

# **Pennsylvania High School Speech League**



# **BYLAWS**

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# Pennsylvania High School Speech League

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FORMS can be found in the FORMS SECTION of the PHSSL website.

## Article B1 – Qualifying to the State Tournament

### Section B1.1

A school may enter not more than two contestants in each competition event in the District Tournament.

For Duo Interpretation, Cross-Examination (Policy) Debate, Public Forum Debate, and Parliamentary Debate a school may enter two, two-person teams (herein referred to as a "competitor"). Under no circumstances may a single competitor constitute a team in two-person events, and no substitutions may be made after the start of the first round commences.

In the District Tournament, at least two contestants shall qualify for the State Tournament, If there are 10 - 20 contestants, a third contestant qualifies to the State Tournament; if 21 or more contestants compete, a fourth contestant qualifies to the State Tournament.

### Section B1.2

In addition to being eligible to win one of the qualifying spots in an event at the District Tournament, students will be eligible to advance to the State Tournament by earning bids in any PHSSL event that is held throughout the competition season that begins in September of each academic year.

### Section B1.3

With the exception of Congress, events eligible for earning bids must have a minimum of:

- a) three rounds of competition,
- b) three schools represented in that event,
- c) five competitors in that event,
- d) follow PHSSL event guidelines with the following equivalencies used at tournaments that run other than PHSSL events:
  - International and United States Extemporaneous each qualify for Extemporaneous
  - Original Oratory qualifies for either Informative or Persuasive Speaking, if neither event is offered separately. If both Informative and Original Oratory are offered, then Original Oratory only qualifies for Persuasive.
  - Dramatic Performance qualifies in either Dramatic or Humorous Interpretation if Humorous is not offered as a separate event at the tournament.
  - Oral Interpretation of Literature qualifies in either Prose or Poetry if neither event is offered separately..

In congressional debate, at least four hours of debate must take place to be eligible. If there is no Supersession in a tournament, each house of Congress is treated as a separate event and awarded bids according to Section B1.4. If there is a Supersession, then the event is aggregated like all other speech events and only placements in the Supersession are eligible for bids.

For tournaments that run a junior varsity and a varsity level in the same event, the junior varsity competitors will count in the overall participation numbers for that event, but the winners of the junior varsity competition will not receive bids. For tournaments that host out of state schools, the out of state competitors will count in the overall participation numbers for that event, but final rankings will not be adjusted if the out of state winners earn any of the top six placements.

### Section B1. 4

Qualifications for bids are as follows.

- a. Bids will be awarded using the following ratios:

# in Event	Places Receiving Bid
<5	No Bids
5 to 9	1 <sup>st</sup> Place
10 to 16	Top 2
17 to 23	Top 3
24 to 30	Top 4

31 to 40	Top 5
40+	Top 6

- b. No more than six (6) entries will receive bids at any tournament except in debate. In debate, if there are 40 or more entries and the tournament breaks to quarterfinals, all quarterfinalists will receive bids.
- c. Students who are double-entered count in each category.
- d. If there is a tie between multiple places that would result in more bids awarded than are eligible based on the ratios specified in Section B1.4a, then none of the tied competitors causing total bids to go above the threshold would receive bids.  
Example: If there are 20 competitors in an event, and there is a tie for 4<sup>th</sup> place, then only 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> would receive bids (since there are only 3 bids that can be awarded and the tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> would cause 4 competitors to receive bids).

### Section B1.5

Tournament results will be audited by the tournament host and one out-of-district coach as well as being easily available for audit, if necessary, at a later date.

### Section B1.6

Each competitor will require three (3) bids to qualify to the State Tournament. Additional bids are inconsequential.

### Section B1.7

If a student has earned a bid to the state tournament, they need to present their District Chair with proof of the bid earned by submitting the following information to the Chair:

- District #
- School Name
- Name of Tournament
- Date of Tournament
- Event (or the Equivalency)
- Number of actual competitors (entries who competed through all preliminary rounds of the event with legitimate forensic presentations)
- Final rank earned by the student

The information must be provided for each bid for each student. If a student has obtained three or more bids in more than one event, they must choose between those events and submit the application accordingly. The information must be submitted by the deadlines established for that District Tournament.

The District Chair will then submit the names of these bid qualifiers with his/her regular report to the State Tournament director.

### Section B1.8

If a student enters into a District Qualifying Tournament, then that student's bids will be automatically revoked, and that student will be unable to qualify for the State Tournament with bids. The student may still qualify by winning a spot in the District Qualifying Tournament.

### Section B1.9

A school is allowed up to four (4) qualifying entries per event to the State Tournament, not including swing teams.

- a. If a school has met its cap of competitors in an event that have qualified with bids, that school may NOT enter any students into the District Qualifier in that given event unless the school forfeits bid opportunities for the respective number of competitors.
- b. If a school has three (3) competitors that have qualified to the State Tournament with bids, that school may only send one (1) competitor to the District Qualifier without forfeiting bids. If a school has two (2) competitors that have qualified to the State Tournament with bids, that school may send two (2) competitors to the District Qualifier without forfeiting bids.

