

Speech Activities

SECTION 110: INTRODUCTION.

110-1-1 Contests-The League sponsors a competitive interschool program within groups, leading to district, regional and state championships in 10 forensic contests of two types, grouped for competitive purposes as follows:

(1) *Speaking*: Extemporaneous Speaking on Foreign Affairs, Extemporaneous Speaking on Domestic Affairs, Original Oratory, Impromptu Speaking and Storytelling.

(2) *Oral Interpretation*: Prose Interpretation, Poetry Interpretation, Serious Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Dramatic Interpretation and Duo Interpretation of Literature.

And in four debate categories: Classic Policy, Contemporary Policy, Lincoln-Douglas and Student Congress.

110-2-1 Purpose-The general purpose of these contests is to motivate participation in and to improve the level of speech activities among Virginia high school students. This purpose may be served effectively only when a large number of students participate on the school level.

110-3-1 School Participation-Speech contests are closely related to curricular offerings and should be deeply rooted in the instructional program of the school. Principals are urged to plan a school speech program and to encourage student participation. It is recommended that the principal:

110-3-2 Discuss and review plans for school participation in speech activities at a meeting of the faculty held early in the school year and present these plans to a subsequent student assembly.

110-3-3 Appoint a teacher to sponsor and develop the school program and to coach participants therein. It is recommended that this sponsor be appointed early in the school year and that he/she be encouraged to attend conferences conducted for speech sponsors and coaches.

110-3-4 Set the date for school forensic and debate meets (at least two weeks prior to the district meets) and plan such other preliminary meets as may be desirable or necessary.

110-3-5 Request all teachers, especially those instructing in English, speech and drama, to cooperate in the selection of promising students in their classes for participation in preliminary and school forensic and debate meets.

110-4-1 Aid to Coaches and Sponsors-To assist individual coaches and sponsors of speech activities in preparing their students for participation in the several contests, the League conducts conferences and clinics when practicable. These are usually held in the fall in cooperation with interested colleges and universities throughout the state. The date, time, place and program for these conferences are announced in League Notes. Specialists in the

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field of speech lead discussions of problems common to forensic and debate coaches and sponsors and suggest ways and means by which the program may be made more effective in the school.

110-5-1 Kits-A kit of materials and instructions containing the essential administrative items required in the conduct of a forensic or debate meet is supplied by the League Office to directors of district and regional meets.

110-6-1 Rules and Regulations-In all speech contests, both individual representatives and member schools shall observe and comply with League rules and regulations set forth in Sections 26 through 33 of this *Handbook*, except those that apply exclusively to athletes, as well as with those rules which govern each specific contest as set forth in Section 110 through 119. Violations of any of these rules render the offender liable to such disciplinary action as the appropriate district committee may impose.

110-6-2 In district, regional and state contests, the judges shall determine at least first-, second- and third-place winners in forensics, first- and second-place in policy debate and first-, second-, third- and fourth-place winners in Lincoln-Douglas debate; and first, second, third and fourth place winners in Student Congress. No ties shall be declared for any awards or alternates in district, regional or state contests. Each region shall be responsible for resolving disputes in accordance with policies in the VHSL Forensics and Debate Manual so that no more than three individual entries per event in forensics, three in policy debate, four in Lincoln-Douglas debate and twelve in Student Congress advance to state.

SECTION 111: FORENSIC MEETS.

111-1-1 Program-The League program in forensic activities consists of a series of meets conducted on school, district, regional and state levels. The program for individual events (speaking and oral interpretation) culminates with the state meets held annually. The program originates within each member school desiring to participate. The school conducts a school meet to determine its champions and to qualify them for competition in the district meet. First, second and third place district winners are eligible to compete in the regional contests. First, second and third place regional winners are eligible to compete in the state championship meet held annually on the dates specified in the Activities Calendar (inside front cover of the *Handbook*). If a first, second or third place team or individual is unable to advance to the regional or state tournament, the fourth place team or individual in the appropriate district or regional tournament may compete at the next level and will be inserted in the schematic pairings in the vacated spot without regard to protection. No replacements beyond fourth place teams or individuals shall be permitted.

111-2-1 Meet Contests-Forensic meets consist of individual contests in extemporaneous speaking on foreign affairs, extemporaneous speaking on domestic affairs, original oratory, impromptu speaking, storytelling, prose interpretation, poetry interpretation, serious dramatic interpretation, humorous dramatic interpretation and duo interpretation of literature.

111-3-1 School Meets-School forensic meets shall be held not later than two weeks before the district meet to determine school championships in each of the contests comprising the meet and to qualify winners for participation in district meets.

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111-3-2 Procedures for school meets parallel in general those followed in district, regional and state meets. The principal, or some person designated by him/her as meet director, is responsible for the conduct of the meet in accordance with these regulations and procedures.

111-4-1 District Meets-District forensic meets shall be held not later than the deadline date specified in the Activities Calendar (inside front cover of the *Handbook*) to determine district championships in each of the contests comprising the meet and to qualify winners for participation in the regional meet. Failure of a district to conduct a meet on or before this deadline date shall disqualify district winners from participation in the regional meets.

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111-4-2 Each school is limited to a maximum of two entries in each of the contests comprising the district meet, with each school limited to no more than seventeen entries total. No student shall represent his/her school in more than one contest.

111-4-3 Meet regulations and procedures are given hereafter in this section. The specific date, time and place of the meet is determined by the appropriate district council, which likewise designates the meet director. The director is responsible for the conduct of the meet in accordance with League regulations. He/she is supplied by the League Office with a meet kit containing all necessary instructions, judges' rating forms and contest supplies well in advance of the deadline date for the meet.

