OVERVIEW

The competitive Drama, Debate, and Forensics (DDF) season begins on the first day of school, and culminates with the ASAA State Championships Tournament, typically held in late February. DDF encompasses a variety of competitive events in which students compete on behalf of their school, while developing their research, critical thinking, acting, and oral communication skills.

The competition season is organized around regional tournaments which are hosted by participating schools. For example, there are six tournaments hosted in the Anchorage-area throughout the regular season, while the Southeast region of Alaska will generally offer five tournaments prior to the State Championship Tournament.

Tournaments throughout the regular season can be thought of as practice for the state championship tournament. In order to compete at the end-of-season State Championships Tournament, students must have first qualified in the events they wish to compete in at State. Qualifying to compete in an event at the state tournament requires that a student have competed in that event in at least two competitions prior to the state tournament. These competitions can be intrasquad meets if necessary.

While the length of the season provides some challenges for coaches, it also provides opportunities for students to engage with DDF competition while also participating in other ASAA activities. It is not uncommon for students to join DDF well after the start of the season, after completion of other sports (e.g. cross-country, swimming, etc.).

Suggestions regarding improvements or changes to the existing rules and/or events are discussed at the annual Coaches Association meeting, typically held at the beginning of the last day (Saturday) of the State tournament. Queries regarding existing rules and procedures throughout the regular season may be directed to members of the Coaches Association Rules committee or the ASAA State DDF Coordinator.

RULES COMMITTEE

The Rules Committee consists of an ASAA staff member or designee and three current DDF coaches.

Contacts and Links to Additional Resources

ASAA Associate Director – Sandi Wagner, sandi@asaa.org
ASAA Coordinator – Deanna Montagna, deanna@asaa.org
ASAA State DDF Coordinator – Shawn Briscoe, shawn.debate@gmail.com
Coaches Association President – Chaya Pike (Metlakatla) cpike@aisdk12.org

Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA)
http://asaa.org/activities/drama-debate-forensics/

My Debate Resource
https://www.mydebateresource.com

National Speech and Debate Association
https://www.speechanddebate.org/

National Catholic Forensic League (NCFL)
http://www.ncfl.org/

National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)
http://nfhs.org/activities-sports/speech-debate-theatre/

CODE OF ETHICS

The ASAA/First National Bank Alaska Drama, Debate, and Forensics State Championship is designed to promote intellectual growth through friendly competition and positive educational experiences and opportunities.

The goal for each participant and coach is to learn, to grow, to exercise, and to share skills and abilities in a courteous, polished manner.

All participants, observers, and coaches are expected to observe the general principles and concepts of:

- Ethical behavior
- Appropriate demeanor
- Proper decorum
- Honest and original best efforts
- Free interchange of ideas

ASAA's goals in sponsoring competitive, academic speech and debate are:

- To train students in analysis, reasoning, research, and evaluation in the techniques of mental discipline, evaluation of evidence, case construction, persuasive speaking, and investigation of controversial and significant public issues.
- To promote independent thinking, intellectual honesty, and individuality.
- To develop an appreciation for the basic mechanism of democracy.

The aims and responsibilities of a speech, drama, and debate coach are:

- To guide the intellectual development of the speakers to promote and provide opportunities for them to develop their skills.
- To engender good sportsmanship, fair play, and individual integrity.
- To perform the role of educator and administrator.
- To supervise students at all times during tournaments.

The following practices are considered unethical, pedagogically unsound, and are not condoned:

- The distortion or falsification of evidence.
- The altering of material in interpretative events that is contrary to the author's intent.
- The writing of original speeches and introductions by anyone other than the student.
- The use of canned (i.e. re-use of previously prepared) speeches in extemporaneous/impromptu events.
- The use of plagiarized materials.
- The act of communicating with outside entities (people or artificial intelligence) on strategies, tactics, content, etc. during a round of competition.
- The use of emotional appeals without the evidence to support them.
- The diverting of attention from weakness in argument by unsupported attacks on the opponent.
- The breaching of normal courtesy by heckling, grimacing, or loud whispering while the opponent is speaking or performing.
- The use of the same material in two different years by the same individual even if it is a different event.

DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS

DEBATE EVENTS

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE
Format includes one 6-minute affirmative constructive, one 7-minute negative constructive, two 3-minute cross-examinations, one 4-minute affirmative rebuttal, one 6-minute negative rebuttal, and one 3-minute affirmative rebuttal. The NSDA value topic for that time period is used.

POLICY DEBATE
Oregon-Oxford cross examination debate format includes four 8-minute constructive speeches, four 3-minute cross-examinations, and four 5-minute rebuttal speeches. The national high school debate topic will be used.

PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE
Public Forum Debate format includes four 4-minute constructive speeches, three 3-minute crossfires, two 3-minute summaries, and two 2-minute final focuses. Teams are entitled to three minutes of prep time during the round. The NSDA public forum debate topic for either January or February will be used. Coaches with state PFD teams will vote on the topic in January via email.

DRAMA EVENTS

DUET ACTING
Ten minutes maximum with a fifteen second grace period. Two performers only. It must be a cutting from a play or screenplay. Blocking is necessary. A minimum of props is allowed, but no costumes or makeup may be used. One table and two chairs must be provided for the actors. Each performer in an acting event must maintain a portrayal of only one character, who may suggest other characters within the narrative.

IMPROVISED DUET ACTING
Seven minutes maximum with a fifteen second grace period. The contestants draw three topics each in three separate categories, selecting two characters, one location, and one situation. They have thirty minutes to prepare in a monitored area. Only contestants are permitted in the area and contestants may not go elsewhere to prepare, nor talk to other teams during the preparation time. The scene created by the duet team should establish both characters, a situation or problem, and a solution to the conflict. Students may not present a scene previously performed at the tournament, to include repetition of dialogue, characters, or conflict structure. No notes are allowed while presenting the original piece. No props or costumes are allowed; however, the students may use one desk and two chairs during the performance.

PANTOMIME
Eight minutes maximum with a fifteen second grace period. Prepared presentation may include recorded instrumental music but no other sound effects or vocalization. Makeup and costuming are allowed, but not required. One chair per performer is the only prop allowed.

READERS 'THEATRE
Twelve minutes maximum with a fifteen second grace period. A group presentation in which an open script must be used, either in hand or on a lectern. A readers' theater script may be a compilation of cuttings from multiple sources. Examples of acceptable sources include: published and printed novels, short stories, plays, screenplays or poetry. Selections can come from any source either print, online, recorded, or video as long as the student has a printed script and as long as the original source is available to the general public. Adaptations of the original source material may be for the purpose of continuity only.

Only tournament attire is allowed. During the presentation the group must name the author(s) and source(s) from which the selection(s) were made. Readers may move no further than three feet from their original position. Readers may not touch each other. No props may be used. Sound effects are limited to those sounds that performers may make with their own bodies, scripts, or stands. Different styles exist for Readers' Theater. Do not penalize competitors for their choice of presentation style.

SOLO ACTING

Eight minutes maximum with a fifteen second grace period. It must be a cutting from a play, screen play, or performance poetry. Blocking is necessary. A minimum of props is allowed, but no costumes or makeup may be used. One table and one chair must be provided for the actor. Each performer in an acting event must maintain a portrayal of only one character, who may suggest other characters within the narrative.

FORENSICS EVENTS

DRAMATIC & HUMOROUS INTERPRETATION

Ten minutes maximum with a fifteen second grace period. Selections can come from any source either print, online, recorded, or video as long as the student has a printed script and as long as the original source is available to the general public. Cutting must be from a single source. Monologues are acceptable. During the presentation the contestant must name the author and source from which the cutting was made.

The presentation is memorized and no book or manuscript may be read in the performance. No physical objects or costumes may be used. Actors will utilize limited blocking to enhance interpretation. They may move in any direction as long as the blocking is not distracting to the overall interpretation of the script/story.

DUO INTERPRETATION

Ten minutes maximum with a fifteen second grace period. Two-person performance. Selections can come from any source either print, online, recorded, or video as long as the student has a printed script and as long as the original source is available to the general public. Cutting must be from a single source. Monologues are acceptable. During the presentation the contestant must name the author and source from which the cutting was made.

The presentation is memorized and no book or manuscript may be read in the performance. No physical objects or costumes may be used. Performers must suggest interaction between at least two characters. They must use off-stage focus, meaning they may not look at one another. Also, only the suggestion of touching is permitted. Actors may move in any direction and will utilize limited blocking to enhance the interpretation of their selection.

