



2024-2025 HANDBOOK

This KHSSL Handbook Edition reflects changes made at the 2024 Board of Directors meeting. **Items in red** are changed from the prior year or are additions to the Handbook and should receive special attention from member schools.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----|
| BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS 2023-2025 | 3 |
| REGIONAL MANAGERS 2025 & 2026 | 4 |
| EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 2024-2026 | 4 |
| GENERAL INFORMATION & TYPES OF TOURNAMENTS | 5-6 |
| MISSION STATEMENT | 6 |
| BOARD OF DIRECTORS' STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION | 7 |
| MEMBERSHIP | 7 |
| REGISTRATION FEES | 9 |
| COMMUNICATION AND CORRESPONDENCE | 10 |
| REGIONS | 11 |
| CONTESTS AND CODE OF ETHICS | 12 |
| DROP FEES AND FINES AT STATE AND REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS | 16 |
| ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE USE AT TOURNAMENTS | 17 |
| SPEECH DIVISIONS | 18 |
| TIME SIGNALS | 18 |
| KHSSL SOURCE RULE | 19 |
| SPEECH EVENTS IN BOTH DIVISIONS | 20 |
| BROADCAST ANNOUNCING | 21 |
| DECLAMATION | 26 |
| DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION | 29 |
| EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING | 32 |
| HUMOROUS INTERPRETATION | 35 |
| IMPROMPTU SPEAKING | 38 |
| IMPROVISATIONAL DUO | 41 |
| ORATORY | 44 |
| POETRY | 47 |
| PROSE | 50 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| STORYTELLING | 52 |
| SENIOR DIVISION-ONLY EVENTS | 54 |
| DUO INTERPRETATION | 55 |
| INFORMATIVE SPEAKING | 58 |
| PROGRAM ORAL INTERPRETATION | 61 |
| JUNIOR DIVISION-ONLY EVENTS | 64 |
| DUO ACTING | 65 |
| INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS | 68 |
| REGIONAL SPEECH TOURNAMENTS | 75 |
| STATE SPEECH CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT | 84 |
| STANDARD PAPER TABULATION PROCEDURES FOR SPEECH TOURNAMENTS | 99 |
| STATE TOURNAMENT LOGISTICS | 99 |
| JUDGE OBLIGATIONS AT REGIONALS AND STATE | 101 |
| DEBATE DIVISION | 102 |
| RULES OF DEBATE EVIDENCE | 102 |
| LINCOLN DOUGLAS DEBATE | 105 |
| MODEST NOVICE TOPIC | 109 |
| STUDENT CONGRESS | 110 |
| PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE | 112 |
| STATE DEBATE TOURNAMENT | 114 |
| DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP CHECKS AND BALANCES | 122 |
| DR. GIFFORD BLYTON BOOK AWARDS | 125 |
| BALE AND ISD SCHOLARSHIPS | 127 |
| KHSSL HALL OF FAME | 129 |
| THE MEMBERS OF THE KHSSL HALL OF FAME | 132 |
| RATINGS GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES | 134 |
| GENERAL DUTIES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS | 135 |
| ALUMNI ASSOCIATION | 135 |
| STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD | 136 |

CONSTITUTION OF KHSSL, Inc. pp. 137-144

Board Of Directors 2023-2025

Officers

| | |
|------------|--|
| Chair | Woody Zorn , Hebron Middle School |
| Vice Chair | Karen Feldhaus , Daviess County High School |
| Secretary | Ryan Ray , Henry Clay High School |
| Treasurer | Beth Randolph , SCAPA |

Appalachian Region

- Senior Division–**Chuck Stamper** of Johnson County Central High School – cstamper@uky.edu
- Junior Division–**Tia Smith** of Neon Middle School/Martha Jane Potter Elementary – tia.smith@letcher.kyschools.us

Bluegrass Region

- Senior Division–**Ryan Ray** of Henry Clay HS – ryan.ray@fayette.kyschools.us
- Junior Division–**Beth Randolph** of SCAPA/Bluegrass – beth.randolph@fayette.kyschools.us

Caves Region

- Senior Division–**Karen Feldhaus** of Daviess County High School -- karen.feldhaus@daviess.kyschools.us
- Junior Division– **Katy Blair Cecil** of LaRue County HS - katy.cecil@larue.kyschools.us

Derby Region

- Senior Division–**Chase McCoy** of South Oldham High School – chase.mccoy@oldham.kyschools.us
- Junior Division–**Woody Zorn** of Hebron MS - woody.zorn@gmail.com

Lakes Region

- Senior Division–**Aaron West** of Graves County HS – aaron.west@graves.kyschools.us
- Junior Division–**Scott Bonneau** of Calloway Co. MS -- scott.bonneau@calloway.kyschools.us

Mountain Region

- Senior Division–**Bria Stacy** of Knott County Central HS – bria.stacy@knott.kyschools.us
- Junior Division–**Mary Allen Amburgey** of Hindman ES – mary.amburgey@knott.kyschools.us

River Region

- Senior Division–**Rachel Page** of Larry A. Ryle HS – rachel.page@boone.kyschools.us
- Junior Division–**Molly Seifert** of Beechwood Middle/High School – molly.seifert@beechwood.kyschools.us

At-Large Member

Neomia Hagans Flores, Dunbar High School (2024-2026 term) – neomia.hagans@uky.edu

REGIONAL MANAGERS

2025 and 2026 Regional Speech Tournaments

Appalachian and
Mountain Regions

Dustin Combs of Knott County Schools–
dustin.combs@knott.kyschools.us

Bluegrass Region

Beth Randolph of SCAPA/Bluegrass–
beth.randolph@fayette.kyschools.us

Caves Region

Karen Feldhaus of Daviess County HS –
karen.feldhaus@daviess.kyschools.us

Derby Region

Amy Zuccaro of Trinity HS --
zuccaro@trinityrocks.com

Lakes Region

Aaron West of Graves County HS
– aaron.west@graves.kyschools.us

River Region

Molly Seifert of Beechwood High School–
molly.seifert@beechwood.kyschools.us

Executive Director **Steve Meadows**
khssl@khssl.org 859/927-1100

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Kentucky High School Speech League, Inc. encourages all students to participate in academic competition and thereby receive an understanding of and appreciation for worthwhile speech, drama, and debate. KHSSL enhances and refines students' skills in acting, speaking, listening, and critical thinking, and provides an arena for extracurricular competition in speech, drama, and debate.

KHSSL is the oldest high school organization in the state of Kentucky. We are proud not only of the tradition of excellence associated with this organization but also of our continued efforts to promote speech, drama, and debate education in Kentucky schools. KHSSL is endorsed by the Kentucky Education Association and the Kentucky Association of School Administrators. KHSSL also works with the National Federation of High Schools.

KHSSL Offers Competition In

Senior Speech Division

14 Events

Broadcasting
 Declamation (Dec)
 Dramatic Interpretation (DI)
 Duo Interpretation (Duo)
 Extemporaneous Speaking
 (Extemp)
 Humorous Interpretation (HI)
 Impromptu Speaking
 Improvisational Duo
 (Improv)
 Informative Speaking (Info)
 Oratory (also called OO or
 Original Oratory)
 Poetry
 Program Oral Interpretation
 (POI)
 Prose
 Storytelling (Story)

Junior Speech Division

12 Events

Broadcasting
 Declamation (Dec)
 Dramatic Interpretation (DI)
 Duo Acting (Duo)
 Extemporaneous Speaking
 (Extemp)
 Humorous Interpretation (HI)
 Impromptu Speaking
 Improvisational Duo
 (Improv)
 Oratory (also called OO or
 Original Oratory)
 Poetry
 Prose
 Storytelling (Story)

Debate Division

3 Events

Congressional Debate
 Lincoln Douglas Debate
 (LD)
 Public Forum Debate (PF)

Types of KHSSL Tournaments

Invitational Tournaments

Meets hosted throughout the year by member schools.

Regional Speech Tournaments

1 per division hosted once per year in February in each of the seven Regions of the State; often in conjunction with the other Division (SR or JR) of that Region or even with another Region.

State Championship Tournaments

1 per division hosted once per year per in late February or March.

Mission of KHSSL (revised 2023)

The Kentucky High School Speech League is the oldest high school organization in the state of Kentucky. Crafting a community of support, we promote the growth, education, and experiences of educators and students in the Commonwealth in the practice of communication arts. KHSSL enhances and refines students' skills in acting, speaking, listening, and critical thinking by providing an arena for extracurricular competition in speech, drama, and debate.

KHSSL BOARD OF DIRECTORS STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

The Kentucky High School Speech League is committed to fostering an inclusive learning environment in which all Kentucky students regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or socioeconomic status receive equitable access and opportunities to learn, engage, express, and excel in speech and debate activities. We value the unique and shared strengths of the experiences of our members and seek to strengthen the voices of our students by cultivating a strong sense of belonging in a safe, equitable, and inclusive speech community.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the League is open to all public and private elementary, middle, junior high, and senior high schools in Kentucky as well as homeschools and homeschool associations. Registration will be through the website and via dues payment.

The Registration form must be completed on the website <https://khssl.org/>, and fees sent to:

KHSSL

PO Box 23451

Lexington, KY 40523

Student participants must be *bona fide* undergraduates of the school they represent in League activities. Students from public schools without established teams can compete as individuals with a parent or school representative as the adult contact; they will still join AS the school and with the school's permission.

Students may compete only for the school in which they are enrolled full time.

Home schooled students may compete only with other home-schooled students in their member- association, as defined in the Handbook. Combinations of

students from different schools or home-school associations in events that are composed of teams are expressly forbidden.

A family which home schools its children may join KHSSL as a member school. In addition, a local Home School Association may join KHSSL as a member school, and all children being homeschooled by that Association's members will be considered students of that homeschool association. For purposes of membership, a local Home School Association is an association of homeschool families who reside either in the same county, city, or town or in a compact geographic area as permitted within the discretion of the Executive Director. Each home school or HSA will be placed in a KHSSL Region by the Executive Director.

A student who has dual enrollment in a laboratory-school type environment may compete and qualify for State for **either** school during a given school year. The student may not compete for both schools, and the student is allowed to make the choice, subject to the director's approval. The choice must be made before the student competes with notification made to the director accordingly.

A student who changes schools during the course of the school year is subject to the following rules:

If the student's new school is not yet a member of KHSSL, that school must join KHSSL before entry at the Regional or State tournament, as appropriate, for the student to participate in Regional or State tournaments. The school's entry fee may be paid in this case with the Regional or State entry fees.

A school which both submits its registration information and payment by 1 November may participate in Early Registration. Registration and/or payment after that date is regular-rate registration. Schools may join any time during the year. KHSSL registration fees must be paid before the Regional Speech tournament. Schools who have not been members of KHSSL during the last five years may join at the Early Registration rate at any time during the year.

The Junior Division is open to students in grades 4-9 and the Senior Division to students in grades 9-12.

Ninth graders housed in the same building as students in grades 4-8 must compete in the Junior Division while ninth graders housed in the same building as students in grades 10-12 must compete in the Senior Division.

The Debate Division is open to students in grades 4-12.

A Regional Manager’s team is exempt from paying entry fees into the regional and tournaments (exemption does not include league membership fees and the state tournaments).

REGISTRATION FEES

To qualify for early registration, a team’s registration form and payment must be received or postmarked before November 1. Any school that has not been a member for the last five school years may join for the Early Registration fee rate at any time during the school year.

| | Early Registration (Before November 1) | Registration (As of 2 November) |
|---------------|---|---|
| Senior Speech | \$100 | \$150 |
| Debate | \$100 | \$150 |
| Junior Speech | \$100 | \$150 |

COMMUNICATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

The League endeavors to provide members with all of the information needed to establish and maintain quality programs in their schools. The Executive Director or the board's designee will endeavor to keep the website as up-to-date as possible, and League members may look there for most answers to most questions. Additionally, member schools are updated weekly via e-mail regarding League news and announcements. Much of this information is also posted on the League's social media outlets.

If you have additional questions or need assistance, please email your regional board member or the Executive Director.

KHSSL Contact Information

KHSSL

P.O. Box 23451
Lexington, KY 40523

KHSSL Email

khssl@khssl.org

KHSSL Phone

(859) 927-1100

KHSSL Website: www.khssl.org

KHSSL Twitter/X: @khssl

KHSSL Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/khssl

KHSSL Threads: kyspeechdebate

KHSSL Instagram: kyspeechdebate

REGIONS

The state is divided along county lines into seven geographical regions administered by a Regional Manager who reports to the state executive director. A Board of Directors, consisting of two members (one from a Junior Division school and one from a Senior Division school) from each of these regions, meets annually to establish League regulations and contest rules. Board members shall be elected every 2 years. The Executive Director is then, in turn, responsible for the enforcement of all League operations as stipulated by the Board. The counties comprising each of these regions are as follows (*some Regions renamed and some counties adjusted 2024*):

APPALACHIAN REGION: Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Floyd, Greenup, Johnson, Knott (only Beaver and Carr areas), Lawrence, Lee, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Menifee, Morgan, Pike, Rowan, Wolfe

BLUEGRASS REGION: Bath, Boyle, Casey, Clark, Clinton, Estill, Fayette, Garrard, Jackson, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Marion, McCreary, Mercer, Montgomery, Nicholas, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Washington, Wayne, Woodford

CAVES REGION: Adair, Allen, Barren, **Breckinridge**, Butler, Cumberland, Daviess, Edmonson, Grayson, Green, Hancock, **Hardin**, Hart, **LaRue**, Logan, **Meade**, Metcalfe, Monroe, **Nelson**, Ohio, Simpson, Taylor, Todd, Warren

DERBY REGION: Bullitt, Henry, Jefferson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer

LAKES REGION: Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Henderson, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, McLean, Muhlenberg, Trigg, Union, Webster

MOUNTAIN REGION: Bell, Breathitt, Clay, Harlan, Knott (excluding Beaver and Carr areas), Knox, Laurel, Leslie, Owsley, Perry, Whitley

RIVER REGION: Anderson, Boone, Bourbon, Bracken, Campbell, Carroll, Fleming, Franklin, Gallatin, Grant, Harrison, Kenton, Lewis, Mason, Owen, Pendleton, Robertson, Scott, Trimble
2024-2025 KHSSL Handbook

CONTESTS AND CODE OF ETHICS

Interscholastic contests in speech and debate are organized and conducted for the purpose of developing competence in these areas. These contests, properly conceived, are definitely pedagogical in their aims and objectives and should be viewed as educational projects. As such, they are designed to capitalize upon a very natural and a very desirable rivalry between schools and between individuals. The desire to win supplies a strong incentive to application and achievement and is wholly commendable to the degree that winning is correlated with performance of merit.

All the rules and regulations governing contests are designed to make the winning of contests synonymous with good speaking, acting, and debating. While this objective has been largely realized, it sometimes happens that, under the stress of a desire to win, individuals become overzealous and commit actions which reflect poorly on the schools they represent. Every possible effort should be made to preserve friendly relations and to conduct all contests on the highest plane. Participants should always strive to represent their school, community, and the activity in the most positive and productive way possible before, during, and after competition.

To these ends, the following suggestions are offered:

1. A speech, drama, or debate contest is a friendly contest, not a war between enemies. Greet the representatives of the other school or schools. Do everything possible to make visitors feel welcome.
2. Make every effort to secure fair and impartial judges. If a contest cannot be won by performance of merit, it is better to lose it. A victory won by a vote of "friendship" is a most costly kind of victory. It is a moral defeat, and above all else, schools should exalt honor and high standards.
3. The highest kind of school loyalty is that which reflects credit on the school, not that which tries to secure victory at any cost.
4. Never allow anyone -- student, coach, or friend -- to quarrel with the judges after a decision. The real test of adulthood comes in defeat. Learn to lose gracefully. Talk with the judges, obtain their criticisms, and

learn all you can from them, but never, under any circumstances, question their honesty.

5. Coaches and others present should not, by verbal, facial, or other expression, indicate their reaction in such a manner as to annoy the performer, regardless of the nature of the performance. Wriggling in the chair or scraping one's feet on the floor is a planned method of annoying the performer.
6. It shall be considered unethical for a judge to ask a contestant where he/she is from until after the decision is rendered and handed in to those in charge of the contest.
7. Coaches should recognize that judging their own students is not the accepted procedure. This usually means that the tournament manager has made an error. The judge, in such cases, should check with the tournament manager before the round to correct the situation.
8. Speeches performed by students in debate, extemporaneous speaking, impromptu speaking, informative speaking, oratory, and public speaking should be honest, original efforts of those students.
9. It is felt that coaches sometimes fill out a registration form without ever having checked with the students regarding their intentions in attending the contest. This results in a great number of changes in the days preceding, or even on the day of the contest. Such changes can lead to much extra work on the part of the tournament manager to avoid unfair sectioning or pairings. Coaches must give the tournament manager consideration in filing such reports.
10. It should be considered unethical to check the scores of contestants one is about to judge.
11. No one shall audio, video, or photograph any performances/speeches by any students during competition.
12. No one shall engage in misconduct during a contestant's performance (e.g. texting, using an electronic device with the exception of completing online ballots, talking to others in the audience during

the performance, or using inappropriate verbal or nonverbal communication that interferes with the performance).

13. Violation of any part of the Code of Ethics is grounds for disqualification. In addition to the issues raised above, this specifically includes the following:

For Coaches:

1. Failing to appear for judging assignments, or changing judging assignments without the tournament manager's approval.
2. Leaving unannounced before the tournament is over.
3. Creating a scene.
4. Failing to use appropriate language.
5. Falsifying debate evidence.
6. Giving critiques that are detrimental to the student.
7. Disregarding building rules of the host.
8. Allowing students to attend contests unsponsored.
9. Failing to officially drop contestants at a contest or failing to pay drop fees or other fees owed.
10. Entering in the regional tournament a team or students who cannot attend the State Championship.
11. Allowing a student to compete with the same materials used in competition in a prior year.
12. Encouraging or condoning conduct/behavior that is anything other than professional, kind, and sportsmanlike. Bullying in any form at any time will not be tolerated.

For Students:

1. Displaying inappropriate behavior.

2. Creating a scene.
3. Failing to abide by the rules of the host school.
4. Being publicly critical of the final decision of a judge.
5. Falsifying debate or extemporaneous speaking evidence.
6. Plagiarizing material.
7. Performing individual events material from previous years:
 - in any event
 - in either division
 - from any league, and/or
 - from any competition (e.g.: FBLA, 4H, etc.)
8. Performing the same selection in two different events at the same tournament.

Coaches exhibiting flagrant rules or ethics violations, or allowing their students to do so, may have a grievance filed against them. At the Regional Tournament, if the Regional Manager cannot satisfactorily resolve the situation, a grievance committee composed of the two board members from that region and the Regional Manager will decide upon the matter. If this committee cannot reach a decision, the issue will be resolved by the Director or Board Chair. At the State Tournament, if the Director cannot satisfactorily resolve the situation, he/she shall appoint a grievance committee which, along with him/her, will decide upon the matter.

In addition to disqualification(s) where warranted, the first offense carries a warning and probation. The Director will send letters to the offending coach, his/her principal, his/her superintendent, and the Board of Directors, detailing the incident and notifying them of the action taken against the school. Subsequent violations are cause for suspension for no more than one year. Any school suspended from KHSSL may not participate in the regional or State Championship during the time of the suspension. The Director will send letters to the offending coach, his/her principal, his/her superintendent, and the Board of Directors, detailing the incident and notifying them of the action taken against the school. Further, KHSSL member schools will be

notified when any school is suspended, and these member schools will be encouraged not to invite or accept entries from suspended schools.

A coach may appeal any disciplinary action by placing the appeal in writing and forwarding it to the Director within seven (7) days of notification of disciplinary action. Upon proper receipt of a notice to appeal, the Director will establish a committee of Board members who will hear the appeal and shall give the coach the option to strike a reasonable number of names. The coach may appear before the committee to present his/her case. A specific time limit for this presentation will be determined by the Director. This committee will then render its decision which shall be final.

DROP FEES AND FINES AT STATE AND REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

Drop fees and fines may be levied at the Regional and State tournaments for a variety of actions which interrupt the smooth administration of the registration process. Drop fees and fines may be levied after the registration deadlines and may be waived by the Executive Director and/or the Regional Manager for good and sufficient reasons. Drop fees and fines are set in the sections of this Handbook dedicated to the State and Regional tournaments

KHSSL RULES REGARDING THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

For KHSSL tournaments and tournaments using KHSSL rules, these rules apply.