111-4-4 District meets shall be structured following one of four options:

(1) Option A: District forensics meets shall consist of three preliminary rounds of competition followed by a final championship round. Multiple sections of no more than six competitors per event per round shall be used. At the conclusion of the three preliminary rounds, the six finalists will be announced in each event. The final round will immediately follow the posting. One judge shall be used for each preliminary round and three judges shall be used for each final championship round. Judges shall not see the same event more than once per tournament.

(2) Option B: District forensics meets shall consist of three rounds of competition. This could be three consecutive rounds of competition or two preliminary rounds followed by a final round of six competitors. Multiple sections of no more than six competitors per event per round shall be used. If there are three consecutive rounds, two judges shall be used for each round. If there are two preliminary rounds followed by a final round, two judges shall be used in the preliminaries and three judges shall be used in the final round. One judge shall not see the same event more than once per tournament.

(3) Option C: A two-round forensics tournament shall be used at the district level. Multiple sections of no more than six competitors per event per round shall be used. At least two judges should evaluate each round with no judge judging the same event more than once in a tournament.

(4) Option D: If fewer than eight competitors participate in each event of the district forensics tournament, a one-round tournament may be used at the district level. If a one-round format is used, three judges shall be used.

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When eight or more contestants are scheduled to compete in any event, tournament directors are encouraged to conduct a three-round tournament. Likewise, if an event has eighteen or more competitors, tournament directors are encouraged to schedule a final round made up of the top six competitors from the initial three rounds of competition. Three judges should be used for any final round.

111-5-1 Regional Meets-Regional forensic meets shall be held not later than the deadline date specified in the Activities Calendar (inside front cover of the *Handbook*) to determine regional championships in each of the contests comprising the meet and to qualify winners for participation in the state meet. Failure of a region to conduct a meet on or before the deadline date shall disqualify regional winners from participation in the state meets.

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111-5-2 First, second and third place winners in each district meet are eligible to compete in the regional meet.

111-5-3 Meet regulations and procedures are given hereafter in this section. The specific date, time and place of the meet is determined by the appropriate regional council, which likewise designated the meet director. The director is responsible for the conduct of the meet in accordance with League regulations. He/she is supplied by the League office with a meet kit similar to the district meet director's kit well in advance of the deadline date for the meet.

111-5-4 Procedures for regional meets parallel in general those followed in district meets. Regions may choose any one of the four options listed in Section 111-4-4 for conducting the regional forensics tournament. Regions are encouraged to have at least a two-round tournament to determine regional championships and to qualify winners for participation in the state meet.

111-6-1 Honorarium and Travel Expense-Experience has shown that district councils which pay judges an honorarium plus travel expense find the judging situation to be much improved.

111-7-1 State Meets-State meets for all groups shall be held not later than the deadline dates specified in the Activities Calendar (inside front cover of the *Handbook*) to determine state championships in each of the contests comprising the meet. Entrants shall be the first, second and third place winners of regional contests. In addition to declaring first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth place individual champions in each event by group classification, a team champion and runner-up shall be determined.

111-8-1 Meet Regulations and Procedures-A meet shall consist of ten separate contests, as follows: extemporaneous speaking on foreign affairs, extemporaneous speaking on domestic affairs, original oratory, impromptu speaking, storytelling, prose interpretation, poetry interpretation, serious dramatic interpretation, humorous dramatic interpretation and duo interpretation of literature.

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111-8-2 The choice of the selection, with reference to its intrinsic merit and its suitability to the contestant, constitutes one of the bases of evaluation. Schools should select material which is honest in its fundamental concept, which is suited to the emotional development of the contestant and which is handled with taste and restraint. Content should be appropriate to the audience for which it is performed and in support of contemporary community standards. Any editing of published work must be honest to the original text. It is important that coaches review questionable content or language with the principal prior to performance. The principal's signature on the entry form will indicate approval of material to be performed. Competition directors will not disqualify a selection approved by the principal unless editing or performance decisions significantly alter the selection after approval has been given.

111-8-3 In those events requiring the use of published work, selections used shall be cuttings from published, printed novels, short stories, plays or poetry. Recorded material or selections found on the Internet but which are not printed and published are prohibited. If a selection is challenged, a school representative must be able to identify the printed source on the spot and will be asked to produce an original or copy of an original to verify publication. If publication cannot be verified to the satisfaction of the tournament director, the student will be disqualified. All disputes will be settled at the district, regional or state level where the challenge was made.

111-8-4 Forfeits-Once the tournament is underway, the discretionary decision by any student or duo team not to participate in any round of scheduled competition constitutes a sportsmanship violation, a forfeit and immediate elimination of that student or duo team from competition.

111-8-5 No student shall represent his/her school in more than one contest.

111-8-6 Only entries which are submitted on the official entry form (included in the Principal's Workbook), properly certified by the school principal and postmarked not later than the deadline date for entry, shall be accepted.

111-8-7 State forensics meets shall consist of three preliminary rounds of competition and a final championship round. Multiple sections of no more than six competitors per event per round shall be used. At the conclusion of the three preliminary rounds, the six finalists will be announced in each event. The final round will begin immediately following the postings. Two judges shall be used for each preliminary round with three judges for the final championship rounds. Judges should not see the same event in the same tournament more than once.

111-8-8 All expenses of travel, board and lodging shall be defrayed by the competing schools or their contestants.

