







CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH ASSOCIATION

RULES AND REGULATIONS

2026-27

EFFECTIVE 10/7/26







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Article I: Finances

Section 1. Assessments and Fees

A. School Assessments: All member schools shall pay a one hundred and fifty dollar yearly assessment regardless of school population.
    1. Assessment forms are available on the CHSSA website (chssa.org). Each school shall upload a copy of the signed assessment form to the CHSSA online registration portal.
    2. Schools may pay by credit card, check, or money order.
    3. All checks should be made payable to CHSSA and mailed to the Treasurer. No personal checks shall be accepted. Only school checks, money orders, or cashier's checks shall be accepted.
    4. Should a check bounce or a chargeback occur, the school will be responsible for all fees and will not be allowed to compete at the state tournament until all fees are cleared.
    5. December 1 of each year shall be the deadline for payment. A late fee of $20.00 shall be assessed for payment after December 1.
    6. No school shall be officially a member of CHSSA considered in good standing until the Treasurer records the proper assessment and form.
    7. Membership privileges include representation by elected members of the CHSSA council and status as a CHSSA member school in good standing.

B. State Tournament Fees: All fee amounts will be set by the Executive Council. Contestant schools in the CHSSA State Tournament shall pay fees as outlined below:
    1. An entry fee per person per event.
    2. A school fee per school.
    3. Schools may pay by credit card, check, or money order.
    4. Checks for entry fees shall be made payable to CHSSA and sent to the Treasurer appropriate Area Chairperson with entry forms. No personal checks shall be accepted. Only official school checks, credit card, money orders, or cashier's checks shall be acceptable.
    5. Judging Deposit:
        a. Each school entered in the State Tournament shall be required to include a $150.00 judging deposit with and in addition to entry fee payment. Schools that fail to fulfill judging obligations will be fined $150 per missed round.
        b. Failure to fulfill the school's assigned judging obligation shall result in forfeiture of the $150.00 deposit.
        c. Schools that fulfill their judging obligations will have their judging deposit applied to the CHSSA assessment fee for the following year, unless a written request for refund is submitted by their school site administrator.

C. Delinquent Payments: Schools whose fees and/or assessed penalties for the current or previous year have not been paid by the established deadline will be considered delinquent.
    1. Delinquent schools lose their status as "schools in good standing" and their students are ineligible for competition in state qualifying tournaments.
    2. CHSSA yearly assessment, including all delinquent fees, must be paid on or before two weeks prior to the first state qualifying contest that the school enters.
    3. Those schools that compete in the State Tournament and are discovered delinquent in payment of their assessments may not participate in the State Tournament the following year unless their delinquent payments are paid from the year of the

infraction plus a $50 fine. Both the delinquent payment and the fine must be paid no less than 90 days prior to the State Tournament.

4. Area Chairpersons and CHSSA State Tournament Director shall enforce the above.

D. Associate Memberships and Fees: Any individual, business, or corporation or any institution (other than a secondary school) that does not sponsor a high school speech program may obtain an associate membership. The associate member CHSSA shall pay $20.00 dues per year. (September - August) CHSSA services, including curriculum materials and publications shall be available to all associate members in good standing.
    1. Explanation of application and dues for associate membership may be obtained by contacting the CHSSA organization [see website].
    2. Associate membership application and checks shall be sent directly to the CHSSA Treasurer. No personal checks shall be accepted. Only official school or business checks, money orders, or cashier's checks shall be acceptable.
    3. The Treasurer shall record the payment and notify the President, Vice President Activities and the appropriate Area Chairperson.
    4. Associate membership fees do not count toward Area totals for allocation of State Tournament qualifiers. Associate members are not eligible for participation in state qualifying or State Tournaments.

Section 2. Financial Management

A. All fees shall be received by the CHSSA Treasurer.
B. All CHSSA funds shall be held, disbursed, and accounted for by the CHSSA Treasurer.
    1. Funds shall be disbursed according to the Board of Directors approved yearly budget.
    2. At the direction of the President, emergency or unexpected expense disbursements may be made subject to Board of Directors approval at the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors.
    3. The Treasurer shall receive budget requests until the Fall Board of Directors meeting and shall submit a budget for Board of Directors approval at the Fall meeting.
C. All CHSSA funds shall be used for the statewide activities of CHSSA, including publications, the State Tournament, and operating expenses.
D. Authorized travel on CHSSA business at the direction of the President or with approval of the Board of Directors that would be otherwise uncompensated, shall be compensated as follows:
    1. Travel by private auto shall be compensated at the IRS standard mileage rate.
    2. Travel by public transportation shall be compensated at the actual fare.
    3. Other necessary expenditures such as hotel and meal cost shall be compensated.
E. The expenses of office incurred by the President, Vice President-Activities, Vice President-Curriculum, Director-Public Relations, Editor, Treasurer, Secretary, Historian, Legal Counsel, Area Chairpersons, and Area Curriculum Representatives shall be reimbursed by the Treasurer from the general funds. These expenses include travel, lodging, meals, postage, telephone calls, printing and other incidental costs resulting from the conduct of official CHSSA business. Receipts for all expenses must be submitted to the Treasurer prior to reimbursement.
F. The expenses of the Representatives-at-Large shall be paid by the Leagues of the Areas they represent. Each League shall be assessed a proportionate amount to cover the

expenses. These expenses include travel, postage, telephone calls, printing, and other incidental costs resulting from the conduct of official CHSSA business.

Article III: Duties

Section 1. President

A. The President shall preside at all meetings of the CHSSA and the Board of Directors. If the President is unable to attend a meeting, a member of the Executive council may be designated as a substitute for that meeting.
B. The President or designee shall represent the CHSSA in all professional relationships, including, but not limited to, those with member and non-member schools, the California Department of Education, the National Federation of High Schools, the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA), post-secondary institutions, and civic organizations and shall report on official actions, correspondence, and activities conducted for the CHSSA at the Board of Directors meetings.
C. The President shall appoint the Editor and Historian.
D. The President calls for meetings of the Board of Directors and establishes the agenda for the meetings according to the needs of the Board of Directors, the carry-over business from previous meetings, and the Constitution and Rules and Regulations of the CHSSA. Dates of meetings shall be set at the spring meeting for the following competitive year.
E. The President shall receive and review the minutes of each meeting of the Board of Directors and have them posted to the CHSSA website within two weeks following the meeting.
F. The President shall be responsible for monitoring and recording all CHSSA By-Law changes and making and distributing the complete revised version by October 1 of each competitive year.
G. The President shall be responsible for monitoring the process and recording and distribution of any changes to the CHSSA Constitution.
H. The President shall maintain a complete record of correspondence conducted on behalf of the CHSSA, all minutes from the Board of Directors meetings, and a copy of an updated Constitution and Rules and Regulations.
I. The President will monitor content posted on the CHSSA Website, assigning at their discretion necessary editorial duties and passwords to all appropriate executive officers.
J. The President shall establish a means to evaluate the progress annually of the CHSSA organization toward the goals established by the Board of Directors, including a State Tournament evaluation. A report on the evaluations of the State Tournament shall be presented at the first Board of Directors meeting following the State Tournament each year.
K. The President shall serve on the following committees: 1) State Tournament Committee; 2) Grievance Committee; 3) Protest Committee; 4) NFHS-Debate Wording Committee (or shall designate a Representative)
L. The President or designee shall conduct the official distribution and collection of ballots for the voting process for the national debate topic selection process.
M. The President shall conduct a general, non-legislative meeting for all CHSSA member coaches at the State Tournament. [This session shall be for information and opinion-gathering, not legislation.] The meeting should be conducted at a time during the State Tournament when a majority of coaches can be in attendance.
N. The President shall complete any other tasks or duties of a special nature as directed by Board of Directors.

Section 2. Vice President Activities

A. The Vice President Activities shall serve as coordinator of forensic activities whose primary responsibility shall be the conduct and operation of the State Tournament through the following:
    1. acting as the official CHSSA contact with the host school and the Area Chairperson who is in contact with the host school for all tournament arrangements.
    2. establishing the official time schedule for the State Tournament in conjunction with the host school and the State Tournament Committee.
    3. arranging the acquisition and delivery of all tournament equipment, supplies, and materials, including all awards for the State Tournament.
    4. appointing all personnel required for operation of the State Tournament.
    5. accepting entries from the Area Chairpersons.
    6. assigning code designations to Areas, if computer registration is unavailable.
    7. overseeing the operation of the State Tournament as prescribed by the By- Laws.
    8. distributing the results of the State Tournament to participating schools.
B. The Vice President Activities shall conduct a meeting for all the League Presidents during Board of Directors meetings.
C. The Vice President Activities shall serve on and collaborate with the State Tournament Committee.
D. The Vice President Activities shall assume the tasks of the President when so directed either by the President or by a three-fourths vote of the Board of Directors.
E. The Vice President Activities shall report to the CHSSA president on official actions, correspondence, and activities conducted for the CHSSA
F. The Vice President Activities shall complete other tasks or duties of a special nature as directed by either the President or the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Vice President Curriculum

A. The Vice President Curriculum shall serve as coordinator of curricular activities. The primary responsibility shall be to produce and distribute materials of usefulness to classroom teachers as well as extra or co-curricular coaches through the following:
    1. Seeking, developing, and producing new materials for distribution.
    2. Maintaining a supply of CHSSA produced curriculum materials.
    3. Distributing materials to schools directly, through curriculum representatives, or through the CHSSA website.
B. The Vice President Curriculum shall conduct meetings for Curriculum Representatives during Board of Directors meetings. At these meetings materials shall be distributed, assignments shall be made for the development of new materials, and discussion shall be held on improving speech communication curriculum in California.
C. The Vice President Curriculum shall serve on the Curriculum Committee and the State Tournament Committee.
D. If the Vice President Activities is unable to do so, the Vice President Curriculum shall assume the tasks of the President when so directed by the President.
E. The Vice President Curriculum shall report at the Board of Directors meetings on official actions, correspondence, and curricular activities conducted by the CHSSA.
F. The Vice President Curriculum shall complete other tasks or duties of a special nature as directed either by the President or by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Coordinator of Public Relations

A. The Coordinator of Public Relations shall be nominated from within the Public Relations Committee and voted into place by the board. At the discretion of the President and by the President's direction, they will organize and direct the following:
    1. All appropriate outreach and retention programs for coaches and teams.
    2. Communication with appropriate agencies to promote speech and debate as part of secondary school curriculum.
    3. Communication with appropriate news media regarding the conduct and achievements of the CHSSA, including the State Tournament.
    4. Coordination of all publicity and appropriate public relations for CHSSA and the State Tournament.
B. The Coordinator of Public Relations shall attend all meetings of the Board of Directors and, at the Board of Directors meetings, report on official actions, correspondence, and public relations activities conducted for the CHSSA.
C. The Coordinator of Public Relations shall assist in providing material for the CHSSA website.
D. The Coordinator of Public Relations shall complete other tasks or duties of a special nature as directed by the President.

Section 5. Area Chairs

A. The primary responsibility of the Area Chair shall be to administer the business of the CHSSA in the Area in which the Area Chair is elected. These duties include:
    1. Certifying official League state qualifying tournament results.
    2. Appointing Area Curriculum Representatives and Area Representatives at Large in consultation with the League Presidents within the Area.
    3. Collecting, recording, and forwarding to the Treasurer all assessment receipts from the schools in the Area, maintaining records of all assessments received for use during the allocation of qualifiers.
    4. Posting a regularly updated list of paid school on the CHSSA website or on a separate website accessible to all Area members.
    5. Collecting and forwarding to the Treasurer all entry fees and judging fees for the State Tournament, including a list of coaches who have paid judging fees.
    6. Setting the date, time, and place of League run-off state qualifying tournaments.
    7. Monitoring all entry forms and materials for the Area, checking all materials for compliance with CHSSA rules, and submitting those materials to the Vice President Activities at the State Tournament.
    8. Conducting registration at the State Tournament for schools from the Area.
    9. Meeting with the Executive Council, all Area Chairpersons and the Tournament Director during the Spring meeting of the Board of Directors to distribute qualifiers to the Areas; and meeting with League Presidents of the Area during the Spring meeting of the Board of Directors to monitor the distribution of qualifiers within the Area.
    10. Meeting with the Executive Council at all Board of Directors meetings.
B. The Area Chairperson shall attend all Board of Directors meetings and shall maintain and publicize as follows:
    1. Current rosters of paid member school.
    2. The status of the Area.
    3. Report on potential sites for State Tournaments within the Area, as required.
C. The Area Chairperson hosting the State Tournament may act as a liaison to the host school for the Vice President Activities. Additional duties for the Area Chairperson shall include

provision of hotel contacts, recruitment of local judges, arrangement of hospitality, etc. These tasks may be delegated to the League nearest the host site.

D. The Area Chairperson shall conduct meetings of the members of the Board of Directors from the Area at Board of Directors meetings, including League Presidents, Representatives at Large, and Curriculum Representatives.
E. The Area Chairperson shall serve on the State Tournament Committee and the Protest Committee.
F. The Area Chairperson shall be an active member of the Public Relations Committee and may formally join a second committee as appropriate or desired.
G. The Area Chairperson shall complete other tasks or duties of a special nature as directed either by the president or by the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Webmaster

The primary responsibilities of the Webmaster shall include:

A. Website Maintenance and Updates:
    1. 1. Regularly update and maintain the CHSSA website (chssa.org) by posting relevant news, information, or other materials as deemed appropriate. Work with state committees (e.g., PR, State, Curriculum, Debate) to post new information and resources as they are developed.
B. Editorial Oversight:
    1. Ensure the CHSSA website takes no editorial position without prior approval of the Board of Directors. Members may express opinions in articles or letters posted to the website, and the Webmaster shall supervise all posted content.
C. Rules and Regulations:
    1. Update and maintain digital copies of CHSSA Rules and Regulations and Board business.
D. Password and Login Management:
    1. Maintain a document with passwords and login information for all CHSSA digital content, including social media, and share it with Executive Officers.
E. Email Management:
    1. Manage all official @chssa.org email addresses, including setup, troubleshooting, maintenance, and access for new Officers or Agents of the Board. Back up and maintain records of all email communications through the CHSSA.org domain.
F. Social Media Oversight:
    1. Collaborate with Executive Officers and state committees (e.g., PR, State, Curriculum, Debate) to post new information and resources on official CHSSA social media platforms (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, and X).
G. Board Meeting Attendance:
    1. Attend all meetings of the Board of Directors to provide a report on the duties of the Webmaster.
H. Financial Reporting:
    1. Provide the President and Treasurer with an accurate accounting of revenue and publication expenses, if any, each year.
I. Special Assignments:
    1. Complete other tasks or duties of a special nature as directed by the President or the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Secretary

The primary duties of the Secretary shall include:

A. A. Meeting Minutes:
    1. Record the minutes of all Board of Directors meetings, including summaries of discussions preceding votes on motions and rules or regulations revisions.
    2. For each proposed rules and regulations revision, include the actual revised text of the affected rules and regulations, regardless of the Council's disposition (pass, fail, remand).
    3. Send a draft of the minutes to the CHSSA President and Executive Committee within two weeks following the meeting.
    4. Upon review and approval by the Executive Committee, distribute the approved draft meeting minutes to the Board of Directors via email and make them available on the CHSSA website.
    5. Maintain a digital archive of all past Board of Directors meeting minutes, ensuring they are stored on a shared drive and accessible on the CHSSA website.
B. Attendance and Roll Call:
    1. Call roll at Board of Directors meetings and record names of all Directors in attendance.
C. Communication Development (The Bulletin):
    1. Collaborate with the CHSSA Board Committees, Executive Officers, Area Chairs, and Directors to develop regular digital communications regarding CHSSA business, titled "The Bulletin."
    2. Include articles or letters to the editor that, to the extent reasonably possible, present diverse and balanced perspectives on Speech and Debate activities.
    3. Provide links to annual registration materials and finalized rules and regulations for the competitive year.
    4. Share updates on important dates and deadlines, including State Tournament deadlines.
    5. Publish information about State Tournament results and other relevant CHSSA activities.
    6. Publish The Bulletin twice annually:
        a. Once in the Fall Semester (October 1).
        b. Once in the Spring Semester (no more than two weeks after the May meeting).
D. Meeting Attendance:
    1. Attend all meetings of the Board of Directors.
E. Special Assignments:
    1. Complete other tasks or duties of a special nature as directed by the President or the

Section 8. Treasurer

A. The primary duty of the Treasurer shall be to administer funds of the CHSSA according to the organizations; status as a non-profit (401C), the CHSSA Constitution and Rules and Regulations and/or by direction of the Board of Directors, including the following:
    1. collecting all assessments from member schools as reported and delivered by the Area Chairpersons, maintaining accurate records of payments of assessments by League and by Area.
    2. forwarding to all Area Chairs an updated list of schools that have paid CHSSA dues for that year and the amounts each school has paid.

3. Collecting and recording any associate memberships.
4. Collecting all State Tournament fees as reported and delivered by the Area Chairpersons.
5. Maintaining accurate records of all CHSSA income and expenses.
6. Maintaining all CHSSA bank accounts.
7. Paying all CHSSA expenses and maintaining all receipts on file.
8. Maintaininwgtng and filling all tax returns, forms, and account records required by state and federal governments.
9. Presenting the Board of Directors with financial statements and budget reports at all meetings; presenting a budget for adoption at the Fall meeting.
10. Providing the official assessment accounting at the Spring meeting of the Board of Directors for use in the allocation of qualifiers.
11. Submitting all records and accounts to the President at the conclusion of the Treasurer's term of office.

B. The Treasurer shall attend all meetings of the Board of Directors.
C. The Treasurer shall complete other tasks or duties of a special nature as directed either by the President or by the Board of Directors.
D. The Treasurer and the Coordinator of Public Relations shall be responsible for booking accommodations for all CHSSA functions, including Board of Directors meetings and the State Tournament. In case a CHSSA function or Board of Directors meeting is canceled, the organization (CHSSA) rather than the individuals who contracted for facilities shall be responsible for any financial demands made by the contracted facility. CHSSA shall not be responsible for payment of any charges resulting from untimely cancellations by any individual, school or group that has made reservations for contracted hotels or facilities.

Section 9. Historian

A. The Historian shall serve as archivist for the CHSSA. The primary responsibility shall be the collection and preservation of all records, files and correspondence that reflect and detail the operations of the CHSSA.
B. The Historian shall organize and direct the acquisition of oral histories or other interviews with members of the Hall of Fame, or any persons to be identified by the Historian, as they pertain to the CHSSA, its mission and activities.
C. The Historian shall attend all meetings of the Board of Directors and report on official actions, correspondence, and activities conducted for CHSSA.
D. The Historian shall assist the Coordinator of Public Relations with materials for the CHSSA website.
E. The Historian shall complete other tasks or duties of a special nature as directed by the President.

Section 10. Legal Counsel

A. The Executive Council shall choose and retain appropriate legal counsel as needed. By request of the CHSSA president or designee, the Legal Counsel shall attend meetings of the Executive Council, the Board of Directors and the CHSSA as needed.
B. At Legal Counsel's discretion for remuneration, agreed upon with the Executive Council, the Legal Counsel shall provide advice, legal service and representation as requested by the Executive Council.

Section 11. League President

A. The primary responsibility of the League President shall be to collaborate with League members to determine their concerns and attend all meetings of the Board of Directors to represent those League interests in Board of Directors legislative deliberation and decision-making. The League President is then responsible for reporting the proceedings of the Board of Directors meetings to the League.
B. The League President must be a member of a standing committee and attend all committee meetings.
C. The League President must attend meetings held for League Presidents by the Vice President Activities at each Board of Directors meeting.
D. At the fall meeting of the Board of Directors, the League President will provide the Vice President Activities and Area Chairs, a roster of all League member schools and a schedule of League state qualifying tournaments.
E. The League President should ensure that all schools in the League properly complete CHSSA assessment forms and pay CHSSA assessments by the established deadline.
F. At the spring meeting of the Board of Directors, the League President must meet with the Area Chairperson to verify and allocate the state qualifiers for the following year to all Leagues within the Area.
G. The League President is responsible for ensuring that the schools and students in all state qualifying tournaments have met CHSSA criteria for legitimate participation and that all state qualifying tournaments in the League are run in accordance with the CHSSA Constitution and By-Laws.
H. The League President is responsible for ensuring that all manuscripts, scripts, and other materials required for state qualifying tournaments are in compliance with CHSSA By-Laws.
I. The League President is responsible for participating in any transfer request that involves their league.
J. The League President shall complete other tasks or duties of a special nature as directed by the Board of Directors.

