

ORAL INTERPRETATION HANDBOOK 2024-25

**South Dakota
High School Activities Association**

Direct All Correspondence to:

SDHSAA

PO Box 1217

Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Telephone: (605) 224-9261

FAX: (605) 224-9262

Website: <http://www.sdhsaa.com>

Review information in the General Speech Handbook for regulations pertaining to all speech events.

CONTEST REGULATIONS FOR ORAL INTERPRETATION

IMPORTANT ORAL INTERPRETATION DATES

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
First Practice	Not Restricted	Not Restricted	Not Restricted
First Allowable Invite Contest (Monday Week 13)	September 30	September 29	September 28
Intent to Participate Form Due	October 10	October 10	October 10
Class “B” District Contests			
1 st Week (Week 18)	Nov. 4-7	Nov. 3-6	Nov. 2-5
Online Form Due *	October 28	October 27	October 26
2 nd Week (Week 19)	November 11-14	November 10-13	November 9-12
Online Form Due *	November 4	November 3	November 2
Class “A”/“B” Region Contests			
1 st Week (Week 20)	November 18-21	November 17-20	November 16-19
“A” Online Form Due *	November 11	November 10	November 9
2 nd Week (Week 21)	November 25-27	November 24-26	November 23-25
“A” Online Form Due *	November 18	November 17	November 16
Class “AA” State Festival Forms			
Online Forms Due *	November 18	November 17	November 16
Class “AA,” “A,” & “B” State Festival (Friday-Saturday Week 22)	December 6-7	December 5-6	December 4-5
	Sturgis	Watertown	TBD

***NOTE: LATE ENTRY FEE - Entries electronically submitted after the online due date will be assessed a \$50.00 late entry fee.**

MANDATORY ORAL INTERPRETATION RULES MEETING DATES:

Approximate date available online – August 15, 2024

Date to be completed by – October 1, 2024

ROTATION FOR FUTURE STATE ORAL INTERPRETATION SITES:

Pierre	Yankton	Watertown	Huron
Sturgis	Harrisburg	Aberdeen	

ARTICLE I-SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION AND PLACEMENT IN DISTRICTS AND REGIONS.

Section 1. CLASSIFICATIONS. The membership of the Association shall be divided into Class “AA”, Class “A” and Class “B” schools for Oral Interpretation competition. There shall be separate contests and a State Festival for each of the classes.

Section 2. A.D.M. Average Daily Membership enrollment figures in grades 9 through 11 shall be used for purposes of classification. Schools will be classified for a two-year time period with each reclassification period beginning in the years ending in 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Section 3. ENROLLMENT CLASSIFICATIONS. The current enrollment classifications are as follows:

<u>Class</u>	<u>A.D.M. Enrollment (Grades 9-11)</u>
Class “AA”	- 450 and above
Class “A”	- 90 up to 449.999
Class “B”	- below 90

Section 4. ASSIGNMENT OF CLASS “B” AND CLASS “A” SCHOOLS TO DISTRICT AND REGIONS. Schools shall be assigned to districts and regions by the SDHSAA Board of Directors. **NOTE:** The SDHSAA may reassign a school or schools to another district or region if an insufficient number of schools will have entries in a district or region contest. Schools desiring to participate in oral interpretation and not listed in a district or a region shall notify the SDHSAA by September 20th. Schools will then be assigned to a district or a region.

**ORAL INTERPRETATION ALIGNMENTS
2024-2026**

The schools with grades 9-11 A.D.M. enrollment of 450 and above are classified as Class “AA”. Class “AA” schools shall begin competition at the State Festival. Schools with a grades 9-11 A.D.M. enrollment of 90 up to 450 are classified as Class “A”. Class “A” schools shall begin competition on the regional level. All other member schools (grade 9-11 A.D.M. enrollment below 90) shall be classified as Class “B” and will begin competition at the district level.

Note: Classifications and alignments can be found on the Oral Interpretation page on the SDHSAA website.

Section 5. COMPETITION FORMAT.

