

Shakopee



Speech

Team Handbook 2018-2019
Last Updated: September 14th, 2018



Hello! Welcome to the Shakopee Speech Team!

What is Competitive Speech (Forensics)?

Speech is a competitive Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) sponsored activity in which students compete in one of the 13 categories listed below.

Genres and Categories:

Public Address: *Informative, Great Speeches, and Original Oratory (Persuasive).*

Interpretation: *Prose, Creative Expression, Poetry, Drama, Humorous, Duo, and Program Oral Interpretation (POI)**.*

Limited Prep: *Domestic/International Extemporaneous Speaking***, Extemporaneous Reading, and Storytelling.*

Discussion: *This is NOT debate. Students are responsible for collaboration with competitors to complete a task based on the season's selected research topic.*

**National category only. Student can only double-enter in this category.

***At the national-level this is split into 2 different categories.

Judging:

Most tournaments function with the same basic structure:

- Five to Seven students in a round competing in the same category. Students receive a ranking, 1-5.
- Three preliminary rounds, then a final round with the top competitors (sometimes an honors round occurs at larger tournaments.)
- After final rounds, students will be awarded a rank based on the final round.
- Teams collect points based on the ranking of finalists and could be awarded a team trophy.

If you are interested in judging, we do ask that you have some experience and knowledge of the categories. But we always need extra judges!

Attendance:

Not only does speech offer a chance for students to develop professional public speaking abilities, but other professional skills. We strive for responsibility; student who are well-rounded, on-time, and reliable. Attendance and teamwork are key elements to building professional skills and will be enforced strongly. In addition, coaches are liable for safety of our students. If a student does not come to practice, we need to know where they are at that scheduled time.

Practice Expectations:

Each week a student is expected to have 1 half-hour, one-on-one coached practice (sometime between Monday through Thursday after school). This is mandatory, if a student misses this practice, excused or unexcused, it is the student's responsibility to reschedule this practice or they will be dropped or "benched" from the next competition. Additionally, because this is a team activity, the student will be held accountable to come support their teammates, and will be "benched" until they come to competition without competing. If they skip the tournament and treat it like a "day off" it will be seen as another unexcused absence.

On Fridays, students are required to come to team meeting (3:15pm-3:40pm) and team practice (3:45pm-4:30pm). It is essential that competitors go to the meeting to know the tournament and bus schedule for the weekend and changes to that schedule. Whether a student is competing or not that weekend they are

expected to come to team meeting and practice. A skipped meeting and team practice will be enforced the same way as one-on-one practices.

Students should also be running through their speeches at least once a day on their own.

Student First, Competitor Second:

School is the first priority of our competitors. If 1 student is failing or in danger or failing a course in school (D or F), they will be dropped from tournaments and/or dismissed from the team. Between team meeting and practices we ask for less than 2 hours after school during the week from students, but a student needs to find balance school and with activities. If a student needs to work with a teacher after school, we ask that they try to schedule a time that does not conflict with the 2 hours we expect of speech each week. If you cannot make less than 2 hours during the week, then you cannot make 10 hours on a Saturday.

Excused Absences: Illness, family emergencies, doctor's appointments, religious obligations, other school activities that are at that time, or working with a teacher (This needs a pass or email to confirm that this was the only time that a student could work with that teacher.) **Coaches do not have access to your school daily attendance, please make sure you are communicating your absences (ahead of time) for safety and liability concerns.

Unexcused Absences: Work, homework, uncommunicated school activities, forgetting, unprepared for practice, skipping, etc.

Excessive Absences:

1st unexcused absence: "benched" from tournament, parent/guardian will be emailed.

2nd unexcused absence: "benched" from tournament, parent/guardian will be contacted via phone about final warning.

3rd unexcused absence: dismissal from team.

***Excessive absences (even excused), If a student cannot balance speech with other school activities or obligations then it could result in dismissal from team.*

Tournament Expectations:

Students are expected to come approximately 2 tournaments a month. Whether or not a student is competing in sections or state it is expected that a student comes to support their teammates and learn from competitors.