Section 12. Curriculum Representative

A. The primary duty of the Curriculum Representative is to assist with the development and distribution of curriculum materials, and to provide schools in the Area with information regarding the availability of curriculum materials provided by CHSSA.
B. The Curriculum Representatives must attend all meetings of the Curriculum Committee.
C. The Curriculum Representative shall assist the Vice President Curriculum in providing professional services assigned to the curriculum development of the CHSSA, including but not limited to workshops and conferences.
D. The Curriculum Representative should provide the Editor with materials for publication in the State Speech Bulletin and/or should, with the CHSSA President's approval, post free materials on the website.
E. The Curriculum Representative shall complete other tasks or duties of a special nature as directed by the Board of Directors.

Section 13. Representative at Large

A. The primary duty of the Representative at Large shall be to provide schools and school personnel in their Area with information to encourage them to join CHSSA.

B. The Representative at Large must collaborate with League members in the Area to represent the interests of the Area in the legislative functions of the Board of Directors.
C. The Representative at Large must attend all Board of Directors meetings.
D. The Representative at Large must serve on a standing committee.
E. The Representative at Large shall complete other tasks or duties of a special nature as directed by the Board of Directors.

Section 14.

A. The CHSSA President, Vice President of Activities, Vice President of Curriculum, Secretary, Treasurer, and Area Chairpersons may not simultaneously hold their elected position and the position of League President, At Large Representative, or Curriculum Representative.
B. Upon winning an election the person has the responsibility to inform their League or Area Chairperson and CHSSA board, as appropriate, for the necessity to either hold a new election, or appoint a new individual to the vacant position within 30 days.

Article II: Elections/Meetings

Section 1. Officer Elections

A. The President, Vice President Activities, Vice President Curriculum, Secretary, and Treasurer for the next officer term shall be elected by and from among the directors at the Spring Board meeting.
B. Candidates must declare their candidacy no less than three weeks prior to the state tournament in the current competitive year.
    1. If there are multiple candidates, each will provide to the President a statement of no more than more than 200 words and a photo for publication on the CHSSA website.
    2. Candidates may be elected for more than one term.
    3. Only those people who declare by the deadline may be elected at the spring meeting.
    4. The term of office shall be one year: July 1 to June 30 of the following year.
    5. A candidate may serve multiple sequential terms.

Section 2. The League President shall be elected to the Board of Directors by the member schools of the League.

Section 3. Individuals wishing to run for Area Chairperson, other than the incumbent, must declare their candidacy to the election official appointed by the CHSSA President by March 1 and provide a statement of no more than 200 words and a photo for publication.

1. Those declaring their candidacy must be affiliated with a school from within that Area.
2. The election official for the Area will send out the declaration(s) and picture(s) along with a ballot to each member school by email by March 15.
3. The member schools of each Area will then popularly elect Area Chairpersons by returning completed ballots electronically or in hard copy to the election official for the Area no later than May 1.
4. The election official will record which schools submitted a ballot, then produce a set of ballots with school and personal identifying information removed.
5. At the Spring CHSSA meeting, the Area Chairs from the other three Areas will each, independently, count the ballots and confirm the results.
6. When all results match, they will be given to the CHSSA president who will send results of the election to each Area following the meeting.

Section 4.

A. The CHSSA President, Vice President of Activities, Vice President of Curriculum, Secretary, Treasurer, and Area Chairpersons may not simultaneously hold their elected position and the position of League President, At Large Representative, or Curriculum Representative.
B. Upon winning an election the person has the responsibility to inform their League or Area Chairperson and CHSSA board, as appropriate, for the necessity to either hold a new election, or appoint a new individual to the vacant position within 30 days.

Section 5. Incumbent elected Board of Directors officers, including President, Vice President Activities, Vice President Curriculum, and Area Chairs, not seeking reelection must declare this intent at the Winter Meeting, or no later than January 15 of their term.

Section 6. Meetings-Quorum:

A. For the purpose of conducting meetings and any and all business, a quorum must be present.The presence of a quorum shall be established at the roll call and shall be sufficient for the continuance of the meeting and conduct of business until the meeting is adjourned. Should the number of members present at the meeting fall below the quorum, the meeting may continue with the approval of a majority vote of the members present, but business may no longer be conducted until a quorum is re-established.
B. Meetings – Rules: In the absence of any stipulation in these By-Laws or in common practice as agreed by consensus of the members present, the most recent version of Robert's Rules of Order shall provide the parliamentary authority for the conduct of meetings and business of the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Appointed Positions:

A. The President appoints the Editor and the Historian.
B. The Coordinator of Public Relations is appointed by and from among the members of the Public Relations Committee.
C. The Area 1 Chair appoints two At-Large Representatives and one Curriculum Representative. The other three Area Chairs each appoint one At-Large Representative and one Curriculum Representative.

Article IV: Committees

Section 1. Standing Committees

A. The following standing committees have been established for the Board of Directors: Curriculum Committee, Congress Committee, Debate Committee, Speech Committee, and Public Relations Committee.
B. The standing committees shall report to the Board of Directors at the regular council meetings.
C. Motions to revise the Rules and Regulations in regard to rules for competition must be submitted first to the appropriate Standing Committee before consideration by the Board of Directors.
    1. The individual(s) submitting the rules change may attend the meeting of the appropriate Standing Committee.
    2. Standing Committee shall make a ~~majority~~ report ~~and, if needed, a minority report~~ to the Board of Directors regarding the proposal for change.
    3. The President, at their discretion, may remand to a Standing Committee any matter brought before the Board of Directors as a motion of New Business, provided that the matter be substantially within the purview of the Standing Committee.
D. The President, in consideration of the committee, shall appoint the chairs of the standing committees.
E. All Board of Directors members are required to be members of one of the standing committees:
    1. Board of Directors members shall meet with and participate in the activities of a committee of their choice, so long as each Area is represented. In the event that an Area is unrepresented on any standing committee, the Area Chair will assign a representative from that Area to fill the vacancy.
    2. The Vice President-Curriculum and the Curriculum Representatives must be members of the Curriculum Committee.
    3.
    4. Time shall be provided for these standing committees to meet prior to the Board of Directors meeting. This time block shall be reserved for the standing committees and not conflict with other meetings.
    5. The Executive Committee is an exception to the members' choice of committee. Only CHSSA officers may be a member
        a. This Executive Council will meet regularly prior to every Board of Directors meeting.
        b. The meeting time shall not conflict with other committee meeting times.
F. The functions and duties of the standing committees shall be as listed herein, as directed by the CHSSA President, or by the expressed will of the Board of Directors.
    1. The Curriculum Committee shall formulate, produce, and disseminate curricular materials of use and interest to the CHSSA membership.
        a. The Curriculum Committee shall advance the academic recognition of speech and debate by high schools and institutions of higher learning.
        b. The Curriculum Committee shall produce, update, and distribute to CHSSA members curricular documents and other useful information.
        c. The Curriculum Committee shall undertake such other activities as directed.

2. The Congress Committee shall formulate rules and procedures to facilitate the Congress event.
    a. The Congress Committee shall receive and select the necessary number of bills and resolutions to be used at the State Tournament from the bills and resolutions submitted by the leagues.
    b. The Congress Committee shall be responsible for writing and distributing the yearly Congress Handbook.
    c. The Congress Committee shall determine the corresponding Congress Topic Areas in accordance with the State Tournament Event Guidelines.
    d. The Congress committee shall undertake such other activities as directed.
3. The Debate Committee shall formulate rules and procedures to facilitate all forms of debate: Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Parliamentary, and Public Forum.
    a. The chair of the Debate Committee or a delegate appointed by the CHSSA president shall be designated as the member of the NFHS Debate Wording Committee from California.
    b. The Debate Committee shall determine the corresponding Parliamentary Debate Topic Areas in accordance with the State Tournament Event Guidelines.
    c. The Debate Committee shall undertake such other activities as directed.
4. The Public Relations Committee shall formulate and implement a strategy to increase public awareness of competitive and curricular speech and debate in California. The committee's primary focus is all public-facing aspects of building and maintaining new teams, coach mentorship, and activity-wide advocacy on local and institutional levels.
    a. The Public Relations Committee shall create special and permanent programs to achieve committee and CHSSA goals.
    b. The Public Relations Committee shall develop and disseminate materials, examples, or kits to assist CHSSA members in generating positive publicity for their programs.
    c. The Public Relations Committee shall undertake such other activities as directed.
5. The Speech Committee shall suggest rules and regulations to facilitate speech competition.
    a. The Individual Events Committee shall determine the corresponding Extemporaneous Speaking Topic Areas per round in accordance with the State Tournament Event Guidelines
    b. The Individual Events Committee shall undertake such other activities as directed.

Section 2. Ad Hoc Committees

A. Ad hoc committees may be instituted by the will of the Board of Directors or appointed by the President.
B. Ad hoc committees shall have a specific mandate from the council and an explicit function.
C. The President shall appoint the members of any ad hoc committee during the council meeting where and when that committee is established.
    1. As far as possible, each of the four Areas should be represented on each ad hoc committee.

2. The maker of the motion establishing an ad hoc committee shall be designated as chair of that committee.

D. Ad hoc committees shall meet at a time prior to the Board of Directors meeting. This time shall not conflict with the meeting of any standing committee.
E. All ad hoc committees shall expire at the meeting one year after that committee is established. An ad hoc committee expiring under this sunset rule may be continued for one more year by the express will of the Board of Directors during which time the specific committee mandate or task must be achieved or abandoned.

Section 3. Special Standing Committees

A. Special standing committees are those committees that are established in the CHSSA Rules and Regulations. These committees, except where noted, do not have regular meetings. They meet as needed to resolve issues as presented. Meetings by telephone or computer may be substituted due to factors of immediacy or distance.
B. Protest Committee consisting of the President and the four Area Chairs, whose authority shall be the following:
    1. To investigate allegations of violation of the Rules and Regulations or other unethical conduct, with power to reprimand or censure a member school and/or its coach of record.
    2. To hear all protests and grievances at the State Tournament, with power to disqualify a contestant.
C. State Tournament Committee, consisting of all members of the Executive Council and chaired by the Vice President Activities.
D. League Establishment/League Transfer Committee, consisting of all League Presidents and chaired by the CHSSA President.
E. Grievance Committee consisting of the Executive Board.

Article V: Leagues

Section 1. League Boundaries

A. Area One
    1. Schools in the following group of counties shall be eligible for membership in the Coast Forensic League (CFL):
        a. Monterey Santa Clara San Mateo San Benito Santa Cruz
    2. Schools in the following group of counties shall be eligible for membership in the Golden Gate Speech Association (GGSA):
        a. Alameda Marin Siskiyou (W of Yreka) Contra Costa Mendocino Solano (SW of Hwy 12) Del Norte Napa Sonoma Humboldt San Francisco Trinity Lake

B. Area Two
    1. Schools in the following group of counties shall be eligible for membership in the Capitol Valley Forensic League (CVFL):
        a. Butte Lassen Plumas Siskiyou (E. of Yreka) Colusa Modoc Sacramento Sutter El Dorado Nevada Shasta Tehama Glenn Placer Sierra Yolo
    2. Schools in the following group of counties shall be eligible for membership in the Yosemite Forensic League (YFL):
        a. Alpine Mariposa Solano (NE of Hwy 12) Amador Merced Stanislaus Calaveras San Joaquin Tuolumne
    3. Schools in the following group of counties shall be eligible for membership in the Southern Valley Forensic League (SVFL):
        a. Fresno Kern Madera Inyo Kings Tulare

C. Area Three
    1. Schools in the following geographic areas counties shall be eligible for membership in the Tri-County Forensic League (TCFL):
        a. San Luis Obispo Ventura Santa Barbara those parts of Los Angeles County outside of CBSR, WBFL and SCDL.
    2. Schools in the following geographic areas shall be eligible for membership in the Southern California Debate League (SCDL):
        a. Western boundary: Los Angeles River to Interstate 5, north to the northern city limit of Glendale, across to the southern boundary of Angeles National Forest
        b. Eastern boundary: West boundaries of the Pomona and Bonita School Districts
        c. Southern boundary: Los Angeles County line
    3. Schools in the following geographic areas shall be eligible for membership in the Western Bay Forensic League (WBFL):
        a. Western boundary: Hwy 27 north to Mulholland Drive;
        b. Northern boundary: Mulholland Drive to Barham, then Barham to the southern border of the city of Burbank; then to Interstate 5;
        c. Eastern boundary: contiguous with Southern California Debate League western boundary.

D. Area Four
    1. Schools in Orange County shall be eligible for membership in the Orange County Speech League (OCSL).
    2. Schools shall be eligible for membership in the Citrus Belt Speech Region (CBSR) if they are in:

        a. Riverside County, San Bernardino County, or those areas of Los Angeles County within the physical boundaries of the Bonita, Claremont, and Pomona School Districts.
    3. Schools in the following group of counties shall be eligible for membership in the San Diego Imperial Valley Speech League (SDIVSL):
        a. Imperial, San Diego

E. For geographic convenience and only with approval of both the Area Chairpersons involved, a school located near an Area border may be transferred from one Area to another at the request of the school.

F. League transfers:
    1. If a school within the geographical area of a recognized league desires to affiliate with and/or participate in the activities of another league, the request must be submitted in writing to the presidents of the two leagues.
    2. State assessments shall count for the league to which the school transfers.
    3. To apply for a transfer, a school must be current in its payment of dues to its home league and to CHSSA.
        a. A two-thirds affirmative vote of the member schools of each league is required to allow this transfer.
        b. This decision must be declared no later than December 15.
        c. If the applying school or any league presidents involved in the transfer wish to appeal the decision, they may submit the appeal in writing to the CHSSA President and the Area Chairpersons no later than January 1 of the current competitive year.
        d. The decision of the CHSSA President and the four Area Chairpersons shall be final.
    4. The Area Chairperson shall report any and all League transfers at the Winter Meeting of the Board of Directors or no later than January 15 of the current competitive year.

Article VI: Hall of Fame

Section 1. History

A. A Hall of Fame shall be instituted for the CHSSA speech coaches beginning with the 1986-1987 school year. The selection process for the first Hall of Fame members follows: The first presentation shall be to "founding parent" coaches of CHSSA. A list of potential names was generated at the spring 1986 Board of Directors meeting. Voting on each of these names took place at the fall 1986 Board of Directors meeting following a brief oral presentation concerning the merits of the Nominee. To be selected to the Hall of Fame, a coach nominated must have received 60% of the “yes” votes cast on a secret ballot.

Section 2. The selection process for subsequent years shall be as follows:

A. Any retired or active coach who has given a minimum of 15 years of service to speech in high school in California is eligible for nomination.
B. Nominations must be submitted in writing to the President of the CHSSA by December 15 of each year. Nominations may be emailed, or delivered personally, or mailed via USPS with a postmark on or before December 15 and received before the Winter Meeting, to the President. Nominations must be submitted on the appropriate form.
C. Any League may make nominations, provided that no more than one nominee per League is submitted in any year. Nominations must be signed by four coaches from different schools in the League.
D. At the Winter Meeting of the Executive Council, or no later than January 15, qualifications of nominees shall be verified.
E. Voting Procedure shall be as follows:
    1. At the Winter Meeting, or no later than January 15, the Board of Directors shall vote by secret ballot on the slate of nominees. Voting shall remain open through February 15.
    2. No later than January 15, non-council Hall of Fame members will be sent final ballots which must be returned with their votes to the Historian by February 15.
    3. Each League President must submit their league’s two votes to the Historian by February 15. Leagues shall verify their League’s votes with the signatures of four coaches from different schools in the League.
    4. Council members, Leagues, and Hall of Fame members not on the current council may vote for zero to two candidates on the ballot. (Each League may vote for zero to two candidates on each of its two ballots.) All official ballots shall list the nominees in alphabetical order and provide a space to vote for “none of the above: and a space to indicate “abstention” which shall not be included in the total count of votes.
    5. The Historian will report to the CHSSA President who shall notify candidates of results by March 1.
    6. Elections to the Hall of Fame shall require a 60% vote for a nominee. Should a nominee fail to achieve a 60% vote, but receives a minimum of a 40% vote, that nominee shall be retained on the ballot for the following year.
F. An appropriate award shall be presented by the President of the CHSSA or by an individual appointed by the President. Notification of election to the Hall of Fame shall be sent to the nominee, and to the nominee's school and school board, if applicable. In addition, a plaque shall be sent to the recipient’s school recognizing the coach so honored. The plaque shall be sent with a letter from the CHSSA President noting it as a reminder of what the Speech

Coach has achieved and the recognition they have earned as well as providing remembrance for visiting alumni. If the coach has served at multiple schools, they will have the opportunity to select the school to which the plaque should be sent.

G. Presentation of the award may be made at the State Tournament awards assembly or at any other appropriate occasion as determined by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.
H. An article regarding the recipient(s) shall appear in the State Speech Tournament program and/or CHSSA Bulletin.
I. The names of the recipients, the school of the recipient, and the year of induction shall be posted on the CHSSA website and may appear in the appendices of these By-Laws. Section 4. Information on the following form shall be used for nomination:

HALL OF FAME
NOMINATION

Mail this form as hard copy with a USPS postmark on or before December 15, or email or deliver personally to the President. [Contact President if you need mailing info.] Form and additional materials must be received either electronically or personally delivered by December 15 or postmarked via USPS by no later than December 15 and received before the Winter Meeting of the year for consideration in the current year.

Nominating League: _____ Date: _____

The League nominates: _____

of _____ (school)

Length of service to high school speech: _____ years from _____ to _____

Nominating coaches representing **four different schools** in the league (head coach preferred):

	Print Name	Name of School	Signature
1			
2.			
3.			
4.			

1. In addition to this form, the nominee must send a written statement of no more than 200 words describing the nominee's attributes and achievements, explaining to those who may not know the person why they should be in the CHSSA Hall of Fame. A photo must also be included in the statement. For voting purposes, persons meeting the requirements for nomination will have the description and photo published and distributed to the Board of Directors and, should the nominee be inducted, the description and photo will be posted on the CHSSA website and published in the CHSSA State Tournament program.
2. The nominee's signature below approves the use of their information and picture as described above:

Name of Nominee (Print)	Name of School (If Applicable)	Signature

Current Contact Information of Nominee:

Name of current school, if applicable: _____

Home Address: _____

Best Contact Email: _____

Best Contact Phone Number: _____

Article VII: The State Tournament - Qualification and Eligibility

Section 1. Date:

A. The date of the State Tournament should preferably be determined by the Board of Directors at the preceding Spring meeting.
B. The preferred date for the State Tournament should always be the last full weekend of April or the weekend preceding the last full weekend of April.
C. The State Tournament ought to take into consideration religious holidays and other appropriate conflicts as necessary.

Section 2. Competitive Year:

A. The CHSSA competitive year is defined as the year beginning the day following the state tournament in a given year to the final day of the next state tournament; thus a competitive year covers the time from one state tournament to the next.

Section 3. Place:

A. Any college campus of suitable location determined by the State Tournament Committee
B. A site for the State Tournament should be submitted two years in advance by the Area responsible for hosting the tournament.
    a. The last date for this to transpire would be the Spring Board of Directors meeting two years prior to the date of the Tournament.
C. If a site is unavailable or a cancellation occurs with the Area, the President of CHSSA or the Vice President Activities shall assume the task of locating a site.
    a. This may be at any suitable location within the State of California.
    b. A site should be submitted at the Board of Directors meeting following the announcement of an Area's inability to find a location or following a cancellation.

Section 4. Accommodations Policy for Individuals with Disabilities:

A. Competitors requiring special accommodations must submit such requests in writing to the Vice President of Activities no later than the State entry deadline.
    1. The competitor's school shall be financially responsible for any costs incurred by CHSSA in meeting the needs of the student(s) or adult(s) representing said school.

Section 5. Distribution of Entrants in Events:

A. Distribution of speech events entries: There shall be fifty-six entrants in each individual event held at the State Tournament. Eight of these entrants shall come from each of the four Areas.
    1. At the Spring Meeting of the Board of Directors every year, the Area Chairpersons in the committee shall recommend to the CHSSA President an allocation of the remaining seventeen entrants in each individual event using the following formula:
        a. Only those assessments received and recorded by the treasurer by January 31 of that school year shall be counted toward an area and leagues assessment totals

b. The sum total of CHSSA assessments collected by CHSSA for the current year and the two immediately prior years shall be determined from records kept by the Treasurer\
c. The Area total for each three-year period shall be divided by the grand total of all assessments for the three-year period.
    1. This shall yield a percentage total which shall be multiplied by seventeen, which total shall be added to the eight allocated to an Area to determine the total Area allotment.
    2. Area totals must be rounded up or down so that the total of all qualifiers allocated equals 49. (e.g.: percentage total = 0.25; 0.25 X 17=4.25; 4.25 + 8 = 12.25; 12.25 - is rounded down to 12.0 qualifiers)
    3. The final numbers may appear something like the following:
    4. Area 1 = 12.2 qualifiers Area 2 = 11.6 qualifiers Area 3 = 13.3 qualifiers Area 4 = 11.9 qualifiers
d. A grid is laid out with each Area followed by twelve squares, the twelve squares representing one individual event of the twelve offered at the State Tournament.
    1. To accommodate the fractions of whole numbers, the Areas draw in turn making sure that no column is added to more than 49 vertically.
    2. Each column is labeled A, B, C etc., and the letters are drawn to distribute the qualifiers.
    3. Then the letters are drawn naming at random all twelve speech events.
    4. The names of the speech events take the place of the A, B, C etc. at the top of the column.