EXTEMPORANEOUS COMMENTARY

Five minutes maximum with a fifteen second grace period. Current national and international topics are provided by the tournament director. The contestant draws three topics, selects one and has twenty minutes to prepare in a monitored area. Only contestants are permitted in the area and contestants may not go elsewhere to prepare, nor talk to each other during the preparation time. Students may access the internet during preparation. The commentary must be delivered seated behind a table or desk. One 4x6 or smaller notecard (front & back) is allowed by competitors in any of the extemporaneous categories during competition. The notecard must be prepared during the preparation period. Notes may not be prewritten or reused round to round.

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING - UNITED STATES & INTERNATIONAL

Seven minutes maximum with a fifteen second grace period. Current United States and International topics are selected. The contestant draws three topics, selects one, and has thirty minutes to prepare in a monitored area. Only contestants are permitted in the area and contestants may not go elsewhere to prepare, nor talk to each other during the preparation time. Students may access the internet during preparation. One 4x6 or smaller

notecard (front & back) is allowed by competitors in any of the extemporaneous categories during competition. The notecard must be prepared during the preparation period. Notes may not be prewritten or reused round to round.

INFORMATIVE SPEAKING

Ten minutes maximum with a fifteen second grace period. This event requires an original, factual speech for the purpose of informing the audience. The speech must be the original work of the student and may not have been used in competition prior to the current season. The current debate subject may not be used. Audio/visual aids are allowed, though the use of electronic equipment, (defined as anything requiring a power source), live animals, costumes, and/or additional people is prohibited. A manuscript must be given to the tournament director prior to competition. No more than 150 words of the speech may be a direct quotation from any other speech or writing and such quotations must be identified in the typewritten copy of the speech supplied at registration. Extensive paraphrasing from other sources is prohibited. NO NOTES ARE ALLOWED.

ORIGINAL ORATION

Ten minutes maximum with a fifteen second grace period. This event requires an original, factual speech for the purpose of persuading the audience. The speech must be the original work of the student and may not have been used in competition prior to the current season. The current debate subject may not be used. No audio-visual aids will be allowed. A manuscript must be given to the tournament director prior to competition. No more than 150 words of the speech may be a direct quotation from any other speech or writing and such quotations must be identified in the typewritten copy of the speech supplied at registration. Extensive paraphrasing from other sources is prohibited. NO NOTES ARE ALLOWED during presentation.

DEBATE GUIDELINES & RULES

DEBATE DEFINED

Lincoln-Douglas Debate format shall use topics as indicated below. Each debater will be given up to four minutes preparation time to be used when needed.

- Sept. 1-Oct. 31: September/October NSDA topic
- Nov. 1-Dec. 31: November/December NSDA topic
- Jan. 1-Feb. 28(29): January/February NSDA topic
- Mar.1-April 30: March/April NSDA topic

Time Limits are as follows:

- Affirmative Constructive 6 minutes
- Cross Examination 3 minutes
- Negative Constructive 7 minutes
- Cross Examination 3 minutes
- 1st Affirmative Rebuttal 4 minutes
- Negative Rebuttal 6 minutes
- 2nd Affirmative Rebuttal 3 minutes

Policy Debate shall be the Oregon-Oxford Cross-Ex style and will use the National topic for that year designated by the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA). Each team will be given up to eight minutes total of preparation time to be used when needed in the debate.

Time Limits are as follows:

- 1st Affirmative Constructive 8 minutes
- Cross Examination 3 minutes
- 1st Negative Constructive 8 minutes
- Cross Examination 3 minutes
- 2nd Affirmative Constructive 8 minutes
- Cross Examination 3 minutes
- 2nd Negative Constructive 8 minutes
- Cross Examination 3 minutes
- 1st Negative Rebuttal 5 minutes
- 1st Affirmative Rebuttal 5 minutes
- 2nd Negative Rebuttal 5 minutes
- 2nd Affirmative Rebuttal 5 minutes

Public Forum Debate shall follow the rules as established by the NSDA and shall use the monthly topic designated by the NSDA, with the exception of the February (state) topic, which shall be voted on by coaches of participating teams. The vote will be due the day after students at the last competing school return from winter break. Each team will be given up to three minutes total of preparation time to be used when needed in the debate.

