Original Oratory

1. **Purpose:** The general purpose of the speech is to persuade. Any other purpose such as to inform or entertain shall be secondary.

2. **Contest**: This contest comprises only memorized orations actually composed by the contestants and not used by them during a previous contest season. No visual aids are permitted.

3. **Subject**: Any appropriate subject may be used, but the orator must be truthful. Any non-factual reference, especially a personal one, must be so identified.

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

5. **Quotation**: Not more than 150 words of the oration may be direct quotation from any other speech or writing and such quotations must be identified in a printed copy of the oration supplied prior to registration. Extensive paraphrasing from other sources is prohibited.

6. **Script**: The orator's script must identify the quoted materials, state the number of quoted words, include a work cited page in APA or MLA format, and both the orator and the coach must attest by signature that the oration is the original work of the contestant. It is the responsibility of the contestant to have a script ready upon request should the speech be challenged. At the National Tournament, all quarterfinalists in OO are required to turn in a printed, typed copy of their manuscript, including a works cited page, to the ombudsperson before noon on the third day of competition.

7. **Re-Use**: A student may not use an oration the student used in district or national competition in any previous contest year.

Informative Speaking

1. **Purpose:** An informative speech is an original speech designed to explain, define, describe, or illustrate a particular subject. The general purpose of the speech is for the audience to gain understanding and/or knowledge of a topic. Any other purpose such as to entertain or to convince shall be secondary. The use of audio/visual aids is optional. (See # 4 on Aids.)

2. **Contest:** This contest comprises only memorized speeches composed by the contestants and not used by them during a previous contest season.

3. **Subject:** Effective speeches provide new information or perspectives on a topic, including those that are widely known. The responsibility for choosing a worthwhile topic rests with the contestant. A fabricated topic may not be used. Any non-factual reference, including a personal reference, must be so identified.

4. **Aids:** Audio/visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. If used, the audio/visual aids should enhance or support the message rather than distract from the overall effectiveness of the presentation. During the presentation, no electronic equipment is permitted. Electronic equipment is defined as any object requiring an electrical cord, battery, or solar power to operate it (projectors, cell phones, radios, iPads, computers, etc.). The use of live animals or any additional people as visual aids is not allowed during the speech. Items of dress put on and/or removed for illustration during the course of the presentation are considered costumes and may not be part of the contestant's presentation. Visual aids may not violate policies as dictated by local and state law (weapons, drugs, etc.) Contestants may not distribute items to the judges or audience before, during, or after the round. This includes but is not limited to food, objects, handouts, flyers, and promotional merchandise. The host school is not responsible for providing any facilities, equipment, including tables, chairs, or easels, or assistance in a contestant's use of visual aids. In order to facilitate the video recording of the final round at the National Tournament, one table will be provided for use by the contestants. This provision is only for the final round. Expedient set up and take down of aids is expected. If a visual aid displays published pictorial material, the source

must be included in the work-cited page but does not need to be cited orally.

5. **Length:** The time limit is 10 minutes with a 30-second "grace period." If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student has gone beyond the grace period. Should a student go beyond the grace period, the student may not be ranked 1st. There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period. The ranking is up to each individual judge's discretion. Judges who choose to time are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices. No minimum time is mandated.

6. **Quotation:** Not more than 150 words of the speech may be direct quotation and such quotations must be identified orally and in a printed copy of the speech supplied prior to registration.

7. **Script:** Manuscripts must be available at all district tournament contests in the event of a protest. However, it shall be the choice of each individual District Committee whether or not to require these materials be submitted prior to the district contest. The script must identify the quoted materials, state the number of quoted words, include a work-cited page in APA or MLA format, and both the speaker and the coach must attest by signature that the speech is the original work of the contestant. At the National Tournament, all competitors are required to turn in a typed copy of their manuscript, including a works cited page, during the registration process.

8. **Re-Use**: A student may not use an informative speech the student used in district or national competition in any previous contest year.