1. Students in events in which speeches must be the original work of the competitor (Extemporaneous Speaking, Improvisational Duo, Impromptu Speaking, Original Oratory, and Informative) are not permitted to quote or paraphrase text directly from generative Artificial Intelligence sources. Students are not prohibited from using generative AI to guide their research process or help them generate ideas before the tournament or during Extemp prep, but they cannot quote, paraphrase, or cite generative artificial intelligence sources like ChatGPT during their speeches.
2. AI is prohibited for use at any time during Impromptu Speaking or Improvisational Duo.
3. All original source material cited during speeches must be provided if questioned in debate events or Extemporaneous Speaking follow-ups OR be listed in the available Works Cited pages for original speeches.
4. In debate events, students may use generative AI to assist with the research and idea generation process pre-tournament and during the tournament; however, generative AI should not be cited as a source, and debaters must have original source material of any paraphrased or quoted evidence available upon request.

SPEECH DIVISIONS (Junior and Senior)

KHSSL offers competition in twelve Junior Division and fourteen Senior Division Speech events. Eleven Speech events are common to both divisions.

The League annually sponsors a regional tournament for each division in each of the seven regions as well as a State Championship Tournament in each division. Additionally, the League sanctions tournaments hosted throughout the year by its member schools and any regional or state hosts. A description of each event, as well as procedures for these tournaments, follows.

TIME SIGNALS

With an eye towards uniformity and consistency, KHSSL uses the count-down method for time signals.

Time signals **MUST** be provided in Extemporaneous Speaking, Impromptu, and Improvisational Duo. Time signals may be given in any other event at the request of the competitor. The Count-down method is required.

1. During prep time, the judge should indicate times audibly. During the performance, time signals should be given by hand.
2. Count-down Method hand signals. In this method, the judge indicates the number of minutes remaining by holding up a number of fingers equal to the number of minutes remaining in the speech-time. A hand forming a “C” indicates 30 seconds remaining, while a hand forming a ‘duck-bill’ indicates 15 seconds remaining. A fist indicates ‘time has expired.’



Figure 1. 3 minutes

Figure 2. 30 seconds

Figure 3. 15 seconds

Figure 4. Time

KHSSL Source Rule

This rule applies to all events for which the words are those of another author. Individual events may narrow the permissible literature or genres. This rule is incorporated by reference into the rules for the following events:

Both Divisions:

Declamation, Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous
Interpretation, Poetry, Prose

Senior Division: Duo Interpretation, POI

Junior Division: Duo Acting

Note: Storytelling is purposefully NOT included in the source rule given its oral tradition and background.

Rule

Coaches should strive to use scripts with an ISBN, ISSN, or IFFN.

If the script does not have an ISBN, ISSN, or IFFN, the coach or supervising adult should be able to prove the script was purchased or obtained commercially, i.e. from a literary agent or publisher or bill of sale, or is publicly available by internet URL and retrieval date. A selection is considered published if it has been presented for public consumption in the following places:

- a. on the commercial printed page.
- b. on the internet (at publicly available sites).
- c. read on the radio.
- d. read/recorded on the internet (e.g. YouTube).
- e. read in an open reading where the reading has been recorded.
- f. read/recorded in TV or movie scripts.

The guiding principle of this rule is equality of access to all members of the League.

SPEECH EVENTS IN BOTH DIVISIONS

The following eleven events are common to both Junior and Senior divisions. Except where specifically noted, each event has the same rules in each division.

BROADCAST ANNOUNCING

Senior and Junior Divisions

Rules

1. In this event, students assume the role of a radio broadcast announcer.
2. During all rounds of Broadcast Announcing, the judge may turn his or her back on the contestant while the contestant is actually performing. Eye contact is NOT a part of this event, and should NEVER be part of a judge's evaluation of the performance.
3. Competitors must remain outside the room until called one at a time to perform.
4. As each competitor finishes, the judge should collect the script, and the student may leave. The judge then calls in the next contestant.
5. The structure of rounds listed here is that for the State Championship Tournament.
6. The Regional tournaments follow Rounds I and II and uses the third round format for any run-off round.
7. Students are permitted to time themselves during any Broadcast Announcing round.

Round 1--Commercial

The tournament director prepares a commercial for a real or fictitious advertiser. The text of the commercial should be in all capital letters. Each contestant should receive an individual copy of the script which should not leave the room.

The judge calls one contestant into the room at a time, obtains the student's code number and name, and hands the student a script. The student has three minutes to prepare delivery. The judge times the three minutes of prep and notifies the student when he/she must begin.

Student must present all of the copy as it appears in the script. Students are not allowed to alter the script in any way.

Round 2—Student Prepared News Script

Each student prepares, in advance, a news script using up-to-date material. The students may find material in AP script (available at local radio stations), newspapers, internet sites, etc. Each student must compose/ prepare his/her own scripts. Students may not use the same script from tournament to tournament. Each competitor must provide a copy of the script to the judge. There is no requirement for particular types of stories to be included in the news script.

An introduction, a sign-off and a brief commercial must be included in the broadcast. The suggested duration of the commercial is 15 seconds. Delivery of the script should last for three minutes, with a 15 second grace period both above and below the time limit.

The judge will invite competitors into the room one at a time, receive a copy of the script, and indicate when to begin. Students must present all of the copy as it appears in the script

Students who share scripts will be placed last in this round.

Round 3—Tournament Prepared News Script

In the Prep. Room (which may also be the Extemp Prep room), competitors receive a copy of the tournament-prepared news script at approximately five minute intervals. Each competitor has fifteen minutes to prepare the broadcast. A competitor must present all of the copy as it appears in the script. Students are not allowed to alter the script in any way, except for adding a sign-on and a sign-off, which are required, and transitions, which are optional.

The tournament host may choose a theme for this round, such as sports, fashion, or historical event, or the host may use current events.

Note: at the 2024 Board of Directors meeting, the Board approved a revision of the Broadcasting rules that replaces Round 3 – Tournament Prepared News Script with Round 3 – Student Prepared Podcast. The rules for this round have not yet been written, so the 2025 Regional and State tournaments will use the current Round 3 Tournament News Script rules. Coaches will have an opportunity to comment on proposed changes (or offer different changes or suggest “no changes” at a survey conducted in February or March 2025).

Quarterfinals and Semifinal and Final Rounds—News Program

In the Prep. Room (which may also be the Extemp. Prep. Room), at five-minute intervals, competitors receive a packet of news-copy, prepared by the tournament director. Competitors edit the copy and include an impromptu commercial, per the prompt included in the packet, to prepare a five- minute broadcast. An introduction, transitions, and sign-off are required. During the round, a student may use a stopwatch while performing; judges will NOT give time signals.

Each competitor has 30 minutes to prepare the broadcast. The Prep. Room monitor will send contestants to their competition rooms at five-minute intervals.

There is a fifteen second grace period, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. No violation of the grace period in Regional/State Quarterfinal, Semifinal or Final rounds may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive ‘1’ in the round.

PROCEDURES

Only minor accommodations are required for this event – a Prep. Room for round 3 and for awards rounds.

No Prep. Room is required for Rounds I and II.

A Prep. Room as well as a monitor is needed for Round III and Quarterfinals/Semifinals/Finals.

When the student enters the room, the student should inform judges of their code number and name.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. Do not permit other students to listen before they have performed. Contestants must remain outside the room until called upon to speak.
2. Remember that this is Broadcast Announcing. Students must be judged solely on the basis of what is heard. Do not judge eye contact, facial expression, or body movement (unless distracted by paper rattling, gum chewing, etc.) Judges may wish to turn their backs to the contestants during the performance.
3. Round II news scripts will be prepared prior to the tournament by students and should include up-to-date material. The arrangement and choice of material should be considered as well as the delivery. The brief commercial does not have to be timed. The 15 seconds is only suggested.
4. Do judge articulation, fluency, conviction, accuracy, clarity and variety of voice, understanding of content, appropriate tone, and pronunciation. Eye contact is NOT part of this event, and should not be regarded in any way, shape, or form.
5. In news programs, transitions should be appropriate.
6. In semi-finals and finals, editing skills should also be judged. Relevance of news selection and the arrangement of the articles should be considered.

HINTS FOR COACHES

1. Tape students and review tapes with students.
2. Work on various types of broadcasts to show vocal variety.
3. Practice with AP script (available from most local radio and/or TV stations).
4. Get an updated pronunciation guide (available from most local radio and/or TV stations). Have students practice "names in the news" (people, places, and things) prior to each tournament.
5. Although only awards rounds require students to edit copy, do not neglect the need to have students practice this skill. It is a difficult one to master.

HINTS FOR STUDENTS

1. Read aloud from newspapers.
2. Tape yourself and save the tape to compare with future readings as you progress.
3. Practice often with a variety of script types, including scripts which must be edited.

DECLAMATION

Junior and Senior Divisions Rules

1. In this event, each competitor delivers a speech which was written by another person, presented in a public forum by a person other than the contestant, and taken from a published source.
2. Declamation is open to all member students in the Junior Division. Only 9th and 10th graders may enter Declamation in the Senior Division.
3. The maximum time is ten minutes, including a required introduction. There is a thirty second grace period, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. Time signals may be given at the request of the competitor. No violation of the grace period in Regional/State Quarterfinal, Semifinal or Final rounds may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
4. The speech must be memorized and must have been written by another person, presented in a public forum by a person other than the contestant, and taken from a published source.
5. No time limit is placed on the length of the introduction. The introduction should reveal the background and the author's intent. The introduction should be memorized.
6. A lectern shall not be used.
7. The Source Rule applies to this event and is included in the rules by reference.

PROCEDURES

No special procedures or facilities are needed for this event. A simple classroom with space in the front for the student to stand and speak is sufficient. Before a student performs, he/she should inform the judge of his/her code number, name, and title of selection.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. The selection must be a self-contained unit. The speech may be edited to fit the time constraints so long as the presentation accurately reflects the author's intent.
2. The introduction should provide suitable background (e.g., the circumstances under which the speech was originally presented).
3. No particular style should be demanded of the orator; rather, the speaker should feel free to select and develop his/her own style and then be judged according to the degree of perfection he/she has attained and his/her effectiveness in influencing the audience.
4. Movement and/or gestures should be natural and dictated by the material.
5. The suitability of the material to the maturity level of the performer should be considered.

HINTS FOR COACHES

1. Speech material may be historical or contemporary. If a speech is historical in nature, the student should understand the context from which it originated.
2. Assist students when necessary in editing the speech to fit the time limits but be sure that the author's intent is preserved.
3. Added transitions are not allowed.
4. This is a speaking event rather than an acting event. Material should be delivered in a rhetorical style using eye contact, gestures, and movement appropriate to the material.
5. The emphasis in this event is on communication rather than dramatization.

HINTS FOR STUDENTS

1. Choose a speech you understand and with which you can identify.
2. Become familiar with the person who presented the speech.
3. Develop a rhetorical delivery style and practice so that you are comfortable with it.
4. Avoid unnatural and contrived body movements and gestures.

DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION

Junior and Senior Divisions Rules

1. In this event, each student performs a published piece of serious literature, which may be a monologue or dialogue.
2. The maximum time is ten minutes, including a required introduction. There is a thirty second grace period, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. Time signals may be given at the request of the competitor. No violation of the grace period in Regional/State Quarterfinal, Semifinal or Final rounds may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
3. The scene must come from a published play, short story, novel, TV, or movie.
4. The selection must be memorized. The introduction must also be memorized.
5. The cutting may be a monologue or dialogue.
6. If transitions are used, no more than 10% may be narrative.
7. Offstage focus must be employed when one character speaks to another character; however, if the speaker is supposed to address the audience, he/she may make eye contact.
8. Limited movement is permissible in the introduction and during the selection. Limited movement is defined as movement within an area of ten feet in diameter. The area may be used for actions including bending, stooping, turning, and pivoting. When a "teaser" taken directly from the script is used in the introduction, this is considered part of the selection and movement is therefore restricted as above.
9. Except as noted here, the rules for this event are the same as those provided by the National Speech & Debate Association.
10. The Source Rule applies to this event and is included in the rules by reference.

PROCEDURES

No special procedures or facilities are needed for this event. A simple classroom with space in the front for the student to stand and perform is sufficient. Before a student performs, he/she should inform the judge of his/her code number, name, and title of selection.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. The introduction should include enough background information to establish the selection with the audience.
2. Character delineation should be clear. If you close your eyes, the vocal characterization should be very evident and appropriate to the character. Physical delineation (i.e., facial expression, gestures, and suggestive bodily delivery) should be evident.
3. The cutting should be a self-contained unit, including a beginning, middle, and an end.
4. The performance should emphasize interpretation skills (internalization) rather than techniques and mechanics.
5. Characters may address each other and/or the audience.
6. The suitability of the material to the maturity level of the performer should be considered.

HINTS FOR COACHES

1. Material should be suitable to the ability of the student.
2. Character delineation may be achieved by eye placement of characters during dialogue. For example, place characters on the back wall behind the audience using different focal points.
3. Body attitude and accents may also be used.
4. The cutting should be a self-contained unit.
5. The introduction should contain sufficient information to establish the selection in the mind of the audience.

HINTS FOR STUDENTS

1. Select material that interests you.
2. Read the entire play, short story, novel, TV or movie script.
3. Determine the author's intent of the literature. What is the author trying to say?
4. Edit the material with the author's intent in mind.
5. Write your own introduction.
6. Determine the rise and fall in the selection and, as you prepare your selection, develop a natural build. Be careful not to begin the selection at such a high emotional peak that you have nowhere to go.
7. Develop clear characterizations for all the characters in your selection. This should be done vocally, with facial expression, and/or non-verbally.

Be sure to develop the selection so that it has a definite conclusion.

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING

Junior and Senior Divisions Rules

1. In this event, students used limited preparation time to prepare a speech which analyzes and answers a question addressing a current issue.
2. The maximum time for Extemporaneous Speaking is five minutes (Junior Division) and seven minutes (Senior Division). There is a thirty second grace period, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. No violation of the grace period in Regional/State Quarterfinal, Semifinal or Final rounds may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
3. Time signals are mandatory in this event. The count-down method must be used. See the KHSSL Time Signals page for details. The Time Signals rule is incorporated herein by reference.
4. Preparation will take place and be monitored in the prep room and outside assistance is not permitted. Laptops are allowed in the Extemp. preparation room. Students will need to supply their own power source. SEE ITEM 4 IN DEBATE EVENT EVIDENCE (pages 65-66) for rules that also apply to Extemp sourcing and Internet use during rounds and preparation time.
5. In the prep room, Junior Division students will draw at five-minute intervals and Senior Division students at seven-minute intervals. Students will draw three topics and select one of the three as their topic for that round, then be given thirty minutes to prepare. The speech must not be pre-written. The prep room monitor will announce when each speaker should leave the prep room and go to speak.
6. Source materials should be used, but direct quotations should not constitute a major portion of the speech (no more than 25%). The speaker may use one 3 X 5 note card (front and back). Students using more than the front and back of one 3 X 5 note card must be ranked last in the round. Additionally, no visual aids or props may be used.
7. Topics vary from round to round. Each round will have a specific area of concentration. These areas may include domestic, international, social, political, and economic issues. Junior division topics will vary also, but

emphasis will be placed on domestic and social issues.

8. For the final round of the Senior KHSSL State Championship tournament, each speaker shall be assigned a position in the speaking order. Drawing shall take place at twelve-minute intervals. Thirty minutes after the first speaker has drawn, the first speaker and the last speaker shall enter the contest room. The first speaker shall give a speech and the last speaker shall listen and may take notes. At the conclusion of the first speaker's speech, the last speaker shall question the first speaker for two minutes. This is to be an open cross-examination where the questioner may ask as many questions as they like within two minutes. The last speaker shall return to the prep room and the first speaker shall stay and question the second speaker. The second speaker will question the third speaker, etc. Students may not use electronic resources (e.g. laptop, cell phone, etc.) to prepare questions for a speaker while the speaker is presenting although the questioner may take notes during a speaker's speech. However, they may not use notes when questioning the speaker. Invitational tournaments will also have the right to utilize this form of cross-examination if they wish in their final round.

PROCEDURES

Only minor accommodations are required for this event, most of which are found in every school. A large room with tables and chairs (library, cafeteria, etc.) to be used as a prep room and several small rooms (classrooms, library workrooms, etc.) in close proximity to the prep room, each having sufficient space in the front of the room for the student to stand and speak, are required. Before a student speaks, he/she should inform the judge of his/her code number and name and present his/her topic to the judge.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. Be sure to take the student's topic before he/she speaks.
2. Clarify with the student before he/she begins how time signals will be communicated and give hand signals while the student is speaking.
3. Make an outline as the student speaks. Organization is a principal

part of a successful speech, along with presentation and sources.

4. The student should answer the question. The questions are purposefully broad, and the student is expected to make his/her own limitations rather than try to cover all aspects of the topic. Try to judge on the basis of how well the speaker does what he/she sets out to do.

HINTS FOR COACHES

1. Have students prepare an organized, indexed Extemp. file which may include magazine articles, newspaper articles, and pamphlets, along with a book of quotations, a thesaurus, and an almanac.
2. Encourage groups of students to have a discussion on the week's current events.
3. Students should prepare and give at least one speech per week. Videotaping speeches and having students critique one another is helpful.
4. Students should learn how to specifically answer the question that is posed.

HINTS FOR STUDENTS

1. Prepare and continually update your files. Watch a news program and read a newspaper every day and read magazines at least once a week.
2. Learn to follow an outline. Most judges stress organization as a principal part of a successful speech.
3. Practice often with another student giving time signals so you can become comfortable with the time limit.
4. Use a variety of sources and be sure to give credit to your sources in your speech. Falsifying evidence is grounds for disqualification. If the judge has reason to believe that evidence has been falsified, he/she may ask you to bring your source to him/her before completing his/her ballot.

HUMOROUS INTERPRETATION

Junior and Senior Divisions Rules

1. In this event, each student performs a published piece of humorous literature, which may be a monologue or dialogue.
2. The maximum time is ten minutes, including a required introduction. There is a thirty second grace period, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. Time signals may be given at the request of the competitor. No violation of the grace period in Regional/State Quarterfinal, Semifinal or Final rounds may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
3. The scene must come from a published play, novel, short story, TV or movie script.
4. The selection must be memorized. The introduction must also be memorized.
5. The cutting may be a monologue or dialogue.
6. If transitions are used, no more than 10% may be narrative.
7. Offstage focus must be employed when one character speaks to another character; however, if the speaker is supposed to address the audience, he/she may make eye contact.
8. Limited movement is permissible in the introduction and during the selection. Limited movement is defined as movement within an area of ten feet in diameter. The area may be used for actions including bending, stooping, turning, and pivoting. When a "teaser" taken directly from the script is used in the introduction, this is considered part of the selection and movement is therefore restricted as above.
9. Except as noted here, the rules for this event are the same as those provided by the National Speech & Debate Association.
10. The Source Rule applies to this event and is included in the rules by reference.

PROCEDURES

No special procedures or facilities are needed for this event. A simple classroom with space in the front for the student to stand and perform is sufficient. Before a student performs, he/she should inform the judge of his/her code number, name, and title of selection.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. The introduction should include enough background information to establish the selection with the audience.
2. Character delineation should be clear. If you close your eyes, the vocal characterization should be very evident and appropriate to the character. Physical delineation (i.e., facial expression, gestures, and suggestive bodily delivery) should be evident.
3. The cutting should be a self-contained unit, including a beginning, middle, and an end.
4. The performance should emphasize interpretation skills (internalization) rather than techniques and mechanics.
5. Characters may address each other and/or the audience.
6. The suitability of the material to the maturity level of the performer should be considered.

HINTS FOR COACHES

1. Material should be suitable to the ability of the student.
2. Character delineation may be achieved by eye placement of characters during dialogue. For example, place characters on the back wall behind the audience using different focal points.
3. Body attitude and accents may also be used.
4. The cutting should be a self-contained unit.
5. The introduction should contain sufficient information to establish the selection in the mind of the audience.

