



# THSSDL Manual

# CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Tennessee High School Speech and Drama League.

## ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this League shall be to promote excellence in the study, preparation, and performance of speech and dramatic arts by providing quality competition among interested high school students in the state of Tennessee, regardless of race, sex, or religious belief.

## ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Any high school or secondary school in the state of Tennessee, however supported, may become a member of this League upon receipt of a properly completed membership form and payment of the membership fee established by the State Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE IV: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The State Board of Directors may appoint an Executive Director whose duties shall include the day-to-day operation of the League and serving as director of the state tournament.

## ARTICLE V: STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section I: The State Board of Directors shall be comprised of an appointed director and an elected representative from each of the districts.

- A. District Directors shall be appointed by the State Chair following the recommendation of the member schools of said districts.
- B. District Representatives shall be elected from the members of the District Boards of Directors for a two-year term of office.
  - 1. Said election shall be held in odd numbered years in Districts I, III, and V, and in even numbered years in District II and IV.
  - 2. Said term of office shall commence immediately following the election.
  - 3. The District Representatives may be re-elected indefinitely.

4. In the event a District Representative is unable to complete the term of office, the District Director shall appoint an acting representative until such time as a regular election can be held.

Section II: The officers of the League shall be Chair and Assistant Chair.

Section III: The Executive Director shall be a nonvoting member of the State Board of Directors.

Section IV: The organization does hereby acknowledge and agree to indemnify and hold harmless each and every person who serves or who has served as an officer, director or authorized agent of the organization for duties performed or omitted to be performed in the course of their official duties and responsibilities.

This indemnity means that in the event of any lawsuit, or legal proceeding the organization will provide legal counsel and agree to hold harmless and indemnify any such person who is a defendant in the proceeding so long as said defendant has acted in good faith to the extent permitted under State law. However, this indemnity does not obligate anyone other than the organization itself and specifically does not obligate any individual or person whether they are a member of the organization or an officer, director or agent to provide such indemnity.

In the event of any such lawsuit or legal proceeding, the indemnified person should immediately notify the executive director of the organization who will make arrangements for legal counsel and defense.

#### ARTICLE VI: FUNDS

The general operating expenses of the League shall be paid from membership fees, tournament fees, and donations.

#### ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

The State Board of Directors shall meet in the fall and in the spring. Other meetings may be called at the discretion of the State Chair or upon the request of at least six (6) members of the State Board of Directors.

#### ARTICLE VIII: QUORUM

Section I: A quorum of the league at any meeting shall consist of the official designated voting representatives of the member schools present.

Section II: A quorum of the State Board of Directors shall consist of the State Chair or the Assistant State Chair or their designated representative and not less than six (6) members of the State Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX: CONTESTS

Section I: This League shall promote annually contests in speech and dramatic arts in each district to qualify contestants for the state tournament to be held annually in April.

Section II: The rules of this organization for competition and the organization's direction of tournaments and other sponsored events are intended to be statements of general principle which are to be followed and complied with in good faith but are subject to interpretation and reasonable construction by the organization, its officers, directors and authorized agents. These rules are not intended to be legally binding, but are provided for the guidance and direction of the organization and its members in the spirit of promoting effective communication and competition. Any protest or objection to any rule or alleged failure to follow any rules must be made in writing in a timely manner.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

Section I: Amendments to this Constitution may be made by a two-thirds vote of the State Board of Directors and approved by a two-thirds vote of all member schools responding to a poll of the membership. The State Chair shall establish a specific date by which all votes must be received.

Section II: Any voting representative may submit proposed amendments to the Constitution by first submitting them for approval to this District Board of Directors. Upon approval, the District Representative shall submit the proposed amendments in writing to the District Director to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the State Board of Directors.

Section III: Following proper approval, any amendment shall become effective at a time established by the State Board of Directors.

~~October, 1984~~

~~Amended October, 1987~~

~~Amended February, 1995~~

~~Amended December, 2005~~

**Revised January 2020**

## BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Tennessee High School Speech and Drama League.

### ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this League shall be to promote excellence in the study, preparation, and performance of speech and dramatic arts by providing quality competition among interested high school students in the state of Tennessee, regardless of race, sex or religious belief.

### ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Any high school or secondary school in the state of Tennessee, however supported, may become a member of the League upon receipt of a properly completed membership form and payment of the membership fee established by the State Board of Directors.

A. Only schools with grades nine through twelve are eligible.

B. In those instances where the ninth grade is included in a junior high school, and the junior high school is closely related to a senior high school, such as having the same name and/or sharing the same campus, the ninth grade shall be required to share membership in the League with the related high school.

Section 2: Schools shall be divided into districts by counties.

Section 3: Upon application to THSSDL, counties not currently participating in any district tournament may be added to a specific district by a vote of the Board of Directors. District membership will be based on proximity to other counties in the district and on the number of schools participating in that district's tournament.

Section 4: Transfer of counties from one district to another may be made upon agreement of the District Directors concerned and upon approval of the State Board of Directors.

Section 5: Any county or metropolitan area having 12 or more schools within the same county or metropolitan area actively competing in a district tournament may petition the THSSDL Board of Directors to establish a separate district for that county or metropolitan area. Upon receipt of the petition, signed by at least 75% of the active member schools of the county or metropolitan area, the Board of Directors shall consider the petition at their next meeting.

ARTICLE IV - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Section 1: The State Chair and Assistant State Chair shall be elected at the springmeeting of the State Board of Directors for a two-year term of office from the members of the State Board of Directors, which shall be comprised of an appointed director and an elected representative from each of the districts.
- Section 2: The State Chair and Assistant State Chair shall begin their two-year term of office the following July 1.
- Section 3: The State Chair and Assistant State Chair may not be re-elected for consecutive terms.
- Section 4: The State Chair and Assistant State Chair may be removed from office before the expiration of their terms of office by a two-thirds vote of all members of the State Board of Directors. Members of the Board of Directors may vote at a regular meeting of the Board or by submission of their vote in writing to the Executive Director of the Board of Directors to be cast in absentia.
- Section 5: The District Director may be removed from office by a petition which states just cause of removal and contains a signature for each of two-thirds of the members of that District's Board of Directors. Said petition shall be presented and signed at the District Board of Directors' meeting, held at the District Tournament or at a time and place designated by the District Director.
- Section 6: The District Representative may be removed from office before the expiration of his term by a two-thirds vote of all members of the District Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V - DUTIES OF STATE AND DISTRICT OFFICERS

- Section I: The State Chair shall have the following duties:
- A. Chair all meetings of the State Board of Directors.
  - B. Set the agenda for said meetings in consultation with the Executive Director.
  - C. Act for the Board in the interim between meetings of the Board of Directors.
  - D. Refer all disputes between members of the League to the Board for settlement when made in writing.

- E. Appoint and remove the District Directors upon the agreement and recommendation of the member schools of each district. In the event that such a change is required and the district board of directors is unable to meet, the State Chair shall appoint an Acting District Director until such a meeting can be held.
- F. Appoint the District Director or said Director's Representative of any host tournament site as Assistant State Tournament Director.
- G. Work with the Assistant Tournament Director and the Executive Director to ensure a successful annual State Tournament.
- H. Assist in choosing a debate subject area for each ensuing year.
- I. Cooperate in every practical way with the high schools of the state and with the League in fostering speech and dramatic arts in the state of Tennessee.

Section 2: The Assistant State Chair shall have the following duties:

- A. Serve as acting State Chair in the absence of the State Chair at any regular or called meeting of the Board of Directors.
- B. Serve as the Acting State Chair should that position become vacant until such time as a new State Chair can be elected and begin serving his/her term.
- C. Assist the State Chair in any way so designated by the State Chair and approved by the Board of Directors.
- D. Remain cognizant of all existing policies and affairs of the League.
- E. Take minutes of all meetings of the State Board of Directors.
- F. Serve as State Chair-Elect and succeed the current State Chair upon completion of his/her two-year term of office.

Section 3: The District Director shall have the following duties:

- A. Immediately following the fall board meeting, send each school within the district information about the League, an invitation to join the League, and the proper membership forms.
- B. Send a list of all contests sponsored by the League and their rules to all members, informing them annually of any changes that may have been made.

- C. Inform members of any proposed changes in the Constitution or rules, thus providing them with the opportunity to make recommendations on how to respond.
- D. Send registration forms for the District Tournament to all members of the League in the District.
- E. Organize and conduct the District Tournament.
- F. Distribute at the district Tournament Intent to Compete Forms for the State Tournament to coaches of all qualifiers, which are to be mailed by the coaches to the Executive Director at a time she/he designates.
- G. Submit to the Executive Director the District Report Form, typed, which contains the full name (spelled correctly) of the six finalists in all events in which qualification is required.
- H. Conduct a meeting of the District Board of Directors, which is comprised of one coach from each member school in the district and the District Director.
  - 1. Said meeting shall take place at the District Tournament or at a time and place designated by the District Director.
  - 2. The agenda shall include the election of the district representative and any other business dealing with the district.
  - 3. Attend all meetings of the State Board of Directors or designate a representative if unable to attend.
- I. Maintain entry records with titles of selections for a period of five (5) years.

Section 4: The District Representative shall have the following duties:

- A. Provide the District Director with whatever assistance is needed in the duties of that office.
- B. Assist the District Director at the District Tournament as needed such as distributing and collecting ballots, answering questions and complaints of participants, and assisting in the tab room.
- C. Chair the meeting of the District Board of Directors in the absence of the District Director.
- D. Notify the State Chair in the event the District Director can no longer function or problems exist concerning the District Director.



- E. Attend the meetings of the State Board of Directors and represent the interests and needs of the member schools in all business of the League.

#### ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Section 1: The Executive Director shall be selected by a two-thirds vote of the State Board of Directors.

- A. The Executive Director shall be retained in said capacity by means of an employee contract entered into by the State Board of Directors.
- B. The term of office shall be established by the State Board of Directors.
- C. The stipend shall be set by the State Board of Directors.
- D. The Executive Director may be reappointed indefinitely.
- E. The Executive Director shall be a nonvoting member of the State Board of Directors.
- F. The Executive Director shall be evaluated by the State Chair and Assistant State Chair annually.

Section 2: The Executive Director shall have the following duties:

- A. Keep accurate records of accounts, memberships, and proceeding of the League, including entry records with titles of selections for five (5) years.
- B. Maintain an updated computer mailing list of member schools and coaches.
- C. Maintain records of Hall of Fame inductees and Educator of the Year recipients.
- D. Receive and safely keep all monies belonging to the League, disbursing same as directed by the State Board of Directors.
- E. Keep accurate accounts of all finances hold the books open for examination, and present abstracts of same when requested by the State Board of Directors.
- F. Have the books of accounts audited on a regular basis, if so directed by the State Board of Directors.
- G. Be bonded, if so directed by the State Board of Directors.

- H. The Executive Director shall provide financial reports:
  - 1. At the fall meeting of the State Board of Directors each year which includes a report on the previous State Tournament and a budget for the next State Tournament.
  - 2. At the spring meeting of the State Board of Directors each year which includes a report on the previous Fall Conference and a budget for the next Fall Conference.
- I. See that minutes of all meetings of the State Board of Directors are distributed to all members of the League following each meeting.
- J. Maintain a current tournament manual. Mail revised pages to all member schools after each board meeting.
- K. Suggest, when necessary, new policies and a review of existing policies for consideration of the State Board of Directors.
- L. Deliver all money and other property of the Tennessee High School Speech and Drama League to the State Chair upon completion of his/ her term of office.

Section 3: The Executive Director shall serve as tournament director for all statewide contests sponsored by the League with the following duties:

- A. Inform the District Directors and/or District Representatives that the Executive Director must receive the District Contest Report no later than eleven calendar days prior to the beginning date of the State Tournament.
- B. Have overall responsibility for the entire tournaments, as well as final decision-making authority that may include convening an emergency meeting of the State Board of Directors for all disputes that occur during the actual tournament.
- C. Work with the Assistant Tournament Director and the State Chair to insure a successful tournament.
- D. Assure that all state contest winners receive awards at the State Tournament held by the League.
- E. Make a complete report to all member schools at the end of the year that includes results of the State Tournament.

Section 4: The Executive Director shall serve as Conference Director for the Fall Conference with the following duties:

- A. Chair the conference committee, secure presenters and/or entertainment, set up a schedule and coordinate with the host school.
- B. Provide a report at the spring board meeting prior to the Fall Conference outlining the schedule, presenters, etc.
- C. Seek sources of revenue to help finance the cost of the conference.
- D. Mail information about the Fall Conference with the minutes of the spring board meeting to all member schools.
- E. Mail brochures and registration forms by August 1.

Section 5: The Executive Director shall be held accountable to the membership of the League as follows:

- A. Publish a quarterly newsletter and/or information sheet that addresses League concerns.
- B. Submit a written semi-annual report to the membership concerning significant accomplishments, directions, and future goals of the League.
- C. Mail minutes of the Board meetings, newsletters/information sheets, and semi-annual reports in one packet when feasible.

Section 6: The Executive Director may be removed from office before expiration of his term for noncompliance of contractual obligations by a two-thirds vote of all members of the State Board of Directors. Members of the State Board of Directors may vote at a regular meeting of the State Board of Directors, or by submission of their vote in writing to the State Chair to be cast in absentia.

## ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

Section 1: A meeting of the member schools of each district of the League shall be held at least once each year, preferably at the time of the District Tournament. Other meetings may be held as called by the District Director or upon request of at least three members of the District Board of Directors.

Section 2: The State Board of Directors shall meet in the fall and in the spring.

- A. The fall meeting will be scheduled during the Fall Conference.

- B. The spring meeting will be held during the operation of the State Tournament.
- C. Other meetings may be called at the discretion of the State Chair or upon request of at least six (6) members of the State Board of Directors.

#### ARTICLE VIII - QUORUM

Section 1: A quorum of the League at any meeting shall consist of the official designated voting representatives of the member schools present.

Section 2: A quorum of the State Board of Directors shall consist of the State Chair or the Assistant State Chair or a designated representative and a minimum of six (6) members of the State Board of Directors.

#### ARTICLE IX - FEES

Section 1: The general operating expenses of the League shall be paid from membership fees, tournament fees, and donations. Donations made to the League treasury for specific purposes shall be used only as specified by the donor.

Section 2: The State membership fee shall be set annually by the State Board of Directors and collected by District Directors. District fees shall be set and collected by the District Directors, who shall transfer all fees to the Executive Director.

Section 3: The District Director shall set Fees for the District Tournament annually. The State Board of Directors shall set fees for the State Tournament annually.

