

Pennsylvania High School Speech League



BYLAWS

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FORMS can be found in the FORMS SECTION of the PHSSL binder:

Hall of Fame Nomination Data Form

Article B1 - Cross-Exam Debate Rules

Section B1.1

In the District Tournament and State Tournament of the Pennsylvania High School Speech League the cross-exam debate method will be used. The pattern is as follows:

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

No more than a total of 5 minutes per team - prep time.

Section B1.2

Each district automatically qualifies two two-person debate teams. If there are 12 - 20 cross-exam debate teams, a third team qualifies to the State Tournament; if 21 or more teams compete, a fourth team qualifies to the State Tournament.

Section B1.3

A school may enter two, two-person teams. Under no circumstances may a single debater constitute a team. No substitution of debaters may be made at the District Tournament after Round I has begun. Students qualify to the State Tournament as a team; no substitutions are allowed.

Section B1.4

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

Section B1.5

No new constructive arguments shall be introduced in the rebuttal speeches.

Section B1.6

No interaction between a coach and debaters is permitted during a debate. The debaters may not interact with anyone after the debate begins except those persons involved in that debate (i.e., partner, opponent, judge(s) of that debate). A minimum 15 points must be awarded per speaker.

Section B1.7

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

Section B1.8

No judges may be hired for the State Tournament in this event.

Section B1.9

Judges may not reveal decisions.

Section B1.10

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

Section B1.11

Plagiarism or fabrication of evidence is prohibited and will result in a student being disqualified from the tournament.

Article B2 - Novice Debate

Section B2.1

In the District Tournament, the cross-exam debate method will be used. The format is as stated in PHSSL Bylaws, Article B1 - Cross-exam Debate Rules, Section B1.1.

Each school may enter 1 or 2 switch side debate teams. Varsity procedural rules are to be followed.

Section B2.2

A novice is defined as a freshman or sophomore in his/her first year in CX debate competition.

Section B2.3

All other procedures shall follow Pennsylvania High School Speech League Bylaws, Article B1 - Cross-exam Debate Rules.

Section B2.4

There will be no State Competition in Novice Debate.

Article B3 - Lincoln Douglas Debate

Section B3.1

In the District and State Tournaments, the format shall be as follows:

Affirmative	Constructive	6 minutes
Negative	Cross Examination	3 minutes
Negative	Constructive	7 minutes
Affirmative	Cross Examination	3 minutes
Affirmative	Rebuttal	4 minutes
Negative	Rebuttal	6 minutes
Affirmative	Rebuttal	3 minutes

Each speaker will be allowed a total of four minutes preparation time during the course of the debate.

Section B3.2

Each school is permitted to enter no more than two students in the District Tournament.

Section B3.3

In the District Tournament, two contestants out of every eight participating shall qualify for the State Tournament. If there are more than eight participants, half of eight (four or more) shall qualify an additional participant. For example: 1 - 11 = 2; 12 - 20 = 3; 21 or more = 4.

Section B3.4

The topic for District Tournament will be announced in January and the topic for the State Tournament will be announced in March. The League will use NSDA topics as published in the Rostrum or online at www.speechanddebate.org.

Section B3.5

No judges may be hired for the State Tournament in this event.

Section B3.6

No interaction between a coach and debaters is permitted during a debate. The debaters may not interact with anyone after the debate begins except those persons involved in that debate (i.e. opponent, judge(s) of that debate).

Section B3.7

Plagiarism or fabrication of evidence is prohibited and will result in a student being disqualified from the Tournament.

Article B4 – Public Forum Debate

Section B4.1

In the District and State Tournaments, the format shall be as follows:

Prior to the round, 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 SPEAKING POSITION they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate).
- Once the coin toss winners elect their favored option, the other team makes a choice within the remaining option.

First Speaker – Team A	4 minutes
First Speaker - Team B	4 minutes
Crossfire	3 minutes
Second Speaker – Team A	4 minutes
Second Speaker – Team B	4 minutes
Crossfire	3 minutes
Summary – First Speaker – Team A	2 minutes
Summary – First Speaker – Team B	2 minutes
Grand Crossfire	3 minutes
Final Focus – Second Speaker – Team A	2 minutes
Final Focus – Second Speaker – Team B	2 minutes

Each team will have a total of 2 minutes of preparation time throughout the debate.