111-8-9 Each school participating at the state meet must provide at least one qualified judge to evaluate competition in a group other than the one represented by the school. The coach may serve as the school's required judge. Penalty for violation is as stated in 30-5-1.

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SECTION 112: EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING.

112-1-1 Introduction-The League sponsors a program in extemporaneous speaking leading to championships in each group. Championships are determined in extemporaneous speaking on foreign affairs and in extemporaneous speaking on domestic affairs. These contests are held as part of the school, district, regional and state forensic meets.

112-2-1 Purpose-The purpose of the extemporaneous speaking event is to encourage students to combine clear thinking, good extempore, conversational speaking and interesting presentation in establishing a definite thought with respect to current fact and opinion on a designated topic as presented by contemporary sources.

112-3-1 Contest Regulations-Topics for extemporaneous speaking shall be chosen from articles appearing in the issues of national newsmagazines such as *Newsweek*, *Time* and *U. S. News and World Report* or from mainstream newspapers with national circulations. Topics will be selected from these periodicals. State Topics will be dated no more than 60 days before the meet.

112-3-2 These topics are to be phrased as questions and are not to be made known to the contestants before the event.

112-3-3 The speech shall not exceed seven minutes in length. There is no minimum time requirement as long as the topic is adequately covered; however, the contestant is encouraged to speak at least four minutes.

112-4-1 Preparation-Speeches should have as their purpose either to stimulate, to convince, to persuade or to influence action.

112-4-2 In preparing his/her speech, the contestant should concentrate on originality of his/her theme, relevance of his/her content to his/her topic, depth and logic of thought in his/her content, fresh and challenging approach, clarity of organization and adequate evidence. When delivering his/her speech, the contestant should keep in mind the conversational style of delivery, earnestness and concerned delivery (sincerity plus ardor), simplicity, accurateness and vividness of language and manner, pleasing and varied vocal qualities, posture and bodily movement that are neither stiff nor slovenly, and gestures that are *felt* as necessary. Above all, he/she should concentrate more on quality of content than on quality of delivery even though the latter is important in the process of communication.

112-5-1 Contest Procedures-The order in which contestants speak is determined by lot on the schematic pairings.

112-5-2 Contestants shall report to an assigned area where they will, in order, draw three topics each. From these each contestant is to choose one and return the other two. After the first speaker has chosen his/her topic, the second speaker will draw his/her topics ten minutes later, and so on, in ten-minute intervals for each speaker.

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112-5-3 Each contestant shall have 30 minutes to prepare before he/she is to speak. Timing begins immediately after the three topics are drawn. The speaker shall withdraw to the specified area and prepare himself/herself to speak. During this preparation period, he/she **must** not consult with anyone or make use of previously prepared notes. Reference books, newspapers and magazines shall be permitted.

112-5-4 The speaker shall be allowed to use one note card not exceeding 4" x 6" in size and may use both sides of the card for notes.

112-5-5 At the end of the 30-minute preparation period, it shall be the responsibility of the student to report immediately to the speaking area.

112-5-6 Either before beginning the speech or as part of the introduction, the contestant is to read his/her topic in the *exact words or phrasing* as it appears on the paper he/she selected.

112-5-7 Visual aids used while speaking are not prohibited. The contestant is free to use the chalkboard during the speech, but any other visual aid would have to be prepared during the preparation period and may handicap time needed for preparation of the speech itself.

112-5-8 A judge or person appointed by the judge will use a stopwatch to time each speech, indicating progress by either hand signals or time cards. The timekeeper will indicate time at the beginning of the third minute of the speech, show the progression of minutes, mark time with 30 seconds and 15 seconds remaining and at the end of the seventh minute indicate that time has expired. The speaker may finish only the sentence begun, but he/she must conclude the speech at the end of the seven minutes. The timekeeper will note for the speaker and judges the time for each speech.

112-5-9 At the conclusion of the speech, the judge may, at his/her discretion, ask one or more relevant questions to verify, clarify or amplify the speech.

112-6-1 Bases for Judges' Decisions-Criteria followed by judges in determining winners are relevance of theme to topic, thought content, logic, freshness, depth, clarity of organization, sincerity of speaker, adequacy and concreteness of supporting details, use of language (vividness, simplicity and comprehension), voice and diction (variety, acceptable pronunciation, clear enunciation), and control and use of body. Judges' rating forms are supplied by the League Office. All contestants are ranked and scored. Judges shall write a criticism for each speaker.

112-7-1 Penalties-In each contest, the contestant shall be given a 30-second grace period beyond the time limit for that event. Any student going over the grace period may not rank first in the round. No other penalty for a time violation shall be assessed. Any contestant at any district, regional or state contest who violates any other regulation in this section shall be disqualified.

SECTION 113: ORIGINAL ORATORY.

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113-1-1 Introduction-The League sponsors a program in original oratory leading to championships on all levels within each group. These contests are held as part of the school, district, regional and state forensic meets.

113-2-1 Purpose-The purpose of the original oratory contest is to train and encourage students to present speeches intelligently and truthfully (in an interesting and original manner, direct and conversational in delivery, clear in arrangement and presentation, and with some profit to an audience) on any worthwhile topic suitable for a public speech.

113-3-1 Contest Regulations-A speaker may not use a speech he/she has delivered in any previous year's contest.

113-3-2 Each contestant shall deliver his or her own original speech not to exceed ten minutes in delivery. **Adjudicator will not provide time signals, and there is no minimum time requirement.**

113-3-3 The oration shall not contain in excess of 150 words of directly quoted material, nor shall the oration be a paraphrase taken completely from one source. The speaker shall clearly acknowledge the sources of any quotations used.