Time Limits are as follows:

- First Speaker 4 minutes
- Second Speaker 4 minutes
- Crossfire 3 minutes
- Third Speaker 4 minutes
- Fourth Speaker 4 minutes
- Crossfire 3 minutes
- Summary 3 minutes
- Summary 3 minutes

- Grand Crossfire 3 minutes
- Final Focus 2 minutes
- Final Focus 2 minutes

TEAM INTEGRITY

A Policy or Public Forum Debate team consists of two students debating both sides of the question. LD requires one debater to argue either side of the resolution. No substitution is permitted after the start of the first round. If a debater gets sick for a single round, it will be treated as a "no show." After two "no shows" the team will be dropped from the tournament.

DEBATE EVIDENCE

Sources of Evidence

Debaters may use evidence and cases gathered from lecture, pamphlet, electronic media, books, or other sources, to include research guides/topic guides such as those provided by ASAA/My Debate Resource for policy debate at https://www.mydebateresource.com/alaska-core-files

Presentation of Evidence:

- To opponents: If requested by their opponents, debaters must provide copies of their speeches/evidence (paper or electronic) at the conclusion of their speech.

- To judges: Judges have the right to inspect evidence cards to review competing claims by the debaters about that evidence. Judges should not call to inspect evidence cards unless there is disagreement between the debaters about what was stated in the evidence AND the judge feels they cannot resolve that dispute without reading it themselves.

Falsification of Evidence;

1. Deliberately making up a whole quotation.
2. Providing the wrong year, the wrong source, or modifying the source.
3. Leaving words out of the original, taking the evidence out of context, or adding/deleting/changing words in the text. (*NOTE: This does not prevent debaters from power-wording the evidence, so long as the full text is available for review.)*
4. Deliberately power-wording the text of evidence cards such that it substantively changes the meaning of the text.

Note: Inaccurate interpretation or misconstruing of evidence is not falsification of evidence, but may inform a judge's decision on the winner/loser of the round.

A falsification charge should be made to the tournament staff and/or the judge (*who will elevate the charge to the tournament staff*). If a team makes falsification charges, that team must have proof for those charges. They cannot make the charge just because they think it happened. If falsification has been charged in a debate round, and if instructed by the tournament staff, the challenged team has one-half hour after the debate round ends to produce the original source. If the support is not offered within 30 minutes, the challenged team is disqualified from the tournament. The tournament staff/judge should take action only if falsification has been raised as an issue by the opposing team; observers/judges do not make falsification charges. Falsification of evidence charges should be made after the debate is over (within fifteen minutes) and not during the debate. If the charge has been wrongly made, the team making the charges will receive a loss for that round, regardless of the judge's decision in the debate. If the charge has correctly made , the offending team will receive a "Tournament Disqualification" as described in the section "Enforcement of Rules Violations"

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

The ASAA Board of Directors will annually determine the site and date of the Drama, Debate and Forensics State Championships.

PARTICIPATION & FEES

The state tournament is open to students enrolled in grades 9-12 at any ASAA member high school that meet ASAA eligibility requirements. Schools will be assessed a participation fee per student participant. See ASAA Handbook for details.

EVENTS

- DEBATE EVENTS
  - Lincoln-Douglas Debate
  - Policy Debate
  - Public Forum Debate
- DRAMA EVENTS
  - Duet Acting
  - Improvised Duet Acting
  - Pantomime
  - Readers' Theatre
  - Solo Acting
- FORENSICS EVENTS
  - Dramatic Interpretation
  - Duo Interpretation
  - Extemporaneous Commentary
  - Extemporaneous Speaking Domestic
  - Extemporaneous Speaking Foreign
  - Humorous Interpretation
  - Informative Speaking
  - Original Oration

ENTRIES

Students may enter one to three events. Students must qualify in the event(s) they enter. To qualify for an event a student must have competed at least two times in that event during regular season meets. Video and teleconference meets count as competitions, as do intrasquad rounds provided coaches bring in a volunteer judge, who fills out a ballot and records speaking times. For debate, if a student in Lincoln Douglas or students in Policy or Public Forum do not have anyone to debate against, a coach may document practices and/or arrange to have practice debates with assistant coaches or community members. These would count towards qualification.

