

OSSAA – Speech/Debate/Drama

August 2017

To: All Speech, Drama, and Debate Teachers

Dear Teachers,

Welcome to a new school year. I hope all of you enjoyed your summer. I am looking forward to the school year with great anticipation. If you have NEVER read this letter in the past, I need you to do so this year.

I need you to find a few minutes in the next 48 hours to REGISTER AT OUR SPEECH WEBSITE if you have not already done so! If you have previously registered, you will NOT have to register again, you will simply need to update your student roster **AND CLICK ON THE AFFIDAVIT AGAIN!** If you have not previously registered, this is very important and there are detailed instructions in this mail out. The affidavit, your speech roster and many other things will now be done online, and the sooner you register the better for all of us. Contact information and students who have qualified for Regionals and State will also be posted. In addition we will be using the website to enter One-Act Plays, Regional and State Speech and Debate. I highly encourage you to attend the coach's meeting/workshop at UCO on September 9, 2017. More information about this meeting will be emailed soon.

The **"2017-2018 Speech Rules and Regulation Manual" is available for downloading.** The manual is online at www.ossaa.com. Once there, click on "Non-Athletics" and then "Speech/Debate". You can download and print the manual.

The coach's meeting/workshop will be held at UCO in Edmond, Oklahoma on September 9, 2017. Tournament Directors are required to attend the meeting (or another meeting in Tulsa), all coaches are encouraged to attend. **TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS WILL BE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN ATTENDING.**

I encourage everyone to attend the OSSAA coach's meeting. We will be having "break-out" sessions to discuss important issues. This is the chance for your opinion on important speech/debate issues to be heard. Also included at this meeting is a "New Teachers Workshop". This is a great way for new teachers or teachers new to our state to get updated on the OSSAA rules and procedures.

Speech and Debate classifications are now done on a year-to-year basis. The latest ADM numbers can be found at www.ossaa.com, under classifications. **DOUBLECHECK YOUR CLASSIFICATIONS.**

Your speech advisory committee suggested some changes in last May's meeting, and the OSSAA board subsequently approved them in June. **Several significant changes have been approved. Be sure to read page SPE 47!**

1. Regional One Acts to be 1 week later beginning in 2018-2019.
2. 5A/6A Speech Regionals be moved to March 9th & 10th for the 2017-2018 school year.
3. Increase entry fees for regional and state speech competition Group 1 events to \$6.00 and Group 2 events to \$12.
4. On page SPE9, rule IX C, add the sentence "All judges are required to keep time."

July 31, 2017

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5. Amend rule IX C 9 on page SPE 13 by changing last three sentences to “Final speaker order will be determined by random draw. Schools will not be separated.”
6. Add to rule VII A 6: “When identifying additional qualifiers created by previously qualified students, additional qualifiers must have competed in finals.”
7. In rule VII C, after the word “photocopy,” insert “electronic scans, photos, or other direct facsimiles of the original cutting”.
8. Change the subsequent appearances of the word “photocopy” to “copy.”
9. Insert “properties,” after “sound effects,” on rule XI H 4 on page SPE 17.
10. Add 3A/4A public forum as a pilot for the 2017-2018 school year. The students may place, qualify for regionals and state, but not receive sweeps points.
11. Add the following to rule B 21 on page SPE 12: In 5A/6A individual events, when a disparity of more than eight regional entries that actually compete exists in a specific event, the smaller region will be guaranteed eight qualifications to state and the larger region will get eight qualifications to state plus additional qualifications at a rate of one to four ratio of whole numbers with no rounding for fractions up to a maximum of 24 total entries to state in that particular event. When the number of entry disparity between the two regions is eight or less, the original state qualification formula will be applied.

For your information, a list of eligible schools will appear on the OSSAA Speech website. A school is considered eligible to compete when:

1. Affidavit has been submitted electronically.
2. Qualifying Speech Participants Roster submitted electronically.
3. All speech payments from the 2016-2017 school year are paid.

If I can help in any way, please call.

Sincerely,

Mike Plunkett
OSSAA Fine Arts Director

Activities- the other half of education.