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## INTRODUCTION

This booklet contains detailed information concerning all interschool speech and drama events in which member schools of the Montana High School Association may participate. Persons receiving this booklet are urged to read it carefully and retain it for reference purposes.

Much of the information contained in this booklet is also found under the Forensic and Drama Section of the Montana High School Association Handbook. Coaches are encouraged to visit the MHSAs website for additional information.

### *Items Changed Since Last Year in Bold and Italic Print*

All rule and regulatory revisions, changes and new items are noted in bold, italic print throughout this booklet.

Additional copies may be obtained for \$5.00 each by writing, calling or emailing:

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### **MHSA Forensic and Drama Committee**

Bonnie Ortner, MFEA President----- Chinook  
Liz Schwartz, MFEA Vice President -----Laurel  
Kari Blaylock, Secretary/Treasurer----- Columbus  
Bob Moore, Superintendent----- Stevensville  
Scott Wilson, MHSA----- Helena

**FORENSIC AND DRAMA**  
**RULES AND REGULATIONS**  
**Divisional Tournaments**

Classes A and B-C ----- January 18-19

**State Tournaments**

All Classes ----- January 25-26

**I. ADMINISTRATION**

**A. Supervision**

1. The state shall be divided into a convenient number of forensic and drama divisions by the Executive Board upon recommendation of the MHSA Forensic and Drama Committee.
2. The Montana High School Association shall supervise and control interschool forensic and drama activities in those divisions.
3. The regular MHSA bulletins shall carry information to member schools concerning speech and drama activities similar to the information carried concerning athletic and other activities.

**B. Approval of Participation**

1. Any school not participating in forensics and drama the previous year may request permission for placement to participate competitively on an interschool basis by indicating its desire to do so by written notice to the Executive Director's office by September 1 of the current school year.

**C. Rules and Regulations**

1. In the interests of uniformity, standing rules will be formulated by the MHSA Forensic and Drama Committee and the Executive Board. Such rules will be followed in conducting divisional, state speech and drama meets and invitational meets unless specified in the letter of invitation.
2. The Executive Board of the Montana High School Association shall authorize publication in the annual Association Handbook a section on speech and drama activities containing the rules and regulations.

**D. Record Keeping**

1. The state association office shall keep a complete file and record of all speech and drama activities. It shall be the depository for filing records and other speech and drama materials necessary to carry out the complete speech and drama program.
2. Such information will be furnished to member schools as is approved by the MHSA Forensic Committee and the Executive Board.

**II. ORGANIZATION**

**A. Forensic and Drama Divisions**

1. Schools will be divided into three classes, Class AA, Class A and Class B-C. The fourteen schools classified as Class AA for athletics shall be classified as Class AA for speech activities. All other schools that participate in speech and/or drama will be classified as Class A or B-C.
2. For competition among the Class AA schools, only a state meet will be held.

3. There shall be four conferences within two divisions among the Class A schools as follows: The Eastern Division will consist of the Central and East Conferences, and the Western Division will consist of the Northwest and Southwest Conferences. There shall be three divisions among the B-C schools as follows: Eastern, Northern and Southern.

4. Each forensic and drama division shall select officers from member schools to conduct interschool speech and drama activities in that division. They shall determine the organization of the speech and drama contests in the division. They shall determine the divisional meet site in the A and B-C divisions and conduct divisional speech and drama activities in accordance with the rules and regulations established by the Montana High School Association.

### **B. Teams and Student Eligibility**

1. Only teams from member high schools may participate in MHS division and state forensic tournaments. Any ninth-grade student enrolled in and attending an accredited junior high school in the same school system as a senior high school may be eligible to participate on that senior high school's forensic team. The eligibility of a ninth-grade student of a junior high school who has been approved for senior high school competition must be certified by the principals of both the junior and senior high schools.

2. In order for a student to be eligible to represent his/her school in any interschool speech and/or drama activity, he/she must comply with the following criteria:

a. A student must be enrolled in twenty hours per week and in regular attendance ten hours per week at the school where the student participates. Regular attendance is defined as actual physical presence in the building (bricks and mortar). A homeschool student is not eligible to participate for an MHS member school.

b. A grading period is defined as one semester. A semester is defined as one half of a school year (approximately 18 school weeks or 90 school days). This definition is applicable to all schools regardless of the type of class scheduling format utilized (i.e. block, traditional, trimester etc.).

c. A student must have received a passing grade and received credit in at least twenty periods of prepared class work or its equivalent in the last previous semester, at the school where the student participates.

d. A student must have received a passing grade and received credit in at least twenty periods of prepared work per week or its equivalent during the last preceding semester in which he/she was enrolled.

e. If a student is assigned an "incomplete" or a "condition" in a subject, he/she has not received a passing grade in this subject. The record at the end of the semester is final.

f. No student may establish eligibility concurrently at two-member schools. Dual enrollment is not recognized for the purpose of eligibility in MHS activities.

g. This rule is not applicable to IDEA '04 and Section 504 students when their individual education plans (IEP) under IDEA or their educational accommodation plans under Section 504 certify that the students are not required to meet this minimum academic requirement to have passed twenty hours of prepared work per week. However, all students must be enrolled in twenty hours per week and in regular attendance ten hours per week. Special education or Section 504 certification that the student is not required to meet the minimum academic requirements may not be enacted retroactively (after grades have been assigned at the end of the previous semester).

h. A student: 1) must not be a graduate of a four-year high school or of a secondary school with similar graduation requirements, 2) must not have earned enough credits to have graduated and completed eight semesters of high school, and 3) must not have a GED or HSET.

3. The team that shall represent any member high school shall be selected by that school in any manner agreed upon by the principals, teachers and students at that school.

4. The MHSA prohibits any use and/or possession of tobacco, alcohol or other mood-altering drugs during competition. Violation will cause the coach or participant to be disqualified from further participation in that event.

### **C. Student Special Considerations**

1. Special considerations implemented for a student identified under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or 504 shall not infringe upon the rights of other competitors. Accommodations should be made as not to create an unfair advantage but rather level the playing field.

2. When accommodations need to be made, the individual team or coach should attempt to do so within the rules and regulations mandated by MHSA and MFEA.

3. Requested accommodations to rules must be an inherent part of a current IDEA Individual Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan.

4. It is the coaches' responsibility to inform event organizers of needed accommodations so that the information can be disseminated to those impacted.

### **D. Season and Tournaments**

1. Practice and competition for interschool speech and drama shall begin the first week in October and conclude with the MHSA State Speech and Drama Meets on the last weekend in January EXCEPT, member schools holding a valid NSDA (National Speech & Debate Association) charter will be permitted to participate in the Montana District and the national NSDA tournaments after the speech and drama meets.

2. Individual instruction (coaching) is acceptable after the season on a one on one basis - i.e. one entry per coach(es). Instruction on a one on one basis out of season cannot be required of any student. The intent of allowing one on one instruction is to provide the opportunity for a student to improve his/her skills if he/she requests assistance.

3. The team coaching rule is suspended from June 1 - July 31. This means a coach of a team can coach his/her speech/drama students anytime, anywhere, during this period.

4. Students cannot be required to attend out-of-season practices, camps or contests.

5. Schools cannot in any way sponsor, finance, promote or be affiliated with any out-of-season events or tournaments.

6. During the regular season, a student may travel to only six two-day meets. If his/her school is hosting a two-day meet, this will not count in the limitation of the six two day meets. The MHSA Divisional, State, or NDSA District meets will not count toward the limit of two day meets.

7. During the regular season, a student may participate in a maximum of eleven interschool meets. The limit on the number of meets that a student may participate in shall not include MHSA Divisional and State tournaments, or the Montana District National Speech & Debate Association tournament for member schools.

8. Approval will not be granted for any member school to participate in any speech and/or drama meet lasting longer than two days.

Any student that is found to be in violation of the above rules will be ineligible for Divisional and State meets for the current year and, in addition, his or her school may be subject to a penalty to be imposed by the Executive Board of the Montana High School Association.

9. Invitational meets: Any interstate meet in which four or more schools participate or which involves three or more state high school associations, any interstate meet where travel is more than 300 miles one way, or any interdivision meet involving three or more schools must have prior approval of the Montana High School Association Forensic and Drama committee and Executive Board. See Rule (14), Association and

Executive Board Rules and Regulations. The MHSAA Executive Board has authorized the Executive Director to approve the invitational schedule.

10. In circumstances where a school brings a JV squad to an invitational in addition to its varsity squad, and under a separate code number, that JV squad shall not compete for sweepstakes rankings.

11. Opportunity for extra entries must be stated in the invitation.

12. Tournament hosts must clearly indicate in the original invitation all entry deadlines and fees, including drop fees.

13. Class AA tournaments must initially offer all 12 sanctioned AA events (see Section E, #2) during their tournament registration periods. If fewer than 8 participants are registered for an event once the registration deadline has passed, tournament directors may cancel the event. Tournament directors should communicate with participating schools on these issues in an attempt to seek resolutions in the best interest of participating students.

14. Tournament directors are strongly encouraged to distribute approved judging instructions with each judge's comment sheet.

15. Only coaches who are paid coaches or are MFEA members or volunteer coaches pre-approved by the tournament director may be in the tab room.

### **E. Sanctioned Events**

1. The following events are approved for Classes AA, A, B and C except as noted:

- a. Extemporaneous Speaking - solo event
- b. Impromptu Speaking - solo event
- c. Informative Speaking - solo event
- d. Memorized Public Address - solo event
- e. Oral Interpretation of Literature - Humorous - solo event
- f. Oral Interpretation of Literature - Dramatic - solo event
- g. Original Oratory - solo event
- h. Lincoln-Douglas Debate - solo event
- i. Policy Debate - duo event
- j. Legislative Debate - solo event (Class AA only)
- k. Duo Oral Interpretation of Literature - duo event (Class AA only)
- l. Program Oral Interpretation of Literature - solo event (Class AA only)
- m. Public Forum Debate – duo event (Classes A and AA)
- n. Humorous Acting – duo and solo events (Classes A and B-C)
- o. Dramatic Acting – duo and solo events (Classes A and B-C)
- p. Classic Theatre - duo event (Classes A and B-C)
- q. Pantomime - solo event (Classes A and B-C)
- r. Spontaneous Oral Interpretation – solo event (Class B-C only)

### **F. Divisional and State Tournaments**

A and B-C Divisional and AA, A and B-C State Tournament Participation

1. The schools classified as Class AA will be allowed to enter the state tournament without qualification through a divisional tournament.

2. There are two divisional tournaments for the schools classified as Class A and the contests for all speech and drama events will be held on the same dates. Each tournament will be hosted in a single school district. The contestants will qualify to enter the State Class A Tournament by placing in the divisional meet.

3. There are three divisional tournaments for the schools classified as Class B-C and the contests for all speech and drama events will be held on the same dates. Each tournament will be hosted in a single school district. The contestants will qualify to enter the State Class B-C Tournament by placing at the divisional

meet. Each contestant in divisional and state tournaments will be allowed to enter one speech or one drama event.

4. No school is required to take part in any tournament, but when once entered under the plan outlined, schools shall carry out their part of the program in fairness to all other schools represented.

5. Dates: The dates for the divisional and state speech and drama meets shall be determined by the Executive Board of the Montana High School Association.

6. Sites and directors: The sites and directors of the State Speech and Drama Meets shall be determined by the MHSA Executive Board upon recommendation of the MHSA Forensic and Drama Committee.

7. Rules: All MHSA rules must apply. Tournament procedure accepted by MHSA must be followed.

8. The division tournament managers and state tournament managers shall make the final decision concerning coach conduct. The divisional tournament managers are selected by the division membership, and the state tournament managers are selected by the MHSA Executive Board.

9. Arbitration: The executive committee from the Montana Forensic Educators Association, which consists of the president and vice president of the M.F.E.A. and chairperson of the Class AA and the A and B-C interim committees, shall serve as an arbitration committee between the tournament directors and the high school coaches.

### G. Ethics

1. A debater may not watch another debate round until eliminated.

2. Spectators taking notes in a debate will be allowed only if all four team debaters or both LD debaters approve. In elimination rounds spectators, excluding paid or volunteer coaches, will be allowed to take notes.

3. No electronic recordings of any competition rounds will be allowed.

4. At divisional and state tournaments no coach who has a student competing in an event shall watch any rounds in that event until finals. A coach may not judge his or her own team member.

5. Student competitors shall be identified by an arbitrary code number and students shall not make any reference to or identify themselves with their own school or community during forensic competition.

6. Students shall not deliberately cause bloodshed during any acting or speaking rounds.

7. Competitors are required to follow the policy of no guns in schools. This includes fake or "toy" guns. Real weapons of any type are not allowed.

8. During competition:

a. All audience members, excluding competitors who are double-entered, must remain in the room until all competitors have spoken; double-entered competitors must go to their second event immediately after presenting in their first event, and must remain in their second event until the end of the round (with the exception of extempers, who may return to the drawing room no earlier than 15 minutes prior to the start of the next draw time). Students double-entered in Informative Speaking will be allowed to drop off and pick up their materials.

b. No audience member may communicate with a judge in the round.

c. No audience member may gesture or otherwise attempt to affect the performance of any competitor.