2. In the absence of a unanimous recommendation in "1" above, the President shall make the final decision as to the allocation of remaining entrants to each Area.
3. A written summary of the decision and the reasons for it shall be sent to each Board of Directors member within two weeks after the meeting.
4. Bonus entries: A bonus of seven entries per existing individual event will be added (one panel), using the following formula:
    a. Based on the previous three years' State Tournaments and total league entries, the number of sweepstakes points earned shall be divided by the total number of allocated league entries.
    b. This number is to be used to rank the leagues in order.
    c. To be eligible to receive additional entry(ies) to an event at the State speech events Tournament, a League must average .5 sweepstakes points over the previous three (3) years in that particular individual event.
    d. The seven (7) bonus entries shall be distributed to each eligible League, in rank order.
        1. Any remaining entry/entries shall be distributed to the Leagues with the greatest average wins per entry, in rank order.
        2. In the event of a tie, the tie will be broken in the same manner based on the previous four (4) years, five (5) years, etc. until the tie is broken.
        3. Tie-breaker:
            a. In the event of ties between Leagues, the tie shall be broken on the basis of greater average wins per allocated entry in the four previous State Tournaments.

b. If a tie still exists, the tie shall be broken on the basis of average wins per entry five years prior, six years prior, etc.

B. Distribution of Student Congress entries:
    1. There shall be ninety entrants in Congress plus twelve presiding officer entrants.
        a. Twenty-one entrants in Congress shall be allotted to each Area.
        b. Each League will be allotted one presiding officer entrant.
    2. A bonus of six entries for Student Congress will be added (one per House) using the following formula:
        a. Based on the previous three years' State Tournaments and total league entries, the number of sweepstakes points earned shall be divided by the total number of allocated league entries.
        b. This number is to be used to rank the leagues in order. The top six leagues shall each receive one bonus entry.
        c. Tie-breaker:
            1. In the event of ties between Leagues, the tie shall be broken on the basis of greater average wins per allocated entry in the four previous State Tournaments.
            2. If a tie still exists, the tie shall be broken on the basis of average wins per entry five years prior, six years prior, etc.
    3. Each League shall assign one presiding officer to the State Congress.
    4. One presiding officer shall be selected from each of the state qualifying Congresses of the eleven Leagues. The twelfth presiding officer shall be chosen as follows:
        a. Based on the previous three years' State Tournaments and total league entries, the number of sweepstakes points earned shall be divided by the total number of allocated league entries.
        b. The league with the most points will be entitled to send a second presiding officer to the State Tournament.

C. Distribution of Policy, Public Forum, Parliamentary Debate, and Lincoln-Douglas Debate entries:
    1. There shall be sixty- four entries in Policy Debate, Public Forum, Parliamentary Debate, and Lincoln-Douglas debate.
        a. Each Area shall receive fourteen entries in each of these four forms of debate.
    2. A bonus of eight entries shall be distributed using the following formula:
        a. To be eligible to receive additional entry(ies) to the State Debate Tournament, a League must average two (2) wins per allocated entry or better.

        b. One to each eligible League.
        c. Any remaining entry(ies) shall be distributed to the Leagues with the greatest average wins per allocated entry.
        d. Tie-breaker:
            1. In the event of ties between Leagues, the tie shall be broken on the basis of greater average wins per allocated entry in the four previous State Tournaments.
            2. If a tie still exists, the tie shall be broken on the basis of average wins per entry five years prior, six years prior, etc.

D. Legislative intent regarding “allocated entries”:

1. For the purposes of the bonus entries, any averages will be calculated using the number of entries originally assigned to a league for that year, NOT the number of entries which actually compete at the State Tournament.
2. This provision is designed to encourage leagues to fill all of their slots to the State Tournament by making it more difficult for leagues to receive bonus entries if they don't use all of their allocated entries.

E. Distribution of entrants within each Area.
    1. At the spring meeting of the Board of Directors every year the Area Chairpersons shall recommend to the President the allocation of qualifiers to the recognized leagues within each Area according to the formula stated above.
    2. In the absence of unanimous recommendation of the entrants within an Area, the CHSSA President shall make the final decision as to the allocation of entrants to the recognized leagues within an Area.
    3. Each recognized League within an Area shall be allocated a minimum of one entrant in each State Tournament, provided the League meets the requirements of qualification retention in Section 6D below.
    4. A League may not relinquish all its qualifiers without a release signed by all League members.
    5. In the event that a League cannot fill its allocated slots or because slots become available for any reason including penalties, insufficient alternates to fill all available slots as they become available, or other reasons, those slots shall be re- distributed to other Leagues within the Area.
        a. If there is only one other League in the Area, the slots will be allocated to the remaining League.
        b. If there are three or more Leagues in the Area, the first slot will be allocated to the League with the most entrants at their state qualifier tournament in that event.
        c. Additional slots will alternate, with the 2nd slot going to the League with the 2nd most entrants at their state qualifier tournament.
        d. If more than 2 slots are available, the additional slots will alternate between the remaining Leagues.
        e. In the event of a tie, ties will be broken based on the procedures for allocating bonuses.
        f. Example: If Leagues A, B and C are in an area, and League A gives up 3 slots in Impromptu due to insufficient entry. 2 impromptu slots will be given to the League with more entrants in their state qualifying tournament. One impromptu slot will be given to the remaining League.
    6. In the event that an entire Area cannot fill its allocated slots or because slots become available for any reason including penalties, insufficient alternates to fill all available slots as they become available, or other reasons, those slots shall be re- distributed to other Areas within CHSSA.
        a. The first slot will be allocated to the League with the most entrants at their state qualifier tournament in that event.
        b. Additional slots will alternate, with the 2nd slot going to the League with the 2nd most entrants at their state qualifier tournament.
        c. If more than 2 slots are available, the additional slots will alternate between the remaining Leagues.
        d. In the event of a tie, ties will be broken based on the procedures for allocating bonuses.

7. League Presidents will be required to report an accurate count of entries in each event based on the number of competitors that completed round 1 when they submit their qualifying entries and alternates.
    a. If a League misrepresents the number of participants, the matter will be referred to the executive committee, which may censure the offending League by stripping the League of as many qualification slots in that event for the upcoming year as they deem appropriate.

F. No legislation to increase the number of entrants in the State Tournament in a particular event will be considered unless accompanied by answers to the following questions:
    1. Revisions to the schedule necessary to facilitate extra entries.
    2. How many more rooms will be needed? How will we provide those?
    3. How many more judges will be needed? How will we provide those?
    4. Additional logistical components required by addition.
    5. Rationale for addition of this event or increase in entry numbers?

Section 6. State Qualification Tournaments

A. Students shall be qualified to the State Tournament by participation in state qualification tournaments sponsored and managed by the recognized Leagues.
B. Students who qualify to the State Tournament in a partnered event must compete at the state tournament with the same partner they qualified with or the spot will be forfeited.
C. League presidents by the January CHSSA meeting will have on file with the Vice- President Activities their league's procedures for administering their state qualifier(s).
    1. These procedures should include at minimum provisions for entry, paneling, tabulation and protest.
    2. In the event of a protest, the league will be held to these guidelines by the Protest Committee.
    3. In the event of a protest for which the submitted procedures do not apply, the Protest Committee will use the CHSSA Rules and Regulations, to the extent possible, to rule on the protest.
    4. It will be the League president's affirmative duty to distribute copies of league procedures and CHSSA By-Laws to all member schools.
    5. In the event that a League chooses not to submit State qualification procedures, qualification tournaments shall be run according to the State Tournament rules as closely as possible.
        a. Single judges may be used in preliminary rounds if an insufficient number of judges is available.
        b. At least three judges shall be used in semi-final and final rounds of qualification tournaments.
        c. At least two preliminary rounds shall precede the final round in any event.
        d. Fee schedules to cover the costs of tournaments and League expenses may be set by the sponsoring League.
        e. Suitable awards may be presented by the League.
        f. Rules for all events shall be the State Tournament rules as set by these rules and regulations.
        g. The method of tabulation of event results shall be as close as possible to the method outlined for the State Tournament.
        h. Leagues may appeal a-g above to the CHSSA President.

D. If a protest is launched, the coach will be contacted and will have 20 minutes to provide the script to the league protest committee.
    1. If the coach doesn't provide the script, the protest will be adjudicated without it, but please note: adjudication will be easier for the protest committee if the original source/script is available for the committee to review.
E. Qualification retention: The standard minimum requirement for retention of state qualification from a state qualification tournament shall be the following:
    1. Eight schools competing in the state qualification tournament as a whole.
        a. If there are less than 8 schools competing in the state qualification tournament as a whole, the results of state qualification tournaments if held will be nullified.
            1. All slots will be given to other leagues within their area as per the rotation set up in Distribution of Entrants in Events
        b. A school is considered entered in the state qualification tournament if a student competed in at least 2 preliminary rounds.
    2. If a League cannot fill the number of qualifiers they have been awarded, or if a League loses a qualifier in an event due to an assessed penalty, then those unfilled slots will be given to other leagues within their Area as per rotation set up in Distribution of Entrants in Events
        a.
F. School Eligibility:
    1. All CHSSA member schools in good standing that have students qualified and who are members in good standing of recognized Leagues may be entered in the state qualification and State Tournament.
    2. Each school participating in a state qualification tournament must be guaranteed at least one entry in each event.
    3. No school shall be admitted to a state qualification tournament unless the schoois considered to be in good standing by the treasurer at least two weeks prior to said state qualification contest.
    4. A league found to have allowed a non-CHSSA paid school to enter a qualifying tournament will be fined $100 per event in which the school competed. The delinquent school's dues plus the late fee (as in Finances: Delinquent Payments), and assessed fines must be paid before any [of the delinquent school's] league schools are allowed to pass final registration at the State Tournament.
    5. The sponsoring League may set reasonable deadlines for submitting entries and entry materials to facilitate setting panels, rounds, judges and physical facilities.
    6. The sponsoring Leagues may set reasonable deadlines for payment of tournament fees.
G. Student Eligibility.
    1. A student must physically reside in the state of California.
    2. A student fulfills residence eligibility requirements provided that they reside within the recognized school attendance area of their parents' or legal guardians' residence and they:
        a. Enter the ninth grade of any CHSSA school from the eighth grade of an elementary or junior high, or
        b. Enter the tenth grade of any CHSSA school from the ninth grade of a junior high school, or
        c. Enter a CHSSA school as a legally sponsored foreign exchange student.

3. A student who first enters the ninth grade of any school following the student's completion of the eighth grade in any school may be eligible for competition during a maximum period of time that may not in any way exceed eight semesters of attendance at that school or any other school.
4. A contestant must be a bona fide student at the school they represent at the state qualification tournament. Bona fide student means the student has not graduated and is enrolled in and passing at least four classes at the school they represent.
5. No student or team shall be allowed to pass final registration at a state qualification tournament or the State Tournament unless accompanied for the duration of the tournament by the official coach of record, a certified staff member from the school or an adult sponsor designated in writing by the school principal.
    a. If the student is accompanied by a certified staff member from the school or an adult sponsor a signed letter by the principal or head of school.
        1. The letter must be given to the tournament director PRIOR to the start of the state qualifying tournament or state tournament
        2. The letter must indicate the adult supervisor and their emergency contact information.
6. Transfer students: For the purposes of interscholastic speech competition, eligibility of a student who transfers from one school to another shall be determined as follows:
    a. for students who have not participated in interscholastic speech competition, a student transferring from School A to School B becomes eligible immediately.
    b. for students who have participated in interscholastic speech competition:
        1. A student who transfers from School A to School B as a result of change of residence by parents or guardians shall become eligible immediately.
        2. A student who transfers from School A to School B without a change of residence on the part of parents or guardians from the attendance area of School A shall become eligible at School B after one year.
            a. Exception: School district mandated transfer.
            b. Exception: Approved transfers from School A within the same school district.
        3. In addition to legitimate transfers as listed in this Article VII, Paragraph L, during grades 9 through 12, a student may transfer only once from one school or other school to another without affecting eligibility, unless material inducement such as scholarships have been offered to the student who is currently competing in interscholastic speech activities. In such a case, the student shall be ineligible for an academic year.
7. The preceding rules regarding residence and transfer eligibility for participation in interscholastic speech activity shall be in force at all interscholastic League and/or CHSSA related activities held during a school year.
8. Any student who competes for a college or community college is not eligible for high school competition. Students from different schools are not allowed to compete as a team at any state qualifying tournament or the State Tournament.
9. The CHSSA President shall disqualify any school or student who violates the eligibility standards or residency requirements.

H. School and Student Intent to Compete: No student or team shall be entered in a state qualification tournament unless the intention of the student(s) and coach is to compete for

state qualification in the event entered. No student or team shall be entered in the State Tournament unless the intention of the student(s) and the coach is to compete for the state championship in all rounds of the event(s) entered. Violations of this demonstration of commitment to compete shall result in disqualification.

I. Double qualification.
    1. No student may double enter at the State Tournament.
    2. If a qualified student cannot attend the State Tournament, the Area Chairperson must be notified as soon as possible so that the proper alternate may be substituted. At no time should a coach notify an alternate; that is the Area Chairperson's or Tournament Director's Duty. An alternate must be from the same Area as the contestant being replaced, first choice going to the alternate in the event from the League from which the contestant. was dropped. Notification of non-participation must be provided on the appropriate form determined by the Vice-President Activities. Notification of non-participation may be provided at the State Tournament "on site" registration. The Tournament Director will follow the alternate list in order until 9:00pm the day prior to the State Tournament. After this time, the Tournament Director should continue to follow the list of alternates in order, but may fill spots at their discretion without regard to order to ensure the maximum number of entries in all events.
    3. If an Area Chairperson is not notified of a student's choice of speech events, the Area Chairperson shall select the event for the student and notify the League president of the decision.
    4. No student may enter an event in a state qualification tournament in which they have previously qualified for the State Tournament during that school year.
    5. If the student has won the right to be an alternate at a state qualification tournament and at a later state qualification tournament wins the right to state competition in that same event, they lose the original status as an alternate.

J. Certification of qualification tournaments and contestants.
    1. The League president shall certify and forward complete results that qualified for the State Tournament to the Area Chairperson.
        a. The League president shall also forward complete copies of tabulation cum sheets of qualification tournaments and a list of participating schools and provided shared tabulation access to the Area Chairperson.
    2. The Area Chairperson shall certify the results of the qualification tournament, determining that the qualification tournament was conducted properly and appropriately in compliance with CHSSA rules and regulations.
        a. This certification, with all requisite information as determined by the Vice President of Activities, shall be delivered to the Vice President of Activities by the date and on the appropriate forms designated by the Vice President of Activities.
    3. If a qualified student cannot attend the State Tournament, the Area Chairperson must be notified no later than 8:00 pm on the Wednesday prior to the State Tournament so that the proper alternate may be substituted.
        a. At no time should a coach notify an alternate; that is the Area Chairperson's duty.
        b. An alternate must be from the same Area as the contestant being replaced, first choice going to the alternate in the event from the League from which the contestant was dropped.
        c. Notification of non-participation must be provided on the appropriate form determined by the Vice-President Activities.

    d. Notification of non-participation may be provided at the State Tournament “on site” registration;
    e. The Vice President of Activities shall do their due diligence to make sure that the entry numbers as closely as possible match the required numbers in the Rules and Regulations.
4. If time permits the rerunning of a qualification tournament or any part of that tournament, the Area Chairperson may refuse to certify a tournament or parts thereof in cases of gross infractions of CHSSA rules.
5. If time does not permit the rerunning of the tournament, the Area Chairperson or any member of the CHSSA Executive Council may bring the matter to the next Board of Directors meeting for whatever action the Board of Directors deems necessary for the following year.
6. If the Area Chairperson refuses to certify the tournament as outlined in above, the League president may appeal to the CHSSA President who may uphold or deny the appeal.
7. Entrants from a League that has not met financial responsibilities to CHSSA shall not be certified until those responsibilities are paid in full.

Section 7. Registration for the State Tournament

A. The Vice President of Activities will by the preceding January meeting designate the due date for all State Tournament registration information to be delivered to the Area Chairperson or the Vice President of Activities. Such date shall be approximately four weeks before the start of the State Championships.
B. The president of each League shall forward to the appropriate Area Chairperson by electronic mail or certified mail postmarked no later than the designated due date each of the following:
    1. A list of all qualifiers and alternates in each event as shown on the spreadsheet distributed by the VP Activities.
    2. Tournament record and tabulation sheets for each event at the state qualification tournaments.
C. The coach of each contestant qualified for the State Tournament shall send notification of participation with delivery confirmation by the designated due date.
    1. Notification of participation includes completed entry forms and a check or online payment for entry/judging fees.
    2. Entry fees for contestants dropped from the State Tournament after fees freeze on Tabroom will not be refunded.
D. Schools with more than six entries must provide a qualified judge for each additional six entries or fraction thereof (e.g.: 7-12 entries = 1 additional judge; 13-18 entries = 2 additional judges).
E. Schools that fulfill their judging obligations will have their judging deposit applied to the CHSSA assessment fee for the following year, unless a written request for refund is submitted by their school site administrator.
F. Failure to meet state entry deadlines (online or postmark) will result in a $150 fine for the offending school per deadline.
    1. Sending in partial online entry or mailing partial entry forms or payments may be fined up to $150.

2. In addition, failure to send notification of entry as required on or before the designated due dates (online or postmark) shall result in disqualification of the entrants.
    i. The area chairperson shall then be authorized to substitute alternates.
    ii. Both the coach of the disqualified entrant(s) and the alternate(s) shall be notified by telephone and email immediately.
3. In extenuating circumstances, penalties may be appealed in writing to the state tournament committee within 72 hours of notification of fine.

G. Any correction of entry fees, or forms requested by the Area Chairperson shall be made within 72 hours by the coach and sent to the Area Chairperson with delivery confirmation.
    1. Failure to meet the deadlines will result in the entry being declared ineligible and the appropriate alternate being moved into their spot.

Section 8. Student Conduct at State Qualification Tournaments and the State Tournament

A. Any complaints, challenges, or questions about tournament rules or operation must be directed through the school-designated adult representative.
B. Students must not disturb other contestants by:
    1. Entering or leaving a room during a performance;
    2. Creating any act of disturbance in or around a contest room.
    3. Violating the CHSSA Code of Conduct
C. If a student who has placed in a final round is found to have violated the rules of the event, that student may be disqualified during or after state qualification tournaments or the State Tournament:
    1. The request for disqualification can be made by the adult representative of record of any member school. It must be made in writing. The procedure must follow the format outlined in Article VI, Section 2 of the rules and regulations of the CHSSA.
    2. In the event of disqualification:
        a. The student must relinquish the trophy.
        b. In all rounds the student has competed in, oOther students placing below the disqualified student in that section shall move up one rank.
D. In the event a student, team, or school is disqualified after final registration at the State Tournament, a letter explaining the reason(s) shall be sent by the State Tournament committee to the principal of the school involved, with copies to the coach of the school and president of the League of which the school is a member.
E. Students must be in appropriate tournament dress in order to receive awards on stage. Appropriate dress shall be determined by the Vice-President Activities or designee.

Article VIII: The State Tournament - Events

Section 1. Competitive year/Events offered

A. Competitive Year
    1. The competitive year is defined as that period of time from the end of the State Tournament to the end of the State Tournament the following year. The competitive year is also used to define the limitations on when a speech or selection was written or utilized in competition. Speeches or selections used in a scholastic year of competition must not have been used in competition prior to the previous year's State Tournament.
B. Determination of Events Offered: the Board of Directors shall determine one year in advance the events that shall be offered at the State Tournament from among the following:
    1. Debate Events
        a. Lincoln Douglas debate
        b. Parliamentary debate
        c. Policy debate
        d. Public Forum
    2. Student Congress
    3. Spontaneous Speaking
        a. International Extemporaneous
        b. National Extemporaneous
        c. Impromptu Speaking
    4. Original Composition
        a. Informative Speaking
        b. Original Advocacy
        c. Original Oratory
        d. Original Prose/Poetry
    5. Interpretation Of Literature
        a. Dramatic Interpretation
        b. Humorous Interpretation
        c. Declamation
        d. Program Oral Interpretation
        e. Duo Interpretation

Section 2. Identification of Entrant

A. Code symbols: Entries for the State Tournament shall be assigned a code composed of the symbols indicated below:
    1. Area designation: Each Area shall be identified through the use of different colored contestant cards (e.g., Area 1 = Yellow; Area 2 = Blue, Area 3 = Green; Area 4 = Pink).
    2. Each League in each Area shall be assigned a code letter by the Vice President-Activities or the Area Chairperson of the League's Area. No two Leagues should have the same code letter (e.g., Coast Forensic League = R).
    3. Each school shall be assigned a code letter by the Area Chairperson; e.g., Bakersfield HS = A. Thus, each contestant in each event from Bakersfield HS would have a contestant card of the appropriate color with code letters designating the League and school.

