.
 - (vi) Active research from the internet during the round meets the established criteria found in the "Guidelines for Use of Internet Enabled Devices."
- b) No other material will be allowed in the Extemp prep room other than stated above. Extemp speeches, handbooks, briefs, and outlines, including those stored on cloud storage systems or published on websites created for that purpose, are prohibited from the Extemp prep room. Students may not use the internet to gain help from coaches, other students, or any person, such that it would prevent the speech from being the original work of the competitor. Students are prohibited from accessing outlines and speeches that have been written prior to their draw time. Underlining or highlighting in Extemp will be allowed if done in only one color on each article or copy. Electronic device use must comply with the "Guidelines for Electronic Device Use in Debate Events." Printed copies of information from online computer services may be used. Electronically retrieved evidence used in any Association Extemp competition must conform to the same citation standards as evidence used in debate events as described in the MHSA Speech, Drama, and Debate handbook.
5. The procedure for conducting contests in Extemporaneous Speaking shall be as follows:
- a) Maximum time limit for speaking will be seven (7) minutes.
 - b) At the scheduled time for the beginning of each round the competitors will speak in the order in which their codes have been posted. Before speaking the competitor shall present the official printed copy of his/her drawn question to the judge.
 - c) If the competitor wishes to use notes during the presentation, s/he may use both sides of a 4x6 note card. Used note cards must be turned into the judge when the speaker is finished. The judge will submit these cards, along with the comment sheets, to the tournament director.
 - d) All competitors shall remain in the presentation room following their performance until all speakers have spoken. Students entered in two or more events may exit the room to compete in another event.
 - e) Cross-examination procedure for the Semifinal and Final rounds shall utilize an open cross examination period. Thirty minutes after speaker number first has drawn, speaker last shall enter the contact room. Speaker first shall give a speech and the speaker last shall take notes and/or listen. At the conclusion of speaker first's speech, a timer will be set for two minutes of cross-examination and will be counted down. Speaker last shall return to the prep room and speaker first shall stay to listen to and question speaker second. Speaker second will question speaker third, etc. (See rule IV.F.2.d for specifications on draw and speaking order during Semifinal and Final rounds.)
 - f) No costumes or props may be used.

G. Interpretation of Literature: Humorous (All Classes), Dramatic (All Classes), and Duo (Class AA & A Only)

1. In each round the competitor shall explore a humorous or serious theme by presenting from one or more selections taken from one or more of the areas: drama, prose, or poetry (including song lyrics). Multiple selections, if used, should be related. They should deal with the same general theme. Any source material is permitted as long as it meets the standards outlined below:
 - a) Original source material must not be written by the competitor who is performing it.
 - b) 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.

 - (i) 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 a physical book or e-book is sufficient to prove that a printed publication is publicly accessible.
 - (ii) 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.
 - (iii) 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.
 - (iv) For non-English print material that a competitor will perform in English, the original source material in its original language must be publicly accessible. Competitors must present an official English translation to be used in the case of a protest. An official translation must be obtained in one of two ways:
 - (a) An official translation is obtained through the original source's producer, licensing agent, or copyright holder. Or,
 - (b) An official translation is obtained through a translation service which uses non-automated, manual translation. Then, the competitor receives approval to perform the translation by the original source's producer, licensing agent, or copyright holder.
 - (v) 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 must be obtained in one of two ways:

- (a) An official transcript is obtained through the original source's producer, licensing agent, or copyright holder.
- (b) Or, an official transcript is obtained through an official transcription service such as TranscribeMe, Scribie, or iScribed, which use non-automated, manual transcription.

Then, the competitor receives approval to perform the transcription by the original source's producer, licensing agent, or copyright holder. If the digital unprinted source is not in English and the competitor wishes to perform it in English, an official transcription and an official translation of the transcription (see V.G.1.b.iv above) are required.

- c) Source Verification: It is the affirmative duty of each coach and each student entering in Interpretation contests to determine absolutely that the cutting being performed meets all rules for material. Interpretation source material must be available at Divisional and State tournament contests in the event of a protest. Any competitor failing to produce the following items to the tournament director by the deadline will be subject to penalty by the Rules Committee.
 - (i) The original published source of any selection used must be immediately available at the tournament. When requested by tournament officials, access to the source material upon demand, either in electronic or print form, must be presented.
 - (a) For print publications, the original source is the physical book. Photocopies of original literature are not acceptable.
 - (b) For PDFs, an original, unaltered PDF via flash drive, email, or on an electronic device (e.g. laptop) must be presented. Manipulation of a PDF script outside the scope of the rules will be subject to disqualification.
 - (c) PDF publications from an online source that meets the above standards and e-books are permitted. Competitors may turn in an e-book via flash drive, email, or e-reader. For e-books, an original, unaltered e-pub or other recognized e-book format via flash drive or email must be presented; however, as some e-book formats are exclusive to their specific apps or electronic readers, students must provide the required technology and/or internet access to verify the material performed for tournament officials.
 - (d) For non-English publications that are being performed in English, both the original non-English source and the official English transcript must be provided.
 - (e) For a digital publication, a printed manuscript will be turned in as the original source. Only the printed manuscript shall be considered adequate proof of authenticity.
 - (f) The material the competitor performs must presently appear on the website if questions arise in competition. The website and online version of the digital publications need to be available for comparison if challenged. Online access is the fundamental responsibility of tournament officials and/or individuals filing the protest. NOTE: If tournament officials cannot gain online access and the above requirements have been met, the piece is considered legal for use.