School entry limits;

- Maximum competitors per school - 15 students
- Debate - 9 entries total (e.g. a debate team involving two students = 1 debate entry)
- Extemporaneous Commentary, Improvised Duet Acting, and Readers' Theatre - 2 entries each
- All other events - 3 entries each

DIVISIONS

Individual participants compete against all other entries in their events. Schools compete against schools within their division. Schools with 501 students and above are in Division I and schools with 1-500 students are in Division II.

RULES

TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION

Entry deadlines are final. No changes or additions may occur after the scheduled deadlines. All entries must be in the possession of the tournament director before deadlines, or they will not be accepted.

The tabulation room is closed. Only persons designated by the tournament director are permitted in the tabulation room. For questions or concerns an information desk will be staffed at all times.

Students are not allowed to compete unless their coach is present at the tournament site. If an emergency arises, the coach must obtain approval from the tournament director to leave the competition site and must designate another adult to supervise his/her students.

A student may not enter the same event twice at the same State Tournament (e.g. one student may not compete twice in Duet Acting with two different partners).

All coaches need to be available throughout the tournament to help judge events.

As necessary, students who are not currently in a competitive round will be asked to serve as timers.

All events are timed during preliminary rounds. An introduction is considered part of the speech or presentation and must be timed. All non-debate events have a 15 second “grace period”. If the judge(s) in a round determine that a student has exceeded the maximum time and gone beyond the “grace period,” the student may not be ranked 1st but need not be ranked last. In debate events, once a student has reached their allocated time limit within a speech, they may conclude their current sentence.

If a speaker or performer does not appear as scheduled due to a scheduling conflict, that speaker or performer has until the end of the scheduled round to speak. Participants not appearing will receive a “no show.” After two “no shows” they will be disqualified from the event. Participants or a coach should notify the judge of schedule conflicts (such as being double entered) at the start of the round. No shows will be recorded as a “9” in tab.

If a problem arises with surrounding noise or other distractions, a coach may request a room change.

Any form of recording will be allowed in a round only with the verbal consent of all the round’s participants.

All rankings and ballots are made available to coaches before posting. Coaches may check drama and forensics ballots after round two or when feasible based on tournament operations.

A coach or participant may NOT approach or discuss with a judge any decisions or reasons for decisions. Doing so will result in disqualification of the participant or school from the tournament, and all places, wins, etc., previously earned will be nullified. Coaches should instruct participants not to ask judges for any feedback pertaining to the outcome of the round.

ELECTRONIC DEVISES AND THE INTERNET

Contestants may use electronic devices (including laptop computers, tablets, and/or cell phones) to access the internet during debate rounds and during extemporaneous speaking draw/preparation with the following conditions. Contestants found to have violated these provisions will be disqualified from the tournament and forfeit all rounds at the tournament.

- Inappropriate use: Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information for competitive advantage from persons (coaches, assistant coaches, other non-competing students, generative artificial intelligence such as ChatGPT, etc.) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs. 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 the round. This includes information which could be altered by non-participants such as shared Google Drive documents.

- Appropriate use: Internet access may be used to retrieve files, evidence and/or arguments, research arguments, and partner to partner communication, and communication between other participants in a debate round. These electronic device guidelines do not limit communication between debate partners during the debate round.

PARTNERED/GROUP EVENTS

No substitutions will be allowed for any competitor for any reason. If a competitor misses a round for any reason that person/team will receive a single disqualification/no show for that round.

DRAMA AND INTERPRETATION OF LITERATURE EVENTS

A student entered in two separate events at the ASAA State Tournament may not use the same selection of literature in both events.

A school may repeat a piece for Readers' Theatre with a one-year gap in between, provided the same students are not in the piece again.

A student may not use a cutting from a work of literature that the student used in an ASAA state competition, NSDA district competition, or NSDA national competition in any previous contest year. In addition, if a student performed a cutting from a piece of literature at three or more (cumulative) competitions in any previous season, the cutting is disallowed.

LIMITED PREPERATION EVENTS

An Extemporaneous Preparation Room will be provided. Competitors may not talk to one another while in the room and must remain in the room during preparation time.