In each Crossfire, the first question must be asked by the speaker who spoke first. After that question, either debater may question and/or answer at will.

In the Grand Crossfire, the first question must be asked by the speaker who gave the first summary speech. After that question, any of the debaters may question and/or answer at will.

Section B4.2

A school may enter two, two-person teams. Under no circumstances may a single debater constitute a team. No substitution of debaters may be made at the District Tournament after Round I has begun. Students qualify to the State Tournament as a team; no substitutions are allowed.

Section B4.3

Each district automatically qualifies two two-person debate teams. If there are 12 - 20 public forum debate teams, a third team qualifies to the State Tournament; if 21 or more teams compete, a fourth team qualifies to the State Tournament.

Section B4.4

The topic for the District Tournament will be announced on the first day of the month preceding the District Tournament. For example, the February topic would be announced on the first day of January. The topic for the State Tournament will be announced on the first day of the month preceding the State Tournament. PHSSL will use the NSDA topics published in the Rostrum or online at www.speechanddebate.org.

Section B4.5

All speech judges are eligible to be assigned to judge Public Forum debates.

Section B4.6

No interaction between a coach and debaters is permitted during a debate. The debaters may not interact with anyone after the debate begins except those involved in that debate (i.e. partner, opponent, judge(s) of that debate).

Section B4.7

Public Forum speakers will stand at all times including cross fire.

Section B4.8

Plagiarism or fabrication of evidence is prohibited and will result in a student being disqualified from the tournament.

Article B5 – Parliamentary Debate

Section B5.1

In the District Tournament and the State Tournament three speakers will form a team and only two teams will participate in each debate.

Two of the rounds of both the district and state competitions will be Prepared Debate rounds for which the motions will be announced in the invitations to the tournaments. Schools are asked to refrain from using this as the prepared topic in any other tournaments besides PHSSL districts and states.

The exact motions for the remaining Extemporaneous Debate rounds will be developed prior to the tournament from a list of six topic areas approved by the PHSSL Executive Board at their summer meeting. Schools are encouraged to use these six topic areas as extemporaneous topics throughout the year at invitational tournaments. The specific wording of the motion will be published with the schematic of the round. Teams will have 15 minutes in their competition rooms for preparation. The judge of the round will supervise this preparation time period.

Prepared Rounds - Teams will be guaranteed one round of debate in favor of the motion and one round of debate against the motion, if possible.

Extemporaneous Rounds - Teams will draw for sides on the motion.

Round 1: Prepared (random)

Round 2: Prepared (random with side constraints)

Round 3: Extemporaneous (power)

Round 4: Extemporaneous (power protect with brackets)

Section B5.2 Motions

Motions in parliamentary debate are stated as general principles not bound to a specific place or time period. Teams should be rewarded for defending or opposing the entire idea contained in the motion.

Examples:

Resolved: That this house believes that democratic governments are superior in delivering citizens better quality of life.

Resolved: That this house believes that economic growth is the solution to environmental problems.

Resolved: That this house believes that people sentenced to life imprisonment should be allowed to choose the death penalty instead.

The Government has the freedom and burden of defining "This House" and the key terms of the resolution as well as defining the Government and Opposition burdens for the round.

The style of debate expected is dictated by these terms in the resolution.

- “Should” implies more of a Lincoln-Douglas-style resolution where competitors are welcome to include a value and value criterion in their framing of debate
- “Believes” implies a Cross-X-style debate where the teams are welcome to include a “plan” to solve a problem in the real world.
- “Will/Is/No keyword following” implies a Public Forum-style fact-based debate that looks generally looks at the status quo and its impacts, on balance.

Section B5.3 Format

After all speakers have spoken once, the first or second speaker for each side gives a reply speech, with the opposition reply going first and the proposition second. Speaking time for speeches is 6 minutes, and for reply speeches 3 minutes. There is no extra preparation time provided.