HINTS FOR STUDENTS

1. Select material that interests you, and read the entire play, short story, novel, TV or movie script.
2. Determine the author's intent of the literature. What is the author trying to say?
3. Edit the material with the author's intent in mind.
4. Write your own introduction.
5. Determine the rise and fall in the selection and, as you prepare your selection, develop a natural build. Be careful not to begin the selection at such a high emotional peak that you have nowhere to go.
6. Develop clear characterizations for all the characters in your selection. This should be done vocally, with facial expression, and/or non-verbally.
7. Be sure to develop the selection so that it has a definite conclusion.

IMPROMPTU SPEAKING

Junior and Senior Divisions Rules

1. In this event, each competitor prepares and presents a short speech with limited preparation.
2. The maximum time for Impromptu Speaking is seven minutes in the Senior division and ten minutes in the Junior Division. These times include both prep time and speaking time.
3. In the Senior Division, students may speak all seven minutes if they desire, but must be penalized if they speak for less than four minutes. In the Junior Division, students may speak for all ten minutes if they desire, but must be penalized if they speak for less than three minutes.
4. There is a fifteen-second grace period, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. No violation of the grace period in Regional/State Quarterfinal, Semifinal or Final rounds may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
5. The judge will call out prep time. Time signals are mandatory in this event. The count-down method must be used. See the KHSSL Time Signals page for details. The Time Signals rule is incorporated herein by reference.
6. Prep time begins after the speaker has received the topic(s) and has been allowed a few seconds to view it (them).
7. No electronic devices (e.g., computers or tape recorders) may be used, and source materials are not permitted.
8. The speaker may use one 3 X 5 note card (front and back) while speaking. Students using more than the front and back of one 3 X 5 note card while speaking must be ranked last in the round. Students may use multiple note cards and/or paper to plan speeches during the preparation time before speaking begins.
9. In all rounds except the final round, the contestant will be given two quotations from which to choose one.
10. Students will remain outside the room until it is their time to speak,

will prepare in the room, and may leave the room once they have spoken if they have another event to attend this round.

11. Finalists at the State Tournament will respond to an object. At all other rounds of the State Tournament, and in all Rounds at the Regional Tournaments, the topics will be quotations.
12. Invitational tournaments may follow the State or Regional format.

PROCEDURES

Only minor accommodations are required for this event, most of which are found in a simple classroom and the hallway outside the classroom. There must be sufficient space in the front of the room for each student to stand and speak, and sufficient space outside the room for contestants to wait until it is their turn to speak. Before a student is given the topic(s), he/she should inform the judge of his/her code number and name.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. Do not permit other students to listen before they have spoken. Contestants must remain outside the room until called upon to speak.
2. Clarify with the student before he/she begins how time signals will be communicated.
3. Call out the student's prep time and give hand signals while the student is speaking.
4. Start timing after the student receives the topic(s) and has had a few seconds to view it (them).
5. Make sure the student returns the topic(s) to you after he/she has spoken.
6. Content and delivery are equally important.

HINTS FOR COACHES

1. Have students practice from Bartlett's Book of Familiar Quotations or similar books. One may also get quotations from websites on The Internet.
2. Stress choice of material used in the speech, organization, and delivery.
3. Have practice at least once a week, and video students' performances when possible.

HINTS FOR STUDENTS

1. Organization of the speech is important. An introduction, preview of points, development of points, and conclusion should be evident.
2. Practice often with another student giving time signals so you can become comfortable with the time limit.

IMPROVISATIONAL DUO

Junior and Senior Divisions Rules

1. In this event involving limited preparation, two students create and present a performance portraying two characters.
2. Preparation time for Improvisational Duo is three minutes for senior division and five minutes for junior division. Setting up the chairs, when used, is part of preparation time. Preparation time is separate from performance time.
3. Performance time must be a maximum of six minutes.
4. There is a fifteen-second grace period, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. No violation of the grace period in Regional/State Quarterfinal, Semifinal or Final rounds may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
5. Unless the tournament provides a prep room & prep room monitor, the judge will time the preparation period and call out time signals as requested. Time signals during the performance are mandatory in this event. The count-down method must be used. See the KHSSL Time Signals page for details. The Time Signals rule is incorporated herein by reference.
6. No make-up, costumes, props, or lighting are permitted. but two chairs may be used. Doors and walls are considered props and must not be used.
7. Each performer may portray ONE and only ONE character during the scene; dialogue must be equally shared over the course of the scene.
8. An introduction by one or both students is required to set the scene, and a resolution of the conflict must be evident at the end of the scene.
9. Profanity, sexual innuendo, and/or excessive physicality will result in the performance being marked last in the round.
10. If preparing in another room, students must remain outside the performance room until it is their time to perform.

11. The prompts at the Regional/State Championships will be constructed in the following manner:
 - a. Prompts will **not** indicate how to play the scene (either humorous or serious)
 - b. Round 1, 3, and semi-final prompts will be a statement. (Ex. Two friends disagree over a decision). Statement prompts must be gender neutral, containing a subject and verb, but no other specific details (such as location).
 - c. Round 2, quarters and final prompts will be a line (Ex. “You deserve a break today!”). Line should be worked into the scene.
- A note: All improvs would solve a problem so a problem would have to be presented in a statement, but it shouldn’t be overly specific. An improv performance should contain characters, relationships, objectives and location.

PROCEDURES

Several accommodations are required for this event, but most can be found in any school. Each performance room must have two standard chairs and sufficient space at the front of the room for the actors to perform. Ideally, each section will have a separate prep room near the performance room. If this is not practical, a large room in close proximity to the performance rooms and with sufficient space and resources for all pairs of contestants from each section to prepare at the same time may be used or the students will prepare in the performance room under the supervision of the judge or a monitor. Before a pair of contestants performs, it should inform the judge of its code number and names.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. The scene must be a self-contained unit holding together a story itself.
2. Students must resolve the conflict presented in the topic.
3. Criteria for judging include teamwork of the actors, timing, movement, consistent characterization, good speaking skills, pantomime of props, and the comedic or dramatic effect of the scene on the audience.
4. The suitability of the material to the maturity level of the performer should be considered.

HINTS FOR COACHES

1. Pairs of students should prepare and present at least one improvisational performance per week.
2. Students must learn how to effectively pace the scene and specifically resolve the conflict presented in the topic.
3. Videotape students and allow them to critique each other.

HINTS FOR STUDENTS

1. Keep a list of possible topics. Topics may be either "real world" or ones which require a great deal of imagination.
2. Learn to quickly organize your thoughts.
3. Practice often with your partner and have another student give you time signals so that you will become comfortable with the time limit.

ORATORY

Junior and Senior Divisions Rules

1. In this event, each student delivers an original speech which informs and/or persuades.
2. The maximum time is ten minutes. There is a thirty second grace period, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. Time signals may be given at the request of the competitor. No violation of the grace period in Regional/State Quarterfinal, Semifinal or Final rounds may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
3. The speech must be the original work of the student and must be memorized.
4. Direct quotations may be used, but they must be indicated and limited to 150 words of quoted material.
5. No props or visual aids are permitted.
6. Coaches must have Oratory and Informative speeches electronically available for retrieval (or paper copies available) at Regionals and State tournaments should questions of originality arise, but these documents no longer need be turned in at Registration.

PROCEDURES

No special procedures or facilities are needed for this event. A simple classroom with space in the front for the student to stand and speak is sufficient. Before a student performs, he/she should inform the judge of his/her code number, name, and topic of speech.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. The introduction should get the attention of the audience as well as preview the speech.
2. Good speaking skills should be evident.
3. Organization must be clear and easy to follow.
4. Eye contact is essential.
5. Audience rapport should be evident.
6. Sources should be used to support any facts or claims.
7. Fluency of language is important as well as logical development of content.

HINTS FOR COACHES

1. Help students select a topic that is fresh or encourage them to use a fresh approach to a dated topic.
2. Topics should be appropriate to students' ages and speaking situations.
3. Have students use an outline in preparation.
4. Consult textbooks for styles of introductions, conclusions, and methods of development.
5. Make sure that paraphrasing is not plagiarizing.
6. Videoing to show students' gestures and movements is helpful. Gestures should be natural.

HINTS FOR STUDENTS

1. Read widely about your chosen topic before formulating a thesis.
2. Use a variety of sources.
3. Make an outline.
4. Write your speech using transitional phrases so your speech will flow smoothly.
5. Rehearse movement but retain spontaneity.
6. Maintain eye contact with the audience.
7. Deliver the speech in a conventional manner. Oratory is a speaking event, not an acting event.
8. Be able to adapt to the size of the room as well as the size of the audience.

POETRY

Junior and Senior Divisions

Rules

1. In this event, each student delivers an interpretation of a published poem (or poems) that is (are) narrative, descriptive, or lyrical.
2. The maximum time is ten minutes, including a required introduction. There is a thirty second grace period, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. Time signals may be given at the request of the competitor. No violation of the grace period in Regional/State Quarterfinal, Semifinal or Final rounds may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
3. One poem or a program of shorter poems (narrative, descriptive, or lyrical) may be used and shall be from a published poet or poets of literary merit.
4. A manuscript must be used and referred to. The manuscript may be used as a property.
5. The introduction (and transitions when used) should provide adequate background for the reading as a whole and for the individual selections as needed in order to relate them to the whole. The introduction must be memorized and give credit to both the title(s) and author(s) of all scripts performed.
6. Blocking is allowed for this event. Performers are NOT required to keep their feet stationary as they perform. Blocking is movement in a performance that can be expressive in nature, symbolizing how a character is feeling emotionally, while at other times blocking denotes events that are occurring in the imagined space. The movement should always be motivated by elements in the text. Movement for the sake of movement is not necessary. Performers may, without penalty, choose to remain stationary or have limited foot movement and choose instead to emphasize vocal or nonverbal forms of communication including facial gestures, facial expressions, posture, and eye contact. All performance choices should serve to enhance the overall interpretation of the selection, not just demonstrate movement capabilities.
7. The Source Rule applies to this event and is included in the rules by reference.

PROCEDURES

No special procedures or facilities are needed for this event. A simple classroom with space in the front for the student to stand and perform is sufficient. Before a student performs, he/she should inform the judge of his/her code number, name, and title of selection.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. The introduction should prepare the listener for the selection(s).
2. In multiple selections, a relationship should be obvious between the literature chosen to develop the poetry program and the theme of the program.
3. The suitability of the material to the maturity level of the performer should be considered.
4. The contestant must use a manuscript and must refer to it.
5. Projection, diction, and flexibility of voice are important to the student's interpretation.
6. Multiple character voices may be used.

HINTS FOR COACHES

1. Within the Junior Division, do not ignore the wealth of material to be found in children's literature.
2. Each of the three primary types of poetry -- narrative, dramatic, and lyric -- demands slightly different techniques of delivery. This should be considered.
3. Multiple selections may reflect a single topic or theme, show contrast, create a mood, or be by a single author.

HINTS FOR STUDENTS

1. Know your introduction and deliver it in a conversational tone.
2. Do not "singsong" your presentation.
3. Practice handling the manuscript so that it does not distract from the performance.
4. Read to express a complete thought rather than line-by-line.
5. Keep in mind that the reader should demonstrate a real, lively, and enthusiastic interest in sharing the selection with the audience

PROSE

Junior and Senior Divisions

Rules

1. In this event, each student presents an interpretation of a piece of fiction or nonfiction from narrative, descriptive, or expository prose of literary merit.
2. The maximum time is ten minutes, including a required introduction. There is a thirty second grace period, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. Time signals may be given at the request of the competitor. No violation of the grace period in Regional/State Quarterfinal, Semifinal or Final rounds may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
3. The cutting shall be from a published narrative, descriptive, or expository prose of literary merit.
4. Dialogue may comprise only a small portion of the total performance.
5. A manuscript must be used and referred to. The manuscript may be used as a property.
6. The introduction should provide adequate background for the selection. The introduction must be memorized.
7. Blocking is allowed for this event. Performers are NOT required to keep their feet stationary as they perform. Blocking is movement in a performance that can be expressive in nature, symbolizing how a character is feeling emotionally, while at other times blocking denotes events that are occurring in the imagined space. The movement should always be motivated by elements in the text. Movement for the sake of movement is not necessary. Performers may, without penalty, choose to remain stationary or have limited foot movement and choose instead to emphasize vocal or nonverbal forms of communication including facial gestures, facial expressions, posture, and eye contact. All performance choices should serve to enhance the overall interpretation of the selection, not just demonstrate movement capabilities.
8. The Source Rule applies to this event and is included in the rules by reference.

PROCEDURES

No special procedures or facilities are needed for this event. A simple classroom with space in the front for the student to stand and perform is sufficient. Before a student performs, he/she should inform the judge of his/her code number, name, and title of selection.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. The introduction should prepare the listener for the selection(s).
2. The suitability of the material to the maturity level of the performer should be considered.
3. The contestant must use a manuscript and must refer to it.
4. Projection, diction, and flexibility of voice are important to the student's interpretation.

HINTS FOR COACHES

1. Material should be suitable for the maturity level of the performer.
2. The author's purpose, motivation, and philosophy must be examined in the cutting.
3. In terms of the selection, the plot structure, conflict, mood, and characterization should be studied.

HINTS FOR STUDENTS

1. Know your introduction and deliver it in a conversational tone.
2. Practice handling the manuscript so that it does not distract from the audience.
3. The interpreter should keep in mind the author's purpose of informing, persuading, and/or entertaining.
4. Remember that the reader should demonstrate a real, lively, and enthusiastic interest in sharing the selection with the audience.

STORYTELLING

Junior and Senior Divisions

Rules

1. In this event, each student recreates and retells a story for the purpose of entertaining the audience.
2. The maximum time is ten minutes, including a required introduction. There is a thirty second grace period, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. Time signals may be given at the request of the competitor. No violation of the grace period in Regional/State Quarterfinal, Semifinal or Final rounds may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
3. The introduction should clarify all vital information needed for an understanding of the story. The introduction must be memorized.
4. Either a complete story or an excerpt from a longer one may be used, and the story may be either humorous or serious.
5. The story must be memorized, and the storyteller may sit on the floor (not in a chair), stand, or use a limited stage area to tell the story.
6. The use of costumes, props, or furniture or any kind is prohibited.

PROCEDURES

No special procedures or facilities are needed for this event. A simple classroom with adequate space in the front for the student to sit, stand, and/or use a limited stage area is sufficient. Before a student performs, he/she should inform the judge of his/her code number, name, and title of selection.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. Students should be judged for quality of performance, entertainment, and versatility.
2. The narration should be the major portion of the story, not excessive dialogue with a bit of narration.
3. Movement should be appropriate.

HINTS FOR COACHES

1. Selections may come from legends, tall tales, myths, children's stories, ghost stories, or folk material.
2. Stories should have an interesting plot.
3. The introduction should include the title, author, and information necessary to set the mood and provide for understanding of the story.

HINTS FOR STUDENTS

1. Choose a story you like and one that seems to fit your style and personality.
2. Eye contact with the audience is important for the narrator.
3. Use appropriate movement.

SENIOR DIVISION EVENTS

The following three events are for Senior Division competitors only.

DUO INTERPRETATION

Senior Division Only Rules

1. In this event, two students perform a scene or cutting from a published play, novel, short story, or movie script.
2. The maximum time for Duo Interpretation is ten minutes, including a required introduction. There is a thirty second grace period, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. Time signals may be given at the request of the competitor. No violation of the grace period in Regional/State Quarterfinal, Semifinal or Final rounds may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
3. The selection may be from a published play, novel, short story, TV or movie script, and the two competitors must have equal share of dialogue. Any decision to edit literature from a different venue, potentially defying the author's intent, to fit within this venue you do at your own risk. Students will not be disqualified for doing so.
4. Offstage focus must be employed when one character speaks to another character; however, if the speaker is supposed to address the audience, he/she may make eye contact with the audience. Except in the introduction, students may not make obvious eye contact with one another.
5. Limited movement is permissible in the introduction and during the selection. Limited movement is defined as movement within an area of ten feet in diameter. The area may be used for actions including bending, stooping, turning, and pivoting. When a "teaser" taken directly from the script is used in the introduction, this is considered part of the selection and movement is therefore restricted as above. Except in the introduction, no touching is allowed.
6. Except as noted here, the rules for this event are the same as those provided by the National Speech & Debate Association.
7. One or both students may participate in the introduction. The introduction must be memorized.

8. Competitors in Duo Interpretation may portray one or more characters as needed. Dialogue should be equally shared between the performers.
9. The Source Rule applies to this event and is included in the rules by reference.

PROCEDURES

No special procedures or facilities are needed for this event. A simple classroom with space in the front for the students to stand and perform is sufficient. Before a pair of students performs, they should inform the judge of their code number, names, and title of selection.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. The selection must be a self-contained unit holding together a story itself.
2. Dramatic and humorous selections should be given equal consideration.
3. Criteria for judging include teamwork, timing, consistent characterization, good speaking skills, and the comedic or dramatic effect of the scene on the audience.
4. Delivery should be interpretation rather than acting.
5. Focal placement should be offstage, suggestive of actions, and appropriate for the heights of characters.
6. The suitability of the material to the maturity level of the performer should be considered.

HINTS FOR COACHES

1. The selection must be an artistic, self-contained unit holding together a story itself -- capable of being appreciated without one having heard the entire play, novel, short story, TV or movie script.
2. Play titles and synopses can be found in publisher catalogues (e.g., Samuel French, Dramatist Play Service, Dramatic Publishing Company, Fireside Theatre, and Drama Book Shop).
3. Other selections may be obtained from novels, short stories, or movies scripts.
4. Choose material that corresponds to the ability and maturity of the performers.

HINTS FOR STUDENTS

1. Introductions may be spoken, sung, or performed, and need to include who, what, when, and where.
2. A performer should not look at his/her partner while delivering lines. Presentation should be offstage unless the speaker is supposed to address the audience.
3. Read the whole play, novel, short story, TV or movie script from which the selection is taken.
4. Do a character study in preparation. Consider how other characters see your character (e.g., physical characteristics, mental attributes, etc.) and how other characters feel about your character.

INFORMATIVE SPEAKING

Senior Division Only

Rules

1. In this event, each student delivers an original speech which explains, defines, describes, or illustrates a particular subject.
2. The maximum time is ten minutes. There is a thirty second grace period, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. Time signals may be given at the request of the competitor. No violation of the grace period in Regional/State Quarterfinal, Semifinal or Final rounds may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
3. The speech must be the original work of the student and must be memorized.
4. Direct quotations may be used, but they must be indicated and limited to 150 words of quoted material.
5. Audio/Visual aids are permitted but optional. During the presentation, no electronic equipment is permitted. The use of live animals or any additional people as visual aids is not allowed during the speech. Items of dress put on and removed during the course of the presentation are considered costumes and not allowed. Visual aids may not violate law (weapons, drugs, etc.). The host facility is not responsible for providing any equipment or assistance in a contestant's use of visual aids. 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 Works Cited page but does not need to be cited orally.
6. Coaches must have Oratory and Informative speeches electronically available for retrieval (or paper copies available) at Regionals and State tournaments should questions of originality arise, but these documents no longer need be turned in at Registration.

PROCEDURES

No special procedures or facilities are needed for this event. A simple classroom with space in the front for the student to stand and speak is sufficient. Before a student performs, he/she should inform the judge of his/her code number, name, and topic of speech.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. The introduction should get the attention of the audience as well as preview the speech.
2. Good speaking skills should be evident.
3. Organization must be clear and easy to follow.
4. Eye contact is essential.
5. If used, presentation aids should be effectively selected, prepared, and presented.
6. Audience rapport should be evident.
7. Sources should be used to support any facts or claims.
8. Fluency of language is important as well as logical development of content.

HINTS FOR COACHES

1. Help students select a topic that is fresh or encourage them to use a fresh approach to a dated topic.
2. Topics should be appropriate to students' ages and speaking situations.
3. Have students use an outline in preparation.
4. Consult textbooks for styles of introductions, conclusions, and methods of development.
5. Make sure that paraphrasing is not plagiarizing.
6. Videotaping of students' gestures and movements is helpful. Gestures should be natural.

HINTS FOR STUDENTS

1. Read widely about your chosen topic before formulating a thesis.
2. Use a variety of sources.
3. Make an outline.
4. Write your speech using transitional phrases so your speech will flow smoothly.
5. Rehearse movement but retain spontaneity.
6. Maintain eye contact with the audience.
7. Deliver the speech in a conventional manner. Informative is a speaking event, not an acting event.
8. Be able to adapt to the size of the room as well as the size of the audience.