4. Each entry for the State Tournament shall be assigned an event number by the Vice President-Activities, and subsequently assigned to the qualifiers within each Area by the Area Chairperson. No two contestants shall have the same number. Numbers assigned to events inclusively are:
    a. Debate Events
        a. Policy debate = 1-64
        b. Lincoln Douglas debate = 1201-1264
        c. Parliamentary debate = 1401-1464
        d. Public Forum Debate = 1501-1564
    b. Student Congress = 2001 - 2090
    c. Spontaneous Speaking
        a. International Extemporaneous = 101-156
        b. National Extemporaneous = 201-256
        c. Impromptu Speaking = 801-856
    d. Original Composition
        a. Informative Speaking = 301-356
        b. Original Advocacy = 401-456
        c. Original Oratory = 901-956
        d. Original Prose/Poetry = 1001-1056
    e. Interpretation of Literature
        a. Dramatic Interpretation = 501-556
        b. Humorous Interpretation = 601-656
        c. Declamation = 1101-1156
        d. Program Oral Interpretation = 701-756
        e. Duo Interpretation = 1301-1356

Article IX: The State Tournament - Speech Rules

Section 1. Spontaneous Events: National Extemporaneous, International Extemporaneous, Impromptu

A. General Rules for all Spontaneous Events
    1. Preparation: As soon as a topic is chosen and through the time that the speech is given, the speaker will prepare a speech without consulting any person and without reference to notes, including outlines from prior Tournaments and prior rounds at the State Tournament, prepared prior to the draw. The speaker may ask clarifying procedural questions of tournament officials.
    2. Time: Judges are the official timekeepers.
        a. Judges are not required to give time signals unless there is a panel of judges, then one judge must provide competitors with time signals.
        b. Each contestant shall be allowed to use a time keeping device, if it is a cell phone it must be on airplane mode and only on the stopwatch function.
        c. The contestant may use the device only to keep time during their speech; it may not be used as a prop.
        d. If the contestant exceeds the time limit by more than 30 seconds, the speaker will be penalized by a lowering of one rank by tab room officials.
    3. Delivery: No notes are allowed during the presentation of the speech.
    4. The performance must begin and end from the center stage area. Contestants must remain in the staging area throughout the performance.
    5. Costumes or physically held props (the use of something extraneous to the body) are prohibited. Although gestures or pantomime may be used, they should be used with restraint.

B. Specific Rules for each Spontaneous Event
    1. Extemporaneous
        a. Broadly newsworthy topics shall be drawn from publications dated January 1 through one week prior to the State Tournament.
            1. A minimum of eleven topics will be written for each round of each extemporaneous speaking event.
            2. The topics for each round will be in a distinct topic area not to be used in any other round for the duration of the tournament.
            3. The topic areas by round will be determined by the Speech Committee and announced at the January meeting.
        b. Drawing: Each contestant shall draw three topics for each round.
            1. Each shall be called to draw by speaking order and panel.
            2. The contestant must promptly choose one topic of the three drawn and return the other two topics.
            3. Each contestant shall draw topics thirty minutes prior to their scheduled speaking time.
        c. Allowed Material: During preparation students may consult published or electronic sources, books, magazines, newspapers and journals or articles therefrom, provided that:
            1. they must be originals, printouts, or copies of the originals;
            2. the original article, print, or copy is intact and uncut;

3. there is no added written material or that original print or copy other than citation information;
4. topical index, if present, is not annotated;
5. If files are stored or accessed either on a computer, electronic device, or cloud storage system, they must meet the same guidelines as printed sources.

d. Prohibited Material: No material shall be allowed in the Extemp prep room other than as stated above.
    1. Extemp speeches, handbooks, briefs and outlines, including outlines from prior Tournaments and prior rounds at the State Tournament, shall be barred from the Extemp prep room.
    2. Underlining or highlighting in materials shall be allowed, but must be done in only one color on each article or copy.
    3. Bolding, italicizing, or any other manipulation of the original text of sources (other than highlighting or underlining as stipulated) is prohibited.
e. The preparation room shall be proctored at all times to enforce these rules.
    1. Extemp materials shall not be searched at any time, including prep time, unless directed by the Tournament Director or designee.
    2. Contestants must remain in the prep room to prep until dismissed by the proctor.
    3. If a contestant leaves the prep room prior to the appointed time when they shall have been dismissed by the proctor, they shall receive a rank of 7th, and other contestants in the panel shall move up one rank, if previously ranked below the contestant who violated this rule.
f. Use of computers: Extemporaneous Speaking contestants may use electronic retrieval devices to store and retrieve their subject files.
    1. Students can retrieve extemporaneous files to read, but cannot write speeches or organize their thoughts on the computers.
    2. Electronic retrieval devices are defined as laptop computers, netbooks, iPads, or other portable electronic retrieval equipment.
    3. Secondary devices such as flash drives or external hard drives are allowed as well.
    4. Cell phones or smart phones are prohibited
    5. Students may not share electronic devices with one another and may not be used to research during a contestant's prep time or communicate with others
    6. Headphones, Airpods, and electronic earplugs are prohibited during a contestant's prep time.
    7. Power plugs or outlets may not be used in the prep room at any time.
        a. All computers used in the prep room must be battery operated at all times.
        b. Contestants may not charge any electronic device in the prep room at any time.
    8. Students may not use the internet to gain help from coaches, other students, or any person, such that it would prevent the speech from being the original work of the competitor.
    9. Students are prohibited from accessing outlines and speeches, including outlines and speeches from prior Tournaments and prior

rounds at the State Tournament, that have been written prior to their draw time.

g. The State Tournament Director will determine the need for an Extemp material check and if so needed shall designate a time and place for all Extemp competitors and their coaches to check in Extemp materials.
    1. At the time of check-in, coaches and students will sign a certification that their Extemp materials are in accordance with the above criteria.
    2. Students who are found after check-in to be in violation will risk disqualification.
h. Contestants shall not speak more than seven minutes. There is no minimum time.
i. Cross Examination in Finals:
    1. For the final round, each speaker shall be assigned a position in the speaking order.
    2. Drawing shall take place at twelve-minute intervals.
    3. Thirty minutes after speaker one has drawn, the last speaker shall enter the contest room.
    4. First speaker shall deliver a speech and the last speaker will listen and take notes.
    5. At the conclusion of the first speaker's speech, the last speaker will cross-examine the first speaker for two minutes.
    6. The questioner controls the time and may interrupt a lengthy reply.
    7. Upon the conclusion of the cross-examination of the first speaker, last speaker shall return to the prep room and the first speaker shall stay to listen to and question the first speaker. Second speaker shall question speaker three, etc.
    8. Questioners may take notes during the speaker's speech, but may not use them in questioning.

2. Impromptu
    a. Topics: Topics will be selected from any source, including concrete nouns, quotations, general topics of current interest, single abstract nouns, famous people, famous historic events, and brief thought-provoking questions.
        1. At least three of the five topic areas at the state championship will change every year.
        2. Topic areas will not be announced prior to the state championship.
    b. Drawing: Each contestant shall draw three topics from a judge in the round and immediately select one.
    c. Preparation: No more than two minutes shall be allowed the speaker prior to the speech.
        1. Timing begins the moment the selection of the topic has been made.
        2. No sources may be consulted during the preparation time.
        3. Speakers may not use a phone to conduct outside research or search for sources during preparation time.
    d. Notes: The speaker may make notes during the two-minute preparation using only a writing utensil and paper, however as stipulated, notes are not allowed during the presentation of the speech.
    e. Time: Contestants shall not speak more than five minutes. There is no minimum time.

f. The contestant must remain in the room until all speakers in the panel have spoken.

Section 2. Original Competition Events: Informative, Original Advocacy, Original Oratory, Original Prose Poetry

A. General Rules for all Original Composition Events
    1. Topics: All speeches entered must be the original work of the contestant.
        a. Speakers using subjects that they used in competition in previous years shall be disqualified.
        b. Contestants are prohibited from using the same subject in other original events in the same or subsequent years.
    2. Time: Speeches shall be no longer than ten minutes; there is no minimum time.
        a. If this time limit is exceeded by more than 30 seconds, the speaker will be penalized by a lowering of one rank by tab room officials.
    3. Delivery: With the exception of Informative, no notes, visual or audio aids, or manuscripts shall be permitted during delivery.
        a. Speeches must be delivered from memory.
    4. Quoted Words: No more than 150 words of the speech may be direct quotations from another source.
        a. Quoted words exceeding a threshold of 50 from a single source must be identified and cited in the delivery of the speech.
        b. This requirement for spoken attribution of substantially quoted sources applies to all of the original events including Original Prose and Poetry.
    5. The performance must begin and end from the center stage area. Contestants must remain in the staging area throughout the performance.
B. Specific Rules for each Original Composition Event:
    1. Informative:
        a. Topics: Any appropriate subject may be used, but the primary purpose of the speech shall be to describe, clarify, explain, and/or define an object, idea, concept, or process.
            1. Topics/subjects fabricated by the speaker may not be used. This is a speech to inform.
            2. This is a speech to inform; not a performance, and the emphasis should be placed on the oral presentation rather than on audio or visual aids used in support of the informative goal of the speech.
        b. Aids: The speech may be delivered from memory, notes, or manuscript.
            1. Visual and audio aids may be used during the presentation of the speech.
            2. No live animals or other persons may be used as visual aids or to help set up and/or present the speech.
            3. No costumes shall be worn by the contestant.
                a. Items of dress necessary to the presentation of the speech may be put on during the speech.
                b. These must be considered aids and may not be part of the speaker's beginning and ending attire.
            4. Any alteration to the student's physical appearance must be substantially restored to its original state by the end of the performance.

5. Students may not use any prop that would be considered contraband.
6. Contestants may not distribute items to the judges or audience before, during, or after the round.
    a. This includes but is not limited to food, objects, handouts, flyers, and promotional merchandise.
7. The host school or organization is not responsible for providing any facilities, equipment, including tables, chairs, or easels, or assistance in a contestant's use of visual aids.

c. Time: Setup and removal of visual aids shall not be included in the ten-minute limit.
    1. Speakers are allowed to pre-set aids/easels along room perimeter prior to the beginning of the round.
    2. Time spent pre-setting aids is not timed.
    3. If the first speaker chooses to pre- set aids, that pre-set must also be along the room perimeter.
        a. Set-up for first speaker may NOT be in the central staging area.
    4. When a speaker is called up to speak, the speaker should take their aids to the central staging area and begin their speech without undue delay.
    5. Speakers who take excessive time between being called up to speak and starting their speech may be penalized by judges.
    6. Time begins on a speaker's first word.
    7. Time ends when the speaker ends their speech.

2. Original Advocacy:
    a. Topics: any appropriate subject may be used, but topics shall be limited to subjects concerning public policy issues of a tangible nature for which the contestant must advocate a specific legislative and/or regulatory governmental action or remedy.
        1. All legislative solutions must identify the specific agent of action.
        2. Any non-factual reference, including a personal one must be so identified.
    b. Manuscript: If a manuscript is provided the specific legislative and/or regulatory governmental action or remedy should be highlighted.
3. Original Oratory:
    a. Topics: Any appropriate subject may be used, but the primary purpose of an oration is to persuade, motivate, and/or inspire.
        1. Any non-factual reference, including a personal one, must be so identified.
4. Original Prose/Poetry:
    a. Topics: Any appropriate subject may be used, but the primary purpose of the event is to demonstrate the creativity of the contestant.
        1. The presentation may consist of prose or poetry or a combination. The tone may be dramatic, humorous, or a combination.
        2. More than one written selection may be presented within the allotted time.
        3. The entire presentation may or may not be based on a thematic concept.

Section 3. Interpretation of Literature Events: Dramatic, Humorous, Duo, Declamation, and POI.

A. General Rules for all Interpretation of Literature Events:
    1. Selections
        a. A selection is any quotation from any work.
        b. No contestant may use the same literary work that they used in previous competitive years.
            1. Contestants are further prohibited from using the same literary works in other interpretation events in the same or subsequent years.
            2. Violation of this rule [Sec. 3. A(b)] shall result in disqualification from the tournament.
        c. No selection shall be the contestant's original work; the contestant shall suggest the thoughts, emotions, ideas and purposes of the author.
            1. Combining small fractions of sentences or singular words to create humorous or dramatic dialogue, scenes, moments, and/or plot lines not intended in the original literature is prohibited.
                a. For example, it is not permitted to take one word from page 13 (e.g. home), a phrase from page 211 (e.g. ran away from), and a name, (e.g. Tyler) from page 59 to create dialogue between characters or events that do not exist in the script.
                b. Example: adding "Tyler ran away from home." when this did not occur, was not said in the script, and is contrary to the thoughts, emotions, ideas, and purposes of the author is not permitted.
        d. Any source material is permitted as long as it meets the standards outlined below:
            1. Original source material must not be written by the competitor who is performing it.
            2. Original source material must be publicly accessible throughout the duration for the tournament.
                a. Digital printed publications such as web pages and PDFs retrieved or purchased from web pages are permitted as long as the web page is publicly accessible throughout the duration of the tournament.
                b. Digital unprinted publications such as videos, audio files, and films are permitted as long as the original source is publicly accessible throughout the duration of the tournament and the competitor can obtain an official transcript of the original source.
                c. For print publications such as novels, short stories, plays, or poetry, the original source is the physical book or e-book.
                    i. If a photocopy of the source is used, the title and copyright page must be provided.
                d. For digital printed publications such as web pages,the original source must be publicly accessible for viewing or purchase by a simple internet search or by a URL not requiring passwords or access codes.

e. PDFs are permitted as long as the website from which the PDF is retrieved or purchased is publicly accessible for viewing or purchase by a simple internet search or by a URL not requiring passwords or access codes.
f. For digital unprinted publications such as videos, audio files, and films, the original source must be publicly accessible for viewing or purchase by a simple internet search or by a URL not requiring passwords or access codes.
    i. An official transcript is one approved by the original source's producer, licensing agent, or copyright holder.
    ii. As long as approval has been granted, an official transcript may be obtained through the aforementioned parties or through an official transcription service such as TranscribeMe, Scribie, or iScribed, which use non-automated, manual transcription.
g. Competitors must also present a printed manuscript to be used in the case of a protest, but presenting a printed copy of a website is not alone sufficient to prove that a digital printed publication is publicly accessible.

e. With the exception of Program Oral Interpretation, contestants may not combine two or more pieces of literature.
    1. A piece of literature shall be defined as one piece of writing which was written with the intent to be published as one work.
    2. This will not include pieces such as "collected works" of an author or group of authors; collections of newspaper articles or cartoons published as one book, but will include pieces such as A Light in the Attic which was written with the intent of being published as one work.
f. A maximum of 150 words may be added to the selection to provide introductory and transitional materials insofar as those added materials do not change the author's intent.
    1. In Program Oral Interpretation, titles and authors are not counted against the 150 word limit.
    2. If material from other published works is specifically referenced within the literature selected for interpretation, the words must be counted as part of the 150 added word limit and be inserted where spoken, underlined and properly cited according to MLA guidelines.

2. Delivery:
    a. Costumes or props (the use of something extraneous to the body) are prohibited.
    b. Although gestures or pantomime may be used, they should be used with restraint.
    c. With the exception of Program Oral Interpretation, the interpretation must be delivered from memory; no notes, prompting, or scripts shall be permitted.
    d. Contestants must adhere to the material as submitted when performing during all contest rounds.
        1. Lines intentionally omitted from the script but added to the performance will lead to disqualification.

e. The performance must begin and end from the center stage area. Contestants must remain in the staging area throughout the performance.
f. Students replicating recordings (from the NSDA, CHSSA, or other) from any previous performance would be considered Artistic Plagiarism. This includes cutting, introduction, and/or blocking.
    1. Given the extent of possible infractions, the performance penalty may range from the issuing of a warning, to lowering the ranking in the round, to disqualification.
    2. It is the burden of proof of the individual filing the protest to provide documented evidence of plagiarism demonstrated in the performance.

3. Time: Presentations shall be no longer than ten minutes; there is no minimum time.
    a. If this time limit is exceeded by more than 30 seconds, the speaker will be penalized by a lowering of one rank by tab room officials.
    b. For each final round, a tournament official or designee shall serve as the official timer, and will have the discretion of waiving time violations for contestants exceeding the time limit due to audience reactions.
        1. This may be extended to the semi-final round at the discretion of the Tournament Director or designee.
4. Identification of the Selection: The title of the selection and name of the author must be given by the contestant when the selection is introduced. (For Declamation, see specific rules).
    a. Failure of a contestant to introduce the selection as prescribed shall result in being penalized not more than one rank by tab room officials.

B. Specific Rules for Interpretation of Literature Events:
    1. Dramatic/Humorous Interpretation:
        a. Single or multiple character selections may be used.
    2. Duo Interpretation:
        a. Duo partners may not make eye contact with one another during the interpretation.
            1. In the event of eye contact, the duo will be penalized by no more than one rank by tab room officials.
            2. Eye contact during the introduction is optional, but allowed.
        b. The partners may react to each other’s verbal and/or non-verbal expressions, but they may not touch each other.
            1. If physical contact is noted as a violation, the duo will be dropped one rank.
            2. If the physical contact is determined to be intentional, the duo will be given last place in the round.
            3. These penalties will be assessed by tournament officials.
            4. Physical contact between the partners during the introduction is optional.
        c. Each of the two performers may play one or more characters so long as performance responsibility in the cutting remains as balanced as possible.
            1. If the selection is prose or poetry and contains narration, either or both of the performers may present the narration.
            2. Introductory and/or transitional material may be presented by either or both contestants.

    d. The material may be humorous or dramatic, or combine both tones depending on the selected work.
3. Declamation:
    a. The selection must be from a published speech which shall have been delivered as a public address by a real person; however, speeches given by high school or college students in competition shall not be permitted.
        1. Public address is defined as a formal spoken communication, a formal speech, a formal oral communication to an audience. Synonyms include “lecture,” “oration,” and “speech.”
        2. While orations take many forms, a public address is distinct from a stand-up comedy performance, a poetry “slam”, or storytelling.
    b. Identification of the Selection: The author, title (if given), occasion, place and date of the original delivery of the speech shall be given by the contestant when the selection is introduced.
        1. Failure of a contestant to introduce the selection as prescribed shall result in being penalized by the lowering of not more than one rank by tab room officials.
4. Program Oral Interpretation:
    a. Delivery: Using a handheld manuscript, the contestant is to present a program of interpretation that combines original composition with oral interpretation using a minimum of two literary selections illustrating a theme/thematic statement of their choice.
        1. No contestant may use the same theme that they used in previous competitive years.
        2. Speakers using a theme that they used in competition in previous years shall be disqualified.
        3. Each program is to contain two or more separate selections or cuttings from different works.
            a. At least two pieces of literature that represent at least two separate genres must be used.
            b. Competitors are encouraged to devote approximately equal times to each of the genres used in the program.
                i. This distinction pertains to these two or three genres as a whole, not types of literature within a genre (such as fiction/nonfiction).
                ii. Prose expresses thought through language recorded in sentences and paragraphs: fiction (short stories, novels) and non-fiction (articles, essays, journals, biographies).
                iii. Poetry is writing which expresses ideas, experience, or emotion through the creative arrangement of words according to their sound, their rhythm, their meaning.
                iv. Poetry may rely on verse and stanza form.
            c. All selections must be verbally identified by title and author. Anthologies may be considered multiple sources.
        4. The contestant may deliver the program solely from memory or by referencing the manuscript, but must address the manuscript.
        5. 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.

a. Other than the manuscript, no costumes or props are permitted.
b. The contestant's handheld manuscript must contain only text from the selections and original materials and shall contain nothing else, including, but not limited to, any materials that would be intended for use as a visual aid.