113-3-4 Speeches shall have been thoroughly prepared. The speaker shall be allowed to use both sides of two note cards each of which may not exceed 4" x 6" in size. Visual aids used while speaking are not permitted.

113-3-5 Each speaker shall prepare a manuscript of his/her speech for each round of competition. Following the completion of the speech in each round, each speaker shall submit a copy of his/her manuscript to a judge who shall submit it to the tournament director, who may return it to the speaker.

113-4-1 Preparation-The original oration should have as its purpose to persuade. Therefore, one might wish to speak in order to convince, to stimulate or to inspire.

113-4-2 Any idea might become a subject for an oration, provided it "bothers" a speaker and interests the audience.

113-4-3 In preparing his/her speech, the contestant should concentrate on originality and worthwhileness of content and theme, soundness of thinking, excellence of organization, adequacy and concreteness of developmental or supporting details and illustrations and vividness of style. In rehearsing his/her speech, the contestant should keep in mind the conversational style of delivery, earnestness and concerned delivery (sincerity plus ardor), simplicity, accurateness and vividness of language and manner, pleasing and varied vocal qualities, posture and bodily movement that are neither stiff nor slovenly, gestures that are *felt* as necessary, and general effectiveness as a persuasive, convincing, stimulating or inspirational speaker whose speaking gives prominence to imaginative and emotional elements. ("Soundness of thinking and weight of content are supplemented by a degree of eloquence in delivery by a speaker who is stirred, aroused, and challenged by his/her subject and audience.") Above all, the speaker should predominately concentrate on quality of content rather than on quality of delivery even though the latter is important in the process of communication.

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113-5-1 Contest Procedures-The order in which contestants speak is determined by lot on the schematic pairings.

113-5-2 At the conclusion of the speech, at the discretion of each judge, questioning by the judges of the speaker's source of material, choice of topic or basis for conclusions may take place.

113-6-1 Bases for Judges' Decisions-Criteria followed by judges in determining winners are originality and worthwhileness of subject, thought content (logic, freshness, depth), clarity of organization, sincerity of speaker, voice and diction (variety, acceptable pronunciation, clear enunciation), and control and use of body. Judges rating forms are supplied by the League Office. All contestants are ranked and scored. Judges shall write a criticism for each speaker.

113-7-1 Penalties-In each contest, the contestant shall be given a 30-second grace period beyond the time limit for that event. Any student going over the grace period may not rank first in the round. No other penalty for a time violation shall be assessed. A violation of any other rule in this section, if discovered and reported to the tournament director before the end of the competition will result in disqualification and a redistribution of awards as necessary.

SECTION 114: IMPROMPTU SPEAKING.

114-1-1 Introduction-The League sponsors a program in impromptu speaking leading to school, district, regional and state championships.

114-2-1 Topics-Impromptu topics will include proverbs, ordinary objects, events, quotations and famous people. All students, in each section, will draw from the same list of topics. A different subject area will be used for each round.

114-2-2 Drawing-Students will be assigned to a room with an adjudicator present. All students assigned to the room will check in with the adjudicator and then wait outside the room until they are called for their turn to speak. When the student is asked to speak, he/she will be brought into the room, given three topics and asked to choose one. All students will choose from the same three topics.

114-2-3 Preparation-The contestant shall prepare a speech without consultation and without reference to prepared notes or research materials. The student may make limited notes on one note card provided by the adjudicator.

114-2-4 Time-Timing begins immediately after the three topics are drawn. There is NO minimum time requirement, but the contestant must cover the subject adequately. The maximum time for preparation and speaking is seven minutes. The student may divide this time in any way he/she see fit. The adjudicator is expected to provide the student with oral time signals, indicating the amount of time remaining until the student begins speaking. The adjudicator should then provide the student with visual time signals of time remaining until the seven-minute period has expired.

114-2-5 Recuse-A student may not leave the impromptu round until all students have finished speaking.

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114-3-1 Bases for Judges' Decisions-Criteria followed by judges in determining winners are relevance of theme to topic, thought content, freshness, depth, clarity of organization, sincerity of speaker, adequacy of support and development, use of language, voice and diction and control and use of body. Judges' rating forms are supplied by the League office. All contestants are ranked and scored. Judges shall write a criticism for each speaker.

114-4-1 Penalties-In each contest, the contestant shall be given a 30-second grace period beyond the time limit for that event. Any student going over the grace period may not rank first in the round. No other penalty for a time violation shall be assessed. A violation of any other rule in this section, if discovered and reported to the tournament director before the end of the competition will result in disqualification and a redistribution of awards as necessary.

SECTION 115: STORYTELLING.

115-1-1 Introduction-The League sponsors a program in storytelling leading to school, district, regional and state championships.

115-2-1 Contest Regulations-A contestant will present a children's story, not exceeding ten minutes in length including an introduction. Adjudicator will not provide time signals and no notes may be used and a contestant may not use a story he/she has presented in any previous year's contest. Each contestant is to work alone without costume or props since he/she will be judged only on storytelling ability. Gestures are encouraged; however, movement must be restricted to movement in place, no walking. The contestant should assume that the audience consists of a group of children. The contestant may differentiate characters by the use of different voices, focal points and body postures.

115-3-1 Bases for Judges' Decisions-Criteria followed by judges in determining winners are choice of selection, interpretation, pronunciation, timing, enunciation, eye contact, posture, gestures, voice, poise, appearance, energy level, coherence of story cutting, vocal expression, facial expression, characterization, appeal to children and impact of message and performance. All contestants are ranked and scored. Judges shall write a criticism for each speaker.