An Improvised Duet Acting Preparation Room will be provided. Competitors may not talk to other teams while in the room and must remain in the room during preparation time.

DEBATE EVENTS

A debate round is considered an open forum, and flow charts may be taken by any audience member.

Coaching during debates is prohibited. This includes all verbal and non-verbal signals by the coach to his/her team. In-round coaching from teammates, observers, or artificial intelligence are also prohibited. Such infractions will result in the contestant being disqualified from the tournament and forfeit of all rounds at the tournament.

ENFORCEMENT OF RULES VIOLATIONS

A competitor may be disqualified for a variety of reasons. The level of disqualification will be determined by the tournament director depending upon the infraction.

Simple Disqualification is for inadvertently breaking a tournament rule while competing. The disqualification is only for the round in which the infraction occurred. A simple disqualification will be recorded as a "10" in tab for the round in which the infraction occurred.

Event Disqualification is for breaking a tournament event rule. Examples include: the piece presented in an interpretive event is not publicly available; the competitor is competing with the same piece from a previous

year; or the competitor uses the same piece in two events. Disqualification is for the entire event in which the infraction occurred. An event disqualification will be recorded as an “11” for all rounds in the tournament, including previous rounds.

Tournament Disqualification is for an egregious violation of ethics rules as outlined in the tournament handbook. This may include plagiarism, falsification of evidence, or improper decorum other than which might be expected in a high school competition. Questioning a judge’s decision may also result in a tournament disqualification. A tournament disqualification will result in the competitor being removed from the competition in ALL events. In tab, all results will be changed to “99” or “forfeit.” Unless in conflict with another rule, opponents’ results will not change.

Schools may appeal the application of a rule or any other tournament related matter by submitting a completed Protest Form to the tournament director within 30 minutes of the results being posted. If unsatisfied with the tournament director’s decision the school or coach may appeal to the jury of appeals.

SWEEPSTAKES POINTS

Points toward school sweepstakes are computed in the following ways:
LINCOLN-DOUGLAS, POLICY AND PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE*:

1st	15 points
2nd	13 points
3rd	11 points
4th	9 points

DRAMA AND FORENSICS:

1st	9 points
2nd	7 points
3rd	5 points
4th	3 points
Finalist	1 point

READERS’ THEATRE:

1st	12 points
2nd	10 points
3rd	8 points
4th	6 point
Finalist	3 points

*In debate events, there are sweepstakes limits based on a per event restriction and a total debate entry restriction:

A. Should a school advance more than three entries in a single format, its sweepstakes tally will be limited to its three highest placing finishers. All remaining sweepstakes points will shift to the non-advancing seeds. For example, if a squad advances five LD entries, only the top three would earn sweepstakes points. As such, the 9th and 10th seeds at the end of preliminary rounds would each earn their squad nine sweepstakes points. (Note: In the event a squad closes out the semifinal round, then the highest seeded non-advancing quarterfinalist would earn eleven sweepstakes points.)

B. Should a school advance more than six total debate entries, its sweepstakes tally will be limited to its six highest placing finishers. All remaining sweepstakes points will shift per the guidelines described in Section A. In the event that the squad has entries in two different events that could occupy the sixth sweepstakes spot, a coin toss will determine which event will count towards sweepstakes; thus, determining in which event the adjusted sweepstakes points will fall. For example, if a squad's 6th & 7th highest placing finishers reach the

quarterfinals in LD and PF, then a coin toss would determine whether the 9th seed in LD or PF will earn the nine sweepstakes points.

AWARDS

Participation Certificates for every participant.
Individual medallions for first through fourth place in each event (combined divisions).
First place awards in Debate, Drama and Forensics in both Division I and II.
First and second place sweepstakes award in both Division I and II.
Academic Award in both Division I and II
Sportsmanship award in both Division I and II.

STATE TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

The tournament director is approved by ASAA. The director oversees all phases of the tournament, such as setting the schedule, securing student timers, establishing committees set up to run the tournament, and operating the tournament in an educational and competitive manner.

JURY OF APPEALS

The Jury of Appeals consists of an ASAA staff member, the host school administrator or designee, and the President of the DDF Coaches Association. If the President's school is involved in the protest another officer will take their place. If a member of the Jury of Appeals must be recused, they will be replaced (in order) by the DDF Coaches Association Past President, the Chair of the Rules Committee, a member of the Rules Committee, or other participating coach as chosen by an ASAA staff member.