**d. Students may use cell phones as timers.** The use of laptops, iPods, or other electronic devices during rounds is prohibited except when permitted by specific event rules. Devices may be also used in any event for medical purposes.

9. Plagiarism of positions in debate is expressly prohibited.



10. Statements that are cited or quoted that are presented as factual in any event must be verifiable immediately following the round if asked by the tournament director.
11. No competitor shall be in competition rooms without a judge or coach present.
12. Material must be appropriate for all audiences.
- 13. Any violation of these rules may result in penalties ranging from last in round to disqualification.**

#### **H. Materials Used in Events**

1. Duplicate materials: If a student has competed in the divisional or state tournaments with a certain material, that student will not be allowed to use that same material in succeeding years. The same material shall be interpreted as material from the same play, novel, etc. Violation of this rule shall result in disqualification of that student from the tournament.

#### **I. Evidence Fabrication/Distortion**

Competitors shall be prohibited from using fabricated or distorted evidence.

1. "Evidence" is defined as material which is represented as published fact or testimony and offered in support of a claim.
2. "Fabricated" evidence refers to the citing of a fact or opinion that is either from a source that is found to be nonexistent or not contained in the original source of the material in question.
3. "Distorted" evidence refers to the misrepresentation of the actual or implied content of factual or opinion evidence.

Misrepresentations may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Quoting out of context: selecting text from an article in such a way that the claim made with the selected text is clearly inconsistent with the author's position as that position is manifest in the article, book or other source from which the quotation is taken as a whole.
  - b. Internally omitting words from a quotation or adding words to a quotation in such a way that the meaning evident in the resulting modified quotation deviates substantially in quality, quantity, probability or degree of force from the author's position as manifest in the quotation in question prior to modification.
  - c. Omitting words internally from a quotation or adding words to a quotation without indicating, either on the written form of the quotation or orally when the quotation is delivered to an opponent or judge, that such a deletion or addition has been made.
  - d. Instance of inability to provide complete documentation (source, qualifications, location of quotation, complete data, and/or page numbers).
4. Fabricated/Distorted evidence is so defined without regard to whether the person who uses it was the person who fabricated or distorted it.

#### **J. Rules Challenges and Protest Procedures**

1. Rules: All MHS A rules must apply. Tournament procedure accepted by MHS A must be followed. Rules questions should be addressed to first, **the coach of the competitor involved in the infraction, then, the tournament director, and finally, the Rules Committee.** Rules protests should be raised with the Rules Committee.
2. Rules will be interpreted by members of the Rules Committee present at the State meet with reference to a case book.

In the event of fewer than three members of the Rules Committee being present at a tournament, the tournament director will appoint coaches necessary to make a committee of three to make ruling at that tournament.

3. An official protest is defined as:

- a. The code # of the challenged contestant(s)
- b. The challenge
- c. The name of the challenger
- d. Submitted in writing by a coach

4. Procedure for protest

- a. Challenges must be submitted by a coach in a timely fashion.
- b. If the challenge requires observation, then the tournament director will send an observer to the following round or
- c. If the challenge does not require observation, the Rules Committee will examine evidence.
- d. If the protest justifies pursuit, then the Rules Committee will meet with all parties concerned. Should any member of the Rules Committee be involved in the appeal, either as the coach of the accused or the accusers, that member will refrain from active participation in the hearing procedure and, at the discretion of the tournament director, will be replaced for purposes of the hearing by another coach chosen by the tournament director.
- e. No further rounds in that event will be posted until a decision is reached.
- f. Penalties will range from warnings to disqualification as recommended by the Rules Committee. **The MHSA sexual harassment policy is in effect for all MHSA events. Any allegations of sexual harassment or bullying during speech/debate/drama events must be reported by the tournament director to the administration of the school(s) involved and to the MHSA Executive Director.**

#### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY**

**The MHSA believes that all individuals should be treated with respect and dignity. Students should be able to participate in MHSA sponsored activities in an environment that is free from sexual harassment and sexual violence. Each member school is responsible for taking such action and enacting such policies as may be necessary to address incidents of sexual harassment and sexual violence and to ensure that an environment free of such prohibited conduct is maintained. Any member school which sponsors or tolerates such activity is subject to expulsion from the MHSA**

g. The Rules Committee shall submit a written report of the proceedings and recommendations to the tournament director. The director will submit the report at the Spring MFEA meeting.

5. Specific procedures for rules challenges in debate are found in Section III. H.

### **III. RULES FOR DEBATE EVENTS**

#### **A. Topics for Debate Events**

1. Policy Debate

a. The question debated each year shall be that chosen for high schools by the National Federation Committee on Debate, unless changed by the MHSA Forensic Committee upon recommendation of the Montana Forensic Educators Association and approved by the MHSA Executive Board.

b. The debate topic for **2018-2019 is Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce its restrictions on legal immigration to the United States.**

2. Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, and Legi Debate

a. The topic to be debated shall be the NSDA Topic.

b. The Debate Committee has the option of replacing the NSDA topic, providing a majority of the members agree to the decision and the new topic. The March-April LD and Public Forum topics from the previous season will be the potential replacement topics for the current season, should one become necessary.

c. Nominations for future LD and Public Forum replacement topics must be submitted to the Debate Committee chairperson prior to the Debate Committee meeting on Friday of the spring MFEA meeting.

d. **The LD and Legi topics shall switch from September/October topic to November/December topic on November 18 and to the January/February topic on January 1.**

e. **The September/October Public Forum topic from the NSDA shall be utilized from the start of the season through November 24. The topic shall switch to the November/December topic on November 25 and to the January topic on January 1. The topic will switch to the February topic on February 1.**

### B. Policy Debate

1. The following form of the Oregon Style of debating shall be used:

First Affirmative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Cross examined by the Second Negative	3 minutes
First Negative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Cross examined by the First Affirmative	3 minutes
Second Affirmative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Cross examined by the First Negative	3 minutes
Second Negative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Cross examined by the Second Affirmative	3 minutes
First Negative. Rebuttal	5 minutes
First Affirmative, Rebuttal	5 minutes
Second Negative, Rebuttal	5 minutes
Second Affirmative. Rebuttal	5 minutes

2. It is permissible for either constructive speaker to give the first rebuttal so long as each speaker gives and answers cross examination and gives a rebuttal.

3. Preparation time may be utilized by the affirmative and negative teams but shall not exceed five minutes total per team during the course of the entire debate.

4. All road maps or pre-summaries will be included as part of the time for constructive or rebuttal speeches.

5. Each debater or team will time each portion of the debate, timing down using a timer with minutes and seconds and an audible alarm.

6. Prior to each speech, each speaker will show his/her timer to the judge.

### C. Lincoln-Douglas Debate

1. The format to be followed shall be:

Affirmative Constructive Speech	6 minutes
Cross examination by the negative	3 minutes
Negative Constructive Speech	7 minutes
Cross examination by the affirmative	3 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	4 minutes
Negative Rebuttal and Summary	6 minutes
Affirmative Summary	3 minutes

2. Preparation time may be utilized by the affirmative and negative speakers but shall not exceed four minutes total per contestant during the course of the entire debate.

3. Each debater or team will time each portion of the debate, timing down using a timer with minutes and seconds and an audible alarm.

4. Prior to each speech, each speaker will show his/her timer to the judge.

### D. Public Forum Debate

1. The topic will be the national topic which changes each month. Public Forum Debate focuses on the advocacy of a position derived from the issues presented in the resolution, not a prescribed set of burdens.

2. Procedure

a. Prior to EVERY round and in the presence of the judge(s), a coin is tossed by one team and called by the other team. The team that wins the flip may choose one of two options: either the side of the topic they wish to defend (pro or con) or the speaker position they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate). The remaining option (side or speaking position) is the choice of the team that loses the flip. Once speaking position and sides have been determined, the debate can begin.

b. Each speaker shall have four minutes for constructive argument, alternating between pro and con. (The debate may begin with a con speech.) Following the first two constructive speeches, the two debaters who have just given speeches will stand and participate in a three-minute "crossfire." (In crossfire both debaters "hold the floor.") However, the first question must be asked by the speaker who spoke first. After that question either debater may question and/or answer at will.

c. At the end of the first crossfire, the four-minute constructive arguments are continued by the students yet to speak. At the conclusion of the last two constructive arguments, another three-minute crossfire takes place between the two debaters who just spoke using the crossfire procedure discussed above.

d. Following the four constructive speech and two crossfire segments, the first speakers for each team will give a two-minute summary continuing established alternation. The summary speeches should include the arguments his or her team is winning and refuting arguments it is losing.

e. At the conclusion of the summary speeches, all four debaters will remain seated and participate in a three minute "grand crossfire" in which all four debaters are allowed to cross-examine one another. The first question must be asked by the speaker who gave the first summary speech.

f. At the conclusion of the grand crossfire, the second speakers will each give a two-minute "final focus" speech. The final focus is a persuasive final restatement of why a team has won the debate.

3. Time Schedule

1st speaker – Team A	4 minutes
1st speaker – Team B	4 minutes
Crossfire	3 minutes
2nd speaker – Team A	4 minutes
2nd speaker – Team B	4 minutes
Crossfire	3 minutes

Summary – 1st speaker – Team A	2 minutes
Summary – 1st speaker – Team B	2 minutes
Grand Crossfire	3 minutes
Final Focus – 2nd speaker – Team A	2 minutes
Final Focus – 2nd speaker – Team B	2 minutes
Prep time (per team)	2 minutes

#### 4. Plans/Counter Plans

In Public Forum Debate, a plan or counter plan is defined as a formalized, comprehensive proposal for implementation. Neither the pro or con side is permitted to offer a plan or counter plan; rather, they should offer reasoning to support a position of advocacy. Debaters may offer generalized, practical solutions.

#### 5. Prompting Philosophy

Oral prompting, except time signals, either by the speaker's colleague or by any other person while the debater has the floor is discouraged though not prohibited and may be penalized by some judges. Debaters may, however, refer to their notes and materials and may consult with their teammate while they do not have the floor during the grand crossfire.

#### 6. Timing

Debaters may time for their partners, opponents may time each other, or the judge may keep time. Prep time for each team is two minutes.

#### 7. Reading case

A team may decide, when asked by the opposing team for a copy of their case, whether or not to provide it; if the team refuses they shall not be penalized in any way.

8. As this is a debate event, students are encouraged to do research and writing of positions before they come to a tournament. Rules for use of evidence will be the same as those for other debate events (LD and Policy Debate).

9. Judge adaptation and accessibility to any member of society should be emphasized by the debaters. The use of jargon and technical terms should be minimized to emphasize communication and persuasion/argumentation.

### **E. Legislative Debate**

#### 1. Structure of Legislative Debate

- a. Legislative Debate will be conducted using five preliminary rounds, breaking the top sixteen contestants to the semifinal round, and then the top eight contestants will advance to the final round.
- b. Entries shall be divided into panels of eight or fewer. Contestants are to be changed from one panel to the other to avoid contestants from the same school in the same panel.
- c. All preliminary rounds will be paired randomly.
- d. Each round will have no more than eight competitors and last no longer than 75 minutes, to be timed by the judge. At the end of 75 minutes, the judge will announce the end of the debate and the current presiding officer will immediately close the session.

#### 2. Student Preparation

- a. Students will come to tournaments with one or more prepared bills on the current topic. Students will bring adequate copies to distribute to ten other individuals for each competitive round.

b. Bills (or resolutions) will be typed and no more than one single-sided page. A full MLA or APA citation must be provided for all evidence used with the bill. These citations must be placed on the back of the bill.

c. All bills and rules will address the general topic as assigned from the viewpoint of the United States Congress.

d. Any contestant who attempts to compete without a bill will be disqualified from the tournament.

### 3. Topics

a. Topics will be general in nature and cover broad debatable issues.

b. Topics will be one foreign and one domestic. Topics will alternate beginning with domestic (round 1), then foreign (round 2), then domestic (round 3) etc. In the final round, a competitor may present either topic.

c. Topics will follow the Lincoln-Douglas debate topic pattern and will be selected per the debate.

### 4. Round Procedure

a. At the beginning of each round, the posting will indicate the order of contestants serving as presiding officer, with the first contestant listed being the presiding officer, and so forth. The posting will also indicate the order of initial speaking precedence, such being the reverse of the order for presiding officer, with the last contestant listed on the posting having precedence and so forth.

b. The speaker assigned to the first position of precedence will collect the eight bills anonymously from contestants, place them without reference to author or code in an envelope or folder, and present these bills to the judge. The judge will then decide the bill order and within ten minutes announce the title of the first bill of consideration.

c. Those entering the round late will be eliminated from the first consideration.

d. Presiding officer order will be determined by posting order, with the first contestant listed being the first presiding officer, and so forth. Each presiding officer will serve for an equal number of minutes. At the end of the time, the current speech will be allowed to end, and the next PO will begin his/her assignment.

e. Each bill will be debated using the following format:

Authorship speech:	5 minutes maximum
Open cross-examination controlled by author:	3 minutes maximum
Affirmative and Negative alternating speeches:	3 minutes maximum
Open cross-examination controlled by the speaker of each Aff/Neg speech:	1 minute maximum
Rebuttal speech:	2 minutes maximum

f. Concerning discussion speeches, recency will be used to determine speaking order. Of the contestants who wish to speak, the contestant with the least recent speech will speak next. All timed speeches will be considered for recency. Cross-examination will be exempted from recency.

g. Procedure rules shall be drawn by Robert's Rules of Order. Allowed motions are main, second, point of order, previous question, amendment and voting.

