

February 2025

Dear Coaches and Students:

You are cordially invited to the 2025 KHSSL Junior State Speech Championship, which will be held February 21-22 at Frederick Douglass High School in Lexington. We are sponsored/hosted by FDHS Drama, and we truly appreciate their hospitality.

**Please read this invitation thoroughly and carefully.**

**Can't wait to see you at State!!!**

## TOURNAMENT PHONE NUMBER (Emergency and otherwise)

KHSSL: 859-927-1100

## TOURNAMENT WEBSITE

<http://khssljr.tabroom.com>

## REGISTRATION AND ENTRIES

Registration is on Tabroom: <http://khssljr.tabroom.com> .

**Registration soft deadline:**

**5 PM on Wednesday, February 12.**

**This is a soft deadline for judges and entries** – and does not change even if there is a blizzard or school's not in session for anything else. This will allow the tournament to know how many entries and judges to expect (needed for rooms, sections of limited prep events, judge lounge food orders, etc.) and plan accordingly. T-shirt pre-orders and pizza polling for Friday night are also due at this time.

Coaches will be allowed to change names of entries/judges until 5 PM Monday, February 17, with no financial penalty, so feel free to put in a random judge name knowing you'll put the real one in by Monday, etc. But if you change the number of entries in an event or decrease the number of judges you're bringing, the drop/change fees here (copied and pasted from page 88 of the current Handbook) apply.

- 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

## **Hard Deadline:**

**Monday, February 17, 5 PM Eastern.**

**After the hard deadline, changes go through the KHSSL email address ONLY ([khssl@khssl.org](mailto:khssl@khssl.org) -- no texts or calls for changes, and you'll be blocked from changes on Tabroom). After this deadline, see the list on the prior page for how the fees work. There are no excuses from fees for illness or family emergencies or anything else as any changes cause considerable time spent adjusting the tournament for KHSSL, no matter what the reason.**

**Entry fees** are \$20 for each individual entry, \$40 for each duo team entry. **All fees are due when schools register. Schools may not compete until all fees are paid including drop fees, t-shirt fees for pre-orders, etc.**

**The KHSSL Handbook** contains extensive information about how the State Tournament is put together and how tabulation is done to determine advancement. Coaches are responsible for understanding these procedures (or for asking for clarifications as needed) and for explaining them to your team and their parents, your judges, etc.

Anyone in the world can access it at the KHSSL website:

<https://www.khssl.org/handbook-and-constitution> Please make sure all coaches have reviewed how State tournament works before you come to campus.

**Coaches may ONLY enter as many entries as schools entered and paid for at Regionals (or fewer).** If coaches applied for and were granted exemptions, these students are considered eligible to be on your team's roster for state. Yay! 😊

As the Board opened State qualification to anyone who attended Junior Regionals this year, **students can qualify for State multiple ways this year --**

- Competed in a specific event at the Regional tournament.
- Given an exemption for a specific event from the Regional tournament.
- Prequalified for a specific event by attending two Kentucky tournaments that used KHSSL rules in that event this school year -- the Blyton tournament counts.
- Prequalified for a specific event by advancing to Finals/top 6 in a Kentucky tournament that used KHSSL rules in that event this school year (or top 3 at the Blyton Invitational).

As the coach, you vouch for this qualification as a part of the KHSSL Code of Ethics when you enter your students for State tournaments. Several schools' entries will be audited for compliance, so please be sure your students have all "made State."

**In each speech event, schools may enter up to three (3) entries.** Each individual student may enter up to three (3) events. Students must have qualified in an event as noted above.

Remember, **schools may ONLY enter as many entries as the schools entered and paid for at Regionals (or fewer).**

Please just reach out to the Executive Director if you have any questions at all about your entry or who's qualified for State.

## FOOD AND LODGING

Coffee and light snacks **for judges** will be provided on Friday evening with coffee/tea/water only on Saturday morning (plus any leftovers from Friday). All students and judges are on their own for meals, which will be for sale in the cafeteria (pizza Friday, food trucks lunch Saturday, concessions on sale throughout the tournament).

Students and judges should eat breakfast OFF CAMPUS on Saturday.