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTION OF JUDGES

- Coaches should not judge final rounds.
- It is preferred that no judge shall judge the same entry twice during preliminary rounds.
- It is preferred that no debate judge shall judge the same entry more than once in elimination rounds.
- There is one judge in each debate preliminary round.
- There are three judges in each quarter-final and semi-final round.
- There are three or five judges in each final round.
- No judge shall have participated in Alaska Drama, Debate, or Forensics in the previous year.
- In individual events there will be the same number of judges in each preliminary round.

SECTIONING OF EVENTS

In each forensics and drama event, separate sections are scheduled. No more than seven students may compete in a preliminary section, semifinal section, or final round. In case of a tie, the tab room will determine a clean break. Each round will be judged by at least one judge, although more may be used.

JUDGES

Disruption - If a judge feels that circumstances beyond a performer's control seriously impaired his or her performance (for example, a fire alarm, loudspeaker announcement, etc .) the judge has the option to allow the performer to begin again. Judges should proctor the room to maintain a positive atmosphere.

Ranking - In non-debate events, the judges rank students 1^{st} -7^{th}.

Return of Ballots - Judges return ballots to a designated location and/or member of the tournament staff as determined by the tournament director.

When no timer is available for an event, the judge will assume that responsibility.

TIME LIMITS

All events are timed during preliminary rounds. A competitor's time should be recorded on the ballot. An introduction is considered part of the speech or presentation and must be timed. The only events which must be timed after preliminary rounds are debate events, extemporaneous speaking events, and improvised duet acting.

All non-debate events have a 15 second "grace period". If the judge(s) in a round determine that a student has exceeded the maximum time and gone beyond the "grace period," the student can not be ranked 1st but need not be ranked last. In debate events, once a student has reached their allocated time limit within a speech, they may conclude their current sentence.

DEBATE PAIRING GUIDELINES - PRELIMINARY

All teams entered are guaranteed five rounds of debate at the state tournament. Affirmative and negative sides will be as equally divided as possible. Results of the first two preliminary rounds will not be posted until the conclusion of a second round. All coaches are then allowed to check ballots and postings before the fourth and fifth are posted. The last three rounds will be power matched within brackets. At the conclusion of the fifth round, eight teams will be selected for a quarter-final round.

A blind draw will be used for pairings in debate rounds one and two.

Beginning with the third round, bracket pairing are employed. All of the teams in the tournament are ranked on the basis of their win-loss record and speaker points. The tournament director divides the teams into brackets based on win-loss record, then matches the strongest against weakest within the bracket. If there is an odd number of teams in the bracket, the middle team in each bracket meets the middle team in the next lower bracket. The same method is used for correcting undesirable pairings; the top team may have to be paired against the next to last team in the bracket in order to get a pairing that works.

If debaters in CX, LD, or PF meet for a second time in the same tournament, they MUST reverse sides.

DEBATE TEAM ADVANCEMENT

If there are twelve or fewer debate teams entered in any debate event, the Tournament Director shall break four teams directly to the Semi-Final round. If there are six or fewer debate teams entered in any debate event, the Tournament Director shall break two teams directly to the Final round. Those teams dropped at the break to elimination rounds do not receive awards for placement nor are entitled to Sweepstakes Points.

DEBATE OCTO-FINALS

If there are 28 or more entries, round five will be an octo-final round. In octo-finals for debate, the following procedures are followed:

- Top sixteen meet in the octo-final round.
- Those who do not advance to the octo-final round will have a consolation round during round five.
- In octo-finals, power protecting is employed, one vs sixteen, two vs fifteen, three vs fourteen, four vs thirteen, five vs twelve six vs eleven, seven vs ten, eight vs nine. These are the pairings unless it is necessary to shift some teams to avoid:
    - The meeting of teams from the same school.
    - The meeting of teams which have previously met in the tournament.

Octo-final is a sudden death round with the losers being declared fifth place finishers in the tournament. At the end of the fifth round of debating, those teams who have won their octo-final rounds will advance to a quarter-final round, following the established procedure for quarter-finals. There are no additional sweepstakes points awarded to fifth place finishers.