- (ii) Manuscript items to be printed directly from the screen for digital printed materials:
 - (a) The first page in the website (the home page).
 - (b) All other linked pages needed to navigate to the literary text selected for competition shall be printed out and the link must be highlighted in the manuscript.
 - (c) All web pages upon which the cutting appears.
 - (iii) Each page must have printed in the header and/or footer including:
 - (a) Date the page was printed.
 - (b) Web address.
 - d) A photocopy or printed screenshot of every page of the original source from which any line of the cutting was taken. The photocopy will be kept for evaluation during the Semifinal round.
 - (i) Pages are to be placed in the order in which they are performed (e.g. if text from one page is used more than once within the cutting, that page should be copied again with those words highlighted and reinserted where it is used in the cutting). Students are not required to photocopy or print pages that are not used in their cutting.
 - (ii) All words used from the script should be highlighted (any words/lines not used should be left unmarked).
 - (iii) Any word changes (to eliminate profane language) and/or additions (for transition) must be indicated clearly in ink. Failure to clearly indicate the addition of words will be subject to disqualification.
 - e) Changes to the script may only be used for the purpose of transition or to eliminate profane language. Transitions may be used to clarify the logical sequence of ideas. They are not to be used for the purpose of embellishing the humorous or dramatic effect of literature.
2. 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:
- a) Adaptations to materials may only be used for the purpose of transition. Transitions may be used to clarify the logical sequence of ideas. They are not to be used for the purpose of embellishing the humorous or dramatic effect of the literature.
 - b) Changes to the script may only be used for the purpose of transition or to eliminate profane language.
3. Duo Interp (AA and A Only): In Duo, focus may be direct during the introduction (the performers may look at each other) but must be indirect (offstage) during the performance itself, and they may not touch each other. In the case of inadvertent violation of this rule, competitors may not be awarded first place in the round.
4. Competitor(s) must use the same material from the beginning to the end of the tournament. Cutting is allowed.

5. Competitor(s) are allowed gestures, movement, and singing. (Manuscripts are optional. The use of manuscripts shall not be penalized.) Ten minutes shall be the maximum time limit in each round. No minimum.
6. No costumes or props may be used.

H. Program Oral Interpretation

1. Selections:
 - a) POI is a program of oral interpretation of thematically linked selections chosen from two or three genres: prose, poetry (including song lyrics), and/or drama (plays). Competitors should develop an argument or theme that is supported in different ways by each piece of literature they select.
 - b) At least two pieces of literature that represent at least two separate genres must be used although competitors are urged to use all three. Competitors are encouraged to devote approximately equal time to each of the genres used in the program. This distinction pertains to these two or three genres as a whole, not types of literature within a genre (such as fiction/nonfiction).
 - c) Adaptation of pieces may be for the purpose of thematic continuity only.
 - d) Original material may only be used in the introduction and transitions. Transitions should clarify the logical sequence of ideas. They are not to be used for the purpose of embellishing the humorous or dramatic effect of the literature.
 - e) All selections used must be published and copyrighted materials: the burden of proof lies with the speaker. To verify, the speaker must have a copy of the un-adapted, original selections, including bibliographical information. Source must exist in a copyrighted form.
 - f) The script must identify quoted materials, including a works cited page in APA or MLA format, and both the competitor and the coach must attest by signature that the program of oral interpretation is the original work of the competitor.
2. Competitors must use the same material from the beginning to the end of the tournament. Cutting is allowed.
3. The use of a manuscript during the performance is required. Common practices include the use of a binder or folder. Reading from a book or magazine is not permitted. Pictures, graphics, and/or illustrations are considered a visual aid, even if included in the original manuscript, and may not be displayed. The competitor must address the script; however, introduction and transitional material may be memorized.
4. The intact manuscript may be used by the competitor as a prop, so long as it remains in the competitor's control at all times.
5. Ten minutes shall be the maximum time limit in each round. No minimum.
6. No costumes or props other than the manuscript are permitted.

I. Spontaneous Oral Interpretation of Literature (Classes B-C Only)

1. Selections:
 - a) Each tournament director shall be responsible for selecting readings.

- (i) Selections shall be taken from one or more of the areas: drama, prose, or poetry (including song lyrics). Selections shall include both humorous and serious readings of approximately 1 to 3½ minutes. Selections shall be appropriate for all audiences.
 - (ii) Selections shall be presented in standard 3 ring binders to a judge in each section for use in that section and then returned with judging materials.
 - b) Each round shall have a different selection. Every section in each round will present the same selection.
 - c) Competitors must read the entire selection as presented; stopping either when the selection is completed or when the timer sounds, whichever is first.
 - d) The selection may be presented with an original, extemporized introduction.
 - (i) Competitors may not write presentation notes.
 - e) The tournament director shall send used SPOI scripts as well as one unused script within a week of hosting a regular season tournament to the designated B-C representative on the Interpretation Committee.
 - f) Class B-C members of the Interpretation Committee and one (1) more person from each division shall each submit a maximum of three scripts for consideration for the Class B-C Divisional and State tournaments.
 - g) These topics will be voted on by the B-C Interpretation Committee members. The scripts selected by the majority vote will be sent to Divisional and State tournament hosts no fewer than 4 days prior to each tournament and a backup copy will be provided to the MHSA Speech, Drama, and Debate liaison via email.
2. Manuscripts must be held in hand. Hand and foot movements are allowed. Binders may not be used as a prop. Singing is permitted.
 3. There is no minimum time limit.
 4. Competitors per round will be staggered. As a competitor completes a speech, s/he will remain in the room for the remainder of the speeches and another competitor will be called forth.
 5. Timing:
 - a) Students time themselves. Each competitor will show the judge his/her timer when s/he begins preparation time, before beginning the presentation, and at the conclusion of the presentation.
 - (i) Speakers will set their timers to 5:01 for preparation time, but do not have to use all of the time provided.
 - (ii) Speakers will set their timers to 5:01 to present the selection. If not done within that time limit, the competitor will stop reading when the timer sounds. There is no minimum time limit and no penalty for running out of time.