***h. When a motion to amend is made and seconded, the maker of the motion is assigned the floor for a one-minute cross examination period (not a speech). Recency will resume after the one-minute cross-examination period.***

## 5. Tabulation

Legislative Debate will use the scoring procedures for speech events, described in Section IX. A. Class AA Speech Pairing Procedures

## 6. Semifinals

### a. Selection of Semi-finalists

(1) The semi-final round, composed of two sections, is made of the sixteen that have the lowest rank from the preliminary sessions.

(2) In semi-finals, seeded contestants will be divided equally among the two sections according to the following example:

<b>Section 1</b>	<b>Section 2</b>
#1	#2
#4	#3
#5	#6
#8	#7
#9	#10
#12	#11
#13	#14
#16	#15

Speaking order in the semifinal round shall be determined by listing the student code numbers on paper and drawing them at random.

(3) Contestants are to be changed from one house to another to balance the number of school entries in each section.

### b. Rules and Procedures

(1) The semi-finalist shall be assigned to serve as judge chair. This individual shall decide and announce bill order.

## 7. Finals

### a. Selection of Finalists

(1) The final round, composed of a single section, is made up of the eight best contestants from the semi-final rounds.

(2) In finals, students are to be randomly placed.

### b. Rules and Procedures

(1) The finals shall be conducted as the preliminary contest.

(2) One judge shall be assigned to serve as judge chair. The individual shall decide and announce bill order.

## **F. Participation in Debate Events**

1. In team debate two speakers shall debate both sides of the question. If one member of the team cannot debate, the team will forfeit the round. If one member of a qualifying debate team cannot attend the state meet, the school may substitute for this member. If neither member can attend, no substitution may be made.

2. Any school which is not ready to debate within ten minutes of the time specified by the tournament director shall forfeit the debate.

3. Novice is defined as a student who is competing *in a first year of debate* or a second year of debate if he/she participated in no more than ten **combined** rounds of Policy or LD or Public Forum or Legislative debate in *his/her* first year **of debate**.

### **G. Debate Evidence Presentation and Sharing**

1. Exchange of tangible evidence or debate-related materials between schools at a tournament outside of a round is not allowed.

2. Primary evidence in the form of personal correspondence, including via the internet, is not admissible as evidence in a debate. Evidence must be issued by the publisher.

3. Any item used as evidence during debate must, upon request, be provided for review/inspection to the opposing debater(s) during the round. The provision of the evidence must provide a meaningful opportunity for review. Debaters shall comply with this obligation either by specifically pointing out the portion(s) of the evidence read or used in the debate to the opponents, or by providing specific and accurate page reference(s) to the portions that were used. This includes the text of plan, counter-plan and textual alternative of kritiks presented in the round. Failure to comply shall be treated as distortion of evidence under rules Section II. I. and III. H. 5.

4. In all debate events, debaters are expected to, at a minimum, orally deliver the following when introducing evidence in a debate round: primary author(s) last name(s) and year of publication. If paraphrasing is used, the debater will be held to the same standard of citation and accuracy as if the entire text of the evidence were read. Debaters also must have and be able to provide all information required by full MLA or APA citations, in addition to the qualifications of the author(s), for any evidence they introduce into the debate round. Internet-based sources must also include the title of the website, database, or access point; the date accessed; and the web address.

The additional citation required for online sources must appear on all evidence but need not be read. Oral citations do not substitute for the written source citation.

5. Evidence requiring oral citation includes, but is not limited to: facts, statistics, or examples attributable to a specific, identifiable authoritative source used to support a claim.

6. No charts, graphs, handouts or individual materials may be presented to the judge except on judge-initiated request.

7. Competitors may not provide their opponents or the judge with materials that have been altered from what was presented in the round. These materials include, but are not limited to, citations, evidence, plan text etc.

8. Visual aids are prohibited in debate. A visual aid is defined as: an item of illustrative matter, such as a film, slide or model, designed to supplement written or spoken information so that it can be understood more easily.

9. The use of electronic devices is permitted in any debate event provided no information is accessed in a manner requiring communication other than between competitors in the course of the round.

a. Receiving information from sources outside of the competition room is prohibited, whether via internet access, use of email, instant messaging, texting, or any other means.

b. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information from any sentient source (coaches, assistants, and teammates included but debate partner and/or opponent(s) excluded) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs (This does not prohibit communication between competitors during a round.).

c. Penalty: Contestants found to have violated provision II.D.8.b will forfeit the round of competition and receive zero speaker points. Contestants found to have violated provision II.D.8.c will be disqualified from the tournament and will forfeit all rounds and sweepstakes points.



d. Availability of Evidence: Contestants electing to use computers have the responsibility to promptly provide a copy of any evidence read in a speech for inspection by the judge or opponent throughout the round.

Printers may be used. Evidence may be printed in the round or produced electronically, but must be provided in a format viewable by the opposing team and the judge. It is the positive duty of any debater utilizing an electronic device either to print evidence on request or to provide a viewing device available to opponents for the duration of the round and to the judge, if requested, at the conclusion of the round.

e. Contestants electing to use electronic devices are responsible for providing their own devices, batteries, extension cords, and all other necessary accessories (including accessories for the required viewing device).

f. Because public speaking decorum remains an important element of debate, all debaters are expected to stand at the front of the room facing the judge while speaking.

g. Contestants choosing to use electronic devices and related equipment accept the risk of equipment failure. Judges and/or contest directors will give no special consideration or accommodation, including no additional speech time or prep time, should equipment failure occur.

h. Time required for data transfer is to be counted as prep time.

### **H. Rules Challenges in Debate**

1. Challenges should be made only as a last resort after reasonable attempts to secure a mutually acceptable resolution through private discussion about the evidence in question have failed. Failure to do so will render official challenges void.

2. Challenges should be supported by appropriate documentation (e.g. a copy of the original source) when possible and submitted to the tournament director for a ruling. Typical consequences will be loss of round, or in legislative debate receive a ranking of last in the round, no higher than a 5 (no additional penalty, i.e. no loss of speaker points).

3. If either party is dissatisfied with the ruling of the tournament director, the complaint may be presented to the MFEA Rules Committee members present at the tournament. The committee will then act on the charge that alleged violations of these standards have occurred.

4. Should any member of the Rules Committee be involved in the appeal, either as the coach of the accused or the accusers, that member will refrain from active participation in the hearing procedure and, at the discretion of the tournament director, will be replaced for the purposes of the hearing by another coach chosen by the tournament director.

5. In instances of proven distortion and/or fabrication by debaters in a debate:

a. The tournament director will give a loss to the team or debater committing the infraction and zero points, or in legislative debate receive a ranking of last in the round, no higher than a 5. That team will be eliminated from further competition in the tournament.

b. The offending team will receive no sweepstakes points or awards.

c. The team winning the round on the basis of a ruling by the Rules Committee will be awarded points as an average of all preliminary rounds as in the case of byes.

d. The change in any debate decision based on the violation of this rule will not be retroactive for the purposes of power matching, but will apply to all subsequent pairings.

6. In instances of timing procedure abuse:

a. The tournament director will give a loss with no additional penalty.

- b. The change in any debate decision based on the violation of this rule will not be retroactive for the purposes of power matching, but will apply to all subsequent pairings.

#### **IV. RULES FOR SPEECH EVENTS (Classes AA, A and B-C)**

##### **A. Original Oratory**

1. Orations must be the original written work of the student. Orations are written by the student and must be persuasive in nature. Persuasion encourages the listener to adopt or reinforce a particular point of view. Not more than ten percent (10%) of an oration may consist of quoted material. The beginning and ending of all quotations must be clearly identified in the manuscript of the speech.
2. During the delivery of an oration, no manuscript may be held or referred to by the contestant. Memorization shall be mandatory.
3. Ten minutes is the maximum time limit. There shall be no minimum time limit.
4. Coaches must bring manuscripts to state. Contestants must use the same material from the beginning to the end of the tournament. Cutting is allowed.

Manuscripts shall include the following:

- a. A title page including:
    - (1) The title of the speech
    - (2) The author
    - (3) The name and location of the high school represented by the speaker
    - (4) The date and place of the tournament
    - (5) Total word count, and word count and percentage of quoted material.
  - b. A certificate affirming that the speech does not exceed ten percent (10%) quoted material and is otherwise the original work of the student.
  - c. The text of the speech with quotations clearly indicated.
  - d. Wikipedia and other wiki sources may only be used as supplementary sources. A bibliography listing all references used in preparing the speech must be provided. Bibliographic references shall include title, publication, author, date, and page numbers or proper web citation.
5. No costumes or props may be used.

##### **B. Memorized Public Address With Analysis**

1. Material used in this event should include only those addresses which have originally been presented by the author as an address in a speaker/audience situation. The content of the addresses must have statewide, national or international significance. Memorization shall be mandatory.
2. The speech shall consist of two parts, analysis and address. This analysis must be at least twenty percent (20%) by word count of the entire presentation and cannot exceed ten percent (10%) quoted material. The combined length of the analysis and address shall not exceed ten minutes. During the delivery of the speech no manuscript may be held by the contestant.
3. If the original uncut transcript is not in print, the original address will be transcribed and presented along with the contestant's manuscript. Coaches must bring manuscripts to state. Contestants must use the same material from the beginning to the end of the tournament. Cutting is allowed. Manuscripts shall include the following:
  - a. A title page including:
    - (1) The title of the speech
    - (2) The author

- (3) The name and location of the high school represented by the speaker
  - (4) The date and place of the tournament
  - (5) The total word count, word count and percentage of analysis, word count and percentage of quoted material in the analysis.
- b. A certificate affirming that the analysis does not exceed ten percent (10%) quoted material and is otherwise the original work of the student.
  - c. The text of the manuscript with quotations (including the quoted speech) clearly indicated.
  - d. Wikipedia and other wiki sources may only be used as supplementary sources. A bibliography listing all references used in preparing the speech must be provided. Bibliographic references shall include title, publication, author, date, and page numbers or proper web citation.
4. Contestant must include in his/her analysis the historical background and the author's background and purposes in presenting the address and, in addition, an analysis of the theme.
5. No costumes or props may be used.

### **C. Informative Speaking**

1. Contestants will orally deliver a speech to instruct, to demonstrate or to enlighten. The object is to present the chosen subject matter without taking a position. Synthesis of the material for the speech must be original with the speaker. No more than ten percent (10%) of the speech shall be directly quoted material. Beginning and ending of all quotations must be clearly defined. The contestant must submit a certificate affirming that the speech does not exceed ten percent (10%) quoted material and is otherwise original with the contestant.
2. The chosen subject matter which is left to the discretion of the speaker should be serious and informative in tone and content.
  - a. This is not to forbid the appropriate use of anecdotes.
  - b. Use of visual aids is optional.
  - c. Method of presentation is left to the discretion of the speaker. Notes, manuscripts or memorization are permitted.
  - d. Costumes are not allowed.
  - e. No live animals may be used as props.
3. Maximum time: 10 minutes.
4. Coaches must bring manuscripts to state. Contestants must use the same material from the beginning to the end of the tournament. Cutting is allowed. Manuscripts shall include the following:
  - a. A title page including:
    - (1) The title of the speech
    - (2) The author
    - (3) The name and location of the high school represented by the speaker
    - (4) The date and place of the tournament
    - (5) The total word count, and word count and percentage of quoted material.
  - b. A certificate affirming that the speech does not exceed ten percent (10%) quoted material and is otherwise the original work of the student.
  - c. The text of the speech with quotations clearly indicated.
  - d. Wikipedia and other wiki sources may only be used as supplementary sources. A bibliography listing all references used in preparing the speech must be provided. Bibliographic references shall include title, publication, author, date, and page numbers or proper web citation.

## **D. Short Prep Topic Procedure**

The tournament director shall send used impromptu topics to the designated representative from AA and/or A, B-C. The topics will be sent within a week of the tournament.