- c. The head coach of a school may forfeit bids for one or more of their competitors..
- d. A student with just one or two bids will be unable to qualify to the State Tournament with bids and therefore does not count towards the school cap and may compete in the District Qualifier.
- e. If a School has more than 4 competitors that are able to qualify to the State Tournament, the Head Coach of that school must notify their District Chair as to which 4 students are attending the District Qualifying Tournament. Any students not chosen in the event that they have earned bids may compete in the District Qualifier Tournament in a different event, as long as the school cap has not been met in that event.
- f. If a competitor who has qualified to the State Tournament with bids (or set of competitors in a team event) is unable to attend the State Tournament, then that school may fill the vacated spot with another student or team that has earned a bid in that event but was not previously named as one of the automatic state qualifiers as long as the replacement competitor(s) did not compete in the District Qualifier.

## Article B2: General Debate Rules & Guidelines

### Section B2.1 Cross-Examination Debate Format

The format shall be as follows:

Affirmative	Constructive	8 Minutes
Negative	Questioning	3 Minutes
Negative	Constructive	8 Minutes
Affirmative	Questioning	3 Minutes
Affirmative	Constructive	8 Minutes
Negative	Questioning	3 Minutes
Negative	Constructive	8 Minutes
Affirmative	Questioning	3 Minutes
Negative	Rebuttal	5 Minutes
Affirmative	Rebuttal	5 Minutes
Negative	Rebuttal	5 Minutes
Affirmative	Rebuttal	5 Minutes

Each team shall be allowed 5 minutes preparation time.

### Section B2.2 Lincoln-Douglas Debate Format

The format 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

Each competitor will be allowed a total of four (4) minutes preparation time.

### Section B2.3 Public Forum Format

The format shall be as follows:

First Speaker – Affirmative	4 minutes
First Speaker – Negative	4 minutes
Crossfire	3 minutes
Second Speaker – Affirmative	4 minutes
Second Speaker – Negative	4 minutes
Crossfire	3 minutes
Summary – First Speaker – Affirmative	2 minutes
Summary – First Speaker – Negative	2 minutes
Grand Crossfire	3 minutes
Final Focus – Second Speaker – Affirmative	2 minutes
Final Focus – Second Speaker – Negative	2 minutes

- Each team will have a total of 3 minutes of preparation time throughout the debate.
- In each Crossfire, the first question must be asked by the speaker who spoke first. After that question, either debater may question and/or answer at will.
- In the Grand Crossfire, the first question must be asked by the speaker who gave the first summary speech. After that question, any of the debaters may question and/or answer at will.

## Section B2.4 Parliamentary Debate Format

The format shall be as follows:

- a. After all speakers have spoken once, the first speaker for each side gives a reply speech, with the opposition reply going first and the proposition second. Speaking time for speeches is 7 minutes, and for reply speeches 5 minutes. There is no extra preparation time provided.
- b.

First Speaker for The Government	7 minutes
First Speaker for The Opposition	7 minutes
Second Speaker for The Government	7 minutes
Second Speaker for The Opposition	7 minutes
Reply Speech for The Opposition	5 minutes
Reply Speech for The Government	5 minutes
- c. All contention-level arguments must be made within the first two speeches on by each side.

## Section B2.5

Time lost for unavoidable interruptions shall be made good to the speaker.

## Section B2.6

No new constructive arguments shall be introduced in the rebuttal speeches. Judges should be instructed by debaters on the opposing team to disregard any new constructive arguments with this rule cited. No further penalties are assessed.

## Section B2.7

No interaction between a coach and debaters is permitted during a debate. The debaters may not interact with anyone after the debate begins except those persons involved in that debate (i.e., partner, opponent, judge(s) of that debate). A violation of this rule will result in disqualification from the entire tournament.

## Section B2.8

A minimum 15 points must be awarded per speaker.

## Section B2.9

If a debate team is 15 minutes late for a scheduled round of debate, it shall forfeit the round of debate unless the delay is a result of a function of the tournament.

## Section B2.10

Judges should not reveal decisions and oral critiques should not be provided. Failure to follow this rule may result in a strike and according fine against a judge

## Section B2.11

If a judge awards a low point win, the judge must clearly state that it is a low point win with a clear explanation on the ballot as to why.

## Section B2.12

The topic for District Tournament will be announced in January and the topic for the State Tournament will be announced in March. The League will use NSDA topics as published in the *Rostrum* or online at [www.speechanddebate.org](http://www.speechanddebate.org).

### Section B2.13

Students have 30 seconds or what is deemed reasonable by judges outside of prep time to produce all requested evidence, then prep time starts for the opposing team. Prep time will not be deducted for either team during the exchange of evidence. Evidence that cannot be produced leads to an automatic loss of the round.



## **Article B3 – Parliamentary Debate**

### Section B3.1

- A. Two speakers will form a team and only two teams will participate in each debate.
- B. All the rounds of both the district and state competitions will be Extemporaneous Debate rounds.
- C. The exact motions for the Extemporaneous Debate rounds will be developed prior to the tournament from a list of six topic areas approved by the PHSSL Executive Board at their summer meeting. The specific wording of the motion will be published with the schematic of the round. Teams will have 20 minutes in their competition rooms for preparation. The judge of the round will supervise this preparation time period.
- D. Extemporaneous Rounds - Teams will draw for sides on the motion.