VI. RULES FOR DRAMA EVENTS (CLASSES A AND B-C)

A. Humorous Solo, Dramatic Solo, Humorous Theatre, Dramatic Theatre, and Classic Theatre

1. The combined introduction and actual acting shall not exceed ten minutes. Competitors must only ask if their judge is ready, state their code, and say their timer is set before they start the timer.
2. Competitors may use costumes, masks, wigs, stage makeup, and/or props. All items must be furnished by the competitor.
3. No use may be made of lighting effects (with the exception of battery-operated props excluding those with seizure-inducing triggers, for example strobe lighting).
4. Sound to be used in scenes shall be inherent to the scene and actuated by the actors. Singing, playing musical instruments, and use of recorded audio are allowed.
5. Personal authorship of original work may not be claimed. Competitors may not announce that the piece is original or self-written or may not claim the piece is autobiographical.
6. Competitors shall not distribute any materials to the judge or audience.
7. Competitors must use the same material from the beginning to the end of the tournament. Cutting for time is allowed.
8. The competitors must create characters. Standup comedy is not allowed. Directly copying another person's/group's performance is strongly discouraged.
9. In **Classic**, Dramatic, and Humorous Theatre: The event may include 2-4 performers in an entry with a maximum of three entries per school. The timing and sweepstakes points remain the same.
10. In Classic Theatre: The event may be serious or humorous in nature. Any published literature that is 75 years old or older as of January 1 of the calendar year in which the season begins shall be considered "Classic." Translations are acceptable. Cuttings shall not deviate from printed fact. Burden of proof lies with the coach. (The intent of this rule is to retain the Classic integrity of the language). This event may include **1-4** performers in an entry with a maximum of three entries per school. The timing **rules of the event** and are not changed. **The sweepstakes points for solo competitors of the event would align with other solo events.**
11. If one member of a qualifying theatre group cannot attend the State meet, the school may substitute for this member. If neither can attend, no substitutions will be permitted.

B. Pantomime

1. This event consists of individual pantomime with a seven-minute maximum length on any subject. Quality and control are always to be emphasized.
2. A brief written title but no other words shall be presented.
3. The performer must say their code number, start the timer, and show their title.

4. A costume and makeup may be used. Wigs and props may not be used. The intent of the rule is that touching of costume or hair is considered a prop and therefore is not allowed. A stationary chair and background music (instrumental only) **and/or recorded sound effects** are optional. Instrumental music may not include human vocal sounds either actual or synthesized and must be self-actuated.
5. Usually the pantomime consists of a combination and development of three points: character, situation, and the mood.
6. Competitors must use the same material from the beginning to the end of the tournament. Cutting for time is allowed.
7. In fairness to each competitor, judges are encouraged to view the entire performance prior to writing comments. Tournament directors will take steps to provide judges with an understanding of mime.

VII. TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES - CLASS AA, A, B-C

A. Double Entry - Class AA and A Only

1. A student will be able to enter two speech events or two drama events in each contested round and be eligible to advance in each event to elimination rounds. For Class A Divisional and State, students can only double enter in two speech events or two drama events.
2. Students will be responsible for arriving in each round in time for competition according to the speaker order presented on event postings. For Class A Divisional and State tournaments, speaker order must reasonably take into account double entries, providing speakers an opportunity to compete in a timely fashion in both events (double-entered students should be scheduled, at minimum, one speaking position apart in their two events in order to provide adequate time for competitors to attend both events during a round).
3. Double-entered competitors must go to their second event immediately after presenting in their first event and must remain in their second event until the end of the round (with the exception of extemporaneous speakers, who may return to the draw room no earlier than 15 minutes prior to the start of the next draw time). In the event of a violation of this rule, the competitor shall receive the lowest rating for the round. Students double entered in Informative speaking will be allowed to drop off and pick up their materials.
4. A student will not use the same material in two different events. The same material shall be interpreted as the same play, novel, etc.

B. Speaking Order

1. Entries shall be divided up into panels. Competitors are to be changed from one panel to another to avoid competitors from the same school in the same panel.
2. All preliminary rounds will be paired randomly.
3. Speaking order in the Semifinal and Final rounds shall be determined by listing the student code numbers on paper and drawing them at random. ONLY in cases of double entry, tabbers will adjust speaker order to prevent a double entered student from being scheduled in the same speaking position in both events.
4. AA out-rounds will be paired by the computer program.

C. Timing Procedures

1. All sections of any given event shall be timed.

2. All speech and drama students shall be timed using minutes and seconds. The time will be marked on the judge's comment sheets.
3. All competitors will use a timing device with minutes and seconds with an audible alarm.
4. A competitor may use a cell phone or other electronic device as a timing device provided that the cell phone/device is on airplane mode during their presentation and is off and stored out of sight during all other competitor's speeches. If the phone/device goes into sleep mode or other mode it would be a timing violation.
5. The competitor will set the timing device to 0.00 and show the judge.
6. The competitor will time up.
7. The competitor will give his or her code number, put the timing device in clear view of the presenter, press start, and begin speaking.
8. When the presentation is completed the competitor will immediately stop the timing device and show the time to the judge.
9. The judge will record the time for each competitor.
10. If the competitor goes over a 30 second grace period, or if the competitor fails to start the timing device, or restarts the timing device, or has any other timing device malfunction, the competitor may not be awarded a first place in the round. If the judge did not penalize the competitor for timing violations, the tab room will enforce the penalty.

D. Judges

1. The judges for the Divisional and State meets in speech and drama shall be selected by the Divisional or State meet managers.
2. With the exception of debate, there shall be no judging of more than one round of an event by any judge at a tournament.
3. At invitational tournaments, First Year Out judges (judges who have been out of high school for less than one academic year) are not permitted to judge any events in which they competed (with the exception of novice divisions of debate) and are not permitted to judge any competitor from the school for which the FYO judge competed. It is the tournament host's affirmative responsibility to ensure compliance with this rule.
4. At the Divisional and State tournaments, judges will not be eligible to judge until they have been out of high school at least one academic year.
5. For individual contests including duo and theatre events, all preliminary rounds shall be judged by one judge in each section.
6. For individual contests, including duo and theatre events, Octofinals, Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Final rounds shall be judged by three judges in each section. The judges shall not have judged the students in a previous round. High school coaches may be used for judges. A coach may not judge his/her own team member.
7. A judge shall not have judged a competitor in the same event in a previous round.