Section 4. General Violation Rules

A. Rules for all forms of Speech.
    1. In ruling on protests for violation of speech events' rules set forth in this Article, the Protest Committee shall consider the total facts and circumstances associated with the violation including whether it:
        a. was intentional or unintentional
        b. was unethical and/or dishonest
        c. would be considered abusive
        d. was intended to obtain an unfair advantage
        e. violates the purpose behind a rule in addition to its express language
        f. the degree of prejudice resulting to the other competitors from the violation.
    2. Unless another penalty is included in any specific rule, the Protest Committee is empowered to impose any of the following penalties
        a. issue a warning
        b. drop 1 rank
        c. no higher than a rank 7
        d. disqualification
        e. the league can lose a qualifier in that event for the following competitive year
B. Manuscript Requirements
    1. General
        a. If a protest is launched, the coach will be contacted and will have 20 minutes to provide the script to the protest committee.
        b. If the coach doesn't provide the script, the protest will be adjudicated without it, but please note: adjudication will be easier for the protest committee if the original source/script is available for the committee to review.
    2. Guidelines for Scripts in the event of a protest
        a. Original Compositions
            1. A double-spaced typewritten copy of the speech with all quotations underlined, number of quoted words, and sources cited should be available
        b. Interpretations
            1. Photocopies or the original source of the interpretation selections including all publication information and/or urls should be available
            2. Provide for the protest committee a script that makes it easy for the committee to determine what's original material and where in the original source that material came from as well as what was added and where.
            3. Citations should be provided for any quoted material.

Section 5. Generative Artificial Intelligence:

1. Generative artificial intelligence should not be cited as a source; while something like ChatGPT may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and sources, the original source of any quoted or paraphrased evidence must be available if requested.

C. Students are prohibited from quoting or paraphrasing text directly from generative AI sources like ChatGPT in events in which speeches must be the original created work of a competitor.

Article X: The State Tournament - Speech Event Tabulation

Section 1. Rounds and Panels

A. There shall be eight sections or panels with three preliminary rounds for each speech event.
    1. Rounds one and two shall be drawn the day of the tournament.
    2. Round three and all succeeding rounds must be drawn after the results are recorded from the previous round.
    3. Contestants shall be changed from one panel to another to avoid paneling together the following in the precedence listed:
        a. Contestants from the same school.
        b. Contestants with the best ranks from the preceding round(s).
        c. Contestants from the same League.
        d. Contestants who have competed against each other in preceding rounds.

B. Speaking order: Preliminary Rounds
    1. In preliminary rounds, speaking order should be varied. Each contestant should get an upper, middle, and lower speaking position.
        a. Contestants from the same school should not have the same speaking position in various panels in the same event.
        b. Contestants from the same League should not have the same speaking position in various panels of the same event.
        c. Contestants from the same Area should not have the same speaking position in various panels of the same event.

C. Speaking order: Semi-Final Round
    1. In the semi-final round, speaking position shall be determined by the cumulative total of previous positions, except when a contestant has not spoken in an upper, middle or lower position, in which case the contestant will be placed in the position missed.
        a. Low cumulative scores speak last.
        b. High cumulative scores speak first.
        c. In the event of ties, blind draw shall be used to determine speaking position.

D. Speaking order: Final Round
    1. In the final round, speaking position shall be determined by:
        a. Whenever possible, avoidance of speaking in the same position a second time;
        b. Using a blind draw.

E. Postings
    1. As soon as the panels are set, a posting sheet shall be prepared in triplicate. The panels shall be designated "a", "b", etc. and the contestants' code designations shall be listed in each panel in proper speaking order.
    2. One copy of the posting sheet shall be given to the Tabulation Chairperson for posting for contestants; one shall be given to the Judge Assignment Committee; and one shall remain at the Tabulation Table.

Section 2. Tabulation Rules

A. Wrong Room
    1. If a contestant speaks in a room in which they are not scheduled, all ranks in that room shall be adjusted as if the ‘extra’ contestant never spoke in that room.
        a. If the error was by the contestant’s own mistake, that contestant shall be ranked last in the room in which they were originally scheduled to speak.

        b. If they spoke in the wrong room due to the error of a tournament official, the Tournament Director or their designee has the authority to order adjustments to the ranks as warranted.

B. Rule Violations
    1. In any round where a judge has marked a violation, the rank given to the contestant by that judge will be lowered in accordance with the State Tournament Individual Event Rules.
        a. The ranks given by that judge to other contestants in the room will not be adjusted, so tied ranks may result.

Section 4. Semi-Finalist Selection

A. Semifinalists shall be the top 18 contestants from preliminary rounds, determined by:
    1. Lowest cumulative total of each judge's rank, with the worst rank in preliminary rounds dropped.
        a. Any rank above 5 shall be adjusted to 5 in determining this cumulative total.
    2. Highest total of the reciprocals (1 divided by the rank) of each judge's rank, with the worst rank in preliminary rounds dropped.
        a. Any rank above 5 shall be adjusted to 5 before calculating its reciprocal.
    3. Judges' preference in all rounds where tied speakers competed in the same room.
        a. The speaker whom more judges preferred wins the tie.
        b. Ranks are not adjusted to 5 in determining judges' preference.
    4. If any ties still remain, all those tied shall advance to the semi final round.

Section 5. Finalist Selection

A. Finalists shall be the top seven contestants from the semifinal round, determined by:
    1. Lowest cumulative total of each judge's rank in semifinals and preliminary rounds.
        a. In calculating this total, the worst rank in preliminary rounds should be dropped.
        b. Any rank above 5 should be adjusted to 5.
        c. Every rank from the semifinal round should be multiplied by 2.
    2. Lowest cumulative total of ranks in semifinals only.
    3. Judges' preference in the semifinal round, if the tied contestants spoke in the same room.
    4. Highest total of the reciprocals of the ranks in the semifinal only.
    5. Highest total of the reciprocals of the ranks in the semifinals AND the preliminary rounds, with the worst rank in preliminary rounds dropped and any rank about 5 adjusted to 5.
    6. Judges preference in any rooms in preliminary rounds where the two tied contestants spoke in the same room.

Section 6. Final Score

A. The rankings of the finalists shall be determined by the following factor in order:
    1. Lowest cumulative total of each judge's rank in finals, semifinals and preliminary rounds.
        a. In calculating this total, the worst rank in preliminary rounds should be dropped.

        b. Any rank above 5 should be adjusted to 5.
        c. Every rank from the semifinal and final rounds should be multiplied by 2.
    2. Lowest cumulative total of ranks in finals only.
    3. Judges' preference in the final round
    4. Highest total of the reciprocals of the ranks in the final round.
    5. Highest total of the reciprocals of the ranks in all rounds.
    6. If ties still exist, duplicate awards shall be given to the tied contestants.

Section 7. Errors

A. Individual judge's ballots without signatures shall be made accessible to coaches after round two and each succeeding round through the final round.
    1. The purpose of the posting is to allow coaches to check for errors in recording results.
B. The results of preliminary and semi-final rounds shall be posted in an area designated only for coaches.
    1. The purpose of the posting is to allow coaches to check for errors in tabulation.
C. Any error shall be immediately reported by the coach of the contestant(s) concerned to the appropriate Area Chairperson or persons designated to receive such reports.
    1. Such notification must be made prior to the start of the subsequent round of the event in order that any errors may be rectified prior to the continuation of the tournament.
D. Inadvertent clerical errors in tabulation shall not void the contest.
    1. If errors occur and can be corrected before the next round begins, this correction shall be made.
    2. If the correction or inadvertent clerical error would force a re-running of any round or rounds, the correction shall not be made.
E. In cases of unforeseen, uncorrectable errors, the President, Vice President Activities and/or appropriate Area Chair shall be authorized to make an appropriate apology.
F. A round shall not be rerun due to timing errors that occur during the rounds.

Article XI: The State Tournament - Debate Rules

Section 1. Rules for All Forms of Debate

A. Enforcement
    1. In ruling on protests for violation of debate rules set forth in this Article, the Protest Committee shall consider the total facts and circumstances associated with the violation including whether it
        a. was intentional or unintentional,
        b. was unethical and/or dishonest,
        c. would be considered abusive
        d. was intended to obtain an unfair advantage in the debate-
        e. violates the purpose behind a rule in addition to its express language,
        f. and the degree of prejudice resulting to the opponent from the violation.
    2. Unless another penalty is included in any specific rule, the Protest Committee is empowered to impose any of the following penalties:
        a. warning and/or reprimand, including a statement of clear consequences for a repeated violation.
        b. require the round be repeated under terms considered fair and just by the Committee
        c. impose a loss on the debater(s) in violation
        d. Disqualification
    3. Debaters may not make an agreement among themselves or with the judges to modify the rules in this article.
    4. Judges should not direct students to deviate from these rules or encourage students to violate them.
B. Definition of ‘Round’
    1. A round shall begin in Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Public Forum Debate when the first speaker in the debate begins their speech, and shall end when the last speaker in the debate ends their speech.
    2. In Parliamentary Debate a round shall begin when the resolution for the round is released and the round ends when the last speaker in the debate ends their speech.
C. Debate Both Sides of Resolution as Assigned.
    1. Over the course of the tournament, each team or individual in Policy Debate, Parliamentary Debate, Public Forum, and Lincoln-Douglas Debate may be assigned to uphold either side of the resolution in any given round.
D. Definition of ‘Speech Time’
    1. Except for roadmaps, speech time begins as soon as the debater begins speaking.
    2. Thank-you’s count toward speech time.
    3. Roadmaps do not count toward speech time, so long as:
        a. The roadmap is not to be argumentative in nature;
        b. The roadmap does not exceed 15 seconds.
E. Restriction of Communications
    1. During a round, a debater shall not communicate through any method with anyone other than that debater’s partner (if applicable), the opposing debater(s), and the judge(s).
    2. Oral prompting, except time signals, by the debater's partner while the debater has the floor, is discouraged though not prohibited and may be penalized by some judges.
    3. A debater may refer to their notes and materials and may consult with their partner while both they and their partner do not have the floor.
F. Electronic Retrieval Devices
    1. A computer is defined as a laptop, netbook, iPad, or other portable electronic retrieval equipment.

2. Devices such as flash drives or external hard drives are not considered computers.
3. Once the first speaker in the debate begins their speech, Cellular phones may be used during the round for the exclusive purpose of functioning as a timer
    a. Device must be put into airplane mode, and be incapable of receiving or sending correspondence.
    b. Penalty for violation of this rule shall be automatic forfeiture of the round by the offending side.
    c. Students must make all cell phones used as timers available for inspection by judges and/or tournament officials upon request.
    d. A cell phone used as a timer shall not be counted as one of the computers/electronic retrieval devices allowed in a specific debate event.
4. Debaters shall not have access to or activate any electronic retrieval devices during the round, except those explicitly allowed by this article.
5. CHSSA cannot guarantee access to wireless internet or electrical outlets in a tournament space and it is the duty of the debaters to ensure appropriate access.

G. Validity of Evidence
1. Definition of Terms:
    a. Evidence is quoted information read in the round and must be identified by source.
    b. Distortion of evidence exists when the evidence itself contains added or deleted words that do not clarify, but, in fact, change the position of the author with respect to the issues in question.
2. Responsibility for Evidence.
    a. Debaters are responsible for the validity of all evidence read in the debate.
    b. In all rounds of debate, all debaters shall have available, if challenged by the opponent during any round, complete citations for each piece of evidence introduced including the name of the author, qualifications, complete source title, complete date and page number.
    c. Lack of a full citation shall void any effect of that piece of evidence in the round.
    d. No internal ellipsis **–** ellipses that occur after the first word of the quotation and before the final word **–** may be used in evidence cited on a card
        1. In Parliamentary Debate because no outside materials other than notes on provided colored paper may be brought into the round, internal ellipses must be shown on the original document.
    e. In Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Public Forum Debate the evidence may be read in ellipsed form, but the entirety of the evidence must be available in one of the two ways cited.
    f. Personal letters, electronic messages, telegrams, and the like are not admissible as evidence.
3. Evidence challenges – all forms of Debate.
    a. The burden of proof rests with the individual that challenges the validity of any evidence.
    b. The individual/team challenging evidence must indicate prior to the conclusion of the round that a challenge will be made and indicate the specific evidence to be challenged.
    c. The round will be completed and the judge(s) will withhold decisions, returning ballots to the tournament tabulation room.
        1. Decisions will be rendered on the ballots only after the protest has been resolved by tournament officials.
        2. The judges may be asked if the evidence in question was or would have been significant in their decision.
    d. The evidence challenge must be made within thirty minutes of the conclusion of the round by the adult sponsor or designated representative of the individual/team who initiated the challenge.
    e. The challenging individual/team must be able to provide proof of the charge, within a reasonable time as set by tournament officials, through the use of

either original copies of photocopies of the source in question or be able to demonstrate that there is reasonable cause to believe the evidence is nonexistent through the use of photocopies of books in print, periodical guides or other types of bibliographical resources.

f. The protestcommittee will adjourn to a private area with the two individuals and examine the charges and evidence along with materials presented by the challenging individual.
    1. Adult coaches or sponsors may be present during the examination.
g. . Handbook evidence proven inaccurate will be disallowed in the round, and judges instructed to not consider the evidence in rendering a decision.
h. Evidence proven to be falsified or distorted from the original source will be grounds for awarding the challenging individual/team a win and disqualifying from the tournament the individual/team found guilty of using falsified or distorted evidence.
i. If the evidence challenge is not upheld, the judges will be asked to render a decision and turn in their ballots after they have been informed that the evidence in question was not found to be falsified or inaccurately presented.
j. The protestcommittee has one-half hour to hear arguments and examine evidence and must render a decision within fifteen minutes of the conclusion of the presentations.
k. The round following the contested round may not begin until the dispute is resolved.

4. Evidence Exchange/Note-Taking.
    a. Judges may not request nor be given any evidence or written material from teams/individuals except when the evidence is challenged as illegal by the opposing team/individual during the round.
        1. The evidence in question should be collected by the judge and delivered to the Tournament Committee.
    b. In Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Public Forum Debate, teams or individuals may request evidence from opponents during cross examination/cross-fire or preparation only.
        1. The specific evidence cited must be provided.
        2. The requesting team must have access to the evidence during their subsequent speech, but must return it at the conclusion of that speech if requested.
    c. In Parliamentary Debate, the opposing debaters may ask to see the debaters' notes containing any cited material as part of a Point of Information
        1. the team reading the cited materials must show the handwritten notes, with citation, upon such request.

Section 2. Policy Debate Rules

A. Round Definition
    1. A Policy debate round consists of two Affirmative debaters debating against two Negative debaters.
    2. The Affirmative team proposes a case to uphold the resolution. The Negative team opposes the Affirmative case.
B. Resolutions: The policy debate resolution shall be the national high school debate resolution.
C. Round Format
    1. 1st Affirmative Constructive (1AC): 8 minutes
    2. Cross-Examination of 1st Affirmative: 3 minutes
    3. 1st Negative Constructive (1NC): 8 minutes
    4. Cross-Examination of 1st Negative: 3 minutes
    5. 2nd Affirmative Constructive (2AC): 8 minutes
    6. Cross-Examination of 2nd Affirmative: 3 minutes
    7. 2nd Negative Constructive (2NC): 8 minutes

8. Cross-Examination of 2nd Negative: 3 minutes
9. 1st Negative Rebuttal (1NR): 5 minutes
10. 1st Affirmative Rebuttal (1AR): 5 minutes
11. 2nd Negative Rebuttal (2NR): 5 minutes
12. 2nd Affirmative Rebuttal (2AR): 5 minutes
13. Preparation time: 8 minutes per debate team

D. Preparation Time
    1. Each team/individual may allocate their 8 minutes of preparation time as they see fit during the round, utilizing time prior to speeches for their side.
    2. Debaters may not use preparation time to make prefacing remarks to their speeches.
    3. Debaters may not forfeit cross-examination time to gain additional preparation time.
    4. Preparation time begins for a debater as soon as the other debater has finished with a speech or cross-examination.

E. Round Rules
    1. Judges should disregard new arguments introduced during rebuttal speeches.
        a. Judges should only allow new responses during rebuttal speeches if those responses address an argument first made in the immediately preceding speech.
        b. New analysis of prior arguments is allowed in rebuttal speeches.
    2. A speaker's time begins as to any given speech when they begin to speak.
        a. All speaking, including "thank yous," is timed in line with the appropriate speech, with the exception of off-time roadmaps, given prior to the start time for a speech, under the condition of the following circumstances:
            1. The roadmap is not to be argumentative in nature;
            2. The roadmap does not exceed 15 seconds in length;
    3. Three computers per team, one printer per team, and one electronic timing device per debater are allowed.
        a. The debaters shall not have access to or activate any other electronic device during the round.
    4. Contestants may use electronic devices (including laptop computers, tablets, and/or cell phones) to access the internet during debate rounds with the following conditions:
        a. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information for competitive advantage from non-competitors (coaches, assistant coaches, other non-competing students) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs.
        b. Information that would be restricted would include but not be limited to coach/non-participating competitor generated arguments, advice on arguments to run, questions to ask during cross examination, and other information not generated by the participating competitors in your round.
        c. The internet may be used to retrieve files, exchange evidence and/or arguments, research arguments, and partner to partner communication, and communication between other participants in the round.
        d. These electronic device guidelines do not limit communication between debate partners during the debate round.
        e. Contestants electing to use computers have the responsibility to promptly provide a copy of any evidence read in a speech for inspection by the opponent.
            1. Printers or an extra computer or tablet may be used if no paper copies are available.
            2. Evidence may be printed in the round or produced electronically but must be provided in a format readable by the opposing team.

F. Cross-Examination
    1. The questions must be directed to the speaker who has just completed their constructive speech and should be answered by that speaker.
    2. Questions must pertain only to materials and arguments presented by the respondent.

3. The respondent may decline to answer only if a valid reason is given for doing so.
4. The questioner controls the time and may interrupt a lengthy reply. Time-wasting is considered unethical.
5. Both members of a debate team must participate as the questioner and the respondent during cross-examination once during the debate.
6. Judges may consider participation in cross-examination, including use of tag team cross-examination, as part of their decision.

Section 3. Lincoln-Douglas Debate Rules

A. Round Definition
    1. A Lincoln-Douglas debate round consists of one Affirmative debater debating against one Negative debater.
    2. The Affirmative proposes a case to uphold the resolution. The Negative opposes the Affirmative case.
B. Resolutions
    1. Tournaments that start on or before February 1 shall use the National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) September-October resolution.
    2. Tournaments that start after February 1, including the CHSSA State Tournament, shall use the NSDA March-April resolution.
C. Round Format
    1. Affirmative Constructive (1AC): 6 minutes
    2. Cross-Examination of the Affirmative by the Negative: 3 minutes
    3. Negative Constructive (1NC): 7 minutes
    4. Cross-Examination of the Negative by the Affirmative: 3 minutes
    5. First Affirmative Rebuttal (1AR): 4 minutes
    6. Negative Rebuttal (1NR): 6 minutes
    7. Second Affirmative Rebuttal (2AR): 3 minutes
    8. Preparation time: 4 minutes per debater
D. Preparation Time
    1. Each individual may allocate this time as they see fit during the round, utilizing time prior to speeches for their side.
    2. Debaters may not use preparation time to make prefacing remarks to their speeches.
    3. Debaters may not forfeit cross-examination time to gain additional preparation time.
    4. Preparation time begins for a debater as soon as the other debater has finished with a speech or cross-examination.
A. Round Rules
    1. Value debate: The use of plans and counter plans is strongly discouraged.
    2. Judges should disregard new arguments introduced during rebuttal speeches.
        a. Judges should only allow new responses during rebuttal speeches if those responses address an argument first made in the immediately preceding speech.
        b. New analysis of prior arguments is allowed in rebuttal speeches.
    3. Each debater is allowed two computers, one printer, and one electronic timing device
    4. Contestants may use electronic devices (including laptop computers, tablets, and/or cell phones) to access the internet during debate rounds with the following conditions:
        a. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information for competitive advantage from non-competitors (coaches, assistant coaches, other non-competing students) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs.
        b. Information that would be restricted would include but not be limited to coach/non-participating competitor generated arguments, advice on arguments to run, questions to ask during cross examination, and other information not generated by the participating competitors in your round.

        c. The internet may be used to retrieve files, exchange evidence and/or arguments, research arguments, and partner to partner communication, and communication between other participants in the round.
        d. These electronic device guidelines do not limit communication between debate partners during the debate round.
        e. Contestants electing to use computers have the responsibility to promptly provide a copy of any evidence read in a speech for inspection by the opponent.
            1. Printers or an extra computer or tablet may be used if no paper copies are available.
            2. Evidence may be printed in the round or produced electronically but must be provided in a format readable by the opposing team.

B. Cross-Examination
    1. After a debater (the respondent) concludes their constructive speech, the other debater (the questioner) shall cross-examine them.
    2. Questions must pertain only to materials and arguments presented by the respondent.
    3. The respondent may decline to answer only if a valid reason is given for doing so.
    4. The questioner controls the time and may interrupt a lengthy reply. Time-wasting is considered unethical.

