

# SPEECH BYLAWS—ARTICLE 6

## 6.1 ELIGIBILITY

- 6.1.1 Participation by students in any speech contest shall be governed by the eligibility rules as set forth in Article 2, Bylaws Governing All Activities. Exception: Participation for remuneration in non-school competition does not make a student ineligible.
- 6.1.1.2 **Certificate of Eligibility.** Prior to the first date permitted for interschool competition in each activity, each member school shall submit an on-line list of all students participating and eligible to participate in each activity.
- 6.1.1.3 In order to participate in a subdistrict, district or state contest in a particular activity, a student is required to have been a member of a school's team or group in that particular activity for at least twenty school days prior to the first day of the subdistrict, district or state competition. An exception to this requirement would be if a student was unable to be a member of a school's team or group due to injury, illness or transfers from another school.
- 6.1.2 **Participation Limited to School Group:** During speech season, a student shall not participate in any speech competition other than as a representative of his/her school. Exception: A school or its students may participate in the National Speech Tournament as permitted by the NSAA Bylaws or individual students may participate in speech competition sponsored by governmental agencies or civic or service clubs.
- 6.1.2.1 In determining if a school is in violation of permitting students to participate in unauthorized speech competition, the following factors will be considered:
- (a) Did the coach or sponsor of the speech team or organization enter the individuals in the competition?
  - (b) Were school funds used to pay entry fees or any expenses for the individual students?
  - (c) Were school-purchased equipment or materials used by the student?
  - (d) Were the individual students under the supervision of the school while traveling to and from the site of such competition and/or during the competition?
  - (e) Did the individual student actually speak or in any way perform in the speech competition?
  - (f) Was the school name used or a name which might be interpreted as a school name?
- 6.1.2.2 A school in violation shall be subject to a penalty as set forth in Article 2.11 NSAA Bylaws.
- 6.1.3 **Supervision.** The sponsor, coach, or an authorized faculty member must accompany the group in all interschool competition.

## 6.2 SANCTIONING OF SPEECH COMPETITION

- 6.2.1 **Intrastate Competition.** Speech competition involving only Nebraska high schools does not require a sanction.
- 6.2.2 **Interstate Competition.** Members of the NSAA may participate in speech contests at an out-of-state school provided the host school has complied with the rules and regulations of its own State Association and the accreditation regulations of the North Central Association. Sanctions must be granted by the Activities Association of the host state or the National Association of Secondary School Principals. (Refer to Article 1.8, NSAA Constitution, for sanctioning procedures.)

## 6.3 SEASON

- 6.3.1 **Start of Season.** No school may participate in any interscholastic speech tournament held prior to the Friday immediately preceding the first Saturday in November.
- 6.3.2 **End of Season.** The state speech season shall end two weeks following the State Speech Tournament. No high school may participate in speech tournaments after this time, with the exception of the national speech tournament.
- 6.3.3 **December Moratorium.** There will be five consecutive days in December where there shall be no practice or interschool competition by individuals or teams in any speech activity. The specific dates of each five-day period shall be set by the Board of Directors three years in advance.

## 6.4 STUDENT LIMITATIONS

- 6.4.1 **Contest Limitation.** Participation in interschool speech competition by any high school student shall be limited to two meets per calendar week (Monday through Saturday), with a maximum of twelve (12) meets, in addition to the state sponsored series of tournaments from the date of the first permitted contest to the close of the state speech tournament.
- There shall be no competition on Sunday.

## 6.5 SCOPE OF COMPETITION

- 6.5.1 **Individuals Events.** Competition under this section shall include:
- a. Oral Interpretation of Humorous Prose Literature
  - b. Oral Interpretation of Serious Prose Literature
  - c. Oral Interpretation of Poetry
  - d. Persuasive Speaking
  - e. Entertainment Speaking
  - f. Extemporaneous Speaking
  - g. Informative Public Speaking.
- 6.5.2 **Group Events.** Competition under this section shall include:
- a. Oral Interpretation of Drama
  - b. Duet Acting