8. *If, during the Divisional or State tournament, a judge(s) leaves the room during a performance, then a rerun must be permitted.*

E. Round Interruption Procedures

1. Students shall not be penalized last round for competing in the incorrect room during preliminary rounds. In outrounds, students that compete in the wrong room shall receive last in round, unless the error is on the part of the tournament. If debates were conducted in the wrong section, sections will be adjusted to reflect debates actually taking place.
2. Once an IE event (Speech/Drama) has started it may not be stopped. However, if a student was mistakenly not included in an outround due to an error, then the tournament will do the following:
 - a) Add the student to a section by random draw, (following all prescribed rules for school protect, etc.)
 - b) Inform the judges at the next break in competition there is an extra competitor in their section.
 - c) Ensure no student receives a higher school than the smallest section in that round.
3. For debate events in out rounds, if the tournament makes an error:
 - a) The round will be stopped.
 - b) Participants will be found and rounds will be adjusted.
 - c) Clean judges will be added if debate has proceeded into the 2nd competitor and same side in the debate as stopped round.

F. Tournament Administration

1. To ensure equitable access to tournaments, the State Tournament is the maximum allowable amount to charge per entry and per school fees. Regular season tournaments should not charge more than this.
2. Tournament hosts are responsible for assigning tabbing duties for their tournament or designating a party to do so. Suggested roles include event/category tabbers, judges' table assistants, and judge tech troubleshooters. Roles are not limited to suggestions, however:
 - a) Tabbing duties are expected to be completed by the assigned coaches. If a change to tabbing duties needs to take place, the tournament director must be notified and approve the change.
 - b) Tournament hosts may choose to create a tabbing duty known as the judge pool. If used by the tournament host, any coaches not assigned to any other tabbing duty at the tournament are assigned to the judge pool and may be assigned to ballots throughout the tournament. Coaches shall not judge students from their school in any round.
 - (i) Coaches utilized in the judge pool are encouraged to maintain rigorous standards of professionalism, and MFEA requests they not share any information from rounds that may give their own team a competitive advantage.
 - (ii) Tournament hosts are encouraged not to utilize a specific coach more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the rounds in a tournament.

3. When ordering awards, tournament directors should endeavor to have a tangible physical award (plaque or trophy) for the top 3 places in each sweepstakes category, along with physical awards for the top 8 places for individual events (certificates, medals, etc.).
4. ***At all tournaments, signs must be displayed notifying that recording or picture taking of any performance is expressly forbidden.***

VIII. TOURNAMENT TABBING PROCEDURE

A. Speech and Drama Pairing Procedures

1. The speaking order for preliminary rounds will be randomly determined by using the latest edition of computer pairing software with MFEA Executive Board approved settings (currently Tabroom.com).
2. The preliminary rounds in all events, except debate, shall consist of no more than eight entries per round unless approved by the tournament director prior to the start of the tournament.
 - a) Divisional and State tournaments will be sections of no more than 8 unless approved by a majority of the interim committee for the division involved (email polls may be held).
3. In the individual speech contests, no competitor will meet another competitor from the same school twice in the preliminary rounds nor will s/he be paired against another competitor from his/her own school in the preliminary rounds if possible. (Note: In very small tournaments, this may be impossible). A priority list of students to avoid if possible is below listed in order of importance (a is the most important to avoid if possible):
 - a) Competitors from the same school meeting more than once in preliminary rounds (avoid this most)
 - b) Competitors from the same school meeting.
 - c) Competitors meeting more than once.
4. Round options:
 - a) Three preliminary rounds using cumulative rank as defined in VIII.B.1.a (don't drop worst rank).
 - b) Four preliminary rounds using cumulative rank as defined in VIII.B.1.a (drop worst rank).
 - c) Five preliminary rounds using cumulative rank as defined in VIII.B.1.a (drop worst rank).
 - d) Semifinals, if held, the round would be composed of SIXTEEN or fewer competitors (the only exceptions to more than 16 are noted below in VIII.B.3.a.v) who have the best cumulative rank as defined in VIII.B.1.a.
 - (i) Semifinals must be held at the State meet, unless an event has too few entries (exceptions noted in Section X) and are optional at invitationals and Divisional.
 - (ii) In Semifinals, seeded competitors will be divided equally among the two sections according to the following sample:

Section I	Section II
#1 Seed	#2 Seed
#4 Seed	#3 Seed
#5 Seed	#6 Seed
#8 Seed	#7 Seed
#9 Seed	#10 Seed
#12 Seed	#11 Seed
#13 Seed	#14 Seed
#16 Seed	#15 Seed

- (iii) The principle of avoiding pairing of students from the same school in Semifinals rounds must be followed insofar as possible.
- e) Speaking order in the Semifinal and Final rounds shall be determined by computer. If computer tabbing is not used, determine speaking order by listing the student code numbers on paper and drawing them at random. No changes will be made in the drawn speaking order, even if competitors from the same school are back-to-back, with the exception of Extemporaneous to prevent students from cross examining their teammates. ONLY in cases of double entry, tab persons will adjust speaker order to prevent a double-entered student from being scheduled in the same speaking position in both events.
- f) Only raw scores will be used in tabbing the results of Semifinals and Finals.
- g) There will be one final round composed of eight competitors following the procedures outlined in section VIII.B.3. The only exception to 8 students is listed in VIII.B.3.a.v and VIII.B.4.a.iii.