115-4-1 Penalties-In each contest, the contestant shall be given a 30-second grace period beyond the time limit for that event. Any student going over the grace period may not rank first in the round. No other penalty for a time violation shall be assessed. A violation of any other rule in this section, if discovered and reported to the tournament director before the end of the competition will result in disqualification and a redistribution of awards as necessary.

SECTION 116. ORAL INTERPRETATION.

116-1-1 Introduction-The League sponsors a program in oral interpretation leading to championships on all levels within each group. Championships are determined in prose interpretation, poetry interpretation, serious dramatic interpretation, humorous dramatic interpretation and duo interpretation. These contests are held as part of school, district, regional and state forensic meets.

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116-2-1 Purpose-The purpose of these contests is to encourage appreciation of the full meaning of the printed page and the oral communication of that meaning to others with apparent spontaneity, directness, simplicity and sincerity, without distracting the hearer through faulty pronunciation or indistinct enunciation. A speaker may not use a selection he/she has written or a selection written about his/her own experiences.

116-3-1 Prose Interpretation Contest Regulations- Each contestant shall read one prepared published prose selection of his/her own choice with a total reading time of not more than ten minutes. The contestant should preface his/her reading with an introductory statement which will give the audience a better understanding of the selection read, provided this total time does not exceed ten minutes. **Adjudicator will not provide time signals.** The use of a manuscript is required. No reader may use a prepared prose selection, adaptation or cutting that he/she has read in a district, regional or state contest in a previous year.

116-4-1 Poetry Interpretation Contest Regulations-Each contestant shall read one prepared published poem or poetic group of his/her own choice with a total reading time of not more than ten minutes. The contestant should preface his/her reading with an introductory statement which will give the audience a better understanding of the selection read, provided this total time does not exceed ten minutes. **Adjudicator will not provide time signals.** The use of a manuscript is required. No reader may use a prepared poetry selection, adaptation or cutting that he/she has read in a district, regional or state contest in a previous year.

116-5-1 Serious Dramatic Interpretation Regulations-Each contestant shall present one selection of a serious nature chosen from published novels, short stories, plays or poetry. The selection should emphasize character development through consistent use of distinct voices, focal points and postures. Adaptations may be for the purpose of continuity only. The contestant should preface the selection with an introductory statement that will give the audience a better understanding of the selection, provided the total time does not exceed ten minutes. **Adjudicator will not provide time signals.** The use of a manuscript is prohibited. No contestant may use a selection, adaptation or cutting that he/she has used in a district, regional, or state contest in a previous year. Properties or costumes are not permitted. Movement is allowed, but such movement should be restricted to bending (knees and/or waist); leaning, twisting or swiveling; and no walking. Use of body (gestures, appropriate audience/eye contact, etc.) to suggest character is permitted.

116-6-1 Humorous Dramatic Interpretation Regulations-Each contestant shall present one selection of a humorous nature chosen from published novels, short stories, plays or poetry. The selection should emphasize character development through consistent use of distinct voices, focal points and postures. Adaptations may be for the purpose of continuity only. The contestant should preface the selection with an introductory statement that will give the audience a better understanding of the selection, provided the total time does not exceed ten minutes. **Adjudicator will not provide time signals.** The use of a manuscript is prohibited. No contestant may use a selection, adaptation or cutting that he/she has used in a district, regional or state contest in a previous year. Properties or costumes are not permitted. Movement is allowed, but such movement should be restricted to bending (knees and/or waist); leaning, twisting or swiveling; and no walking. Use of body (gestures, appropriate audience/eye contact, etc.) to suggest character is permitted.

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116-7-1 Duo Interpretation of Literature-This two-person reading must be from a single published play, fictional or non-fictional work, or a poem. The material may be humorous or dramatic or combine both tones, depending upon the work selected. Each interpreter may present one or more characters and either or both may present narration. A selection must maintain the author's intent, characters and words as written, except for minor use of transitions, unless written permission is granted by the author or publisher for modification and/or adaptation of the published work. No contestant may use a selection, adaptation or cutting that either member of the duo team has used in a district, regional or state contest in a previous year. The contestants should preface the selection with an introductory statement that will give the audience a better understanding of the selection. The use of a manuscript is prohibited. The performers may not have eye or physical contact with each other except during the introduction and should focus off stage. The performers must begin their presentation from center stage and restrict their physical blocking to movement around one another, switching positions, pivoting from side to side or turning around completely. No properties or costumes are permitted. The timing for this event shall be a maximum of ten minutes, with no minimum time requirement. Adjudicator will not provide time signals.

116-8-1 Preparation-In preparing for the contests, the following definition of good oral interpretation should be carefully considered: The prime requisite of oral interpretation is intelligibility, and to that end the contestant must have an intelligent comprehension of what he/she interprets and a due appreciation of its values, as well as the ability to communicate them to his/her audience. A pleasant voice, an acceptable accent and clear enunciation are first of all desirable. Monotony of tone or of pace and overemphasis or acting are to be avoided. Through modulation, proper stress and timing not only must the meaning of the passage be brought out, but also its *mood*-whether of humor, pathos, earnestness, excitement, satire or whatever. The audience must be given an opportunity to *hear*, to *understand*, and to *feel what the author is striving to convey*.

116-9-1 Contest Procedures-The order in which contestants read is determined by lot on the schematic pairings.

116-10-1 Bases for Judges' Decisions-All contestants are ranked and scored according to Handbook criteria for that event printed on the critique sheet.