### Section B3.2 Motions

“This House” shall be defined as the people in the room, the United States Federal Government, the United Nations, a developed country, or a developing country in the present.

### Section B3.3 – Extemporaneous Rounds

- A. Topic areas for the extemporaneous rounds at districts and state tournaments will be announced after the Executive Board’s summer meeting. Member schools are encouraged to use these topic areas at other tournaments throughout the year.
- B. The specific wording of the motion for debate will be released with the pairing schematic for the round. Teams will report to their competition rooms where the judge will supervise a 20-minute preparation period.

### Section B3.4 – Points of Information

During any speech except the reply speeches, members of the opposing team may offer Points of Information to briefly interject a point that the speaker may immediately respond to.

- A. The first and last minute of each main speech, as well as the entire duration of reply speeches, are "protected time," meaning that no Points of Information may be offered.
- B. A Point of Order can be called if new contention-level arguments are presented in the reply speeches. If the judge decides that a new argument has been made, the round is won by the team calling for the Point of Order. If the judge decides that a new argument was not made, the round goes to the non-calling team,

## **Article B4 - Extemporaneous Speaking**

### Section B4.1

The speech shall not exceed seven minutes in length. Up to 50 words of notes may be used.

### Section B4.2

At the summer meeting of the Executive Board, six categories will be chosen that concern current events of both national and international significance. The categories will be published in the fall edition of *The Communicator*. Questions are to be chosen or written to fit the provided categories. Contest questions shall be kept secret until the actual contest. Questions shall be selected by the event coordinator for the State Tournament. District committees shall select specific questions within the categories for District contests. The questions must be phrased in the form of a question. Each round of competition shall have different set of topics; however, the same set of topics must be used for all of the competition sections of the same round. Duplication of topics from round to round is prohibited. The student must bring the topic slip, drawn for that round to the judge, or a copy of the topic written by the prep room judge.

### Section B4.3

Once the topic has been chosen, the speaker shall withdraw to a specified area and prepare for thirty minutes. During this preparation period, the speaker may not consult with anyone or make use of previously prepared materials. If the speaker consults with anyone or uses previously prepared materials, the speaker will be disqualified from the tournament. See Sections D16 and S10 for preparation room procedures and prohibited materials.

## Article B5 – Commentary

### Section B5.1

The speech shall not exceed five minutes in length. The speech must be delivered while the speaker is seated at a table. Up to 50 words of notes may be used.

### Section B5.2

At the summer meeting of the Executive Board, six categories shall be of contemporary importance and may include issues, personalities, trends, or concerns. The categories will be published in the fall edition of *The Communicator*. Topics are to be chosen or written to fit the provided categories. Contest topics shall be kept secret until the actual contest. Topics shall be selected by the event coordinator for the State Tournament. District committees shall select topics for District contests. The topics are never to be phrased in the form of a question. The topics Each round of competition shall have a different set of topics; however, the same set of topics must be used for all of the competition sections of the same round. Duplication of topics from round to round is prohibited. The student must bring the topic slip, drawn for that round to the judge, or a copy of the topic written by the prep room judge.

### Section B5.3

Once the topic has been chosen, the speaker shall withdraw to a specified area and prepare for thirty minutes. During this preparation period, the speaker may not consult with anyone or make use of previously prepared materials. See District and State Standing Rules for preparation room procedures and prohibited materials.

## **Article B6 - Persuasive Speaking**

### Section B6.1

Students must prepare to speak on a subject of their own choosing. The general purpose of the persuasive speech is to get the members of the audience to change or modify their beliefs, to believe more strongly, or to take a specific action.

### Section B6.2

The speech may not exceed ten minutes in length.

### Section B6.3

Quoted materials shall not exceed a total of 150 words.

### Section B6.4

On the entry blank, the coach will vouch that the persuasive speech is an original preparation of the student. Plagiarism and extensive paraphrasing are strictly prohibited. Prior to each PHSSL tournament the student must send a copy of the speech, a bibliography and a cover sheet, signed by the student and the coach declaring this is an original speech. If at the tournament (District or State) another coach thinks it is plagiarism, it is up to that coach to provide proof of his/her statement. These speeches will be held by the Tournament Committee in case of a challenge. If at the tournament, another coach thinks there was plagiarism, it is up to that coach to provide proof of his/her statement.

### Section B6.5

Notes and visual aids may be used.

## **Article B7 - Informative Speaking**

### Section B7.1

Students must prepare to speak on a subject of their own choosing. The general purpose of the informative speech is for the members of the audience to gain understanding and/or knowledge.

### Section B7.2

The speech may not exceed ten minutes in length.

### Section B7.3

Quoted material shall not exceed a total of 125 words.

### Section B7.4

On the entry blank, the coach will vouch that the informative speech is an original preparation of the student. Plagiarism and extensive paraphrasing is strictly prohibited. Prior to each PHSSL tournament the student must send a copy of the speech, a bibliography and a cover sheet, signed by the student and the coach declaring this is an original speech. If at the tournament (District or State) another coach thinks it is plagiarism, it is up to that coach to provide proof of his/her statement. These speeches will be held by the Tournament Committee in case of a challenge. If at the tournament, another coach thinks there was plagiarism, it is up to that coach to provide proof of his/her statement.

### Section B7.5

Notes and visual aids may be used.