PROGRAM ORAL INTERPRETATION

Senior Division Only

Rules

1. In this event, each student delivers a program of thematically linked selections of literary merit, chosen from two or more genres of literature and writing (most common will be readings from Prose, Poetry, and Drama). A substantial portion of the total time must be devoted to each of the genres used in the program.
2. The maximum time limit is 10 minutes, including an original introduction and/or transitions. There is a thirty second grace period, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. Time signals may be given at the request of the competitor. No violation of the grace period in Regional/State Quarterfinal, Semifinal or Final rounds may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
3. Different genre means that material must appear in separate pieces of literature and/or writing (e.g. A poem included in a short story that appears only in the short story does not constitute a poetry genre). The introduction (and transitions when used) should provide adequate background for the reading as a whole and for the individual selections as needed in order to relate them to the whole.
4. Genres should be understood fairly broadly. Non-fiction, advertising copy, and other sources are valid and legitimate—how they are used will determine the effectiveness of the Program. The Program as a whole should have a unifying theme or message. Pieces within the Program may be cut into smaller passages interspersed with passages from other selections.
5. The performer may use single or multiple characters to animate and assist the interpretation.
6. A manuscript must be used and referred to. The manuscript may be used as a property.

7. The introduction (and transitions when used) should provide adequate background for the reading as a whole and for the individual selections as needed in order to relate them to the whole. The introduction must be memorized and **give credit to both the title(s) and author(s) of all scripts performed.**
8. Blocking is allowed for this event. Performers are NOT required to keep their feet stationary as they perform. Blocking is movement in a performance that can be expressive in nature, symbolizing how a character is feeling emotionally, while at other times blocking denotes events that are occurring in the imagined space. The movement should always be motivated by elements in the text. Movement for the sake of movement is not necessary. Performers may, without penalty, choose to remain stationary or have limited foot movement and choose instead to emphasize vocal or nonverbal forms of communication including facial gestures, facial expressions, posture, and eye contact. All performance choices should serve to enhance the overall interpretation of the selection, not just demonstrate movement capabilities.
9. The Source Rule applies to this event and is included in the rules by reference.

PROCEDURES

No special procedures or facilities are needed for this event. A simple classroom with space in the front for the student to stand and perform is sufficient. Before a student performs, he/she should inform the judge of his/her code number, name, and title of selection.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. The introduction should prepare the listener for the selection(s).
2. In multiple selections, a relationship should be obvious between the literature chosen to develop the program and the theme of the program.
3. The suitability of the material to the maturity level of the performer should be considered.
4. The contestant must use a manuscript and must refer to it.
5. Projection, diction, and flexibility of voice are important to the student's interpretation.
6. Multiple character voices may be used but should be distinct from each other.

HINTS FOR COACHES

1. Work with students to ensure a central theme or message.
2. The overall structure and arrangement of the selections and cuttings is crucial to the message.
3. Encourage students to be fresh and imaginative in their selection of sources. This event allows a wide range of sources. Do not restrict students to sources for other events.

HINTS FOR STUDENTS

1. Be imaginative in your source material.
2. Memorize your introduction, and make sure it gives the audience a strong sense of your message.
3. If you use multiple characters, make sure they are distinct from each other.
4. Use effective transitions between passages and focus on solid performance for each genre.

Modeled on Program Oral Interpretation. (2014, August 11).

Retrieved from Gustavus Adolphus College:

<https://gustavus.edu/forensics/events/poi.php>



JUNIOR DIVISION ONLY EVENTS

The following event is for Junior Division competitors only.

DUO ACTING

Junior Division Only Rules

1. In this event, two students perform a scene or cutting with two characters from a published play, TV, or movie script.
2. The maximum time for Duo Acting is ten minutes, including a required introduction. There is a thirty second grace period, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. Time signals may be given at the request of the competitor. No violation of the grace period in Regional/State Semifinal or Final rounds may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
3. No furniture, make-up, costumes, props, or lighting are permitted, but two chairs may be used. Doors and walls are considered props and must not be used.
4. The scene or cutting may come from a published play, TV, or movie script, and must contain only two characters with equal sharing of dialogue. Any decision to edit literature from a different venue, potentially defying the author's intent, to fit within this venue you do at your own risk. Students will not be disqualified for doing so.
5. One or both students may participate in the introduction.
6. The material must be memorized. The introduction must be memorized.
7. Each student may portray one and only one character. If a performance has students portraying multiple characters, they should be dropped to last in the round and are ineligible for finals.
8. The Source Rule applies to this event and is included in the rules by reference.

PROCEDURES

Only minor accommodations are required for this event, most of which are found in a simple classroom. The students must have available to them two standard chairs and sufficient space in the front of the room for the actors to move about freely. Before a pair of contestants performs, they should inform the judge of their code number, names, and title of selection.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. The selection must be a self-contained unit holding together a story itself.
2. Dramatic and humorous selections should be given equal consideration.
3. Criteria for judging include teamwork of the actors, timing, movement, consistent characterization, good speaking skills, pantomime of props, and the comedic or dramatic effect of the scene on the audience.
4. The suitability of the material to the maturity level of the performer should be considered.

HINTS FOR COACHES

1. The selection must be an artistic, self-contained unit holding together a story itself -- capable of being appreciated without one having heard the entire play, novel, short story, TV or movie script.
2. Play titles and synopses can be found in publisher catalogues (e.g., Samuel French, Dramatist Play Service, Dramatic Publishing Company, Fireside Theatre, and Drama Book Shop).
3. Other selections may be obtained from novels, short stories, or TV or movie scripts.
4. Choose material that corresponds to the ability and maturity of the performers.

HINTS FOR STUDENTS

1. Introductions should contain the title and author, as well as other information deemed necessary for the audience's understanding of the script.
2. Movement should encompass various parts of the performance area.
3. A performer should not look at the audience while delivering lines unless the lines are written as an aside to be spoken to the audience.
4. Read the whole play, novel, short story, TV or script from which the selection is taken.
5. Do a character study in preparation. Consider how other characters see your character (e.g., physical characteristics, mental attributes, etc.) and how other characters feel about your character.

INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

We are fortunate to have a number of schools in both the Junior and Senior divisions who are willing to host invitational tournaments throughout the year. These tournaments provide benefits not only for the schools attending, but also for the host school. Contestants participating at these tournaments gain invaluable experience and practice for the tournaments at the regional and state level. The students and coaches running the tournament gain insight into the technical aspects of other tournaments they will enter and often realize a profit from entry fees, concessions, etc. which can be used to offset some of the costs of attending future tournaments.

Schools hosting invitational tournaments are strongly encouraged to follow all rules and regulations outlined in the KHSSL Handbook. Invitational tournaments are, by their very nature, independent, and while such tournaments may choose to offer additional events or modify certain rules, some standards are essential if the tournament is to be considered a KHSSL sanctioned tournament. Schools may set their own entry and drop fees and fines. To this end, the following rules and regulations apply to all invitational tournaments which are to be sanctioned by KHSSL:

1. Schools wishing to host an invitational tournament must submit a tournament request in the manner established by the Executive Director before the Spring Board meeting of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will approve the schedule at the Spring Board meeting. The use of tabroom.com or another on-line registration and tabulation system is vastly preferred over paper. The Executive Director must be given administrative access to the tournament system used. If paper or a pay-for electronic service (i.e., Joy of Tournaments) is used, then the Executive Director must receive pdf versions of all results printouts. Based on those requests, the Executive Director will draft a schedule reflecting the following priorities:

- i. Schools hosting tournaments on their ‘traditional weekends’
- ii. No division may have two tournaments in the same Region on the same date, unless one is Debate-only, and the other is Speech-only.
- iii. Higher priority on the requesting school’s list of dates.
- iv. When possible, tournaments in adjoining Regions should be avoided.
- v. When possible, no more than two tournaments per division per date will be approved.

The Executive Director may adjust the approved schedule as needed after the Board meeting (keeping the guidelines in mind and giving preference to tournaments already approved by the Board).

- 2. Events offered at invitational tournaments must be titled the same as KHSSL events and must follow the same guidelines for these events as outlined in the KHSSL Handbook.
- 3. KHSSL-sanctioned Invitationals are expected to follow KHSSL rules and the Code of Ethics. Failure to do so may jeopardize that school’s participation at the Regional and State tournaments.
- 4. Schools may offer novice-only tournaments and novice-only events at their invitational tournaments. Novice-only tournaments/events should be clearly noted. KHSSL rules should be followed for all novice tournaments/events. Host schools should ensure that all competitors at a novice tournament/event are in fact novices (students in their first year of competition in their respective divisions) and should include their procedure in their invitation.
- 5. A novice student may compete in the novice category all year without respect to results at any previous tournament.
- 6. So that both contestants and judges may become familiar with these documents, tournament directors must use copies of KHSSL evaluation sheets for their ballots available on the league website. Ballots must contain a section for judges to note any rule violations.

7. A KHSSL-sanctioned tournament must, at a minimum, have two preliminary rounds and a final round. Ideally, all tournaments will have three preliminary rounds and a final round. Tournament directors may add semi-final rounds at their discretion.
8. Contestants should be mixed from round to round to avoid having the same students competing against one another each round, and there should be no more than eight contestants in each section. Sections of six contestants are considered ideal.
9. One judge shall be used in each preliminary round, three judges in a semi-final round, and three or five judges in the final round. If only two preliminary rounds are held, there may be two judges in one of the preliminary rounds to provide a total of three preliminary round scores. The same judge should not judge the same contestant in the same event more than once at a particular tournament.
10. At the conclusion of the preliminary rounds, contestants shall be placed in order as follows:

- a. Contestants are first ordered by composite rank.

Students with the lowest composite ranks are preferred. For example, if one contestant has ranks of 1, 2, and 3, his/her composite rank would be $1 + 2 + 3 = 6$, and he/she would be preferred over a contestant having ranks of 2, 2, and 4 for a composite rank of $2 + 2$

+ 4 = 8. Contestants having identical composite ranks are then ordered by composite reciprocal.

- b. *Students with the highest composite reciprocal are preferred.*

The reciprocal of 1 is $1/1$ or 1, the reciprocal of 2 is $1/2$ or .5, the reciprocal of 3 is $1/3$ or .333, etc. For example, contestants having ranks of 1, 1, 3 and 1, 2, 2 both have a composite rank of 5; however, the first contestant has a composite reciprocal of $1/1 + 1/1 + 1/3 = 1 + 1 + .333 = 2.333$ and is preferred over the second contestant who has a composite reciprocal of $1/1 + 1/2 + 1/2 = 1 + .5 + .5 = 2$.

- c. Contestants having identical composite ranks and composite reciprocals are then ordered by composite rating. Students with the highest composite rating are preferred.

For example, suppose a first contestant has ranks/ratings of 1/100, 2/96, and 3/94 while a second contestant has ranks/ratings of 1/100, 2/94, and 3/85. Both contestants have a composite rank of 6 and a composite reciprocal of $1/1 + 1/2 + 1/3 = 1 + .5 + .333 = 1.833$, but contestant one has a composite rating of $100 + 96 + 94 = 290$ and is preferred over contestant two with a composite rating of $100 + 94 + 85 = 279$.

- d. If two or more contestants have identical composite ranks, reciprocals, and ratings, they shall be considered tied in order.
11. The top six contestants in order shall advance to the final round. Only in the event of an absolute tie as outlined in items 10a-d shall additional contestants be advanced to the final round.
 12. At the conclusion of the final round, contestants shall be placed in order as follows:
 - a. Contestants are first ordered by composite rank as outlined in item 10a.
 - b. Contestants having identical composite ranks are then ordered by judges' preference in finals.

Consider the following example which gives the ranks of two contestants from judges A, B, and C:

| | A | B | C |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| Contestant One | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| Contestant Two | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Contestant Three | 4 | 4 | 2 |

Judge A indicated that he/she preferred contestant one by giving him/her the lowest rank. Likewise, judge B indicated that he/she preferred contestant two and judge C indicated that he/she preferred contestant one. Contestant one is therefore preferred two judges to one.

- c. Contestants having identical composite ranks and on whom the judging preference method would not yield a majority decision are then ordered by utilizing composite reciprocals as outlined in item 7b and then reapplying judges' preference.

Consider the following example which gives the ranks of three contestants from judges A, B, and C:

| | A | B | C |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| Contestant One | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| Contestant Two | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| Contestant Three | 4 | 4 | 2 |

Each contestant has a composite rank of ten, so judges' preference is used next. As in the previous example, judge A indicated that he/she preferred contestant one, judge B indicated that he/she preferred contestant two, and judge C indicated that he/she preferred contestant three. Since no contestant was preferred by a majority of the judges, composite reciprocals are then used. Contestants one and two have identical composite reciprocals ($1/1 + 1/3 + 1/6 = 1 + .333 + .167 = 2$) and are preferred over contestant three whose composite reciprocal is $1/4 + 1/4 + 1/2 = .25 + .25 + .5 = 1$. Looking only at the judges' preferences for contestants one and two, judge A preferred contestant one, judge B preferred contestant two, and judge C also preferred contestant two. Therefore, the order of contestants in this example is two, one, and three.

- d. Contestants who cannot be ordered by composite ranks, judges' preference, or composite reciprocal are then ordered by composite rating as outlined in item 7c.

Consider the following example which gives the ranks/ratings of three contestants from judges A, B, and C.

| | A | B | C |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Contestant One | 1/100 | 2/97 | 3/94 |
| Contestant Two | 2/96 | 3/93 | 1/100 |
| Contestant Three | 3/92 | 1/100 | 2/96 |

Each contestant has a composite rank of 6, each judge prefers a different contestant (A prefers one, B prefers three, and C prefers two) and each contestant has a composite reciprocal of $1/1 + 1/2 + 1/3 = 1 + .5 + .333 = 1.833$.

Composite ratings are then used to place the contestants in the order one ($100 + 97 + 94 = 291$), two ($96 + 93 + 100 = 289$), and three ($92 + 100 + 96 = 288$).

- e. Only when all of the above methods fail shall two or more contestants be considered tied in the final placement.
13. The tournament director will make results and numbers available in electronic form to the Executive Director within forty-eight hours of the end of the tournament. A tournament conducted on tabroom.com in the Kentucky Circuit is considered available.
14. Students may not compete at their own school's invitational Speech tournament in Speech events.
15. Kentucky tournaments that do not follow KHSSL rules for KHSSL events and tabulations may NOT be used for State qualification (for those students who do not attend Regionals). Additionally, tournaments outside of Kentucky may NOT be used for State qualification.

16. If Speech tournaments wish to offer non-KHSSL State Speech events or any Debate events, they may NOT count toward Sweepstakes for Speech; separate Sweeps awards may be given (debate, novice, experimental, etc.) and an OVERALL Sweeps that includes all events may be offered, but a specific Speech Sweepstakes awards for KHSSL Speech events (and KHSSL Speech events only) must be part of the tournament offerings if the Invitational is to be used to qualify State entries.
17. Invitationals are to publicly publish tournament results no later than the Monday after the tournament.
18. If the tournament host allows, junior division students may “play up” and compete at senior division speech contests. Both divisions may use these meets for state qualification.

VIRTUAL TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES:

19. Virtual tournaments shall only be granted to schools who cannot host for another reason, including but not limited to size of the school, district policies not allowing the hosting of events, school geography not conducive to attendance, etc. Any school wanting to host a virtual tournament shall submit a letter explaining why the virtual nature is necessary. This is not necessary for tournaments proposed after a division’s state tournament (pre-Nats warmups, etc.).
20. There cannot be both a virtual and in-person tournament in the same region on the same weekend.
21. Students can only earn one leg of alternate state qualification (non-Regionals) at a virtual tournament. The other must be earned in person.
22. On a given weekend, no more than one virtual tournament per division is to be approved in initial planning.
23. In the case of a change in public health, like a rise in COVID cases or a flu outbreak which causes school closure, the Executive Director will have the authority to allow a tournament to switch to a virtual environment, so long as sufficient notice is given, even if it violates 19-22 above. Inclement weather can also trigger a last-minute switch to virtual from in-person if approved by the Executive Director.

REGIONAL SPEECH TOURNAMENTS

Full section revised 2024-2025

During the month of February, a regional speech tournament will be conducted for each division (Junior and Senior) in each of the regions.

While the League will retain general oversight of all regional tournaments, the administrative details and actual conduct of each regional tournament are entrusted to a Regional Manager appointed by the Director and approved by the Board.

The following rules and regulations apply to all REGIONAL SPEECH TOURNAMENTS:

1. DATE/TIME

The date and site of each regional tournament will be set by the Regional Manager. The Regional Manager should schedule the tournament with due regard for standardized testing and other conflicts affecting a large number of students. He/she will forward this information to the League office which will, in turn, provide this and other general information to the schools registered in that region at the first of the school year. Dates of regional tournaments will be established at the beginning of the academic school year, unless schedule mandates change.

2. Each region must hold a tournament regardless of number of schools entered.

3. Regional tournaments may not be held on Sundays.

4. INVITATION AND SCHEDULE

Detailed instructions for each regional tournament will be sent by the regional manager as tournament time nears. The regional manager is solely responsible for setting the schedule for his/her regional tournaments (time of rounds, flighting, etc.), and will make such decisions as may be necessary when weather threatens postponement of the tournament.

5. TABROOM USE

Regional tournaments must be conducted on tabroom.com by the Regional Manager. The Executive Director will set up the regional tournaments on tabroom.com and give access to the Regional Manager.

6. REGISTRATION DEADLINE

The registration deadline is 5 PM local time the Monday of Regional Tournament week. Entry names and judge names must be entered by this time. See below for drops, adds, name swaps and charges; entry fees are locked at this deadline as the minimum owed with additional fees charged as listed below.

7. ENTRY FEES

Entry fees for the regional tournament are \$10.00 per individual entry and \$20.00 per duo entry (Duo Acting, Duo Interpretation, and Improvisational Duo).

8. OTHER FEES AND DEADLINES

Drops / Adds / Substitutions and their fines and deadlines at Regionals:

- a. Name substitutions in the same event (replacing other entered students) between the registration deadline and 12 PM the day before Regional Tournament are free.

- b. Judge name substitutions are free through the end of Registration on Regional Tournament day; all subbed judges must meet the same requirements required of all judges.
- c. Drops and Adds between the registration deadline and 12 PM the day prior to the tournament = entry fee + \$10 nuisance fee.
- d. No Adds after 12 PM the day prior to the Regional tournament.
- e. Entry Substitutions between 12 PM the day before the Regional Tournament and the end of Registration on Tournament day add \$10 to the entry fee charged as a Nuisance fee.
- f. Drops after 12 PM the day before the Regional Tournament and the end of Registration on Tournament day add \$25 to the entry fee charged as a Nuisance fee.
- g. Judge drops between the Registration deadline and 12 PM the day prior to the tournament incur the Judge fee + \$25 nuisance fee.
- h. Judge drops after 12 PM the day prior to the tournament through the end of the Regional Tournament incur the Judge fee + \$50 Nuisance fee. In addition, if a judge Drop leads to a school not covering its judge obligation, the school's entries may be reduced, but the school will still owe ALL entry fees. This is to protect Regional tournaments from judge shortages.

9. JUDGE QUOTAS AND HIRING

A school must provide a judge for each six entries or fraction thereof. Each school failing to fill any judging slots will be charged \$75 per judge needed. The names of those serving as judges must also be entered at Registration. Schools may only pay for ONE hired judge at the Regional tournament.

10. ENTRIES AT REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS:

- a. Each school may enter up to three students per event.
- b. Entries **MUST** participate at the Regional Tournament in order to compete at the State Tournament OR be officially excused from participation (and have qualified another way).
- c. In the event that an exemption is granted for a student, the exempted student must be entered (in up to three events) at the Regional tournament; these entries count against a school's three entries in a particular event, and also count towards a school's total number of entries for the State Tournament. Fees for the entries are applicable.
- d. A school may have no more total entries in any event at the State Speech Championship Tournament than it had in those same events at the Regional Tournament.
- e. If schools wish to substitute in other students for entries who are officially excused from Regionals to compete at the Regional tournaments, they may do so without additional fees as long as they register those students by the required deadlines.

For example, little Dustin is qualified in Storytelling but can't go to Regionals because he is going out of state that day with his family; he prequalified another way; his school substitutes in little Butch instead to compete in Storytelling at Regionals. However, schools may still only send as many entries to State as they have officially qualified in that event, may enter no more than three entries per event at State, and may submit no more entries to State in an event than they officially had in the event at Regionals. So if Butch qualifies to State, either Dustin or Butch can go in that slot, but not both. The Coach decides which.