First Speaker for The Government – 6 minutes

First Speaker for The Opposition – 6 minutes

Second Speaker for The Government – 6 minutes

Second Speaker for The Opposition – 6 minutes

Third Speaker for The Government – 6 minutes

Third Speaker for The Opposition – 6 minutes

Reply Speech for The Opposition – 3 minutes

Reply Speech for The Government – 3 minutes

Section B5.4 – Prepared Rounds

A motion for the prepared rounds at district and state tournaments will be announced after the Executive Board’s summer meeting. Member schools are asked to refrain from using this topic at other tournaments. Teams may bring any materials with them into the debate including prepared speeches. Computers and electronic retrieval devices are permitted in these rounds subject to restrictions on live communication with others outside the debate. Two rounds at district and state tournaments will be held on the prepared round motion with a guarantee of a debate on each side of the motion by each team entered if at all possible.

Section B5.5 – Extemporaneous Rounds

Topic areas for the extemporaneous rounds at districts and state tournaments will be announced after the Executive Board’s summer meeting. Member schools are encouraged to use these topic areas at other tournaments throughout the year. The specific wording of the motion for debate will be released with the pairing schematic for the round. Teams will report to their competition rooms where the judge will supervise a 15-minute preparation period. Computers and electronic retrieval devices are permitted in these rounds subject to restrictions on live communication with others outside the debate.

Section B5.6 – Points of Information

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

The first and last minute of each main speech, as well as the entire duration of reply speeches, are "protected time," meaning that no Points of Information may be offered.

The speaker holding the Floor is not obliged to accept all the Points of Information offered to them, but is likely to be marked down by judges if they do not accept any. Speakers delivering Points of Information are expected to keep them to 15 seconds or less. The speaker has the absolute right to refuse to accept a Point of Information, or to accept it only at the end of the next sentence. As a general rule a speaker should accept at least 2 Points of Information in his or her speech. As a general rule each team member should offer between 1 and 2 Points of Information per speech, and should not offer them within a short time of a previous point of information having been offered. The first and last minute of each main speech, as well as the entire duration of reply speeches, are "protected time," meaning that no Points of Information may be offered.

Points of Information are an important part of the clash between the teams, and enable speakers to remain involved in the debate even when they are not making a speech.

Points of Information are to be the only interruptions of students' speeches in parliamentary debate rounds.

Points of Clarification – Stand, be recognized, and ask for clarification of something the speaker has said.

Points of Information – Stand, be recognized, and ask a question where the speaker is challenged directly to defend their statement.

Points of Order – Stand during reply speeches or 2nd member speeches to indicate a new argument when it cannot be refuted. If the judge feels the argument (not new support of a prior argument) is new, the judge may note this on the ballot and disregard the argument.

Section B5.7

Each district automatically qualifies two three-person teams to the state tournament. If there are 12-20 teams entered in the district competition, a third team qualifies to states. If there are 21 or more teams, a fourth team qualifies to the state tournament.

Section B5.8

A school may enter two three-person teams in the district tournament. No substitution of debaters may be made at either the district or state tournament after Round I begins. Students qualify to the state tournament as a team; no substitutions are allowed. All teams need to consist of 3 members at all times in order to compete at the district or state tournament. The first two rounds will be prepared with each team arguing both pro and con exactly once. All other rounds will be extemporaneous decided by a coinflip. Sides will not be considered in extemporaneous rounds

Section B5.9

No interaction between a coach or any other person not involved in the debate and the debaters is permitted during a debate.

Section B5.10

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

Section B5.11

No judges may be hired for the State Tournament in this event.

Section B5.12

Plagiarism or fabrication of evidence is prohibited and will result in a student being disqualified from the tournament.

Article B6 - Extemporaneous Speaking

Section B6.1

Each school is permitted to enter no more than two students in the District Tournament of Extemporaneous Speaking.

Section B6.2

In the District Tournament, at least two contestants shall qualify for the State Tournament. If there are more than eight participants, half of the eight (four or more) shall qualify an additional participant. For example: 1 - 11 = 2; 12 - 20 = 3; 21 or more = 4.

Section B6.3

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

Section B6.4

At the summer meeting of the Executive Board, six categories will be chosen that concern current events of both national and international significance. The categories will be published in the fall edition of *The Communicator*. Questions (B6.4)/Topics (B7.4) are to be chosen or written to fit the provided categories. Contest questions shall be kept secret until the actual contest. Questions shall be selected by the event coordinator for the State Tournament. District committees shall select questions for District contests. The questions shall be phrased in the form of a question. Each round of competition shall have different set of questions; however, the same set of questions must be used for all of the competition sections of the same round. Duplication of questions from round to round is prohibited. The student must bring the question slip, drawn for that round to the judge, or a copy of the question written by the prep room judge. Substituting a different question for the question drawn will result in disqualification from the tournament. Plagiarism or fabrication of evidence is prohibited and will result in a student being disqualified from the tournament.