B. Speech and Drama Ranking, Rating, and Tie-Breaking Procedures

1. Round ranking and rating procedure:
 - a) The judge shall rank the competitors 1, 2, 3, etc., in order of excellence (1 being best rank). Judges shall not award ties on rank. Judges shall rate (assign speaker points to) each competitor on a 20-30 scale. Judges may tie on rate. If the judge does not assign a rate for one of the competitors in a round and cannot be found to correct the omission, the average of the ratings of the nearest two ranked competitors in the round will be used to fill in the missing score. If the judge of a round does not assign any rates (speaker points) and cannot be found to correct the omission, then rates will be assigned in the tab room in descending order, reducing 1 point for each place below 1st, starting at 30 points. 1st = 30 points, 2nd = 29, 3rd = 28, etc.
 - b) In event(s) with only one section, tournament directors may opt to use raw ranks in preliminary rounds.
 - c) A competitor with a "no-show" will receive a rank of no better than 6 and 0 for rate (speaker points). (Intent of the rules is that a no-show is lower than a five.)

d) A competitor with a "no show" in finals will not place at the meet or receive sweeps points for finals, but will still receive sweeps points in prelims. The competitor in 9th place will take the place of the missing competitor (If there are full sections).

e) Tab persons shall not adjust ranks or rates without prior approval of the tournament director.

2. Terms:

- a) Cumulative Rank - Total of competitor's ranking in all rounds with truncated ranks (defined below). If a rank is dropped then it is not included in the cumulative rank. (Tabroom Event setting: rank drop worst from prelim rounds. Do not include drop worst if no drop rank is used).
- b) Truncated Ranks - If a rank of 6 or higher is given, record the rank as 5. In events that contain sections of less than five, no rank higher than the smallest section size may be given. (Set truncate ranks to 5. If sections of five or less competitors exist in the event, you must truncate to the smallest section instead of 5).
- c) Cumulative Rate - Total of competitor's speaker points (rate) in all rounds. If a rate is dropped, then it is not included in the cumulative rate. (Tabroom Event setting: points drop worst from preliminary rounds. Do not include drop worst if you did not drop any speaker points).

3. For breaking from prelims to the first elimination round

- a) Determine competitor's cumulative rank (defined above. If using Tabroom, this must be set as your first event tiebreaker). If competitors are tied, break ties using the following in order until elimination sections are filled:
 - (i) Cumulative Rate (Defined above).
 - (ii) Cumulative Rank + dropped rank (Tabroom Event setting: ranks from all prelim rounds and set truncate ranks to 5 or lowest section size).
 - (iii) Cumulative Rate + dropped rate (Tabroom Event setting: points from all prelim rounds).
 - (iv) Judge preference on ranks (This is the name of the Tabroom setting). If competitors were in the same section, whichever competitor got the lower rank wins this tie.
 - (v) If the Fourth tiebreaker cannot be broken, all competitors still tied will progress to the next round.

4. Breaking from an elimination round to another

- a) Determine competitor's cumulative rank (defined above). If using Tabroom, ranks from prelims and elimination rounds must be set as the first tiebreaker (i.e. both receive a priority of 1). If competitors are tied, break ties using the following in order until the next elimination sections are filled:
 - (i) The total of rankings in the elimination round shall be used to break a tie. (Tabroom setting: Ranks in elimination rounds truncated to smallest section).
 - (ii) Judge preference on ranks in elimination rounds (Tabroom setting: Judge preference on ranks in elimination rounds). If competitors were in the same section, whichever competitor got the lower ranks on a majority of judges' ballots wins this tiebreaker.

- (iii) If the second tiebreaker cannot be broken, all competitors still tied progress to the next round.

5. Determining final placing

- a) Determine competitors' cumulative rank (defined above). If using Tabroom, ranks from prelims, elimination rounds truncated to smallest section, and finals must be set as the first tiebreaker (i.e. all three receive a priority of 1). If competitors are tied, break ties using the following procedure to determine final placing:
 - (i) The total of rankings in the elimination round shall be used to break a tie. (Tabroom setting: Ranks in final round).
 - (ii) Judge preference on ranks in elimination rounds (Tabroom setting: Judge preference on ranks in finals round). If competitors were in the same section, whichever competitor got the lower ranks on a majority of judges' ballots wins this tiebreaker.

C. Debate Preliminary Pairing Procedures

1. Initial Round Pairing Procedure

- a) In tournaments with 7 or more entries, skip round pairing procedures will be utilized as outlined below. In Skip Round Pairing Rounds 1 and 2 of all Debate events will be randomly paired using the latest edition of computer pairing software with MFEA Executive Board approved settings (currently Tabroom.com). Round 3 will be paired based on the results of Round 1 and 2, etc. The intent is to be pairing the preliminary debate rounds one round ahead of time in order to keep the tournament on schedule. Outrounds will be paired based on the cumulative results of all preliminary rounds, using the tie-breaking procedure outlined in VIII.B.4 and VIII.B.5.
- b) If a competitor ever receives fewer than 20 speaker points within a round, record their overall speaker points as 20 for that round.
- c) If registration in a Debate event is six or fewer, the tournament director has the option of offering a Round Robin competition. Round Robin is a pairing system in which each team meets every other team, including teams from their own school. Thus, students will debate students from their own school in Round Robin debate.