#### ARTICLE X - CONTESTS

Section 1: This League shall promote contests in speech and dramatic arts in each district and sponsor an annual state tournament. Cross-Examination debate, Lincoln-Douglas debate, Public Forum Debate, Congress and Theatre Design are open events. An entry fee will be charged for all students entering Congress.

Section 2: Eligibility of contestants shall be as follows:

- A. No one shall take part in any contest in this League who, at the time of the tournament, has passed his or her twenty-first birthday.
- B. No student shall compete in any event with any materials or selections from the same source used in competition by him or her during any previous school year.

- C. No one shall take part in any contest in this League who has been graduated from a four-year high school or its equivalent as determined by the regulations of the State Department of Education. Foreign exchange students may participate even though they may have graduated from their own schools, provided they adhere to the other rules of this Constitution and By-Laws.
- D. No one shall take part in any contest in this League, who, at the time of the tournament, is not a full-time student in the high school in which he is enrolled.
- E. A school may use talent only from its own student body, grades 9-12.

Section 3: Contests to qualify contestants for the State Tournament shall be held in each district at a time and place determined by each District Director but must be held at least three weeks prior to the State Tournament.

Section 4: The State Tournament in events, debate, and Congress shall be held in April on a date and at a location designated by the State Board of Directors.

Section 5: Rules for each of the contests to be held at the district and state tournament shall be set forth in a tournament manual. Any proposed changes must be submitted in writing one month prior to the fall board meeting. Approved changes shall be effective for the following district and state contests.

Section 6: Trophies and/or other awards shall be presented to winners in the district and state contests and shall be considered the property of the students and the school he/she represents.

## ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Amendments to these By-Laws may be made by a majority vote of the State Board of Directors and approved by a majority vote of all member schools responding to a poll of the membership. The State Chair shall establish a specified date by which time all votes must be received.

Section 2: Any voting representative may submit proposed amendments to these By-Laws by first submitting them for approval to the District Board of Directors. Upon approval, the District Representative shall submit the proposed amendments in writing to the District Director to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the State Board of Directors.

Section 3: Following proper approval, any amendment shall become effective at a time established by the State Board of Directors.

Amended October, 1984

Amended October, 1987

Amended February, 1995

Amended December, 2005



# Tournament Manual

ARTICLE I:

MEMBERSHIP AND TOURNAMENT FEES

Section I:

Schools have be divided by counties into the following districts:

District I: McNairy, Shelby, Tipton, Madison

District II: Cheatham, Dickson, Henderson, Henry, Humphreys, Montgomery, Robertson, Sumner

District III: Davidson, Lawrence, Maury, Putnam, Rutherford, Williamson, Wilson

District IV: Blount, Bradley, Coffee, Franklin, Hamilton, Knox, Meigs, Jefferson, Sevier

District V: Hamblen, Johnson, Sullivan, Washington

Homeschoolers may compete in district for which he/she would be zoned as long as THSSDL fees have been paid to District director and the homeschooler's organization has been recognized by the state of Tennessee.

Section II:

The State Board of Directors shall establish the membership fee annually at the spring meeting to be effective the following year.

Section III:

Each school shall pay the set fee to be a member of the Tennessee High School Speech and Drama League.

A. This fee, plus any amount assessed by the District, shall be remitted to the District Director by the day of the District Tournament.

B. Late memberships shall be accepted at the discretion of the District Director.

Section IV:

Any membership fee for the District shall be established by the District Board of Directors at the spring meeting to be effective the following school year.



Section V:

Fees for the State Tournament shall be established annually by the State Board of Directors at the spring meeting to be effective the following year.

ARTICLE II:

DISTRICT AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

Section I:

This League shall promote annually contests in five categories: Cross-Examination Debate, Public Forum Debate, Group Events, Individual Events, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Student Congress. The contests shall include the following events:

- After-Dinner Speaking
- Cross-Examination Debate (both Experienced and Novice)
- Duet Acting (EXCLUDED 2023-2024)
- Duo Interpretation
- Extemporaneous Speaking
- Impromptu Speaking
- Informative Speaking
- Interpreters' Theatre
- Lincoln-Douglas Debate (both Experienced and Novice)
- One-Act Play
- Oral Interpretation of Dramatic Literature
- Oral Interpretation of Humorous Literature
- Oral Interpretation of Poetry Literature
- Oral Interpretation of Prose Literature
- Original Oratory
- Pantomime
- Program of Oral Interpretation
- Public Forum Debate
- Solo Acting (EXCLUDED 2023-2024)
- Storytelling
- Student Congress
- Television Broadcasting
- Theatre Design
- Theatre Costumes

Contests shall be held at the district level in most of these events to determine those who qualify to compete at the State Tournament. Cross-Examination Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, Student Congress, Theatre Design Set and Theatre Design Costume are open events, giving the District Director the option of having these contestants compete at the district level.

## Section II:

Entry requirements for District and State Tournaments shall include the following:

- A. A student may enter one of the individual events (such as Original Oratory or Duet Acting) and one of the group events (either One-Act Play or Interpreters' Theatre), but may not enter two of the individual events or two group events. A student who is entered in Cross-Examination Debate or Lincoln-Douglas Debate, or Public Forum Debate may not enter any other event at the District or State Tournament. Debaters may enter Congress at the end of Round V if they do not advance to final rounds."
- B. Students may enter Congress at the State Tournament if they are not entered in any individual event. Students entered in Debate may enter Congress at the end of Round V if they do not advance to final rounds.
- C. There can be no change in the composition of a team or group event entry between District and State contests without documentation of a disability or sickness. The Executive Director must be notified of changes prior to the start of the State Tournament. Any infraction of this rule shall result in the team or group being disqualified.
- D. At State a student who is entered in one individual event may not enter a second individual event, except for debaters who enter Congress at the end of Round V upon elimination from debate.
- E. A student who is entered in one group event may not enter another group event or debate.
- F. Disqualifications at the State Tournament will rest with the Executive Director. An appeal of this decision may be made to the State Board of Directors who are present at the Tournament at that time. It shall not be required that a quorum of the State Board of Directors be present to hear the appeal and their decision on disqualification after hearing from all interested parties shall be final. At the District Tournament, the District Director with consultation from the District Board of Directors will make the decision. Also, this decision as to disqualification at the District Level shall be final.
- G. In the event at the District tournament that a District Director is accused of a rule violation, the District Director will step aside and the District Representative will make the ruling concerning the violation.
- H. A student may not use the same cutting in different events during the same or different years (i.e. a student may not use a cutting in Dramatic Interpretation one year and in Duo the next year).

- I. Contestants must bring the original source material for all interpretive and acting events (including One-Act and Interpretive Theatre) to the District and State tournaments.
- J. Contestants must use the same piece/selection/speech at the State tournament that was used at the District tournament.

Section III:

At a time designated by the District Director and at least three weeks prior to the State Tournament, each district shall hold a tournament in all events. The District Director may also offer Theatre Design, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, Cross Examination Debate, and Congress at the District level.

- A. For a student to enter any contest, the school must be a member in good standing of the Tennessee High School Speech and Drama League.
- B. The entry and drop deadlines will be set by the District Director. Each school must submit a completed school entry form to the District Director by the entry deadline date. A late fee shall be assessed for each slot entered late. No additional entries can be accepted after the drop deadline.
- C. Drops and judging fees will be determined by the following:
  - 1. Drops may be made without penalty prior to the drop deadline date.
  - 2. Each drop made after the deadline will be assessed a drop fee in addition to the entry fee. This shall be applied to individual and group events as well as debate and Congress.
  - 3. Any school that fails to bring its required number of judges and has not made arrangements to pay a judging fee before the drop deadline shall be assessed a judging penalty fee. This fee shall be twice the fee to hire a judge.
  - 4. The District Tournament Director shall have the right to waive the penalty fees where the situation calls for it.
- D. Entry fees will be determined by the following:
  - 1. The District tournament fees shall be set by the District Director.
  - 2. Tournament entry fees may be sent with the tournament entry form or may be paid at the time of registration.

## Section IV:

## The State Tournament

## A. Time and Place

1. The State Tournament shall be held in April.
2. The State Tournament shall be held each year at a location designated by the State Board of Directors. On a rotating basis among Districts I-V, each district shall be given an opportunity to host the State Tournament. If a district does not wish to host the State Tournament, it shall pass its turn to the next district.
3. An open state contest in Congress, Debate and Theater Design if the District Director does not require debating at the district level, shall be held with no district elimination. The time and place shall be the same as all other events scheduled for the State Tournament.

## B. Qualifying

1. The first through fourth place winners in individual events at each district level shall advance to the State Tournament.
2. First and second place winners in Interpreters' Theatre in all districts shall advance to the State Tournament.
3. The first place winner in the One-Act Play competition shall advance to the State Tournament.
4. All Public Forum Debate Teams, all Lincoln-Douglas debaters, all Cross-Examination Debate teams and all Theatre Design contestants competing in the District Tournament, if offered, may compete in the State Tournament regardless of their rank in the District Tournament. Each Theatre Design student and each Congress entry must be included on the Intent to Compete as State Form.
5. If a qualifier in an individual event, Interpreters' Theatre or One-Act Play cannot attend the State Tournament, then the next ranking entrant through sixth place may participate in the State Tournament if certified by the District Director.
  - a. It is the responsibility of the individual coach to verify his/her school's entries in the State Tournament, particularly if an eligible student is unable to attend, thus clearing the way for another finalist to compete.

- b. In the event that a student cannot attend the State Tournament, the coach must notify the District Director as soon as possible. The District Director shall notify the next place finisher, and the Executive Director immediately in order to certify the new entrant. Failure to follow these policies may keep a student from competing in the State Tournament.

C. Entry Procedures

1. The District Director shall send a completed District Report to the Executive Director so that it is received no later than eleven (11) calendar days prior to the beginning date of the State Tournament.
2. After the District Tournament, each coach must send an Intent to Compete Form to the Executive Director. It must be received fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the beginning date of the State Tournament.
  - a. The Intent to Compete Form shall verify the entries and also list the names of the judges the coach will bring to the State Tournament.
  - b. No entries shall be accepted after the deadline except for students who have just been notified that they may compete.
  - c. The Executive Director may wish to waive the deadline and late fees in instances where the entry has just been notified that he/she can participate.

D. Drop Fees and Judging Fees

1. Drops may be made without penalty five (5) calendar days prior to the beginning date of the State Tournament.
2. Drops made after the deadline shall be assessed a drop fee in addition to the entry fee. The drop fee shall be twice the entry fee for that event.
3. Any school that fails to bring its required number of judges and has not made arrangements to pay a judging fee before the drop deadline five (5) calendar days prior to the State Tournament) may be assessed a judging penalty fee.
4. The Board of Directors shall have the right to review any petition to the board regarding entry penalty fees where the situation calls for it and render a decision.

E. Entry and Judging Fees

1. The entry and judging fees for the State Tournament shall be set by the State Board of Directors at the spring meeting.
2. Entry fees may be paid at the time of registration.

Section V:

State Contest in Debate and Congress

A. Time and Place

1. The contest shall be held in April.
2. The contest shall be scheduled on the same dates as the other State Tournament events.

B. Entry Procedures

1. The Executive Director will inform member schools of the League of the time, place, and topics for debate.
2. Schools in districts requiring debate at the district level must compete at that level; however, all teams entering are eligible to compete at the State Tournament provided their intent to do so is declared on the coach's Intent to Compete Form.
3. Congress is an open event for any student not competing in any other event scheduled on Saturday of the State Tournament. Names of students who will be competing in Congress must be listed on the coach's Intent to Compete Form. The name of any debater who intends to enter Congress following his/her elimination from debate must also be listed on the Intent to Compete Form.
4. Final Intent to Compete Forms must be received by the Executive Director, with names of judges, fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the beginning date of the State Tournament.

C. Topics

1. The Cross Examination Debate topic will be the official NSDA topic.
2. The Lincoln-Douglas Debate topic will be the NSDA topic for March/April.

3. The Public Forum debate topic will be the NSDA April topic.

D. Guidelines for Student Congress

1. One piece of legislation per student entered in Congress must be submitted via email to the official in charge, and bring 25 copies to the tournament. The legislation must be typewritten, double-spaced, contain numbered lines and follow the NSDA guidelines. Any legislation not received by the deadline may not be considered for debate.
2. Congress persons will be assigned to committees within each chamber for the purpose of studying legislation since time constraints do not allow the legislation to be mailed prior to the State Tournament. The official in charge of Congress will appoint the committee chairpersons in each chamber. Students may earn up to six points for participating in the committee discussions. The committees will meet for approximately one hour.
3. An official scorer (one for each hour of each session) shall be appointed for each chamber to assign credit points. The official scorer may award up to six (6) points for each speech or hour of presiding, but not more than twenty-four points to any student per day. The official scorer will also serve as the official parliamentarian of the chamber.
4. If there are more than thirty (30) students entered, the Congress will be divided into two separate chambers, House and Senate. If there are more than fifty (50) students entered, the Congress will be divided into three chambers, two Houses and a Senate. The division will be at the discretion of the official in charge of Congress to give each student an equal chance. There is no apportionment formula for any chamber of Congress. Delegates from one school should be equally divided between Senate and House and so designated on the Intent to Compete Form.
5. The ordinary one-day meeting of Congress will consist of two sessions, which must include four (4) hours of debate in addition to time used for committee meetings and for elections.
6. Each student wishing to serve as presiding officer of a chamber shall apply at registration. Each student applicant shall preside for twenty (20) to thirty (30) minutes whereupon the members of the chamber shall, by ballot, select one of them to preside for the duration of the Congress.
7. At the close of the Congress each chamber shall vote by ballot to award one first place award (Outstanding Speaker) and one second-place award (Superior Speaker) for outstanding work as congresspersons.

8. Information regarding Congress will be in the January Communicator and will be included in the District Director's packet from the Executive Director.

Section VI:

Judges

- A. It shall be the responsibility of the District Director and the Executive Director to see that an adequate number of qualified judges are available for the District and State Tournaments respectively.
- B. Judges shall come from the following sources:
  1. Participating schools
    - a. At the District and State Tournaments, participating schools shall be required to provide qualified judges at the rate of one judge for every six (6) entries in individual events and student congress.
    - b. At the state contest in Cross-Examination, Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum Debate, schools shall be required to provide one judge for every two (2) debate entries. For example, 1 LD Debater and 1 PF Debate team would require one (1) judge.
      - (1) If schools cannot provide qualified judges or would prefer, due to circumstances, to hire judges, they may do so at a rate established by the Board of Directors.
      - (2) The Tournament Director shall have the prerogative to waive a judging fee if circumstances warrant.
      - (3) A school which fails to make arrangements to hire a judge before the drop deadline [five (5) calendar days prior to the tournament] and who arrives at the tournament without the required number of judges will be assessed a penalty fee which shall be twice the fee to hire a judge.
  2. Hired from appropriate sources at a rate established by the State Board of Directors.
  3. Volunteer qualified judges from the host school, community, and area who are approved by the Tournament Director.
- C. It is the responsibility of the District and State Tournament Directors to provide ALL judges for contests in One-Act Play and Interpreters' Theatre.