Section B6.5

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

Article B7 – Commentary

Section B7.1

Each school is permitted to enter no more than two students in the District Tournament of Commentary.

Section B7.2

In the District Tournament, at least two contestants shall qualify for the State Tournament. If there are more than eight participants, half of eight (four or more) shall qualify an additional participant. For example: 1 - 11 = 2; 12 - 20 = 3; 21 or more = 4.

Section B7.3

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

Section B7.4

At the summer meeting of the Executive Board, six categories will be chosen that concern current events of both national and international significance. The categories will be published in the fall edition of The Communicator. Questions (B6.4)/Topics (B7.4) are to be chosen or written to fit the provided categories. Contest topics shall be kept secret until the actual contest. Topics shall be selected by the event coordinator for the State Tournament. District committees shall select topics for District contests. The topics are never to be phrased in the form of a question. The topics shall be of contemporary importance and may include issues, personalities, trends, or concerns. Each round of competition shall have a different set of topics; however, the same set of topics must be used for all of the competition sections of the same round. Duplication of topics from round to round is prohibited. The student must bring the topic slip, drawn for that round to the judge, or a copy of the topic written by the prep room judge. Substituting a different topic for the topic drawn will result in disqualification from the tournament. Plagiarism or fabrication of evidence is prohibited and will result in a student being disqualified from the tournament.

Section B7.5

Once the topic has been chosen, the speaker shall withdraw to a specified area and prepare for thirty minutes. During this preparation period, the speaker may not consult with anyone or make use of previously prepared materials. If the speaker consults with anyone or uses previously prepared materials, the speaker will be disqualified from the tournament. See Sections D15 and S10 for preparation room procedures and prohibited materials.

Article B8 - Persuasive Speaking

Section B8.1

In persuasive speaking, a school may enter not more than two contestants in the District Tournament.

Section B8.2

In persuasive speaking, two contestants shall qualify for the State Tournament. If there are more than eight participants, half of eight (four or more) shall qualify an additional participant. For example: 1 - 11 = 2; 12 - 20 = 3; 21 or more = 4.

Section B8.3

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

Section B8.4

The speech may not exceed ten minutes in length.

Section B8.5

Quoted materials shall not exceed a total of 150 words.

Section B8.6

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

Section B8.7

Notes and visual aids may be used.

Section B8.8

Plagiarism or fabrication of evidence and extensive paraphrasing are strictly prohibited.

Article B9 - Informative Speaking

Section B9.1

In informative speaking, a school may enter no more than two contestants in the district contest.

Section B9.2

In informative speaking, two contestants shall qualify for the State Tournament. If there are more than eight participants, half of eight (four or more) shall qualify an additional participant. For example: 1 - 11 = 2; 12 - 20 = 3; 21 or more = 4.

Section B9.3

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

Section B9.4

The speech may not exceed seven minutes in length.

Section B9.5

Quoted material shall not exceed a total of 125 words.

Section B9.6

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

Section B9.7

Notes and visual aids may be used.

Section B9.8

Plagiarism or fabrication of evidence and extensive paraphrasing are strictly prohibited.

Article B10 – Oral Interpretation of Prose

Section B10.1

In prose reading, a school may enter no more than two contestants in the District Tournament.

Section B10.2

In prose reading, two contestants shall qualify for the State Tournament. If there are more than eight participants, half of eight (four or more) shall qualify an additional participant. For example: 1 - 11 = 2; 12 - 20 = 3; 21 or more = 4.

Section B10.3

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

Section B10.4

The reader must hold the book or manuscript.

Section B10.5

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

Section B10.6

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

Section B10.7

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

Article B11 - Oral Interpretation of Poetry

Section B11.1

In oral interpretation of poetry, each school may enter no more than two contestants in the District Tournament.

Section B11.2

In oral interpretation of poetry, two contestants shall qualify for the State Tournament. If there are more than eight participants, half of eight (four or more) shall qualify an additional participant. For example: 1 - 11 = 2; 12 - 20 = 3; 21 or more = 4.