Program Oral Interpretation

1. **Purpose:** POI is a program of oral interpretation of thematically-linked selections chosen from two or three genres: prose, poetry, drama (plays). At least two pieces of literature that represent at least two separate genres must be used. Unlike the other interpretation events, Program Oral Interpretation may use multiple sources for the program. The title or author of all selections must be verbally identified in either the introduction and/or transitional phrases. The title may identify the primary source (e.g., book, anthology, journal, magazine, newspaper, approved website, etc.) or the specific title within the primary source (e.g., a poem, a play, a short story, a journal/magazine article, a newspaper article, etc.). If more than one author is attributed to the source, at a minimum, the primary author should be verbally cited. A Works Cited of all sources must be available to tournament officials upon request. Competitors are encouraged to devote approximately equal times 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). Prose expresses thought through language recorded in sentences and paragraphs: fiction (short stories, novels) and non-fiction (articles, essays, journals, biographies). Poetry is writing which expresses ideas, experience, or emotion through the creative arrangement of words according to their sound, their rhythm, their meaning. Poetry may rely on verse and stanza form.

2. **Contest:** 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. The intact manuscript may be used by the contestant as a prop, so long as it is in the contestant's control by remaining in contact with the body at all times. No costumes or props other than the manuscript are permitted. Pictures, graphics, and/or illustrations are considered a visual aid, even if included in the original manuscript, and may not be displayed. The contestant must address the script; however, introduction and transitional material may be memorized.

3. **Length:** The time limit is 10 minutes with a 30-second "grace period." If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student has gone beyond the grace period. Should a student go beyond the grace period, the student may not be ranked 1st. There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period. The ranking is up to each individual judge's discretion. Judges who choose to time are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices. No minimum time is mandated.

4. **Publication Rules:** All literature performed must meet the publication rules of the Association.

5. *Adaptations* to material may only be used for the purpose of transition. 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. Changes to the script may only be used for the purpose of transition or to

eliminate profane language. The voice of a script may not be changed. For example, changing "She moved to California when she was 13" to "I moved to California when I was 13" is not permitted. Combining small fractions of sentences or singular words to create humorous or dramatic dialogue, scenes, moments, and/or plot lines not intended in the original literature is prohibited. For example, it is not permitted to take one word from page 13 (e.g. home), a phrase from page 211 (e.g. ran away from), and a name, (e.g. Tyler) from page 59 to create dialogue between characters or events that do not exist in the script. Example: adding "Tyler ran away from home." when this did not occur and was not said in the script is not permitted. Transitions only 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.

Interpretation

This includes categories of individual (solo) performance of dramatic (serious) and humorous literature, as well as duo performance of either emotive appeal, with selections drawn from published, printed: novels, short stories, plays, poetry, or other printed, published works, PDFs, e-books, as well as limited online and recorded works as provided for in the rules below.

1. **Divisions**. Contests are conducted in Dramatic, Humorous, Duo, and Program Oral Interpretation. See additional rules for the supplemental interpretation events of Poetry, Prose, and Storytelling.

2. **Length**: The time limit in Interpretation Main Events (Dramatic, Humorous, Duo, and Program Oral Interpretation) is ten minutes with a 30-second "grace period." If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student has gone beyond the grace period. Should a student go beyond the grace period, the student may not be ranked 1st. There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period. The ranking is up to each individual judge's discretion. Judges who choose to time are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices. No minimum time is mandated.

3. **Material**: Selections used in the oral interpretation main events of Dramatic, Humorous, and Duo Interpretation must be cuttings from a single work of literature (one short story, play, or novel), unless poetry is used, in which case cuttings may come from one or more poems from a single source. If the source is an anthology collection of short stories, plays, or novels, each selection of literature is independent and only one selection can be used, even if it is from the same author. If the source is an anthology which includes poetry, multiple poems may be used from this single source by one or a variety of authors. Unlike the other oral interpretation main events, Program Oral Interpretation may use multiple sources for the program. Song lyrics may be used if the performer has an original, hard copy of the lyrics such as sheet music or a CD jacket or if they can be found from online sources that meet the digital source rules below. See specific rules for Program Oral Interpretation and Supplemental interpretation events.