11. TEAM OBLIGATION TO ATTEND STATE TOURNAMENT

Any Senior division school that attends the regional tournament but does not attend the State Championship will, unless excused for good and sufficient reasons by the Executive Director (some sort of school emergency), be deemed to owe State entry fees as if its entries at the Regional Tournament were entered at the State tournament; these deemed entry fees must be paid before the school may join KHSSL for any subsequent competition year. This rule no longer applies to Junior Division schools, though they are strongly encouraged to attend the State tournament as well as Regionals.

12. CLARIFICATION ABOUT THREE ENTRIES

Both junior and senior division individual students may participate in a maximum of three events at the regional tournament, and the school may have a maximum of three entries in each event.

13. MISSING THE REGIONAL TOURNAMENT:

Particular students may find it impossible to attend the Regional tournament owing to academic or familial reasons. If this occurs AND the school does not have another student to substitute in that event, an exemption can be requested. See the appropriate section under the State tournament for the exemption procedure. Exemptions must be requested by the Tournament entry deadline. Illness or extenuating circumstances that require a last-minute drop from Regionals will be exempted/evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Executive Director as long as the student has been entered in the Regional Tournament.

14. ROUNDS

At the regional tournament, all contestants participate in two rounds.

15. SECTIONING

The number of sections per round per each event depends upon the number of entries for that event. Sections will break down according to this expectation: no more than 7, 6 is the preferred, no fewer than 4 (unless there are fewer than 4 entries). When more than one section is used, there will be a different mix of contestants in each of the rounds. Whenever possible, students from the same school shall not compete in the same sections.

16. JUDGING

There will be one judge in each section of each round, and no judge shall evaluate the same event twice. Each contestant in each section receives a rank (the most effective contestant being ranked first or "1," the next most effective second or "2," etc.).

17. REGIONAL CHAMPIONS AND RUNNERS UP

Each Region will determine a Regional Champion and Runner Up in each event in each Division based on the scores (rank and rate) during the two rounds. Each regional tournament will have a run-off to declare a regional champion and/or runner-up in an event in case of an unbreakable tie. The Regional Champion and Runner-up will receive awards.

18. SCHOOL AWARDS (SWEEPSTAKES)

In addition to these individual awards, schools accumulate sweepstakes points based upon the success of their entries. Each entry having a composite rank of 2 or 3 is worth five points while a composite rank of 4, 5, or 6 is worth three points and a composite rank of 7, 8, or 9 is worth one point. Trophies are awarded to the first, second and third place schools having the greatest number of sweepstakes points. Ties for these places are broken in the following order:

- a. greatest number of ranks of one
- b. greatest number of composite ranks of six or less,
- c. greatest number of entries with composite ranks of three or less.

19. DROPPING A FULL TEAM

If a team drops from the Regional or State Championships after the initial registration deadline, they must pay all drop fees or a nuisance fee of \$150 (whichever is lower) by the time of registration in KHSSL the following year unless excused for calamity by the Executive Director, which shall be rare.

20. SPEECH COPIES AVAILABLE

Coaches must have Oratory and Informative speeches electronically available for retrieval (or paper copies available) at Regionals and State tournaments should questions of originality arise, but these documents no longer need be turned in at Registration.

21. ANTI-BIAS TRAINING

Judges must complete anti-bias judge training according to guidelines set by the state organization including by the deadline set in these guidelines to be able to judge at KHSSL Regionals. Details will be posted yearly with the Regional tournament invitations.

22. DESIGNATION OF HEAD COACH FOR A TEAM AT TOURNAMENT

If the person registered as a school's Head Coach (in official KHSSL Registration) is not physically present for any or all of the tournament, the Head Coach must indicate to the Tournament Director which adult accompanying the team will serve as Acting Head Coach for any portion of the meet where the Head Coach is not present.

23. REGIONAL TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

- a. The Regional Manager approved by the Board shall be the responsible person for putting on the Regional Tournament for that biennium

appointed. This includes finding a site for the meet, arranging for use of the building and for custodial assistance, etc.

b. The State office will supply Regional Tournament managers with topics for limited prep events, trophies and medals, etc. in a timely manner prior to the Regional Tournament.

c. The Regional Manager should include Board members from that Region in the tournament management staff; other coaches or adults may also help manage the tournaments. Students may assist in non-tabulation-related activities at the tournament, but students should not be involved in the Tabroom.com part of tournament management.

d. Regional Tournament Managers and money:

Regional Tournament Managers' schools may enter the Regional Tournament for free. If a Regional Tournament coaches more than one team, the Manager should choose which gets the free entry.

Regional Tournament Managers are responsible for all fees for using the host school including custodial fees.

Regional Tournament Managers must forward all entry fees for the Tournament to the State office immediately after the tournament concludes. Regional Tournament Managers' teams receive all other fees (all nuisance fees plus hired judge fees) as "payment" for hosting the contest and to help pay custodial fees, etc. If checks are made out to KHSSL that include fees owed to the Regional host team, KHSSL may credit Regional Tournament Managers' schools' entry fees for State tournament with the excess funding and/or write a refund check to simplify money matters.

e. Advocates at the Regional Tournament:

Each tournament shall appoint a Board member or other responsible coach/assistant coach to serve as the Advocate at that tournament.

The Advocate's duty shall be to be available outside of the tab room in a place where any coach or student or judge can approach him/her/them to seek help or clarification, to begin a Protest process. If the problem in question involves the Advocate's own school, the Advocate should immediately refer the concerned party to the Regional Manager.

After consulting with any concerned party, the Advocate should give the concerned party the option to escalate a claim and make it formal. At this point, the Head Coach of the concerned party's school must become involved, and that Head Coach should write out the concern of the concerned party for the Regional Manager to review.

The Advocate will then present the concern to the Regional Manager and make sure it is addressed. If the concerned party agrees to the solution proposed by the Regional Manager, the Regional Manager shall implement that solution; if this affects other parties who protest the actions, they may begin their own grievance process with the Advocate.

If any party wishes to appeal the decision of a Regional Manager, that decision may be appealed to the Executive Director with the understanding that such an appeal may or may not be acted upon that day.

STATE SPEECH CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

Entire section revised for 2024-2025

During the months of February or March, a State Championship will be conducted for each division (Junior and Senior). The Executive Director shall serve as the Tournament Director, assisted by such persons as he or she may designate. The following rules and regulations apply to both State Championship Tournaments:

1. Dates, times, & locations.

The dates and site of each State Championship will be set by the Director. He/she will forward this and other general information to all registered schools at the first of the school year.

2. Senior Division Qualification:

A student may qualify an event for entry into the KHSSL STATE SENIOR DIVISION SPEECH TOURNAMENT by:

A. Competing at their KHSSL Regional Tournament and getting a composite score of no more than 8 in that event during the current school year. If 7 or fewer contestants compete in an event in a division at Regionals, all students who compete at the Regional tournament in that event make State.

OR

B. Competing at no fewer than two (2) in-state tournaments (in a particular event for which they wish to qualify for state) that use KHSSL competition events and rules during the current school year.

OR

C. Advancing into the final round of that KHSSL event at any in-state tournament that uses KHSSL competition events and rules during the current school year.

A school may take their strongest entry to the STATE TOURNAMENT as long as each of the students entered has qualified for the STATE TOURNAMENT in one of the aforementioned ways in that particular event(s). The school will have to provide documentation of each student's eligibility when completing the STATE TOURNAMENT ENTRY.

In other words, Johnny can go to State in Prose, even if he didn't compete in Prose at Regionals, if he earned State qualification in Prose through one of the other three methods.

Keep in mind, however, that schools can enter **ONLY** as many entries total at State as they entered at Regionals (or fewer), so students should attend the Regional tournament if possible, obtain an Exemption (see rule 4 below) and pay the entry fee for missing, or have another student compete at Regionals in that event in their stead.

3. Junior Division Qualification:

At the 2024 Board meeting, the Board of Directors voted to allow all participating Junior Division Regional Tournament entries to advance to State. Thus, Junior Division entries may advance to State one of three ways.

A. Competing at their KHSSL Regional Tournament.

OR

B. Competing at no fewer than two (2) in-state tournaments (in a particular event for which they wish to qualify for state) that use KHSSL competition events and rules during the current school year.

OR

C. Advancing into the final round of that KHSSL event at any in-state tournament that uses KHSSL competition events and rules during the current school year.

A school may take their strongest entry to the STATE TOURNAMENT as long as each of the students entered has qualified for the STATE TOURNAMENT in one of the aforementioned ways in that particular event(s). The school will have to provide documentation of each student's eligibility when completing the STATE TOURNAMENT ENTRY.

In other words, Johnny can go to State in Prose, even if he didn't compete in Prose at Regionals, if he earned State qualification in Prose through one of the other three methods.

Keep in mind, however, that schools can enter **ONLY** as many entries total at State as they entered at Regionals (or fewer), so students should attend the Regional tournament if possible, obtain an Exemption (see rule 4 below) and pay the entry fee for missing, or have another student compete at Regionals in that event in their stead.

4. Exemptions.

Some students may be unable to attend the Regional Tournament owing to academic or familial reasons. Coaches may apply for an exemption for such a student. Exemptions should be rare and will count towards the school's total entries at the Regional tournament. The reasons for the exemption must be stated in the application.

Exemptions should be requested when both of the following requirements are met:

- a. The student has an academic (including Academic Team or standardized testing) or familial reason for missing the Regional tournament, **AND**
- b. the student has qualified for state in one of the other methods listed under Qualifying for the State Speech Tournament in rule 2 or 3, depending on the appropriate division.

The student must be listed on the Regional entry and Regional entry fees must be paid. The student can be dropped from the Regional tournament with no penalty fees once the exemption has been approved by the director. In other words, an exemption is NOT necessary for a student who has earned State Qualification in one of the other methods in that event but cannot attend Regionals; however, a school cannot bring more entries to state than it entered/paid for in the Regional tournament.

5. Tournament organization.

Detailed instructions for each State Championship will be sent by the League office as tournament time nears. The tournament director is solely responsible for setting the schedule for the State Championships (time of rounds, flighting, etc.), and will make such decisions as may be necessary when weather threatens postponement of the tournament.

6. Registration in general.

The State tournament will be conducted on Tabroom.com, unless that service is not available. In any event, all aspects of the State Championship Tournament will be conducted electronically, although the Executive Director will ensure that paper tabulation is possible in the event of emergency.

7. Entry fees.

- Entry fees for the State Championship are \$20.00 per individual entry and \$ 40.00 per duo entry (Duo Acting, Duo Interpretation, and Improvisational Duo).
- In addition, a school must provide a judge for each six entries or fraction thereof. Each school is required to supply at least one-half of its judging quota (fractions round up). Judges may be made available on a per diem basis. The fee for each unfulfilled Judge Obligation is **\$75** per day.
- A \$10.00 fee will be charged if a judge misses a round **for a reason not excused by the Tournament Director.**
- Judges will not be permitted to trade judging assignments with anyone, even judges on their own team, unless directed to do so by tabulation staff. Judges switching assignments without direction will incur a \$10 fee for the school they represent.
- Coaches are urged to obtain commitments from judges before registration and find replacements when necessary so that judging drops occur only in the most extreme emergencies.

8. Registration Deadlines and associated fees for Drop/Add.

School and entry **and judge** registration must be made by the Registration Deadline, **which shall be at 5 PM Eastern nine full days prior to the first day of the State Tournament. The Final Deadline shall be 5 PM Eastern four full days prior to the first day of the State Tournament.**

Example – Tournament starts on a Friday.

Registration Deadline is 5 PM the Wednesday the week before Tournament week.

Final Deadline is 5 PM the Monday before.

Changes after that deadline are subject to the following schedule of drop fees and fines:

- a. Contestant substitutions between the Registration Deadline and the Final deadline = free.
- b. Drops and Adds between the registration deadline and the Final deadline = entry fee plus \$10.
- c. Substitutions after Final deadline through start of tournament = \$10 + entry fee.
- d. Drop/Adds after the Final Deadline and prior to the first day of the tournament = \$25 + entry fee.
- e. Drop/Adds the first day of the tournament = \$50 + entry fee.
- f. Judge Name Changes at any time = free. New judges must be fully qualified as rules require.
- g. Judge drops after registration deadline and before Final Deadline = \$10 fee plus hired judge fees for the shortage.
- h. Judge drops after Final Deadline and prior to the first day of the tournament = \$25 + hired judge fees for the shortage.
- i. Judge drops at the start of or at any time during the days of the tournament = \$100 fee + hired judge fees for the remaining rounds unjudged (\$25 per round).

8. Regional obligation.

Any Senior division school that attends the regional tournament but does not attend the State Championship will, unless excused for good and sufficient reasons by the Executive Director, be deemed to owe State entry fees as if its entries at the Regional Tournament were entered at the State tournament; these deemed entry fees must be paid before the school may join KHSSL for any subsequent competition year. This rule no longer applies to Junior Division schools, though they are strongly encouraged to attend the State tournament as well as Regionals.

9. **Entry limits.**

Both junior and senior division students may participate in a maximum of three events each at the State Championship, and each school may have a maximum of three entries in each event. All entries must have qualified in one of the methods described in Rules 2 and 3.

10. **Tournament pairing.**

At the State Championship, all contestants participate in three preliminary rounds per event. The number of sections per round for each event depends upon the number of entries for that event. The preferred number of contestants in these sections is six, but there may be no fewer than five, nor more than eight contestants in a section. There will be a different mix of contestants in each of the rounds. In preliminary rounds, students from the same school shall not compete in the same section and, whenever possible, students from the same region shall not compete in the same section.

11. **Judge certification.**

All judges at the State Championship are required to be certified by KHSSL before the first preliminary round of competition.

The Executive Director shall indicate, early in the academic year, the method of certification for the upcoming season.

12. Coaches must have **Oratory and Informative speeches electronically available** for retrieval (or paper copies available) at Regionals and State tournaments should questions of originality arise, but these documents no longer need be turned in at Registration.

13. **SCRIPT VERIFICATION**

If challenged, coaches should be able to verify that each competition script used by their students is legal within KHSSL script rules. See the KHSSL Source Rule section of the Handbook. Particular attention should be given to rules about mixing genres of literature (for example, scripts written as Plays or Films or Television may NOT be used in Prose).

14. Preliminary judges and tabulation.

There will be one judge in each section of each preliminary round, and no judge shall evaluate the same event twice. Each contestant in each section receives a rank (the most effective contestant being ranked first or "1," the next most effective second or "2," etc.) and a rating (from a low rating of 70 to a high rating of 100). The contestant ranked first must receive a rating of 100, but a low rating of 70 does not have to be given. At the conclusion of the preliminary rounds, contestants shall be placed in order as follows:

- a. Contestants are first ordered by composite rank. Students with the lowest composite ranks *are preferred*. For example, if one contestant has ranks of 1, 2, and 3, his/her composite rank would be $1 + 2 + 3 = 6$, and he/she would be preferred over a contestant having ranks of 2, 2, and 4 for a composite rank of $2 + 2 + 4 = 8$.
- b. Contestants having identical composite ranks are then ordered by composite reciprocal. *Students with the highest composite reciprocal are preferred*. The reciprocal of 1 is $1/1$ or 1, the reciprocal of 2 is $1/2$ or .5, the reciprocal of 3 is $1/3$ or .333, etc. For example, contestants having ranks of 1, 1, 3 and 1, 2, 2 both have a composite rank of 5; however, the first contestant has a composite reciprocal of $1/1 + 1/1 + 1/3 = 1 + 1 + .333 = 2.333$ and is preferred over the second contestant who has a composite reciprocal of $1/1 + 1/2 + 1/2 = 1 + .5 + .5 = 2$.
- c. Contestants having identical composite ranks and composite reciprocals are then ordered by composite rating. *Students with the highest composite rating are preferred*. For example, suppose a first contestant has ranks/ratings of 1/100, 2/95, and 3/94 while a second contestant has ranks/ratings of 1/100, 2/92, and 3/90. Both contestants have a composite rank of 6 and a composite reciprocal of $1/1 + 1/2 + 1/3 = 1 + .5 + .333 = 1.833$, but contestant one has a composite rating of $100 + 95 + 94 = 289$ and is preferred over contestant two with a composite rating of $100 + 92 + 90 = 282$.
- d. If two or more contestants have identical composite ranks, reciprocals, and ratings, they shall be considered tied in order.

- e. When tabulating preliminary rounds at State, scores in each event will be truncated. Truncation means that the highest (worst) rank possible in a given round is the size of the small section in the round. For example, if an event has ten sections of six and one section of five, all ranks of 'six' in the first ten sections will be reduced to 'five'.

15. Quarterfinalists at the State Speech Tournaments:

(SENIOR DIVISION ONLY). A Quarterfinal round will take place in all events with 48 or more entries, measured as of the Registration deadline. The top 24 students in order will advance to the quarterfinal round. This round will have four sections of six competitors. No adjustments for students from the same school competing in the same section are made.

- a. The four sections will be seeded as follows:
Section 1—1st, 8th, 9th, 16th, 17th, and 24th
Section 2—2nd, 7th, 10th, 15th, 18th, and 23rd.
Section 3—3rd, 6th, 11th, 14th, 19th, and 22nd
Section 4—4th, 5th, 12th, 13th, 20th, and 21st
- b. Only in the event of an absolute tie as outlined in items 14a-d shall an additional contestant be advanced to the quarter-final round, and such contestant would be placed in a random section.

(JUNIOR DIVISION ONLY). A Quarterfinal round will take place in all events with 36 or more entries, measured as of the Registration deadline. The top 24 students in order will advance to the quarterfinal round. This round will have four sections of six competitors.

- a. The four sections will be seeded as described in the Senior section.
- b. Only in the event of an absolute tie as outlined in items 14a-d shall an additional contestant be advanced to the quarter-final round, and such contestant would be placed in a random section.

16. Advancement to and Pairing of Semifinals.

Semifinal rounds are paired as set forth below. No adjustments for students from the same school competing in the same section are made.

- a. For events with Quarterfinal rounds. The top-three Quarterfinalists advance out of each Quarterfinal section. Semifinal Section 1 includes advancing semifinalists from Sections 1 and 4 of Quarterfinals. Semifinal Section 2 includes advancing semifinalists from Sections 2 and 3 of Quarterfinals.
- b. For events advancing directly to the Semifinal round. The top twelve students after the preliminary rounds advance into two semifinal sections, paired as follows:

 Section 1: 1st, 4th, 5th, 8th, 9th, 12th
 Section 2: 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th, 10th, 11th
- c. Only in the event of an absolute tie as outlined in items 14a-d shall an additional contestant be advanced to the semifinal round, and such contestant would be placed in a random section.

18. Judges in Quarterfinals and Semifinals.

There will be three judges in each quarterfinal and semi-final section, and they shall rank and rate contestants as in the preliminary rounds. At the conclusion of the quarterfinal and semi-final round, contestants shall be placed in order by section as follows:

- a. Contestants are first ordered by composite rank as outlined in item 14a.
- b. Contestants having identical composite ranks are then ordered by judges' preference.

Consider the following example which gives the ranks of two contestants from judges A, B, and C:

| | A | B | C |
|----------------|---|---|---|
| Contestant One | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| Contestant Two | 2 | 1 | 4 |

Judge A indicated that he/she preferred contestant one by giving

him/her the lowest rank. Likewise, judge B indicated that he/she preferred contestant two and judge C indicated that he/she preferred contestant one. Contestant one is therefore preferred two judges to one.

- c. Contestants having identical composite ranks and on whom the judging preference method would not yield a majority decision are then ordered by utilizing composite reciprocals as outlined in item 14b and then reapplying judges' preference.

Consider the following example which gives the ranks of three contestants from judges A, B, and C:

| | A | B | C |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| Contestant One | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| Contestant Two | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| Contestant Three | 4 | 4 | 2 |

Each contestant has a composite rank of ten, so the judges' preference is used next. As in the previous example, judge A indicated that he/she preferred contestant one, judge B indicated that he/she preferred contestant two, and judge C indicated that he/she preferred contestant three. Since no contestant was preferred by a majority of the judges, composite reciprocals are then used. Contestants one and two have identical composite reciprocals ($1/1 + 1/3 + 1/6 = 1 + .333 + .167 = 2$) and are preferred over contestant three whose composite reciprocal is $1/4 + 1/4 + 1/2 = .25 + .25 + .5 = 1$. Looking only at the judges' preferences for contestants one and two, judge A preferred contestant one, judge B preferred contestant two, and judge C also preferred contestant two. Therefore, the order of contestants in this example is two, one, and three.