Section B11.3

Selections used in this event must be in poetic form. Selections from drama are not to be used. Multiple selections may be used, however, the selections must be linked somehow by author and/or theme. The author's words as published in the literature may not be altered for the presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted. If using a series of pieces, all titles and authors must be cited. The performer has the burden to be clear at all times which piece is being used. In the prepared script, the pieces should be clearly delineated via highlighting or font style and spacing to enable review in case of a protest. Material being performed at the PHSSL tournament must match the student's original script. The selection(s) must have an introduction which must include the title and the author. In the case of multiple selections, the introduction may be delivered at the beginning of all selections or short introductions may be delivered prior to each selection

The intent of PHSSL is that all materials presented in interpretation events must be available to all members of the league. All selections must be published or commercially available in print, audio, or video form. At PHSSL tournaments, contestants must bring the published copies of their selection with an ISBN or ISSN in either print, audio or video form, with title page or audio/video credits included. If the original copy does not have an ISBN or ISSN, the coach or supervising adult must be able to show that the original was purchased or obtained commercially, ie. a bill of sale from a literary agent or publisher, or that the original is publicly available by internet URL and retrieval date.

Section B11.4

The reader must hold the book or manuscript.

Section B11.5

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

Section B11.6

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

Section B11.7

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

Article B12 - Dramatic Interpretation

Section B12.1

Each school may enter two students in the District Tournament.

Section B12.2

Two contestants shall qualify for the State Tournament. If there are more than eight participants, half of eight (four or more) shall qualify an additional participant. For example: 1 - 11 = 2; 12 - 20 = 3; 21 or more = 4.

Section B12.3

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

Section B12.4

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

Section B12.5

The interpreter should project the character and action before him/her in the direction of the audience. Any movement, e.g. kneeling, falling down, lying down, which demonstrates acting rather than interpretation is prohibited. The contestant may sing up to 30 seconds when singing is part of the original scene. All forms of scenery, set, props, costumes, makeup, etc., are prohibited.

Section B12.6

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

Section B12.7

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

Section B12.8

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

Section B12.9

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

Article B13 - Humorous Interpretation

Section B13.1

In oral interpretation of humorous dramatic literature, each school may enter two students in the District Tournament.

Section B13.2

In oral interpretation of humorous dramatic literature, two contestants shall qualify for the State Tournament. If there are more than eight participants, half of eight (four or more) shall qualify an additional participant. For example: 1 - 11 = 2; 12 - 20 = 3; 21 or more = 4.

Section B13.3

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

Section B13.4

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

Section B13.5

The interpreter should project the characters and action before him/her in the direction of the audience. Any movement, e.g. kneeling, falling down, lying down, which demonstrates acting rather than interpretation is prohibited. The contestant may sing up to 30 seconds when singing is part of the original scene. All forms of scenery, set, props, costumes, makeup, etc., are prohibited.

Section B13.6

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

Section B13.7

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

Section B13.8

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

Section B13.9

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

Article B14 - Duo Interpretation

Section B14.1

In duo interpretation, each school may enter two teams in the District Tournament.

Section B14.2

In duo interpretation, two teams shall qualify for the State Tournament. If there are more than eight teams participating, half of eight (four teams or more) shall qualify an additional team. For example: 1 - 11 = 2; 12 - 20 = 3; 21 or more = 4.

Section B14.3

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

Section B14.4

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

Section B14.5

The speakers' selection must be performed from memory. Speakers may exchange places, may pivot from side to side, turn around, or position themselves behind each other. The violation of the following rules will result in disqualification from the tournament. They must remain standing. Any movement, e.g. kneeling, falling down, lying down, which demonstrates acting rather than interpretation is prohibited. Physical contact with each other is not allowed. During dialogue, focal points are to be employed. During direct address e.g., Stage Manager in *Our Town*, eye contact is with specific audience members. Eye contact with specific audience members during introductions, narration and transitions is required. No properties or costumes may be used. The selection must begin from center stage.

Section B14.6

Students qualify to the State Tournament as a team; no substitutions are allowed.

Section B14.7

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

Article B15 - Impromptu Speaking

Section B15.1

Each school is permitted to enter one student in the state tournament in impromptu speaking. No charge for name changes in Impromptu. A \$50.00 nuisance fee will be assessed for drops.