## **E. Impromptu Speaking**

1. Length of preparation will be three minutes.
2. Format:
  - a. A 3x5 note card with a reproduced cartoon and/or quotation attached to the top will be presented to the speaker upon entering the room. The speaker may use this 3x5 card for notes. No other data or preparation will be allowed.
  - b. The judge shall receive a copy of the topic.
3. Topics:
  - a. Topics should be of a general nature and concern themselves with cultural, moral or social issues. The source of the quotation must be identified.
  - b. Topics shall be taken from sources published outside the tournament city.
  - c. Each speaker in all sections in a round will speak on the same topic.
  - d. The speaker must respond to the topic attached to the card.
  - e. Topics presented will involve a proportional balance of quotations and cartoons, alternating each round.
  - f. Class AA members of the short prep committee shall submit a maximum of four quotes and four cartoons for consideration for the Class A, B-C Divisional and State tournaments. These topics will be sent out to be voted on by AA committee members. The topics selected by the majority vote will be emailed by a AA committee member to the Class A and B-C Divisional and State tournament directors and to the MHSA speech, debate and drama liaison no less than 4 days prior to the tournaments.
  - g. Class A, B-C members of the short prep committee shall submit a maximum of three quotes and three cartoons for consideration for the Class AA state tournament. These topics will be sent out to be voted on by A, B-C committee members. The topics selected by the majority vote will be emailed by a A, B-C committee member to the Class AA state tournament director and to the MHSA speech, debate and drama liaison no less than 4 days prior to the tournament.
4. Contestants per round will be staggered. As a contestant completes a speech, he or she will remain in the room for the remainder of the speeches and another contestant will be called forth. Students entered in two or more events may exit the room to compete in another event.
5. Impromptu speech length: MAXIMUM speaking time is 5 minutes. For Classes A and B-C: MINIMUM speaking time is 3 minutes. Contestants who do not meet MINIMUM speaking time shall be given the lowest rating for the round. Such a rating shall not be better than a 5.
6. No costumes or props may be used.

## **F. Extemporaneous Speaking**

1. The procedure for provision of questions in Extemporaneous Speaking shall be as follows:
  - a. Extemporaneous Speaking questions for all tournaments will be generated from the October, November, December and January issues/updates of major news sources including: Newsweek, Time, Christian Science Monitor, The Economist, Washington Post, US News and World Report, NPR, Fox News, CNN, Al Jazeera, The New York Times, The Associated Press, Reuters News Agency, PBS,

The BBC, The Wall Street Journal, The Guardian, The Financial Times, Spiegel International, Asia Times, and The Los Angeles Times.

b. For all tournaments, in preliminary and semifinal rounds, questions will alternate national and international. In finals, national and international questions will be mixed. ***Within each round, questions will have a consistent degree of difficulty.***

***c. A total of at least five questions greater than the number of competitors in the largest section will be provided.***

d. For semifinals and finals, at all tournaments, there will be 12 original, comprehensive questions per round.

e. Question Provision and Organization for Divisional and State Tournaments

(1) A total of **78 questions (consisting of 39 national and 39 international questions)** for divisionals and **104 questions (consisting of 52 national and 52 international questions)** for state will be purchased by MFEA from the NSDA (National Speech and Debate Association) question writing service.

(2) ***A total of at least five questions greater than the number of competitors in the largest section will be provided.*** No question may be repeated in any other round.

(3) A member of the short prep committee will email the NSDA purchased divisional and state topics to the respective host schools and to the MHSAs speech, debate, and drama liaison at least two days before the respective tournaments.

2. The procedure for conducting draw in Extemporaneous Speaking shall be as follows:

a. Draw shall be proctored by a minimum of one coach. For meets with three or more sections of Extemporaneous Speaking, as well as for divisional and state tournaments, a minimum of two coaches shall be assigned to proctor the draw room in each round.

b. Extemporaneous questions shall not be laid out for the purpose of drawing any earlier than five minutes before the draw.

c. At no time shall a contestant be within arm's reach of extemporaneous questions before or during the draw other than for the specific purpose of drawing a question.

d. Extemporaneous Speaking draw will be staggered. Contestants will draw questions at seven-minute intervals. To accommodate cross-examination in the semifinal and final rounds, each speaker shall be assigned a position in the speaking order and drawing shall be staggered at ten-minute intervals. Where less than five students are in the final round, there will be gaps of time between contestant draw times so that all have equal preparation time. Students will not be assigned to question a student from the same team unless unavoidable. If necessary, tabbers from at least one neutral party will help to manually reorder the round.

e. At the draw, each contestant's selection will be recorded. No contestant will speak on the same question twice.

f. The contestant will then have thirty minutes for the preparation of his/her speech. Each student must compose 100% of his or her own speech. Coaches and other students must not assist speakers with speech related preparation.

***g. In order to keep the draw on time, a contestant may request to move to the next draw position only one time during a tournament. Any other adjustments for that contestant may only be permitted by the tournament director or designated proxy.***

### 3. Extemporaneous Speaking Computer Use Rules and Guidelines

a. Extemporaneous Speaking contestants may make use of electronic retrieval devices to store and to retrieve their subject files at all MHSA tournaments. Students can retrieve extemporaneous files to read, but cannot write speeches or organize their thoughts on the computers. This rule in no way prevents students from still utilizing traditional paper copy files to enable the competitor to successfully compete in Extemporaneous Speaking. The MHSA takes no position on which form of file storage is preferable for use at MHSA tournaments.

b. Electronic retrieval devices are defined as laptop computers, netbooks, iPads, or other portable electronic retrieval equipment. Secondary devices such as flash drives or external hard drives are allowed as well. Cell phones or smartphones are prohibited from being used while preparing or before speaking at all MHSA tournaments **except when used as timers in airplane mode**.

c. Source Materials: Students may consult published books, periodical articles, newspaper articles, think tank articles, government reports or journal articles saved on their electronic retrieval device or present in hard copy form provided:

(1) There are no notations made within or on the saved article other than citation information.

(2) Any highlighting or underlining of the articles is done in only one color within each article. Bolding, italicizing, or any other manipulation of the original text of sources (other than highlighting or underlining as previously stipulated) is prohibited.

d. No other source materials will be allowed in the Extemporaneous prep room other than stated above. Prewritten Extemporaneous speeches, handbooks, briefs or outlines are prohibited from the prep room, whether stored electronically or present in hard copy form.

e. Internet: Extemporaneous Speaking contestants shall not access the internet or communicate electronically with any other individual while in the prep room at any MHSA tournaments. All computers must comply with the following provisions:

(1) Computers equipped with removable wireless cards must have the cards removed before the beginning of any round of competition. It is the responsibility of the contestant to disengage the equipment.

(2) Computers with built-in wireless capability may be used only if the wireless capability is disabled. It is the responsibility of the contestant to disable the equipment.

(3) Wired connections (Ethernet or phone) during rounds of competition are not permitted.

(4) Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information from any source (coaches or assistants included) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs. Internet access, use of email, instant messaging, or other means of receiving information from sources inside or outside of the competition room are prohibited.

(5) Penalty: Contestants found to have violated provisions (1) through (3) above will be ranked last in the round. Contestants found to have violated provision (4) (above) will be disqualified from the tournament and will forfeit all sweepstakes points.

f. Liability: Extemporaneous Speaking competitors accept full responsibility for the safety and security of their electronic retrieval devices throughout the entire course of any MHSA tournaments. The owner of each individual computer assumes all liability for the computer. Students are welcome to use Kensington locks or other such devices to secure their computers in the prep room. Students, parents, and coaches should be aware that the students are bringing and using the computers at their own risk. Neither MHSA, any school, nor any individual who is not the owner of the electronic retrieval device is responsible for lost, stolen, or broken devices.

g. Devices should be muted in the prep room. Contestants should not play games or engage in other distracting activities on their electronic devices in the prep room. Tournament officials may ask a student to power off the device if it becomes distracting.

h. Students from the same school may share computers during preparation. However, communication among contestants during preparation time is strictly prohibited.

4. The procedure for conducting contests in Extemporaneous Speaking shall be as follows:

a. Maximum time limit for speaking will be 7 minutes. Minimum time limit will be 5 minutes. Contestants violating minimum time limits shall be given the lowest rating for their round. Such a rating shall not be better than a 5. For Class AA only, there is no minimum speaking time.

b. At the scheduled time for the beginning of each round the contestants will speak in the order in which their codes have been posted. Before speaking the contestant shall present the official printed copy of his/her drawn question to the judge.

c. If the contestant wishes to use notes during the presentation, he/she may use both sides of a 4 x 6 note card. Note cards used must be turned in to the judge when the speaker is finished. The judge will submit these cards, along with the comment sheets, to the tournament director.

d. All contestants shall remain in the presentation room following their performance until all speakers have spoken. Students entered in two or more events may exit the room to compete in another event.

e. Cross-examination procedure for the semifinal and final rounds shall be as follows. Thirty minutes after speaker number first has drawn, speaker last shall enter the contact room. Speaker first shall give a speech and speaker last shall take notes and/or listen. At the conclusion of speaker first's speech, speaker last shall pose a question of not more than one minute in length. Speaker first will have two minutes to answer. Speaker last shall return to the prep room and speaker first shall stay to listen to and question speaker second. Speaker second will question speaker third etc. (See rule IV.F.2.d for specifications on draw and speaking order during semifinal and final rounds.)

f. No costumes or props may be used.

#### **G. Humorous (All Classes), Dramatic (All Classes), and Duo (Class AA only) Interpretation of Literature**

***1. In each round the contestant shall explore a humorous or serious theme by presenting from one or more selections taken from one or more of the areas: drama, prose or poetry (including song lyrics). Multiple selections, if used, should be related. They should deal with the same general theme. Song lyrics may be used if the performer has an original, hard copy of the lyrics such as sheet music or a CD jacket. Lyrics may only be used from online sources that appear on the NSDA approved websites list.***

***a. Print, PDF, and E-book Publications***

***(1) Print publications include novels, short stories, plays, or poetry, published in print.***

***(2) In addition, published, unaltered PDF documents that are commercially or professionally available are also eligible sources.***

***(3) E-books (such as Kindle, Nook, etc.) may also serve as eligible sources. NOTE: in addition to these sources, certain online materials are allowed as per 2b.***

***(4) Also, if a treatment of a movie script is ordered from a company that provides printed movie scripts, keep the original treatment. Please note that text of the treatment may differ from the actual film, so students are advised against transcribing directly from the film.***

***b. Digital (On-line) Publications: Material is only allowed from pre-approved online publishing sources listed at [www.speechanddebate.org/approvedwebsites](http://www.speechanddebate.org/approvedwebsites).***

***c. Additionally allowed materials include recorded material (videotape, DVDs, audio tape, CDs, MP3s, or phonograph recordings).***

***d. Source Verification: the unadapted, original selections, including bibliographical information must be available at all tournaments in the event of a protest.***

**2. Performance:** *The presentation may not use physical objects or costuming. During the presentation, the contestant/team must name the author and the book or magazine from which the cutting was made. Additionally:*

*a. Adaptations to materials may only be used for the purpose of transition. Transitions may be used to clarify the logical sequence of ideas. They are not to be used for the purpose of embellishing the humorous or dramatic effect of the literature.*

*b. Changes to the script may only be used for the purpose of transition or to eliminate profane language.*

**3. Duo Interp (AA Only):** *In Duo, focus may be direct during the introduction (the performers may look at each other) but must be indirect (offstage) during the performance itself, and they may not touch each other. In the case of inadvertent violation of this rule, competitors may not be awarded a first place in the round.*

4. Contestant(s) must use the same material from the beginning to the end of the tournament. Cutting is allowed.

**5. Contestant(s) are allowed gestures, movement and singing. (Manuscripts are optional. The use of manuscripts shall not be penalized.)**

6. Ten minutes shall be the maximum time limit in each round. No minimum.

7. No costumes or props may be used.

#### **H. Program Oral Interpretation (Class AA only)**

##### **1. Selections:**

*a. POI is a program of oral interpretation of thematically-linked selections chosen from two or three genres: prose, poetry (including song lyrics), drama (plays). Competitors should develop an argument or theme that is supported in different ways by each piece of literature they select.*

*b. At least two pieces of literature that represent at least two separate genres must be used although competitors are urged to use all three. Competitors are encouraged to devote approximately equal times to each of the genres used in the program. This distinction pertains to these two or three genres as a whole, not types of literature within a genre (such as fiction/nonfiction).*

*c. Adaptation of pieces may be for purpose of thematic continuity only.*

*d. Original material may only be used in the introduction and transitions. Transitions should clarify the logical sequence of ideas. They are not to be used for the purpose of embellishing the humorous or dramatic effect of the literature.*

*e. All selections used must be published and copyrighted materials: the burden of proof lies with the speaker. To verify, the speaker must have a copy of the unadapted, original selections, including bibliographical information. Source must exist in a copyrighted form.*

**2. Contestant must use the same material from the beginning to the end of the tournament. Cutting is allowed.**

**3. The use of a manuscript during the performance is required. Common practices include the use of binder or folder. Reading from a book or magazine is not permitted. The contestant must address the script; however, introduction and transitional material may be memorized.**

**4. The intact manuscript may be used by the contestant as a prop, so long as it remains in the contestant's control at all times.**



**5. Ten minutes (with a 30 second grace period) shall be the maximum time limit in each round. No minimum.**

**6. No costumes or props other than the manuscript are permitted.**

### **I. Spontaneous Oral Interpretation of Literature (Classes B-C only)**

#### 1. Selections:

a. Each tournament director shall be responsible for selecting readings.