    Note: In 2020, the Board of Directors voted to pilot the following new rules regarding what sources for material may be used in Interpretation events, including removal of the requirement that digital sources must be found on the Approved Websites List.

    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.

    1. **For print publications** such as novels, short stories, plays, or poetry, the original source is the physical book or e-book. Photocopies of original literature are not acceptable. Presenting the physical book or e-book is sufficient to prove that a printed publication is publicly accessible.

    2. **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.

3. **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.

4. **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.

   b. Or, 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.

5. **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 #4 above) are required.

C. **Source Verification:** It is the affirmative duty of each coach and each student entered in Interpretation contests to determine absolutely that the cutting being performed meets all rules for material. Interp source material must be available at all district tournament contests in the event of a protest. However, it shall be the choice of each individual District Committee whether or not to require these materials be submitted prior to the district contest. At the National Tournament, all competitors are required to turn in the following items during the registration process unless officially notified otherwise by the National Tournament director. Any contestant failing to produce the following items to the ombudsperson by the aforementioned deadline will not qualify for the semifinal rounds of competition.

1) 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 flashdrive, 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.

       i. The material the competitor performs must presently appear on the website if questions arise in competition. The website and online version of the digital publication need to be available for comparison if challenged. Online access is the fundamental responsibility of tournament officials and/or individual 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

2) 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.

    a. 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 re-inserted where it is used in the cutting). Students are not required to photocopy or print pages that are not used in their cutting.

    b. All words used from the script should be highlighted (any words/lines not used should be left unmarked).

    c. 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. 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 the literature.

3) A printed, typed copy of the cutting. This must be the final cutting that the student is using for the tournament, and it must match the copy of the cutting uploaded during registration.

4) Quarterfinalists in POI, OO, and INFO must also turn in a works cited page of all sources used. Please note that competitors in POI must turn in original sources and photocopies for every source used.

5. **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 material may only be used for the purpose of transition. 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. Changes to the script may only be used for the purpose of transition or to eliminate profane language. The voice of a script may not be changed. For example, changing "She moved to California when she was 13" to "I moved to California when I was 13" is not permitted. Combining small fractions of sentences or singular words to create humorous or dramatic dialogue, scenes, moments, and/or plot lines not intended in the original literature is prohibited. For example, it is not permitted to take one word from page 13 (e.g. home), a phrase from page 211 (e.g. ran away from), and a name, (e.g. Tyler) from page 59 to create dialogue between characters or events that do not exist in the script. Example: adding "Tyler ran away from home." when this did not occur and was not said in the script is not permitted. Transitions only 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. Humorous, Dramatic, and Duo Interpretation selections must be presented from memory. Program Oral

Interpretation must use a manuscript.

C. In Duo Interpretation, each of the two performers may play one or more characters so long as performance responsibility in the cutting remains as balanced as possible.

D. Monologues, prose, and poetry selections are acceptable in Dramatic, Humorous, and Program Oral Interpretation. In Duo Interpretation, if the selection is prose or poetry and contains narration, either or both of the performers may present the narration.

E. **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 impersonation, 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 performances 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 (see page 123). 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.

6. **Focus**: In Dramatic, Humorous, and Program Oral Interpretation, use of focal points and/or direct contact with the audience should be determined by the requirements of the literature being interpreted. In Duo Interpretation, focus may be direct during the introduction [the performers may look at each other] but must be indirect [off-stage] during the performance itself.

7. **Re-Use**: A student may not use a cutting from a work of literature the student used in National Speech & Debate Association district or national competition in any previous contest year. A student entered in two events may not use the same selection of literature in both events.

8. **Suggested Websites List:** The NSDA will maintain a list of websites as a resource for assisting coaches and students with finding materials for use in competition. Students are no longer required to use only digital sources found on this list. The list can be found at www.speechanddebate.org/suggested-source-material-for-interpretation-events/.

