

Keynote Contest reminders for coaches and students



Hello there, and welcome to the Kentucky Keynote!

As we put 2025 in a drawer and start 2026, here are some reminders for you for the contest.

- Our tournament operates in the Eastern time zone.
- All submissions are asynchronous. Finals performances will be the same submissions seen in the preliminary rounds.
- Judges can judge whenever they like during the timeframes listed below but **MUST** be on time given the tight turnaround of both Finals and Awards. Ballots not submitted on time cost competing schools \$40 per ballot.
- See dates and times below (cut and pasted from our tournament invitation, which you can find posted on [our Tabroom website](https://s3.amazonaws.com/tabroom-files/tourns/37677/postings/64611/KentuckyKeynoteInvitation2026.pdf) at this link: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/tabroom-files/tourns/37677/postings/64611/KentuckyKeynoteInvitation2026.pdf>)

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Schedule		
F	October 10	Tabroom site opens for registration
T	January 6	3 PM Eastern: Extemp, Impromptu, and Improv Duo topics posted plus Broadcasting scripts.
Th	January 8	7 PM Eastern; deadline for video uploads and registration closes.
7 AM January 9 (Fr) to 2 PM January 10 (Sat) Judging prelims (three rounds)		
5 PM January 10 (Sa) to 8 PM January 11 (Sun) Judging finals (one round)		
M	January 12 (M)	4 PM Eastern Awards video goes live on YouTube

- The KHSSL online payment portal is here: <https://www.khssl.org/payment> We are happy to have you pay online OR to send us a paper check, but all payment for non-Kentucky schools must be completed prior to the start of round 1 (so by 7 AM on Friday, January 9). Kentucky schools must be paid in full prior to the Regional Speech tournaments on February 7.
- For limited prep events (BROADCASTING, IMPROV DUO, IMPROMPTU, EXTEMP), the topics will be posted on the Tabroom site on Tuesday (1/6) at 3 PM Eastern time. The coaches will be on the honor system with their students to film with the time limits in place; they should record the prep time of the impromptu and improv kids but not the extempers and include that footage as part of the one continual take that is submitted as a video.
- Remember – no editing of videos, and keep the camera still.
- Broadcasting will use a Round 3 script (extra practice on the new format!) and should tape both the 3 minutes of prep time and the performance.
- **Broadcasting, Improv Duo, and Impromptu recordings submitted without the prep time recorded will be disqualified.**
- Other than the special rules added for recording events, we are using the Kentucky High School Speech League's rulebook for this contest. Handbook [linked here](#) and Ballots [linked here](#).

If you have any other questions, please let me know. We're looking forward to hosting you here in Kentucky (online, at least!). May the words be with you and your students as you prepare your recordings.

- Steve @ the Kentucky High School Speech League