(1) Selections shall be taken from one or more of the areas: drama, prose or poetry (including song lyrics). Selections shall include both humorous and serious readings of approximately 1 ½ to 2 minutes in length.

(2) Selections shall be presented in standard 3 ring binders to a judge in each section for use in that section and then returned with judging materials.

b. Each round shall have a different selection.

c. Every section in each round will present the same selection.

d. Contestants must read the entire selection as presented stopping either when the selection is completed or when the timer sounds, whichever is first.

e. The selection may be presented with an original, extemporized introduction.

(1) Competitors may not write presentation notes.

f. The tournament director shall send used SPOI scripts as well as one unused script within a week of hosting a regular season tournament to the designated B-C representative on the Interp Committee.

g. Class B-C members of the Interp Committee shall each submit a maximum of three scripts for consideration for the Class B-C Divisional and State tournaments.

h. These topics will be voted on by the B-C Interp Committee members. The scripts selected by the majority vote will be sent to Divisional and State tournament hosts no fewer than 4 days prior to each tournament and a backup copy will be provided to the MHSA Speech and Drama and Debate liaison via email.

2. Manuscripts must be held in hand. Hand and foot movements are allowed. Binders may not be used as a prop. Singing is permitted.

3. There is no minimum time limit.

4. Contestants per round will be staggered. As a contestant completes a speech, s/he will remain in the room for the remainder of the speeches and another contestant will be called forth.

#### 5. Timing:

a. Students time themselves. Each competitor will show the judge his/her timer when s/he begins preparation time, before beginning the presentation, and at the conclusion of the presentation.

(1) Speakers will set their timers to 5:01 for preparation time, but do not have to use all of the time provided.

(2) Speakers will set their timers to 5:01 to present the selection. If not done within that time limit, the contestant will stop reading when the timer sounds. There is no minimum time limit and no penalty for running out of time.

## V. RULES FOR DRAMA EVENTS - Classes A and B-C

### A. Humorous and Dramatic Duo and Solo, and Classic Theatre

1. The combined introduction and actual acting shall not exceed ten minutes.
2. Costumes and props may be used. Contestants must furnish all costumes and props.
3. No use may be made of lighting effects or stage makeup. Wigs are to be considered makeup and therefore are not acceptable. Students may not wear anything that simulates hair; if the item is intended to represent hair, including facial hair, it would be considered a wig and therefore not allowed. Stage makeup is makeup put on the face or body to enhance the character. Masks are allowed.
4. Sound to be used in scenes shall be inherent to the scene and actuated by the actors. Singing, playing musical instruments and use of recorded audio are allowed.
5. Personal authorship of original work may not be claimed. Contestant may not announce that the piece is original or self-written or may not claim the piece is autobiographical.
6. Contestants shall not distribute any materials to the judge or audience.
7. Contestants must use the same material from the beginning to the end of the tournament. Cutting for time is allowed.
8. In Humorous Solo: The competitor must create a character; stand-up comedy is not allowed.
9. In **Classic Theater**: The event may be serious or humorous in nature. Any published literature that is 75 years old or older as of January 1 of the calendar year in which the season begins shall be considered "Classic." Translations are acceptable. Cuttings shall not deviate from printed fact. Burden of proof lies with the coach. (The intent of this rule is to retain the classical integrity of the language). ***This event may include 2-4 performers in an entry with a maximum of three entries per school. The timing and sweepstakes points of the event are not changed.***
10. If one member of a qualifying duo cannot attend the state meet, the school may substitute for this member. If neither can attend, no substitutions will be permitted.

### B. Pantomime

1. This event consists of individual pantomime with a seven minute maximum length on any subject. Quality and control are always to be emphasized.
2. A brief written title but no other words shall be presented.
3. The performer must say their code number, start the timer and show their title.
4. A costume and makeup may be used. Wigs and props may not be used. The intent of the rule is that touching of costume or hair is considered a prop and therefore not allowed. A stationary chair and background music (instrumental only) are optional. Instrumental music may not include human vocal sounds either actual or synthesized and self-actuated.
5. Usually the pantomime consists of a combination and development of three points: character, situation and the mood.
6. Contestants must use the same material from the beginning to the end of the tournament. Cutting for time is allowed.
7. In fairness to each competitor, judges are encouraged to view the entire performance prior to writing comments. Tournament directors will take steps to provide judges with an understanding of mime.

## **VI. TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES – CLASS AA, A, B-C**

### **A. Double Entry – Class AA and A Only**

1. A student will be able to enter two speech events or two drama events in each contested round and be eligible to advance in each event to elimination rounds. For Class A divisionals and state, students can only double enter in two speech events or two drama events.
2. Students will be responsible for arriving in each round in time for competition according to the speaker order presented on event postings. For Class A divisional and state tournaments, speaker order must reasonably take into account double entries, providing speakers an opportunity to compete in a timely fashion in both events (double-entered students should be scheduled, at minimum, one speaking position apart in their two events in order to provide adequate time for contestants to attend both events during a round).
3. Double-entered competitors must go to their second event immediately after presenting in their first event, and must remain in their second event until the end of the round (with the exception of extempers, who may return to the draw room no earlier than 15 minutes prior to the start of the next draw time). In the event of a violation of this rule, the contestant shall receive the lowest rating for the round. Students double-entered in Expository Speaking will be allowed to drop off and pick up their materials.
4. A student will not use the same material in two different events. The same material shall be interpreted as the same play, novel etc.

### **B. Speaking Order**

1. Entries shall be divided up into panels. Contestants are to be changed from one panel to another to avoid contestants from the same school in the same panel.
2. All preliminary rounds will be paired randomly.
3. Speaking order in the semifinal and final rounds shall be determined by listing the student code numbers on paper and drawing them at random. ONLY in cases of double entry, tabbers will adjust speaker order to prevent a double entered student from being scheduled in the same speaking position in both events.
4. AA out-rounds will be paired by the computer program.

### **C. Timing Procedures**

1. All sections of any given event shall be timed.
2. All speech and drama students shall be timed using minutes and seconds. The time will be marked on the judge's comment sheets. (Note: Classes A and BC have minimum times for Extemp and Impromptu.)
3. All contestants will use a timing device with minutes and seconds with an audible alarm.
4. A contestant may use a cell phone or other electronic device as a timing device provided that the cell phone/device is on airplane mode during their presentation and is off during all other competitors' speeches. If the phone/device goes into sleep mode or other mode it would be a timing violation.
5. The competitor will set the timing device to 0.00 and show the judge.
6. The competitor will time up.
7. The competitor will give his or her code number, put the timing device in clear view of the presenter, press start, and begin speaking.
8. When the presentation is completed the competitor will immediately stop the timing device and show the time to the judge.
9. The judge will record the time for each contestant.

10. If the speaker goes over a 30 second grace period, or if the competitor fails to start the timing device, or restarts the timing device, or has any other timing device malfunction, the competitor may not be awarded a first place in the round. If the judge did not penalize the competitor for timing violations, the tab room will enforce the penalty.

#### **D. Judges**

1. The judges for the divisional and state meets in speech and drama shall be selected by the divisional or state meet managers.
2. With the exception of debate, there shall be no judging of more than one round of an event by any judge at a tournament.
3. Judges will not be eligible to judge in events until they have been out of high school at least one academic year.
4. For individual contests including duo events, all preliminary rounds shall be judged by one judge in each section.
5. For individual contests, including duo events, semifinal and final rounds shall be judged by three judges in each section. The judges shall not have judged the students in a previous round. High school coaches may be used for judges. A coach may not judge his/her own team member.
6. A judge shall not have judged a contestant in the same event in a previous round.

### **VII. TOURNAMENT TABBING PROCEDURES – CLASS A and B-C**

#### **A. Speech and Drama Pairing Procedures Class A and B-C**

1. For Class A the speaking order for preliminary rounds will be randomly determined by using the latest edition of computer pairing software using either TRIPC / TRIEPC, Joy of Tournaments or ForensicsTournament.net or EverythingTab.
2. For Class B-C the speaking order shall be drawn by tournament officials to give each contestant an early, middle and late speaking order in successive rounds.
3. The preliminary rounds in all events, except debate, shall consist of eight entries per round.
4. Round Options:
  - a. Three preliminary rounds
  - b. Four preliminary rounds with poorest score dropped.
  - c. Five preliminary rounds with poorest score dropped.
5. Semifinals is optional.

If held, the round would be composed of SIXTEEN or fewer contestants who have the best accumulative scores from the preliminary rounds.

- a. In semifinals, seeded contestants will be divided equally among the two sections according to the following sample:

<b>Section I</b>	<b>Section II</b>
#1	#2
#4	#3
#5	#6
#8	#7
#9	#10
#12	#11
#13	#14
#16	#15

b. The principle of avoiding pairing of students from the same school in semifinals rounds must be followed insofar as possible.

c. Speaking order in the semifinal and final rounds shall be determined by listing the student code numbers on paper and drawing them at random. No changes will be made in the drawn speaking order, even if contestants from the same school are back to back, with the exception of in Extemp to prevent students from cross examining their teammates. ONLY in cases of double entry, tab persons will adjust speaker order to prevent a double-entered student from being scheduled in the same speaking position in both events.

d. Only raw scores will be used in tabbing the results of semis and finals.

6. There will be one final round composed of eight contestants that have the best cumulative score from the previous rounds.

### **B. Speech and Drama Scoring Class A and B-C**

1. Scoring individual contests (including duo events)

a. The judges shall rank the contestants 1, 2, 3, etc., in order of excellence. Judges shall not award ties. Scores higher than five shall be counted as five in the preliminary rounds. In event(s) with only one section, tournament directors may opt to use raw scores in preliminary rounds. A competitor with a “no-show” will receive a rank of no better than 6 and 0 for speaker points. (Intent of the rule is that a no-show is lower than a five.)

b. The total of the scores in the preliminary rounds determines the contestants in the elimination rounds. In all events except debate the poorest round score in the five preliminary rounds shall be dropped.

c. The total of the preliminary rounds plus the total of the scores in the semifinal round will determine the final round. Contestants will be given the real rankings of the judges in the semifinal round and the final round. (Rankings of 6 and 7 and 8 will count as such.)

d. Tab persons shall not adjust scores without prior approval of the tournament director.

### **C. Speech and Drama Tiebreaking Procedures Class A and BC**

1. Ties in preliminary rounds for all Class A and BC Speech and Drama Events

a. First tiebreaker: drop score

b. Second tiebreaker: best accumulative speaker points of all five rounds

c. Third tiebreaker: drop worst speaker points (score and speaker points are not linked)

d. Fourth tiebreaker: head-to-head

e. Fifth tiebreaker: random draw

2. The procedure for breaking ties of total to determine rankings after the Semi-Final and Final Rounds.

a. The total of scores in the Semi-final or Final round shall be used to break a tie.

b. If the total of scores in the round cannot break the tie, then the preferred score in the round will be used to break the tie if contestants are in the same section. The “preferred score” is defined as the greatest number of low scores from the majority of the judges. (1 = lowest)

c. The highest speaker points total in the Semi-final or Final round.

d. The remaining students shall be selected by blind draw.

## D. Prelim Debate Pairing Procedures Class A and Class B-C

**Tournament Directors can choose to use the Standard Pairing procedure or Skip Round Pairing procedure for Invitational Tournaments. Standard Pairing procedure is below and Skip Round Pairing Procedure is found in VIII. C. 4-10.**

**In Skip Round Pairing Rounds 1 and 2 of all Debate events will be randomly paired using the latest edition of computer pairing software. Round 3 will be paired based on the results of Round 1; Round 4 will be based on the results of Rounds 1 and 2, etc. The intent is to be pairing the preliminary debate rounds one round ahead of time in order to keep the tournament on schedule. Outrounds will be paired based on the results of all preliminary rounds as usual.**

### Standard Pairing Procedure

1. Round 1 Pairing for more than 7 entries in a debate event.

Round 1 will be randomly paired by the tournament director if there are seven or more entries in a debate event.

2. Round Robin Pairing Schematic for less than seven entries in a debate event:

If registration in a Debate event is six or fewer, the tournament director has the option of offering a round robin competition. Round robin is a pairing system in which each team meets every other team, including teams from their own school. Thus, students will debate students from their own school in round robin debate.

In a Round Robin, the following schematics are to be utilized:

#### Schematic for 6

Round I	A-B C-E D-F
Round II	E-A D-B F-C
Round III	D-A B-C F-E
Round IV	A-F B-E C-D
Round V	A-C B-F E-D

#### Schematic for 5

Round I	A-B C-E D-bye
Round II	E-A D-B C-bye
Round III	D-A B-C E-bye
Round IV	A-bye B-E C-D
Round V	A-C B-bye E-D

#### Schematic for 4

Round I	A-B C-D
Round II	A-D B-C
Round III	D-B C-A

#### Schematic for 3

Round IA-B	C-bye
Round II	C-A B-bye
Round III	B-C A-bye

3. Subsequent Rounds Pairing Procedure

a. List team/LD contestants in order in the winners or losers bracket according to the following:

- (1) Win/loss record
- (2) Total team/LD contestant speaker points. Fractional points to be recorded to the nearest tenth.