Our tournament is being hosted by FDHS Drama. In exchange for hosting us, they are using the tournament as a fundraiser by selling concessions throughout the tournament. They will also be selling pizza on Friday evening for students and coaches and judges plus lunch on Saturday via several food trucks that will be parked outside the cafeteria. There will also be a coffee truck outside the cafeteria Saturday morning if you want fancier coffee than the free stuff in the judges' lounge (one choice – standard caffeinated coffee). All food truck sales help support FDHS Drama too – thanks in advance!

[See the posted flyer here](#) for more information about food offerings.

As FDHS Drama will be ordering pizza and then selling it by the slice Friday evening as folks have time to eat (there simply isn't time in the scheduled to depart for food and still participate in the tournament), they would like a preliminary count of pizza slices. You are NOT pre-paying for pizza nor are you locked into buying this amount of pizza. However, this will help them greatly and get everyone fed more efficiently. **Please check in with your kids and complete this survey by Wednesday's 5 PM deadline.** <https://bit.ly/pizzafdhs> One survey per school please. Include judges in your estimates of # of slices, please.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** It is incredibly kind and gracious of FDHS to take us in and host us this year when UK was unavailable to us due to major renovations at White Hall Classroom Building. Thus, YOU ARE HIGHLY STRONGLY DEFINITELY encouraged to use FDHS Drama as your food source for Friday evening and Saturday lunch; they get money from the food truck sales as well as pizza sales and the concessions they sell throughout the meet. They are trying to make money while **helping us out.** **Please comply with this request and ask the parents who accompany you to do the same.** Uber Eats, Door Dash, and Mama Goin' to Chik-Fil-A don't support the tournament or its hosts.

KHSSL is no longer involved in lodging arrangements for state tournaments. As a former coach, my personal suggestion is to check with your school's athletic director for any special rates your school may have negotiated with hotels in town as that person will know; your bookkeeper is also a good source of such info. Remember too that many hotels will give schools what's called the "state rate." AAA and other such organizations also can give you a decent discount.

If you are a new coach/school this year and don't have a set hotel you use in Lexington, this is a grand question for your Mentor for suggestions.

You can also peruse all the Lexington hotels here:

<https://www.visitlex.com/hotels>

## JUDGES

### Judge Obligations:

- The judge quota is set at one judge required per six entries or fraction thereof.
- Teams may hire up to but not more than half your quota for \$150 each if you are bringing other judges, but you must provide at least half of your judges required regardless; if you only owe one judge, YOU MUST PROVIDE THAT JUDGE. And we really need your judges.
- **All judges are obligated through the full tournament unless assignments are split between two judges who make up one judge. Please note** that judges must be available the full day to count for the day, so no "Please no finals" requests unless you're willing to pay the full day's charge for a judge.
- You may **not** request exemptions from particular events (like "no limited prep.").
- If you have two judges who wish to share a judging assignment

(Boris can come on Friday and Natasha can come on Saturday), please sign up BOTH judges and also email me who's doing what by the Hard Deadline (5 PM Monday the 17<sup>th</sup>) so I can adjust them in the tournament for you. Friday costs \$50 and Saturday costs \$100 if you have judges who can only do one day and have no other portion; the judge must be present all of Saturday to count as a ½ judge in your “you must bring at least half your judges” quota.

### **Age of Judges:**

Remember that all judges at State must be **OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL** – no high school student judges allowed at Regionals/State.

### **Reality of Judges:**

Judges should expect to judge every round of the tournament. They must also bring their own laptop or tablet. Judging on a phone is impossible at this tournament; paper ballots will NOT be available.

### **Extra Judges:**

If you have extra judges who can judge, even if just for one of the two days, we will gladly accept them. You will be doing a huge favor to everyone attending! Thanks!! You're the best! You rock! You're amazing!!!

### **Judge Training:**

The Handbook states that all judges must be trained prior to State tournament. The Board voted to require **anti-bias training** as this training for this year. The link for this training is [here](#) and on the homepage of the KHSSL website, [www.khssl.org](http://www.khssl.org). Please make sure all judges have completed it no later than the registration deadline. If your judges already completed it for Regionals or in a prior school year, they're good to go (no need to complete it again). You can check who has done so [here](#); be sure to read the note at the top about searching.

