

OHSSL DISTRICT TOURNAMENT MANUAL

I. GENERAL RULES:

A. The District Committee shall determine the date, site, and other conditions for the District Tournament and shall conduct the tournament according to the regulations provided. The District Tournament must be completed by the second Saturday in February unless the Executive Committee deems otherwise.

B. Eligibility - All contestants in the District Tournament must be students under twenty years of age, enrolled at the member school entering that event. No student below the ninth grade may compete in the District Tournament. A student is ineligible after eight semesters of attendance beyond the eighth grade. A student earning credit or receiving grades in any of those eight semesters shall be considered as having attended a full semester, unless the Executive Committee grants an exception. Once a student has competed in forensics on the college level, s/he shall be ineligible to compete at the high school level at District and PDQ Tournaments. No student may be allowed to participate in this tournament unless accompanied by an official representative of his/her school.

C. Entry - Each member school may enter a maximum of thirty-nine (39) slots with no more than four entries each in U.S. Extemporaneous, International Extemporaneous, Original Oratory, Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Oratorical Interpretation, Prose/Poetry, Impromptu Speaking, Duo Interpretation, Lincoln/Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate and Policy Debate. Each Duo, Public Forum and Policy team counts as one entry.

D. No student may participate in more than one event in this tournament.

E. Registration - Registration on the official form must be in the hands of the District Chairperson with all required information completed at least seven days before the tournament, giving the name of each contestant and event to be entered. Late registration shall require an extra fee of \$5.00 per school for each day late or \$1.00 for each entry, whichever is smaller; but no registration shall be accepted within 72 hours of the tournament opening, nor any change thereafter permitted except cancellation or the substitution of one contestant for another in the same event.

F. Fees - A suitable registration fee, determined by the District Committee, shall be paid at the time of registration for each student. No fee shall be refunded for cancellation of a tournament entry. All League financial obligations must be paid to the League Office by January 15 in order to participate in OHSSL District Tournaments.

G. Judges - The District Committee shall determine the number of judges to be used, subject to the registrations hereinafter provided, and shall determine the number of judges to be supplied by each competing school. All Individual Events judges must have judged Individual Events prior to the current year's tournament. All Lincoln/Douglas Debate judges must have judged Lincoln/Douglas Debate prior to the current year's tournament. All Debate judges must have judged Debate prior to the current year's tournament. If a judge to be supplied by a school fails to meet a judging assignment, a

fine shall be assessed, and failure to pay may bar the school from the following year's District Tournament. If a judge in Individual Events is a first-year high school graduate, s/he may not judge the event(s) in which s/he competed. No judge may judge the event(s) in which a close family member is competing. The first-year rule and the family member rule do not apply to Debate.

H. Timekeepers - The time limit for the Extemporaneous and Impromptu speaking categories is seven minutes with a thirty-second grace period. The time limit for all other individual events is ten minutes with a thirty-second grace period.

J. The use of e-mail as a source shall not be permitted for any event.

K. State Qualification - The number of qualifiers to the State Tournament from the District Tournament shall be according to the following schedule:

ENTRIES		QUALIFIERS	
		36-38	11
		39-42	12
1-3	1	43-45	13
4-6	2	46-49	14
7-9	3	50-52	15
10-17	5	53-56	16
18-21	6	57-59	17
22-24	7	60-63	18
25-28	8	(Continue at a 3, 4 sequence)	
29-31	9		
32-35	10		

All Districts are eligible for two alternate positions in each category. Those alternates must be listed on the District Report.

L. If a competitor or a team, because of illness or other circumstances, cannot complete his/her or their round assignments, s/he or they is/are to be given a loss in that debate round or last place in that IE round.

II. DISTRICT COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES:

The District Committee has full power to adjudicate any disputes relating to the interpretation of the Constitution, By-Laws, and Tournament Manual in the conduct of the tournament but may not change the rules herein provided.

A. The District Committee is responsible for the proper conduct of the District Tournament and for the prompt correction of any major error(s) that may occur during it.

B. Any coach, judge, or participant who becomes aware of any deviation from the rules shall immediately notify the District Committee.

