**Alabama Speech & Debate Association**

**State Tournament Rules**

1) Each year, the Alabama Speech & Debate Association will administer the State Tournament

for the State of Alabama.

2) The State Tournament will be for students in grades 9-12 enrolled in a school within the

geographical boundary of Alabama.

3) The location of the State Tournament will be determined by a vote of the membership of the

Alabama Speech & Debate Association from the locations that have submitted a bid.

4) The State Tournament should be held on one weekend between Thursday and Saturday and

will have 3 components - Congress, Individual Events, and Debate.

5) The Tournament Director shall be the President of the Alabama Speech & Debate

Association. As Tournament Director, the President should not judge throughout the duration of the State Tournament.

6) The Tabulation Staff shall be determined by the officers of the Alabama Speech & Debate

Association.

7) The Tab Room shall operate as a closed tabroom but prelim ballots will be made available for

coach viewing after they entered.

8) Any protest shall initially be heard by the Tournament Director. Any decision by the

Tournament Director may be appealed to the remaining 3 officers of the Alabama Speech &

Debate Association - Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. All decisions made as a result of an appeal shall be final.

9) Judges for the State Tournament must be graduates of high school.

10) Fees for the State Tournament shall be set by the officers of the Alabama Speech & Debate

Association and a reasonable amount of time must occur to inform the membership as to the

fees set for the State Tournament.

**Alabama Speech & Debate Association**

**State Tournament Rules**

11) Unless otherwise noted, all rules governing the competitive events for the State Tournament shall

be the same rules as stated by the National Speech & Debate Association.

**Congress Rules**

A) Each State Tournament shall conduct a State Congress Competition.

B) The State Congress shall have 3 Congressional Chambers.

C) Each school may enter a total of 12 students in the State Congress.

D) Each school may enter no more than 6 students in any 1 Chamber of the State Congress.

E) Each school may enter no more than 2 of the 3 Chambers of the State Congress.

F) The Congress competition shall last no less than 4 hours and no more than 6 hours of

session time.

G) Awards shall be given to the top 6 competitors in each Congressional Chamber.

H) The awards shall be determined in the same manner as the National Speech & Debate

Association.

I) There shall be a Congressional Sweepstakes Award for the top school in Congress.

J) The sweepstakes award in congress shall be named the Betty S. Gunn Congress

Sweepstakes Award.

K) No more than the top 10 students from each school shall count towards sweepstakes.

L) In Congress at the State Tournament, the formula to calculate the sweepstakes award shall

be the following:

1st - 25 points

2nd - 20 points

3rd - 15 points

4th - 10 points

5th - 10 points

6th - 10 points

**Alabama Speech & Debate Association**

**State Tournament Rules**

**Debate Rules**

A) Each State Tournament shall conduct a State Debate Competition.

B) The areas of debate offered will be : Policy Debate, Lincoln/Douglas Debate, and Public

Forum Debate.

C) Each area of debate will offer the following divisions : Varsity, Junior-Varsity, and Novice.

D) A novice debater is defined as any student in their first year of debate OR any student in their

second year of debate with 10 of fewer rounds of debate competition prior to the current

competitive school year of the State Tournament.

E) A junior-varsity debater is defined as any student in their second year of debate.

F) A varsity debater is defined as any student in their third or fourth year of debate OR any

student that wants to debate in the varsity division.

G) The following guidelines should occur during the preliminary rounds of competition in debate.

1) There should be 5 rounds of competition.

2) Rounds 1 & 2 should be randomly paired.

3) Rounds 3, 4, & 5 should be power parried with preference to high-high.

4) Debaters from the same school shall not debate each other, unless the numbers in

the division from one school exceed 50% of the division.

H) Each school may have up to a total of 20 debate entries. A policy team or a public forum

team is equal to 1 entry.

I) For the purpose of out rounds, the following formula shall be used for the State Tournament:

1) 7 or fewer entries in a division - Will be a Round Robin tournament.

2) 8 - 15 entries in a division - Break to Semi-finals

3) 16 - 39 entries in a division - Break to Quarter-finals

4) 40 or more entries in a division - Break to Octa-finals

J) There shall be a Debate Sweepstakes Award for the top school in Debate.

**Alabama Speech & Debate Association**

**State Tournament Rules**

K) No more than the top 10 debate entries shall count towards sweepstakes.