## 6.6 STATE AND DISTRICT CONTESTS

- 6.6.1 **Directors.** The district and state contests shall be under the direction of the Board of Directors and Executive Director. The Executive Director may appoint directors for each site.
- 6.6.2 **Classification for Competition.** The schools registered for speech shall be divided into six classes for competition. Classification shall be based on student enrollment in grades 9-11 as reported on the School Membership Report submitted to the State Department of Education on the last Friday in September of the previous year.
- 6.6.2.1 **District Assignments.** The schools in each class shall be divided into districts for district competition. The dates, sites and judges for district contests shall be set by the NSAA Office.
- 6.6.3 **District Entries.** A school may have a total of eighteen (18) entries in a district speech contest, with the breakdown as follows:
- 6.6.3.1 **Individual Events.** Each school may have a maximum of fourteen (14) entries in individual events but may not enter more than two students in the same event.
- 6.6.3.2 **Group Events.**
- Two entries per school – Duet Acting
  - Two entries per school – Oral Interpretation of Drama
- 6.6.3.3 **Student Limitations.** A student may enter and participate in two events.
- 6.6.3.4 **District Entries Deadline.** The entries to the district contests are to be submitted no later than a fixed date to be determined annually by the NSAA and indicated on the NSAA calendar.
- 6.6.4 **District Finals & Qualification for State Contest.** In all classes, six entries will advance to the final round of competition at districts. In Class A, the top four performers in each event from each district will qualify for the State Contest. In Classes B, C1, C2, D1 and D2, the top three performers in each event from each district will qualify for the State Contest.
- 6.6.4.1 If an individual or team qualifies for state competition through competing in a district meet, that individual or team is expected to compete in the state contest in which he/she or the team qualifies. Unless excused by the Executive Director, the school shall be penalized.
- 6.6.4.2 Substitutions shall not be permitted for a student who qualifies for the state speech contest in an individual event. Personnel of group events may be changed.

## 6.7 JUDGES AND RATINGS

- 6.7.1 **Selection of Judges.** It is recommended the judges used in interscholastic speech and play production competition be registered with the NSAA.
- 6.7.2 **Judges' Responsibilities.** In addition to the assignment of quality ratings, critic judges shall be required to give written and/or oral criticisms of a constructive nature to all participants.
- 6.7.2.1 In arranging the schedule, district directors should provide time between events during which the judge may meet with contestants and their directors for the purpose of giving such criticism.
- 6.7.3 **District Contest Ratings.** All contestants in District Contests shall be rated according to the following scale: Superior; Excellent; Good; Fair.
- 6.7.3.1 For failure to abide by the prescribed time limits by more than 30 seconds, judges shall lower the contestant one assigned rank.
- 6.7.4 **State Contest Judging.** All preliminary performances at the state speech contest will be presented twice, each time before one judge.

- 6.7.4.1 **Team Scoring.** Sweepstakes points for the state contest will be based on final round scoring only: First place-20 points, Second-18, Third-16, Fourth-14, Fifth-12, Sixth-10.
- 6.7.5 **Protests.** Protests regarding the decision of the judges will not be heard. Errors in computation, which prevent a qualifier from being placed in the finals, must be brought to the attention of the contest director prior to the beginning of the final round of competition. When the finals have been completed, team points calculated, winners announced and awards issued, the results are final and no changes can be made in individual placement, unless a correctable error is discovered. Clerical errors in team scoring may be corrected by the contest director or NSAA Executive Staff when discovered.

### **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR SECTION 6.7.5**

*Reference:*

- 6.7.5 A correctable error shall be defined as those that involve:
- Mathematical computation errors in individual points affecting placement of the speakers involved.*
  - Mathematical computation errors in team points affecting team placement.*
  - Mistakes made in calculation of judge's preference in the final round affecting the placement of the speaker involved.*

## **6.8 RULES AND STANDARDS**

### **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR SECTION 6.8**

*Reference:*

- 6.8 *Each coach is reminded to select literature that will not offend the moral standards of the community or be in bad taste. It is advisable to eliminate all cursing, profane references to the Deity, and immorally suggestive statements.*

6.8.1 **Oral Interpretation of Prose Literature-Humorous and Serious.**

- 6.8.1.1 **Purpose.** The purpose of these two separate events is to train students to convey the thought, feelings and mood of a selection of prose literature to an audience.

- 6.8.1.2 **Rules.** The selection shall be an original cutting or arrangement of prose literature from published books, short stories or plays. Commercially produced cuttings are not to be used. The contestant shall make introductory remarks concerning the author, selection and cutting designed to heighten attention, understanding and appreciation of the selection by the audience. Maximum time limit including introductory remarks shall be ten (10) minutes. The selection may be delivered from manuscript, with or without a lectern.