- D. Aqualified judge shall be defined as an individual who has the background, training, or experience necessary to evaluate contestants efficiently in an area of competition consistent with his/her expertise.
- E. Number of judges used
1. In preliminary rounds, one (1) qualified judge per section, per event may be used.
  2. In elimination rounds or finals, a minimum of three (3) qualified judges shall be required and there shall always be an uneven number of judges.
  3. In Interpreters' Theatre at the District Tournament, one panel of three (3) judges shall be used. At the State Tournament, two panels of three judges each shall judge the preliminary rounds with a third panel of at least three (3) but preferably five (5) judges for the final round. No one who judged the preliminary round may judge the finals.
  4. There shall be at least three (3) judges in the One-Act Play contest at both the District and State Tournaments with five (5) preferred for the State Championship.
  5. In all finals of the State Tournament, judges should represent each region whenever possible.
- F. No judge shall be used twice in the event except debate. In debate, no judge should judge the same team twice prior to the semifinals. Each coach shall have at least two (2) strikes for semifinals and three (3) strikes for the final round.
- G. A judge shall not judge his/her own student or a former student, a contestant who attends the school the judge represents, or a contestant who is a relative or personal friend of the family. A judge may not judge a contestant if, at any time, they attended the same high school together as students. In any instance where the judge, the contestant, or the contestant's coach may consider a conflict of interest, the judge shall excuse himself/herself from the round. Any disputes in this regard must be brought to the attention of the State Tournament Director prior to the beginning of the round or to the District Director on the District level. The Tournament Director shall have the authority to take appropriate action in each case.
- H. Judges shall be instructed to record only the student's name and code number for identification purposes in the individual events and debate. The Tournament Director shall devise a code for each student that will not identify the contestant's school, district, or district ranking to the judge or observers.

- I. A copy of all rules, judging criteria, and Article IV containing Responsibility of the Judges shall be given to all judges at both the District and State Tournaments. Should a contestant violate any of the rules provided, the judge may penalize the student by giving him/her lower rankings, or may recommend to the Tournament Director that the student be disqualified. A judge may not disqualify a contestant.

Section VII:

### Suggested Operation of the Tournament

- A. Prior to the tournament, the Director shall send all participating schools a schedule of events. Included in this information shall be a description of the space to be used for both the Interpreters' Theatre and One-Act Play competition and information relative to dressing room space and technical assistance for the One-Act Play.
- B. The number of rounds for events are as follows:
  - 1. One-Act Play
    - a. One round at both the District and State Tournaments.
    - b. There shall be either three (3) or five (5) judges used for the round.
  - 2. Interpreters' Theatre
    - a. One round using three (3) judges at the District Tournament.
    - b. One round of preliminary competition with two (2) sections at the State Tournament. The top three (3) from each section shall advance to the final round. There shall be three (3) judges for each section of the preliminary rounds and three (3) or five (5) judges in the final round.
  - 3. Individual events
    - a. Three preliminary rounds with one qualified judge per section, per event for each round.
    - b. One final round of six (6) contestants, determined by ranking from the preliminary rounds.
  - 4. Cross-Examination, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Public Forum Debate
    - a. At least five (5) preliminary rounds with one (1) qualified judge per section for each round.

- b. Elimination rounds will be held as follows:  
 If 16-31 teams participate, quarterfinals will be held;  
 If 32 teams or more participate, octo-finals will be held;  
 If 8-15 teams, semifinals will be held;  
 If fewer than 8 teams participate, finals will be held.
  - c. All elimination rounds shall have three (3) qualified judges for each debate each round.
5. Theatre Design: Set/Costume participants will be judged one time by a panel of three judges. Unless total number of entries in a particular event warrants individual rounds. Rounds will take place during IE competition.

C. Opening assembly

The Tournament Director should schedule an opening assembly to welcome contestants and judges and to make vital information clear. This information might include location of judging assignments, ballot return, and postings. Specific instructions to judges might also be made at this time. Contestants will be informed of posting locations and procedures/locations for questions.

D. Conducting the tournament

- 1. It is the responsibility of the District Director, with the assistance of the District Representative, to operate the District Tournament. It is the responsibility of the Executive Director to conduct all contests of the State Tournament.
- 2. The District Committee should be available to assist in the operation of the District Tournament. Each district may adopt its own tab room procedures or may emulate the following state plan:
- 3. The State Tournament should be organized in the following fashion:
  - a. Tabulation Room Officials: The State Chair shall appoint minimum of two (2) persons from each district to assist in the tabulation room during the tournament. This pool of officials should be available to serve throughout the tournament. The State Chair will assign shifts and duties to each person from this pool. Ideally, at least one (1) person from each district should always be present in the tab room. The State Chair will choose the tab room officials in consultation with the District Directors. At no time should there be just one person operating the tab room. Duties to be assigned to the tabulation room officials will be as follows:

1. Scorers: Ideally, two groups of three (3) people are needed to score ballots. The two groups will split the events as evenly as possible with individuals in each group performing the following tasks: one to read names and ranks, one to record, and one to check recording and addition and to see that the judge's sheet matches.
2. Judge Assignment Personnel: Three (3) people are needed to assign judges for each round. These three individuals should be comprised of one West Tennessee official (District 1 or 2), one Middle Tennessee official (District 3 or 4), and one East Tennessee official (District 5). The chair of this committee should ideally be the representative from the host district. The committee should try as best as possible to assign judges from all of the districts in as equal a manner as possible.

In rounds where three judges are required in a section, the committee should attempt to secure judges from all three geographic regions: East, Middle and West.

The judging committee should compile a list prior to the tournament of all available judges. This list should be divided by geographic regions and should indicate the judge's particular judging strengths, preference, District, and school.

This committee is also responsible for collecting and checking all ballots when they are returned and to see that they are delivered to the tab room. It is mandatory that a correct recording of all judges be kept throughout the day.

3. Stuffers: At least one (1) or two (2) persons should be assigned to stuff packets.
4. Teacher Liaison: One (1) person should be distinguished to serve as the liaison to answer questions from all teachers who have tournament concerns. This liaison will be empowered to check ballots for teachers who have specific questions concerning their students' performance in a particular round. If the teacher wishes to appeal an answer given by the liaison, he/she may request a meeting with the Executive Director and a mutually agreeable third party in order that all three may together review the ballots in question.
5. The tab room is not to be open to individuals except under the provisions outlined in this section.

- b. Chairmen to oversee the operation of events:
  - 1. Individual Events: One for each individual event or several with each person responsible for a group of events, for example, the interpretation events. In tournaments in small districts, the District Director or the District Representative can fill this job. Tab room officials should not have to concern themselves with the actual overseeing of the contests.
  - 2. Interpreters' Theatre: One person for each section to check in each group, announce each performance to the judges and audience, keep the official time, collect the judges' ballots and return them to the chairman of ballots.
  - 3. One-Act Play: One person to check in each group, assign dressing room space and time, provide for the storage of sets and properties prior to the contest, oversee the technical meetings, keep the official time, assist the judges, collect the judges' ballots and return them to the chairman of ballots. A technical director or stage manager provided by the hostschool shall assist each school with the technical aspects of their productions such as lights, sound, etc.
  - 4. Debate: A separate tabulation crew is recommended for both District and State Tournaments.
  - 5. Congress: One official to be in charge of the operation of all sessions of Congress and of submitting all scores to the Executive Director for verification of awards. In addition, the official in charge of Congress shall supply needed equipment:
    - a. Copies of all legislation in appropriate form for each member of Congress (see Congress rules for sample).
    - b. Two charts for each chamber (one for the scorer and one for the presiding officer) on which the names and schools of the participants are written for the purpose of recording points.
    - c. Automatic timers or stop watches to facilitate timing speeches.
    - d. Time cards.
    - e. Ballots for voting for presiding officer and for outstanding speaker.

- f. Forms to be used for any and all amendments (see Congress rules for sample).
  - g. Name plates two inches by six inches with the name of each member written in dark ink for the purpose of being recognized easily and quickly.
  - h. Copies of the “Table of Most Frequently Used Parliamentary Motions” (see Congress rules for sample).
- c. Timekeepers
- 1. Timekeepers should not be affiliated with any school represented by contestants performing.
  - 2. Timekeepers should be used in all preliminary rounds of TV, Extemp, Impromptu and Debate. Judges must keep time in all other preliminary rounds and may not delegate this authority.
  - 3. There must be an official timekeeper in all final rounds.
  - 4. Time must be kept with a stopwatch in all final rounds.
  - 5. Time limits for all events will be strictly observed.
  - 6. Penalties will be imposed for entries going over specified time limits.

E. Determining finalists

The method of determining who qualifies to compete in the finals of all events having more than one round is as follows:

- 1. Rankings from the preliminary rounds will be totaled. The six (6) contestants with the lowest totals shall be certified as finalists. In Interpreters’ Theatre, the top three (3) based on rankings from each section will advance to the final round of the State Tournament.
- 2. If speakers are tied on total ranks, the speaker with the highest speakerpoint total should advance.

3. If speakers are tied on speaker points, the schematic shall be used to determine if the tied speakers competed against each other in preliminary rounds. If they met once, the speaker who received the higher rank shall advance. If the tied speakers faced each other more than once, the total rank of the two speakers shall determine the finalists. Steps 1 and 2 listed above shall be used.
4. If no finalist can be determined through the above steps, all tied speakers shall advance to finals.

F. Determining winners

1. In all events where there is a final round, the winners shall be based on just the rankings of the final round with three judges.
2. The rankings of the contestants will be added and the one with the lowest rankings will place first, the second lowest will place second, etc.
3. Should a tie exist on rankings, then the percentages shall be added and the contestant with the highest percentage shall rank over the other contestant(s).
4. Should there be a tie in ranking and percentages, then judges' preference shall be considered. The contestant favored by two of the three judges shall rank above the student who was not.
5. In the case of a three-way tie where rankings percentages, and judges' preferences are equal, then the winners shall be determined by the ranking prior to the finals. The student with the lower rank will place higher. If ranks are tied, then the student with the higher percentage points will rank higher.

G. Determining finalists in debate

1. In all debate, the team or contestant's win-loss record and speaker points shall be totaled. Teams and contestants will advance first in the order of their wins-losses and then on the higher total of speaker points.
2. The top sixteen (16) debate teams in each debate category will advance to the octo-final round. They will be seeded with team 1 debating against team 16, team 2 against team 15, team 3 against team 14, etc. Brackets may not be broken to keep two teams from the same school from debating each other. Where two teams from the same school are scheduled to meet, the coach shall have the option of allowing the debate to proceed or of designating a winner. A team shall be eliminated once it has lost in the elimination rounds. There shall be three (3) judges in each of the elimination rounds.

H. Determining winners in debate

1. In the final round, the team or contestant winning the round shall be the first place winner, with the loser placing second.
2. Semifinalist and quarterfinalist awards will be given.

I. Best speakers in Cross Examination Policy debate

The six (6) top speakers in each Cross Examination Policy debate category will be determined on the basis of the preliminary rounds only. The debater with the highest point total will be the best speaker and the second best will have the second highest point total, etc.

J. Determining winners in Student Congress

1. Each official scorer in Student Congress shall nominate in writing a contestant as the Outstanding speaker.
2. In addition, the official in charge of Congress shall place in nomination the top two Speaker Point recipients for that chamber.
3. The members shall immediately vote by ballot for the most outstanding members.
4. Preferential balloting is encouraged.
5. The student with the highest number of votes will be the Outstanding Speaker; the second highest will be the Superior Speaker.

K. All-Star Cast

1. Each judge shall list in order of preference all performers he/she deems qualified to be in the All-Star Cast with the number not to exceed ten (10) students.
2. Each time an actor is listed on the judges' list is considered one vote. (Each judge can only vote for an actor once.)
3. The twelve (12) students receiving the most votes will be in the All-Star Cast unless it is determined by the Tournament Director that a more clear-cut line can be drawn after examining the tabulations. If the number is to stay at twelve (12) and a tie must be broken, use the same rules as for determining Best Performance by a Male or Female (See #4).



4. After the All-Star Cast is selected, award each student a number of points determined by his ranking, i.e.: A first place gets 10 points, a second place vote gets 9 points, a third place vote gets 8 points, etc. The two students having the most points will receive the Best Performance by a Male award and Best Performance by a Female award. This method shall also be used to break a tie for 10th place as described in #3.
5. If there is a tie after the tabulation of points, the tie shall be broken by selecting the student with the most first place votes. If none of these actors received first place votes, continue with second, third, etc. until a winner is decided.

Section VIII:

### Disqualification

- A. In the event there is a recommendation for disqualification from a judge or coach, only the Executive Director will have the final authority to disqualify the contestant from the round or from the complete contest.
  1. The Executive Director may request that the appropriate Board of Directors be convened to provide counsel and/or direction before making a decision.
  2. The decision of the Executive Director may be appealed to the State Board of Directors who are present at the Tournament at that time. It shall not be required that a quorum of the State Board of Directors be present to hear the appeal and their decision on disqualification after hearing from all interested parties shall be final. At the District Tournament, the District Director with consultation from the District Board of Directors will make the decision. Also, this decision as to disqualification at the District Level shall be final.
  3. The student's coach, if present at the state tournament, must be notified before the contestant can be disqualified.
  4. Any student disqualified will be notified personally by the Executive Director or his designated representative.
- B. In the event the issue of alleged plagiarism:
  1. If at anytime, during the State or District Tournament, a student, judge or coach believes that a team or individual is plagiarizing the blocking and or interpretation of a previously produced performance a formal protest may be made.
  2. Only a Coach may make a formal protest.

3. It is the responsibility of the accusing party to provide proof the contestant(s) in question is/are plagiarizing.
4. They shall bring the evidence to the Executive Director at the State Tournament or the District Director at the District Tournament. If the protesting coach is the District Director, they shall take it to the District Representative.
5. The coach of the students in question shall be present during the viewing of the evidence.
6. The judge (s) of the protested round shall view the evidence and if deemed appropriate, shall levy a penalty at their discretion.