Section 4. Parliamentary Debate Rules

A. Round Definition
    1. A parliamentary debate team consists of two debaters.
    2. A parliamentary debate round consists of one Government team debating against one Opposition team.
    3. The Government team proposes a case to uphold the resolution. The Opposition team opposes the Government team's case.
B. Resolutions
    1. Resolutions will be announced by the tournament at the start of preparation time.
    2. A different resolution will be used each round.
C. Round Format
    1. Prime Minister Constructive (PMC): 7 minutes, given by the first Government speaker
    2. Leader of Opposition Constructive (LOC): 8 minutes, given by the first Opposition speaker
    3. Member of Government Constructive (MGC): 8 minutes, given by the second Government speaker
    4. Member of Opposition Constructive (MOC): 8 minutes, given by the second Opposition speaker
    5. Leader of Opposition Rebuttal (LOR): Rebuttal 4 minutes, given by the first Opposition speaker
    6. Prime Minister Rebuttal (PMR): 5 minutes, given by the first Government speaker
D. Preparation Time
    1. Debaters shall have 20 minutes of preparation time between the time the resolution is announced and the time debaters report to their judge(s).
    2. The two partners may communicate with each other.
    3. Debaters are also allowed to communicate with tournament officials to clarify tournament logistics.
    4. Debaters are not allowed to communicate with anyone other than those described above by any means during preparation time.
    5. During preparation time, debaters may consult both physical and electronic copies of any material, including both prepared notes and published sources.
        a. Debaters may use computers and the internet to store and to retrieve this material.

E. Round Rules
    1. There is no preparation time between speeches. The next speaker must begin their speech (or their roadmap) within 20 seconds following the preceding speech.
    2. Debaters are not allowed to access computers during the round after preparation time has ended.
    3. After preparation time has ended, a debater is not allowed to access any written material except notes that were handwritten on paper by the debater or their partner after the resolution was announced.
    4. Judges should disregard new arguments (including new responses) during rebuttal speeches, regardless of whether a Point of Order was raised.
        a. The exception is that the PMR may respond to new arguments made in the MOC.
        b. New analysis of prior arguments is allowed in rebuttal speeches.
F. Points of Information
    1. A Point of Information (POI) is a single short question or statement addressed by a member of the opposing team to the debater who has the floor.
    2. The debater who has the floor may accept or decline each POI at their discretion.
    3. Follow-up POIs are only allowed if separately recognized by the debater who has the floor.
    4. POIs come out of the speech time of the debater who has the floor, so time should not be stopped for a POI.
    5. Each POI may not exceed 15 seconds.
    6. POIs are only allowed in constructive speeches.
    7. POIs are not allowed in the first or last minute of any speech.
G. Points of Order
    1. A debater may raise a Point of Order if they believe that the opposing team is bringing up a new argument in a rebuttal speech.
        a. Points of Order may not be used for any other purpose.
    2. Points of Order are not allowed during constructive speeches but are allowed at any time during rebuttal speeches.
    3. To raise a Point of Order, the debater shall state “Point of Order.”
        a. Time should then be immediately stopped.
        b. The debater then has 15 seconds to explain why an argument made by the opposing team is new.
        c. The opposing team then has 15 seconds to respond to the Point of Order.
        d. Once the response is finished, time should immediately resume.
    4. Debaters should not use Points of Order as a tactic to disrupt their opponent’s speech.
    5. Judges should not announce their rulings on Points of Order during the round.
H. Evidence
    1. The intent of Parliamentary Debate is to encourage extemporaneous argumentation. Debaters should primarily rely on logic and general knowledge.
        a. Reference to published sources is allowed but should be limited.
    2. A debater may refer to information from a published source during their speech.
        a. The debater must transcribe the full quotation this information is based on.
        b. The transcription must be done during preparation time, by hand, and without ellipses.
        c. The debater must then write down the citation and must say the citation during their speech.
        d. To the extent that these are provided by the original source, the citation should include the name(s) of the author(s), the source title, and the publication date.
    3. The team which refers to information from a published source must show the opposing team the sheet of paper containing the quotation and citation if requested.
        a. The request can be made during a POI.
I. CHSSA State Tournament Logistics
    1. Resolutions for each shall rotate through the following types:

a. Value: Both sides push for their value in the topic as superior to the other team's value.
b. Policy: Proposition shows there is a problem and offers a solution (plan) to the problem. Both sides debate the appropriateness and/or merits of the problem and solution asserted by the Proposition.
c. Fact: Both teams debate the circumstances under which the topic would be called a true statement

2. The topics for each round will be in a distinct topic area not to be used in any other round for the duration of the tournament.
    a. The topic areas and resolution type by round will be determined by the Debate Committee and communicated to the tournament director at the January meeting.
    b. Only topic areas will be announced at the January meeting.
    c. At least five resolutions based on each topic area will be written by the tournament director or designee and vetted by at least three members of the debate committee prior to the start of the state tournament.
        1. These individuals shall be selected by the Debate Committee Chair from members of the Debate Committee that do not have any Parliamentary Debate teams entered at the State Tournament, using any criteria the Debate Committee Chair deems appropriate.
        2. If there are not at least three eligible members of the Debate Committee based on the foregoing, then the Debate Committee Chair may make up the shortfall by selecting a non-Debate Committee Member familiar with debate that has no Parliamentary Debate entries at the State Tournament.
    d. Three final resolutions will be selected for each topic area and placed into a sealed envelope by round to be used in a blind draw for topic selection each round.
3. The tournament director may determine the location(s) where debaters should be present during preparation time.
4.

Section 5. Public Forum Debate Rules

A. Round Definition
    1. A Public Forum debate round consists of two Pro debaters debating against two Con debaters.
    2. The Pro side will always begin the debate. The Con side will always conclude the debate.
    3. The two members of a team who qualify to the State Tournament from a league state qualification tournament must debate as a team in the State Tournament.
B. Resolutions:
    1. Public Forum Debate resolutions will correspond to those published by the National Speech and Debate Association.
C. Round Format
    1. 1st Pro Speaker 4 minutes
    2. 1st Con Speaker 4 minutes
    3. Crossfire between First Speakers 3 minutes
    4. 2nd Pro Speaker 4 minutes
    5. 2nd Con Speaker 4 minutes
    6. Crossfire between Second Speakers 3 minutes
    7. Summary (First Pro Speaker) 3 minutes
    8. Summary (First Con Speaker) 3 minutes
    9. Grand Crossfire (All speakers) 3 minutes
    10. Final Focus (Second Pro Speaker) 2 minutes
    11. Final Focus (Second Con Speaker) 2 minutes

12. Preparation Time 3 minutes

D. Preparation Time
    1. Each team/individual may allocate this time as they see fit during the round, utilizing time prior to speeches for their side.
    2. Each debate team may allocate their 3 minutes of preparation time as they see fit.
    3. Debaters may not use preparation time to make prefacing remarks to their speeches.
    4. Debaters may not forfeit cross-examination time to gain additional preparation time.
    5. Preparation time begins for a debater as soon as the other debater has finished with a speech or cross-examination.

E. Round Rules
    1. Over the course of the tournament, each Public Forum team may be assigned to uphold either side of the resolution in any given round.
    2. The Pro defends a case to support the resolution. The Con opposes the Pro case.
    3. In Public Forum debate a plan is defined as a formalized, comprehensive proposal for implementation.
        a. Neither the Pro or Con side is permitted to offer a plan or counterplan; rather they should offer reasoning to support a position of advocacy.
        b. Debaters may offer generalized, practical solutions.
    4.
    5. Judges should disregard new arguments introduced during Summary and Final Focus speeches.
        a. Judges should only allow new responses during Summary and Final Focus speeches if those responses address an argument first made in the immediately preceding speech.
        b. New analysis of prior arguments is allowed in rebuttal speeches.
    6. A speaker's time begins as to any given speech when they begin to speak.
        a. All speaking, including "thank yous," is timed in line with the appropriate speech, with the exception of off-time roadmaps, given prior to the start time for a speech, under the condition of the following circumstances:
            1. The roadmap is not to be argumentative in nature;
            2. The roadmap does not exceed 15 seconds in length
    7. Three computers per team, one printer per team, and one electronic timing device per debater are allowed.
        a. The debaters shall not have access to or activate any other electronic device during the round.
    8. Contestants may use electronic devices (including laptop computers, tablets, and/or cell phones) to access the internet during debate rounds with the following conditions:
        a. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information for competitive advantage from non-competitors (coaches, assistant coaches, other non-competing students) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs.
        b. Information that would be restricted would include but not be limited to coach/non-participating competitor generated arguments, advice on arguments to run, questions to ask during cross examination, and other information not generated by the participating competitors in your round.
        c. The internet may be used to retrieve files, exchange evidence and/or arguments, research arguments, and partner to partner communication, and communication between other participants in the round.
        d. These electronic device guidelines do not limit communication between debate partners during the debate round.
        e. Contestants electing to use computers have the responsibility to promptly provide a copy of any evidence read in a speech for inspection by the opponent.
            1. Printers or an extra computer or tablet may be used if no paper copies are available.

2. Evidence may be printed in the round or produced electronically but must be provided in a format readable by the opposing team.

F. Cross-Fire Rules
   1. The format is intended to be question and answer and comments by debaters are restricted to advancing questions or answering an opponent's question.
   2. Students should conduct themselves in a civil and professional manner during the cross-fire – cross-fire is intended to help clarify the debate for the judge and is not intended to be a verbal brawl.
   3. In the first two cross-fires, both participating debaters may ask and answer questions of the other.
   4. In Grand Cross-fire: All four debaters should participate.
      a. All should ask and answer questions.
   5. Judges may consider equal participation in cross-fire as part of their decision.

Section 6. Generative Artificial Intelligence

A. Generative artificial intelligence should not be cited as a source; while something like ChatGPT may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and sources, the original source of any quoted or paraphrased evidence must be available if requested.
B. Students are prohibited from quoting or paraphrasing text directly from generative AI sources like ChatGPT in events in which speeches must be the original created work of a competitor.

Article XII: The State Tournament - Debate Tabulation

Section 1. Drawing of Byes

A. If the tournament is paired according to the procedures outlined in this Article, no byes should be necessary. If some unforeseen circumstance occurs (i.e. fewer than 64 teams/individuals competing in Round 1, a team dropping from the tournament due to illness, the awarding of double wins as a result of a protest, etc.), it may be necessary to draw byes in preliminary rounds. If this is the case, byes should be drawn from the lowest ranked bracket that has an odd number of entries, so as to best maintain the integrity of each bracket through the tournament. If a bye is necessary in round one, it should be drawn at random.

Section 2. Preliminary and elimination rounds

A. Rounds 1-4 - Preliminary rounds: All teams or individuals shall debate in rounds one, two, three, and four.
B. At the conclusion of round four all teams or individuals shall be ranked according to the following criteria, and the top sixteen teams/individuals shall continue to octo-finals. 1 Number of ballots won 2 Number of debates won (both judges, not a split decision) 3 Number of ballots won by all four Opponents faced 4 Number of ballots won by Opponents who split with them 5 Number of ballots won by Opponents who defeated them
C. Octo-finals, quarterfinals, semifinals, finals - Single elimination: Beginning in the octofinal round, elimination is automatic for losing teams or individuals, regardless of prior won-loss record.

Section 3. Pairing debates.

A. Teams or individuals in round one shall be matched at random with teams or individuals from an Area other than their own.
B. After round one and prior to octofinal rounds, shall be matched in brackets against opponents with the same record of ballots won.
C. If a bracket of entries with the same record has an odd number of competitors, one entrant shall be pulled up from the lower bracket to be paired against a member of the higher bracket. The entrant to be pulled up shall be randomly chosen from those who;
    1. need to compete on the side less represented in the higher pool, and
    2. have not lost while debating on that side. If no entrant fulfills the second condition, the draw shall be made from those who fulfill the first condition and have not previously been pulled up.
D. Sides: In tabbing on cards use the following procedure: On a table place at the left after round one the tabulation cards of the teams or individuals which have had more negative debates and therefore should debate affirmative the next round. Place these cards face down. On the right place the cards of those who have had more affirmative debates and therefore should debate negative the next round. Hold back the cards of any teams or individuals that have had an equal number of affirmative and negative sides, using a normal rotation. If the piles of affirmative and negative cards are not equal and it is necessary to draw cards to uphold a given side of the question twice, draw first from the cards which have won on that side in the preceding round to even the piles. To draw, turn the cards of the

eligible competitors face down and let someone pull the necessary number of cards. Public Forum should obey all pairing constraints, disregarding side balance as it does not apply.

E. If tabbing on a tabulation software use the following procedure: Generate a pairing for the following round and first check that there are no avoidable pull ups. If there are avoidable pullups locate a paired debate with the same seeding mismatch and swap the higher seeded teams to debate each other and the lower seeded teams to debate each other. If possible assign each team to the side that they have debated less, except in the case of Public Forum (see section F). If this is not possible for all teams, prioritize assigning the teams who have the greatest imbalance of assigned sides first. Next pull up the screen to see side balance and check if there are teams who have debated more Affirmative rounds debating on the Affirmative and teams who have debated more Negative rounds debating on the Negative. If possible, obeying all other pairing constraints and preserving the bracket, adjust sides by swapping different teams who are on an unbalanced side.

F. When using flip for sides, prior to the round, a coin shall be tossed virtually or by one of the teams. The team that wins the flip may choose their preferred side of the topic they wish to defend. The flips should occur within ten minutes of the pairings being posted, and the flips should be completed within ten minutes of being sent out, or the team who lost the flip will be given an opportunity to pick their side.
    1. Policy, Lincoln Douglas, and Parliamentary Debate will flip for sides in elimination rounds only.
    2. Public forum will use coin flips for preliminary and elimination rounds flipping for both position and speaker order.
    3. In Public Forum,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). The remaining option (SIDE OR SPEAKING POSITION) is the choice of the team that loses the flip.
    4. The sides for elimination rounds shall be determined by a coin toss as generated by the tabulation software or through another means established by the Tournament Director, unless the teams or individuals have previously met. Rounds must begin on the designated start time on the pairings.

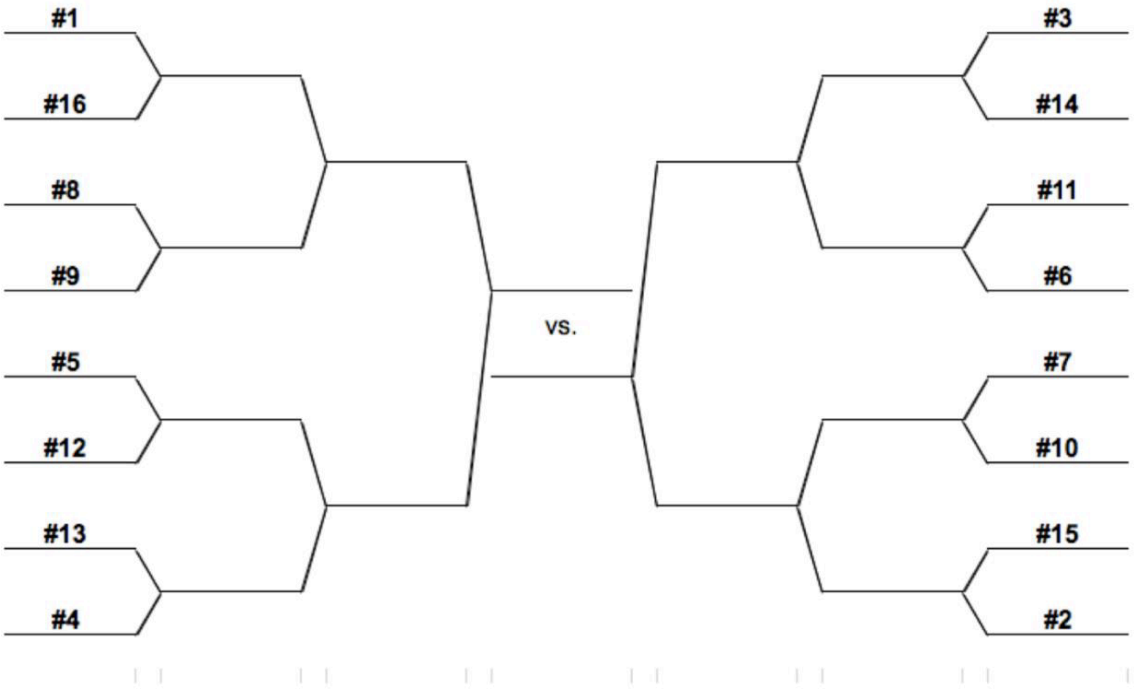
G. Precedence in Pairing.
    1. The priorities in pairing preliminary round debates are, in order:
        a. Avoid pulling entries up between brackets after round 1
        b. Avoid pairing entries against their own school's entries
        c. Avoid pairing entries that have previously met at the tournament
        d. Assigning entries to the side they have debated fewer times
        e. Avoid pairing entries against their own league
        f. Avoid pairing entries against their own area
    2. Do not break a higher ranked priority in order to solve lower ranked priorities.

H. In Elimination Rounds:
    1. Before the fifth round (octo-finals) all teams/individuals shall be ranked based on:
        a. Number of ballots won
        b. Number of debates won (both judges, not a split decision)
        c. Average seed of opponents faced as calculated to that point
        d. In the event of an unbreakable tie, the Tournament Director can break the tie through random selection; this can include: a coin flip, a random number generator, random selection features built into tabulation software, etc. The Tournament Director may elect, at their sole discretion, to break a tie between any two debaters or teams by means of a runoff round instead of a

random factor. The Tournament Director may elect to choose different methods of tie break listed above for different rounds or events within the same tournament.

2. The top-ranked team/individual will receive a #1 seed. The next fifteen teams/individual will receive the seed respective to their ranking (#2 for second-highest rank, #3 for third, etc.) down to #16. Teams ranked lower than 16th shall not continue in the tournament.
3. The sixteen seeded teams shall be placed in a bracket, in which #1 meets #16, #2 meets #15, etc. See Appendix AA. Placement in the bracket shall not be adjusted for any conflicts (prior opponents, same school conflicts, etc.)
4. Losers of any single-elimination round are eliminated from the tournament. Winners of each round advance along their branch of the bracket. Results of any elimination round shall not cause a team to jump to a different branch of the bracket.
5. In the event of a closeout between entries from the same school, the following options are available:
    a. The students debate as usual and a winner is determined by the judges.
    b. The Coach of Record selects a winner via walkover (no debate will occur).
    c. If the students will not debate and the coach declines to choose a winner, Tab will break the tie based on seeding into the final round (no debate will occur).
6. The Coach of Record will be contacted before pairings for the round are published must and must make a decision within 10 minutes of being notified. That decision must be communicated to both Tab and the Tournament Director. If no decision is received within 10 minutes, the tournament will proceed with either option 1 or 3 at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
7. Co-champions are not permitted. All entries must be ranked.

APPENDIX AA



Section 4. Judges:

A. There shall be two judges in each of the four preliminary rounds. In the octofinal and quarterfinal rounds there shall be three judges. In the semifinal and final round, there shall be five judges.

Section 5. Posting of advancing entries:

A. Lists of advancing entries (those who were seeded in the top 16 after round 4) shall be posted at the conclusion of the tabulation of round 4.

Section 6. Ballot Review

A. Ballots for all debate events shall be made available for coach review after round four and at the conclusion of each round thereafter. Ballots will be made available for a half an hour, and it will be communicated to the coaches (by email or other any other method determined by the State Tournament Director) when the ballots are published. Only coaches may review the ballots. The purpose of review is to determine errors in recording results. Published ballots will be made unavailable at the conclusion of the half hour review period.

Section 7. Reporting of Errors

A. Any error should be immediately reported by the coach of the team or individual concerned to the appropriate Area Chairperson or persons officially designated to receive such reports. Such notification shall be done prior to the start of the subsequent round of debate in order to rectify errors.

Section 8. Tabulation Errors

A. Inadvertent clerical errors in tabulation shall not void the contest. If errors occur and can be corrected, this correction shall be made.
    1. If a decision is found to be misrecorded, each team/individual remaining in the tournament shall have its won-loss record restored to the correct record. From that point on, each team/individual remaining in the tournament shall be paired according to its corrected record.
    2. If correcting a team's/individual's record would cause it to receive a second loss, that team/individual shall immediately be considered to be eliminated from the tournament. From the moment of the discovery of the error, this team/individual cannot eliminate another team/individual from the tournament. However, any teams/individuals wrongfully eliminated prior to the discovery of the tabulation error shall remain eliminated from the tournament.
        a. If a round is taking place involving a team/individual with a corrected record of two losses, the tab room shall record the result of that round as a win for the opposing team/individual. This correction shall be made even if the round is completed, up until the time of the posting of the drops subsequent to that round.
        b. If the drops have already been posted for the round involving the team/individual with a corrected record of two losses, and that

team/individual won their round, eliminating another team/individual, but the pairings for the next round have not been posted, every effort shall be made to find the wrongfully eliminated team/ individual and restore them to the tournament. If they cannot be found, the team/individual with a corrected record of two losses shall still be eliminated from the tournament.

c. Under no circumstances shall a wrongfully eliminated team/individual be restored to the tournament after the round subsequent to their wrongful elimination has begun (e.g., a team may not “skip” a round and be returned to the tournament field.