- d. Contestants who cannot be ordered by composite ranks, judges' preference, or composite reciprocal are then ordered by composite rating as outlined in item 14c.

Consider the following example which gives the ranks/ratings of three contestants from judges A, B, and C:

| | A | B | C |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Contestant One | 1/100 | 2/97 | 3/94 |
| Contestant Two | 2/96 | 3/93 | 1/100 |
| Contestant Three | 3/92 | 1/100 | 2/96 |

Each contestant has a composite rank of 6, each judge prefers a different contestant (A prefers one, B prefers three, and C prefers two) and each contestant has a composite reciprocal of $1/1 + 1/2 + 1/3 = 1 + .5 + .333 = 1.833$. Composite ratings are then used to place the contestants in the order one ($100 + 97 + 94 = 291$), two ($96 + 93 + 100 = 289$), and three ($92 + 100 + 96 = 288$).

19. Ties.

Only when all of the above methods fail shall two or more contestants be considered tied in order in the quarterfinals or semi-finals.

20. Top Three Advance

The top three contestants in order from each of the semi-final sections advance to the final round. Only in the event of an absolute tie as outlined in items 14 a-c shall an additional contestant be advanced to the final round.

21. Final Round:

SENIOR DIVISION ONLY. In the final round, five judges will rate and rank students as in the preliminary and semi-final rounds. The highest and lowest ranks will be eliminated from each contestant's scores and the remaining three ranks/ratings used to determine final placement by applying steps 18 a-c in order (with judge preference applied over all five judges). If a tie still exists, the scores of all five judges shall be used to break the tie by applying steps 18 a, c, and d in order.

In the **JUNIOR DIVISION ONLY**, three judges (none from the same school or from the same school as any of the state finalists in that event) shall rate and rank the students as in the preliminary and semifinal rounds. Tournament placements will be determined following steps 18 a, b, c, and d.

New for 2025 onward: if the number of judges at Junior State Speech allows, five judges will be used to judge all State Finals in the method described for Senior.

22. Individual Awards:

All quarterfinal and semifinal round contestants will receive awards appropriate to their achievement. Coaches of State Champions will be recognized at the State Championship awards ceremony and will be presented with an award.

23. Sweepstakes Awards:

The top 10 schools will be awarded trophies for team sweepstakes.

- a. Schools accumulate sweepstakes points based upon the success of their entries. Each entry having a composite rank of 3, 4, or 5 is worth five points while a composite rank of 6, 7, or 8 is worth three points and a composite rank of 9, 10, or 11 is worth one point.
- b. Quarterfinalists do not receive sweepstakes points because not all events will advance to Quarterfinals. All semi-finalists receive two additional points, and finalists receive points as follows: ten points for first place, seven points for second place, five points for third place, three points for fourth place, two points for fifth place and one point for sixth place.
- c. Break ties in Sweepstakes placement in the following order –
 - (1) by the greatest number of Finalists
 - (2) by the greatest number of Semi-finalists
 - (3) by the number of Ranks of one in the preliminary rounds.

24. Sustained Excellence Award

A "traveling trophy" is awarded to the school which has accumulated the most sweepstakes points over the years. When a school is awarded the trophy, the total resets to zero and the school begins accumulating

again. The trophy remains with the school for one year and then is returned to the State Championship the following year to be presented to the new winner.

25. Awards of Distinction.

Five awards of Distinction will be given to schools as recognition of excellence based on squad efficiency. No top 10 school will be eligible. Schools must have at least 6 entries.

26. Speech Coaches of the Year.

- In the Junior and Senior Speech Divisions, each region shall, at its respective Regional tournament, nominate one of its members to be KHSSL Speech Coach of the Year by a method of the choosing of the Regional manager.
- The Regional manager will be responsible for providing a short profile of the supported coach to the director of KHSSL prior to registration at the State Championship.
- At the Registration of the KHSSL State Championship, the coaches within each division shall vote for the coach they feel best represents the KHSSL Coach of the Year.
- The Coach of the Year for each division shall be awarded a plaque at the respective award ceremony of the KHSSL State championship.

27. Designation of Head Coach for Team.

If the person registered as a school's Head Coach (in official KHSSL Registration) is not physically present for any or all of the State tournament, the Head Coach must indicate to the Tournament Director which adult accompanying the team will serve as Acting Head Coach for the meet or any portion of the meet where the Head Coach is not present.

28. Grievances.

A grievance committee shall be formed to address grievances at the State Championship. The committee shall be comprised of the board members present and the Executive Director (or the Tournament Manager if the Executive Director is not present).

- a. A Board Member shall be appointed each day of each tournament to serve as the Advocate for any aggrieved party. This person shall collect the information from the aggrieved party including any suggested outcomes of the grievance. The Advocate shall then present the grievance to the tournament director in writing. If the Head Coach (or acting designate) of the tournament is not present in the presentation of the grievance, that person will be notified by the Advocate before the grievance is presented to the Executive Director and must agree to the filing of the Grievance as the official representative of that school.
- b. The Executive Director/Tournament Manager shall make a ruling on the written grievance. If this does not satisfy the school filing the grievance, the school may appeal to the Grievance Committee (Executive Director/Tournament Manager and Board Members present) for a review of the ruling.
- c. If the party filing the grievance still disagrees with the Grievance Committee's ruling, that school may submit the written grievance to the entire Board. This review will take place after the conclusion of the state tournament at a time set by the Executive Director.
- d. In the case of a question of a script meeting the definition of published or being in the correct category is called into question, it is the responsibility of the coach to provide evidence of publication and the type of material published as before the next round. Lack of proper evidence will result in disqualification. If the legitimacy of the script's content is sufficiently and responsibly called into question, then the grievance procedure will be followed prior to the next round.

29. Anti-Bias Training for Judges

Judges must complete anti-bias judge training according to guidelines set by the state organization including by the deadline set in these guidelines to be able to judge at KHSSL State. Details will be posted yearly with the State tournament invitations.

30. General Tournament Management Procedures:

At the State Tournaments, Board Members present will be expected to serve as Tournament Staff either in Tabulations, Merchandise, as an Advocate, or running Extemp or Broadcasting Draw (and they may rotate

among these positions). The Tournament Director shall assemble a staff of the attending Board Members plus other people as needed to run the State Tournaments.

- a. In Tabulations, stations shall be established to manage particular events only. Workers will manage these particular events throughout the meet unless pulled into the Judge pool as needed. It will be standard practice for some Tab folks to be pulled into the Judge pool, especially from prelims when more are needed to break rounds.
- b. Advocates shall be pulled to serve for one day only (different Advocates on different days) and will be stationed with Merchandise to answer questions and assist in busy Merch times as well as to serve as the Advocate as needed. They can rotate with Tab or other roles in the tournament.

31. Double Checks for Tournament Settings:

For each State Tournament (and hopefully for the shell used for the Regional Tournaments too), the Tournament Director will appoint a Board Member with significant tournament management experience to double check all tournament settings before the start of the State tournament.

32. Double Checks for Breaks and Awards:

For each State Tournament, the person(s) managing a particular event AND the tournament director must agree on the breaks for each event before they are made public; the tournament director may assign a tab worker not normally working on that event to sub in as the double checker.

For the final awards – top 6 and team – the person(s) managing a particular event, the tournament director, AND a tab worker not normally working on that event must all concur on the final placings before awards are made public.

33. DROPPING A FULL TEAM

If a team drops from the Regional or State Championships after the initial registration deadline, they must pay all drop fees or a nuisance fee of \$150 (whichever is lower) by the time of registration in KHSSL the following year unless excused for calamity by the Executive Director, which shall be rare.

STANDARD PAPER TABULATION PROCEDURES FOR SPEECH TOURNAMENTS

- 2 people typing in initial score in Tabroom.com. One reads the scores from the individual ballots themselves and writes team letter on sheets. Second person types in scores and reads team letters to person One. The master ballot stays with the sheet.
- The entire packet then passes to a second computer, and that person enters the scores from the MASTER BALLOT. If the computer announces an error, all three heads get together to determine the proper scores and contact the judge for clarification if necessary.
- After preliminary rounds, the tabulations chair or his/her designee will eyeball the prelim results for each round to see who the finalists should be. The computer-produced finalists will be double-checked for accuracy.
- As scores are entered for elimination/final rounds, master ballots for each event will be kept in piles by category. After an event is marked COMPLETE, the scores win the computer will be double-checked with the collection of master ballots for that event to ensure accuracy.

STATE TOURNAMENT LOGISTICS

The State Speech and Debate Championships involve hundreds of students, judges, and chaperones from schools all over the state converging on a single location for several days of competition. Much planning goes into each of these tournaments, and while some of the logistics change from year to year, some areas are the source of constant questions and reminders, and thus bear mentioning here:

1. Lodging. Because these are multiple-day tournaments, many schools have the need to stay one or even two nights in the city hosting the tournament.

2. **Travel.** The tournament schedule will be published as far in advance as possible, with due regard for changing conditions. The Executive Director will, as early as possible, indicate the time for on- site Registration, to allow submission of travel plans.
3. **Parking.** While every effort is made to provide information and assistance in parking busses and other vehicles, schools are responsible for seeing that their vehicles are properly parked. The League cannot be responsible for vehicles parked in violation of posted regulations.
4. **Promptness.** Schedules for these tournaments are distributed well in advance and are included in the program which everyone receives at registration. Attendance at assemblies and meetings is required, and students, coaches, and judges must be on time to all events as published in the schedule. No competitor shall be penalized for late arrival without consultation with the Tournament Director or another designated person.
5. **Safety.** The mere size of these tournaments dictates that the competition be held in a number of buildings. This requires students, judges, and coaches to move from one location to another several times, and often to cross streets. All individuals (especially younger students) should take the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the surroundings before the tournament begins and should exercise care in traveling from one place to another.
6. **Conduct and Respect of Property.** Coaches are expected to accept responsibility for the conduct of the students and individuals who represent their schools and should ensure that their behavior follows the same guidelines that are generally accepted in the schools. This includes respect for the buildings, grounds, property, and overall environment of the host school. Contestants entering the classrooms without judges may be ranked last in the round at the tournament manager's discretion.

JUDGE OBLIGATIONS AT REGIONALS AND STATE

All schools attending the State Tournament must supply at least 1/2 of their judging quota (fractions round up). Each school is asked to supply its entire quota, but if this is not possible a school may pay \$130 for each judge not supplied from their quota at the State Championship and \$65 for a judge not supplied at Regionals. Teams competing in Regionals may only hire ONE judge from the tournament. The worksheet below will help each school determine its quota as well as the number of judges that must be supplied. The Executive Director will actively seek to obtain as many hired judges as possible; hired judge requests will be allocated as evenly as possible among schools requesting hired judges. They will not be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

| Number of Entries | Judging Quota | Regional Judge Requirement | State Judge Requirement |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|

| | | | |
|-------|---|---|---|
| 1-6 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 7-12 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 13-18 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| 19-24 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| 25-30 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| 31-36 | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| 37-42 | 7 | 6 | 4 |

DEBATE DIVISION

KHSSL offers to all schools competition in Congressional Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Public Forum Debate. Varsity and Novice Divisions are both available as often as possible in these events.

The League annually sponsors an open State Championship for all schools registered in debate. This tournament is separate from the State Speech Tournament; students may, therefore, enter both tournaments.

A description of each event and procedures for the State Debate Championship follow.

RULES OF DEBATE EVIDENCE

1. Except as noted in this section, the rules for evidence applicable during the current school year's NSDA District Tournament apply to the KHSSL State Championship.
2. Debate judges must notify tab when turning in ballots of any decision made in whole or in part because of evidence violations.
3. No violation of the evidentiary rules requires an automatic disqualification at the State Championship. The penalties otherwise set out in the NSDA rules should be used as guidance for sanctions.
 - a. Appeals to judge decision are to be made by a coach.
 - b. The decision of the Director may be appealed within 20 minutes to all members of the Board of Directors present at the tournament. The Board's decision is final.
 - c. If the violation is "non-existent" evidence and the debater can produce the evidence within 20 minutes of the decision, the loss entered by the judge may be reversed.

4. The following guidelines (originally called the Pilot Guidelines) for Internet use in Debate events were adopted at the 28 August 2021 Board meeting and apply for all contests henceforward. Thanks to the NSDA for these.

GUIDELINES for Electronic Device Use in Debate Events

A. Contestants may use electronic devices (including laptop computers, tablets, and/or cell phones) to access the internet during debate rounds with the following conditions:

1. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information for competitive advantage from non-competitors (coaches, assistant coaches, other students) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs. Information that would be restricted would include but not be limited to coach/nonparticipating competitor generated arguments, advice on arguments to run, questions to ask during cross examination, and other information not generated by the participating competitors.
2. Internet access may be used to retrieve files, exchange evidence and/or arguments, research arguments, and partner to partner communication. These electronic device guidelines do not limit communication between debate partners during the debate round.

B. Penalty: Contestants found to have violated these provisions will be disqualified from the tournament and will forfeit all rounds and merit points in that event.

C. Availability of Evidence: Contestants 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. Printers may be used.

Evidence may be printed in the round or produced electronically but must be provided in a format readable by the opposing team and the judge.

- D. Contestants electing to use computers are responsible for providing their own computers, batteries, extension cords, and all other necessary accessories. Tournament hosts will not be responsible for providing computers, printers, software, paper, or extension cords for contestants. Host schools may provide wireless internet access, but will not guarantee that contestants will be able to gain access when needed.
- E. Contestants choosing to use laptop computers and/or related devices 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.
- F. By choosing to use electronic devices in the round, debaters and other relevant parties are consenting to give tournament officials the right to search their devices in the event of a protest. The device may only be searched by tournament officials and must be restricted to files and/or electronic exchanges relevant to the protest. Failure to comply would result in the upholding of the protest. Debaters and coaches should be present as their device is searched. Debaters who do not wish to consent should not use electronic devices in the round.

LINCOLN DOUGLAS DEBATE

Senior Division Only

Lincoln Douglas Debate centers on a proposition of value, which concerns itself with what ought to be instead of what is. A value is an ideal held by individuals, societies, governments, etc. Debaters are encouraged to develop argumentation based upon a values perspective. To that end, no plan (or counterplan) will be offered by the debaters. In Lincoln Douglas Debate, a plan is defined by the NSDA as a formalized, comprehensive proposal for implementation. The debate should focus on reasoning to support a general principle instead of particular plans and counterplans. Debaters may offer generalized, practical examples or solutions to illustrate how the general principle could guide decisions.

The hallmarks of Lincoln Douglas Debate include:

- **Parallel Burdens:** No question of values can be determined entirely true or false. This is why the resolution is debatable. Therefore neither debater should be held to a standard of absolute proof. No debater can realistically be expected to prove complete validity or invalidity of the resolution. The better debater is the one who, on the whole, proves his/her side of the resolution more valid as a general principle.
- **Burden of proof:** Each debater has the equal burden to prove the validity of his/her side of the resolution as a general principle. As an LD resolution is a statement of value, there is no presumption for either side.
- **Burden of clash:** Each debater has an equal burden to clash with his/her opponent's position. After a case is presented, neither debater should be rewarded for presenting a speech completely unrelated to the arguments of his/her opponent.

- **Resolutional burden:** The debaters are equally obligated to focus the debate on the central questions of the resolution, not whether the resolution itself is worthy of debate. Because the affirmative must uphold the resolution, the negative must also argue the resolution as presented.
- **Value Structure:** The value structure (or framework) is established by the debater to serve two functions: a) to provide an interpretation of the central focus of the resolution, and b) to provide a method for the judge to evaluate the central questions of the resolution. The value structure often consists of a statement of the resolution (if affirming), definitions (dictionary or contextual), the value premise (or core value), and the value criterion (or standard). This structure is commonly but not always employed.
- **Definitions:** The affirmative should offer definitions, be they dictionary or contextual, that provides a reasonable ground for debate. The negative has the option to challenge these definitions and to offer counter-definitions.
- **Value Premise/Core Value:** A value is an ideal held by individuals, societies, governments, etc. that serves as the highest goal to be protected, respected, maximized, advanced, or achieved. In general, the debater will establish a value which focuses the central questions of the resolution and will serve as a foundation for argumentation.
- **Value Criterion/Standard:** In general, each debater will present a value criterion (a standard) which the debater will use to:
 - explain how the value should be protected, respected, maximized, advanced, or achieved.
 - measure whether a given side or argument protects, respects, maximizes, advances, or achieves the value.
 - evaluate the relevance and importance of an argument in the context of the round.

The relationship between the value premise and the criterion

should be clearly articulated. During the debate, the debaters may argue the validity or priority of the two value structures. They may accept their opponent's value structure, prove the superiority of their own value structure, or synthesize the two.

- **Argumentation:** Because Lincoln Douglas Debate is an educational debate activity, debaters are obligated to construct logical chains of reasoning which lead to the conclusion of the affirmative or negative position. The nature of proof may take a variety of forms (e.g., a student's original analysis, application of philosophy, examples, analogies, statistics, expert opinion, etc.). Arguments should be presented in a cohesive manner that shows a clear relationship to the value structure. Any research should be conducted and presented ethically from academically sound and appropriately cited sources.
- **Cross-Examination:** Cross-examination should be used by the debater to clarify, challenge, and/or advance arguments in the round.
- **Effective delivery:** Lincoln Douglas Debate is an oral communication activity that requires clarity of thought and expression. Arguments should be worded and delivered in a manner accessible to an educated non-specialist audience. Throughout the debate, the debaters should demonstrate civility as well as a professional demeanor and style of delivery.

This encompasses:

- **Written communication:** Cases and arguments should be constructed in a manner that is organized, accessible, and informative to the listener. The debater should employ clear logic and analysis supported by topical research.
- **Verbal communication:** The debater has the obligation to be clear, audible and comprehensible, and to speak persuasively to

the listeners. Additionally, debaters should strive for fluency, expressiveness, effective word choice, and eloquence.

- Non-verbal communication: The debater should demonstrate effective use of gestures, eye- contact, and posture.

Rules

1. Resolution: The resolution will be one requiring a value judgment.

2. Order of speeches:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Affirmative Constructive | 6 Minutes |
| Negative Cross Examination | 3 Minutes |
| Negative Constructive | 7 Minutes |
| Affirmative Cross Examination | 3 Minutes |
| Affirmative Rebuttal | 4 Minutes |
| Negative Rebuttal | 6 Minutes |
| Affirmative Rebuttal | 3 Minutes |
| Prep Time | 4 Minutes per debater |

3. Timing: A timekeeper is an option but isn't required. If no timekeeper is used, debaters may time for their opponent or the judge may keep time. Prep time for each debater is 4 minutes.

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

5. Oral critiques: No debate ballot may be returned in without a reason for decision. Oral commentary is not considered a substitute for the written ballot. Critiques are discouraged but not forbidden; timeliness of the tournament is a paramount value. Comments made by a judge (orally or written) should be constructive and professional.

Lightly adapted from the NSDA's rules.

MODEST NOVICE TOPIC – topic and topic policy revised 2023

Each fall, Novice LD debaters will debate the same topic. This topic lasts from year-to-year, ultimately allowing veteran debaters to train novices on a topic they themselves learned on.

1. The Novice Topic is:

RESOLVED:

IN THE UNITED STATES, NATIONAL SERVICE OUGHT TO BE MANDATORY.

2. Use of the modest novice topic will follow the NSDA timeline, meaning KHSSL schools should offer it in October and November for Novice LD Divisions.
3. If possible, the League will sponsor a Novice Tournament during the fall of each year, and the Novices will debate the Novice topic.
4. KHSSL will update the Novice Topic to match the NSDA national Novice LD topic should that topic change in forthcoming years.

CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE (STUDENT CONGRESS)

Note: All National Speech and Debate League (NSDA) rules and guidelines apply to the KHSSL State Congress Championship and the NSDA rulebook will be followed. To reference rules and procedures, coaches and students should reference the NSDA High School Unified Manual.