116-11-1 Penalty-In each contest, the contestant shall be given a 30-second grace period beyond the time limit for that event. Any student going over the grace period may not rank first in the round. No other penalty for a time violation shall be assessed. A violation of any other rule in this section, if discovered and reported to the tournament director before the end of the competition will result in disqualification and a redistribution of awards as necessary.

SECTION 117: DEBATE.

117-1-1 Introduction-The League sponsors four forms of debate: Classic and Contemporary Policy, Lincoln-Douglas and Student Congress. The League will offer state-level championships as detailed below in Group AAA Classic and Contemporary policy debate, in combined Group AA/A Classic and Contemporary policy debate and in separate Group AAA, AA and A divisions of Lincoln-Douglas debate. Separate sections for A, AA and AAA Student Congress will depend on participation (see 117-10-3). Team championships will be based on sweepstakes points earned in each of the four debate events.

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117-2-1 Purposes-The purposes of the debate program include training in research, analysis, sound argument, quick thinking and effective extemporaneous speaking.

117-3-1 Source Materials-A packet of materials concerning the policy debate topic is prepared in the League Office and is available to schools. This packet contains the *Forensic Quarterly* and other materials as available.

Policy Manual 117-3-1

117-4-1 Preparation-Schools planning to participate in the debate program are urged to make preparations well in advance of the date for school or district tournaments. Organization of a debate club early in the fall session and a series of intramural club debates are recommended. A schedule of interscholastic debates prior to the district tournament is suggested.

117-4-2 Coaches and sponsors of debate are encouraged to charge participating students with full responsibility for the collection of facts and materials in preparation for debates. Students should make maximum use of their school and community libraries as well as other sources available to them. The League's debate kit is intended to serve as a guide to such research rather than as the sole source for information. In those school communities in which few outside sources for materials are available, the extensive use of the kit may be justified, but it is recommended that other schools not so handicapped insist upon further reading and research. All evidence used in a debate must be printed matter in general circulation.

117-5-1 Forms of Debate-The formats used in each debate contest are as follows:

1) An adaptation of the Oregon Plan is used in Classic and Contemporary policy debate. The procedure is as follows:

- (a) *First affirmative speaker: eight minutes.*
- (b) *Second negative speaker questions first affirmative speaker: three minutes.*
- (c) *First negative speaker: eight minutes.*
- (d) *First affirmative speaker questions the first negative speaker: three minutes.*
- (e) *Second affirmative speaker: eight minutes.*
- (f) *First negative speaker questions the second affirmative speaker: three minutes.*
- (g) *Second negative speaker: eight minutes.*
- (h) *Second affirmative speaker questions the second negative speaker: three minutes.*
- (i) *First negative speaker presents rebuttal speech: five minutes.*
- (j) *First affirmative speaker presents rebuttal speech: five minutes.*
- (k) *Second negative speaker presents rebuttal speech: five minutes.*
- (l) *Second affirmative speaker presents rebuttal speech: five minutes.*
- (m) Each team shall have a total of eight minutes preparation time to use during the debate.

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2) The following format is used in Lincoln-Douglas debates:

- (a) *Affirmative speaker* presents constructive speech: *six minutes*.
- (b) *Negative speaker* questions the affirmative speaker: *three minutes*.
- (c) *Negative speaker* presents constructive speech: *seven minutes*.
- (d) *Affirmative speaker* questions the negative speaker: *three minutes*.
- (e) *Affirmative speaker* presents first rebuttal speech: *four minutes*.
- (f) *Negative speaker* presents rebuttal speech: *six minutes*.
- (g) *Affirmative speaker* presents second rebuttal speech: *three minutes*.
- (h) Each speaker shall have a total of three minutes preparation time to use during the debate.

3) The following format is used for Student Congress:

- (a) An elected official or appointed student presiding officer will call the chamber to order followed by a call for a main motion.
- (b) Call for a three-minute authorship speech followed by two minutes of questioning.
- (c) Call for a three-minute negative speech; time not used by the speaker may be used for questioning. The speaker has the right to refuse to answer questions.
- (d) Repeat b and c until an appropriate motion is made (motion to table or to call the previous question, etc.).
- (e) Exact precedence for speaking order and approximate precedence questioning order will be kept by the parliamentarian and the presiding officer. In the event of a conflict, the parliamentarian's tally is final.
- (f) Once action has been taken on a bill or resolution, the next legislative item on the docket will be considered.
- (g) Each session may last between one and three hours, as determined in advance by the tournament director and the participating schools.

117-6-1 Suggestions-Competing teams should strive to clash on the issues. In Classic and Contemporary policy contests, teams should strive to show essential differences in regard to policy with reasons for the differences. Penetrating analysis, clear exposition of terms and arguments and a definite evaluation and summary should be sought throughout. In general, it is better to develop one or two crucial issues rather than to mention many without developing any.

117-6-2 The role of the questioner or cross-examiner is very important. He/she should frame in advance a great many questions, but should use in any given debate only those which are relevant and those which manifestly tend to reveal the weakness of the opponents' case or to emphasize and amplify the strong points of his/her own case. The questioner should show an awareness of the affirmative position and should adapt his/her questions to the affirmative arguments. The affirmative should in turn shift its point of view to take account of and satisfy the negative objections. The purpose of cross-examination is to bring to light weaknesses or inconsistencies in the opponents' case, preparatory to refutation in rebuttal. Such weaknesses or inconsistencies as are uncovered should be exploited. Questioners should avoid the use of trick queries and of farfetched and elaborate traps, and should not become legalistic, nor resort to hair-splitting.