In a Round Robin, the following schematics are to be utilized:

Schematic for 6	Schematic for 5	Schematic for 4	Schematic for 3
Round I A-B C-E D-F	Round I A-B C-E D-bye	Round I A-B C-D	Round I A-B C-bye
Round II E-A D-B F-C	Round II E-A D-B C-bye	Round II A-D B-C	Round II C-A B-bye
Round III D-A B-C F-E	Round III D-A B-C E-bye	Round III D-B C-A	Round III B-C A-bye
Round IV A-F B-E C-D	Round IV A-bye B-E C-D		
Round V A-C B-F E-D	Round V A-C B-bye E-D		

2. Subsequent Rounds Pairing Procedure

- a) List team/LD competitors in order into brackets based on their records.
 - (i) Within each bracket, list teams from highest to lowest total speaker points with both top and worst speaker points drop. (Note: if high low are not dropped, skip to (ii). This would be appropriate at the 3 round tournament.)
 - (ii) If contestants are tied on (i), calculate total speaker points for all rounds.
 - (iii) If contestants are tied on (ii), calculate best opponents record (total opponent wins).
 - (iv) If competitors are tied on (iii), calculate judge's variance (note: only if computer tabbing).
 - (v) If contestants are tied on (iv), determine placing by random draw.
- b) Starting with the bracket with zero losses, draw the top team from the bracket directly below it (meaning one less than the bracket you are drawing into), and repeat this process until all record brackets have an even number of competitors.
- c) Pair the highest to lowest teams within their brackets. Win/Loss (i.e. highest debating lowest) has priority within this process.
- d) If possible, a competitor will not debate a competitor from their same school until Finals (this is the one exception to c).
- e) LD and Policy debaters shall be given an equal number of rounds for affirmative and negative within the tournament, as much as is possible. **Do not move any entry to a different bracket to achieve this.**
- f) No competitor shall debate the same competitor a second time until Outrounds. Break the bracket if it requires two teams that have previously met in preliminary rounds to meet again in preliminary

rounds. When in Outrounds, if competitors have met before in preliminary rounds, they must switch sides. Public Forum will always flip for sides in debates.

- g) The bye shall be assigned randomly for rounds 1 and 2. For subsequent rounds, the bye shall be issued to the lowest ranked competitor for that round that has not already received a bye. Competitors receiving byes in preliminary rounds shall be awarded speaker points based on the average of all preliminary rounds debated. The bye points must be averaged every round.
- h) A team/LDer who forfeits a round in preliminary rounds, either by no-show or acquiescence, shall receive a loss with 0 speaker points; the opposing team/LDer shall receive a win and an average of their points.

3. Use of Tab Software

- a) The software used may be the latest publicly released version of the software. Tournament directions are encouraged to download and test the software well in advance of their tournament. The State tournament should use the settings approved by the MFEA Executive Board.
- b) Tournament hosts should make every reasonable effort to either enter judges with conflicts or notify the tab staff before the first round has been paired.
- c) Results should be made available immediately following the pairing of the next round.
- d) All entry will be done with at least two tab room staff members, from different schools.
- e) Judges assigned by the computer shall judge the rounds assigned unless there is a conflict of interest or the judge is unable to judge the assigned ballot.
- f) Any manual override of a pairing or judge will require the consent of the Tournament Director.

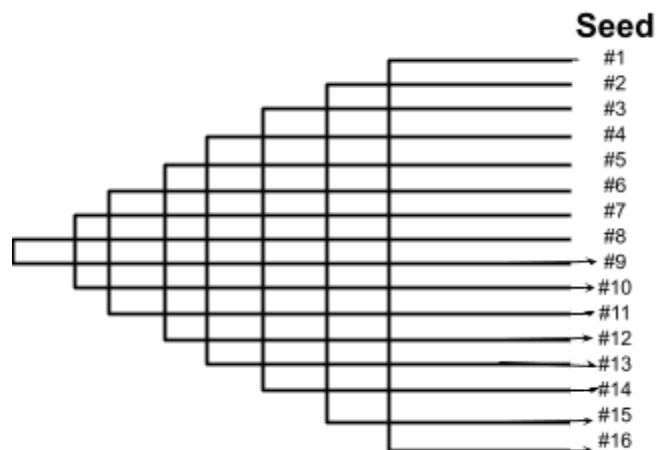
D. Debate Outrounds Pairing Procedures

1. General Outround Procedure:

- a) All Outrounds are single elimination.
- b) There will be a minimum of three judge panels held in all Outrounds (invitationals may waive this requirement with tournament director approval)
- c) For Lincoln-Douglas and Policy: sides shall be determined by coin flip unless the opponents have faced each other in preliminary rounds, in which case they will have to face each other on the opposite sides from their preliminary debate. Public Forum will continue to determine sides and speaking order via coin flip even if the teams have faced one another previously.

2. Octofinals

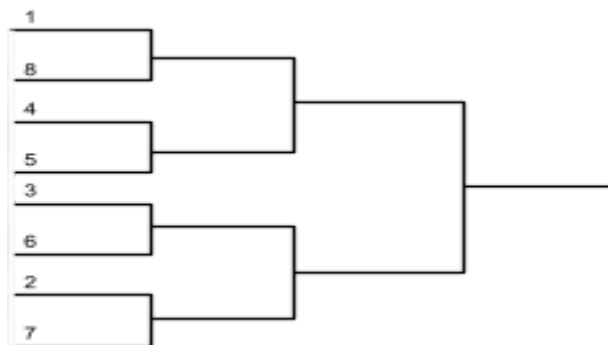
- a) (If held) The best sixteen teams/LD competitors (starting with the undefeated bracket and going down in order following the ranking procedure outlined in VIII.C.2.a.i-v).



- b) Use the following bracket to pair Octofinals:
- c) Adjustments in the bracket should only be made to have schools avoid hitting their own schools.
- d) Once initially placed into the bracket, do not further alter placement except to avoid a school hitting their own school

3. Quarterfinals

- a) If held after Octofinals, do not reseed teams into the bracket. Competitors will hold their bracketed position, and lower-ranked competitors will advance without penalty as if they were the higher seeded competitors.
- b) If Quarterfinals are the first elimination round held, use the following bracket to pair Quarterfinals:
- c) Adjustments in the bracket should only be made to have schools avoid hitting their own schools.
- d) Losers in the round will be awarded 5th-8th place according to initial placement in the bracket (highest seed takes 5th and lowest 8th).