A [hodgepodge video](#) of various judge trainings is also available on the KHSSL website

and may be of use to rookie judges if coaches wish to use that as additional judge training they provide to their judges (with follow-up for questions, advice, etc.). We strongly encourage new judges to complete [the NFHS judging course](#) that's on the KHSSL homepage and at the Judging Tips page (see below). It may become required in the future – we're fact-gathering this year.

A judge's best friend is our [Judge Tips webpage](#). On this page, Judges can see the full (the paper version) ballots for the events, the judging guidelines, and a 3-ish minute video from a KHSSL Coach explaining what they look for when they are judging that event. There are even sample performances of each event on this page if judges have time to see what an event looks like before they go in a round. [A handout](#) with a good review of the judging process and suggestions of comments is also posted at the top of this page.

## AED / MEDICAL INFORMATION

1. The AED is located on the wall directly across from the main office at the front of the school. There is another one in the gym.
2. As this event is being held outside of school hours, we will not have an emergency response team on site during the tournament.

## PARKING

### **BUS DROP-OFF –**

Come in the main entrance of the school on Winchester Road (as you approach you'll be on the left side of the school). Drive around the loop to the right side of the school and drop students by the cafeteria doors (glass walls).

### **CARS AND VANS –**

Park in the main lot by the cafeteria and come in the cafeteria (see above).  
Do not come before 4 PM Friday.

### **SCHOOL ADDRESS –**

2000 Winchester Road, Lexington



# TOURNAMENT WHEREABOUTSES

All competition rooms are in the same building, FDHS.

Registration:	Cafeteria
Opening Ceremony and Judges' Meeting:	Auditorium
Merchandise Sales and Food Sales:	Cafeteria
Advocate:	At Merch Table
Judge Lounge:	Classroom
Tabulation Room:	Conference Room inside the Office
Extemp Draw:	Media Center
Broadcasting Draw 3 <sup>rd</sup> round, Quarters, Semis:	Auditorium
Broadcasting Draw for Finals:	Media Center
Awards Ceremony:	Auditorium

## ORATORIES

Don't forget that your students' speeches in the Oratory category must be physically available on paper or easily downloadable electronically should a copy be needed.

## BREAK ROUND QUOTAS AND PLANS

**A Quarterfinal round** will take place in ALL EVENTS with 36 or more entries entered as of the Soft Registration deadline.

The top 24 students in order will advance to the Quarterfinal round. No adjustments for students from the same school competing in the same section are made. They fall where they fall.

This round will have four sections of six competitors.

- 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 shall an additional contestant be advanced to the Quarterfinal round, and such contestant would be placed

in a random section.

**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.

*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

- b. Only in the event of an absolute tie shall an additional contestant be advanced to the Semifinal round, and such contestant would be placed in a random section.

**Based on Regional Tournament entries, I anticipate as many as five events (BRO, IMV, POE, PRO, STO) could have Quarterfinals at 2025 State Tournament. It will depend on the actual numbers that register for State. Stay tuned!**


## **SOUVENIRS FOR SALE AT STATE THIS YEAR**

- Blyton Bears in the 2025 color t-shirt (a light blue) \$25
- NEW: small beanbag-based Hippos \$10 we'll have a contest to name
- NEW: sunglasses \$5
- Stickers galore – we literally have dozens of options this year -- donated by [You're Awesome Design Machine](#) -- \$1
- Water bottles \$20
- Spiral-bound notebooks \$10
- T-shirts (black) – short sleeve \$12 and long sleeve \$20 (sizes vary) plus some very small gray t-shirts for kids not in adult sizes yet

**[A flyer with pictures](#) is posted on the [Tabroom site](#) and on the [KHSSL homepage](#).**

## T-SHIRT PRE-ORDERS

### DIFFERENT PROCEDURE THIS YEAR

Customer:	WO# ar
Design/Event: Kentucky High school speech tournament 2025	Screen Print
	 Center Front 12"w Shirt: carolina blue
	Ink Color(s) <input type="checkbox"/> White

The shirts are short-sleeved cotton t-shirts.