L) In Debate at the State Tournament, the formula to calculate the sweepstakes award shall be

the following:

Varsity JV & Novice

1st - 35 points 1st - 30 points

2nd - 30 points 2nd - 25 points

Semis- 25 points Semis- 20 points

Qrtrs - 20 points Qrtrs - 15 points

Octos- 15 points Octos- 10 points

M) At no point during the State Tournament in a team debate event may a student compete as

a“maverick” competitor.

N) The topics for each debate category shall be:

1) Policy Debate - The topic for the school year chosen by the National Federation of

High Schools, unless changed by the Alabama Speech & Debate Association.

2) Lincoln/Douglas Debate - The topic for the 2 month period in which the State

Tournament occurs as announced by the National Speech & Debate Association, unless changed by the Alabama Speech & Debate Association.

3) Public Forum Debate - The topic for the 1 month period in which the State

Tournament occurs as announced by the National Speech & Debate Association, unless changed by the Alabama Speech & Debate Association.

O) The Public Forum Debate Category shall be named the Kenny Barfield Public Forum

Debate.

P) There will speaker awards for first, second, and third places in all divisions of debate. These awards

will not count towards sweepstakes.

**Alabama Speech & Debate Association**

**State Tournament Rules**

**Individual Events Rules**

A) Each State Tournament shall conduct a State Individual Events Competition.

B) Each school may have up to a total of 24 individual events entries. A duo team is equal to 1

entry.

C) There shall be 3 rounds of preliminary competition. If there are 7 or fewer entries in an event,

there shall be a Round Robin Tournament in that event. A final round shall occur for events with 8 or more entries.

D) There shall be 3 judges in any final round.

E) The Individual Events of the State Tournament shall be:

1) Speech Events - United States Extemporaneous Speaking, International

Extemporaneous Speaking, Impromptu Speaking, Original Oratory, After-Dinner Speaking, and Informative Speaking

2) Interpretation Events - DUO Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous

Interpretation, Prose Interpretation, Poetry Interpretation, and Program Oral Interpretation

F) In the speech events, the maximum time limit for the limited prep events is 7 minutes and the

maximum time limit for the prepared events is 10 minutes. There is no minimum time.

G) In the interpretation events, the maximum time limit is 10 minutes. There is no minimum time.

H) With the exception of Informative Speaking, the use of a visual aid is prohibited.

I) A student may enter up to 3 events in the Individual Events Competition of the State

Tournament.

J) There shall be an Individual Events Sweepstakes Award for the top school in Individual

Events.

K) No more than the top 10 individual events entries shall count towards sweepstakes.

**Alabama Speech & Debate Association**

**State Tournament Rules**

L) In Individual Events at the State Tournament, the formula to calculate the sweepstakes award shall be the following:

1st - 25 points

2nd - 20 points

3rd - 15 points

4th - 10 points

5th - 10 points

6th - 10 points

Special Awards

A) The Lois A. Askew Coach of the Year Award shall be given to a coach that has never

received the award and is a high school coach in the State of Alabama. The recipient of the

award shall be elected by the active high school coaches in Alabama. A plaque shall be

presented to the recipient.

B) The Student of the Year Award shall be given to a competitor that has competed in all 3

areas of competition (Congress, Debate, and Individual Events) that has accumulated the most points using the same scale that is used for sweepstakes.

C) The Overall Sweepstakes Trophy and the Overall Sweepstakes Plaque awards shall be

given to the school that has accumulated the most points combining the 3 sweepstakes totals

from Congress, Debate, and Individual Events. The Overall Sweepstakes Trophy is a traveling

trophy and shall be in the possession of the winning school for 1 year. The Overall Sweepstakes Plaque is awarded to the school for permanent display at their school.

Tie-Breakers

A) In the event of a tie in debate for an individual entry, the first tie-breaker is head-to-head

competition in preliminary rounds. The second tie-breaker is adjusted speaker points. The third tie-breaker is total speaker points. The fourth tie-breaker is strength of opponents.

B) In the event of a tie in individual events for an individual entry, the first tie-breaker is judges

preference. The second tie-breaker is cumulative ranks in preliminary rounds. The third tiebreaker is the number of ranks of a 1. The fourth tie-breaker is the number of ranks of a 2.

C) In the event of a tie in congress for an individual entry, the parliamentarian’s ballot shall serve

as the tie-breaker.

D) In the event of a tie for a sweepstakes award, the first tie-breaker is the total number of 1st

place finishes in an event. The second tie-breaker is the total number of 2nd place finishes in an event. the third tie-breaker is the total number of points without the 10 entry cap.

E) In the event of a tie in the speaker awards for debate the first tie breaker will be adjusted high low,

2nd tie breaker, double high low.”