4. Semifinals

- a) If Quarterfinals were not held, select the top four teams based on win/loss record and speaker points. Competitors should be paired 1 versus 4 and 2 versus 3. Assignment of sides will be determined in the same manner as preliminary rounds.
- b) If Quarterfinals were held, do not reseed teams into the bracket. Competitors will hold their bracketed position, and lower-ranked competitors will advance without penalty as if they were the higher seeded competitors.
- c) Losers from the Semifinal round will be awarded 3rd and 4th places to initial placement in the bracket.

5. Finals

- a) Winners from the Semifinal round or if no Semifinals were held, the top two teams at the end of preliminary rounds based on win/loss record and speaker points (using tie-breaking procedures if necessary) shall meet to determine 1st and 2nd place.
- b) All other places shall be awarded based on tie-breaking procedures if no Semifinal round was held.

E. Sweepstakes Scoring Class AA

	Policy	LD	Legi	IE	Duo/Forum
1st	25	15	10	10	20
2nd	20	12	8	8	16
3rd	15	9	6	6	12
4th	10	6	4	4	8
5th	5	3	2	2	4
6th	5	3	2	2	4
7th	5	3	2	2	4
8th	5	3	2	2	4
9th-16th	2.5	1.5	1	1	2
Totals	110	66	44	44	88

F. Sweepstakes Scoring Class A and B-C

Awarding of sweepstakes points.

1. At speech and drama tournaments the following points will be awarded to determine “sweepstakes” winners:
 - a) Those entries qualifying for the Semifinal round shall be awarded two sweepstakes points. A theatre drama team is considered as one entry. At Class A only, Semifinal points will be awarded only to students competing in Semifinal rounds. Each speaker in speech or drama that earned a top score of “1” in a preliminary round earns one sweepstakes point even if the “1” is a drop score.
 - b) Those entries placing in the final round shall receive, per person:
 - (i) Ten points for first place
 - (ii) Eight points for second place
 - (iii) Six points for third place
 - (iv) Four points for fourth place
 - (v) Two points for fifth place
 - (vi) All other finalists receive one point.
2. Policy debate, Public Forum debate, Duo Interpretation, and Theatre drama sweepstakes are given in like manner, per individual to a maximum of 20 for 1st place, etc. to the top 8 places at meets.
3. Policy, Public Forum, and Lincoln-Douglas debate sweepstakes points:
 - a) One point shall be awarded for each win in preliminary rounds. Byes are counted as wins.
 - b) One point shall be awarded to each entry competing in the Octofinal.
 - c) Two points shall be awarded to each entry competing in the Quarterfinals.
 - d) Three points shall be awarded to each entry competing in the Semifinals.
 - e) Final placement point awards shall be awarded by ranking losers in Semifinals according to win/loss records and speaker points. These placement points shall be awarded per individual to the top eight places at meets.

4. Ties in sweepstakes placing shall be broken by first using the greatest number of first place finishes to break the ties. (A win or placing in a Duo/Theatre event shall count as two wins or placings). If using the greatest number of first place finishes does not break the tie, then second place finishes shall be used and so on down until the tie is finally broken.

IX. DIVISIONAL TOURNAMENT CLASS A AND B-C

A. Entries

1. Each high school must have registered with the Montana High School Association to enter competitors in the Divisional speech, debate, and drama tournament.
2. All Classes A and B-C high schools in Montana shall be eligible to register for participation in any individual event whether or not they participate in any other speech, debate, or drama event.
3. Each member school may enter up to three entries in each speech, debate, and drama event.
4. In the event of a theatre drama or debate partner dropping after the entry deadline, the remaining partner(s) will be allowed to change to an IE drama or speech event, provided that doing so does not create extra sections in the event. (The intent is to allow a student the opportunity to finish the season and perhaps qualify for State rather than being unduly punished for losing a partner.)
5. At Class A or B-C Divisional, in any event(s) with only one section, raw scores will be used in preliminary rounds.
6. At Divisional meets an entry fee of up to \$5.00 for each participant in the competitive events in speech, debate, and drama may be charged by the host school. The host school shall be allowed to assess a drop fine of \$5.00 for each competitor dropped by a registered school the day before or the day of the Divisional tournament. An additional \$20.00 school registration fee at the Divisional tournament may be charged.

B. Logistics

1. Classrooms or the equivalent shall be used for all competition in all events. (Dormitory, supply, and the like rooms cannot be used.) This specification is to be considered necessary before awarding the Divisional speech, debate, and drama meets to an institution.
2. The official comment sheets and summarization sheets for debate, speech, and drama events shall be made available on the Montana High School Association website. These comment sheets must be used by all judges. Tournament hosts may opt to use online ballots and/or printed summarization sheets via approved tabulation software. If online ballots and/or printed summarization sheets are utilized, official language from the summarization sheets and comment sheets shall be included in the appropriate sections of the online ballot and printed summarization sheets.
3. Results of competition shall be tabulated as soon as possible after each round. The tabulation room will be open to paid member coaches of the Montana Forensic Educators Association to observe the tabulation procedure. Those coaches who are not paid members **by Jan. 1** will not be allowed entrance to the tab room but will still be allowed to view feedback and results.
4. The Divisional tournaments must finance themselves. Should there be a deficit, it will be borne by the host school.
5. The Divisional director, with the consent of the schools in the division, shall make such arrangements as are needed for the Divisional meet.

6. Round postings for speech, drama, and debate will not be posted at the Divisional tournaments until reviewed by a committee of non-host coaches.
7. The selection, including visual aids, that is presented at the State contest must be the same one presented at the Divisional contest. Improvements are allowed.
8. All tournament pairing procedures outlined in section VIII will be utilized for the Divisional meets. Any adjustments made to these procedures must be made by a majority vote of the interim Divisional committee in attendance.
9. The Divisional host must computer tab the Divisional meet in debate events. The Divisional host may choose to hand or computer tab for the remaining speech and drama events. The selection of computer or hand tabbing should be specified in the tournament invitation or on the tournament website.

X. STATE TOURNAMENT

A. Entries

1. In Class AA, each member school may enter up to four competitors in each event or eight competitors in each partner event.