- b. If the winner's bracket is uneven, draw the top team from the loser's bracket up to even the bracket. Pair teams from highest to lowest within their brackets. (Note: If a team/LDer receives below twenty speaker points, record debate speaker points as twenty points in the tabulation process.)
- c. Win/loss has top priority.
- d. If possible, teams/LD contestants from the same school will not meet until finals including alternates.
- e. Protect sides, but only if this can be done within each win/loss bracket.
- f. If possible, the preliminary rounds must be paired so that all teams/LD contestants debate equal affirmative and negative rounds. When pairing, if the teams/LD contestants have met before, the person doing the pairing will move the team/LD contestants directly above in the bracket and will continue with procedure until a valid pairing can be made.
- g. No team/LD contestants shall debate the same team/LD contestants a second time until outrounds. In the event that teams/LD contestants that have met before must meet in outrounds, the team/LD contestant will switch sides. Public Forum debate will continue to flip for sides.
- h. Byes: Teams/LD contestants receiving byes in preliminary rounds shall be awarded team/LD contestant points based on the average of all preliminary rounds debated. The bye points must be averaged every round. The same will apply to speaker points.
- i. Note: If a team/LDer receives below twenty speaker points, record debate speaker points as twenty points in the tabulation process. A team/LDer who forfeits a round in preliminary rounds, either by no-show or acquiescence, shall receive a loss with 0 speaker points; the opposing team/LDer shall receive a win and an average of their points.

#### 4. Round 2 Pairing

1-0 teams/LD contestants will be placed in the winner's bracket according to team/LD contestants' speaker points.

0-1 teams/LD contestants will be placed in the loser's bracket according to team/LD contestants' speaker points.

The top 1-0 team/LD contestant will meet the bottom 1-0 team/LD contestant. The top 0-1 team/LD contestant will meet the bottom 0-1 team/LD contestant. From this round on, byes will be drawn randomly from the winners' bracket. As with the first round, byes will be awarded a win point for sweeps. The team/LD that draws a bye will be placed in the winners' bracket based on average speaker points. (Note: If a team/LDer receives below twenty speaker points, record debate speaker points as twenty points in the tabulation process.)

#### 5. Round 3 Pairing

Winner's bracket will consist of all teams/LD contestants with a 2-0 record. Loser's bracket will consist of all teams/LD contestants with a 1-1 or 0-2 record. Teams/LD contestants will be paired highest against lowest in their brackets.

After Round 3, the tournament director may opt for semis. Select the top four teams based on win/loss record and team points. Teams should be paired 1 versus 4 and 2 versus 3. If only three rounds are held, the tournament director must have semis.

#### 6. Round 4 Pairing

Round 4 (if held): All 3-0 and 2-1 teams/LD contestants will be included in the winner's bracket. All other teams/LD contestants will be included in the loser's bracket. Teams/LD contestants will be paired from highest against lowest in their brackets.

## 7. Round 5 Pairing

Round 5 (if held): Winner's bracket all 4-0, 3-1 and 2-2 teams/LD contestants will be included in the winner's bracket. All other teams/LD contestants will be included in the loser's bracket. Teams/LD contestants will be paired from highest against lowest in their brackets.

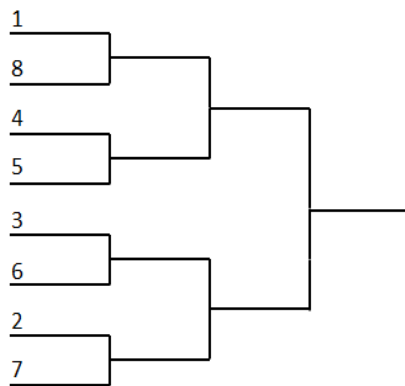
8. Tiebreaking procedures for advancement to outrounds is in section VII. F.

### E. Debate Outrounds Pairing Procedures Class A and B-C

#### 1. Quarterfinals

(If held) The best eight teams/LD contestants from the winner's bracket will advance to this round. If the number of teams/LD contestants in the winner's bracket at the end of Round 4 is fewer than eight teams/LD contestants, the best record and speakers' points will qualify teams/LD contestants for quarter-finals from the loser's bracket.

Use the following bracket to pair outrounds



- Quarter-finals will be single elimination.
- There will be three judges per debate in this round.
- Losers in the round will be awarded 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th place according to tiebreaking priorities in section VII. F.

#### 2. Semi Finals

If quarterfinals were not held, select the top four teams based on win/loss record and speaker points. Teams should be paired 1 versus 4 and 2 versus 3. If only three rounds are held, the tournament director must have semis.

If quarterfinals were held,

- The four surviving teams/LD contestants shall be paired using the same bracket in (1) above.
- Losers from the semi-final round will be awarded 3rd and 4th places according to tiebreaking priorities in section VII. F.**
- There will be three judges per debate in this round.

#### 3. Finals

Winners from the semifinal round or if no semi is held, the top two teams at the end of preliminaries based on win/loss record and speaker points (using tiebreaking procedures if necessary) shall meet to determine



1st and 2nd place. All other places shall be awarded based on tiebreaking procedures in section VII. F. If there is no semifinal round, all places below 2nd will be awarded in this manner.

- a. There will be three (3) judges for this debate.

#### **F. Debate Tiebreaking Procedures Class A and B-C**

1. In breaking ties for the advancement to out rounds and for the purpose of final placement at a tournament, the order for tie breakers is as follows (note: bye rounds and speaker point averages ARE part of the record):

- a. Cumulative win/loss record;
- b. **Prelim rounds** total speaker points;
- c. Head-to-head competition;
- d. Opponents' records;
- e. Speaker points with the highest and lowest dropped;
- f. Coin flip.

#### **G. Sweepstakes Scoring Class A and B-C**

Awarding of sweepstakes points.

1. At speech and drama tournaments the following points will be awarded to determine "sweepstakes" winners:

- a. Those entries qualifying for the semifinal round shall be awarded two sweepstakes points. A duo drama team is considered as one entry. Semifinal points will be awarded only to students competing in semifinal rounds. Each speaker in speech or drama that earns a top score of "1" in a preliminary round earns one sweepstakes point even if the "1" is a drop score.
- b. Those entries placing in the final round shall receive, per person:
  - (1) Ten points for first place
  - (2) Eight points for second place
  - (3) Six points for third place
  - (4) Four points for fourth place
  - (5) Two points for fifth place
  - (6) All other finalists receive one point

2. Policy and Public Forum debate and duo drama sweepstakes points are given in like manner, per individual, to the top 8 places at the meets.

3. Policy and Public Forum and Lincoln-Douglas debate sweepstakes points:

- a. One point shall be awarded for each win in preliminary rounds. Byes are counted as wins.
- b. One point shall be awarded to each entry competing in the octafinal.
- c. Two points shall be awarded to each entry competing in the quarterfinals.
- d. Three points shall be awarded to each entry competing in the semifinals.

e. Final placement point awards shall be awarded by ranking losers in semifinals according to win/loss records and speakers' points. These placement points shall be awarded per individual to the top eight places at meets.

4. Ties in sweepstakes placing shall be broken by first using the greatest number of first place finishes to break the ties. (A win or placing in a duo event shall count as two wins or placings). If using the greatest number of first place finishes does not break the tie, then second place finishes shall be used and so on down until the tie is finally broken.

## **VIII. Divisional Tournament Class A and B-C**

### **A. Entries**

1. Each high school must have registered with the Montana High School Association to enter contestants in the divisional speech and drama tournament.

2. All Classes A and B-C high schools in Montana shall be eligible to register for participation in any individual event whether or not they participate in any other speech or drama event.

3. Each member school may enter up to three entries in each speech and drama event.

4. In the event of a duo drama or debate partner dropping after the entry deadline, the remaining partner will be allowed to change to an IE drama or speech event, provided that doing so does not create extra sections in the event. (The intent is to allow a student the opportunity to finish the season and perhaps qualify for state rather than being unduly punished for losing a partner.)

5. At Class A or B-C divisionals, in any event(s) with only one section raw scores will be used in preliminary rounds.

6. At divisional meets an entry fee of up to \$5.00 for each participant in the competitive events in speech and drama may be charged by the host school. The host school shall be allowed to assess a drop fine of \$5.00 for each contestant dropped by a registered school the day before or the day of the divisional tournament.

### **B. Logistics**

1. Classrooms or the equivalent shall be used for all competition in all events. (Dormitory, supply and like rooms cannot be used.) This specification is to be considered necessary before awarding the divisional speech and drama meets to an institution.

2. The official judges' comment sheets and summarization sheets for debate, speech and drama events shall be made available on the Montana High School Association website. These comment sheets must be used by all judges.

3. Results of competition shall be tabulated as soon as possible after each round. The tabulation room will be open to coaches to observe the tabulation procedure.

4. The divisional tournaments must finance themselves. Should there be a deficit, it will be borne by the host school.

5. The divisional director, with the consent of the schools in the division, shall make such arrangements as are needed for the divisional meet.

6. Round postings for speech, drama and debate will not be posted at the divisional tournaments until reviewed by a committee of non-host coaches.

7. The selection, including visual aids, that is presented at the state contest must be the same one presented at the divisional contest. Improvements are allowed.

## C. Class A Divisional Tournament Procedures

### Class A Speech and Drama Events

1. The speaking order at divisional tournament for preliminary rounds will be randomly determined by using the latest edition of computer pairing software using either TRIPC / TRIEPC, Joy of Tournaments or ForensicsTournament.net or EverythingTab
2. Round Options:
  - a. Three preliminary rounds
  - b. Four preliminary rounds with poorest score dropped.
  - c. Five preliminary rounds with poorest score dropped.
  - d. One semifinal round may be held composed of sixteen or fewer contestants from the preliminary rounds. If semifinals is held use the procedures in Section VII. A. 5.
3. There will be one final round composed of eight contestants that have the best cumulative score from the previous rounds.

### Class A Debate Events

***Skip Round Pairing is used for the Divisional Tournament.***

***4. Rounds 1 and 2 of all Debate events will be paired using the latest edition of computer pairing software using either TRIPC / TRIEPC, Joy of Tournaments or ForensicsTournament.net or EverythingTab. In case of an uneven number of teams/LD contestants, the bye will be randomly assigned by the computer. The software will use the same settings / procedures used for invitational meets, i.e., prevent same school from competing against each other when possible etc.***

***5. Once Rounds 1 and 2 (Debate events only) have been paired, the tournament director will send copies to non-host schools to review pairings.***

***6. Round 3 will be paired based on the results of Round 1; Round 4 will be paired based on the results of Rounds 1 and 2, and Round 5 (if held) will be paired based on Rounds 1-3. The intent is to be pairing the preliminary debate rounds one round ahead of time in order to keep the tournament on schedule.***

#### 7. Subsequent Rounds Pairing Procedure

- a. List team/LD contestants in order in the winners or losers bracket according to the following:
  - (1) Win/loss record
  - (2) Total team/LD contestant speaker points. Fractional points to be recorded to the nearest tenth.
- b. If the winner's bracket is uneven, draw the top team from the loser's bracket up to even the bracket. Pair teams from highest to lowest within their brackets. (Note: If a team/LDer receives below twenty speaker points, record debate speaker points as twenty points in the tabulation process.)
- c. Win/loss has top priority.
- d. If possible, teams/LD contestants from the same school will not meet until finals including alternates.
- e. Protect sides, but only if this can be done within each win/loss bracket.
- f. If possible, the preliminary rounds must be paired so that all teams/LD contestants debate equal affirmative and negative rounds. When pairing, if the teams/LD contestants have met before, the person doing the pairing will move the team/LD contestants directly above in the bracket and will continue with procedure until a valid pairing can be made.

g. No team/LD contestants shall debate the same team/LD contestants a second time until outrounds. In the event that teams/LD contestants that have met before must meet in outrounds, the team/LD contestant will switch sides. Public Forum debate will continue to flip for sides.

h. Byes: Teams/LD contestants receiving byes in preliminary rounds shall be awarded team/LD contestant points based on the average of all preliminary rounds debated. The bye points must be averaged every round. The same will apply to speaker points.

i. Note: If a team/LDer receives below twenty speaker points, record debate speaker points as twenty points in the tabulation process. A team/LDer who forfeits a round in preliminary rounds, either by no-show or acquiescence, shall receive a loss with 0 speaker points; the opposing team/LDer shall receive a win and an average of their points.

#### **8. Round 3 Pairing (to be completed during Round 2)**

1-0 teams/LD contestants will be placed in the winner's bracket according to team/LD contestants' speaker points.

0-1 teams/LD contestants will be placed in the loser's bracket according to team/LD contestants' speaker points.