## **Article B8 – Oral Interpretation of Prose**

### Section B8.1

Selections used in this event must be in prose form. Selections from drama are not to be used. The intent of PHSSL is that all materials presented in interpretation events must be available to all members of the league. All selections must be published or commercially available in print, audio, or video form. At PHSSL tournaments, contestants must bring the published copies of their selection with an ISBN or ISSN in either print, audio or video form, with title page or audio/video credits included. If the original copy does not have an ISBN or ISSN, the coach or supervising adult must be able to show that the original was purchased or obtained commercially, i.e.. a bill of sale from a literary agent or publisher, or that the original is publicly available by internet URL and retrieval date. The author's words as published in the literature may not be altered for the presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted and obscenities may be replaced. Material being performed at the PHSSL tournament must match the student's original script.

### Section B8.2

The reader must hold the book or manuscript.

### Section B8.3

Each reader shall give a brief introduction to the reading. The purposes of the introduction are to arouse the interest of the audience and to provide the necessary background for the reading. The contestant may sing up to 30 seconds when singing is part of the original selection.

### Section B8.4

The maximum time limit for the reading, including the introduction, shall be ten minutes.

### Section B8.5

The reader is permitted to change the selection during a tournament and/or from the District to State Tournament.

## **Article B9 - Oral Interpretation of Poetry**

### Section B9.1

Selections used in this event must be in poetic form. Selections from drama are not to be used. The intent of PHSSL is that all materials presented in interpretation events must be available to all members of the league. All selections must be published or commercially available in print, audio, or video form. At PHSSL tournaments, contestants must bring the published copies of their selection with an ISBN or ISSN in either print, audio or video form, with title page or audio/video credits included. If the original copy does not have an ISBN or ISSN, the coach or supervising adult must be able to show that the original was purchased or obtained commercially, i.e., a bill of sale from a literary agent or publisher, or that the original is publicly available by internet URL and retrieval date. The author's words as published in the literature may not be altered for the presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted and obscenities may be replaced. Material being performed at the PHSSL tournament must match the student's original script.

### Section B9.2

The reader must hold the book or manuscript.

### Section B9.3

Each reader shall give a brief introduction to all readings. The purposes of this introduction are to stimulate interest and to supply the necessary background for the reading. The contestant may sing up to 30 seconds when singing is part of the original selection.

### Section B9.4

The maximum time limit of the prepared reading, including the introduction, shall be ten minutes.

### Section B9.5

The reader is permitted to change the selection during a tournament and/or from the District to State Tournament.

## Article B10 - Dramatic Interpretation

### Section B10.1

The selection must be serious in nature. A single source is defined as a single play or a single fictional or nonfictional work. (Example of a single source: A cutting of *Modern Family* would be one source. However, a cutting of an episode of *Saturday Night Live* involving three different skits would not be a single source.) The intent of PHSSL is that all materials presented in interpretation events must be available to all members of the league. All selections must be published or commercially available in print, audio, or video form. At PHSSL tournaments, contestants must bring the published copies of their selection with an ISBN or ISSN in either print, audio or video form, with title page or audio/video credits included. If the original copy does not have an ISBN or ISSN, the coach or supervising adult must be able to show that the original was purchased or obtained commercially, i.e., a bill of sale from a literary agent or publisher, or that the original is publicly available by internet URL and retrieval date. Lines which are attributed to one character in the published material may not be attributed to another character in the performance. The author's words as published in the literature may not be altered for the presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted and obscenities may be replaced. Material being performed at the PHSSL tournament must match the student's original script.

### Section B10.2

The selection is orally presented from memory to evoke a creative imagined response in the mind of the hearer. Characters should be created primarily by voice control and changes in facial expression. Mood and meaning are to be communicated through the use of the voice. Gestures, pantomime, and body movement are to be used appropriately.

### Section B10.3

The interpreter should project the character and action before him/her in the direction of the audience. The contestant may sing up to 30 seconds when singing is part of the original scene. All forms of scenery, set, props, costumes, makeup, etc., are prohibited. Using "properties" means manipulating articles of clothing or objects to enhance the performance.

### Section B10.4

The interpreter should maintain offstage focus rather than make eye contact with audience members except in case of direct address, e.g., the Stage Manager in *Our Town*.

### Section B10.5

The interpreter shall give a brief introduction to the material. The purposes of the introduction are to arouse the interest of the audience and to provide the necessary background for full appreciation and understanding of the reading.

### Section B10.6

The reader is permitted to change the selection during a tournament and/or from the District to State Tournament.

### Section B10.7

The maximum time limit, including introduction, is ten minutes.



## Article B11 - Humorous Interpretation

### Section B11.1

The selection must be humorous in nature. A single source is defined as a single play or a single fictional or nonfictional work. (Example of a single source: A cutting of *Modern Family* would be one source. However, a cutting of an episode of *Saturday Night Live* involving three different skits would not be a single source.) The intent of PHSSL is that all materials presented in interpretation events must be available to all members of the league. All selections must be published or commercially available in print, audio, or video form. At PHSSL tournaments, contestants must bring the published copies of their selection with an ISBN or ISSN in either print, audio or video form, with title page or audio/video credits included. If the original copy does not have an ISBN or ISSN, the coach or supervising adult must be able to show that the original was purchased or obtained commercially, i.e., a bill of sale from a literary agent or publisher, or that the original is publicly available by internet URL and retrieval date. Lines which are attributed to one character in the published material may not be attributed to another character in the performance. The author's words as published in the literature may not be altered for the presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted and obscenities may be replaced. Material being performed at the PHSSL tournament must match the student's original script.