Section IX:

### Awards

Awards shall be given for first through sixth places as follows:

- A. One-Act Play, Interpreters' Theatre, and Student Congress finalists will receive plaques or trophies.
  1. The best actor and best actress in One-Act Play will receive plaques or trophies.
  2. All members of the All-Star Cast will receive individual awards.
  3. The members of the first place cast in One-Act Play and Interpreters' Theatre will receive individual awards.
  4. The presiding officer of each Congress Chamber will receive a gavel.
- B. All finalists in individual events will receive trophies and all finalists, semifinalists and quarter-finalists in all areas of debate will receive awards. There will be trophies for each member of the winning debate teams and for both participants in duet acting and duo interpretation.
- C. Trophies and/or other awards given to contest winners in the District or State Tournament will be the property of the student and not the school represented.
- D. Large awards for the winners of the One-Act Play and Interpreters' Theatre will be the property of the school they represent.

- E. Individual members of the first place One-Act Play and Interpreters' Theatre will receive awards, which shall be considered the property of the students.
- F. The Tournament Director, with the assistance of the District Representative on the District level and of the State Chair at the State Tournament, will present the awards.

ARTICLE III:

RULES FOR EACH EVENT

Rules for the various contests of the Tennessee High School Speech and Drama League are listed below by categories, by events within categories, and with the rules and judging criteria for each event.

Any infraction of these rules shall be brought to the attention of the Tournament Director for appropriate action.

Statement of Policy:

The Tennessee High School Speech and Drama League assumes no responsibility for any material used at district and/or state levels. We would hope that all the material selected would be appropriate for high school students but the choice of the selection is at the discretion of the coaches and students. The judging criteria for all events in the THSSDL tournament does address the issue of selection of material in its instruction to the judges. Choice of selection is one of the criteria used in ranking contestants.

Guidelines for Laptop Use in Debate Events

- A. Computers equipped with removable wireless cards must have the cards removed before the beginning of any round of competition. It is the responsibility of the contestant to disengage the equipment.
- B. Computers with built-in wireless capability may be used only if the wireless capability is disabled. It is the responsibility of the contestant to disable the equipment.
- C. Computers with built-in wireless capability may be used only if the wireless capability is disabled. It is the responsibility of the contestant to disable the equipment.
- D. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information from any source (coaches or assistants included) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs. Internet access, use of email, instant messaging, or other means of receiving information from sources inside or outside of the competition room are prohibited.

- E. Penalty: Contestants found to have violated provisions A. through C. above will be forfeit the round. Contestants found to have violated provision D. (above) will be disqualified from the tournament.
- F. 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.
- G. 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.
- H. Because public speaking decorum remains an important element of debate, all debaters are expected to stand at the front of the room facing the judge while speaking.
- I. Contestants choosing to use laptop computers and related equipment accept the risk of equipment failure. Judges and/or contest directors will give no special consideration or accommodation, including no additional speech time or prep time, should equipment failure occur.
- J. By choosing to use laptop computers in the round, debaters are consenting to give tournament officials the right to search their computers. Debaters who do not wish to consent should not use computers in the round.

Section I:

CROSS EXAMINATION DEBATE is designed to promote the application of reason and persuasion following a structured format. A Novice Debater is defined as any student who is in their first year of debate.

- A. Contest requirements
  1. This is an open event at the State Tournament but entries must be filed with the District Coach's Intent to Compete Form. Debate teams will consist of two members each with a designated alternate should illness or disability of a regular member of the team occur.
  2. Each team will be required to debate both the affirmative and negative sides of the debate question. The proposition shall be the official NSDA topic for the year.

3. Debates are based on wins and losses in at least five (5) preliminary rounds, resorting to percentages in case of a tie. However, any debate team entering a district contest may enter the state tournament in debate, provided the team declares its intention at the district contest.
4. Teams that drop from the State Tournament (except in case of illness or death) later than five (5) days prior to the beginning date of the State Tournament will be fined \$10.00 per team dropped.
5. The time and order of the speakers in this contest will be as follows:
  - First Affirmative Constructive ..... 8 minutes
  - Negative Cross-Examination ..... 3 minutes
  
  - First Negative Constructive..... 8 minutes
  - Affirmative Cross-Examination ..... 3 minutes
  
  - Second Affirmative Constructive..... 8 minutes
  - Negative Cross-Examination ..... 3 minutes
  
  - Second Negative Constructive..... 8 minutes
  - Affirmative Cross-Examination..... 3 minutes
  - First Negative Rebuttal ..... 5 minutes
  - First Affirmative Rebuttal..... 5 minutes
  - Second Negative Rebuttal ..... 5 minutes
  - Second Affirmative Rebuttal ..... 5 minutes
6. No part of any speaker’s time will be given to another speaker.
7. Each speaker will have one cross-examination period. (Debaters shall not change speaker positions during the course of the debate round).
8. Each debate team will have a total of five (5) minutes “prep time” for each debate. When the time limit has been reached on preparation time, the timekeeper will start using the debater’s speaking time.
9. Debaters will cease speaking when the signal is given, continuing only long enough to complete the sentence being spoken.
10. Whenever a debater quotes at length the words of another, that fact must be plainly stated; proof of fabrication of evidence will disqualify a team from that round of debate. Disqualification involves loss of decision with no points.
11. New matter, except when it is in reply to arguments already presented, will not be introduced in rebuttal speeches.

12. In all contests, the debaters will be separated from the audience and will receive no coaching while the debate is in progress.
13. Speakers will not be interrupted during constructive or rebuttal speeches by their opponents.
14. Speakers from a third school will not hear a debate between two other schools in the preliminary rounds without the permission of the participating schools.
15. Doors will be closed during the debate.

B. Judging criteria

Cross-Examination Debate will be judged on the basis of which side, in the opinion of the judges, better defended the affirmative or negative position. The judge will evaluate each speaker on the basis of that speaker's ability to analyze the issues, to reason, and to organize his/her presentation. The judge will evaluate the debater's abilities to use evidence and skill in refutation. Lastly, the judge will evaluate the debater's ability to speak clearly and to make arguments understood. Debate is a persuasive art, and the debater should be able to communicate clearly to the judge.

C. Timekeepers may be provided in this event.

Section II:

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE involves two speakers, one fulfilling the responsibilities of the affirmative and the other the negative. Since contestants participating in the Lincoln-Douglas type of debating are usually speaking to an audience, they should develop a direct and communicative delivery. Emphasis is necessarily placed upon the issues rather than upon strategy in developing the case. The statement of the topic is a resolution of value rather than policy, which results in emphasizing logic, theory and philosophy while eliminating plan arguments. A contestant should be well read on the subject and should use evidence where necessary to support his/her arguments. A Novice debater is defined as any student who is in their first year of high school debate.

A. Contest requirements

1. This is an open event at the State Tournament but entries must be filed with the District Coach's Intent to Compete Form.
2. The proposition to be debated shall be the NSDA March/April topic.

3. This one-person event requires the participant to debate both sides of the proposition.
4. Because of the limited amount of time to prepare for the proposition, the emphasis necessarily is placed upon the issues rather than upon strategy developing the cases. Contestants may use evidence where necessary to support their arguments.
5. The time and order of speaking in this contest shall be as follows:
 

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
6. Each debater shall have a total of three (3) minutes for “prep” time for each debate. When the time limit has been reached on preparation time, the timekeeper shall start using the debater’s speaking time.
7. Debaters shall cease speaking when the signal is given, continuing only long enough to complete the sentence being spoken.
8. No new arguments may be introduced in rebuttals; however, refutation extensions of the arguments may be made and new evidence may be read.

**B. Judging criteria**

Lincoln-Douglas Debate shall be judged on the basis of which debater better defended the position assigned to him at the beginning of the debate. The judge will evaluate each debater’s analysis of the question, the reasoning used to develop the case, knowledge of the subject, and the quality of the evidence presented. The judge will also consider the debater’s speaking skills in refutation and the debater’s organization.

## Section III:

PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE is a team event that advocates or rejects a position posed by the resolution. A central tenet of the debate is that the clash of ideas must be communicated in a manner persuasive to the non-specialist or "citizen judge," i.e. a member of the American jury. The debate should display solid logic, reasoning, and analysis, utilize evidence but not be driven by it, present a clash of ideas, counter the arguments of the opponents (rebuttal), communicate ideas with clarity, organization, eloquence, and professional decorum. Public Forum Debate focuses on advocacy of a position derived from issues presented in the resolution, not a prescribed set of burdens. Logical reasoning, maturity of thought, and effectiveness of communication are of primary consideration. Evidence, examples, and analogies are to be used for the purpose of illustration. A plan or counter-plan is defined as a formalized, comprehensive proposal for implementation. Neither the pro or con side is permitted to offer a plan or counter-plan; rather, they should offer reasoning to support a position of advocacy. Debaters may offer generalized, practical solutions.

## A. Contest requirements

1. This is an open event at the State Tournament but entries must be filed with the District Coach's Intent to Compete Form. Debate teams will consist of two members each with a designated alternate should illness or disability of a regular member of the team occur.
2. The topic will be the April NSDA Public Forum Topic.
3. 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) goes to the team that loses the flip. Once speaking positions and sides have been determined, the debate can begin.
4. **Speeches**  
Each speaker shall have four minutes for constructive speeches, alternating between pro and con. Please keep in mind that the debate may begin with a con speech. The 1st speakers for each team will each give a 3-minute summary continuing established rotation. The summary speeches should include the arguments his or her team is winning and refuting of arguments it is losing. The 2nd speakers will each give a 2-minute Final Focus speech. The Final Focus is a persuasive final restatement of why a team has won the debate.



5. Crossfire

Following the first two constructive speeches, the two debaters who have just given speeches will stand and participate in a three-minute crossfire. At the conclusion of the last two constructive arguments, another three-minute crossfire takes place between the two debaters who just spoke using the crossfire procedure discussed above. In crossfire both debaters "hold the floor;" however, the first question must be asked by the speaker who spoke first. After that question, either debater may question and/or answer at will. At the conclusion of the summary speeches, all four debaters will remain seated and participate in a three- minute Grand Crossfire in which all four debaters are allowed to cross-examine one another. The first question must be asked by the speaker who gave the first summary speech. During the crossfire questioning periods, the time belongs to all debaters to ask and answer questions. The questions and answers should be brief and specific.

6. The time and order of the speakers in this contest will be as follows:

1st Speaker - Team A.....	4 Minutes
1st Speaker - Team B.....	4 Minutes
Crossfire .....	3 Minutes
2nd Speaker - Team A.....	4 Minutes
2nd Speaker - Team B.....	4 Minutes
Crossfire .....	3 Minutes
Summary (1st Speaker) Team A .....	3 Minutes
Summary (1st Speaker) Team B .....	3 Minutes
Grand Crossfire .....	3 Minutes
Final Focus (2nd Speaker) Team A .....	2 Minute
Final Focus (2nd Speaker) Team B .....	2 Minute

7. Debaters will cease speaking when the signal is given, continuing only long enough to complete the sentence being spoken.
8. Each team will receive three (3) minutes prep time. When the preparation time limit has been reached, the timekeeper will start using the debater's speaking time. No part of any speaker's time will be given to another speaker.
9. 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.
10. In all contests, the debaters will be separated from the audience and will receive no coaching while the debate is in progress.

11. Speakers from a third school will not hear a debate between two other schools in preliminary rounds without the permission of the participating schools.

#### B. Judging criteria

The judge should consider all of the above when making his/her decision. A judge should be as objective as possible. Judges should adjudicate the round as it is debated, not as they personally feel. The judge should ask himself/herself: Which debate team logically supported their position more effectively? New arguments in the final focus should be ignored. The final focus must be based on argument and issues previously addressed in the debate. Plans or counter-plans are not permitted. Logical reasoning, maturity of thought, and effectiveness of communication are of primary consideration. Evidence, examples, and analogies are to be used for the purpose of illustration. The judge will consider the debater's ability to speak clearly and to make his/her arguments understood. Since debate is persuasive art, the debater should be able to communicate logical, well-supported arguments to the judge.

### Section IV

GROUP EVENTS, defined in this league as Interpreters' Theatre and One-Act Play, are designed to provide an opportunity for students to work together and perform a dramatic work of art. All technical and performance components of the productions must be conducted and operated by students. Schools must bring their own audio equipment because the lack of uniformity of equipment makes it impractical for the host site to provide the equipment competing schools may need. **For all group event entries, competing schools must submit the original literature or material used, as well as a separate script that indicates any minor changes made for the purpose of performance unity/transitions.**

#### **Use of online publications for group events.**

The following identifies the methods by which online publications may be allowable for competition:

1. Only material that can be printed directly from the web page, without authentication or membership, is allowed.
2. The literary material is from a website with strict editorial submission standards that include editorial review and acceptance prior to publication, such as CNN, NPR, or Project Gutenberg. Sites found on NSDA's approved websites list meet this burden.
3. Material may not come from any personal site (such as blogs and social media platforms), personal professional site (those where a writer can place their works for sale or view), or instant publish sites (those sites without a selection process).
4. Material must be drawn from a site that has been in existence for a minimum of two years prior to competition date and must be verifiable on the web if challenged.

A. INTERPRETERS' THEATRE is an activity in-group interpretation. The style of the performance is based on the traditions of oral interpretation with emphasis placed on the literature. Movement and the creation of stage pictures by the interpreters are permitted. Interpreters' Theatre is presented in a different form from conventional theatre and should not serve as a substitute. In conventional theatre, a "representational" type of performance is used: the actors "become" the characters they portray; and realistic settings are used. In Interpreters' Theatre, a "presentational" style of performance is used: the artists "suggest" characters, scenes and situations. The dramatization is in the audience's mind.

1. Contest requirements

- a. Presentation shall be from a script developed from published short stories, song lyrics, novels, and/or collections of prose and/or poetry. Scripts may be organized around a central theme. Presentations may not be from plays. Major changes to the literature, including rewriting or embellishing is prohibited. Minor changes for the purpose of maintaining a logical, dramatic flow are allowed. Original or unpublished for the purposes of brief transitions between literature selections is allowed.
- b. An introduction and transitions may be used to clarify the meaning and enhance the understanding of the literature. Introductions and transitions may be original.
- c. The time limit is 25 minutes total, which includes set up, performance, and strike. Performances running longer will be penalized and/or disqualified.
- d. All introductions or explanations will be counted as part of the overall time.
- e. Cast size is designated as three (3) or more.
- f. The use of manuscript(s) is optional.
- g. Performers may change locations on stage; however, excessive interaction between characters is discouraged. An offstage focus should be maintained by the performers when portraying characters.
- h. Participants may use uniformity of dress or subtle costuming if deemed necessary.
- i. The number of cast members equals the number of hand props that may be used. The number of cast members equals the number of set pieces that may be used.
- j. The use of music, sound effects and equipment is optional. All such equipment shall be provided by the competing school.