DEBATE QUARTER-FINALS

In the quarter-finals for debate, the following procedures are followed: the top eight meet in the quarter-final round. Power protecting is employed, one vs eight, two vs seven, three vs six and four vs five. These are the pairings unless it is necessary to shift some teams to avoid:

- The meeting of teams from the same school.
- The meeting of teams which have previously met in the tournament.

Quarter-final is a sudden death round with the losers being declared fourth place finishers in the tournament. At the end of the sixth round of debating power protection is employed one vs four and two vs three. These are the pairings unless it is necessary to shift some teams to avoid:

- The meeting of teams from the same school.
- The meeting of teams which have previously met in the tournament.

The losers of these debates are declared the third place teams and then one and two debate for first and second place.

Numbers for seeding purposes will be based on (in this order):

1. Win-loss record.
2. The total ranks received by the team in the previous rounds of debating.
3. The total number of speaker points received by the team in the previous rounds of debating.
4. As a final tie breaker, if the two teams have debated each other previously, the team that won that round is the overall winner.
5. If the two teams have not met in the tournament, there will be a debate to determine the finishing position.

Each team should have an equal, or near equal number of affirmative and negative rounds.

If it is necessary for two teams to meet for a third time, side sequence alteration should be the number one priority. If both teams are due to uphold the same side, a coin flip or blind draw will be used to determine the affirmative team.

BYES

A bye will count as a win and that team receives the average of its rank and speaker points from its preliminary debates in the tournament. There will be no byes in the quarter-final, semi-final, or final rounds of debate.

GUIDELINES FOR NON DEBATE ELIMINATION ROUNDS

Breaking to Semi-Final Rounds - If any event other than debate has 32 or more contestants, there will be a semi-final round of competition. The semi-finalists will be decided based upon their records in three preliminary rounds of competition. The target number of contestants in a semi-final round is twelve. Contestants will advance to the semi-final round on the first clean break occurring in this order: 12, 10, 14, 11, 13, 8, 9.

The following procedures will be used to determine which competitors advance to the semi-final round:

1. The lowest cumulative rank from preliminary rounds
2. The highest reciprocal rank from preliminary rounds
3. The winner of a head-to-head matchup in a preliminary round
4. The most 1s in preliminary rounds
5. The most combined 1s and 2s in preliminary rounds (then 1s-3s and so on)

Breaking to Final Rounds - In any event other than debate, the target number of contestants in a final round is six. Contestants will advance to the final round on the first clean break occurring in this order: 6, 5, 7, 4. A final round will never have fewer than four entries, nor more than seven entries.

With a Semi-Final Round - If there has been a semi-final round, the top three contestants from each section will advance to the final round. The tournament director will determine which contestants advance using the following criteria (in this order):

1. Low cumulative rank in semi-finals
2. Judges' preference in semi-finals
3. Reciprocal ranks in semi-finals
4. Low cumulative ranks in semi-finals and preliminary rounds combined
5. The winner of a head-to-head matchup in a preliminary round
6. The most 1s in preliminary rounds
7. The highest seed at the end of preliminary rounds

Without a Semi-Final Round
If there has been no semi-final round, the tournament director will determine which contestants advance using the following criteria (in this order):

1. Low cumulative rank in preliminary rounds
2. Highest reciprocal rank in preliminary rounds
3. The winner of a head-to-head matchup in a preliminary round
4. The most 1s in preliminary rounds
5. The most combined 1s and 2s in preliminary rounds (then 1s- 3s, and so on)

DETERMINING A FINAL ROUND WINNER

To determine the winner of a final round in any event other than debate, the tournament director will use the following criteria (in this order):

1. Low cumulative rank in finals
2. Judges' preference in finals
3. Reciprocal ranks in finals
4. The winner of a head-to-head matchup in semi-finals
5. The winner of a head-to-head matchup in a preliminary round
6. The lowest cumulative ranking of all rounds
7. The most 1s in all rounds
8. The highest seed at the end of preliminary rounds
9. The best finisher in semifinals

MANUAL AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this manual may only be made by an affirmative vote of a majority of coaches at the annual meeting, a teleconference vote, a vote conducted by email, or by written statewide ballot.