You'll notice that, as many of you have been requesting for years, they say the words 2025 State Tournament on them. Thus, KHSSL is ONLY selling these by pre-order. You can request a number of shirts of each size as part of your registration (see CONCESSIONS) and pay for them at registration by either a separate check or cash OR as part of your registration check.

These shirts will NOT be available for sale at the regular tournament unless there are some folks don't pick up, so pre-order is the way to go. Pre-ordered shirts will be handed to you at Registration as you pay. All other merch is first come first served pay-as-you-buy at the Merch table throughout the tournament.

## From the Director

I have high hopes that all coaches and students will have their best experience ever at KHSSL Junior. Our planned schedule is on the penultimate page of this invitation, and I hope you'll also go through the "classy" expectations for tournaments with your students (the last page of this invite).

Let's make it our shared goal that we'll run efficiently and smoothly. We want our kids to make happy memories. May the words be with you, and may the snow be without us! Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you have about the event, and good luck to you and yours at the State Tournament!

*STEVE*

Steve Meadows, Executive Director, Kentucky High School Speech League

[khssl@khssl.org](mailto:khssl@khssl.org) 859/927-1100 talk or text [www.khssl.org](http://www.khssl.org)



**Blyton can't wait  
to see you!**



## **KHSSL JUNIOR State Speech Tournament February 21 and 22, 2025**

**Douglass HS is in session until 3:15 PM on Friday, so please don't plan to arrive before 4 PM.**

### **Friday, February 21:**

REGISTRATION:	4 – 5 PM
OPENING ASSEMBLY	5:15 PM
EXTEMP DRAW ROUND 1	5:15 PM
JUDGE MEETING	5:30 PM
ROUND 1	5:45 – 7:15 PM
EXTEMP DRAW ROUND 2	7 PM
ROUND 2	7:30 – 9:00 PM

### **Saturday, February 22:**

EXTEMP DRAW ROUND 3	8 AM
BROADCASTING DRAW ROUND 3	8:15 AM
ROUND 3	8:30 – 10 AM
AWARDS ROUND 1	11-12:30 PM
AWARDS ROUND 2	1 – 2:30 PM
AWARDS ROUND 3	3-4:30 PM
AWARDS	5-6 PM





## HOW TO BE CLASSY AT A CONTEST

Be a polite audience member – watch your competitors with attention (and laugh and clap when appropriate). This applies for all other contestants – **don't leave anyone out.**

Be sure to **tell your judges if you are doubling or tripling** and need to go early in your room to leave.

If you are doubling/tripling & in extemp or a 3rd round or outround of broadcasting, **go to extemp/broadcasting before you go to other events.** Tell the person running the draw room you are headed to other events as well.

If doubling or tripling in a duo event, **make plans with your partner** about when to meet them at the duo room (before other events or after other events) so you don't leave partners stranded waiting on you.

**Don't touch anything in the classrooms** other than the desk you sit in and chairs you use for Duo Improv. And avoid using the teacher's desk, even for judges. **Audiences must be at least six feet** from speakers!!!!

**Bring the supplies you need** with you: index cards, black book, pen/pencil, bottle of water, etc.

**Wait quietly in the hallway** until the judge arrives and invites you into the room. Once the contest starts, before you enter a room, wait in the hallway and listen carefully to make sure you are not entering a room while someone else is performing. No one wants to be that kid who interrupts.

Make sure your **phones are OFF** and won't vibrate or make noise during a round.

**At awards, be happy** for everyone, even if you don't win your event. You're on display, after all, for everyone – including other kids' friends, judges who will be evaluating you next tournament, etc. – and we work together to make ourselves better at communication using competition to inspire us, not to beat other people down. Use those acting skills if you are a finalist but don't get the place you want – many others watching would like to be a finalist getting a trophy, after all. Show grace. And go get 'em next time!

**Teams stand up** for any students on their teams who win awards, but they don't whoop and holler as this is a dignified event, not a rodeo (no offense to rodeos). Also, teams stand up for all 1st place winners as a tournament-wide recognition of the event champions and the overall team champions. It's just classy.

And we always **choose classy** when we have options.

***This is the way.***