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117-6-3 In Classic and Contemporary policy, emphasis should be placed on teamwork and on the function of each speaker as a part of the team. Every effort should be made by the coach to stimulate flexibility and independence of thought. Judges look for direct and forthright speaking, informality, and ease and good humor in delivery. Speakers should be prepared to establish all authorities quoted and to relate quotations to the point at issue. The validity of each quotation should be established individually. In general, fewer and more effective quotations are recommended.

117-6-4 Classic debate will be restricted to policy debating using the classical style. Classical style will be interpreted to mean a moderate speaking rate with disciplined argumentation to fit the eight-minute constructive, three-minute cross-examination, five-minute rebuttal time frame. Rapid-speed delivery with massive spreads common to Contemporary debate will be disallowed in Classic debate, which will emphasize persuasive speaking, analysis, logical reasoning alongside credible evidence. Effective oral delivery will receive due emphasis. Cross-examination will be closed rather than open and will have bearing in the judge's scoring.

117-7-1 Classic and Contemporary Policy Debate Contest Rules and Regulations-Each school entering Classic and/or Contemporary debate on the district level may enter in each event a maximum of two two-speaker debate teams, each of which is prepared to debate both sides of the resolution.

117-7-2 Each district entering the regional meet may certify first, second and third place teams in each event to the regional meet. Each region entering the state meet may certify first, second and third place teams in each event to the state meet. If one of the first three policy teams is unable to advance to the regional or state tournament, the fourth place policy team in the appropriate district or regional tournament may replace the policy team unable to attend. No replacements beyond fourth place shall be permitted. If Group A, Group AA and/or Group AAA is unable to certify at least six regional qualifiers to state in Classic and/or Contemporary policy debate, the qualifiers in the two or three groups will be combined into one state competition in Classic and/or Contemporary policy debate. Each region shall be responsible for resolving ties or disputes in accordance with policies in the VHSL Debate, Drama and Forensics Manual so that it advances no more than three teams to state.

117-7-3 Pairings shall be determined by the tournament director to provide the most equitable schedule possible depending on the number of participants in each group. A director may choose either a round-robin format, with each team assigned a debate against each of the other teams, or five or six preliminary rounds utilizing power pairings as published in the forensics manual, followed by a single elimination tournament pairing the top four or eight qualifiers. In both Classic and Contemporary policy debate, teams will alternate between the affirmative and negative sides, with a draw for sides in the final round.

117-7-4 The critic judge (or set of three judges at the discretion of the meet director) decides the better team in each debate and ranks each individual debater. *Note:* If three judges are used, each judge makes his/her decision independent of the other two. Each judge's ballot is counted as a win or a loss in determining the winner of the meet.

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117-7-5 Total wins of each team are computed to determine the teams winning the tournament or advancing to elimination rounds. In case of ties in number of wins, the decision in head-to-head competition (first if it is a clean decision), total speaker points (second) and total speaker ranking (third) are employed to determine a winner.

117-7-6 A judge may serve throughout a meet, but it is preferable that he/she not judge the same team twice.

117-7-7 Bases for Judges' Decisions-Criteria used by judges in determining winners include all aspects of general effectiveness in debate. Most important of these criteria are analysis of issues, extension of major and minor arguments, adequacy and accuracy of evidence, primary qualities of the affirmative case, clarity of organization and refutation and persuasiveness of over-all argumentation by both teams. And in Classic rounds, the judges will give appropriate attention to oral delivery skills.

117-8-1 Lincoln-Douglas Contest Rules and Regulations- Each school entering Lincoln-Douglas debating on the district level will be afforded the option of entering a maximum of three Lincoln-Douglas debaters, each of whom is prepared to debate both sides of the resolution.

117-8-2 Each district entering the regional meet shall qualify a maximum of four debaters to the regional meet. Each region entering the state meet shall qualify a maximum of four debaters to the state tournament. If one of the first four debaters is unable to advance to the regional or state tournament, the fifth place debater in the appropriate district or regional tournament may replace the debater unable to attend. No replacements beyond fifth place shall be permitted, and each region shall be responsible for resolving ties or disputes in accordance with policies in the VHSL Speech and Drama Manual so that it advances no more than four Lincoln-Douglas debaters to state.

117-8-3 Pairings shall be determined by the tournament director to provide the most equitable schedule possible depending on the number of participants in each group. A director may choose either a round-robin format, with each team assigned a debate against each of the other teams, or five or six preliminary rounds utilizing power pairings as published in the forensics manual, followed by a single elimination tournament pairing the top four or eight qualifiers.

117-8-4 The critic judge (or set of three judges at the discretion of the meet director) decides the better speaker in each debate. If three judges are used, each judge makes his/her decision independent of the other two. Each judge's *ballot* is counted as a *win* or *loss* in determining the winner of the meet. In case of ties in number of wins, decision in head-to-head competition (first if it is a clean decision) and total speaker points (second) are employed to determine a winner.

117-8-5 A judge may serve throughout a meet, but it is preferable that he/she not judge the same contestant twice.

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117-8-6 Bases For Judges' Decision-Criteria used by judges in determining winners include all aspects of general effectiveness in debate. Most important of these criteria are clear and persuasive speaking, analysis of issues, persuasiveness of over-all argumentation, clarity and organization of arguments, adequacy and accuracy of evidence and consistent defense of a core value.

117-8-7 Each school participating in Lincoln-Douglas debate at the state meet must provide at least one qualified judge to evaluate Lincoln-Douglas competition in a group other than the one represented by the school. The coach may serve as the school's required judge. Penalty for violation is a fine as stated in 30-5-1.