3. Other than in the specific situation outlined in (2) above, wins and losses accumulated by teams/individuals with misreported records, as well as wins and losses accumulated by the opponents of teams/individuals with misreported records, shall stand as corrected recorded. While a mismatch of teams/individuals based on corrected records is an unfortunate circumstance, the decisions made by the judges in these rounds shall not be altered.

B. If the correction or inadvertent clerical error would force a re-running of any round or rounds, the correction shall not be made. In cases of unforeseen, uncorrectable errors, the President, Vice President Activities and/or appropriate Area Chair shall be authorized to make an appropriate apology.

Section 9. Cumulative Sheet:

A. The cumulative sheet for debate must include a column that specifies the League of the debater(s).

Article XIII: The State Tournament - Congress Rules

Section 1. Description

A. State Congress shall be a regular contest of the CHSSA State Tournament. Said Congress shall have six preliminary houses of 15 members each. The members shall include 21 Congresspersons from each of the four Areas plus bonus entries as allocated according to Article VII, Section 3, plus Presiding Officer contestants from each Area (cf. #3 below, Presiding Officers). All Congress contestants must follow the rules specified in the CHSSA Constitution, By-Laws, and Congress Handbook. Failure to do so may result in disqualification. No visual aids or props may be used during any round of Student Congress except for speaker identification through the use of an official CHSSA placard. Computers or tablets are allowed in congress sessions provided that the internet is disabled. See Section 12 for complete rules regarding the use of electronic devices in Congress.

Section 2. Qualifiers

A. All delegates to the Congress must have qualified for such a position at an earlier League qualifying Congress within each Area. Those qualifying Congresses shall be run according to the rules of the State Congress as far as possible.

Section 3. Presiding Officers

A. Each League shall assign one presiding officer to the State Congress. There shall be a total of 12 presiding officers.
    1. One presiding officer shall be selected from each of the state qualifying Congresses of the eleven Leagues. The twelfth presiding officer shall be chosen as follows: Based on the previous three years' State Tournaments and total league entries, the number of sweepstakes points earned shall be divided by the total number of allocated league entries. The league with the most points will be entitled to send a second presiding officer to the State Tournament. Presiding officers shall compete only as presiding officers. Delegates to the State Congress shall be selected by a panel of adult judges without Congress contestant input. Those state qualifying League contests in which no presiding officer candidate is selected for the State Congress shall treat all participants as potential state qualifying delegates to the State Congress.
    2. Each presiding officer elected to the State Congress shall, as much as is possible within an Area, come from different Leagues within an Area.
    3. Presiding officer contestants shall be eligible for awards for presiding officer but cannot be eligible for "best speaker-delegate" awards.

Section 4. Submission of Bills/Resolutions

A. Bills and resolutions shall come from six topic areas chosen by the fall Board of directors meeting of the Congress Committee.
B. Each school with one or more Congress entries in the State Tournament shall be required to submit one piece of legislation from the topic area designated to their league. The legislation must be typed using one of the three templates on the CHSSA website.

C. The Congress Committee shall select six (6) bills/resolutions to be distributed to the coaches of qualified delegates. The Congress Director shall prepare the Student Congress Docket inclusive of the six (6) selected bills/resolutions and important information about the tournament. The Student Congress Docket shall be made available to all congress competitors and coaches thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the state tournament.
D. The Congress Committee shall designate the bill/resolution(s) for each session, and they shall be announced prior to the start of the first preliminary session.

Section 5. Recognition of Speakers

A. To be recognized to speak or ask a question, competitors will remain seated and raise their placard. Only CHSSA approved placards will be allowed.
B. Recognition of speakers shall be based on recency.
    1. 1st Priority - Representatives with fewest speeches.
    2. 2nd Priority - Representative who has spoken least recently.
C. In the situation where speakers have not given a speech yet, the presiding officer shall recognize a speaker based on random, preset recency
    1. Random, preset recency shall be established prior to the start of the first preliminary round, the semifinal round, and the first final round session.
    2. The random, preset recency shall be used in order for recognition for speeches and in reverse order for recognition for questioning.
D. Recency will continue through prelims and reset for semis and the first final session.
E. Recency will not reset for the second final session.
F. Presiding officers must use the CHSSA provided recency chart for recording speeches.
G. Any competitor 10 minutes or more late to the session will be seated only with the permission of the Congress Chair after consideration of the cause of the tardiness.

Section 6. Speeches

A. Speeches are an uninterrupted three (3) minutes immediately followed by cross-examination.
B. Priority for the first affirmative speech goes to a student from the school whose legislation is being debated in the round. If more than one student from that school is in chamber and wishes to speak, priority will be determined by recency. If no student from the school whose legislation is being debated is present in the chamber, then priority for the first affirmative speech shall be based on recency and referred to as the sponsorship speech.
C. Speeches shall alternate from affirmative to negative. If no one wishes to oppose the preceding speaker, the presiding officer may recognize a speaker upholding the same side.

Section 7. Cross-Examination

A. Questioners shall be recognized at the discretion of the presiding officer.
B. Presiding officers shall prioritize students who have previously asked fewer questions in the chamber.
    1. In the situation where speakers have not asked a question yet, the presiding officer shall recognize questioners based on the reverse order of the random, preset recency used for recognition of speeches.

C. There shall be 2 minutes of cross-examination after the first affirmation and first negative speech. There shall be 1 minute of cross-examination for all subsequent speeches.
D. Direct cross-examination shall be used for all speeches in prelims, semis and finals.
E. Direct cross-examination shall include 30 second questioning blocks in which a questioner may ask follow-up questions.
F. Misleading, irrelevant or leading questions may not be ruled out of order by the Presiding Officer. Presiding Officers should remind the chamber to keep questions short and to the point.

Section 7. Punctuality

A. Any delegate who is ten minutes or more late for a session shall not be seated except by permission of the Congress Director or designee.

Section 8. Resolutions and Amendments

A. No bills or resolutions are in order other than those provided by the Congress Committee. Amendments which do not alter the intent of the bill/resolution are in order, if germane and submitted in writing in double- spaced, typed form to the Congress Committee for approval of form and specific applicable content. This Committee approval may be sought at any time prior to the session in which the amendment will be used. Upon approval, the written amendment must be submitted to the Presiding Officer before gaining the floor. Those speaking on an amendment must surrender a priority card. No amendments to the amendment shall be in order.

Section 9. Adjournments and Recesses

A. All sessions are scheduled for 90 minutes. Time begins when the first competitor speaks. A speech and cross-examination may extend beyond 90 minutes provided that the speaker was recognized within the 90-minute time limit. Sessions cannot end early if someone still wishes to speak. A session may end before the 90-minute time limit provided that no speakers wish to speak. A session can end with an affirmative speech. Motions to adjourn before 80 minutes of speaking time have elapsed are not permitted. Motions to adjourn or recess are not in order unless called for by the agenda.

Section 10. Rules of Procedure and Voting

A. Participants in the State Congress shall not be permitted to suspend the above stated rules. A motion to impeach the presiding officer is out of order.
B. Props and visual aids for purposes of information and identification are strictly forbidden including but not limited to use of the white board, signs or *placards not issued by the tournament to identify speakers*, objects, charts, graphs, etc.
C. The Presiding Officer determines the method of voting on each question that comes before the chamber, except for final votes on legislation, amendments, and motions to appeal to the chair, a recorded vote must be taken and announced. On all other votes, “voice voting” is acceptable.
D. A recorded vote must follow if:
    1. any member asks for a division; or

2. a member of the chamber moves for a roll call vote and the motion is agreed to by 1/5 of the chamber.

E. All simple majority votes are based on the number of legislators present and voting in the chamber.
F. For all votes requiring a fraction of the chamber to agree to a motion or question (2/3, 1/3, 1/5, etc.), the chair determines whether the chamber agrees with the motion/question using the number of legislators present in the chamber.

Section 11. Evidence

A. All evidence used is subject to verification. Honesty and integrity are of utmost importance in legislative debate. Falsification or deliberate misuse of evidence may result in the legislator being suspended by tournament officials.
B. Students shall be responsible for the validity of all evidence they introduce to the floor. This includes, but is not limited to: facts, statistics, or examples attributed to a specific, identifiable, authoritative source used to support a claim. Unattributed ideas are the opinion of the student competitor and are not considered evidence.
C. At minimum, students are expected to orally deliver the source of any evidence presented in their speech.

Section 12. The Use of Electronic Devices & Generative Artificial Intelligence

A. Electronic retrieval devices to store and to retrieve subject files are allowed to be used during congress sessions subject to the rules below and those in ARTICLE XI, Section 1. Paragraph K of the State Tournament Debate Rules. 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 except as timing devices during the round by the presiding officer. Power plugs or outlets may not be used in the round at any time. All computers used in the session must be battery operated at all times.
B. Contestants are allowed to access the internet. Students may not use the internet to gain help from coaches, other students, or any person, such that it would prevent the speech from being the original work of the competitor. Penalty for violation of this rule shall be automatic forfeiture of the round by the offending speaker and/or disqualification from the tournament.
C. Generative artificial intelligence should not be cited as a source; while something like ChatGPT may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and sources, the original source of any quoted or paraphrased evidence must be available if requested. Students are prohibited from quoting or paraphrasing text directly from generative AI sources like ChatGPT in events in which speeches must be the original created work of a competitor.

Article XIV: The State Tournament - Congress Tabulation

Section 1. Paneling of Congressional Contestants

A. There shall be three preliminary legislative sessions of ninety minutes each. Each chamber shall be randomly pre-matched and then balanced to avoid to the extent possible contestants' same school, the same League and the same Area.
B. Students will stay in the same chamber for all three preliminary rounds.
C. Placement of students on the seating chart shall be adjusted each session to avoid contestants placed in the same seat and row.
D. Contestants shall be placed from one panel to another to avoid paneling together in the precedence listed:
    1. Contestants from the same school
    2. Contestants from the same League.
    3. Contestants from the same Area (balanced as much as possible) 6. Contestants placed in the same seat and row.

Section 2. Semi-Final Unicameral Session

A. The top five competitors from each chamber shall advance to the semi-final round determined by:
    1. The lowest cumulative total of each judge's rank in preliminary rounds.
    2. Ties shall be broken by the following criteria:
        a. Judges' preference
        b. Reciprocal ranks (# of 1s, # of 2s) from prelim round(s) , truncate to 10
        c. Reciprocal ranks (# of 1s, # of 2s) from prelim round(s) , dropping the worst rank and the best rank.
B. Two houses, designated A and B shall have fifteen members each.
C. The two semi-final houses shall be balanced in power to the greatest extent possible keeping in mind the following limitations:
    1. Schools must be balanced between the chambers even to the detriment of the power balance.
    2. Leagues should be balanced, but not to the detriment of the power balance.
    3. Areas should be balanced, but not to the detriment of the power balance.
D. Each chamber shall discuss and act on the bill/resolution assigned to the semi- final session.
E. The semi-final sessions shall consist of ninety (90) minutes each.

Section 3. Final Bicameral Session

A. There shall be two final sessions of Congress. Finalists shall be the top fifteen contestants from the semifinal round, determined by:
    1. Lowest cumulative total of each judge's rank in semifinals and preliminary rounds. In calculating this total, the worst rank and the best rank in preliminary rounds shall be dropped. Any rank above 9 should be truncated to 10. Every rank from the semifinal round should be multiplied by 2.
    2. Judges' preference in the semifinal round, if the tied contestants spoke in the same chamber.
    3. Lowest cumulative total of ranks in semifinals only.
    4. Highest total of the reciprocals of the ranks in the semifinal only.

5. Highest total of the reciprocals of the ranks in the semifinals AND the preliminary rounds, with the worst rank and the best rank in preliminary rounds dropped and any rank about 9 adjusted to 10.
6. Judges preference in any rooms in preliminary rounds where the two tied contestants spoke in the same room.

B. Each final session shall have 90 minutes of debate time [see Section 7]. The first session shall close, followed by a ten-minute recess. The recess will be followed by the opening of a second session of the final round.
C. Each session shall discuss and act on one bill/resolution assigned to the final sessions by the Congress Committee.
D. Each semi-final session shall select one presiding officer by popular vote to preside over one-half each of the final sessions.
E. Contestants in the final sessions shall be assigned seats by the Congress Committee.

Section 4: Official Scoring

A. For each preliminary session, there shall be three official scorers in each chamber. Any contestant not ranked 1-9 shall receive a score of 10.
B. There shall be five official scorers in each semi-final session and five different official scorers serving in each of the final sessions.
C. For tabulation purposes, any contestant not ranked 1st through 9th shall receive a score of 10.
D. Each scorer shall choose 1st through 15th best speaker for each semi- final session and for the final session. For tabulation purposes, any contestant not ranked 1st through 9th shall receive a score of 10.
E. Each scorer shall be provided a copy of the assigned legislation, a seating chart of contestants, and an official ballot.

Section 5. Final Score

A. First through fifteenth best speakers shall be computed on a low cumulative score determined by:
    1. Lowest cumulative total of each judge's rank in preliminary, semi-final and final rounds. In calculating this total, the worst rank and the best rank in preliminary rounds shall be dropped. Any rank above 9 should be truncated to 10. Every rank from the semifinal and final round should be multiplied by 2.
B. Ties shall be broken using the following criteria:
    1. Lowest cumulative total of ranks in finals only.
    2. Judges' preference in the final round
    3. Highest total of the reciprocals of the ranks in the final round.
    4. Highest total of the reciprocals of the ranks in all rounds. If ties still exist, duplicate awards shall be given to the tied contestants.

Section 6. Presiding Officer Competition

A. The presiding officer competition shall consist of a total of 12 presiding officers with one presiding officer representing each league. In every round, each presiding officer will serve half of the session. The presiding officer with the greatest combined total of judge and student votes shall be awarded a Win in the round and the opposing presiding officer a Loss.

Ties shall be broken by the greatest number of judge ballots. In the case of a no-show presiding officer, the remaining presiding officer in the round shall be awarded a bye similar to debate and this bye would count as a win. PO votes for the bye round shall be averaged from the other two preliminary rounds to determine the total number of PO votes. Byes shall be drawn randomly from presiding officers who have not received a bye yet in the tournament unless the PO pairings were made before the discovery of the no-show presiding officer.

B. Presiding officers will alternate from first position to second position in preliminary and final rounds to the extent possible. In the semi-final round, positions shall be determined by a coin toss.
C. The assignment of the presiding officers for the first preliminary round shall be random.
D. Presiding officers from the same school shall not meet in preliminary rounds. Otherwise, presiding officers shall be power matched against each other on a high/low pairing based on ballot count. In the case of an odd number of presiding officers in a bracket, a pairing shall be made by randomly pulling up through a blind draw a presiding officer from one bracket lower to randomly face one of the presiding officers blindly drawn in the higher bracket.
E. The four presiding officers shall be selected for the semi-final round based on the following criteria:
    1. The four presiding officers with the most “wins” will advance to the semifinal round.
    2. Ties shall be broken in the following precedence:
        a. Head-to-head competition.
        b. Total number of student ballots.
        c. Greatest number of judge ballots.
        d. Special election by all semi-finalists
F. The presiding officers for the semi-final round shall be paired on a high-low basis using the following criteria:
    1. Greatest number of wins.
    2. Head-to-head competition.
    3. Total number of student ballots.
G. The winner of each semi-final chamber, determined by the greatest number of student and judge ballots will serve in the final round. Ties shall be broken by judges’ preference.
H. The presiding officer champion is determined by the greatest number of both student and judge ballots in the final round.
I. Ties in the final round shall be broken in the following precedence:
    1. Greatest number of judge votes in the final round
    2. Greatest number of students votes in the final round
    3. Greatest number of wins
    4. Greatest number of judge votes in all rounds
    5. Greatest number of student votes in all rounds
    6. Head-to-head competition if contestants met in previous round
    7. Strength of opposition based on total number of student and judge ballots throughout the tournament
    8. In the case of an unbreakable tie, co-champions will be awarded

Section 7. Ballot Review

A. Judge ballots for Congressional Debate and Presiding Officer shall be made available for coach review at the conclusion of the preliminary rounds, at the conclusion of the semifinal round, and at the conclusion of the second final round session. Ballots will be made available

for a half an hour, and it will be communicated to the coaches (by email or any other method determined by the State Tournament Director) when the ballots are published. Only coaches may review the ballots. The purpose of review is to determine errors in recording results. Published ballots will be made unavailable at the conclusion of the half hour review period.

Article XV: The State Tournament - Administration

Section 1. General Administration

A. The Vice President Activities, in consultation with members of the State Tournament Committee, shall be responsible for the administration, organization and supervision of the State Tournament. The Vice President Activities shall recommend to the President and Executive Council for their approval and acceptance all contracts, memoranda of understanding, and other agreements related to the operation of the State Tournament, including but not limited to the following:
    1. host site for the State Tournament
    2. supplier of trophies and awards
    3. official vendor(s) The Vice President Activities shall have the authority, in consultation with the President and other members of the State Tournament Committee, and for the good order of the State Tournament, to suspend, alter or otherwise institute temporarily operational procedures of the State Tournament, including but not limited to the following:
        a. determination of qualifications, selection, assignment, and number of judges
        b. schedule
        c. Awards Ceremony This authority shall not extend to any rules or regulations regarding event competition or eligibility to compete.

B. The Area Chairpersons of the four qualifying Areas shall:
    1. Certify contestants for the State Tournament for their Areas.
    2. All entry fees shall be turned over to the Treasurer.
    3. Assign judging rounds to all coaches or approved substitutes of schools entered in the State Tournament. Exempt from judging assignments are coaches from an Area who are assigned to the work of the State Tournament.

C. The Vice President-Activities shall be responsible for the pre-tournament preparations, including time schedules, forms, supplies, and necessary equipment.
    1. The Vice President-Activities may appoint the Area Chairperson of the host Area to act as a liaison to the host site.
    2. The Vice President-Activities, with the approval of the CHSSA President, shall appoint Board of Directors members and other responsible coaches to handle tournament operations such as sweepstakes tally, event drawing, debate pairing, preparation of impromptu and extemporaneous topics, extemporaneous supervision, judging assignment, congress direction, and other necessary duties at the State Tournament.
    3. The Vice President – Activities shall prepare all required documents for the State Tournament.

Section 2. Judging

A. In all speech events two judges shall be used in each section or panel of preliminary and semi-final rounds. Five judges shall be used in the final rounds. No judge should score the same speech event twice during the preliminary and double-elimination rounds. A judge may score a previously scored debate team or Lincoln-Douglas entry one additional time in quarterfinals or beyond.
    1. A stopwatch will be issued to each judging panel. The judges will be instructed to show that the time is cleared prior to each speech. At the conclusion of each speech,

the judge will announce the speaker's time. At that time, the stopwatch will be shown to the other judges, if requested. Each judge will record the speaker's time on their ballot.

B. In Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Parliamentary Debate and Public Forum Debate two judges shall be used in each of the four preliminary rounds. In the octofinal and quarterfinal rounds, three judges shall be used. In the semi-final and final rounds, five judges shall be used. No judge should score the same debate or Lincoln-Douglas debater twice during the preliminary and double-elimination rounds. A judge may score a previously scored debate team or Lincoln-Douglas entry one additional time in quarterfinals or beyond.
C. In Congress, three judges shall be used in each house of preliminary competition and three judges shall be used in both semi final sessions, and seven judges shall be used in final round. No judge should score congress twice during the tournament.
D. Judging requirements for schools: Those coaches involved in the operation of the State Tournament shall be credited the equivalent of 8 rounds of judging. The tournament director at their discretion may choose to award more rounds of credit to individuals who serve larger roles in the operation of the tournament. Each coach not involved in the operation of the State Tournament will be required to judge a minimum of eight rounds and may be required to judge more in the event of severe judge shortages. Coaches NOT from the host area with more than five entries will be required to judge a minimum of six additional rounds or be required to provide additional qualified judges according to the following schedule:
    1. Entry exceeds 5 = 1 additional judge for eight rounds.
    2. Entry exceeds 10 = 2 additional judges for eight rounds each.
    3. Entry exceeds 15 = 3 additional judges for eight rounds each.
    4. Entry exceeds 20 = 4 additional judges for eight rounds each.
    5. Entry exceeds 25 = 5 additional judges for eight rounds each
    6. Entry exceeds 30 = 6 additional judges for eight rounds each
    7. Entry exceeds 35 = 7 additional judges for eight rounds each
    8. Entry exceeds 40 = 8 additional judges for eight rounds each
        a. Single Day Judges: All school judges must be available to judge for at least one full calendar day of competition at the tournament. There may be no partial calendar day judges: this means judges must be available for all rounds on an assigned day in order for the school's obligation to be met.
        b. Schools in the host Area will be required to provide 1 judge for every 3 entries.
        c. Schools with more than two (2) Policy Debate entries shall be required to provide one judge for each additional policy debate entry. Judges covering policy debate entries will likely be asked to judge, at a minimum, the first four (4) rounds of policy debate and should have the experience necessary to be comfortable doing so.
        d. Substitute judges for coaches or additional judges must be approved by the Area Chairperson at the time of pre-registration, not at the tournament site registration. A coach who will be represented by a substitute judge or who provides additional judges must provide written information for the Area Chairperson regarding the judging experience of each judge. Coaches who are representing more than one school must fulfill the judging requirement of each school. Judges who are obligated to judge on a particular day will check in prior to each round that day in the judge pooling room. Judges assigned to a day must show up to the pooling room prior to each round that day even if they were not assigned to a round. Roll will be called, and any judge not

present may incur a fine for their school. At their discretion at any point throughout the tournament, the Tournament Director may choose to suspend the judge check in or roll call requirement. Schools that fail to fulfill judging obligations will be fined up to $150 per missed round. In addition, egregious violations will result in the school losing up to 5 sweepstakes points per missed round. The State Tournament Director, in communication with the Protest Committee, will assess penalties. A list of judges (and the schools they represent) who missed rounds shall be posted in the judges' room at the conclusion of each round.

e. In all rounds of all events, each panel of judges shall be mixed in judging experience and demographics to the degree logically feasible, at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
f. Each league president shall send a list of potential semi and final judges to the Area Chairperson by April 1. The list should indicate the events each coach would be best qualified to judge.
g. No coach shall be exempt from judging finals except: the tournament director, the CHSSA President, the four Area Chairpersons, and any other tournament official specifically released from judging by the Tournament Director.