2. Judging criteria

- a. The judges shall sit apart from one another, and without consultation, enter an evaluation of each presentation taking into consideration the following essentials:
  - 1. Selection, adaptation, and suitability of the material to Interpreters' Theatre. The integrity of the literature must be maintained.
  - 2. The physical arrangement of the performers.
  - 3. The unity of the performance.
  - 4. How well the cast uses scripts, if used.
  - 5. The communicative skills — vocal projection and voice control.
- b. The judges shall also consider the overall effectiveness of the production and its appropriateness for Interpreters' Theatre. Judges shall rank and rate each entry. Judges should not place any two casts in the same rank.

B. ONE-ACT PLAY is a contest of the production skills of the traditional play and involves all the elements present in any good theatrical experience: good acting, staging and interpretation of the author's words. Set and costumes shall be considered secondary to the production.

1. Contest requirements

- a. The director must certify at the time of entry in the District Contest that permission has been obtained to perform the play or a portion of the play and that all royalties have been paid. The director shall list the publisher of the One-Act Play entry where applicable on the entry form. Only published plays may be used.

A copy of performance rights must be sent to the District Director before the District Tournament. A copy must be sent with Intent to compete to the Executive Director before the State Tournament.

- b. Before competition at the State Tournament, the directors of all district winners that advance shall also certify that the royalty for the performance at the state level has been paid.

- c. Presentation must be a one-act play, an act of a longer play, or a cutting from a long play.
- d. The time limit is 45 minutes total, which includes set up, performance and strike. Plays running longer shall be penalized and/or disqualified.
- e. Plays may be preceded by an explanation of not over three (3) minutes that is counted as part of the overall time.
- f. Plays may be humorous or serious in nature.
- g. Judges shall sit apart from one another, and without consultation, enter an evaluation of each presentation on a basis of 100%, taking into consideration the following essentials:
  - 1. Acting: characterization, interpretation, pantomime, tempo and teamwork (Approximately 60%).
  - 2. Diction: audibility of voice, purity of enunciation, flexibility of tone (Approximately 30%).
  - 3. Direction: stage grouping, entrances, exits, choice of play, choice of cast (Approximately 10%).
- h. Judges shall be instructed to disregard scenery and lighting in making their decision.
- i. Judges shall rank and rate each entry, being careful not to rank any two casts the same. Each judge shall then nominate, in rank order of preference, ten (10) performers for the all-star cast, said selection being based on outstanding individual performances in the contest as a whole. Ballots should then be signed and delivered to the One-Act chairperson.

## 2. Judging criteria

The One-Act Play shall be evaluated on the choice of the play and on its appropriateness to a One-Act Play contest and to high school performers. The overall direction and interpretation of the play as well as the staging shall be considered. Other elements of the production to be evaluated are the individual performers and how well each actor seems to understand and develop his character, the teamwork, or the working of an ensemble and the overall effectiveness of the play.

## Section V:

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS include speaking and oral interpretation events.

- A. Speaking events are After-Dinner speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, Impromptu Speaking, Informative Speaking, and Original Oratory. As such these events reflect the student's ability to organize and use communication and public address skills.

1. AFTER-DINNER SPEAKING

The After-Dinner speech generally is designed to entertain or to satirize. It should be structured as any speech would be and not as a monologue or stand-up comic routine. While it is basically humorous, the After-Dinner speech can offer some serious thought or comment on its subject.

a. Contest requirements

1. The After-Dinner speech may be on any subject, provided it is in good taste, but is usually designed to entertain the listener. An entry, therefore, may have a subject of light or semi-serious nature, but the speaker should project a light touch of satire or an amusing representation of truth.
2. It should not be a monologue or collection of jokes, but a well-organized speech.
3. The maximum time limit is eight (8) minutes with a 30 second "grace" period. Penalties shall be imposed for exceeding the time limit.
4. The speech must be memorized.
5. The speech must be the original work of the student. No more than 150 words may be quoted from another source. Any quoted material and ideas, which are not original with the student, should be cited in the speech.
6. Contestants are required to submit a copy of their speech to the Tournament Director prior to the contest with a signed statement verifying the originality of the work.
7. Visual aids are prohibited.

b. Judging criteria

After-Dinner Speaking will be judged on the subject of the speech and its development. Organization of the speech will be considered as well as the

general communication skill of the contestant. Among these skills are a good, clear speaking voice and natural gestures. The originality and appropriateness of the topic and the overall effect of the speech will be considered as well.

## 2. EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING

In this event, the student demonstrates knowledge of current events, and the ability to speak without a prepared speech or notes.

### a. Contest requirements

#### 1. The Topics

- (a) There will be a pool of at least fifteen (15) current event questions. Each round will use a different pool of at least fifteen (15) questions.
- (b) The topics must be in the form of a question. The topics will be taken from standard periodicals (including but not limited to Time, Newsweek, U.S. News and World Report) during the current school year.
- (c) After each round all topics used, as well as those rejected, are to be destroyed, so that no slips will be available for improper use. A new set of topics is to be used for the next round.

#### 2. The Draw (conducted by tournament officials not the judge)

- (a) Thirty minutes before the contest is to begin, the first speaker will draw three (3) topics, and within one minute choose one topic, and return the other two topics. The other contestants will draw in like manner, in the order of speaking, at intervals of eight (8) minutes.
- (b) The contestant will withdraw and prepare a speech without consultation and without reference to prepared notes. The contestant must keep his topic slip and give it to the judge.

#### 3. Preparation/Materials

- (a) Extemporaneous Speaking contestants may make use of electronic retrieval devices to store and to retrieve their subject files at all THSSDL tournaments (district and state). Students can retrieve extemporaneous files to read, but cannot

write speeches or organize their thoughts on the computers.

This rule in no way prevents students from still utilizing traditional paper copy files to enable the competitor to successfully compete in Extemporaneous Speaking.

THSSDL takes no position on which form of file storage is preferable for use at THSSDL tournaments (district or state).

- (b) Electronic retrieval devices are defined as laptop computers, netbooks, iPads, or other portable electronic retrieval equipment. Secondary devices such as flash drives or external hard drives are allowed as well. Cell phones or smart phones are prohibited from being used while preparing or before speaking at THSSDL tournaments (district or state).
- (c) Source Materials: Students may consult published books, periodical articles, newspaper articles, think tank articles, government reports or journal articles saved on their electronic retrieval device or present a hard copy form provided:
  1. There are no notations made within or on the saved article other than citation information.
  2. Any highlighting or underlining of the articles is done in only one color within each article. Bolding, italicizing, or any other manipulation of the original text of sources (other than highlighting or underlining as previously stipulated) is prohibited.
- (d) No other source materials will be allowed in the Extemporaneous prep room other than stated above. Pre-written Extemporaneous speeches, handbooks, briefs or outlines are prohibited from the prep room, whether stored electronically or present in hard copy form.
- (e) Power Source: Power plugs or outlets may not be used in the prep room at any time. All computers used in the prep room must be battery operated at all times.
- (f) Competitors are responsible for making certain their electronic retrieval devices are fully charged at the start of each competition day and for proper power management ensuring that their device remains functional throughout the competition day. Contestants may not use external power sources in the prep room, such as wall outlets and/or extension cords.



- (g) Internet: Extemporaneous Speaking contestants shall not access the Internet or communicate electronically with any other individual while in the prep room at any THSSDL tournament (district or state). All computers must comply with the following provisions.
1. Computers equipped with removable wireless cards must have the cards removed before the beginning of any round of competition. It is the responsibility of the contestant to disengage the equipment.
  2. Computers with built-in wireless capability may be used only if the wireless capability is disabled. It is the responsibility of the contestant to disable the equipment.
  3. Wired connections (Ethernet or phone) during rounds of competition are not permitted.
  4. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information from any source (coaches or assistants included) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs. Internet access, use of email, instant messaging, or other means of receiving information from sources inside or outside of the competition room are prohibited.
  5. Penalty: Contestants found to have violated provisions 1. through 3. Above will be ranked last in the round. Contestants found to have violated provision 4 (above) will be disqualified from the tournament.
- (h) Liability: Extemporaneous Speaking competitors accept full responsibility for the safety and security of their electronic retrieval devices throughout the entire course of any THSSDL tournament (district or state). THSSDL may put stickers and/or tape on computers to ensure they are not opened or used, or to ensure appropriate owners take their own machines. THSSDL does not assume any liability for the computers. Students are welcome to use locks or other such devices to secure their computers in the prep room. Students, parents, and coaches should be aware that the students are bringing and using the computers at their own risk. THSSDL is not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken computers.

4. The Speech

- (a) The maximum time limit for speaking is seven (7) minute with a 30 second “grace” period.
- (b) No notes are allowed during the presentation.
- (c) Penalties will be imposed for exceeding the time limit.
- (d) During the speech, the speaker will receive hand signals from a timekeeper.

b. Judging criteria

The contestant will be evaluated on his/her ability to organize and answer the question. He/she will also be judged on general knowledge of the topic area and on use of this knowledge to directly answer the question. Utilization of speaking time should also be considered. Communication skills -- a good, clear voice, natural gestures and movement, etc. -- are also very important.

3. IMPROMPTU SPEAKING

Impromptu is a limited prep event in which the speaker prepares and delivers a speech based on a drawn topic. The speaker demonstrates an ability to prepare a well-organized speech in a limited time. The speech is not a monologue or stand-up comic routine or a “canned speech”. The student further demonstrates the ability to speak without a fully prepared speech and notes. The speech may be serious and/or humorous, but must reflect the student’s ability to organize and use communication and public speaking skills.

a. Contest requirements

1. The Topics

- (a) Topics can be from various subjects (including but not limited to quotations, song lyrics, lists of words, historical figures, etc.).
- (b) A new pool of at least nine (9) topics will be used for each round.

2. The Draw

- (a) The judge will run the draw in the classroom.

- (b) The speaker will draw three (3) topics and choose one on which to speak. The other topics are returned to the pool of topics for that round.
- (c) The speaker has a total of thirty (30) seconds to choose a topic on which to speak.
- (d) After the speaker has chosen a topic, prep and speaking time will begin.

3. Preparation

- (a) The student may use up to, but not exceed, four (4) minutes of the total seven (7) minutes to formulate their speech. However, the speaker may begin speaking at any point after time begins.
- (b) No research or source materials, including electronic retrieval devices may be consulted during preparation.
- (c) The speaker may make notes while preparing the speech, but notes may not be used during the speech.

4. The Speech

- (a) The student must speak for a minimum of three (3) minutes.
- (b) The speaker may not exceed a total time of seven (7) minutes with a 30 second "grace" period.
- (c) Penalties will be imposed for exceeding time limits.
- (d) Time signals will be given to the contestant during the prep time and the speaking time.

b. Judging Criteria

The contestant will be evaluated on his/her ability to organize and deliver a clear and concise speech based upon the drawn topic. The contestant will also be judged by his/her original and creative approach to the drawn topic. Utilization of prep and speaking time should be considered, as well as communication skills- a good, clear voice, natural gestures and movement, etc. – are also very important.

#### 4. ORIGINAL ORATORY

The original oration is a serious speech, generally persuasive in nature. The speech must be the original work of the student including research, organization and preparation.

##### a. Contest requirements

1. Orations should be on a worthy and dignified subject delivered in a direct, earnest and sensible fashion. Such speeches are designed to persuade or move the will of an average audience.
2. The maximum time limit is ten (10) minutes with a 30 second “grace” period. Penalties will be imposed for exceeding the time limit.
3. Orations must be memorized.
4. The speech must be the original work of the student. No more than 150 words may be quoted from another source. Any quoted material and ideas which are not original with the student should be cited in the speech.
5. Contestants will be required to submit a copy of their speech to the Tournament Director prior to the contest with a signed statement verifying originality of the work.
6. Visual aids are prohibited.

##### b. Judging criteria

Original Oratory will be judged on the basis of the quality of the writing — organization, topic development, evidence and support and originality of thought. It will also be judged on the speaker's delivery — good vocal and physical control, an expressive voice, natural gestures and a persuasive style. All of these influence the total effect of the speech.

#### 5. TELEVISION BROADCASTING

TV Broadcasting is designed to give the student an opportunity to present a five-minute newscast as it might be seen on television.

##### a. Contest requirements

1. Draw (conducted by tournament officials not the judge)

- (a) Each participant shall be given thirty (30) minutes to prepare a five (5) minute television newscast.
- (b) The contestants will receive packets at eight (8) minute intervals according to his/her speaking order.

2. Materials

- (a) The packet will consist of materials provided by the wire services of Associated Press, United Press International, and/or any computer-generated news service. Each contestant and judge should receive the same packet of materials.
- (b) Printed materials provided the contestant shall include categories of interest from international, national, state, local (if available), human interest, sports and weather.
- (c) The contestant may use only the printed materials provided by the contest director, with the exception of a dictionary (if brought by the contestant) and original transitions.
- (d) A format opening and closing shall be given to each contestant by the contest director, but an original opening and closing may be used.

3. Preparation

- (a) Through a process of selecting and editing, each contestant shall arrange news items into a logical, sequential television newscast.
- (b) The contestant may not confer with anyone during preparation.

4. Performance

- (a) When possible, each contestant should be viewed live and on the TV monitor by the judges. All sections will be consistent.
- (b) During the performance, the contestant will receive hand signals from an official of the tournament indicating the amount of time he/she has left as follows:

4 minutes left	1 minute left	5 seconds left
3 minutes left	30 seconds left	0 time left
2 minutes left	10 seconds left	

- (c) Penalties (i.e. a drop in rank and/or points) will be imposed on contestants going more than ten (10) seconds over or under the time limit.

- b. Judging criteria

Television Broadcasting shall be judged on the student's selection and organization of news stories, vocal control, diction, eye contact with the camera, adherence to the time limit, poise as a newscaster, and overall performance.

6. INFORMATIVE SPEAKING

The Informative Speech is an original speech designed to explain, define, describe or illustrate a particular subject. The speech must be the original work of the student including research, organization and preparation.

- a. Contest Requirements

1. The general purpose of the speech is for the audience to gain understanding and/or knowledge of a topic.
2. The maximum time limit is ten (10) minutes with 30 second "grace" period. Penalties will be imposed for exceeding the time limit.
3. Informative speeches must be memorized.
4. The speech must be the original work of the student and not used by the contestant during a previous contest season. No more than 150 words may be quoted from another source. Any quoted material and ideas which are not original with the student should be cited in the speech.
5. Contestants will be required to submit a copy of their speech to the Tournament Director prior to the contest with a signed statement verifying originality of the work. The quoted material must be identified.