The following exceptions shall be applied to Student Congress at the KHSSL State Championship, and these exceptions supersede any rules in the NSDA guidelines:

1. Schools may submit up to 3 pieces of legislation. Schools cannot submit legislation that has already been debated at invitational tournaments.
2. Invitational tournament directors will send their dockets of debated legislation to the director.
3. KHSSL will release approved legislation with at least 12 preliminary pieces of legislation and 6 pieces of legislation for supers.
4. KHSSL will determine a different docket for each chamber, maintaining a variety of schools represented in each docket.
5. Students may reorder this docket in session using Robert's Rules of Order.
6. Chambers and dockets will be released the day of the state championship.
7. If there are enough entries to have two or more houses, the entries from each school shall be equally divided between the houses via blind draw. No Congress chamber will exceed 24 students, including the final chamber.
8. There will be three preliminary sessions and one final session (Super Congress).
9. Judges and parliamentarians may be affiliated with students in a chamber, provided that no one school is represented more than once in the judge panel.
10. For final session legislation, the tournament director will select from bills/resolutions submitted by different schools. These pieces of legislation will be set aside for use in the final session only, and the rest

will be used in preliminary sessions.

11. All legislation must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the state championship. The tournament director will distribute legislation to participating schools at least one week prior to the state championship.
12. An equal number of students shall advance to the Supersession from each preliminary chamber. The goal for the supersession is 24 competitors, but the actual number will be determined by the Tournament Director. The supersession shall be judged by four judges and one parliamentarian.
13. The top three entries for each school in Congress will count towards the debate sweepstakes award. Three sweepstakes points will be awarded to each finalist. The first-place person will be awarded 12 points, second place 9 points, third place 7 points, fourth place 5 points, fifth place 4 points, and sixth place 3 points.
14. Schools cannot submit legislation that has already been debated at invitational tournaments
15. **GUIDELINES for Electronic Device Use in Congressional Debate** The use of internet enabled electronic devices is permitted. 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. Electronic device use must comply with the “Guidelines for Electronic Device Use in Debate Events.”

PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE

1. Resolution: Public Forum Debate focuses on advocacy of a position derived from the issues presented in the resolution, not a prescribed set of burdens. KHSSL will use the current NSDA resolution.
2. Procedure and order of speeches:
 - Prior to EVERY round and in the presence of the judge(s), a coin is tossed by one team and called by the other team.
 - The team that wins the flip may choose one of two options: EITHER the SIDE of the topic they wish to defend (pro or con) OR the SPEAKING POSITION they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate).
 - The remaining option (SIDE OR SPEAKING POSITION) is the choice of the team that loses the flip.
 - Once speaking positions and sides has been determined, the debate begins (the con team may lead, depending on the coin flip results).

| | | |
|--|--------|--------------------|
| First Speaker | Team A | 4 Minutes |
| First Speaker | Team B | 4 Minutes |
| Crossfire (first question by speaker A1) | | 3 Minutes |
| Second Speaker | Team A | 4 Minutes |
| Second Speaker | Team B | 4 Minutes |
| Crossfire (first question by A2) | | 3 Minutes |
| Summary First Speaker | Team A | 3 Minutes |
| Summary First Speaker | Team B | 3 Minutes |
| Grand Crossfire | | 3 Minutes |
| Final Focus Second Speaker | Team A | 2 Minutes |
| Final Focus Second Speaker | Team B | 2 Minutes |
| Prep Time | | 3 Minutes per team |

3. Timing: Timekeepers are an option but not required. If no timekeeper is used, debaters may time for their partners or the judge may keep time. Prep time for each team is three minutes.
4. Plans/Counterplans: In Public Forum Debate, a plan or counterplan is a formalized, comprehensive proposal for implementation. Neither the pro or con side is permitted to offer a plan or counterplan; 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 discouraged though not 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 and during the Grand Crossfire.
6. Reading case: A team may decide, when asked by the opponent team for a copy of their case, whether or not to provide it; if the team refuses they will not be penalized in any way.
7. Oral Critiques: No debate ballot may be returned in without a reason for decision. Oral commentary is not considered a substitute for the written ballot. Critiques are discouraged but not forbidden; timeliness of the tournament is a paramount value. Comments made by a judge (orally or written) should be constructive and professional.
8. Judges: The use of community judges is strongly encouraged.

Lightly adapted from NSDA rules.

STATE DEBATE TOURNAMENT

Entire section revised 2024 summer.

During February or March or April, a one or two-day State Championship for students will be conducted. The administrative details and actual conduct of the State Championship are entrusted to a tournament manager who shall be either the Director or his/her appointed representative.

The following rules and regulations apply to the State Championship:

1. **The dates and site of the State Championship** will be set by the Director. He/she will forward this and other general information to all registered schools at the first of the school year. The State Championship is open to all schools having registered in debate the previous fall, and there is no distinction between Junior and Senior divisions. There are no qualifying tournaments at the Regional level.

2. **Detailed instructions** for the State Championship will be sent by the League office as tournament time nears. The tournament manager is solely responsible for setting the schedule for the State Championship (time of rounds, etc.), and will make such decisions as may be necessary when weather threatens postponement of the tournament.

3. Division Definitions

A novice debater shall be defined as any student in his/her first year of debate. A varsity debater shall be defined as any student with at least one year's experience in debate.

4. The State Championship will offer the following contests:

Open Student Congress
Varsity Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum
Novice Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum

5. Entry Limits:

Each member school is eligible for three entries in each Debate division, and up to ten in Student Congress. An entry is one Lincoln Douglas debater or one Public Forum Team; 'maverick' entries are not allowed. All debaters

must be prepared to debate both the affirmative and negative sides (pro or con for Public Forum) at the State Championship. Schools may enter up to ten students in Student Congress. No student may enter more than one event at the State Debate Championship.

6. Registration in general.

The State tournament will be conducted on Tabroom.com, unless that service is not available. In any event, all aspects of the State Championship Tournament will be conducted electronically, although the Executive Director will ensure that paper tabulation is possible in the event of emergency.

7. Entry fees for the State Championship

\$25.00 per Student Congress entry

\$25.00 per Lincoln-Douglas entry

\$50.00 per Public Forum team.

8. Registration Deadlines and associated fees for Drop/Add.

School and entry **and judge** registration must be made by the Registration Deadline, which shall be at 5 PM Eastern nine full days prior to the first day of the State Tournament. The Final Deadline shall be 5 PM Eastern four full days prior to the first day of the State Tournament.

Example – Tournament starts on a Friday.

Registration Deadline is 5 PM the Wednesday the week before Tournament week.

Final Deadline is 5 PM the Monday before.

Changes after that deadline are subject to the following schedule of drop fees and fines:

- a. Contestant substitutions between the Registration Deadline and the Final deadline = free.
- b. Drops and Adds between the registration deadline and the Final deadline = entry fee plus \$10.
- c. Substitutions after Final deadline through start of tournament = \$10 + entry fee.

- d. Drop/Adds after the Final Deadline and prior to the first day of the tournament = \$25 + entry fee.
- e. Drop/Adds the first day of the tournament = \$50 + entry fee.
- f. Judge Name Changes at any time = free. New judges must be fully qualified as rules require.
- g. Judge drops after registration deadline and before Final Deadline = \$10 fee plus hired judge fees for the shortage.
- h. Judge drops after Final Deadline and prior to the first day of the tournament = \$25 + hired judge fees for the shortage.
- i. Judge drops at the start of or at any time during the days of the tournament = \$100 fee + hired judge fees for the remaining rounds unjudged (\$25 per round).

9. Debate Coach of the Year.

Schools entered in debate shall choose a Debate Coach of the Year. Nomination information will be forwarded to the debate coaches by 15 February. At Registration of the KHSSL State Debate Championship, the debate coaches present will vote for the coach they feel best represents the KHSSL Coach of the Year. The Debate Coach of the Year shall be awarded a plaque at the Debate Awards Ceremony.

Judging

10. Quotas and Hiring Judges

A school must supply one qualified judge for every two Lincoln-Douglas or Public Forum entries or fraction thereof and one judge for every 5 Congress competitors or fraction thereof. Uncovered judges must be hired at **\$75** per day. (For example, if a school has three Lincoln-Douglas entries and two Public Forum entries, the school is obligated to provide three judges -- two for Lincoln-Douglas and one for Public Forum. The Director may limit the number of hired judges available to each school, depending upon the number of hired judges available.) **Schools may hire out no more than ½ of their judging quota and must provide at least one judge, even if only one is required.**

Judges must complete anti-bias judge training according to guidelines set by the state organization including by the deadline set in these guidelines to be

able to judge at KHSSL State. Details will be posted yearly with the State tournament invitations.

11. **A qualified Debate judge** is a judge who meets one of the following criteria:

- Judged at a minimum of one tournament during this season or during previous, recent seasons, and was trained either through the League's Judge Training Program and/or by the coach of the School;
- Debated in High School and/or College;
- Currently a coach or formerly coached.

Tabulation for LD and Public Forum and Schedule of Rounds

12. The **tabulation room** at the State Championship will be open to all coaches, but not to debaters, hired judges, or parents. A coach shall be privy only to information pertaining to his/her individuals or teams (scores).

13. If the **schedule** allows, each debate division will have four preliminary rounds, and all competitors with a winning record will advance to the elimination rounds. The director may adopt a Round Robin format for Divisions with six or fewer entries. The number of full elimination rounds is determined by the following chart:

| Entries | Break to |
|---------|---------------------------|
| 7-8 | Finals (2) |
| 9-16 | Semifinals (4) |
| 17-31 | Quarterfinals (8) |
| 33-64 | Octofinals (16) |
| 65+ | Sextodecimofinals (32) |

14. **Byes**

In the event of an uneven number of entries in a category, one individual or entry per preliminary round will receive a bye which shall be recorded as a win with rank and speaker points equal to the rounded average of those in the other preliminary rounds. In the first two preliminary rounds, byes shall be randomly assigned, but unless the size of the division prevents it, no school may receive more than one bye during these two rounds. Byes in subsequent rounds shall go to a randomly selected debate entry which has yet to win a round. No debate entry may receive more than one bye.

15. **Constraints**

The following constraints apply whenever a round-robin format is not used:

- a. Entries from the same school shall not meet in the preliminary rounds unless unavoidable owing to the size of the division.
- b. The same entries shall not meet more than once before the elimination rounds, unless unavoidable owing to the size of the division.
- c. The first two preliminary rounds are randomly paired. Except in Public Forum Debate, each debater will debate the Affirmative once and the Negative once.
- d. All subsequent preliminary rounds will be high-low power paired within brackets, according to the following procedure:
 - i. Draw the bye if necessary
 - ii. Pair debaters within each bracket against each other, with the high speaker-point debater with the low speaker point debater, the second-highest point debater against the next-lowest, and so on into the center of the bracket. A debater may be pulled up from the next lower bracket; debaters so pulled up will be pulled up based on weakest opposition record
 - iii. Same school-hits are adjusted within brackets as much as possible, and then only with pull-ups. In the event there are fewer than 12 entries or 5 schools in a division, school protection will be removed for power matched rounds.

16. **Sides**

In Lincoln Douglas Debate, debaters hitting during elimination rounds who have competed previously in the tournament will switch sides for

the elimination round debate. Otherwise, the winner of a coin toss will choose sides. In PFD, the coin-toss procedure is ALWAYS followed.

17. Tiebreakers

The following tiebreakers will be followed (in order) to determine placement of students within brackets and to determine final placement in a round robin:

- a. Number of wins
- b. Cumulative speaker points after dropping highest and lowest score
- c. Total cumulative speaker points
- d. Judge variance (the average number of points that each judge gave the debater relative to the number of points that judge gave to all other debaters that he/she adjudicated)
- e. Opponent win strength
- f. Cumulative speaker points after dropping the two highest and two lowest scores
- g. Coin flip

Awards

18. KHSSL will present appropriate awards to all debaters who advance to the elimination rounds and will recognize the top speakers in each division. The number of speakers recognized is determined by the Director and is based on the size of the division, but no fewer than two or more than ten will be awarded. Speaker awards are based first on points dropping the high and low score, then on total points, then opposition points. If speakers are still tied, then each shall receive recognition at the higher speaker level.

19. Coaches of State Champions will be recognized at the State Championship awards ceremony and will be presented with an award.

20. Trophies will be presented to the top six schools accumulating the most total points in Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum, and Congress during preliminary and elimination rounds.

21. Each Varsity Lincoln- Douglas, and Public Forum win will be worth two points. One point shall be awarded for each win in Novice debate categories. Byes will be awarded sweepstakes points as Wins (in the preliminary rounds only).

22. In Congress, the top three entries for each school will count towards the debate sweepstakes award.

- a. Three sweepstakes points will be awarded to each finalist.
- b. Additionally, the first-place winning entry will be awarded 12 points, second place 9 points, third place 7 points, fourth place 5 points, fifth place 4 points, and sixth place 3 points.

23. Ties in Debate Sweepstakes will be broken by the following priorities:

- i. The School with the most entries in elimination rounds and Super Congress combined; then
- ii. The School with the highest finisher; then
- iii. The School with the next-highest finisher; then
- iv. Continuing on with subsequent highest finishers until the tie is broken.

24. Sustained Excellence Award: A "traveling trophy" is awarded to the school which has accumulated the most sweepstakes points over the years. When a school is awarded the trophy, the total resets to zero and the school begins accumulating again. The trophy remains with the school for one year and then is returned to the State Championship the following year to be presented to the new winner.

TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

25. General Tournament Management Procedures:

At the State Tournament, Board Members present will be expected to serve as Tournament Staff either in Tabulations, Merchandise, as an Advocate, or as Judges. The Tournament Director shall assemble a staff of the attending Board Members plus other people as needed to run the State Tournaments.

- a. In Tabulations, stations shall be established to manage particular events only. Workers will manage these particular events at times and be in the Judge Pool at times.
- b. Advocates shall be pulled to serve for one day only (different Advocates on different days) and will be stationed with Merchandise to answer questions and assist in busy Merch times as well as to serve as the Advocate as needed. They can rotate with Tab or other roles in the tournament.

26. Double Checks for Tournament Settings:

The Tournament Director will appoint a Board Member with significant tournament management experience to double check all tournament settings before the start of the State tournament.

27. Double Checks for Breaks and Awards:

The person(s) managing a particular event AND the tournament director must agree on the breaks for each event before they are made public; the tournament director may assign a tab worker not normally working on that event to sub in as the double checker.

For the final awards (including team awards), the person(s) managing a particular event, the tournament director, AND a tab worker not normally working on that event must all concur on the final placings before awards are made public.

28. Designation of Head Coach for Team.

If the person registered as a school's Head Coach (in official KHSSL Registration) is not physically present for any or all of the State tournament, the Head Coach must indicate to the Tournament Director which adult accompanying the team will serve as Acting Head Coach for the meet or any portion of the meet where the Head Coach is not present.

29. **Grievances.**

A grievance committee shall be formed to address grievances at the State Championship. The committee shall be comprised of the board members present and the Executive Director (or the Tournament Manager if the Executive Director is not present).

a. A Board Member shall be appointed each day of each tournament to serve as the Advocate for any aggrieved party. This person shall collect the information from the aggrieved party including any suggested outcomes of the grievance. The Advocate shall then present the grievance to the tournament director in writing. If the Head Coach (or acting designate) of the squad is not present in the presentation of the grievance, that person will be notified by the Advocate before the grievance is presented to the

Executive Director and must agree to the filing of the Grievance as the official representative of that school.

b. The Executive Director/Tournament Manager shall make a ruling on the written grievance. If this does not satisfy the school filing the grievance, the school may appeal to the Grievance Committee (Executive Director/Tournament Manager and Board Members present) for a review of the ruling.

c. If the party filing the grievance still disagrees with the Grievance Committee's ruling, that school may submit the written grievance to the entire Board as a whole. This review will take place after the conclusion of the state tournament at a time set by the Executive Director.

30. DROPPING A FULL TEAM

If a team drops from the Regional or State Championships after the initial registration deadline, they must pay all drop fees or a nuisance fee of \$150 (whichever is lower) by the time of registration in KHSSL the following year unless excused for calamity by the Executive Director, which shall be rare.

DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP CHECKS AND BALANCES

At all points of pairing, checks should be made by two people INDEPENDENTLY of each other.

BALLOT ENTRY PROCEDURES FOR ALL ROUNDS

If online ballots are used:

- Ensure that judge has clicked "start round"
- Ensure that judge has submitted and confirmed ballot in Tabroom.

If paper ballots are used:

- One person/pair enters ballot, making sure to change sides in the computer if necessary AND scanning ballot to make sure winning side at top of ballot matches team code and winner in RFD space (in

Congress, top 1-8 ranked for scorers, all students ranked for parli).

- Separate person/pair does double check.

LD/PF

Pairing Tournament

- No same school hits (unless round robin)
- No team gets multiple byes
- No repeat hits
- Check sides in LD

Round 3

- Check pull-up
- Pairing is hi/lo within bracket
- No same school hits
- No repeat hits
- Bye should be lowest bracket
- No team gets multiple byes.

Round 4

- Check pull-up
- Pairing is hi/lo within bracket
- No same school hits
- No repeat hits
- Bye should be in lowest bracket
- No team gets multiple byes
- Check sides in LD

Advancing Entries

- All winning records advance
- No protection for schools in advanced rounds._

Play-In Round

- Reduce same-school judges
- Judges are clean for entries

First Round of Full Bracket

- 1 hits 8, 2 hits 7, etc.
- Seeding matches prelim seeds (play-in for seeds 7,8, etc.)
- Reduce same-school judges
- Judges are clean for entries

CONGRESS

Pairing Tournament

- No more than 24 per chamber
- Students from each school evenly and randomly distributed among chambers
- Legislation packet made so bills are randomly distributed (no same-school bills together)
- No more than one judge from same school in a session (2 scorers, 1 parli)
- Try to equilibrate sessions/chambers in terms of affiliated and non-affiliated judges.

Supersession

- As close to 24 without going over.
- Equal number of advancing entries taken from each chamber.
- Goal: All unaffiliated judges (4 scorers, 1 parli)
- Judges are clean for entries

DR. GIFFORD BLYTON BOOK AWARD

Since 1948, the year Dr. Gifford Blyton was employed to start an intercollegiate debating team at the University of Kentucky, his name has become synonymous with forensics in Kentucky. Hired to bring top scholars to U.K., Dr. Blyton did just that. In the twenty years that he coached the debating team, his students won over 700 championship trophies, including several national championships. Dr. Blyton taught and coached some of the most outstanding legal scholars in our nation, including former Washington D.C. Bar Association president George Shadoan and former Clemson University president Dr. C.W. "Deno" Curris. One of his former students, Rodney Page, still holds the record for the highest score ever earned on the LSAT (Law School Admission Test).

Some of Dr. Blyton's proudest accomplishments include co-authoring the 1954 Tau Kappa Alpha best-selling debate text *Principles of Argumentation and Debate*, being named president of the American Forensic Association, and organizing the first integrated debate in the nation between the University of Kentucky and Kentucky State University. This historic debate made headlines nationwide and came two years before the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown vs. Board of Education*.

Well known for his ability to generate support and enthusiasm for forensics, Dr. Blyton retired from UK in 1975 to become the director of the Kentucky High School Speech League, Inc. As director, he was instrumental in rebuilding high school debate. Under his leadership, the League flourished. Dr. Blyton's integrity, love for forensics, and keen business sense helped to make KHSSL one of the strongest forensic organizations in the United States.

The Blyton Book Awards honor the memory and legacy of Dr. Blyton. Blyton Book Awards are presented annually to an outstanding Junior and Senior Division student. Dr. Blyton's many years of service to forensics in Kentucky,

as well as the nation, are immeasurable. For over five decades, Dr. Gifford Blyton was a beacon of leadership for thousands of forensic students and teachers.

For a student to be eligible for this award, he/she must have (1) competed in KHSSL for at least two years, (2) proved to be superior in more than one KHSSL event (which, in the Senior Division, includes drama and debate), and (3) promoted speech, drama, and/or debate activities within his/her school, community, and state.

To be considered for the award, a student must be nominated by his/her coach. The coach must complete a nomination form (found on the League website) and forward it, along with a personal letter of reference, to the League office. If necessary, additional pages may be used to detail only those activities mentioned on the nomination form. No pictures, transcripts, or grades may be included, nor should they be made reference to. The nomination form and letter must be emailed to the Executive Director BY THE ANNOUNCED DEADLINE each year. THE BOOK GIVEN TO STUDENTS WILL BE A CHOICE MADE BY A RECENT INDUCTEE INTO THE KHSSL HALL OF FAME.