### Section B11.2

The selection is orally presented from memory to evoke a creative imagined response in the mind of the hearer. Characters should be created primarily by voice control and changes in facial expression. Mood and meaning are to be communicated through the use of the voice. Gestures, pantomime, and body movement are to be used appropriately.

### Section B11.3

The interpreter should project the characters and action before him/her in the direction of the audience. The contestant may sing up to 30 seconds when singing is part of the original scene. All forms of scenery, set, props, costumes, makeup, etc., are prohibited. Using "properties" means manipulating articles of clothing or objects to enhance the performance.

### Section B11.4

The interpreter should maintain offstage focus rather than make eye contact with audience members except in case of direct address, e.g., the Stage Manager in *Our Town*.

### Section B11.5

The interpreter shall give a brief introduction to the material. The purposes of the introduction are to arouse the interest of the audience and to provide the necessary background for full appreciation and understanding of the reading.

### Section B11.6

The reader is permitted to change the selection during a tournament and/or from the District to State Tournament.

### Section B11.7

The maximum time limit, including introduction, is ten minutes.

## Article B12 - Duo Interpretation

### Section B12.1

Material from more than one published source is not allowed. A single source is defined as a single play or a single fictional or nonfictional work. (Example of a single source: A cutting of *Modern Family* would be one source. However, a cutting of an episode of *Saturday Night Live* involving three different skits would not be a single source.) Material may be serious or humorous or both.

### Section B12.2

All selections must be published or commercially available in print, audio, or video form. Contestants must bring the published copies of their selection in either print, audio, or video form, with the title page or audio/video credits included to each PHSSL contest. Failure to provide the published copy or photocopy will result in disqualification from the tournament. Material from more than one published source is not allowed. Material may be serious or humorous or both. Each speaker may present multiple characters. Speakers may not take lines belonging to one character and apply them to a different character, nor may they add lines to the selection. Introduction and/or narration may be presented by one or both speakers. If lines from the selection are used in the introduction, the speakers must adhere to rules of the event. The duo team may each sing up to 30 seconds when singing is part of the original scene. The intent of PHSSL is that all materials presented in interpretation events must be available to all members of the league. All selections must be published or commercially available in print, audio, or video form. At PHSSL tournaments, contestants must bring the published copies of their selection with an ISBN or ISSN in either print, audio or video form, with title page or audio/video credits included. If the original copy does not have an ISBN or ISSN, the coach or supervising adult must be able to show that the original was purchased or obtained commercially, i.e. a bill of sale from a literary agent or publisher, or that the original is publicly available by internet URL and retrieval date. Lines which are attributed to one character in the published material may not be attributed to another character in the performance. The author's words as published in the literature may not be altered for the presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted and obscenities may be replaced. Material being performed at the PHSSL tournament must match the student's original script.

### Section B12.3

The speakers' selection must be performed from memory. Speakers may exchange places, may pivot from side to side, turn around, or position themselves behind each other. The selection must begin from center stage. Physical contact with each other is not allowed. During dialogue, focal points are to be employed. During direct address e.g., Stage Manager in *Our Town*, eye contact is with specific audience members. Eye contact with specific audience members during introductions, narration and transitions are required. No properties or costumes may be used. Using "properties" means manipulating articles of clothing or objects to enhance the performance. Violations will result in disqualification from the tournament.

### Section B12.4

Maximum time limit including introduction is ten (10) minutes.

## **Article B13 - Impromptu Speaking**

### Section B13.1

Topics for impromptu speaking, which will be kept secret until the actual contest, will be selected from, but not limited to, categories such as quotations, famous people, virtues and vices, opinions, school days, and abstract words.

### Section B13.2

Once all the speakers are in the room, the first speaker will draw three topics. From these topics, the speaker will choose one and return the other two. At that point, the speaker's seven-minute prep and speak time begins. The judge in the room is expected to keep time for the student as s/he prepares the speech, and then to continue that time while the speaker is presenting. The process is then repeated for the second speaker and continues until all speakers have presented.

### Section B13.3

Once the topic has been chosen, the speaker will have seven minutes total to prepare and speak. The speaker may split this time in any manner, but the judge is expected to keep time for the student. During this preparation period, the speaker may not consult with anyone or make use of any previously prepared notes. Students may consult published books, magazines, newspapers and journals or articles there from, provided:

- A. They are originals or photocopied originals.
- B. That original article or copy is intact and uncut.
- C. There is no written material on that original or copy.
- D. Topical index without annotation may be present.

### Section B13.4

The speaker will deliver the speech without the use of any notes.

### Section B13.5

The student must bring the topic slip to the judge, or a copy of the topic written by the prep room judge.

## Article B14 – News Broadcasting

### Section B14.1

All entrants are required to prepare three (3) broadcast scripts that are three (3) minutes in length and are to be delivered while seated.

- A. A newscast focusing on international news events.
- B. A newscast focusing on “the lighter side” of the news.
- C. A newscast focusing on national news events.

