

Speech Tournament Manual



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Tournament Set-Up

The Conference speech tournament is held during the 35th week of the NSAA calendar. This usually falls on the Friday of the 3rd week in February.

In order to get registration information to participating schools in time, the host school should send out information at least one month in advance. See appendix A for a sample of an invite letter.

Tab Guidelines

When setting up the tournament:

1. Double code each school, so schools will not have the same code for both competitors in an event.
2. Use these guidelines for establishing the sections:
 - a. All events with 9 or more participants will be divided into 2 sections
 - b. All events with 17 or more participants will be divided into 3 sections
 - c. All group events with 8 or more entries will be divided into two sections
3. When setting up the sections, no competitors from the same school shall be in the same section.
4. Enter all participants into all sections in round one.
5. Establish round two from round one, picking speakers from the same section and splitting them into different sections as possible.
6. Recheck round two to make sure no schools are speaking against each other.
7. Randomize the speaking order so no school will speak in the same position as much as possible, and each competitor will have a different speaking order from one round to the next.
8. While randomizing, check speaking times of participants who are double entered, and make appropriate allowances.
9. Set judges by preference of event first, then by availability. Judges should all be NSAA certified.
10. Set room numbers.

During the tournament:

1. If at all possible, judges should never see schools and codes posted together.
2. After taking drops and name changes, even sections if possible.
3. Announce all changes at a general meeting before the tournament.
4. Establish a separate ballot room for coaches to review ballots. (An error in tabulation can be brought to the tab room's attention while still correctable.)
5. The top six speakers in each event will go to finals. Finalists will be determined by combined rank of both preliminary rounds. In case of a tie for sixth, rating points will be the first deciding factor. If a tie cannot be broken, then 7 will go to finals. Speaker order will be randomized.
6. There will be three judges in finals, assigned randomly.

7. When posting finals, post the break point on the finals poster. (Again, an error in tabulation can be brought to the tab room's attention while still correctable.)
8. Awards are to be determined by combined rank of judges used in finals. If a tie in rank exists, first tie-breaker will be reciprocals. Second tie-breaker will be rating points. If a tie still exists, the judges will be brought together to break the tie.
9. Sweepstakes scoring will be based on final round only. Points will start at 6 for champion in every event, and reduce by one for each place thereafter. (Speakers in 7th place or lower also earn a point for their teams).
10. If a tie exists in sweepstakes points, follow NSAA District guidelines to break the tie.
11. Copies of all tabulation sheets will be given to all participating schools.

Tournament Schedule

The Conference speech tournament begins at 10:00 a.m. to allow schools that travel farther distances to leave later. A 10:00 a.m. start time allows for a 9:30 a.m. registration time including an extemp box check by an NSAA certified judge. For banned extemp materials, please see the NSAA rulebook.

According to the bylaws, the Conference meet should consist of two preliminary rounds and a finals round. If space is at a premium in your school the tournament can be flighted. See Appendix B for a sample of a flighted tournament schedule.

Sectioning

All individual events with seventeen (17) or more participants will be divided into three sections. All group events with eight (8) or more entries will be divided into two sections.

Every effort should be made by the tournament director to ensure that students from the same school do not speak in the same order every time. The only instance in which a competitor should speak first or last twice in a row is if he/she is double entered in that flight.

If there are drops on the day of the tournament it is the tournament director's responsibility to even out sections in which there are fewer than normal contestants. The tournament director should first check to make sure that the competitor's teammate is not in the section to which he/she is being moved. If there are no school conflicts the director should then check on speaker order. See Appendix D for an example.

Changes to the schematics should then be passed on to the judges, coaches, and competitors.

Finals

In each preliminary round one judge will score up to but no more than eight contestants in an event. No judge should score the same event twice in one day.

After two preliminary rounds the top six competitors will advance to the final round. In the event of a tie, the top six plus ties will advance to the final round.

Finals Scoring

Team scoring will be based upon the final rounds only, with the awarding of points as follows:

- 1st: 6 points
- 2nd: 5 points
- 3rd: 4 points
- 4th: 3 points
- 5th: 2 points
- 6th: 1 point
- 7+: 1 point.

Medals will be given to the top six competitors in finals. Finalists beyond sixth place may earn certificates at the discretion of the tournament director.

See Appendix E for an example team score sheet.