6. The use of audio/visual aids is optional. If used, the audio/visual aids should enhance, supplement, or support the message rather than distract from the overall effectiveness of the presentation.
  - a. During the presentation, no electronic equipment is permitted. Electronic equipment is defined as any object requiring an electrical cord, battery, or solar power to operate it (projectors, cell phones, radios, iPads, computers, etc.).
  - b. The use of live animals or any additional people as visual aids is not allowed during the speech.
  - c. Items of dress put on and/or removed for illustration during the course of the presentation are considered costumes and may not be used.
  - d. Visual aids may not violate policies as dictated by local and state law (weapons, drugs, etc.)
  - e. The host school is not responsible for providing any facilities, equipment, including tables, chairs, or easels, or assistance in a contestant's use of visual aids.
  - f. Expedient set up and take down of aids is expected.
  - g. If a visual aid displays published pictorial material, the source must be included in the text of the script, but it does not need to be cited orally.

b. Judging Criteria

The Informative Speech will be judged on the basis of the quality of the writing--organization, topic development, evidence and support, and originality of thought. Effective speeches provide new information or perspectives on a topic, including those that are widely known. It will also be judged on the speaker's delivery--good vocal and physical control, an expressive voice, natural gestures, and use of audio/visual aids, if used, to enhance the communication of the message.

- B. Oral Interpretation Events: Dramatic Interp, Humorous Interp, Poetry Interp, Prose Interp, Duo Interp, and Program of Oral Interp. As such these events reflect the student's ability to create, interpret, share and develop dramatic and/or humorous characters to impact the audience.

### **Use of online publications for interpretation events.**

The following identifies the methods by which online publications may be allowable for competition:

1. Only material that can be printed directly from the web page, without authentication or membership, is allowed.
2. The literary material is from a website with strict editorial submission standards that include editorial review and acceptance prior to publication, such as CNN, NPR, or Project Gutenberg. Sites found on NSDA's approved websites list meet this burden.
3. Material may not come from any personal site (such as blogs and social media platforms), personal professional site (those where a writer can place their works for sale or view), or instant publish sites (those sites without a selection process).
4. Material must be drawn from a site that has been in existence for a minimum of two years prior to competition date and must be verifiable on the web if challenged.
5. Material must still be printed and present upon request, with all changes made for sake of performance noted in the script.

#### **1. ORAL INTERPRETATION OF DRAMATIC LITERATURE**

##### **a. Contest requirements**

##### **1. Literature**

- (a) Literature for performance will be from published, printed novels, short stories, plays or poetry. The material should be of recognized literary merit.
- (b) Recorded material that is not printed and published is prohibited.
- (c) Material from the Internet that is not printed or published in any other media is prohibited.
- (d) A student may not use a cutting from a work of literature that that student used in THSSDL competition in any previous contest year.
- (e) The original published source of any selections used must be immediately available at the tournament, as well as a complete script of the cutting.
- (f) The literature may not be the student's own work.



(g) Monologues are acceptable.

2. Time

(a) The maximum time limit is ten (10) minutes with a 30 second “grace” period.

(b) The introduction to the selection is considered part of the overall time limit.

(c) Penalties will be imposed for exceeding the time limit.

3. Performance

(a) Vocal, facial, and bodily expressions may be used as long as they do not call attention to the interpreter as a performer, detract from the meaning of the material, or constitute acting or impersonation.

(b) Evaluation will be based on the student’s ability to reveal insight into the mood and implications of the selection, projection of the dramatic qualities, and success in creating a uniform scene or story.

(c) Literature will be performed from memory.

b. Judging criteria

Oral Interpretation of Dramatic Literature will be evaluated on the choice of selection - its appropriateness and literary merit and the challenge it offers the performer. The contestant will also be judged on the development of the character(s) within the scene and the effective use of dramatic timing. Vocal and physical control, as well as the overall effect of the selection, will also be considered.

2. ORAL INTERPRETATION OF HUMOROUS LITERATURE

a. Contest requirements

1. Literature

(a) Literature for performance will be from published, printed novels, short stories, plays or poetry. The material should be of recognized literary merit.

(b) Recorded material that is not printed and published is prohibited.

- (c) Material from the Internet that is not printed and published in any other media is prohibited.
- (d) A student may not use a cutting from a work of literature that the student used in THSSDL competition in any previous contest year.
- (e) The original published source of any selections used must be immediately available at the tournament, as well as a complete script of the cutting.
- (f) The literature may not be the student's own work.
- (g) Monologues are acceptable.

2. Time

- (a) The maximum time limit is ten (10) minutes with a 30 second "grace" period.
- (b) The introduction to the selection is considered part of the overall time limit.
- (c) Penalties will be imposed for exceeding the time limit.

3. Performance

- (a) Vocal, facial, and bodily expressions may be used as long as they do not call attention to the interpreter as a performer, detract from the meaning of the material, or constitute acting or impersonation.
- (b) Evaluation will be based on the student's ability to reveal insight into the mood and implications of the selection, projection of the dramatic qualities, and success in creating a uniform scene or story.
- (c) Literature will be performed from memory.

b. Judging criteria

Oral Interpretation of Humorous Literature will be judged on the choice of selection: its appropriateness, and literary merit and the challenge it offers the performer. The contestant will also be evaluated on the development of the characters within the scene and effective use of comic skills — timing, etc. Vocal and physical control and the ability to suggest characters will be important, as well as the overall effect of the selection.

Evaluation will be based upon the student's ability to reveal insight into the mood and implications of the selection, projection of the dramatic

qualities, and success in creating a uniform scene or story.

3. ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY

a. Contest requirements

1. Literature

- (a) Will be from a published printed work of poetry, but may not be from a play. The material should be of recognized literary merit. Song lyrics, even if they are used in a play or musical, are acceptable materials for performance.
- (b) More than one poem may be performed. Poems should be related. Transitions may be used.
- (c) Material from the Internet that is not printed and published in any other media is prohibited.
- (d) A student may not use a cutting from a work of literature that the student used in THSSDL competition in any previous contest year.
- (e) The original published source of any selections used must be immediately available at the tournament, as well as a complete script of the cutting.
- (f) The literature may not be the student's own work.

2. Time

- (a) The maximum time limit is five (5) minutes with a 30 second "grace" period.
- (b) The introduction to the selection is considered part of the overall time limit.
- (c) Penalties will be imposed for exceeding the time limit.

3. Performance

- (a) Vocal, facial, and bodily expressions may be used as long as they do not call attention to the interpreter as a performer, detract from the meaning of the material, or constitute acting or impersonation.

- (b) Contestants must use a manuscript.

b. Judging criteria

Oral Interpretation of Poetry will be evaluated on appropriateness of the selection to the event and to the contestant. Of special consideration will be the contestant's handling of the special language problems presented by poetry — meter, rhyme, imagery where applicable, and his/her ability to communicate meaning. The judge will also consider the contestant's vocal and physical control and how well the contestant handled the manuscript.

4. ORAL INTERPRETATION OF PROSE LITERATURE

a. Contest requirements

1. Literature

- (a) Literature for performance will be a published, printed prose work — fiction or nonfiction — such as novels, essays, short stories, etc., but not from poetry or plays.
- (b) Material from the Internet that is not printed and published in any other media is prohibited.
- (c) A student may not use a cutting from a work of literature that the student used in THSSDL competition in any previous contest year.
- (d) The original published source of any selections used must be immediately available at the tournament, as well as a complete script of the cutting.
- (e) The literature may not be the student's own work.

b. Time

- (a) The maximum time limit is five (5) minutes with a 30 second “grace” period.
- (b) The introduction to the selection is considered part of the overall time limit.
- (c) Penalties will be imposed for exceeding the time limit.

c. Performance

- (a) Vocal, facial and bodily expressions may be used as long as they do not call attention to the interpreter as a performer or detract from the meaning of the material.
- (b) A manuscript must be used.

B. Judging criteria

Oral Interpretation of Prose Literature will be judged on the basis of the appropriateness of the selection to the event and to the contestant. The student's understanding of the selection and the author, vocal and physical control, communication of meaning and how well she/he handled the manuscript will also be considered.

5. DUO INTERPRETATION

A. Contest requirements

1. Literature

- (a) Literature for performance will be from published, printed novels, short stories, plays or poetry. The material should be of recognized literary merit.
- (b) Recorded material that is not printed and published is prohibited.
- (c) Material from the Internet that is not printed and published in any other media is prohibited.
- (d) A student may not use a cutting from a work of literature that the student used in THSSDL competition in any previous contest year.
- (e) The original published source of any selections used must be immediately available at the tournament, as well as a complete script of the cutting.
- (f) The literature may not be the student's own work.

2. Time

- (a) The maximum time limit is ten (10) minutes with a 30 second "grace" period. Penalties may be imposed for exceeding the time limit.
- (b) The introduction to the selection is considered part of the overall time limit.

3. Performance

- (a) Two performers will present the literature from memory.
- (b) Each of the 2 performers may play one or more characters.
- (c) Both performers should participate in the memorized introduction.
- (d) Costumes and props may not be used.
- (e) The performers must use “off stage focus.”

Performers may not make any physical or eye contact with one another, except during the introduction.

- (f) Vocal, facial, and bodily expressions may be used as long as they do not detract from the meaning of the material. Movement is acceptable and may include standing, stepping, bending, pivoting, stooping, kneeling, turning, and/or changing positions. Excessive movement is discouraged. Movement that detracts from the meaning and content of the written piece of literature should be considered excessive.

B. Judging criteria

Duo interpretation will be judged on the choice of selection - its appropriateness and literary merit and the challenge it offers the performers. The contestants will also be judged on their abilities to interpret together on the development of the persona(e) within the selection, and on their good use of dramatic timing. Vocal and physical control, as well as the overall effect of the selection, will be considered.

Evaluation will be based on the students' ability to work together in the interpretation of the selection, as well as their abilities to reveal their insight into the mood and implications of the selection. The students' projection of the dramatic qualities and their success in creating a uniform scene or story should be considered.

6. PROGRAM OF ORAL INTERPRETATION

A. Contest Requirements

1. Literature

- a. POI is a program of oral interpretation of thematically-linked selections chosen from two or three genres: prose, poetry, plays. At least two pieces of literature that represent at least two separate genres must be used. Prose and poetry literature are defined within the rules for Prose and Poetry Interp.
- b. POI may use multiple sources for the program. All selections must be verbally identified by title and author. Students are encouraged to devote approximately equal time to each of the genres used in the program. This distinction pertains to these two or three genres as a whole, not types of literature within a genre (such as fiction/nonfiction).
- c. Transitions may be used.
- d. Material from the Internet that is not printed and published in any other media is prohibited.
- e. A student may not use a cutting from a work of literature that the student used in THSSDL competition in any previous contest year.
- f. The original published source of any selections used must be immediately available at the tournament, as well as a complete script of the cutting.
- g. The literature may not be the student's own work.

**2. Time**

- a. The maximum time limit is ten (10) minutes with 30 second "grace" period.
- b. The introduction to the selection is considered part of the overall time limit.
- c. Penalties will be imposed for exceeding the time limit.

**3. Performance**

- a. Vocal, facial, and bodily expressions may be used as long as they do not call attention to the interpreter as a performer, detract from the meaning of the material, or constitute acting or impersonation.
- b. Contestants must use a manuscript.
  - i. The intact manuscript may be used by the student as a prop, so long as it remains in the contestant's control at all times.

- i No costumes or props other than the manuscript are permitted.
- i The student must address the script; however, introduction and transitional material may be memorized.

4. Judging criteria

Program of Oral Interpretation will be evaluated on appropriateness of the selection to the event and to the contestant. The student's understanding of the selections, vocal and physical control, communication of meaning and how well she/he handled the manuscript will also be considered. The student's ability to present a theme through the literature and to transition smoothly from selection to selection should be considered.

- B. Acting and Theatre Specific Events: Duet Acting, Pantomime, Solo Acting, Storytelling, Theatre Design-Set, and Theatre Design-Costume. As such these events reflect the student's ability to work with use their imagination and skills to engage an audience.

**Use of online publications for Acting and Theatre events.**

The following identifies the methods by which online publications may be allowable for competition:

1. Only material that can be printed directly from the web page, without authentication or membership, is allowed.
2. The literary material is from a website with strict editorial submission standards that include editorial review and acceptance prior to publication, such as CNN, NPR, or Project Gutenberg. Sites found on NSDA's approved websites list meet this burden.
3. Material may not come from any personal site (such as blogs and social media platforms), personal professional site (those where a writer can place their works for sale or view), or instant publish sites (those sites without a selection process).
4. Material must be drawn from a site that has been in existence for a minimum of two years prior to competition date and must be verifiable on the web if challenged.
5. Material must still be printed and present upon request, with all changes made for sake of performance noted in the script.

1. DUET ACTING

- a. Contest requirements.



1. Literature

- (a) Two actors will present a selection or cutting from a published, printed play of recognized literary merit.
- (b) Each of the 2 performers may play one or more characters.
- (c) Both performers should participate in the memorized introduction.

2. Time

- (a) The maximum time limit is ten (10) minutes with a 30 second “grace” period.
- (b) The introduction to the selection and performance is considered part of the overall time limit. Both actors should participate in the introduction.
- (c) Penalties will be imposed for exceeding the time limit.

3. Performance

- (a) Costumes and stage make-up may not be used.
- (b) A maximum of two (2) hand props per team may be used (i.e. a book, letter, fan, etc.) and one (1) stage prop per performer (i.e. stool, table, etc.), but other may be pantomimed. Penalties will be imposed for the use of more than the specified number.
- (c) Literature will be performed from memory.

b. Judging criteria

Duet Acting will be evaluated on the choice and appropriateness of the selection, the team’s general acting ability, which includes such factors as understanding and development of the character, and physical control, including the blocking of the scene, vocal control, teamwork and believability.

2. PANTOMIME

a. Contest requirements

1. Pantomime is a silent, solo category; the performer may play as many roles as desired within the time limit.
2. It is not an improvisation, but a prepared and rehearsed performance.
3. It may be classic mime (birth-life-death cycle) or a single story mime (published or from the contestant's own imagination). It should be a silent commentary on human events. Competitors must give proper credit to the author of the selection.
4. The maximum time limit is five (5) minutes with a 30 second "grace" period. Penalties will be imposed for exceeding the time limit.
5. Any oral introduction to the mime is to be counted in the overall time limit.
6. The actor will be limited to one small hand prop (i.e. a book, letter, fan, etc.) and one stage prop (i.e. chair, stool, etc.). Others may be pantomimed. Penalties will be imposed for the use of more than the specified number.
7. No stage makeup or characterized costumes (i.e. clown suits, beggar rags, etc.) are permissible, but body suits, leotards, tights, etc., may be worn.

b. Judging criteria

Pantomime will be judged on the basis of the student's skill in the pantomime arts — precise movements which clearly show both situation and action; characterizing posture and movement which indicate age, health and personality of a character; the grace of the performer.