C. In the event that a coach or adult judge engaged in a District Tournament believes that a rule infraction has occurred, s/he should immediately bring the matter to the attention of the District Chairperson. In turn, the District Chairperson shall immediately call upon the District Committee for a decision regarding the dispute. The ruling of the District Committee shall be considered final unless either party to the dispute wishes to bring the matter before the Executive Committee. In the event the District decision is appealed, it shall be done within forty-eight hours of the District Tournament and should be sent in writing to the Executive Director. In turn, the Executive Director shall place the matter before the Executive Committee for a final decision.

D. The District Committee must correct any error affecting qualification to the State Tournament before any qualifier in that event shall be accepted from the District.

E. The District Committee is responsible for reading and checking the original orations and the prose/poetry programs for infractions of OHSSL rules prior to the District Tournament. They must also complete the checklists provided in the District Tournament packet. The prose/poetry program is the property of the individual and the school submitting the program and may not be duplicated or used by any other school's competitors without attached written permission.

F. The ballots and the results of all rounds shall be made available to the coaches of the district schools at the conclusion of the District Tournament. The District Committee is not obligated to disclose any results until the Final Round has been completed.

G. The District Chairperson shall use the official forms provided to notify the Executive Director of the results of the District Tournament including PDQs and alternates before the established deadline.

H. At the conclusion of the District Tournament, the District Chairperson shall provide to each school with qualifier(s) the official registration materials for the State Tournament. The Chairperson shall have each coach sign the verification sheet, certifying that s/he has received the State Tournament registration materials. The District Chairperson shall send the signed verification sheet to the League Office with the results of the tournament. These registration materials must be properly completed and sent by the school to the League Office by the deadline date determined and announced by the Executive Director. Failure to fulfill this requirement shall result in the disqualification of that school's qualifier(s).

I. In addition to the official OHSSL District forms and verification sheet, the District Chairperson shall send original orations and prose/poetry programs for all qualifiers and alternates, one set each of the extemp questions and the Impromptu topics used in the District Tournament, the District Tournament results, and a copy of each school's District registration form to the League Office.

III. DISTRICT EVENTS

A. Debate

1. Each member school may enter a maximum of four entries in Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Public Forum Debate, minus PDQ slots previously earned, within the thirty-nine slot maximum per school.

2. Prior to the tournament, the District Committee shall select a plan for each debate category and notify the schools.

Plan #1: Each team debates two rounds alternating sides (1 affirmative, 1 negative). Qualifiers for the State Tournament shall be the team or teams with the best win-loss record, with ties broken by the highest number of total ballots won within the ratio prescribed in Part I, Section K. Ties for the last qualifying place must be broken by additional competition with sides chosen by drawing, unless the schools tied have met previously in the tournament; in that case, they must meet on opposite sides. It is possible for a team, after winning one run-off round, to achieve a bye and thus advance to the State Tournament. Refer to Appendix E. Panels of three judges must be used in all rounds of this plan.

Plan #2: Each team debates four rounds (2 affirmative, 2 negative). The District Committee may choose an option of a single judge, a panel of two judges, or a panel of three judges for these four rounds. Tie-breaking rounds must use a panel of three judges. Qualifiers for the State Tournament shall be the team(s) with the highest number of total ballots won within the prescribed ratio set in Part I, Section K. Ties for the last qualifying place(s) must be broken by additional competition with sides chosen by drawing, unless the schools have met previously in the tournament; in this case, they must meet on the opposite side. The total number of ballots is not to be considered in the tie-breaking rounds.

Plan #3: Each team debates two rounds alternating sides (1 affirmative, negative), with three judges in each debate. All teams having lost three or more ballots are eliminated unless this results in a fewer number of qualifiers than the ratio the District is entitled to for the State Tournament (See Part I, Section K). The remaining teams continue in single loss elimination rounds with three judges per round.

Plan #4: Each team debates four rounds (2 affirmative, 2 negative). All teams having won at least two ballots if a single judge is used, five ballots if two judges are used, or eight ballots if three judges are used per round, proceed to elimination rounds, unless this results in a fewer number of qualifiers than the ratio the District is permitted to qualify for the State Tournament as prescribed in Part I, Section K. The remaining teams continue in single loss elimination rounds with three judges per round.