Tie Breakers

When two judges are assigned to judge the final round in each event at conference speech competition, the following tiebreaker will be incorporated:

- Reciprocals applied to the final round.
- Highest cumulative rating points in the final round.
- Judges brought back together to break the tie. If the judges cannot agree, they shall take into consideration:
 - lowest rank in the preliminary round.
 - reciprocals applied to the preliminary round.
 - highest rating points in the preliminary round.

Judges

The host school is responsible for securing judges determined by the number of participants. The formula will be one judge for every ten entries. There will be a panel of two judges for each final round.

Judges must be selected from the NSAA list of approved judges.

Judges fees should be comparable with fees paid at District Speech Contest (\$15 per round).

The host school should write checks to each of the judges. The Conference will then repay the host school.

Each judge should be briefed as to the expectations of the Conference. Please see Appendix F for an example of judge's instruction.

Appendix G contains a sample judge's schedule.

Appendix A

Central Conference Speech Tournament

Date

Dear Colleagues,

It's time once again for the Central Conference Speech Tournament. This year the tournament will be held at _____. Attached you will find a schedule of events and a registration sheet. Registration sheets are due back by date, at time.

Please feel free to call the high school (_____), fax us (_____), or send an email (_____) if you have any questions about the tournament.

Sincerely,

Appendix B

Proposed Schedule

The tournament will consist of two flighted preliminary rounds leading to finals. Adjustments for fewer judges and smaller events should be relatively easy to make.

Flight A Events: Entertainment, Informative, Humorous Prose, Poetry, and OID.

Flight B Events: Duet Acting, Serious Prose, Persuasive, and Extemporaneous.

9:30 a.m.	Registration, Extemp file search
9:45 a.m.	General meeting
10:00 a.m.	Flight A, Round 1
10:30 a.m.	<i>Extemp draw, Rd 1</i>
11:30 a.m.	Flight B, Round 1
1:00 p.m.	Flight A, Round 2
1:30 a.m.	<i>Extemp draw, Rd 2</i>
2:30 p.m.	Flight B, Round 2
4:00 p.m.	Flight A Finals
4:15 p.m.	<i>Extemp draw, Finals</i>
5:15 p.m.	Flight B Finals
6:30 p.m.	Awards

In this schedule, double entered extempers in flight A and B would be scheduled first in their flight A events so they can draw on time. This should be relatively simple to do.

Appendix C

Central Conference Speech Tournament

Sectioning Sample

Extemporaneous	17 entries	3 sections	(6/6/5)
Serious Prose	18 entries	3 sections	(6/6/6)
Humorous Prose	19 entries	3 sections	(7/6/6)
Entertainment	16 entries	2 sections	(8/8)
Duet Acting	8 entries	2 sections	(4/4)
Poetry	20 entries	3 sections	(7/7/6)
Persuasive	15 entries	2 sections	(8/7)
Informative	13 entries	2 sections	(7/6)
OID	6 entries	2 sections	(6)

Appendix D

SERIOUS PROSE							
Flight B Round 1				Flight B Round 2			
	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3		Section 1	Section 2	Section 3
START	RM:	RM:	RM:	START	RM:	RM:	RM:
TIME	JDG:	JDG:	JDG:	TIME	JDG:	JDG:	JDG:
10:30	G5	S13	X1	1:30	E7	J1	F8
	W4	R12	H1		P1	K4	D3
	F8	T8 drop	N2		S13	R12	C2 drop
	P1	E7	J1		G5	A1	M16
	K4	A1	C2 drop		X1	W4	N2
	D3	M16	D3 (move)		H1	H1	T8 drop

D3 is the logical choice to move because his teammate is in section 2, and he's already last speaker in section 1.

H1 moves to section 3 to take T8's spot.

PERSUASIVE							
Flight B Round 1				Flight B Round 2			
	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3		Section 1	Section 2	Section 3
START	RM:	RM:	RM:	START	RM:	RM:	RM:
TIME	JDG:	JDG:	JDG:	TIME	JDG:	JDG:	JDG:
10:30	G8	S7		1:30	G8	J9 Drop	
	F12	W2			R8	F12	
	R8	N11			P12	T4	
	T4	H7			D9	C10	
	P12	E3			W2	S7	
	C10	L7			H7	N11	
	D9	M8			L7	E3	
							M8

These rounds even out. There is no need to make adjustments.