- 6.8.1.3 **Judging Standards.** The art of interpretation is to be regarded as essentially one of suggesting the meaning, feeling and mood of a story so vividly as to recreate the author's work in the minds of the audience.

In assigning quality ratings to a performer, the judge should take into consideration the literary merit of the selection, appropriateness, use of the body and use of the voice in interpreting. This is a contest in oral interpretation, not acting. The performer should try to distinguish all the characters by suggesting distinctive visual and auditory clues, depending upon the audience to fill in the picture.

Familiarity with the script is essential so the contestant may maintain eye contact the majority of the time. The selection may be memorized. The performer may use a lectern.

The final test of good Oral Interpretation of Prose Literature is the ability to use all these factors so successfully that audience members forget that they are listening to a contest.

6.8.2 **Oral Interpretation of Poetry.**

- 6.8.2.1 **Purpose.** The purpose of this event is to encourage students to obtain a wide knowledge and appreciation of poets and their poetry, and to increase their ability to share with others the full meaning intended by the poet by interpreting from the manuscript.

- 6.8.2.2 **Rules.** The participant shall select, cut and arrange one long poem or a group of poems or a poem unified by either a central theme or the writing of one author. The presentation shall include introductory and transitional remarks to heighten the understanding, the theme or the poet's works. If one long poem is used, transitions are optional. Time limit including such remarks shall not be fewer than six (6) nor more than eight (8) minutes. The arrangement shall be interpreted from manuscript with or without lectern.

- 6.8.2.3 **Judging Standards.** Poetry is written to be read aloud; therefore, poetry interpretation is regarded as recreating the thoughts and emotions of the poet in the minds of the audience.

On assigning quality ratings, the critic should take into consideration the appropriateness of the poem(s) chosen by the student, the effectiveness of the cutting and arrangement, and the adequacy of the introductory and transitional remarks which unify the presentation.

In interpreting poetry from a manuscript, the meaning should be conveyed primarily through the voice. Appropriate body action, eye contact and other mechanisms of delivery are encouraged. The contestant shall be observed for naturalness and emotional responsiveness. While effective use of rhythm can contribute to

interpretation, it should not become "sing-song" or monotonous.

The final test of good Oral Interpretation of Poetry is the ability of the contestant to cause audience members to forget they are listening to a contest.

### 6.8.3 **Persuasive Speaking.**

6.8.3.1 **Purpose.** The purpose of this activity is to train speakers to choose and organize material supporting a central theme in a persuasive speech on a timely subject, and to present these ideas in a direct, communicative, and effective speaking manner.

6.8.3.2 **Rules.** This contest shall consist of persuasive speeches actually written by the speaker delivering them. The speaker shall use any appropriate, worthwhile, relevant subject matter which can be developed in the time allotted. Maximum time limit will be ten (10) minutes. Not more than one hundred fifty (150) words of speech shall be direct quotations from any other speech or writing, and such quotations shall be indicated in the "manuscript." Extensive paraphrasing of any source is prohibited. The speech may be presented from manuscript in an extemporaneous style. The performer may or may not use the lectern. The judge may request a copy of the manuscript at the conclusion of the speech. Visual aids will not be allowed.

6.8.3.3 **Judging Standards.** Since these speeches have been written by the contestant delivering them, the judges shall consider thought, composition and delivery. The chosen topic shall be discussed intelligently and with some degree of originality. The speaker may be given wide latitude in the ideas expressed but held closely accountable for the manner in which they are expressed. Material shall be organized according to some logical plan to produce a unified and coherent speech. The composition shall be considered carefully for its persuasiveness, eloquence and diction. The composition shall reveal a discriminating choice of words and shall be especially adapted to oral presentation.

Delivery shall be judged for mastery of the usual mechanics of speech and communicativeness. In addition, the speech shall be observed for qualities of directness and sincerity.

The best delivery technique retains the directness and simplicity of good conversation employing the necessary energy to reach all listeners. The final test of Persuasive Speaking is the ability of the speaker to make the audience forget it is a contest.

### 6.8.4 **Entertainment Speaking.**

6.8.4.1 **Purpose.** The purpose of this event is to encourage the speakers to develop and demonstrate their creativity for employing imaginative language and thinking into their speech writing. The speakers should also demonstrate their ability to organize and present a speech to entertain without mimicking professional comics.