Section B15.2

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

Section B15.3

The speech may not exceed five minutes.

Section B15.4

The order of speaking and drawing topics shall be determined by lot immediately prior to the time for drawing topics. The speaker will draw three topics five minutes prior to speaking time. From these topics, the speaker will choose one and return the other two.

Section B15.5

Once the topic has been chosen, the speaker will have five minutes to prepare. During this preparation period, the speaker may not consult with anyone or make use of any previously prepared notes. If the speaker consults with anyone or uses previously prepared materials, the speaker will be disqualified from the tournament. Students may consult published books, magazines, newspapers and journals or articles there from, provided:

- a. They are originals or photocopied originals.
- b. That original article or copy is intact and uncut.
- c. There is no written material on that original or copy.
- d. Topical index without annotation may be present.

Section B15.6

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

Section B15.7

The student must bring the topic slip to the judge, or a copy of the topic written by the prep room judge. Substituting a different topic for the topic drawn will result in disqualification from the round.

Article B16 – News Broadcasting

Section B16.1

A school may enter one pair of students in News Broadcasting. No charge for name changes in News Broadcasting. A \$50.00 nuisance fee will be assessed for drops.

Section B16.2

There shall be only a state contest in News Broadcasting

Section B16.3

All entrants are required to prepare three (3) broadcast scripts that are three minutes in length.

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

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

Section B16.4

- A. Round I. Each pair of students will read a three-minute prepared newscast focusing on international news events. The reading of the script should be balanced between the two students. The script is prepared by the students covering international events of the time period Sunday two weeks prior to the State Tournament through Round I of the State Tournament.
- B. Round II. Each pair of students will read a three-minute prepared newscast focusing on the “lighter side” of the news. The script is prepared by the students covering the lighter side of the news of the time period Sunday two weeks prior to the State Tournament through Round I of the State Tournament.
- C. Quarterfinal Round. Students will read a three-minute prepared newscast focusing on national news events (sports news may also be included in this national news script). The script is prepared by the students covering national events of the time period Sunday two weeks prior to the State Tournament through Round I of the State Tournament.

Selection for the Quarterfinal Round will be based on the approximately 24 lowest cumulative ranks from Rounds I and II.

- D. Semifinal Round. Fifteen minutes before the contestants is are to appear in the round, they shall be given a copy of a broadcast script provided by the Executive Director. This sight reading will concentrate on national news events and Pennsylvania news, but not exclusively one or the other.

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

- E. Final Round. Approximately six teams will be selected to compete in a Final Round. Twenty minutes before appearing in the round, the students shall be given a four-minute script provided by the Executive Director which may be a combination of national and world news, sports, and weather. The script must be cut to three minutes for presentation.

Section 16.5

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

Section 16.6

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

Section 16.7

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

Section 16.8

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

Article B17 - Student Congress: House and Senate

Section B17.1

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

Article B18 – Drama

Section B18.1

Each school may have one entry in the Regional Drama Festivals. In the case of a single gender school, arrangements may be made with the Regional Drama Coordinator of the event.

Section B18.2

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

Section B18.3

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

Section B18.4

The playing time shall be not less than 20 minutes nor more than 40 minutes. Each play shall also have up to 10 minutes for setting the stage and up to 5 minutes for striking the stage.

Section B18.5

A total of 40 minutes will be available to each play for technical rehearsal, including setting the stage, and striking the stage. The time may be used at the discretion of each school, but may not exceed 40 minutes total.

Section B18.6

The host school shall supply a basic lighting plot with a minimum of three general lighting areas and one follow spot. It is suggested that participating schools supply a light, sound, and curtain cue sheet. The host school shall supply a simple set adaptable to the needs of the plays. No school should attempt to transport to the festival complete stage settings. All hand properties, make-up, and costumes shall be provided by the school presenting the play.

Section B18.7

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

Section B18.8

- a. The regional and state judging shall be the ranking system as used in all Pennsylvania High School Speech League events.
- b. In addition to the ranking of the plays at the State Drama Festival, the judges will name an All-State Cast of not less than three or more than ten members.
- c. The judges are to be selected by the Regional Coordinators for regional competition, and by the Executive Director for State competition. A panel of three judges must be used at the Regional competition. Regional judges will be paid \$10.00 per play. A panel of five judges must be used at the State competition.