A district also has the option to follow the format used for a PDQ tournament following the procedures for six (6) preliminary rounds (Appendix G).

3. Unless unavoidable, no teams from the same school shall debate each other in the preliminary rounds.

4. In all Debate categories, the contestants will time themselves and their competitors. A judge will be designated to monitor the timing of speeches and preparation time. All judges must have a timing device.

a. Policy Debate

1) A school may enter a maximum of four policy teams with each team prepared to debate both sides of the question. No substitutions may be made after the tournament starts. If an odd number of teams is entered, byes shall be given in the preliminary rounds. The teams receiving byes shall then debate in an additional round.

2) The cross-examination style of debate as practiced by the National Forensic League shall be used in the District and State Tournaments. Constructive speeches shall be a maximum of eight minutes in length alternating from affirmative to negative speaker. Immediately following each constructive speech, the opponent questions the speaker for three minutes. Each debater must question one opponent. Each debater then has a five-minute rebuttal, negative first. Each team shall have a maximum of six accumulative minutes of preparation time. Team members may allot this time at their own discretion.

3) The cross-examination time belongs to the questioner. The questioner may request the witness to re-read or hand over evidence during the questioning period. **Debaters who cite evidence during each round must be able to provide the source of the evidence upon request.**

4) Debate partners may switch their team's order of speaking in rebuttal if they wish.

5) During a debate, no debater may receive any help from the coach or the audience, nor may s/he be prompted by anyone while speaking.

6) At the conclusion of each round of debate at the District Tournament, all observers and coaches must exit the rooms until the judge or panel of judges has reached a decision and completed the ballot. Under necessary circumstances, the District Chair or the District Debate Chair may designate a tournament official to enter a Room before the decision is made and/or the ballot completed.

b. Lincoln-Douglas Debate:

1) The L-D District topic shall be the same as the February NFL

District topic each year. Plans #1 through #4 for **Policy** Debate shall also apply to the Lincoln-Douglas Debate. A District also has the option to follow the format used for a PDQS tournament following the procedures for six (6) preliminary rounds (Appendix G). Qualifiers shall be chosen following the procedures as dictated in Plan #2.

2) The cross-examination style of debate practiced by the National Forensic League shall be used in District and State Tournaments. The affirmative has six minutes for his/her constructive speech; the negative has seven minutes for his/her constructive speech. Immediately following each constructive speech, the opponent questions the speaker for three minutes. Each debater shall be allowed a total of four minutes preparation time during the course of the debate. In the rebuttal period the affirmative has four minutes, followed by six minutes for the negative, and a final three minutes for the affirmative (see Appendix I).

3) The cross-examination time belongs to the questioner. The questioner may request the witness to re-read or hand over evidence during the questioning period. **Debaters who cite evidence during each round must be able to provide the source of the evidence upon request.**

4) During a debate, no debater may receive any help from the coach or the audience, nor may s/he be prompted by anyone while speaking.

5) At the conclusion of each round of debate at the District tournament, all observers and coaches must exit the rooms until the judge or panel of judges has reached a decision and completed the ballot. Under necessary circumstances, the District Chair or the District Debate Chair may designate a tournament official to enter a room before the decision is made and/or the ballot completed.

c. Public Forum Debate:

1) The Public Forum District topic shall be the same as the NFL monthly topic. Plans #1 through #4 for **Policy** Debate shall also apply to Public Forum Debate. A District also has the option to follow the format used for a PDQ tournament following the procedures for preliminary rounds (Appendix G, with the exception of C (2)). Qualifiers shall be chosen following the procedures as dictated in Plan #2.

2) The cross-fire style of debate as practiced by the National Forensic League shall be used in District and State Tournaments. The constructive speeches shall be a maximum of four minutes in length, alternating between pro and con speeches, order to be determined by a coin toss at the beginning of the round. After each pair of constructive speeches, a three-minute Cross-fire shall occur between the two speakers. After all constructive speeches and Cross-fires have been completed, Speakers 1

and 2 shall give two-minute Summary Speeches, followed by a three-minute Grand Cross-fire among all four speakers. Finally, Speakers 3 and 4 shall give one minute Final Focus speeches. Each team shall be allowed a total of two minutes preparation time during the course of the debate.