Extemporaneous Speaking

1. **Divisions**: Two divisions of Extemporaneous Speaking will be held at the district and national level:

    A. **United States Division:** Questions will cover U.S. domestic and U.S. foreign policy.

    B. **International Division:** Questions will cover the domestic affairs of foreign countries and the foreign affairs of all countries, including the United States.

2. **Topics**: The district chair will obtain a list of questions phrased for contest use and based on subjects discussed in periodicals during the current school year. The contents of the list must not be disclosed except as contestants draw questions. A new subject area will be used for each round with no duplication of questions between the divisions.

3. **Entry**: At the National Tournament, no student is allowed to enter both divisions in a single contest year. Each district has the autonomy to determine whether double entry in Extemporaneous Speaking events is allowed. The decision of the District Committee is final.

4. **Drawing**: Thirty minutes before the contest is to begin, the first speaker draws three questions and chooses one. Depending on tournament policy, they may return the other two questions or they may have a unique set of questions for each speaker position. At the National Tournament, each speaker position will receive a unique set of three questions to choose from. The other contestants draw in like manner, in the order of speaking, at intervals of seven minutes. A contestant drawing a question on which they have spoken previously in the tournament must return it and draw again.

5. **Preparation**: As soon as a question is chosen, the contestant will prepare a speech without consultation and without references to prepared notes. Students may consult published books, magazines, newspapers and journals or articles, provided:

    A. They are originals or copies of whole pages.

    B. Provided those originals or copies are uncut.

    C. There is no written material on that original or copy other than citation information.

    D. Topical index without annotation may be present.

    No other material will be allowed in the Extemp prep room other than stated above. Extemp speeches, handbooks, briefs and outlines are prohibited from the Extemp prep room. Underlining or highlighting in Extemp will be allowed if done in only one color on each article or copy. The National Tournament permits use of internet during Extemp prep per the Current Guidelines for Use of Internet-Enabled Devices in Extemporaneous Speaking. Printed copies of information from online computer services may be used. Electronically retrieved evidence used in any Association Extemp competition must conform to the citation standard of the Modern Language Association [consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (7th edition)* or *http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/05/*].

6. **Notes**: Contestants may make notes during the preparation time, but the use of notes, cards, briefs or other aids is prohibited during the speech.

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

8. **Recuse**: Contestants may not leave the preparation area until dismissed by the Extemp proctor. Consultation with any person other than the Extemp proctor between the time of drawing and time of speaking is prohibited.

9. **Cross-Examination**: Each district has the autonomy to determine whether cross-examination will be used in the final round of Extemporaneous Speaking events at the district tournament. The National Tournament will utilize an open-cross examination period of two minutes for both the semifinal and final rounds. If cross-examination is used, the district must use the National Tournament final round format. The decision of the District Committee is final. *Procedure:* Each speaker shall be assigned a speaker order position. Drawing shall take place at 12-minute intervals. Thirty minutes after speaker first has drawn, speakers first and last shall enter the contest room. Speaker first shall give a speech and speaker last shall listen and may take notes. At the conclusion of speaker first's speech, speaker last

shall question speaker first for two minutes. Speaker last shall return to the prep room and speaker first shall stay and question speaker second. Speaker second will question speaker third, etc. Unless it is unavoidable, students from the same school shall not cross-examine one another. Speaker order should be adjusted accordingly.

10. **Observation**: Students in Extemporaneous Speaking are encouraged, but not required, to stay and watch the remaining speakers after they deliver their speech. Students who are double entered may be able to observe as time permits.

CURRENT GUIDELINES for Use of Internet-Enabled Devices in Extemporaneous Speaking

These rules will be used at the National Tournament. These rules are required for any district tournament whose debate events are held online. If a district tournament does not state otherwise, these guidelines will govern their contest. Districts may choose to use the Previous Guidelines for Use of Internet-Enabled Devices in Extemporaneous Speaking provided they notify their district 60 days in advance. The rules regarding use of generative artificial intelligence at the 2024 National Tournament can be found in the National Tournament manual on page 107.