The top 1-0 team/LD contestant will meet the bottom 1-0 team/LD contestant. The top 0-1 team/LD contestant will meet the bottom 0-1 team/LD contestant. From this round on, byes will be drawn randomly from the winners' bracket. As with the first round, byes will be awarded a win point for sweeps. The team/LD that draws a bye will be placed in the winners' bracket based on average speaker points. (Note: If a team/LDer receives below twenty speaker points, record debate speaker points as twenty points in the tabulation process.)

#### **9. Round 4 Pairing (to be completed during Round 3)**

Winner's bracket will consist of all teams/LD contestants with a 2-0 record. Loser's bracket will consist of all teams/LD contestants with a 1-1 or 0-2 record. Teams/LD contestants will be paired highest against lowest in their brackets.

After Round 3, the tournament director may opt for semis. Select the top four teams based on win/loss record and team points. Teams should be paired 1 versus 4 and 2 versus 3. If only three rounds are held, the tournament director must have semis.

#### **10. Round 5 Pairing (to be completed during Round 4)**

Round 4 (if held): All 3-0 and 2-1 teams/LD contestants will be included in the winner's bracket. All other teams/LD contestants will be included in the loser's bracket. Teams/LD contestants will be paired from highest against lowest in their brackets.

**11. *Outrounds will be paired based on the results of all preliminary rounds. Outround pairing procedures are found in VII. F.***

12. Tiebreaking procedures for advancement to outrounds is in section VII. F.

### **D. Class B-C Divisional Tournament Procedures**

#### **Class B-C Speech and Drama Events**

1. The speaking order at divisional tournament shall be drawn by tournament officials to give each contestant an early, middle and late speaking order in successive rounds.

a. There will be three preliminary rounds if there are twelve or more contestants in an event.

b. Two preliminary rounds may be allowed if there are fewer than twelve contestants in the event.

- c. One semifinal round may be held composed of sixteen or fewer contestants from the preliminary rounds. If semifinals are held, use the procedures in Section VII. A. 4.
- d. There will be one final round composed of eight or fewer contestants that have the best cumulative score from the previous rounds.
- e. There will be four preliminary rounds. In all events except debate, the poorest score in the preliminary rounds shall be dropped.

The options that are open to the divisional tournament managers are:

- (1) a, c and d
- (2) a and d
- (3) b, c and d
- (4) b and d
- (5) c, d, e
- (6) d and e

- f. The principle of pairing students from the same school in preliminary rounds and in any round previous to the final round shall be avoided as much as is possible.

### **Class B-C Debate Events**

2. Round 1 - Class B-C ONLY (with SEVEN OR MORE entries; for less than seven, see Round Robin procedures in VII. E. 2.

a. Each coach will submit Policy and Lincoln-Douglas Debate records one week in advance of the divisional tournament to the divisional tournament director. In Policy debate the records of entered teams only shall be submitted. Teams shall be seeded one (1) through the total number entered according to the following priorities:

- (1) Win/loss record in four or more varsity tournaments.
- (2) Win/loss record in fewer than four varsity tournaments.
- (3) Win/loss record in four or more novice tournaments.
- (4) Win/loss record in fewer than four novice tournaments.

b. In the event of an odd number of entries the first round bye shall be assigned to the top seeded entry. In the event of a tie for the top seed the bye will be randomly assigned between the top seeded entries by the tournament director.

3. Subsequent debate rounds following pairing rules for tournaments in VII. E. 3-10.

## **IX. State Tournament Class A and B-C**

### **A. Entries**

1. In Class A, the top twelve places in each event from the Western and Eastern Divisional tournaments shall qualify for the Class A Tournament.

In Class B-C, following the Divisional tournament, the top 6 places from the Northern and Eastern Divisions and the top 8 places in the Southern Division shall qualify for the Class B-C Tournament.

2. Divisional tournament managers and individual coaches must register the qualifying entries from their division no later than the day after the divisional tournament with the director of the state tournament.

3. In Class A, Divisional chairs shall contact the state tournament director the day of the divisional tournament to report the number of entries in each event. In the case of a division having fewer than the allotted entries in an event, the

Class A state tournament director shall fill the empty slots from the other division by order of divisional placement. The order of priority shall be 13th place finishers from each division, then 14th place finishers etc. until all slots are full. This draw must take place the day of the divisional tournament, prior to the final rounds, so that divisional chairs may be notified of the results and notify coaches in their division.

4. In Class A, In the event of a drop after the divisional tournament, the state tournament director shall fill the empty slots. The order of priority shall be the next place finisher from the division that had a drop. If there are no further competitors from the division with the drop, the replacement will be the next place finisher from the other division until all spots are filled. Divisional rankings will not be adjusted (i.e. if the 5th place competitor drops, the alternate will take that slot in rankings and/or pairings).
5. In Class B-C, alternates will not be used to fill empty slots at state.
6. At the state tournament, an entry fee of \$8.00 for each participant in the events may be charged by the host school.
7. If one member of a qualifying debate team or qualifying drama duo cannot attend the state meet, the school may substitute for this member. If neither member can attend, no substitution may be made.
8. Coaches must bring Oratory, Informative, and MPA manuscripts to state.
9. The selection, including visual aids, that is presented at the state contest must be the same one presented at the divisional contest. Improvements are allowed.

### **B. Logistics**

1. Classrooms or the equivalent shall be used for all competition in all events. (Dormitory, supply and like rooms cannot be used.) This specification is to be considered necessary before awarding the State Speech and Drama Meets to an institution.
2. The official judges' comment sheets and summarization sheets for debate, speech and drama events shall be made available on the Montana High School Association website. These comment sheets must be used by all judges.
3. Results of competition shall be tabulated as soon as possible after each round. The tabulation room will be open to coaches to observe the tabulation procedure.
4. The Class A state tournament shall run according to the following schedule: tournament directors have the option to run three or four preliminary rounds on Friday, with the fourth (if needed) and fifth preliminary rounds, quarterfinals (for debate), semifinals and finals on Saturday pending approval by the MHSA office.  
  
At the Class A and B-C state tournament, debate will consist of five rounds, quarterfinals, semifinals and finals.
5. Rooms used for the semifinals and final rounds should be designated far enough apart from each other so as to prevent noise interference from each other.
6. Whenever possible, tab persons for each event shall consist of one representative from each division. At least two of the tab persons must have experience tabbing.
7. The director of the State A tournament shall provide shuttle transportation for coaches in the case when rounds are held in separate buildings that are not within a reasonable walking distance (e.g. 2 blocks).

### **C. Class A State Tournament Procedures**

#### **Class A Speech and Drama Events**

1. There are five preliminary rounds in all individual and duo events. ***The total of the rankings in the preliminary rounds determines the contestants in the elimination rounds. In all events except debate the poorest round score in the five preliminary rounds shall be dropped.***
  - a. The preliminary rounds in all events, except debate, shall consist of three sections of eight entries per round. The poorest round score in the preliminary rounds shall be dropped.

b. The 5 preliminary rounds will be paired randomly by the TRIEPC, Joy of Tournaments or ForensicsTournament.net computer pairing program. Schools will be protected from competing against each other, when possible, in the preliminary rounds.

2. Note: Adjustments in the scheduling may be made at the discretion of the tournament manager only in case of emergencies which involve transportation or other types of delays etc. and the need for balancing sections and numbers. Semis and finals would remain the same.

3. Semifinals and finals will follow the procedures in VII. A. 4. and 5.

### **Class A Debate Events**

***Skip Round Pairing is used for the State Tournament.***

***4. Rounds 1 and 2 of all Debate events will be paired using the latest edition of computer pairing software using either TRIPC / TRIEPC, Joy of Tournaments or ForensicsTournament.net or EverythingTab. In case of an uneven number of teams/LD contestants, the bye will be randomly assigned by the computer. The software will use the same settings / procedures used for invitational meets, i.e., prevent same school from competing against each other when possible etc.***

***5. Once Rounds 1 and 2 (Debate events only) have been paired, the tournament director will send copies to non-host schools to review pairings.***

***6. Round 3 will be paired based on the results of Round 1; Round 4 will be paired based on the results of Rounds 1 and 2, and Round 5 (if held) will be paired based on Rounds 1-3. The intent is to be pairing the preliminary debate rounds one round ahead of time in order to keep the tournament on schedule.***

***7. Follow pairing procedures in VIII. C. 7-10.***

***8. Outrounds will be paired based on the results of all preliminary rounds. Outround pairing procedures are found in VII. F.***

9. Tiebreaking procedures for advancement to outrounds is in section VII. F.

### **D. Class B-C State Tournament Procedures**

#### **Class B-C Speech and Drama Events**

1. At B-C State only, raw scores will be used in tabbing the results.

2. There are four preliminary rounds in all individual and duo events. A fifth round can be arranged at the discretion of the tournament host. The total of the rankings in the preliminary rounds determines the contestants in the elimination rounds. In all events except debate the poorest round score in the five preliminary rounds shall be dropped if five rounds are held.

3. The preliminary rounds in all events, except debate, shall consist of three sections per round.

4. The pairings are as follows.

#### **ROUND 1**

Section 1 - S7 S5 E6 N1 S2 E3 N4

Section 2 - N6 S1 E5 N3 S4 E2 S8

Section 3 - E4 N5 S3 N2 E1 S6

#### **ROUND 2**

Section 1 - S3 N1 E2 N6 E4 S8 S5

Section 2 - N4 E3 S7 N2 S6 S1 E5

Section 3 - E1 S4 N3 N5 E6 S2

### **ROUND 3**

Section 1 - S6 E5 S2 S4 N1 N3

Section 2 - E2 E4 S1 S8 E6 S3 N5

Section 3 - N2 E1 N4 S7 S5 N6 E3

### **ROUND 4**

Section 1 - N4 N2 S4 E2 S2 S7 E4

Section 2 - E5 S8 S5 E1 N1 N5 S1

Section 3 - E3 S6 N6 S3 N3 E6

### **ROUND 5**

Section 1 – S8 N1 N3 E6 E4 E5 N2

Section 2 - S2 N6 N5 S1 N4 S3

Section 3 - S4 E2 S5 E3 S6 E1 S7

5. Adjustments in the scheduling may be made at the discretion of the tournament manager only in case of emergencies which involve transportation or other types of delays etc. and the need for balancing sections and numbers.

6. Since the rounds cannot be even and BC uses raw scores, a 7 in a round shall be recorded as 6<sup>7</sup>. A score of 7 would be tallied as a 6<sup>7</sup> but the exponent would only be there to show that the round was recorded correctly. So, a 6 and a 6<sup>7</sup> would count the same.

### **7. Semifinals for Class B-C State**

a. The semifinal round is composed of FOURTEEN contestants who have the best accumulative scores.

b. In semifinals, seeded contestants will be divided equally among the two sections according to the following sample:

<b>Section I</b>	<b>Section II</b>
#1	#2
#4	#3
#5	#6
#8	#7
#9	#10
#12	#11
#13	#14

c. The principle of avoiding pairing of students from the same school in semifinals rounds must be followed insofar as possible. Speaking order in the semi-final and final rounds shall be determined by listing the student code numbers on paper and drawing them at random.

8. Finals: The final round is composed of eight contestants who have the best accumulative scores from the preliminary and semifinal rounds.



## **Class B-C Debate Events**

9. Class B-C: Round 1 of all Debate events will be paired from different divisionals in the following manner:

Affirmative .....	Negative
North 2.....	South 5
North 4.....	East 3
North 6.....	South 1
South 2.....	East 5
South 4.....	North 3
South 6.....	East 1
East 2.....	North 5
East 4.....	South 3
East 6.....	<b>South 7</b>
<b>South 8.....</b>	<b>..North 1</b>

In case of fewer than 20 teams/LD contestants in Class B-C, pairing shall be adjusted by the state chairperson so that the higher-placed teams will meet lower-placed teams from a different division. If a bye is necessary, it will be given to the first place team as determined by lot. If possible, insert alternates to avoid same schools from meeting in the first round.

10. Subsequent debate rounds following pairing rules for tournaments in VII. E. 3-10.

## **X. STATE TOURNAMENT CLASS AA**

### **A. Entries**

1. Each member school may enter up to four competitors in each event, or eight competitors in each partner event, provided that the total registration for debate and speech does not exceed 42 competitors.
2. All entries for the state speech tournament must be in the hands of the state tournament director at least ten days prior to the date set for the state meet.
3. At the state tournament an entry fee of \$5.00 for each participant in the events may be charged by the host school and an additional \$35.00 school registration fee at the state tournament may be charged.

### **B. Logistics**

1. Classrooms or the equivalent shall be used for all competition in all events. (Dormitory, supply and like rooms cannot be used.) This specification is to be considered necessary before awarding the State Speech Meet to an institution.
2. The official comment sheets and summarization sheets for debate and speech events shall be made available on the Montana High School Association website. These comment sheets must be used by all judges.
3. Results of competition shall be tabulated as soon as possible after each round. The tabulation room will be open to coaches to observe the tabulation procedure.
4. Pairing should be done only for round one. All other rounds will be paired following round one adjusting for drops and adds. All pairings will be done on the IE computer tab program.