Those entrants who do not have a prepared script for a given round will be disqualified from that round.

### Section B14.2

A. Round One – Each pair of students will read a three-minute prepared newscast focusing on international news events. The reading of the script should be balanced between the two students. The script is prepared by the students covering international news events of the time period Sunday two weeks prior to the State Tournament through Round One of the State Tournament.

B. Round Two - Each pair of students will read a three-minute prepared newscast focusing on “the lighter side” of the news. The script is prepared by the students covering “the lighter side” of the news of the time period Sunday two weeks prior to the State Tournament through Round One of the State Tournament.

C. Round Three - Each pair of students will read a three-minute prepared newscast focusing on national news events (sports news may be included in this national newscast). The script is prepared by the students covering national news events of the time period Sunday two weeks prior to the State Tournament through Round One of the State Tournament.

Selection for the Quarterfinal Round will be based on the approximately 24 lowest cumulative ranks from Rounds One, Two, and Three.

D. Quarterfinal Round - Fifteen minutes before the contestants are to appear in the round, they will be given a copy of a broadcast script provided by the Executive Director. This sight reading will concentrate on domestic news stories and will be approximately 3-minutes long. This script is not to be edited.

Selection for the Semifinal Round will be based on the lowest rank totals of the top three teams in each Quarterfinal Round room.

E. Semifinal Round - Fifteen minutes before the contestants are to appear in the round, they will be given a copy of a broadcast script provided by the Executive Director. This sight reading will concentrate on international news stories and will be approximately 3-minutes long. This script is not to be edited. Selection for the Final Round will be based on the lowest rank totals of the top three teams in each Semifinal Round room.

F. Final Round - Twenty minutes before the contestants are to appear in the round, they will be given a copy of a broadcast script provided by the Executive Director. This sight reading will concentrate on a combination of international and national news stories and will be approximately 4-minutes long. This script must be cut to 3 minutes for presentation.

#### Section 14.3

Fabrication of news stories is prohibited and will result in a team being disqualified from the tournament. Section 17.6

The teams may receive assistance from a pronouncing guide but may not seek the help of any other person. Failure to abide by this rule will result in disqualification from the tournament.

#### Section 14.4

The names of the contestants shall be sent to the Office of the Executive Director no later than the deadline date set in the League's calendar.

#### Section 14.5

The PHSSL News Broadcasting Handbook is to be considered a part of the PHSSL Constitution and Bylaws; therefore, all Constitutional provisions are applicable to the Handbook.

## **Article B15 - Student Congress: House and Senate**

### Section B15.1

The PHSSL Student Congress Handbook for **House** and **Senate** is to be considered a part of the PHSSL Constitution and Bylaws, and therefore, all constitutional provisions are applicable to the Handbook.

## Article B16 – Extemporaneous Debate

### Section B16.1

A school may enter one student in extemporaneous debate. No charge for name changes in extemporaneous debate. A \$50.00 nuisance fee will be assessed for drops.

### Section B16.2

There shall be only a state contest in extemporaneous debate.

### Section B16.3

In the State Tournament, the format shall be as follows:

Proposition Constructive	2 Minutes
Cross-Examination of Proposition	1 Minute
Opposition Constructive	2 Minutes
Cross-Examination of Opposition	1 Minutes
Mandatory Prep Time	1 Minute
Proposition Rebuttal	2 Minutes
Opposition Rebuttal	2 Minutes
Mandatory Prep Time	1 Minute
Proposition Rebuttal	2 Minutes
Opposition Rebuttal	2 Minutes

All speeches are two minutes in length and all speech times are protected; a speaker may not be interrupted by the other speaker or by the judge. The Proposition debater must affirm the resolution by presenting and defending a sufficient case for that resolution. The Opposition debater must oppose the resolution and/or the Proposition debater's case.

### Section B16.4

Students debate several topics, as opposed to a single topic for the entire tournament. Tournament officials will post the resolution that will be debated for each round 30 minutes prior to the start of flight A.

## Article B17 – Drama

### Section B17.1

- A. Each school may have two entries in the Regional Drama Festivals. In the case of a single gender school, arrangements may be made with the Regional Drama Coordinator of the event.
- B. In cases of multiple entries, each entry must be a different piece and students cannot be casted in more than one entry.
- C. Schools will be charged separately for each entry in the Regional and State competition. Section B20.2

Each region shall qualify two plays to the State Drama Festival. If 8 schools participate in any Regional Drama Festival, 3 plays will advance from that Regional Festival to the State Drama Festival. No more than 8 schools shall make up a Regional Festival. If more than 24 schools enter the Regional Festival, a fourth Regional Festival will be created.

### Section B17.3

Material used may be a one-act play, a cutting from a longer play, or an original play. Cutting of musicals may be used but singing cannot exceed a combined time of 5 minutes. The play must have a minimum of three characters. Characters may not be added or cut from published plays that would be in violation of copyright regulations except with written permission by the publisher and/or author. The play which wins first place in the State Tournament may not be used the following year. Each school is responsible for any royalty obligations.

### Section B17.4

The playing time shall be not more than 60 minutes total, which includes all setup and strike time. There is no minimum time for an entry.