6.8.4.2 **Rules.** This speech shall be of an entertaining nature composed by the contestant. This shall be an original composition. The speech shall be based on a theme or central idea and shall be delivered in an extemporaneous manner with or without a lectern. One 4" x 6" or smaller note card is optional. Visual media may be employed, but costuming and makeup shall not be used. Costuming is wearing any article to enhance the presentation which is not normally worn at a speech contest. Maximum time limit shall be eight (8) minutes.

6.8.4.3 **Judging Standards.** An entertainment speech of an interesting nature shall combine the elements of basic organization, graphic word pictures, humor and lively animated delivery. The most effective speeches to entertain employ one or more of the following devices: exaggeration, understatement, plays on words, satire or irony. Generally, basic entertainment may be found by observing the aspects of everyday living.

The material presented shall be organized to produce a unified and coherent speech, rather than a loosely structured comic routine. Delivery shall be judged for the mastery of the usual mechanics of speech with emphasis on the speaker's use of bodily communication, poise, and timing. The final test of Entertainment Speaking is the ability of the speaker to make the audience forget that this is a contest.

### 6.8.5 **Extemporaneous Speaking.**

6.8.5.1 **Purpose.** The purpose of this event is to encourage students to read widely on current public affairs, to train them to apply principles of speech composition on a selected timely topic in a limited period of time, and to deliver the speech with fluency and effectiveness.

6.8.5.2 **Rules.** The general area from which the extemporaneous speaking topics are to be formulated shall be current public affairs. Specific topics shall be selected from subjects discussed in standard periodicals during the current school year. The NSAA office shall provide managers with a list of topics chosen for contest use.

An NSAA Certified Judge shall supervise the preparation room. The supervisor shall inspect the preparation material used by each contestant. Pre-prepared extemporaneous speeches, handbooks, briefs, and outlines shall be barred from the preparation room. Underlining or highlighting on material will be allowed if done in only one color on each article or copy. The use of electronic devices, e.g. computers and calculators shall not be used in the preparation room or during preparation time. During preparation time, students may consult published books, magazines, newspapers, and journals or articles provided:

- (a) They are originals or photocopies of originals.
- (b) Original articles or copies must be intact and uncut.
- (c) There is no written material on original or copies (source citation is allowed).
- (d) Topical indexes without annotation are allowed.

No other material shall be allowed in the extemporaneous preparation room other than that given above and material deemed in violation of these guidelines shall be removed by the supervisor and taken to the student's coach or tournament director. Students violating these guidelines DURING preparation time will be disqualified.

For Class A, thirty minutes before the contest is to begin and all other classes one hour before the contestant is to speak, the contestant shall draw three (3) topics, select one without consulting anyone, and return the other two. After the topic has been selected and recorded, the contestant shall withdraw to a room assigned and prepare the speech without consulting anyone. Just before speaking, the speaker shall present the judge with the topic drawn and selected. The speech shall be delivered extemporaneously. One (1) 4" x 6" or smaller note card may be used. Time limit shall be five (5) to seven (7) minutes.

Judges in extemporaneous speaking will provide time signals.

- 6.8.5.3 **Judging Standards.** The extemporaneous speech shall not be regarded as a memory test of the material contained in any one magazine article, but rather as an original synthesis by the speaker of the current fact and opinion on the designated topic as presented by various sources. Information presented shall be well chosen, pertinent and sufficient to support the central thought of the topic. The contestant, therefore, shall be held accountable for strict adherence to the precise statement of the topic drawn. He/she shall be downgraded for shifting to a phase of the topic which is not stated.

Delivery shall be judged for mastery of the usual mechanics of speech and communication. The final test of Extemporaneous Speaking is the ability of the contestant to interest listeners in the thought to the extent that the speaker causes them to forget that this is a contest.

#### 6.8.6 **Informative Public Speaking.**

- 6.8.6.1 **Purpose.** The purpose of this event is to teach the student to organize and present material of informative nature, to increase knowledge of speech composition, to develop proficiency in delivery, and to utilize visual media appropriately.