The recipient of this award in each division will be chosen by an impartial panel selected by the Director with the award presented at the State Championship Tournament. The coaches of the winners will be notified prior to the tournaments.

THE BALE AND ISD SCHOLARSHIPS

These scholarships were initiated by former KHSSL Director Gifford Blyton and were later sustained in his honor by his family members. They are now sustained by the Shelby Pepper and Elizabeth McCubbin Bale Scholarship Fund, a gift made to encourage public speaking in Kentucky, as well as by a donation (annual) from the Institute for Speech and Debate. These scholarships are up to \$1000.00 cash awards presented to KHSSL seniors on the basis of financial need and potential for success at a college or university of their choice. The awards will be made following the student's first semester at the college or university of the student's choice.

The recipients must have participated in KHSSL activities for at least two years and must be seniors in high school. The scholarships will be awarded to at least two students without regard to race, religion, political affiliation, or physical handicaps. The awards must be used solely for helping students begin their advanced educational careers. Financial need should be a strong consideration for the awarding of the scholarships.

To be considered for a scholarship, a student must complete an application form (found on the League website) and forward it, along with two letters of recommendation, to the League office. The application and letters must be emailed to the Executive Director on or before the announced deadline.

Coaches should encourage those students who meet the qualifications to apply.

The recipients of these scholarships will be chosen by an impartial panel, and the scholarships will be announced at the State Speech and Debate Tournament.

A check will be sent to the student's post-secondary institution after the student provides a 1st semester transcript showing successful completion of 1 semester of college. Failure to submit proof of successful completion of 1 semester of college will mean the awardee forfeits his or her Scholarship Award.

(Note – while these guidelines are very similar to the Blyton Scholarship, they also emphasize the urge for financial need to be considered as well as renaming them for the current funding source – rewritten for the 2021-2022 school year).

KHSSL HALL OF FAME

Since 1993, the KHSSL has recognized forensic colleagues who have demonstrated a long-term commitment to Kentucky forensics. KHSSL Hall of Fame members have excelled in the study, preparation, and/or performance of speech, debate, and dramatic arts in the Commonwealth.

Any KHSSL member may nominate a current or retired individual for this award, which is voted upon by the Board of Directors, and then presented to the recipient during the next State Championship Tournament.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the KHSSL Hall of Fame is to honor forensic colleagues who have had a long term commitment to Kentucky forensics through their promotion of excellence in the study, preparation, and/or performance of speech and dramatic arts in the state of Kentucky.

QUALIFICATIONS (Candidates must meet all of the criteria listed below)

- a)** At least ten years of forensic service in the state of Kentucky
- b)** At least 5 years of forensic service must be as an active member of KHSSL (attends or has attended KHSSL Regional and State Tournaments).
- c)** Outstanding service above and beyond the call of duty as demonstrated by two of the three categories below:
 - 1. Significant contributions to KHSSL. Significant contributions include but are not limited to:
 - a. Holding a Committee/or Board seat
 - b. Providing adopted KHSSL rule updates and changes
 - c. Hosting KHSSL invitational tournaments
 - d. Volunteering to work at KHSSL State Tournaments
 - e. Serving as a Regional Manager
 - f. Presenting at SPEAK or other KHSSL sanctioned events

2. Willingness to help colleagues which could include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Coach Mentorship
 - b. Tournament planning & implementation assistance
 - c. Coaching members of other teams
 - d. Working with students who will represent Kentucky at national tournaments
 3. Commitment to speech and dramatic arts education which could include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Helps to develop speech/debate course materials
 - b. Works toward promoting speech education in their schools
 - c. Works toward making speech/drama/debate required courses in Kentucky Schools
- d)** A high degree of integrity as demonstrated by all of the following:
- a. Demonstrates a positive rapport in-person and online
 - b. Constantly strives to uphold the KHSSL code of ethics
 - c. Participates in tournaments and league activities with the utmost integrity, professionalism, and care
- e)** Dedication to caring for the individual students and their futures as shown through any of the following..
- a. This criteria could be demonstrated/supported through a letter of support from a current or former student.
 - b. Helps students find and apply to colleges or programs for programs that fit their specific goals
 - c. Writes letters of support for students for awards and scholarships
 - d. Encourages students to create performance pieces that reflect their own values and perspectives
 - e. Encourages students to apply their skills to create a better community/world
 - f. Other methods that demonstrate caring for students

SELECTION PROCESS

At the Annual Board meeting, the KHSSL Board Members may select not more than three members from a list of nominees supplied by member schools to be inducted into the KHSSL Forensics Hall of Fame at the next State Championship Tournament. Letter of support for candidates are welcome. All nomination letters and supporting information must be submitted to the League office no later than two weeks before the Summer Board meeting date.

1. Each year the KHSSL community will be solicited for nominations for the KHSSL Hall of Fame.
2. Nomination letters from the nominating individual must be submitted to the Executive Director (two weeks prior to the summer board meeting date).
3. Nominations will be shared with the KHSSL Board at least 1 week prior to the Summer Board meeting date
4. KHSSL Board members will have the opportunity to submit feedback and vote on the nominations. All feedback/voting is due 2 days prior to the Summer Board meeting date.
5. If a nominee is unanimously affirmed by the board, they will be accepted into the Hall of Fame for that season.
6. If a nominee falls short of a unanimous vote, his/her nomination will be discussed at the board meeting with the feedback of the board members shared by the executive director and another vote will be taken after a chance for discussion.
7. A nominee must be affirmed by $\frac{2}{3}$ of the of the board to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

THE MEMBERS OF THE KHSSL HALL OF FAME

| | |
|--|---|
| Class of 1993-1994 (Inaugural Class) | Gifford Blyton, Thelma Beeler, Barbara Elliott, Randall Capps, Virginia Massey, Ruby Krider, Harlen Hamm |
| Class of 1994-1995 | Ollie Morgan, David Pike, Denver Sloan |
| Class of 1995-1996 | Margaret Greynolds |
| Class of 1996-1997 | Durrell “Butch” Hamm, Gladys Demarcus, Bess Williams |
| Class of 1997-1998 | Larry England |
| Class of 1998-1999 | Cora Dee Hooks, Fannie Herman Miller |
| Class of 1999-2000 | Ginny Kohl, Linda Webb |
| Class of 2000-2001 | Jim Curry, Garland and Ruth Blair |
| Class of 2001-2002 | Betsy Kidwell, Susan Moore |
| Class of 2002-2003 | Julia Blyton Roberts, Judy Woodring |
| Class of 2003-2004 | Carter Lasure, Gretchen Young |
| Class of 2004-2005 | Stephanie Smith, Jim Combs |
| Class of 2005-2006 | Carol A. Combs, Carol D. Combs |
| Class of 2006-2007 | James J. Fore |
| Class of 2007-2008 | Beth Randolph, Debbi Dean |
| Class of 2008-2009 | Tommy Thompson |
| Class of 2009-2010 | Dustin Combs, Mark Etherton |
| Class of 2010-2011 | Steve Meadows, Sharon Roberts |
| Class of 2011-2012 | Virginia Etherton, Robin Glascock, Margaret Maggard |
| Class of 2012-2013 | Mrs. Bruce Florence, Jill Shoulta |
| Class of 2013-2014 | Terri Branson |

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Class of 2014-2015 | Katy Blair Cecil, Daniel Hamm |
| Class of 2015-2016 | Rosemary Cundiff-Brown |
| Class of 2016-2017 | Michael Robinson |
| Class of 2017-2018 | Martha Emmons, Millie Hughes, Helen Williams Wicker |
| Class of 2018-2019 | Mary Allen, Rachel Page, Molly Seifert, Charles Stamper |
| Class of 2019-2020 | none |
| Class of 2020-2021 | Jennifer Dunnaway |
| Class of 2021-2022 | Karen Feldhaus, Woody Zorn |
| Class of 2022-2023 | none |
| Class of 2023-2024 | Neomia Hagans Flores, Connie Hagans |
| Class of 2024-2025 | Ryan Ray, Julia Webb |

*****Judge Notice*****

In an effort ensure fairness in judging practices, KHSSL has standardized the point values given to student performances. Please use the following rubric in order to assign point values to each student performance. Students may **not** receive the same point value. Students may **not** receive more points than an individual more highly ranked. Judges are strongly encouraged to justify the reason for the rating on the ballot.

| Point Value | Description |
|--------------|---|
| 100-95 | Excellent performance: Student/s demonstrated a great command of the performance and understanding of the material. Excellent use of speech habits (eye contact, gestures, vocal clarity, very few stumbles, etc.). “I really liked this! I would definitely watch it again.” |
| 94-90 | Good performance: Student/s demonstrated a good command of the performance and understanding of the material. Good use of speech habits (eye contact, gestures, vocal clarity, a few stumbles, etc.). Student/s may lack a bit of energy or emotional variety. “Hey, this is pretty ok. I would watch this again.” |
| 89-85 | Average performance: Student/s somewhat demonstrated a command of the performance and understanding of the material. Some observation of speech habits (eye contact, gestures, vocal clarity, a few stumbles, etc.). Student/s lacks some energy or emotional variety. “I enjoyed this, but I bet it would be even better with a bit more practice. I would love to see the performance again in the future.” |
| 84-80 | Performance needs some improvement: Student/s demonstrated a little command of the performance and understanding of the material. Growth needed in basic speech habits (eye contact, gestures, vocal clarity, etc.) and/or quite a few stumbles. Student/s lacking energy or emotional variety in performance. “Definitely putting forth effort but needs a bit more practice. I would like to see this later in the season.” |
| 79 and Below | Needs significant improvement: Student/s did not demonstrate a command of performance or understanding of the material. Good speech habits not practiced (little or no eye contact, lack of memorization, few or no gestures, vocal clarity problems, many stumbles, etc.). Student/s may have behaved inappropriately (inattentive, on phone, deliberately distracting, etc.). Student/s lacks energy or emotional variety. “I feel that this performance would benefit from additional coaching and/or the student/s may need some more time with the material.” |

This chart will be placed on Master Ballots at the KHSSL Regional and State tournaments and will also be used at Invitationals using KHSSL Ballots (KHSSL will provide a template for use in the Tabroom program). Judges should use this chart to assign ratings points. A rating of 100 is no longer required to be assigned to the 1 in the round.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS DUTIES: (added 2021)

- Attend the annual Board meeting
- Attend special-called meetings
- Attend committee meetings and do committee work
- Assist with Regional Tournament management in own Region
- Assist with State Tournament – as many as possible
- Serve as voice for member schools in your Region
- Suggest revisions to policies / rules / Handbook as needed to improve KHSSL
- Recruit
- Mentor
- Give feedback to Executive Director
- Support organization's stability and future through actions and words.

Also, the Board of Directors is listed on the Incorporation each year for KHSSL, Inc.

Chair: sounding Board for Exec Dir; voice of Board to Exec Dir; representative to world.

Vice Chair: appointed to special tasks that come up by Chair or asked to by Exec Dir.

Secretary: keeps minutes; has access to Directory to assist members as needed.

Treasurer: doublechecks finances annually; has access to bank account (as does Chair).

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION:

An Alumni Association of the Kentucky High School Speech League will be formed during the 2024-2025 school year. Details to be developed throughout the year.

STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

RATIONALE:

As part of the league's purpose to encourage all students to participate, a student advisory board is elected each regional tournament to allow student representation and input in regards to, but not limited to, recruitment/retention, advocacy, and regional/state celebrations which do not impact competition outcomes. The student advisory board has no vote in KHSSL board business.

Board plans/responsibilities:

- Students on the board will serve 1-year terms with the first term beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.
- When possible, student advisory members will convene briefly during the state tournament to familiarize themselves to one another.
- The student board will meet virtually prior to the KHSSL board's June meeting in order to prepare comments to be presented to the board.
- A KHSSL board member will organize/schedule the student advisory board meetings.

Election process:

- Each region will hold an election for student board representatives at both the senior and junior levels.
- Students interested in running for the position will submit a letter or Flipgrid video to the Regional Manager no later than one week prior to the regional tournament.
- Communication regarding submissions will be listed on KHSSL website, relayed via coaches and shared through regional tournament invitations.
- Regional Managers will share the letter and/or Flipgrid with their regional coaches prior to the regional tournament so that all students in the region can familiarize themselves with the candidates.
- Regional managers will place ballots for each student in their respective coach folders for the regional tournaments.
- Each regional team will have one vote and will cast that vote at the regional tournament. This will create a more equitable distribution of votes and will not give a disproportionate number of votes to schools with larger rosters.
- Regional manager will count votes. Results to be shared during awards.
- In the case of a tie, the regional manager will break the tie.

CONSTITUTION OF KHSSL, Inc.

(Approved by the Board of Directors July 1989; readopted on re-incorporation, 30 June 2011)

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the organization shall be The Kentucky High School Speech League, Inc.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES

Section 1: General Purposes:

The League is organized and operated exclusively for educational purposes with no part of its net earnings inuring to the benefit of any individual; no part of its structure is to carry on propaganda for personal gain, and the League is not to participate in, nor intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Section 2: Specific Purposes:

To promote various kinds of speech and drama activities in the schools of Kentucky, to foster via educational competition and understanding and appreciation of worthwhile speech and drama, to encourage all students rather than a select few to participate, to assist Kentucky schools in their efforts to establish and develop curricular and extra-curricular speech and drama programs, to maintain high levels of speech and drama achievement, to award suitable recognition for excellence in speech and drama performance, and to foster a respect for and appreciation of freedom of speech as a vital force of democracy.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1:

Any public, private, or parochial school in Kentucky may become a member of the League upon completing proper application forms supplied by the League office and by paying such membership dues as required. Home schooled students are also eligible for membership with the home school instructor or parent listed as the adult contact for the students.

Section 2:

Student participants must be *bona fide* undergraduates of the school they represent in League activities. Students from public schools without established teams can compete as individuals with a parent or school representative as the adult contact. Students may compete only for the school in which they are enrolled full time. Home schooled students may compete only with other home-schooled students in their member- association, as defined in the Handbook. Combinations of students from different schools or home-school associations in events that are composed of teams are expressly forbidden.

Section 3:

Schools shall register either in the Junior Division or the Senior Division.

- a. Junior Division: Students in grades 5-9 may enter the Junior Division. This includes schools having K-8, 1-8, 5-9, 7-9, 6-8, 6-9, and K-9. Those students in the 9th grade of a 9-12 high school must compete in the Senior Division.
- b. Senior Division: Students in grades 9-12 must enter the Senior Division. This includes 9-12 and 10-12 schools. Schools that house K-12 or 1-12 must enter all 9th grade students in the Senior Division
- c. A given student may enter but one division in a given school year.

ARTICLE IV: ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the Kentucky High School Speech League shall consist of a Board of Directors, and the Regional Managers, and a Director if the Board chooses to assign, appoint or hire a person to fill that role. In the absence of an appointed Director, the duties of the Director will be apportioned among the members of the Board.

Section 1:

The Director of the League:

The Director shall be directly responsible for the enforcement of all League operations as stipulated by the Board and shall preside over all meetings of the Board of Directors if present. If the Director is unable or chooses not to attend a regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors, the current highest-ranking officer of the Board will preside over the meeting and inform the Director in a timely manner of any and all actions taken by the Board of Directors.

Section 2:

Board of Directors:

The Board shall consist of two members from each Region, with one representing the Junior Division and one representing the Senior Division. A member will serve a two- year term. Only coaches of record or full-time school faculty or staff are eligible to serve on the board.

The Board shall establish League regulations and contest rules exclusively. The policies of the League shall be determined by the Board of Directors as representatives of their constituents.

Each member school in each division shall have one vote in the selection of the Board of Directors (the ballot shall be sent to the first person listed on the registration form). Ballots for the election shall be prepared, distributed, and tabulated by the Director. The Board will elect its own officers:

Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary. Any member of the Board of Directors who misses one meeting without notifying the Director with a valid

excuse shall be replaced by the Director. Unexpired terms shall be filled by the Director with Board approval.

Elections for the Board of Directors shall be conducted between January and March of odd-numbered years. The term-of-office for a member of the Board shall be from the Spring Board meeting of the year of election until the convening of the Spring Board meeting during the next odd-numbered year. Officers will be elected at the Spring board meeting of odd-numbered years.

There will also be one at large member of the board. This is a representative of underserved populations and will serve a two-year term. Interested parties will submit a nomination to the executive director, prior to the first scheduled state tournament in even-numbered years, identifying what underserved population they represent. Coaches will vote on the representative at their respective state tournament.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS

Section 1:

The Board of Directors shall meet in regular session once each fiscal year at a time and place determined by the Executive Director. The meetings shall be open to any *bona fide* representative of member schools, with voting privileges limited to Board members.

Section 2:

Special meetings may be called by the Director, or by any five members of the Board.

Section 3:

A quorum for a meeting of the Board shall consist of eight members of the Board gathered in person, provided at least three members from each division are present. Absent Board members may always participate electronically. If a quorum is present, absent Board members may also vote by Skype or other electronic medium. The Executive Director shall preside. In the absence of the Executive Director, the highest- ranking officer will preside over the meeting.

Section 4:

In extraordinary times -- time-based urgent matters that cannot wait for the annual meeting, national emergencies, weather/health/safety crises, and or periods of civil unrest or economic disaster -- the Board may meet entirely by electronic means or with fewer than 8 members physically present so long as at least 8 members (and at least 3 from each Division) are present in the meeting in some way.

ARTICLE VI: FINANCES

Section 1:

Registration fees: Registration fees shall be based upon membership as defined in Article iii,

Section 2.

Dollar amounts shall be fixed by the Board.

Section 3:

Entry fees: In addition to the school registration fee, an entry fee shall be assessed for each individual student participant. If a given student participates

in more than one event, appropriate fees shall be charged – one for each participation. Entry fees shall be determined by the Board and be kept at the minimum necessary to cover the expenses of the league including any salaries, stipends, festivals tournaments, awards, facilities or other such expenses as the Board of Directors shall deem appropriate or necessary.

Section 4:

The League shall have available to member schools appropriate electronic ballots for all individual events, drama, and debate.

Section 5:

All monies received by the League shall be deposited in a properly established checking account at an independent financial institution. Funds may be accessed by the League Director who will report all receipts and disbursements to the Board of Directors in monthly financial statements or by the Chairman of the Board following specific approval by the Board for approved expenses. At no time shall KHSSL funds be utilized for the purposes of another institution, organization or entity. Funds are to be utilized only for the approved expenses of the league as defined in Section 2.

Section 6:

The fiscal year of the League shall be from 1 July to 30 June.

ARTICLE VII: CONTESTS

Section 1:

The number and type of contests shall be determined by the Board. Rules governing these contests shall be published yearly and shall be distributed to all member schools as early as possible in the school year. All contest rules shall be approved by the Board. If a change to contest rules or events is deemed to be of a significant nature by a majority of the Board of Directors, such a change must be tabled until the next meeting and the membership polled in order to receive input from the coaches of the League. However, given the previously described representative nature of the Board of Directors, only rule changes that are

deemed significant by the majority of the Board are subject to this process.

Section 2:

Regional contests shall be administered by the Regional Managers.

Section 3:

State contests shall be administered by the Director.

Section 4:

All contests shall be judged by qualified personnel selected by the contest administrator.

Section 5:

The judge's decision in any contest may not be reversed by the Director; neither shall any contest be re-run.

Section 6:

Any student repeating material from a previous year will be immediately disqualified.

Section 7:

The Grievance Committee and the League Director will resolve any complaints in regard to contests on the regional or state level with appeals being handled by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII: PUBLICATIONS

Section 1:

The League shall publish a yearly Handbook detailing contest rules and such other information as directed by the Board.

Section 2:

A Membership Directory shall be published yearly.

Section 3:

Regional Managers shall be responsible for printing suitable programs for Regional Speech Tournaments. The Director shall be responsible for printing programs for the State Drama Festival and Speech Tournament.

Section 4:

The Director shall be responsible for printing samples of materials designed to aid students and teachers in contest preparations.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Board at any regular or special meeting provided notice of intent to amend has been distributed to all Board Members at least 30 days prior to the date amendments are to be considered.

ARTICLE X: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

In all matters not covered by this Constitution, the Kentucky High School Speech League, Inc. shall be governed by the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.