3) During Cross-fire or the Grand Cross-fire, debaters may ask the opponents to re-read or hand over evidence. Debaters who cite evidence during each round must be able to provide the source of the evidence upon request.

4) During a debate, no debater may receive any help from the coach or the audience, nor may s/he be prompted by anyone while speaking.

5) At the conclusion of each round of debate at the District Tournament, all observers and coaches must exit the rooms until the judge or panel of judges has reached a decision and completed the ballot. Under necessary circumstances, the District Chair or the District Debate Chair may designate a tournament official to enter a room before the decision is made and/or the ballot completed.

B. Individual Events

1. The District Committee shall determine according to the number of entries in each event which of the following plans shall be used:

Plan #1: If seven or fewer contestants enter an event, there shall be one round with a panel of three judges or two rounds with a panel of three judges.

Plan #2: If eight to fourteen contestants enter an event, there shall be two rounds with a panel of three judges in each section or three rounds with two judges in each section.

Plan #3: If fifteen or more contestants enter an event, there may be either two or three rounds. If there are two rounds, panels of three judges must be used; if there are three rounds, one, two, or three judges may be used. However, the number of judges must be consistent for all rounds within a category.

2. The District Committee may schedule additional rounds to determine State Tournament qualification. Ties for the last qualifying place(s) must be broken by additional competition with no fewer than three judges.

3. Contestants shall compete in groups of not more than seven in a section in each round. The judge shall rank the contestants as first, second, third, et cetera, (no two ranks alike) in the order of preference.

4. Contestants are to speak at the time and in the order scheduled, unless the District Chairperson authorizes otherwise. Judges shall be instructed to rank last in the round anyone who violates this rule.

5. In all Individual Events, the judges shall keep time with a stopwatch. For each section of the contest, the Judging Committee designates one judge as the official time-keeping judge. This judge announces the time after each contestant's presentation. The time begins with the first word and/or movement in the presentation. In Extemporaneous Speaking and Impromptu, unless otherwise requested by the contestant, the judge is to inform the contestants of their remaining time by holding up two fingers at the end of five minutes, a one-minute signal at six minutes, a half-minute signal at six minutes, thirty seconds, and a closed fist at the seven-minute period. In all other individual events, upon student request, an appropriate signal could be given by the timekeeping judge when the student reaches eight minutes (two minutes remaining signal) and ten minutes (a closed fist indication). A thirty-second grace period is permitted in all individual events. Any penalty for exceeding the grace period is left to the judge's discretion.

6. No contestant may use material from a selection with which s/he competed at any contest prior to the present season.

7. The District Tournament events are:

a. Extemporaneous Speaking:

1) The District Chairperson shall direct the preparation of a sufficient number of topics for separate contests in U.S. and International Extemporaneous Speaking. These topics must be based upon significant subject matters discussed in standard publications during the current school year.

2) These topics should be phrased as questions and are not to be made known to the contestants before the tournament.

3) Thirty minutes before the contest is to begin, the contestant to speak first shall draw three topics, choose one, and return the other two. The other contestants shall draw in like manner, in the order of speaking, at intervals of seven minutes. If a contestant draws a topic, which s/he used previously in the tournament, s/he shall return it and draw again.

4) The contestant shall then prepare his/her speech without consultation with anyone and without reference to previously prepared notes or speeches. Reference to publications is encouraged. The topic question slip must be given to the judge. The use of notes while speaking is prohibited.

5) Contestants shall speak not more than seven minutes; no minimum is prescribed. Timing shall begin with the first word and/or movement in the presentation. A thirty-second grace period shall be allowed.

6) Extempers may have file boxes which can be subdivided into categories to simplify preparation time. If extempers wish to use a file of cut-out articles or photocopied material, this file should not be pasted, stapled, or in any other manner connected. The only exception to this would be if an article were continued on another page. It would then be permissible to attach these sheets together. Partial articles may not be included in this file. Highlighting **or underlining of** each article is permitted as long as it is done in **only** one color. The complete source must be identified on the article and in the file. No previously prepared notes or speeches may be included in the Extemp files.