In Class A, the top twelve places in each event from the Western and Eastern Divisional tournaments shall qualify for the Class A State tournament.

In Class B-C, following the Divisional tournament, ***the top 8 places in the Southern, Northern, and Eastern division*** shall qualify for the Class B-C Tournament.

2. Divisional tournament managers and individual coaches must register the qualifying entries from their division no later than the day after the Divisional tournament with the director of the State tournament.
3. In Class A, Divisional chairs shall contact the State tournament director the day of the Divisional tournament to report the number of entries in each event. In the case of a division having fewer than the allotted entries in an event, the Class A State tournament director shall fill the empty slots from the other division by order of Divisional placement. The order of priority shall be 13th place finishers from each division, then 14th place finishers, etc. until all slots are full. This draw must take place the day of the Divisional tournament, prior to the final rounds, so that Divisional chairs may be notified of the results and notify coaches in their division.
4. In Class B-C, Divisional chairs shall contact the State tournament director the day of the Divisional tournament to report the number of entries in each event. If all slots aren't filled by their own division, students will be taken from the other 2 divisions in placing order from their Divisional tournament using the following order, alternating back and forth between the other two divisions until all open spots are filled: Open spots from the North Divisional will be filled from the East first, then the South; Spots from the East Divisional will be filled from the South first, then the North; Open spots in the South Divisional will be filled from the North first, then the East.
5. In Class A and B/C, in the event of a drop after the Divisional tournament, the State tournament director shall fill the empty slots. The order of priority shall be the next place finisher from the division that had a drop. If there are no further competitors from the division with the drop, the replacement will be the next place finisher from the other division until all spots are filled. Divisional rankings will not be adjusted (i.e. if the 5th place competitor drops, the alternate will take that slot in rankings and/or pairings).

6. At the State tournament, an entry fee of \$8.00 for each participant in the events may be charged by the host school and an additional \$35.00 school registration fee at the State tournament may be charged.
7. If one member of a qualifying debate team or qualifying drama theatre cannot attend the State meet, the school may substitute for this member. If neither can attend, no substitution may be made.
8. Coaches must bring POI, Oratory, Informative, and MPA manuscripts to State.
9. The selection, including visual aids, that is presented at the State contest must be the same one presented at the Divisional contest. Improvements are allowed.

B. Logistics

The selection, including visual aids, that is presented at the State contest must be the one presented at the Divisional contest. Improvements are allowed.

1. Classrooms or the equivalent shall be used for all competition in all events. (Dormitory, supply, and like rooms cannot be used.) This specification is to be considered necessary before awarding the State speech, drama, and debate meets to an institution.
2. The official comment sheets and summarization sheets for debate, speech, and drama events shall be made available on the Montana High School Association website. These comment sheets must be used by all judges. Tournament hosts may opt to use online ballots and/or printed summarization sheets via approved tabulation software. If online ballots and/or printed summarization sheets are utilized, official language from the summarization sheets and comment sheets shall be included in the appropriate sections of the online ballot and printed summarization sheets.
3. Results of competition shall be tabulated as soon as possible after each round. The tabulation room will be open to paid member coaches of the Montana Forensic Educators Association to observe the tabulation procedure. Those coaches who are not paid members **by Jan. 1** will not be allowed entrance to the tab room but will still be allowed to view feedback and results.
4. For Class A, any speech and/or drama event with 15 or fewer entries: raw scores will be used for preliminary rounds and Semifinals will not be held. (Note: remove truncate rank from all tiebreakers in Tabroom and this is an exception to procedures in VIII.B). It must be used for all events with fewer than 15 entries. Sweepstakes points for Semifinals will not be awarded if they are not held.

For Class B/C, ***the top 12 competitors in each event will proceed to semifinals. Rooms will be split evenly.*** For any speech and/or drama events with 11 or fewer entries, Semifinals will not be held.

Sweepstakes points will NOT be awarded. Class B/C Quarterfinals will not be held in any debate event with 7 or fewer competitors. Sweepstakes points will not be awarded for Quarterfinals if Quarterfinals are not held.

Class B/C Semifinals will not be held in any debate event with 3 or fewer competitors. Sweepstakes points will not be awarded for Semifinals if Semifinals are not held.

5. At the Class AA State, debate will consist of five preliminary rounds, Octofinals, Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals. Speech will consist of 5 preliminary rounds, Semifinals, and Finals.

At the Class A State, debate will consist of five rounds, Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals. Speech/Drama will consist of 5 preliminary rounds. Semifinals and Finals in Speech/Drama depend on entries as noted in X.B.4.

At Class B-C State, debate will consist of five rounds, Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals. In Speech/Drama, there are four preliminary rounds. Semifinals and Finals in Speech/Drama depend on entries as noted in X.B.4.

Additionally, if an event at B-C State is not at capacity, and the sectioning below needs to be altered, State tournament directors should attempt to make sectioning as even and fair to all participants as possible. Events with 8 or fewer participants should be in one section. Events with between 6 and 12 competitors should be in two sections. Anything more than 12 shall be in three sections.

6. Rooms used for the Semifinals and Final rounds should be designated far enough apart from each other so as to prevent noise interference from each other.
7. Whenever possible, tab persons for each event shall consist of one representative from each division. At least two of the tab persons must have experience tabbing.
8. The director of the tournament shall provide shuttle transportation for coaches in the case when rounds are held in separate buildings that are not within a reasonable walking distance (e.g. 2 blocks).
9. All pairing procedures outlined in section VIII shall be utilized at the State tournament. Prior to the start of the tournament, pairing should be done only for round one. All other rounds will be paired following round one adjusting for drops and adds. All pairings will be done on the IE computer tab program. The only exceptions to section VIII are outlined in X.B.5 above.
10. State hosts must use Tabroom.com to pair and tabulate all rounds of speech, debate, and drama at all classifications. Only in the event of catastrophic failure of the platform can hand-tabulation be done.