E. Qualified judges from local college and the local community shall be encouraged to participate in judging the State Tournament. Use of first year or sophomore college students as judges is to be discouraged in preliminary rounds and is prohibited in semifinal and final rounds. Those individuals responsible for supplying college and community judges should be encouraged to recruit special judges for semifinals and finals.

Section 3. Awards

A. Grand Sweepstakes: Sweepstakes awards will be presented to the 20 schools gathering the highest number of points on the basis of the point system outlined below:
B. Sweepstakes points:
    1. Finalists in individual/duo events contests will be awarded sweepstakes points as follows:

Ranking Reached	Points for Speech Events
First	9
Second	7
Third	6
Fourth	5
All other contestants in final rounds	4
Non-advancing semi-finalists	2

    2. Policy Debate/Lincoln-Douglas Debate/Parliamentary Debate/Public Forum Debate ties for position will be broken by:
        a. previous meeting
        b. greater number of win ballots

Ranking/Round Reached	Points for Debate Events

First	12
Second	10
Non-advancing semi-finalists (Top 4)	7
Non-advancing quarter-finalists (Top 8)	5
Non-advancing octo-finalists (Top 16)	3

3. Congress: The seven best speaker awards (1st-7th) shall be computed as speech events for sweepstakes. All speakers in the final session not ranked 1st-7th will be awarded two points each. All semi-finalists shall be awarded one point each. The outstanding presiding officer shall be awarded six points, the superior presiding officer four points, and the semi-final presiding officers who did not advance to finals, two points each.

Ranking	Points for Congress Events
First	9
Second	7
Third	6
Fourth	5
Fifth, Sixth, Seventh	4
All other contestants in final rounds	2
Non-advancing semi-finalists	1

Ranking	Points for Presiding Officer
Outstanding	6
Superior	4
Non-advancing semi-finalists	2

4. Ties for sweepstakes positions shall be resolved by the greater number of 1sts, 2nds, 3rds in events per school tied.

C. Individual Awards. The President of CHSSA or an officer designated by the President shall be responsible for ordering the awards and for having certificates printed for all contestants in the State Tournament. The basis for awards is outlined below:
   1. Certificates: All participants in contest events in the State Tournament will be given appropriate certificates.
   2. Awards of descending size shall be awarded to all finalists and semifinalists in all events except Congress [See C3, below] and to all debaters competing in and after Round 5 of their event.

3. Congress awards: First through seventh speakers shall receive awards identical to finals awards for speech events. The seven non-placing finalists shall receive suitably-sized awards. The 14 semi-finalists and two presiding officers who did not advance to the finals shall receive semi-finalist awards identical to the speech event semi-finalists.
4. Awards ceremony: All recipients of awards are expected to appear in proper attire and exhibit appropriate demeanor to receive their awards.
5. The coach of the first-place winner in each speech event, Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Congress shall be awarded an appropriate plaque. The coach of the school receiving the first-place sweepstakes award shall receive an appropriate plaque.
6. Depending on the availability of adequate financial resources each contestant who places first in a State Tournament event other than Congress [See C3, above] shall be awarded an honorarium in an amount established each year by the Board of Directors at their winter meeting, but not to exceed $500.

D. PlaquesEvery school shall be presented with an appropriate plaque at Registration indicating its participation in the CHSSA State Championships.

Section 4 Supervision of Contestants

A. All contestants must be supervised by an adult who is present at the Tournament at all times. If the adult is not the coach of the school involved, the adult in charge of student contestants must have a letter of authorization from the school of the contestants.
B. Any complaints or protests made to the Protest Committee must be registered by the coach or designated adult sponsor of the school involved in filing the protest or complaint. In no case shall a parent, contestant, or member of the contestant's family register a protest or complaint.

Section 5. Late Registration

A. Late registration at the Tournament site will result in an automatic loss in debate, an automatic last place in an speech event, or an automatic tenth place in Congress in the first rounds or sessions of the Tournament.

Section 6. Tabulation Rooms.

A. The Tournament tabulation rooms are closed to all people not assigned to the operation of the Tournament.
B. An information/help desk shall be maintained at the tournament site for the duration of the Tournament. Coaches and/or contestants should direct questions, inquiries, and/or concerns to this desk. When deemed necessary, those in charge of the information/help desk will forward questions, inquiries, and/or concerns to the appropriate tabulation room pit boss(es) and/or Tournament Director for resolution.

Section 7. Audio/Video Recording Prohibited

A. Unauthorized video and/or audiotaping of any panel of events is prohibited. Authorization shall be secured in writing from the Vice President-Activities. Judges shall be given both oral and written instructions that video and/or audio recording of rounds is prohibited without the expressed written consent of the Tournament Director.

Section 8. State Tournament Protest Committee

B. The Protest Committee shall be composed of the four Area Chairs, and shall be chaired by the President of CHSSA. In the absence of the President from the State Tournament, the Vice President Activities shall chair the committee.
C. The President shall establish a Help desk to receive any protests at the State Tournament.
D. A quorum of the Protest Committee shall consist of three members not including the Chair, however, every reasonable effort shall be made to have all four Area Chairs present before the protest is heard.
E. The jurisdiction of the Protest Committee shall extend to any allegation of misconduct or violation of the By Laws during the State Tournament. The decision of the Protest Committee shall be final.
F. For protests filed during the State Tournament, investigations and deliberations of the Protest Committee shall follow this prescribed procedure:
    1. The protest form must be completed and presented to the Help desk or to a tournament official by a member school coach of record or designee. The person submitting the protest must remain available until the Protest Committee convenes.
    2. The protest must be presented in writing, using an appropriate form designated by the President. This form must include the following information:
        a. name and mailing address of the complainant
        b. school address and principal of the complainant
        c. alleged violation with specific reference to the By-Laws; or alleged unethical conduct
        d. explanation of the effect of the alleged violation or misconduct on the round
        e. requested remedy
    3. The protest must be submitted prior to the next round of the event protested.
    4. The President shall convene the Protest Committee immediately, and a reasonable attempt shall be made to notify all member schools involved in the protest. The Protest Committee has fifteen minutes to convene after the President has called for a quorum.
    5. The President or Vice President Activities shall notify the appropriate Tabulation Room immediately of the protest, requesting that the next round be delayed until a decision is reached by the Committee.
    6. The Protest Committee shall meet privately with the person submitting the protest, and with any other persons involved, but with the exclusion of extraneous persons. A student must be represented by their coach, and may be accompanied by an adult of their choosing. However, only the coach of record (or designee) and the student may speak before the Protest Committee.
    7. A statement of the allegation shall be presented to all parties concerned, who may present any information and arguments that may be germane to the issue. All parties need not be present at the same time. At the discretion of the Protest Committee, judges or other witnesses may be questioned. The Protest Committee has thirty minutes to hear presentations by all parties concerned, and must render a decision within fifteen minutes of the conclusion of the presentations. The time limit may vary depending on the number of protests under consideration simultaneously.
    8. The Protest Committee shall meet privately for deliberation. The President shall facilitate the discussion from a neutral point of view. A vote shall be taken and recorded. A majority vote of those present and voting shall determine the decision of

the Committee, with the President voting only in case of a tie. All concerned parties shall be informed of the decision immediately.

9. The decision and rationale of the committee shall be
    a. presented orally or in writing to the affected parties
    b. posted in general terms as to the violation, but with no names
    c. and reported to the Board of Directors at its meeting following the State Tournament.

G. Challenges in debate shall follow procedures for that debate event outlined in Article XI.
H. Any protests must be submitted by the coach of record (or designee) of the school involved in the protest. In no case shall a parent, contestant, or member of the contestant's family register a protest. In no case shall an observer or judge register a protest.
I. Consequences for violation of rules as stipulated in the By-Laws shall be considered a maximum penalty, and may be modified at the discretion of the Protest Committee. In the absence of any such stipulation in the By-Laws, the Protest Committee has the authority to impose an appropriate consequence for a violation of rules. If a student who has placed in a final round is found to have violated the rules, that student may be disqualified. If disqualified, the student must relinquish the trophy, and other students placing below the disqualified student shall move up one rank.
J. The consequence for unethical conduct shall extend neither to reduction of round scores nor to disqualification from the State Tournament.
K. Decisions of the Protest Committee may be communicated to the principal of the school against whom the decision is reached, the coach of record, and the League President.

Section 9. State Tournament Protest Committee

A. Definition of Disqualification:
    1. When the Protest Committee issues a disqualification, the competitor who violated a rule in that round will be removed from the competition, dropped from the tournament, and may not advance to further rounds or receive any awards. Any Sweepstakes points generated by the disqualified competitor will be vacated and not count toward the school’s total.
B. Before the Final Round:
    a. If disqualification occurs in a round before the final round, all previous round ranks and decisions occurring before the protested round will remain as they are. No changes will be made to the rankings or decisions from earlier rounds. Additional penalties may be applied according to the relevant rules.
C. In the Final Round:
    a. If disqualified in the final round, all points, ballot, rankings, and placements earned by the competitor will be vacated.
    b. Competitors ranked below the disqualified competitor will move up one placement.
    c. If multiple violations occur in the same event, rankings will be adjusted accordingly.
    d. If the violation is discovered in the semifinal round, the disqualified competitor will be ranked last or given a loss. If they still qualify for the final round, their spot will be vacated, and the next highest competitor will advance.
    e. Re-ranking only applies to the round in which the violation occurred.
D. Championship Vacated:

a. If disqualification in the final round would result in a new champion, the championship will be vacated. Scholarships, honorariums, and awards will be forfeited.

E. Superseding Clause:
    a. The rules outlined in this section regarding the disqualification process take precedence over any other conflicting rules within this document.

Article XVI: Grievance/Protest Procedures

Section 1. Procedures

A. The following steps shall be used in any complaint or grievance other than at the State Tournament. Each League shall notify its members of the name, office, address, and telephone number of the responsible person to whom complaints shall be addressed. All complaints and responses shall be in writing.
    1. The complainant must present in written form, within five working days, the complaint to the League President. The complainant must indicate the section(s) of the Constitution or Rules and Regulations allegedly violated.
    2. The League President has five working days in which to investigate and determine whether or not the indicated section(s) of the Constitution or Rules and Regulations was violated and respond.
    3. If not satisfied, the complainant may appeal within five working days to the Area Chairperson.
    4. The Area Chairperson will then investigate and review whether the Constitution and Rules and Regulations were violated. Response by the Area Chairperson must be given within five working days.
    5. If the complainant is not satisfied, an appeal may be made in writing within five working days to the CHSSA President. The President shall forward in writing all relevant documents including a copy of the original complaint to the members of the Grievance Committee (stipulated in Article VI, Section 2 of the Constitution and Article IV of the Rules and Regulations). Committee members shall investigate and determine whether the Constitution and Rules and Regulations were violated. Committee members shall respond to the President with their individual decisions in writing within ten working days except as in "G" below.
    6. If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision of the Grievance Committee, an appeal may be made to the Board of Directors five working days prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting. The complainant shall become an item of new business on the agenda. The CHSSA President shall notify the complainant of the Board of Directors's decision within five working days.
    7. All protests arising within 20 days prior to the State Tournament must be resolved within 72 hours at each level.
    8. It shall be the affirmative duty of the President, Area Chairs, Grievance Committee, and Board of Directors at each level of appeal to contact all involved parties to acquire relevant information before rendering a decision.
    9. It shall be the affirmative duty of the President, Area Chairs, Grievance Committee, and Board of Directors at each level of appeal to review and enforce the Rules and Regulations as written. The Grievance Committee does not have the right or authority to write or change the Rules or Regulations or the Constitution, but simply to enforce them to the best of their ability.

Article XVII: Initiative and Referendum Process

Section 1. Proess

A. Any coach of a member school of the CHSSA may request a change in the CHSSA Constitution or Rules and Regulations through a petition and referendum process.
B. The coach shall submit a copy of the proposed change and/or addition to the CHSSA President prior to the time the initiative petition is circulated for signatures.
C. Within 60 days of the time the proposal was submitted to the President, the initiating coach must submit a petition or letters signed by 20% of the coaches of CHSSA member schools supporting the proposal.
D. The President or designee shall verify the signatures and membership of those signing the petition/letters. If the petition/letters verified represent 20% or more of the total CHSSA member schools, the President or designee must within thirty days mail a ballot with the proposed changes and/or additions to the coaches of all member schools of the CHSSA.
E. The ballot shall contain the wording of the proposed change and a reference to the section of the Constitution or Rules and Regulations which would be changed or added to. The ballot shall also contain a maximum 250 word statement representing the reasons and rationale for and a similar statement against the change. The original initiator or a person designated by the initiator shall write the statement for the proposal; the President of CHSSA or a person designated by the President shall write the statement against the proposal. The deadline for returning ballots shall be on the ballot.
F. The coaches of the member schools shall have fifteen days to vote, all returned ballots postmarked on or before the fifteenth day. If a majority of coaches voting favor the proposed changes and/or additions, the changes and/or additions shall immediately become a part of the Constitution and Rules and Regulations. Votes shall be tabulated by the four Area Chairpersons at the time of the next scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. The President shall announce the results of the voting, and the results shall become a part of the official Minutes of that meeting and posted on the CHSSA website. The initiator of the petition may be present for the tabulation of the votes.

Article XVIII: Amendments to Rules and Regulations

Section 1. Proess

A. Changes in these Rules and Regulations shall be in effect when approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors members at the September meeting. Changes made at the September meeting will be effective October 1. The Rules and Regulations may be amended at subsequent meetings in the same season, but no changes will take effect until the next season. A copy of the change indicating exact wording and location of the change shall be delivered to the Secretary before the proposal is brought before the council.

Article XIX: Policy Against Harassment

Section 1. Policy Against Harassment

A. The California High School Speech Association (“CHSSA”) strives to provide an atmosphere of mutual respect so that its members, participants, judges, and coaches may have the opportunity to pursue excellence in their endeavors.
B. CHSSA is committed to providing a safe environment for its participants, judges, coaches, and members, as well as for parents, observers, CHSSA board members, employees, officials and volunteers. Sexual, physical or emotional abuse or harassment in any form by any CHSSA participants, coaches, judges, parents, observers, CHSSA board members, employees, officials or volunteers is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
C. Harassment includes verbal, physical, and visual conduct that creates an intimidating, offensive, or hostile environment or that interferes with an individual’s performance.
D. Harassing conduct can take many forms and may include, but is not limited to, the following: slurs, jokes, statements, gestures, assault, impeding or blocking another's movement or otherwise physically interfering with normal movements, pictures, drawings, or cartoons, violating someone's "personal space," foul or obscene language, leering, stalking, staring, unwanted or offensive letters or poems, offensive email, text, or voicemail messages.
E. Sexually harassing conduct in particular may include all of these prohibited actions, as well as other unwelcome conduct, such as requests for sexual favors, conversation containing sexual comments, and other unwelcome sexual advances. Sexually harassing conduct can be by a person of either the same or opposite sex. Sexually harassing conduct need not be motivated by sexual desire to be violative of this policy
F. Harassment includes child abuse. Child abuse can include physical contact – or the threat of it – that intentionally causes bodily harm or injury to a child (any individual under the age of 18). This may include, for example, hitting, shaking, kicking, shoving, forcing a participant to compete when ill or injured, or mandating excessive practice or training as a form of punishment. It may also include touching for the purpose of causing sexual arousal or gratification that involves a child, rape, fondling, exhibitionism and sexual exploitation. It may also include chronic attacks on a child’s self-esteem, such a psychologically destructive behavior consisting of ridiculing, screaming, swearing, racist comments, threatening, stalking, hazing and isolating an individual.
G. All members of and participants in the organization, as well as coaches, judges, parents, spectators and other invitees are expected to observe and adhere to the following principles:
    1. Abuse or harassment of any kind will not be tolerated within the organization. This means CHSSA does not accept physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse, harassment or similar misconduct from any person towards students, participants, members, staff, judges, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents, spectators or any other persons while they are participating in or preparing for events or activities conducted or sponsored by CHSSA.
    2. Physical and sexual abuse, including, but not limited to, striking, hitting, kicking, biting or wanton gesturing, lewd remarks, indecent exposure, unwanted physical contact, any form of sexual contact or inappropriate touching, are strictly prohibited within the organization and as a part of its events and activities.
    3. Emotional abuse or verbal abuse is also prohibited. This may include, but is not limited to: yelling, insulting, threatening, mocking, demeaning behavior or making abusive statements in regard to a person’s race, gender, religion, nationality/ethnicity, sex or age. Emotional abuse does not include controlled and disciplined verbal

communication that is generally accepted in speech and debate activities as a reasonable method of coaching or teaching the activity.

H. CHSSA recommends taking the following precautions to help ensure a safe environment for all members, staff, volunteers, coaches, officials, and participants:
    1. CHSSA strongly advises that no adult person allow him/herself to be alone with a child or with any group of children in a private setting during or while they are participating in sponsored activities of CHSSA. In particular, we recommend that coaches or other adult members of the organization:
        a. Do not drive alone with a child participant in the car who is not your child.
        b. Do not take a child alone to classrooms, bathrooms, or any other private room.
        c. Provide one-on-one training or individual coaching with the assistance of another adult or participant.
        d. Have private conversations with youth participants within view of others instead of a private office.
        e. Do not socialize individually with the participants outside of sponsored activities.

Section 2. Reporting and Investigating Harassing Conduct

A. CHSSA is committed to the enforcement of this policy. CHSSA understands that victims of harassment are often embarrassed and reluctant to report acts of harassment for fear of being blamed, concern about being retaliated against, or because it is difficult to discuss sexual matters openly with others. However, no individual should have to endure harassing conduct, and CHSSA therefore encourages individuals to promptly report any incidents of harassment so that corrective action may be taken. Any incidents of harassment should be reported immediately to the CHSSA Board President in writing (email acceptable), who is responsible for investigating harassment complaints. Supervisors and managers who receive complaints or who observe harassing conduct should immediately inform the President so that an investigation may be initiated.
B. Every reported complaint of harassment will be investigated thoroughly and promptly by an assigned committee appointed by the Executive Board. Complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed, but the investigation will be handled in as confidential a manner as possible consistent with a full, fair, and proper investigation.
C. CHSSA will not tolerate retaliation against any individual for making a good faith complaint of harassment or for cooperating in an investigation.
D. Individuals who are found to have violated this policy will be subject to the full range of sanctions and consequences, including exclusion from events or tournaments, removal from the tournament premises, suspension or expulsion from the organization and revocation of awards or honors.
E. Any person accused of sexual or physical abuse may be asked to resign voluntarily or may be suspended until the matter is investigated and resolved. Regardless of criminal or civil guilt in the alleged abuse, the continued presence of the person could be detrimental to the reputation of the organization and could be harmful to the participants. A person who is accused but later cleared of the charges, may apply to have a suspension lifted or, if applicable, to be reinstated within the organization. Reinstatement is not a right, and no assurance is made that the person will be reinstated to his/her former position.
F. Any person or member organization that fails to appropriately report, who makes a false report or who threatens retaliation or reprisal against an individual for reporting sexual,

physical or emotional abuse or harassment in any form will be subject to discipline or other action as may be within the purview and jurisdiction of CHSSA.

G. In appropriate cases, CHSSA will report violations to appropriate law enforcement or regulatory authorities for investigation.