A. **Preparation**: As soon as a question is chosen, the contestant 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:
    1. They are originals or copies of whole pages.
    2. Provided those originals or copies are uncut.
    3. There is no written material on that original or copy other than citation information.
    4. Topical index without annotation may be present.
    5. Files stored either on a computer or electronic device hard drive or cloud storage system. All files in this format must meet the same guidelines as printed sources.
    6. Active research from the internet during the round that 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 Use of Internet-Enabled Devices 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 Unified Manual.

PREVIOUS GUIDELINES for Use of Internet-Enabled Devices in Extemporaneous Speaking

These rules are no longer used at the National Tournament. If the district tournament is held in person, districts may choose to use these guidelines, provided 60 days advance notice is given to the district. If a district tournament does not state otherwise, the Current Guidelines for Use of Internet-Enabled Devices in Extemporaneous Speaking will govern their contest.

The use of laptop computers in Extemporaneous Speaking is permitted.

1. Extemporaneous Speaking contestants may make use of electronic retrieval devices to store and to retrieve their subject files at tournaments (district or national). 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 Association takes no**

position on which form of file storage is preferable for use at tournaments (district or national).

2. The use of electronic retrieval devices at the district competition will be the autonomous decision of each individual district committee.

3. 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 smart phones are prohibited from being used while preparing or before speaking at tournaments (district or national).

4. **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:

    a. There are no notations made within or on the saved article other than citation information.

    b. 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.

5. No other source materials will be allowed in the Extemporaneous prep room other than stated above. Pre-written Extemporaneous speeches, handbooks, briefs or outlines are prohibited from the prep room, whether stored electronically or present in hard copy form.

6. **Power Source:** Power plugs or outlets may not be used in the prep room at any time. All computers used in the prep room must be battery operated at all times.

7. Competitors are responsible for making certain their electronic retrieval devices are fully charged at the start of each competition day and for proper power management ensuring that their device remains functional throughout the competition day. Contestants may not use external power sources in the prep room, such as wall outlets and/or extension cords.

8. **Internet:** Extemporaneous Speaking contestants shall not access the internet or communicate electronically with any other individual while in the prep room at any Association tournament (district or national). All computers must comply with the following provisions:

    a. Computers equipped with removable wireless cards must have the cards removed before the beginning of any round of competition. It is the responsibility of the contestant to disengage the equipment.

    b. Computers with built-in wireless capability may be used only if the wireless capability is disabled. It is the responsibility of the contestant to disable the equipment.

    c. Wired connections (Ethernet or phone) during rounds of competition are not permitted.

    d. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information from any source (coaches or assistants included) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs. Internet access, use of e-mail, instant messaging, or other means of receiving information from sources inside or outside of the competition room are prohibited.

    e. **Penalty:** Contestants found to have violated provisions i through iii above will be ranked last in the round and receive zero points. Contestants found to have violated provision iv (above) will be disqualified from the tournament and will forfeit all round credits and points. At district tournaments, the district committee will make the final decision concerning disqualification. In case of a serious dispute or critical question, the acting tournament referee (representing the national office) may be contacted for a ruling.

9. **Liability:** Extemporaneous Speaking competitors accept full responsibility for the safety and security of their electronic retrieval devices throughout the entire course of any Association tournament (district or national). *The Association may put stickers and/or tape on computers to ensure they are not opened or used, or to ensure appropriate owners take their own machines. The Association does not assume any liability for the computers. 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. The Association is not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken computers.*

10. **File Monitoring:** The Association retains the right to view and search any electronic retrieval devices to ensure compliance with any and all rules at any Association tournament (district or national).

11. Devices should be muted in the prep room. Contestants 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.

12. Students from the same school may share computers during preparation. However, communication among contestants during preparation time is strictly prohibited.

Contestants with laptops are responsible for providing sufficient battery power. No electrical power will be supplied by the tournament, and contestants may not plug in to outlets in the Extemp prep area.