Typical Schedule (subject to change due to tournament sizes):

Round 1	9:00am
Round 2	10:30am
Round 3	12:00pm
Finals	2:00pm
Awards	4:00pm

Travel to Tournaments:

A student CANNOT drive themselves to tournaments (excluding home tournaments) without filling out an alternative transportation form from the activities office 24 hours prior to the tournament. If a student misses the bus a PARENT/GUARDIAN must drive that student to the tournament and be escorted to a coach or they will be dropped from the tournament.

Drop Fees:

Any missed and unexcused tournaments will result in a drop fee (ranging from \$5 to \$10), a student must pay their drop fee before entering a tournament in the season.

Behavior at Competition:

Skipping rounds will result in dropping immediately from a tournament and a parent/guardian will be responsible for picking up the student from competition. Plagiarism or cheating will result in immediate dismissal from the team.

Tournament Attire:

Most competitors in speech compete in a suit, but this is not required. Clothes should be what you would wear to a job interview, professional. Dress shoes (closed toed and appropriate height), dress pants or skirt (or a dress), and a dress shirt. Students will be wearing this all day, comfort is important, but also is professionalism.



Tournament Season Schedule:

The tournament season a long one and we do not expect that a student competes in all of our tournaments, but in order to learn and grow a student needs to make competition a priority. We do not expect students to win, but we do expect a student to come to competition and be trying their best.

Tournament Calendar**

Saturday, December 15-16, 2018	Snowinvtational (Chanhassen National Preview)
Saturday, January 12, 2019	Woodbury Invitational
Saturday, January 19, 2019	Chanhassen Invitational
Saturday, January 26, 2019	Eden Prairie Invitational
Saturday, February 2, 2019	Apple Valley "Minneapple" Invitational
Saturday, February 9, 2019	WEEK OFF
Saturday, February 16, 2019	Eastview Invitational
Saturday, February 23, 2019	Chaska Invitational
Saturday, March 2, 2019	Shakopee Home Tournament (Required Attendance)
FRIDAY, March 8, 2019	NSDA National Qualifiers for Central District
Saturday, March 9, 2019	Eagan Invitational/National Qualifier Semi-Finals & Finals Rounds
Saturday, March 16, 2019	Roseville Invitational
THURSDAY, March 21, 2019	MSHSL South/West Sub-Sections for 2AA
Saturday, April 6, 2019	MSHSL Sections for 2AA (SPRING BREAK)
Saturday, April 13, 2019	AA State Tournament
June 2019	NSDA National Tournament

**Subject to change.

MSHSL Sections and State Tournament:

The expectation is that all students are coming to Minnesota State High School League sections and state. Whether or not they are competing. Invitationals are practice to the big moment: state. Not all students will advance, but they need to prepare, practice, and compete as if they would advance. The team can only succeed if you push yourself. Please make sure that you note these dates as required and save the date in your calendar.

NSDA Qualifiers and National Tournament:

Unlike MSHSL sections, the National Speech and Debate Association tournaments are not required. These are higher level competition and due to the limited number of slots we get for qualifiers, this will be up to coach's discretion.

MSHSL Code of Conduct:

Reminders that you are a representative of the Shakopee Speech Team. We ask that you educate yourself on the codes of conduct from the Minnesota State High School League.

Lettering Policy and Coach's Expectations:

They are given to students who have excelled in that season on basis of attendance, awards, and team leadership.

1. The student does not have more than 1 unexcused absence from practice in the season.
- AND**
2. The student has finaled and awarded in a single category in the season at least 3 times.
 3. Letters may be provided at the head coach's discretion.

Canvas and Contact:

Students and parents will be expected to communicate about speech and stay updated with announcements via canvas. If you are not part of the speech canvas page, please contact coaches using speechteam@shakopeeschools.org. All other questions and concerns need to be contacted through the speechteam@shakopeeschools.org.

Cut here and return by first practice- - - - -

I, _____, and my parent/guardian,
_____, have read and understood
the expectation of the Shakopee Speech Team.

Student Signature x _____

Parent/Guardian Signature x _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: _____