3. SOLO ACTING

a. Contest requirements

1. Literature  
The actor will present a selection or cutting from a published, printed play. The cutting may consist of a number of scenes but is restricted to one character.
2. Time
  - (a) The maximum time limit is eight (8) minutes with a 30 second "grace" period.
  - (b) The introduction to the selection and performance will

be considered part of the overall time limit.

(c) Penalties will be imposed for exceeding the time limit.

3. Performance

(a) Costumes and stage makeup may not be used.

(b) The actor will be limited to one small hand prop (i.e. a book, letter, fan, etc.) and one stage prop (i.e. chair, stool, etc.). Others may be pantomimed. Penalties will be imposed for the use of more than the specified number.

(c) Literature will be performed from memory.

b. Judging criteria

Solo Acting will be judged according to the choice and appropriateness of the selection to the performer and to the event. The judge will also consider the contestant's general acting ability, which includes such factors as understanding and development of the character, and physical control, including the blocking of the scene, vocal control and believability.

4. STORYTELLING

Storytelling is one of the oldest performing art forms and contestants should consider the vast heritage of this art. The purpose of this event is to give the student an opportunity to assume the role of a storyteller and thus recreate for the listener the delights of an interesting story. As part of his interpretation, the student should indicate his understanding of the atmosphere and/or culture from which the story came.

a. Contest requirements

1. Stories may be from published, unpublished, retold or original sources. If they are from any source other than the contestant, credit should be given to the source in the introduction. Subject matter may be humorous or serious in nature.

2. Time

(a) The maximum time limit is eight (8) minutes with a 30 second "grace" period.

(b) Any introduction given by the contestant shall be considered part of the overall time limit.

- (c) Penalties shall be imposed for exceeding the time limit.
  - 3. The story may be told in the contestant's own words without the use of notes. The contestant may use his/her own personal storytelling style or adopt another appropriate style.
  - 4. The contestant may use characterization and gestures while telling the story, but the emphasis is on the storyteller and his/her art. Movement is allowed. Hand props and costumes are not allowed. The contestant may stand or be seated.
- b. Judging criteria
- Storytelling shall be judged on the choice of the story, the style of the storyteller
- (which includes both oral and physical skills that enable the contestant to recreate the story in the mind of the audience), and on the ability to "tell" rather than "recite" the story.

## 5. THEATRE DESIGN: SET

This speaking event is for those who are interested in technical theatre. A participant must develop a set design concept for a predetermined play, communicate that concept to a panel of 3 judges using a visual display, and defend that design to them in a limited amount of time using good communication skills, both physical and vocal. A prepared speech is required. Extemporaneous responses are also required. A physical product must be presented.

Special Note: If there are 6 or less contestants at the State level for both Set and Costume design, the two events will be combined and judged as a single event.

### a. Contest requirements:

- 1. The student must design a set for one of three predetermined plays. The plays will be chosen at the fall state board meeting and distributed through email and printed in the spring edition of the Communicator.
- 2. The student must construct an original **colored** 3-dimensional model or create a **colored** perspective drawing to the scale of  $1/2" = 1'0"$ , showing the set and its relationship to the theatrical space. The proscenium arch and wing space must be revealed in the model, and the proscenium arch must be included in the drawing. The student may also present a collage of research limited to one standard sized poster board.

At least one figure must be included in to one standard sized poster board. At least one figure must be included in the drawing or model to show proportion and scale.

3. Only one student may be involved in the development and presentation of the design. No collaboration is permitted. The design should be the original work of the student. Any research should be documented.
4. The student will be allowed 3 minutes to set up the design presentation in the room.
5. The student must present a **5 to 7 minute** oral justification of the design. Note cards may be used.
6. Judges will be given a 5-minute time period to question the student about the design concept. No additional time may be given. Each judge should have the opportunity to ask at least 1 question. If time permits, additional questions could be asked. **Boards/models will be held for judges to peruse and will be returned to ballot table before the award ceremony.**

b. Judging criteria

The contestant will be evaluated on his/her ability to communicate the ideas created for the chosen play in an organized and understandable manner with an emphasis on how the design reinforces the mood, style, character and theme of the play. His/her visual display should be executed with precision and clearly demonstrate the design concept throughout the presentation. The judge should pay special attention to the use of the playing space and its flexibility for the movement of the actors. The contestant's use of time for each segment should also be considered. Extemporaneous responses should be articulate and to the point. His/her physical and vocal control will also be judged.

6. THEATRE DESIGN: COSTUME

This speaking event is also for those who are interested in technical theatre. A participant must develop a costume design concept for a predetermined play, communicate that concept to a panel of 3 judges using a visual display and defend that design to them in a limited amount of time using good communication skills, both physical and vocal. A prepared speech is required. Extemporaneous responses are also required. A physical product must be presented.

Special Note: If there are 6 or less contestants at the State level for both Set and Costume design, the two events will be combined and judged as a single event.

- a. Contest requirements:
1. The student must design costumes for one of three predetermined plays. The plays will be chosen at the fall state board meeting and distributed by email and printed in the spring edition of the Communicator.
  2. The student must present 5 character renderings. These may represent 5 different characters and/or follow a single character through several appropriate changes. No more than 5 renderings will be permitted. No finished costumes will be permitted, but fabric samples/swatches are expected. The student may also present a collage of research limited to one standard sized poster board.
  3. **On the display board(s), all figures must be between 7"-11" tall.** Template or traced characters may be used as a base, but costumes and accessories must be the student's original work. **Each rendering should be labeled with the character name and scene number.**
  4. Only one student may be involved in the development and presentation of the design. No collaboration is permitted. The design should be the original work of the student. Any research should be documented.
  5. **The student must present a 5 to 7 minute oral justification of the design. Note cards may be used.**
  6. Judges will be given a 5-minute time period to question the student about the design concept. No additional time may be given. Each judge should have the opportunity to ask at least 1 question. If time permits, additional questions could be asked. **Displays will be held for judges to peruse and will be returned to ballot table before the award ceremony.**

b. Judging criteria

The contestant will be evaluated on his/her ability to communicate the design concept created for the chosen play in an organized and understandable manner with an emphasis on how the design reinforces the mood, style, character and theme of the play. His/her visual display should be executed with precision and clearly support the design concept. The contestant's use of time for each segment will also be considered. Extemporaneous responses should be articulate and to the point. His/her physical and vocal control will also be judged.

## ARTICLE IV: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE JUDGE

## Section I:

It shall be the duty of the Tournament Director or his designee at the District Tournament and the Executive Director or his designee at the State Tournament to prepare judging assignments in advance of the rounds and to inform all judges of their duties and responsibilities.

## Section II:

All judges shall be provided with a copy of the rules and the judging criteria for each event they are assigned to judge. It is the responsibility of the individual judge to read the rules and to judge the event according to the criteria established by the Tennessee High School Speech and Drama League.

- A. The judge shall be informed in advance where to get ballots for the event prior to the beginning of the round. Either the judge shall pick up the ballot or it shall be delivered.
- B. The judge shall record only the code and student's name(s) for all individual events.
- C. No judge shall judge the same debate team twice or judge twice in the same individual event. No judge should judge both the preliminary and final round of Interpreters' Theatre. If a judge is assigned to judge where he cannot, he/she should bring it to the attention of the official in charge of assigning judges.
- D. A judge may not judge his/her own student or former student, a contestant who attends the school the judge represents, or a contestant who is a relative or personal friend of the family. A judge may not judge a contestant if they have at any time attended the same high school together as students. In any case where the judge, the contestant, or the contestant's coach may consider a conflict of interest, the judge should excuse himself/herself from the round. Any disputes in this regard must be brought to the attention of the Tournament Director prior to the beginning of the round. The Tournament Director shall have the authority to take appropriate action in each case.
- E. Judging Individual Events and Interpreters' Theatre
  - 1. The rules for the event and judging criteria shall be used to evaluate each entry. Assign the top ranking (1) to the contestant considered the best in the round. This contestant must also receive the highest percentage points (75-100). The second place ranking must receive the second highest percentage points, etc.
  - 2. No two contestants shall be given the same ranking (#1, #2, etc.), but

two contestants can have the same percentage points. Determine which contestant should receive the higher ranking on the basis of the performance.

3. Complete the official Tennessee High School Speech and Drama League ballots with useful, constructive criticisms, which emphasize the positive as well as the negative.
4. Record all information requested on the individual ballot as well as on the tabulation sheet. Double check to make sure that all rankings and percentage points on the tabulation sheet and on the individual ballots match and that all the ballots and the tabulation sheet are signed.
5. Return the ballots and tabulation sheet immediately upon completion to the proper location indicated by the Tournament Director. Wait until the ballots and tabulation sheet are checked by the tournament official in case there are questions about scoring.

F. Judging the One-Act Play

1. Follow instructions #1-5 above.
2. Take notes during each performance, listing students who gave excellent performances. These choices shall be listed in order of preference on the form provided by tournament officials for making ten (10) nominations for the All-Star Cast.

G. Judging Theatre Design

1. Set: The contestant will be evaluated on his/her ability to communicate the ideas created for the chosen play in an organized and understandable manner with an emphasis on how the design reinforces the mood, style, character and theme of the play. His/her visual display should be executed with precision and clearly demonstrate the design concept throughout the presentation. The judge should pay special attention to the use of the playing space and its flexibility for the movement of the actors. The contestant's use of time for each segment should also be considered. Extemporaneous responses should be articulate and to the point. His/her physical and vocal control will also be judged.
2. Costume: The contestant will be evaluated on his/her ability to communicate the design concept created for the chosen play in an organized and understandable manner with an emphasis on how the design reinforces the mood, style, character and theme of the play. His/her visual display should be executed with precision and clearly support the design concept. The contestant's use of time for each segment will also be considered. Extemporaneous responses should be articulate and to the point. His/her physical and vocal control will also be judged.

H. Judging Cross-Examination, Public Forum Debate and Lincoln-Douglas Debate (Experienced and Novice)



1. Listen to the round and then determine a winner. The completed ballot should justify the decision.
2. Each speaker or team in the round shall be assigned speaker points according to the guidelines of the ballot. In Cross-Examination and Public Forum Debate, rank each speaker with the best speaker being ranked #1, etc.
3. The speaker points must coincide with the decision. The winning team or debater must have higher points than the losing team or debater. They may, however, have equal points. In Cross-Examination and Public Forum Debate, the team point totals should be higher for the winning team than for the losing team. The team points may be equal. The speaker rankings should be consistent with the decision. A #1 and #4 split is possible for a winning team but not a combination of #3 and #4 for speaker ranks.
4. Before turning in a ballot to the proper official, double check it carefully to make sure that it is signed and that it indicates the correct code and side of the winner. Wait until the ballot is checked by a tournament official before leaving in case there is some question about the ballot.

I. Judging Student Congress

1. The official scorer may award up to six (6) points for each speech or hour of presiding. As the student finishes a speech, record from one (1) to six (6) points next to the student's name on the chart.
2. All speeches shall be a maximum of three (3) minutes, including questions. A timekeeper should call "Time" at the expiration of three (3) minutes. The presiding officer may allow the speaker on the floor to finish his/her sentence in overtime or allow an answer to a question to be given in overtime; however, this should be held to an absolute minimum. An authorship speech will have an additional two minutes of cross-examination to follow the speech. The two-minute cross-examination does not apply to amendments.
3. Parliamentary motions and questions are not regarded as speeches and should not be scored.
4. At the end of each legislative hour, the official scorer shall award the presiding officer one (1) to six (6) points based on his/her abilities as a presiding officer and his/her knowledge of parliamentary procedure.
5. Committee participation may be scored as one speech (6 points). The committee chairman shall provide the official scorer with a list of members who participated in discussion.
6. At the end of the scoring period, the official scorer shall nominate in writing one student that he/she actually heard speak as the outstanding speaker of that session. The nomination should be consistent with the points given (i.e. the speaker with the highest points should be nominated).

7. The official scorer also serves as the official parliamentarian and shall exercise general supervision over the entire Congress. The scorer will intervene in case a student officer becomes too deeply involved in parliamentary rules, will correct gross errors in procedure, and will record actions taken. Ordinarily, the scorer should remain in the background, but should step forward firmly when his/her presence is required. This step will be especially necessary when the presiding officer is weak. The purpose of Congress is to debate legislation, and it is the scorer's duty to see that this is done. The scorer may call upon the official in charge of Congress to intervene in extreme cases.
  
- J. Judges in any event shall not give oral critiques nor shall they reveal their decisions until after the tournament is completed.
  
- K. In rounds where there is more than one judge, they must sit apart and must not confer during the event, except as is necessary for purposes of getting information. They should not discuss their decision.
  
- L. In any round where there is no timekeeper, the judge should keep time on a stopwatch if possible. Since there are very strict rules about time limits, the judge must be careful that the time kept is accurate. If there is any doubt about the accuracy of the timing in the round, it should not be used as a criteria for ranking and scoring the contestant.
  
- M. Should a contestant violate any of the rules provided, the judge may penalize the individual by giving a lower rating and ranking or recommend to the Tournament Director that he/she be disqualified. A judge may not disqualify a contestant.
  
- N. Any infraction of the above rules shall be brought to the attention of the Tournament Director and/or the State of District Board of Directors for appropriate action.

STUDENT CONGRESS gives the high school student an opportunity to practice the debate skills necessary for the legislative process. During the course of the sessions of Congress, the students propose bills and resolutions, debate them pro and con, and finally vote on them, much as is done in the actual legislative process.

A. Contest requirements

1. Congress takes place as an open event at the time of the State Tournament. Although a District Director may choose to hold a Congress at the district level, it will not be for the purpose of determining eligibility for the State Congress.
  
2. One piece of legislation per student participating in Congress must be submitted to the official in charge of Congress no later than one week prior to the State Tournament. It must be typewritten, double-spaced, contain

numbered lines, and follow NSDA guidelines.