7) The contestants must have all sources from which they quote available in their prep room files.

b. Original Oratory:

1) This contest shall be comprised only of orations actually written by the contestant and not used by him/her **at a previous OHSSL District or State Tournament. An official typed, completed OHSSL cover sheet and bibliography form must be included with the oration (See Appendix L and Appendix N).** A typewritten copy (Times New Roman 12 point font) of the oration to be used must be submitted with the registration form. Violation of these rules shall disqualify the student from this contest.

2) Any appropriate subject may be used for the oration. Orations must not exceed ten minutes in delivery and must be given from memory without the use of physical objects, properties, or costumes. Timing shall begin with the first word or movement in the presentation. A thirty-second grace period shall be allowed.

3) A maximum of 150 published, quoted words is permitted in the oration. This total excludes any clichés and trite expressions. The quoted words shall be underlined and enclosed in quotation marks, and the sources of any quotation shall be listed on the official typed bibliography form to be submitted with the oration. All statistical data taken from sources and all quotations must be noted, underlined, enclosed in quotation marks, and counted in word count totals. The sources for all quoted words and statistics must be cited verbally within the oration itself, and a complete citation must occur in the bibliography. (See Appendix K) Hyphenated words

should be counted as one word. Titles of published material when cited in reference should not be considered in the total quoted word count. (See Appendix N)

4) Plagiarism in an oration shall be grounds for immediate disqualification. Paraphrasing without verbal citation is plagiarism and is grounds for disqualification.

5) The orator must be truthful. Any non-factual reference, especially a personal one, must be so identified.

6) Each District Chairperson shall send the orations with the checklist of the State Tournament qualifiers and alternates to the League Office with the District Tournament reports.

7) All Semi-Finalists and Finalists in Original Oratory at the State Tournament must submit a copy of their oration to the League Office on a disk in "text" format within two weeks after the completion of the State Tournament. The disk must also include bibliography information. If an oration is not received, it shall not be included in Winning Orations.

c. Oral Interpretation:

1) Separate contests shall be conducted in Oratorical, Dramatic, Duo and Humorous Interpretation, each presented as memorized selections and without the use of physical objects, properties, or costumes. All lines taken from the source must be spoken by the character the line was given to by the author. (In other words, one character may not speak a line written for another character.) **No contestant may use a selection which s/he used in a previous OHSSL District of State Tournament.** No selection shall exceed ten minutes in delivery. Adaptations may be for the purpose of continuity only; violations of this shall result in disqualification. Timing shall begin with the first word or movement of the presentation. A thirty-second grace period shall be allowed.

a) Oratorical Interpretation: Material used in this contest must have been presented as a **single** speech by its author, a person other than the present contestant. The contestant must name the title and author. If an introduction or transition is included in the oration to justify the relevance of a "dated" or "gender-oriented" oration, this introduction or transition may include one or all of the following:

(1) Clarification that statistics, quotes, etc., may not be factual at the present time.

(2) Clarification that a male (or female) may be presenting a speech delivered by a female (or male).

(3) Clarification that the oration, although dated, is applicable at the present time.

Orations *may not* have gender changes or revisions in statistics, quotes, etc. No personal information pertaining to the contestant may be included in the introduction or transition.

b) Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation:

(1) Selections used in these contests shall be cuttings from published materials.

(2) Contestants must identify the author and the source of the selection.

(3) This is a contest in interpretation. Gestures, pantomime, and blocking may be used only to enhance the interpretation of the selection.

c) Duo Interpretation:

(1) Material for Duo Interpretation must come from a published source. Contestants must identify the author and source of the selection.

(2) A selection may be either of a humorous and/or serious nature and may include the portrayal of more than two characters. If the selection is prose or poetry and contains narration, either or both of the performers may present the narration in addition to the sustained characters.

(3) This is a contest in interpretation. Gestures, pantomime, and blocking may be used only to enhance the interpretation of the selection. Focus may be direct during the introduction and transitions (the performers may look at and touch each other) but must be indirect (the performers may not look at nor touch each other) during the performance itself.