Section B18.9

The Director of the contest play will not be allowed backstage during setup, performance, and strike. The Director is permitted in the dressing rooms.

Section B18.10

Awards at the State Festival: the top three schools receive plaques (first, second, and third); the remaining schools receive "State Finalist" plaques. Each student selected as a member of the All-State Cast receives a plaque (no fewer than three or more than eight).

Section B18.11

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

Section B18.12

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

Section B18.13

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

Article B19 – Disqualifications

Section B19.1

In addition to the rules as put forth in the by-laws per specific events, the following are rules in which violation could lead to disqualification:

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

Section B19.2

Any violation of the rules as stated in the by-laws, or as outlined in B19.1, can result in disqualification from a PHSSL tournament at any level with a majority vote of the event's tournament committee after proper disqualification protocol has been followed.

Article B20 – Awards

DISTRICT AWARDS

Section B20.1

All first place winners in the District Tournament, excluding drama, shall receive pins. All State qualifiers in the District Tournament shall receive certificates.

Section B20.2

The State Office will provide each District with a Sweepstakes Award to be presented to the best overall performing school at the District Tournament.

STATE AWARDS

Section B20.3

Awards at the State Drama Festival: the top three schools receive plaques (first, second, and third); the remaining schools receive "State Finalist" plaques. Each student selected as a member of the All-State Cast receives a plaque (no less than 3 or more than 8 to be selected).

Section B20.4

All Finalists in individual events, Student Congress and Radio Announcing shall receive individual plaques.

All Semifinalists in individual events, Student Congress and Radio Announcing shall receive individual certificates.

All Quarterfinalists in Radio Announcing and Impromptu Speaking shall receive individual certificates.

The school of each State Champion will receive a plaque.

Section B20.5

Debate Awards: In Cross-exam, Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum and Parliamentary Debate:

- All quarterfinalists shall receive individual certificates.
- Semifinalists and Finalists shall receive individual plaques.

Section B20.6

In Student Congress, the Presiding Officers shall receive gavels and the clerks shall receive certificates. Awards for students advancing to the Super Session are as follows:

Speakers ranked one through six shall receive plaques

All remaining Super Session members shall receive certificates

Section B20.7 Brother Rene Sterner Sweepstakes Award

Each year the rotating Brother Rene Sterner Sweepstakes Award shall be presented to the outstanding school on the basis of having accumulated the most points in state competition in a given year on the following point system:

1. For all of the qualifying categories, use the number of entries to determine the number of points earned by the first place winner, and then award all competitors points in reverse order from there. (Thirty entries means 30 points to 1st place, 29 point to 2nd place, 28 points to 3rd place, etc.)
2. For the three supplemental events, competitors receive half of the entries points. (Sixty entries means 30 points to 1st place, 29 point to 2nd place, 28 points to 3rd place, etc.)
3. Participants at the state drama festival receive 30 points for 1st place, 25 points to 2nd, 20 to 3rd, 15 to 4th, 10 to 5th and 5 to 6th.

Section B20.8

Plaques shall be awarded to the schools placing first, second, and third for the Sweepstakes Award.

Section B20.9

The school that accumulates the most points at the State Tournament shall be declared the Brother Rene Sterner Sweepstakes winner. If there is a tie at the State Tournament, the school with the most 1st place finishing entries

will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, the school with the most finalists shall be the winner. If a tie remains, co-champions shall be declared and the trophy shall be shared during the year according to a plan designated by the Executive Director.

Section B20.10

Each PHSSL District will declare a sweepstakes winner. This district champion school will receive a plaque. The following point system will be used to determine the District Sweepstakes School Winner:

DISTRICT TOURNAMENT SWEEPSTAKES

All events (except Novice Debate and Drama):

1st place	10 points
2nd place	5 points
3rd place	3 points

Novice Cross-exam Debate:

1st place	5 points
2nd place	3 points
3rd place	2 points

PARTICIPATION IN DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

- 2 points per Individual Events, Lincoln-Douglas and Novice Cross-exam Debate
- 4 points per Varsity Cross-exam, Public Forum, Parliamentary, and Duo Interpretation Team
- 4 points per Regional Drama participation
- 4 points per State Drama qualification

TIES AT DISTRICTS

If a tie must be broken to determine a State Qualifier, follow the procedures listed in the District Standing Rules. Ties that do not need to be broken for State Qualification may be resolved for the purposes of District Sweepstakes by taking the total sweepstakes points listed above for both places and dividing them by two (Example: A tie for 1st and 2nd may be broken for District Sweepstakes by giving each speaker 7.5 points)

Section B20.11

THE PEGGY MADDEN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT CONGRESS.