3. The order of debating the legislation (calendar) shall be decided by the members of the chamber at the beginning of the session.
4. All speeches will be a maximum of three (3) minutes, including questions. The presiding officer will appoint a member of the chamber to be the official timekeeper. Use a stopwatch or an automatic timer to time speakers and call "Time" at the expiration of three (3) minutes.
5. The author of the bill or resolution, or someone appointed by him/her, shall be recognized to open the debate, but thereafter he/she shall take his/her chance with the rest of the members for further speaking opportunities. The authorship speech, which justifies the piece of legislation, shall be a maximum of three (3) minutes in length, but this authorship speech will have an additional two (2) minutes of cross-examination to follow the speech for purposes of clarifying the author's intent behind the legislation. In the event the author of a bill or resolution is not in attendance, a Congressperson from the authorship school or a Congressperson from the same district shall be entitled to, but not required to, present the authorship speech.
6. The two-minute addition in time for cross-examination does not apply to authorship speeches on amendments.
7. The "Table of Most Frequently Used Parliamentary Motions" (adapted for use in NSDA Student Congress) and Roberts' Rules of Order shall be used as the parliamentary authority.
8. A presiding officer shall be elected by ballot by the Student Congress from those indicating a desire to run at the time of registration. Each person so declaring will be given twenty (20) to (30) minutes presiding time at the end of which time members of the Congress will elect the presiding officer who will preside for the remainder of the Congress.
9. The official in charge of Congress shall appoint the student who will open the Congress.
10. There shall be at least four (4) hours of debate with each hour scored by a different judge. Judges will be assigned by the Judge Assignment Personnel from the regular pool of qualified judges.
  - a. Speakers shall receive from one (1) to six (6) points per speech depending on the quality of the speech.
  - b. Students may earn a maximum of twenty-four (24) points per day for speeches.

- c. Each official scorer shall nominate in writing at least one outstanding speaker. In addition, the official in charge of Congress shall place in nomination the top two (2) Speaker Point earners for that chamber. At the end of the last session, the members of the Student Congress will vote to determine the outstanding and the superior speaker from those nominated for that chamber.
- d. Awards shall be given to the outstanding speaker (first place), the superior speaker (second place), and to the presiding officer of each chamber.

B. Judging criteria

Each official scorer shall award points to each speaker based on the speaker's ability to defend his/her position on the legislation, the use of evidence to support the position, and the ability to refute statements made by previous speakers or to extend arguments made by speakers holding the same position.

Congress Textbook  
(Adapted from the NSDA CONGRESS TEXTBOOK)

1. Understanding Legislation

A bill is an enumeration of specific provisions which if enacted will have the force of law. A resolution is simply a generalized statement expressing a conviction. A resolution will generally center debate on the broad principles of the concept; a bill is more apt to delve into the merits of the specific provisions it contains. Although they are not necessary, a resolution may have whereas clauses, but a bill never has them. The use of both bills and resolutions will add variety to congress proceedings.

Resolutions

A simple resolution is passed by one house alone. Simple resolutions are usually generalized statements expressing the belief of the group adopting them, and they do not have the force of law. Constitutional amendments fall into this category since they must be submitted to the states after they are passed by congress. Resolutions may be preceded by one or more whereas clauses stating the principal reasons for adopting the resolution, but their number should be limited and may be omitted altogether.

Simple Resolution

- 1 Whereas, it is axiomatic that it is fundamental to our
- 2 country and her constitutional way of life that where the
- 3 Press can continue to be free, so, too, will our people remain
- 4 free, and
- 5 Whereas, freedom of the Press may be stilled by direct or
- 6 indirect restraints, and currently is, and
- 7 Whereas, the disclosure of confidential news sources
- 8 threatens the Press's ability to obtain information, and
- 9 Whereas, research shows that every major scandal in

10 public office in the past twenty years was revealed by  
11 journalists, and

12 Whereas, if we fail to protect confidential news sources  
13 we may never have this information again, and

14 Whereas, the failure to guarantee confidentiality of news  
15 sources threatens to preclude the fulfillment of the public's  
16 right to know, therefore

17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives in 18  
Student Congress assembled that two levels of protection 19  
for newsmen's sources will be established.

20 1. An absolute immunity from forced disclosure before  
21 grand juries, legislative committees, and government  
22 agencies.

23 2. A severely limited immunity before open courts  
24 involved in criminal cases

## Bills

A bill is an enumeration of specific provisions which if enacted will have the force of law. It must be definite; it must state exactly what is to be done or not to be done. A penalty must be stipulated or the law will not have force. A bill does not have "whereas clauses."

## A Bill

1 Be it enacted by the Senate in Student Congress  
2 assembled that  
3 Section 1. All journalists and news reporters or anyone  
4 associated with publication, news service, or radio or  
5 television, be protected from identifying confidential  
6 sources or produce unpublished information  
7 Section 2. An instance in which only all three of the  
8 following conditions are met will a journalist or news  
9 reporters, or anyone associated with publication, news  
10 service, or radio or television, be compelled to reveal  
11 confidential sources, or unpublished information:  
12 A. There is evidence that protected person has  
13 information of a law violation.  
14 B. There is no alternate means of obtaining the  
15 information.  
16 C. There is a compelling and overriding national  
17 interest in the information or source.  
18 Section 3. Anyone found in violation, either by with-  
19 holding evidence that meets the three requirements or by  
20 illegally obtaining confidential sources or unpublished  
21 information, can receive a minimum sentence of four years  
22 in prison and/or \$1,000 fine.

## Preparing Legislation

In constructing your bill or resolution, be sure that the following procedures are followed:

1. The bill or resolution must be typed.
2. The typing must be double spaced, and the bill or resolution may not be longer than one page.
3. The first words of a bill are "Be It Enacted"; following any whereas clauses the first words of a resolution are "Be It Resolved."
4. Each line of a bill or resolution must be numbered.
5. A resolution may be preceded by one or more "whereas clauses" but bills and joint resolutions never have them.
6. The language of a bill must always be in the imperative mood. That is, it must state exactly what is to be done and by whom. Bills and or resolutions that do not conform to the NSDA Congress guidelines may be rejected from consideration for the Student Congress calendar.

## Offering Amendments

Amendments must be in writing and state exactly the words to be added or stricken out. They will be considered only if they are presented to the Presiding Officer before being introduced from the floor on the proper amendment form and only if they receive a second from one third of the members. Amendments are not guaranteed an authorship speech.

In all Student Congresses, an amendment shall be considered neutral in the speaking order of proponent and opponent speeches on a bill or resolution.

### AMENDMENT

AUTHOR:  
BILL/RESOLUTION NUMBER:  
SCHOOL OR DISTRICT:  
LINES AFFECTED:  
SECONDED: (1/3 required)  
CHAIRPERSON NOTES:

AMENDMENT WORDING:

## PRESIDING OFFICER

The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall follow Parliamentary Procedure according to the NSDA rules and according to Robert's Rules of Order in the event

NSDA rules do not cover a question of procedure.

Bills and resolutions shall be considered in the order in which they appear on the calendar, unless the rules are suspended. (A motion to consider a bill out of sequence or not on the calendar at all is a suspension of the rules and requires a two-thirds vote.)

Resolutions not relating to legislation shall be considered as privileged and may be introduced at any time when no other motion is being considered. Such resolution shall be considered immediately.

The author of the bill or resolution, or someone appointed by him/her, shall be recognized to open the debate, but thereafter he/she shall take his/her chance with the rest of the members for further speaking opportunity. She/He does not have special privilege to close the debate. Authorship speech shall be a maximum of three (3) minutes in length, but this authorship speech will have an additional two (2) minutes of cross-examination to follow the speech. This two-minute addition does not apply to authorship speeches on amendments.

In the event the author of a bill or resolution is not in attendance, the Congressperson from the author's school or from the same district shall be entitled to, but not required to present the authorship speech.

Alternately recognize speakers who favor and oppose the motion.

Toward the close of the session announce that until further notice the Chair will recognize only those who have not spoken more than once. As soon as debate lags, state that general recognition will be resumed. It is not necessary that every member speaks but it is encouraged. Students should not be forced to contribute if they have no meaningful contribution.

Use of the motion for previous question shall be discouraged but not refused as long as members have something new to contribute to discussion. When debate and discussion becomes repetitive, allow the previous question without reservation. When debate becomes one sided, the previous question may be considered immediately and should be encouraged. When the motion is made take a standing vote, as two-thirds is required. When no one wishes the floor for debate, the vote shall be taken without the motion for the previous question.

Take a vote quickly and with precision. "The question is the adoption of the motion (state the exact motion). Those in favor say, " 'Aye'; opposed say 'No'. The Ayes have it and the motion is adopted." On the final vote on a bill or amendment to a bill and in all cases where other than a majority is required for passage, take a standing vote. A division of the house may be demanded by any two members on any question on which a voice vote has been taken. The call must be made before another motion has been placed before the assembly.

All voting in a student congress shall be done only by those members in the Chamber at the time of voting. Absentees and/or abstention shall not be counted in determining the results of a vote.

In regards to certain motions, it is not necessary to count the "nay" or "abstention" vote, such as with seconding of an amendment or for the motion to close debate. NSDA (quite different from Robert's) considers the will of the total chamber and therefore one third of the chamber must second an amendment and two thirds of the chamber must be in favor of closing debate. Never should an absentee or an abstention vote be counted as a "nay" vote in an NSDA Congress.

As soon as debate has been concluded on the last bill or at a designated time as fixed by the Congress Chairperson, conduct the election for superior members. The Parliamentarian should stress the need for selecting the most outstanding members and that "sympathy votes" should be discouraged.

After all elections have been held, ask for a motion to adjourn the congress.

## Members

Members should claim the floor in debate only if they wish to oppose the view of the preceding speaker so that debate will alternate. Members violating this principle are to be disciplined by refusing further recognition.

A member may speak more than once on the same question but it will count against his/her five allowed speeches per day. When the official scorer marks a name off the seating chart, the member is not to be recognized for debate unless no other Congressperson wishes to speak on the matter under consideration. In legislative debate, the Chairperson will recognize first those congress people who have spoken least or not at all.

A member may not yield any portion of his/her speaking time to another except for a question. However, only a question may be asked. No statement or exposition is permitted. Series of questions are not allowed. Congress should not be viewed as a press conference and even follow-up questions should not be allowed. Sign posting questions, followed by the primary question, should be discouraged.

There is a right way and wrong way to speak in a legislative session. By studying the table of motions and learning to use these motions in correct language, one will be taking a step forward in his effort to be a good congressperson.

When referring to another participant, use the following form: "Representative or Senator ... or the Representative from ..."

The correct way to obtain the floor to offer a motion or participate in the debate is to rise immediately at the conclusion of the preceding speaker's remarks and at the same time say: "Mr. President (or Mr. Speaker)." If the presiding officer recognizes you, then proceed to make your motion or discuss the pending legislation. If another member is recognized, take your seat until he/she relinquishes the floor.

If you wish to amend a motion that is before the house, you must gain the floor in the usual manner. Remember that your amendment must be sent to the Clerk before you can make the motion to amend. Make sure this has been done before you ask for the floor. When you have been recognized by the presiding officer say: "I move to amend the motion by....." and then state your amendment. One third of the members must then second the amendment before you can proceed to discuss it.

To interrupt a speaker for questioning, use the following procedure: "Mr. Speaker (or Mr. President), will the speaker yield to a question?". The chair will then ask the speaker if he/ she wishes to yield. If the speaker does not yield, resume your seat immediately, and do not interrupt him/her again. If she/he does yield, ask your question (one question) quickly and state it clearly and concisely. Prefatory statements and long questions are incorrect. Frequent interruptions of the same speaker will be discouraged.

Diplomacy is encouraged. If you have a question for the speaker on the floor, rise and that speaker will recognize you as soon as possible. The examiner should refrain from all interruptions unless absolutely necessary.

A chamber may also suspend the rules (two-thirds vote required) to allow the examination of a speaker to be controlled by that speaker on the floor, thus avoiding the process of directing questions through the chair. If this is done, the speaker on the floor may recognize questions or announce that no questions will be recognized.

Under no circumstances are you permitted to argue with your presiding officer. You elected him/her to preside over you and should abide by his/her decisions unless they violate the rights of the assembly or its members. You have only one recourse if you feel the presiding officer has made



a serious error, but before using it remember that congress is to debate legislation and not to "show off" knowledge of parliamentary law. If you believe that the error is significant enough, stand up and say, "I rise to a point of order." The presiding officer will say, "State your point." State what you think has been done wrong and then sit down. Until the presiding officer answers you, no other member is permitted to say anything. There can be no argument by you or any other member. The presiding officer may confer with the parliamentarian before answering. If you still feel that the presiding officer is wrong and the mistake should be corrected, you can rise and say, "I appeal the decision of the chair." The motion requires a second. There is no discussion, but the person making the motion may, in a few sentences, say why he/she thinks the presiding officer should be overruled. The presiding officer then takes the vote as follows: "Those voting to sustain the presiding officer; those voting to overrule the presiding officer." Once the vote has been taken and the results announced, the decision is irrevocable and no further discussion is permitted on the matter.

On Student Congress rules, your parliamentarian is the final authority, and he/she should, of course, correct any deviations from the rules.

All evidence used in the course of a Student Congress may be subjected to verification. Honesty and integrity are utmost in the course of legislative deliberations. Falsification or deliberate misuse of evidence may result in the member being suspended from congress.

## **Parliamentary Procedure Review**

It is necessary for all student congress participants to have a working knowledge of parliamentary procedure and congress rules. The following suggestions should be helpful:

Decision on all bills and resolutions will be by standing vote unless a roll call is demanded by one-fifth of the members.

A division of the house may be demanded by any two members on any question on which a voice vote has been taken. The call for Division must be made before another motion has been placed before the assembly.

A motion to suspend the rules of the assembly must be passed by two-thirds majority. This procedure is needed when the group needs to consider a bill or resolution which is not on the official calendar or when the order of considering the business on the agenda is to be altered.

Do not ask for the floor unless you wish to oppose the views of the preceding speaker. Debaters must alternate from affirmative to negative. If no one wishes to oppose the preceding speaker, the presiding officer may recognize the speaker upholding the same side.

All speeches are limited to three (3) minutes. A speaker must relinquish the floor at the expiration of his/her time. When a participant has spoken five times (parliamentary motions or questions not included), he/she will not be recognized by the chair unless there is no one else requesting an opportunity to speak. Speeches past the first five will not be scored.

The author of a bill or resolution, or someone designated by him/her (a person from the same school or district), is privileged to speak first on his/her bill or resolution. After that, he/she should take his/her chances with the rest of the members for further speaking opportunity. He/she does not have a special privilege to close the debate. Amendment will not guarantee an authorship speech.

Do not overwork the motion for the previous question. As long as anyone has something to say, try to give him/her a chance to say it.