(4) Duo Interpretation aims at recreating the characters in the piece presented and making them seem living and real to the audience.

(5) A Duo team counts as one contestant. No team may use a selection which either member used in a previous season.

2) In Humorous, Dramatic and Duo Interpretations, each contestant must bring to the District Tournament a copy of the speech or cutting and the original source from which the cutting is obtained.

d. Prose/Poetry:

1) Each contestant shall perform a combined prose and poetry program, tying the two together with a central theme. The program must include at least 200 words each of prose and poetry in the typed manuscript. Contestants must identify the author(s) of the selection(s).

2) No contestant may use material which s/he used in a previous OHSSL District or State Tournament. The program must be drawn from published materials. Each contestant must submit with registration a typed copy (Times New Roman 12 point font) of the program, according to the following:

a) All introductory and transitional material must be capitalized. The prose and poetry selections must not be typed in all capital letters. Contestants must identify the author(s) of the selection(s).

b) Poetry must be indented and single-spaced.

c) Prose must be double-spaced.

d) Complete source citations must be noted on the official bibliography form. (See Appendix N)

e) A total word count of prose and a total word count of poetry must be indicated on the official OHSSL title page of the manuscript. Additional title page information shall include student name, school, district, and theme. The information on this page must be typed and included within the program. Only the official OHSSL title page shall be accepted (See Appendix M).

3) The manuscript must be held by the contestant. This shall enable the contestant to concentrate on a vocal performance rather than a physical performance. This is an interpretive event, not an

acting event; however, dialogue and characterization may be used. This is not a manuscript version of humorous or dramatic interpretation. Walking during the presentation is not permitted. No physical objects, properties, or costumes, excluding the manuscript itself, may be used.

4) The contestant must address the script; however, introductory and transitional material may be memorized. Introductory and transitional material need not be original, may be presented at any time and as often as desired, and may be delivered with open or closed book.

5) The time limit, including the introduction, shall be ten minutes maximum, with a thirty-second grace period. Timing shall begin with the first word and/or movement in the presentation.

6) The District Chairperson shall send the manuscripts with a checklist attached of all State Tournament qualifiers and alternates to the League Office following the District Tournament.

e. Impromptu Speaking:

1) All quotations must be numbered, typed, reproduced and placed into designated section envelopes by rounds. The same list of quotations shall be used for the draw in each section envelope. Quotations should be randomly selected within a round. **Themed rounds should be avoided.** Repetition of topics/themes should **also** be avoided from round to round. One judge in each section shall be given the envelopes of quotations and be in charge of the draw for the room.

2) All speakers assigned to a room should report to that room at the assigned start time. All speakers shall remain in the room for preparation and until all contestants have finished speaking.

3) The first speaker shall draw three quotations from a prepared envelope, choose one and return the other two to the envelope. The speaker shall have seven minutes to prepare and present his or her speech. The speaker shall decide how much of that time he or she shall use for preparation and how much time for speaking. The other contestants shall draw, prepare and speak in like manner.

4) It is important that the room is silent during both preparation and presentation for all speakers. Judges must give oral time signals during preparation time (for example: 30 seconds used, 1 minute used, etc.), unless the competitor specifically requests that oral time signals not be given. Once the speaker begins, time signals

should be given in the traditional non-verbal manner. Timing shall begin when the draw judge hands the quotation back to the student after recording his or her choice. A thirty-second grace period shall be permitted. Ideally these time signals should be clarified with all students before any drawing begins.

5) Upon drawing, the contestants shall prepare a speech without consultation and without prepared notes or speeches. A topical index without annotation is permitted. Contestants may consult published sources, provided:

- a) They are originals or Xeroxed copies of originals;
- b) The original or copied article is intact and uncut
- c) There is no written material on the original or copied article.

The files kept for Impromptu Speaking must follow the same guidelines for Extemporaneous Speaking (See III. B.7). No previously prepared notes or speeches may be included in the Impromptu Speaking files.

6) Contestants may write notes during prep time, but no notes shall be used during the contestant's presentation. The contestants are allowed to refer **to** or to read from the original drawn quotation slip **during the presentation**.

7) See Appendix Q for event and topic clarification.