### Section B17.5

A total of 60 minutes will be available to each play for technical rehearsal, including setting the stage, and striking the stage. The time may be used at the discretion of each school but may not exceed 60 minutes total and may not influence the judge's ranking.

### Section B17.6

The host school shall supply a basic lighting plot with a minimum of three general lighting areas and one follow spot. It is suggested that participating schools supply a light, sound, and curtain cue sheet. The host school shall supply a simple set adaptable to the needs of the plays. All hand properties, make-up, and costumes shall be provided by the school presenting the play. For schools electing to participate in All-State Crew, a Crew must be provided in both Regional and State Competition. The Crew must consist of at least five crew members but can consist of more members. Suggested roles: Stage Manager, Sound, Light, Spotlights, Costumes, Makeup, Stagehands.

### Section B17.7

Any play that is more than one minute over the maximum in extra playing/technical time is not eligible to receive first place on any individual judge's ballot. This will not affect the selection to the All- State Cast or All-State Crew.



### Section B17.8

- A. The regional and state judging shall be the ranking system as used in all Pennsylvania High School Speech League events.
- B. The judges are to be selected by the Regional Coordinators for regional competition, and by the Executive Director for State competition. A panel of three judges must be used at the Regional competition. Regional judges will be paid by the hoist school. A panel of five judges must be used at the State competition.
- C.

Tiebreakers for Regional and State Drama Competition shall reflect the tiebreakers for the interpretation events at the State competition (Example – Judges preference – Reciprocals).

- D. At the State competition, judges will submit their ballots to the tab room committee for tallying and final placements. The tab room committee shall consist of the three regional coordinators, and it is recommended that Tabroom.com software be used.

### Section B17.9

The Director of the contest play will not be allowed backstage during setup, performance, and strike. The Director is permitted in the dressing rooms. For schools that are competing for All-State Crew, the Director is not permitted to assist the crew in any way during setup, performance, and strike.

### Section B17.10

- A. Awards at the State Festival: the top three pieces receive plaques (Example: first place, second place, and third place); the remaining schools receive “State Finalist” plaques.\
- B. Competing schools at State competition will be notified if they are “State Placing Teams” or “State Finalists.” All Ranks and Awards will be announced at the State competition and the all teams will be recognized at the Spring PHSSL State Competition during the Awards Ceremony. At this time the schools will receive the awards.

### Section B17.11

Regional Registration will be sent to the State Office, and after all registrations are received, individual schools will be assigned to a regional competition. Geographic location and equalization of regional competition will be the prime factors in assigning schools. There will be three regions. No more than eight schools can be assigned to a region. If needed, additional region(s) will be created. The registration fee for the regional drama festival shall not exceed \$50.00.

### Section B17.12

All schools participating in Regional Drama will receive 4 points for participation. All schools participating in State Drama will receive 4 points for participation.

### Section B17.13

The number of All-State Cast awards will be determined by the judges at the State competition. There will be one All-State Crew at the State Competition. The award given will be based on the judges’ decision.

### Section B17.14

The Drama Handbook shall be considered a part of the Constitution and Bylaws.

## Article B18 – Disqualifications

### Section B18.1

Disqualifications from the District tournament must be made by a majority vote of members of the District Committee present at the tournament. Disqualification from the State Tournament must be made by a majority vote of the State Tournament Rules Committee. In no case will a judge disqualify a student from a tournament. All questions about disqualification must be referred in writing to the Tab Room.

### Section B18.2

In addition to the violation or non-adherence to any rules as put forth in the by-laws per specific events, the following are actions which are grounds for disqualification:

- Failure to provide an original copy or a photocopy of an interpretation selection, an informative speech, or a persuasive speech.
- Significant copying of a video of a performance. Such videos are the performers' intellectual property and significant copying of them is theft.
- Plagiarism, fabrication of evidence or news stories, and/or extensive paraphrasing in debate, congressional, or original speeches.
- The possession of prohibited materials, i.e. prepared materials in extemporaneous, commentary, or impromptu.
- If the speaker consults or collaborates with *anyone* on speech preparation for events where it is not permitted.
- A student who does not speak on the question/topic drawn or substitutes another question/topic for in extemporaneous, commentary, or impromptu.
- Those entrants who do not have a prepared script for a given News Broadcasting round will be disqualified from that round.
- Consulting with a coach or anyone outside the competition after it has begun.

### Section B18.3

Any violation of the rules as stated in the by-laws, or as outlined in B18.2, may result in disqualification from a PHSSL tournament at any level after proper disqualification protocol has been followed per B18.1.

## Article B19 – Awards

### Section B19.1

See the PHSSL Handbook for Standing Rules of District Procedure for awards related to District tournaments.

See the PHSSL Handbook for Standing Rules of State Procedure for awards related to the State tournament.