This award is given to the Outstanding Speaker earning the most points at the annual State Tournament in Student Congress: House.

A second Peggy Madden Outstanding Speaker award will be given to the first place speaker at the annual State Tournament in Student Congress: Senate. This is in addition to the one awarded to the first place speaker in Student Congress: House.

Section B20.12

THE JEANNE M. LUTZ AWARD FOR CONTINUED EXCELLENCE IN FORENSICS

Process:

Total points earned by each school in State competitions. All points accumulate from year-to-year. A school's total remains in effect even if membership in the League is not continuous. The school with the highest cumulative total points is declared the winner for that year. The winning school's total returns to zero.

Special Circumstance:

If two or more schools consolidate, the higher of the schools' point totals will be retained. All other points will be discarded.

Example:	School A	166 points	Schools A and B consolidate to form School C.
	School B	75 points	School C: total points = 166.

Section B20.13 Hall of Fame

- A. Members of the Hall of Fame shall be chosen based on the following criteria:
1. A minimum of 15 years of coaching in high school forensics in Pennsylvania, and/or
 2. Outstanding service to the league for an equal amount of time.
- B. To be nominated for the Hall of Fame, a person must receive a separate nomination from either a forensic coach, assistant forensic coach, current Executive Board member, a current District Chair, or a current Hall of Fame member.
- C. The selection committee and its chairperson shall be appointed by the Executive Board.
1. Each year one member will be added to the committee and one member will leave the committee.
 2. Committee members will serve for three years.
- D. Duties of the Committee
1. Receive the nomination forms by November 1 of the current academic year.
 2. Determine if the candidate meets the criteria in "A" above.
 3. Prepare and mail a survey to nominees requesting the information listed below in item 4, a through d.
 4. Prepare and mail a ballot that includes the following information for each candidate:
 - a. Number of years of coaching in Pennsylvania.
 - b. Number of years of service to the league: District Chair; District Committee; Executive Board.
 - c. Outstanding performances by students at the State Tournament.
 - d. Other exceptional service to the league.
 5. The ballot should indicate the number of candidates to vote for.
 6. Tally the ballots.
 7. Prior to the State Finals a presenter for each inductee will be invited by the committee to induct the recipient into the Hall of Fame.
- E. Voting shall be by the following:
1. Current Hall of Fame members
 2. The current executive board
 3. Current District Chairs
- F. A person who meets two of the above criteria will cast two ballots. No voter can cast more than two, separate ballots that may or may not be identical.
- G. On each ballot, the voter may vote for no more than one-half of the nominees, to a maximum of three.
For Example-
- If four are nominated, two may be voted for on each ballot.
 - If five are nominated, two may be voted for on each ballot.
 - If six are nominated, three may be voted for on each ballot.
 - If ten are nominated, three may be voted for on each ballot.
- H. The individual(s) receiving one third (1/3) of the total votes cast in a given year will be inducted into the PHSSL Hall of Fame. If no individual(s) receives one third(1/3) votes of total votes cast, the highest vote getter(s) receives the Hall of Fame award.
For example: One-third of 99 votes would be 33 votes
One-third of 100 votes would be 33.3=33 votes
- I. Each elected member shall be notified at least two weeks prior to the State Finals that the award will be presented at the appropriate opening Assembly of the State Tournament.
- J. Where special circumstances warrant the PHSSL Executive Board may make exceptions to these procedures.

Section B20.14 Emeritus Status for Executive Board

EMERITUS STATUS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD CRITERIA:

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

Appendix to the By-Laws

Hall of Fame To Do List

August

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

September

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

October

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

November

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

First Two Weeks of December

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

First Two Weeks of March

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

State Tournament

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

Opening Assembly

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

Closing Assembly

The recipient(s) will be recognized.