- 6.8.6.2 **Rules.** This contest shall consist of informative speeches written by the speakers delivering them. The speakers shall gather and organize the material in composing an original speech. The primary purpose of this speech shall be to inform the audience. Any other purpose, such as to entertain, to impress or to convince shall be secondary. The speech shall be delivered extemporaneously. One (1) 4" x 6" or smaller note card is optional. The speaker may use a lectern. The student is encouraged to use visual media such as charts, maps, diagrams, or actual objects, always mindful that these media should be an integral part of the presentation and not an unnecessary frill or gimmick. Maximum time limit shall be eight (8) minutes.

- 6.8.6.3 **Judging Standards.** The primary aim of this speech shall be to present information clearly and interestingly. The judge shall consider clarity of organization and development by examples, illustration, analogies, statistics, use of effective wording and factors of interest. Delivery shall be judged for the mastery of the usual mechanics of speech and effectiveness in the use of visual media. The speech shall be well composed and delivered, so that it is unmistakably clear, and understanding, explanation, and instruction occur. The final test of Informative Speaking is the ability of the speaker to make the audience forget this is a contest.

#### 6.8.7 **Oral Interpretation of Drama.**

- 6.8.7.1 **Purpose.** The purpose of this activity is to train students to create within the minds of the audience a clear impression of the author's central idea, story, character, situations, and mood of the play or of the scenes being read.

- 6.8.7.2 **Rules.** The presentation shall be an interpretation of drama and not play production. Each member of the group shall possess a copy of the manuscript. The manuscript shall be an ORIGINAL CUT OF A PLAY. The number of participants in each group shall be not fewer than three (3) or more than five (5). If the script calls for more than five characters, and it is impossible to omit additional characters, contestants may read more than one character. An introduction shall provide continuity for the cutting. Maximum time limit shall be fifteen (15) minutes.

Interpretation of drama may be presented in a variety of ways. It may be performed with the participants in any arrangement that is effective. Movement is allowed, but shall remain in the realm of suggestion rather than that of realistic acting. Deliberate touching shall not be permitted. Either off-stage focus, on-stage focus or combination of both may be utilized by the contestants. Entrances and exits shall be suggested. Costumes, make-up, properties, special lighting, or sound effects shall not be permitted.

- 6.8.7.3 If the play chosen is subject to royalty payment, the participating school shall be responsible for obtaining permission from the publisher for its use and for paying such royalty charges as may be involved.

6.8.7.4 **Judging Standards.** The judge shall take into consideration the literary value of the play, the quality of the cutting and suitability for the group and event, as well as the effectiveness in the interpretation. The art of interpretation shall be regarded as essentially one of suggesting the meaning, the feeling, and the mood of the play so vividly as to recreate the drama in the minds of the audience. Readers shall show bodily responsiveness to the meaning and feeling of dialogue in order to reveal character and central theme of the play, within the scope of the rules. The director's discretion shall dictate the amount and kind of movement, gestures, and reaction.

The final test of good Oral Interpretation of Drama is the ability of the participants to bring the play to life, causing the audience to forget they are listening to a contest.

6.8.8 **Duet Acting.**

6.8.8.1 **Purpose.** The purpose of this activity is to encourage contestants to exercise creative imagination in their selection, adaptation, and presentation of material suitable for theatre. In this event contestants will reveal their ability to create characters, communicate the inter-relationship of characters, and interpret the meaning of the material used.

6.8.8.2 **Rules.** This event shall consist of a scene or sequence of theatrical material which requires two actors to perform. The presentation shall not exceed twelve (12) minutes. Narration may be used to provide necessary expository background. The narrators shall be one or both of the two actors. Costuming, make-up, scripts and lighting shall not be permitted in this activity. Stage props shall be limited to a table and two chairs. Hand props, sound effects, and musical accompaniment shall not be permitted.

6.8.8.3 **Judging Standards.** This event shall be judged on the following points. The acting of the two actors shall be judged with respect to the elements of modern dramatic techniques including characterization, stage movement, and the interaction between the characters.

The scene or sequence presented shall be evaluated as to its theatrical value. The comments during narration shall be judged for their value in enhancing the presentation.

The total effect shall be judged in terms of unity resulting from the combination of the duet acting and the material selection. No individual recognition shall be given. The final test of Duet Acting is the ability of the contestants to cause the audience to forget this is a contest.

## 6.9 AWARDS

6.9.1 Awards to students and schools shall be governed by Article 2.15, Bylaws Governing All Activities.