### Section B19.2 Hall of Fame

- A. Members of the Hall of Fame shall be chosen based on the following criteria:
  - 1. A minimum of 15 years of coaching in high school forensics in Pennsylvania, and/or
  - 2. Outstanding service to the league for an equal amount of time.
- B. To be nominated for the Hall of Fame, a person must receive a separate nomination from either a forensic coach, assistant forensic coach, current Executive Board member, a current District Chair, or a current Hall of Fame member.
- C. Once nominated, the name of a person who is nominated but does not win will remain on the ballot for five years. After five years, the name will be removed, and must be re-nominated to be considered again. The Hall of Fame coordinator will keep track of names that are to be kept or removed from the ballot.
- D. The selection committee and its chairperson shall be appointed by the Executive Board.
  - 1. Each year one member will be added to the committee and one member will leave the committee.
  - 2. Committee members will serve for three years.
- E. Duties of the Committee
  - 1. Receive the nomination forms by November 1 of the current academic year.
  - 2. Determine if the candidate meets the criteria in “A” above.
  - 3. Prepare and mail a survey to nominees requesting the information listed below in item 4, a through d.
  - 4. Prepare and mail a ballot that includes the following information for each candidate:
    - a. Number of years of coaching in Pennsylvania.
    - b. Number of years of service to the league: District Chair; District Committee; Executive Board.
    - c. Outstanding performances by students at the State Tournament.
    - d. Other exceptional service to the league.
  - 5. The ballot should indicate the number of candidates to vote for.
  - 6. Tally the ballots.
  - 7. Prior to the State Finals a presenter for each inductee will be invited by the committee to induct the recipient into the Hall of Fame.
- F. Voting shall be by the following:
  - 1. Current Hall of Fame members
  - 2. The current executive board
  - 3. Current District Chairs
- G. A person who meets two of the above criteria will cast two ballots. No voter can cast more than two, separate ballots that may or may not be identical.
- H. On each ballot, the voter may vote for no more than one-half of the nominees, to a maximum of three. For Example-
  - If four are nominated, two may be voted for on each ballot. If five are nominated, two may be voted for on each ballot. If six are nominated, three may be voted for on each ballot. If ten are nominated, three may be voted for on each ballot.

- I. The individual(s) receiving one third (1/3) of the total votes cast in a given year will be inducted into the PHSSL Hall of Fame. If no individual(s) receives one third(1/3) votes of total votes cast, the highest vote getter(s) receives the Hall of Fame award.  
For example: One-third of 99 votes would be 33 votes  
One-third of 100 votes would be 33.3=33 votes
- J. Each elected member shall be notified at least two weeks prior to the State Finals that the award will be presented at the appropriate opening Assembly of the State Tournament.
- K. Where special circumstances warrant the PHSSL Executive Board may make exceptions to these procedures.

Section B19.3 Emeritus Status for Executive Board

Emeritus Status for Executive Board Criteria:

- A. An individual who served on the Executive Board for 15 or more years (not necessarily consecutive) may be considered for Emeritus status.
- B. These individuals cannot currently be active coaches.
- C. The criteria and names of all former Board members who meet the above criteria will be listed in the State Tournament program under the title “Executive Board Members Emeriti.”
- D. Emeriti members who are known to be at the tournament will be designated in the program with an asterisk.
- E. Emeriti members will be invited to work at the tournament in various capacities. For example:
  - 1) judge final rounds
  - 2) work in the tab room
  - 3) serve as host/hostess in hospitality room
  - 4) conduct a new coaches’ seminar
- F. Emeriti members who attend the tournament will be invited to wear a ribbon marked “Emeritus” or “Executive Board Member Emeritus”.

## Appendix A

### Hall of Fame To-Do List

#### August

Check with PHSSL secretary to verify the nomination forms are included in the fall *Communicator*.  
Determine a deadline date, printed on the nomination form, to receive the Hall of Fame nominations.

#### September

Arrange with the PHSSL secretary to receive an address listing and labels of the current Executive Board, current District Chairs, and Current Hall of Fame Members.  
Determine which Hall of Fame Members (deceased) should not receive ballots. Notify new committee members.

#### October

Receive Hall of Fame nominations. Check nominations against criteria.  
Communicate with committee members to determine eligibility of nominees. Consult with nominators if additional information is needed.  
Send a survey to the nominee requesting information listed in Item 4, a through d.

#### November

Prepare a voting ballot.  
Establish a voting deadline. (postmarked) Specify voting may be by fax or mail, not e-mail.  
Place nominees in alphabetical order on the voting ballot. Mail two ballots to each voting member.  
Verify labels against address listings of all District Chairs, Exec Board Members, and Hall of Fame Members have ballots addressed to them.  
Get a receipt for mailing expenses to be reimbursed by the PHSSL.

#### First Two Weeks of December

Prepare a tally sheet to tabulate voting results. Communicate with committee members any dilemmas. Verify results with committee members.  
Notify the PHSSL Executive Director of the recipient name(s).

#### First Two Weeks of March

The Exec Director will write a notification letter to the recipient(s), the recipient's superintendent, president, or headmaster, and the recipient's principal.  
The PHSSL Executive Director will have the plaque(s) engraved.  
The committee will invite a presenter(s) to induct the recipient(s) into the PHSSL Hall of Fame.

#### State Tournament

The committee chairperson will submit the voting ballots and tabulation sheet to the PHSSL Exec Director. Submit the mailing expense receipt to the Executive Director.

#### Opening Assembly

The recipient(s) will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Debate recipient(s) will be inducted at the Debate meeting and the Individual Event recipient(s) will be inducted at the Individual Event meeting.  
The recipient(s) will receive a plaque and Hall of Fame Pin.

#### Closing Assembly

The recipient(s) will be recognized.