## **X. TOURNAMENT TABBING PROCEDURES – CLASS AA**

### **A. Speech Pairing Procedures Class AA**

#### 1. Preliminaries

a. There are five preliminary rounds for all contestants. In all events, including Legislative Debate, except Policy, LD and Public Forum debate, the poorest round score in the preliminary rounds shall be dropped.

b. In the individual speech contests (including duo events) the contestants will be grouped into sections of not less than four nor more than eight contestants. No contestant will meet another contestant from the same school twice in the preliminary rounds nor will he/she be paired against another contestant from his/her own school in the preliminary rounds if possible.

c. For Impromptu, use event code ZZZ in order for double-entered students to be scheduled toward the end of the round.

#### 2. Semifinals

a. The semifinal round, composed of two sections, is made of the sixteen contestants that have the best cumulative score from the preliminary and quarterfinal rounds.

b. In semifinals, seeded contestants will be divided equally among the two sections according to the following sample:

Section I	Section II
#1	#2
#4	#3
#5	#6
#8	#7
#9	#10
#12	#11
#13	#14
#16	#15

c. The principle of avoiding pairing of students from the same school in semifinals rounds must be followed insofar as possible. Speaking order in the semi-final and final rounds shall be determined by listing the student code numbers on paper and drawing them at random. No changes will be made in the drawn speaking order, even if contestants from the same school are back to back.

3. Finals: The final round, one section, is made of the eight contestants that have the best cumulative score from the previous round.

### **B. Debate Pairing Procedures Class AA**

#### 1. Priorities in Pairing

a. The tournament will be tabulated and matched using the latest available update of the Rich Edwards Tab Room program. Any changes in the tabulation/matching of the program will require the consensus of the tournament director and Debate Committee.

b. Teams / LD contestants from the same school should not meet until finals, unless necessary.

c. The first five preliminary rounds must be paired so that all teams / LD contestants debate two affirmative and two negative rounds. Affirmative and negative rounds should be alternated as much as possible.

d. Each bracket will be determined by the following:

- (1) W - Wins
- (2) H - High low points
- (3) P - Total points
- (4) O - Opponent wins
- (5) J - Judge Variance
- (6) X - Random Number

e. Note: If a team/LDer receives below twenty speaker points, record debate speaker points as twenty points in the tabulation process. A team/LDer who forfeits a round in preliminary rounds, either by no-show or acquiescence, shall receive a loss with 0 speaker points; the opposing team/LDer shall receive a win and an average of their points.

## 2. Debate Rounds

a. Round 1: Round 1 will be paired at random. In the case of an uneven number of teams/LD contestants, the bye is to be randomly selected.

b. Round 2: 1-0 teams / LD contestants will be placed in the winner's bracket according to win-loss record and total speaker points; 0-1 teams / LD contestants will be placed in the loser's bracket using the same criteria. The top 1-0 team / LD contestant will debate the bottom 1-0 team / LD contestant. The top 0-1 team / LD contestant will debate the bottom 0-1 team / LD contestant. Byes from this round on shall be given to the team / LD contestant ranked last. (Note: If a team/LDer receives below twenty speaker points, record debate speaker points as twenty points in the tabulation process.)

c. Rounds 3-5: Teams / LD contestant will be placed into brackets that reflect records. Each distinct record group will form a bracket; i.e. 2-0, 1-1, and 0-2. Teams / LD contestants will be ranked in these brackets according to the criteria established in Section C, subsection d. Teams / LD contestants will be matched high-low in each bracket, with respect for alternate sides.

d. Octafinals: (top 16 teams / LD contestants in the tournament)

Pairing for Octafinals: #1 will be paired against #16, #2 against #15, etc. Teams / LD contestants will take the opposite side if they have debated before. If not, a coin flip in the round will determine sides. There will be three judges for each debate in this, and every subsequent round.

Teams / LD contestants winning will advance to the quarterfinal round. Those losing are eliminated from further competition.

### Sample pairing for OctaFinal in a typical tournament

	Seed	W-L	Code	Speaker Points
	#1	4-0	16-1	78
	#2	4-0	15-2	77
	#3	4-0	7-1	75
	#4	4-0	6-2	74
	#5	3-1	7-2	73
	#6	3-1	12-3	71
	#7	3-1	10-1	70
	#8	3-1	9-3	68
	#9	2-2	8-1	65
	#10	2-2	1-1	62
	#11	2-2	20-1	61
	#12	2-2	3-1	60
	#13	2-2	5-3	53
	#14	2-2	1-2	51
	#15	2-2	2-1	47
	#16	2-2	2-2	45

### Sample Outround Pairing Bracket



#### e. Quarterfinals

- (1) Teams / LD contestants will not be re-seeded following the Octafinals round. Teams / LD contestants will hold their bracketed position, and lower-ranked teams / LD contestants will advance without penalty as if they were the higher seeded team / LD contestant.
- (2) There will be three judges for each debate in this round.
- (3) Teams / LD contestants will take the opposite side if they have debated before. If not, a coin flip in the round will determine sides.
- (4) Teams / LD contestants winning this round will advance to semi-finals. Those losing are eliminated from further competition.
- (5) Losers in this round will be awarded fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth place according to the order established in Section C, subsection d, #2.

#### f. Semifinals

- (1) Teams / LD contestants will not be re-seeded following the quarterfinal round. Teams / LD contestants will hold their bracketed position, and lower-ranked teams will advance without penalty as if they were the higher seeded team / LD contestant.
- (2) There will be three judges for each debate in this round.
- (3) Teams / LD contestants will take the opposite side if they have debated before. If not, a coin flip in the round will determine sides.
- (4) Teams / LD contestants winning this round will advance to finals. Those losing are eliminated from further competition.
- (5) The two losing teams will be awarded 3rd and 4th places, according to the order established in Section C, #2.

#### g. Finals

- (1) The two remaining teams / LD contestants debate for the championship. The loser receives 2nd place, the winner 1st.
- (2) Three judges will be used for this debate.
- (3) Teams / LD contestants will take the opposite side if they have debated before. If not, a coin flip in the round will determine sides.

#### 4. Use of the Tab Room software

a. The software used may be the latest publicly released version of the software. Tournament directors are encouraged to download and test the software well in advance of their tournament. The State debate chairperson and site manager will determine which version of the software will be used at the State tournament.

#### b. Tournament Default Settings

- (1) The first round will be paired using the state rankings procedure. The program should be instructed to pair each subsequent preliminary round as “High-Low” in brackets.
- (2) The software will be instructed to “Pull Leftovers Down”. This means that “the brackets are evened by placing the uneven bottom of the upper bracket at the top of the next lower bracket.”
- (3) The software will be instructed to rank teams / LD contestants and speakers using the criteria established in Section 1. D.
- (4) None of the following will be used: Judge Rankings, Team Ranking, Mutual Preference, Geographic Regions.
- (5) The Traditional Method will be used for side determination in elimination rounds.
- (6) Tournament hosts should make every reasonable effort to either enter judges with conflicts or notify the tab staff before the first round has been paired.
- (7) Results should be made available immediately following the pairing of the next round.

#### c. Tab Room Software Operation

- (1) Rounds will be matched in the following order:
  - (a) Complete entry of results of the previous round
  - (b) Round will be automatically power-matched
  - (c) Round will have judges assigned randomly
  - (d) Round will have rooms assigned randomly
  - (e) Complete backup of tournament data
- (2) All entry will be done with at least two tab room staff members, from different schools.
- (3) Judges assigned by the computer shall judge the rounds assigned unless there is a conflict of interest or the judge is unable to judge the assigned ballot.
- (4) Any manual override of a pairing or judge will require the consent of the Tournament Director.

### **C. Tiebreaking Procedures Class AA**

#### 1. Ties in preliminary rounds for all Class AA Speech Events and Legislative Debate

For ties, drop the lowest prelim round for each contestant (highest rank/lowest rating). Use TRIEPC setting to:

a. First tiebreaker: Lowest Ranks (Best Score)

b. Second tiebreaker: Highest (Best) Rate

c. Third tiebreaker: Drop highest (Worst) rank

d. Fourth tiebreaker: Drop lowest (Worst) rate

e. Fifth tiebreaker: Did the speakers meet head-to-head? This will need to be checked by Tab Room rather than computer if fifth tiebreaker is needed. The competitor that placed highest in the head-to-head preliminary round advances.

f. Sixth tiebreaker: Random Draw if still tied.

### D. Sweepstakes Scoring Class AA

	Policy	LD	Legi	IE	Duo/Forum
1st	25	15	10	10	20
2nd	20	12	8	8	16
3rd	15	9	6	6	12
4th	10	6	4	4	8
5th	5	3	2	2	4
6th	5	3	2	2	4
7th	5	3	2	2	4
8th	5	3	2	2	4
9th–16th	2.5	1.5	1	1	2
Totals	110	66	44	44	88

## XII - SCHOOLS REGISTERED FOR FORENSIC AND DRAMA ACTIVITIES

### A. Class AA (Speech Only)

Billings Senior	Great Falls
Billings Skyview	Great Falls CMR
Billings West	Helena
Bozeman	Helena Capital
Butte	Missoula Big Sky
Flathead (Kalispell)	Missoula Hellgate
Glacier (Kalispell)	Missoula Sentinel

### B. Class A

**WESTERN DIVISION**  
**Southwest Conference**

Beaverhead Co. (Dillon)  
 \*\*Butte Central  
 Corvallis  
 \*\*Frenchtown  
 Hamilton  
 Stevensville

**Northwest Conference**

\*\*\****Browning***  
 \*\*Columbia Falls  
 Libby  
 \*\*Polson  
 Ronan  
 \*\*Whitefish

**EASTERN DIVISION**  
**Central Conference**

Belgrade  
 Fergus (Lewistown)  
 \*\*Havre  
 Park (Livingston)

**East Conference**

Billings Central  
 Custer Co. (Miles City)  
 Dawson Co. (Glendive)  
 Hardin  
 Laurel  
 Sidney

\*\* Speech Only  
 \*\*\*Drama Only

### C. Class B-C

**Northern**

\*\*\****Belt [C]***  
 Bigfork [B]  
***Chester-Joplin-Inverness [C]***  
 Chinook [C]  
 Choteau [B]  
 \*\*Conrad [B]  
 Cut Bank [B]  
 \*Denton/Geysler/Stanford [C]  
 Dutton/Brady [C]  
 Fairfield [B]  
 Fort Benton [C]  
 \*\*Great Falls Central [C]  
 Harlem [B]  
 Lincoln Co. (Eureka) [B]  
***Malta [B]***  
 North Star (Rudyard) [C]  
 Power [C]  
 Shelby [B]  
 Simms [C]  
 Sunburst [C]  
 \*\*\****Valier [C]***

**Southern**

Arlee [C]  
 Belfry [C]  
 \*\*\****Bridger [C]***  
 Broadwater (Townsend) [B]  
 Columbus [B]  
 Ennis [C]  
 \*\*\*Florence-Carlton [B]  
 Fromberg [C]  
 Gardiner [C]  
 \*\*Harlowton [C]  
 Harrison [C]  
 \*\*Jefferson (Boulder) [B]  
 Joliet [B]  
 \*\*\****Lone Peak***  
 \*\*Loyola Sacred Heart [B]  
 Manhattan [B]  
 Red Lodge [B]  
 Sheridan [C]  
 Sweetgrass Co. (Big Timber) [B]  
 Three Forks [B]  
 Twin Bridges [C]  
 West Yellowstone [C]  
 White Sulphur Springs [C]  
 Whitehall [B]

**Eastern**

\*Baker/Plevna [B]  
 Colstrip [B]  
 \*Culbertson/Bainville [C]  
 Fairview [C]  
 Forsyth [B]  
 Glasgow [B]  
 Huntley-Project (Worden) [B]  
 \*Medicine Lake/Froid [C]  
 Plentywood [C]  
 Poplar [B]  
 Powder River (Broadus) [C]  
 Rosebud [C]  
 Roundup [B]  
 Shepherd [B]  
 Wolf Point [B]

\*Cooperative Sponsorship  
 \*\* Speech Only  
 \*\*\*Drama Only  
 +Cooperative Sponsorship for speech only  
 ++Cooperative Sponsorship for speech only / Malta sponsors drama

**REVISED: September 21, 2018**

## **EXTEMPORANEOUS AND DEBATE TOPICS**

### **Extemporaneous Speaking Topics**

Extemp speaking topics are provided by the National Federation of State High School Associations. Topics will be sent to MHSA coaches (in hard copy or electronically) at the beginning of each month. They will not be posted on the MHSA website at the request of NFHS.

### **Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum, and Legislative Debate Topics**

Debate topics will be on the MHSA website: [www.mhsa.org](http://www.mhsa.org) as well as: [www.speechanddebate.org](http://www.speechanddebate.org) and [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org)

**Judges' Comment Sheets** are available in PDF form on the MHSA Website.

[www.mhsa.org](http://www.mhsa.org)