117-9-1 Student Congress Rules and Regulations-Each school entering Student Congress may send up to six representatives to the regional tournament and each region may send up to twelve senators to the state tournament. A list of topic areas will be presented at least 30 days before each tournament; students should be able to speak on all topic areas. Each participating student must write either a bill or a resolution to be discussed. This legislation should be labeled "A." Participants may write one additional bill or resolution, labeled "B," which may be considered only after first bills/resolutions "A" from all participants in the chamber have been brought forward.

Each senator must electronically submit his or her bill(s) or resolution(s) at least one week in advance of the regional and/or state tournament(s) via the Student Congress website.

The Clerk of Congress will choose two domestic topics, two international topics, two economic topics and two statewide topics that provide a breadth and depth of topic areas without presenting an overwhelming research burden. To provide debate on a wide variety of subjects, schools are encouraged to have no more than one bill or resolution per topic area. A tournament official may scan all legislation prior to the posting deadline to eliminate duplicate legislation, nontopical legislation or inappropriate material. The tournament official will notify students and coaches of any problems or concerns, but will not edit or revise student-produced legislation. Once the legislation has been approved, it is up to the students to determine the order of the docket. Legislation must alternate (domestic, international, economic and statewide) among the topic areas.

117-9-2 Each school may enter a maximum of six students to the region; each region may qualify a maximum of 12 representatives to the state final. Up to three call-ups from the regional to the state tournament are permitted. At the regional level, student competitors shall be called "representatives," and at the state tournament they shall be called "senators." There will be no difference in the rules of procedure. Regional and state tournaments in Student Congress may be held in conjunction with the regional and state tournaments in debate.

117-9-3 The number of representatives or senators participating determines whether the meet is divided into multiple chambers. In general, 24 representatives or senators per chamber is ideal, with chambers ranging in size from 15 to 30 members. If there is to be more than one chamber, schools and regions should be split equally between or among chambers. At the regional tournament, each chamber should meet between two and four sessions, as determined by the Clerk of Congress. At state, each chamber will meet in four sessions, with a fifth Super Session set for any group split between two chambers. The Super Session will include all students placing in the top half of the two split chambers. Each

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school qualifying for the state tournament in a group with split chambers will provide one bill or resolution to be considered for the Super Session docket, and that bill or resolution must be submitted electronically on the the Student Congress website at least one week in advance of the state tournament. At the regional tournament, the time of each legislative session will be determined by the Clerk of Congress. At state, each session will last 90 minutes.

117-9-4 A parliamentarian will be chosen by the Clerk of Congress to preside over all sessions and will fill out an evaluation of each student. Two judges will evaluate each speaker using ballots provided by the League. The judges will change for each legislative session, with no judge being used more than twice. Students will elect presiding officers for each session.

117-9-5 Judging Requirements and Bases for Judges' Decision-Each school participating in Student Congress debate at the state meet must provide at least one qualified judge to evaluate Student Congress competition in a group other than the one represented by the school. The coach may serve as the school's required judge. Penalty for violation is a fine as stated in 30-5-1. Criteria used by judges will include all aspects of general effectiveness in debate. Most important will be clear and persuasive speaking, documentation of sources, clarity, organization and responding to previous arguments.

117-9-6 Speaker's Precedence-The presiding officer and parliamentarian will number student speeches, with the presiding officer's opening comments considered the first speech of the session. Speaker order will be determined by precedence, meaning the presiding officer will select first the representatives/senators (R/S) who have given no speeches, then R/S's who have given one speech and so on. In the event that two or more R/S's who have the same number of speeches wish to speak, the presiding officer will recognize the one who spoke least recently. Numbering speeches will facilitate determining who has precedence to speak.

117-9-7 Determining Winners-Each representative or senator may speak up to six times. His or her best two speeches will be added to the parliamentarian's score. The highest score will place first, the next highest second and so on. In the case of a tie, drop the parliamentarian's score. If scores are still tied, refer to the third best speech and continue until ties are broken. If there is a Super Session, the representative or senator's best Super Session speech scores, one from each of the three judges, are added to the parliamentarian's score. This score is then added to the preliminary score. Thus, the Super Session final score will be the sum of five scores: (1) the three Super Session judges' scores, (2) the Super Session parliamentarian's score, and (3) the preliminary score. In the case of a tie, drop the Super Session parliamentarian score. If scores are still tied, drop the preliminary parliamentarian score.

117-10-1 Debate Tournaments-District, regional and state tournaments in Classic and Contemporary policy debate, Lincoln-Douglas debate and Student Congress shall be held not later than the dates specified in the Activities Calendar (inside front cover of the *Handbook*).

117-10-2 A student may participate in Classic, Contemporary, Lincoln-Douglas and/or Student Congress debate but may participate in only one form of debate at the district, regional and state tournaments.

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117-10-3 Forfeits-Once the tournament is underway, the discretionary decision by any student or team not to participate in any round of scheduled competition constitutes a sportsmanship violation, a forfeit and immediate elimination of that student or team from the competition.

117-10-4 Penalty-Unless prescribed otherwise, a violation of any rule in this section, if discovered and reported, will result in disqualification.

117-11-1 Tournament Limitations-No individual or team may participate in more than 16 tournaments during the school year, excluding VHSL district, regional and state tournaments. A student who registers at and participates in a debate tournament under a name other than his/her own or under a name other than his/her bona fide school name shall be disqualified from participating in the district, regional and state debate tournaments.

Policy Manual 117-11-1