1. Competition for all Class “B” schools shall begin with the district contests. Winners in the district contests shall advance to a Class “B” region contest and the winners from the region contests will advance to the State Class “B” Festival.
2. Competition for all Class “A” schools shall begin with the region contest. Winners from the region contests will advance to the State Class “A” Festival.
3. All Class “AA” schools will begin competition at the State Festival.

Section 6. LENGTH OF SEASON. Competition for Oral Interpretation and related individual events extends from Monday of Week 13 (on the standardized calendar) through the first weekend in December (Week 22). There is no restriction for the beginning of practice – practice can begin anytime.

NOTE: Schools participating in oral interpretation competition during the debate and forensic season must follow the debate regulations for “Length of Season” and “Contests Held During N.F. L. Qualifier Tournaments” outlined in Article I of the “Contest Regulations for Policy Debate” during the forensics season.

Section 7. SDHSAA RULE ON IN-SEASON PARTICIPATION. Once a student reports for the school’s Oral Interp or Debate & Individual Events (Forensics) squad, the student can compete only at tournaments and contests as a representative of his/her own school’s team. Participation on a “club” or non-school sponsored team or unattached, or as an individual is not permissible during the SDHSAA debate season. However, a student can participate as an individual, not affiliated with a school in scholarship competitions during the SDHSAA debate season. Students can participate on club debate teams outside of the SDHSAA debate season at the discretion of their school’s administration.

ARTICLE II-MANAGEMENT OF CONTESTS.

Section 1. District and region contests shall be under the management of district and region committees. The district and region committees shall consist of a chairperson chosen by the advisory committee.

1. **Class “B” district committees** - shall consist of at least the coaches from two other schools in the district as selected by the chairperson.
2. **Class “B” region committees** - will include at least the chairperson from each district in the region.
3. **Class “A” region committees** - shall consist of at least two coaches from other Class “A” schools in the region as selected by the chairperson.
4. **Contest Day** - All actions on contest day should be done with transparency such as:
 - A. Inviting all district or region coaches to sit in during the meeting with the judges.
 - B. The contest committee should include the chairperson plus at least two other head coaches (as specified previously in this section).
 - C. The contest committee should be in the tab room when results are tabulated. **(NOTE: Coaches and other individuals, in addition to the contest committee, may also be involved in the contest tabulations.)**

Section 2. The Class “B,” Class “A,” and Class “AA” State Festival shall be under the supervision of the SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director in charge of the speech activity and the members of the Speech Advisory Committee at the State Festival.

Section 3. STATE FESTIVAL SITE. The State Festival site shall be selected by the SDHSAA Board of Directors.

Section 4. Each district and region committee shall:

1. Determine the date of its contest within the prescribed limits as set by the SDHSAA.
2. Each committee shall select the site of its contest using as guidelines that the facility must meet ADA accessible standards and the facility must have rooms of sufficient size as to be able to accommodate the anticipated audience for the contest.
3. Each committee shall obtain judges for the contest (observing the procedures outlined in Article VII, Section 1).
4. The committee shall hold the drawing for the speaking order of the contestants by one of the following methods:
 - A. The drawing may be held prior to the contest if it is held before a Notary Public. The copy of the official list for the speaking order is to be notarized and available for inspection upon request. This method will provide time to prepare a program before the contest date.
 - B. Hold the drawing for speaking order of the contestants just before the contest begins. All coaches with contestants in the contest should be present at the time of the drawing.

Section 5. INTENT TO PARTICIPATE. It is a school’s responsibility to file its intent to participate in a Class “B” district contest, Class “A” region contest or Class “AA” State Festival. The “Intent to Participate” form for each class can be found on the SDHSAA website, www.sdhsaa.com, in the **BOUND AREA**. **The “Intent” form is due by October 10.**

Section 6. CONTEST ENTRY FORM. It is a school’s responsibility, when entering a Class “B” district contest or Class “A” region contest, to submit a contest entry form with the names of the local contest winners by the deadline. The entry form must be filed electronically on the SDHSAA website. Class “AA” schools should electronically submit the entry form for the State Festival by the deadline. **Any school whose entry form is not electronically submitted on or before the deadline will be assessed a \$50.00 late fee.**

Section 7. FLASH PICTURES, VIDEO TAPING, AND AUDIO RECORDINGS. Videotaping, audio recording and the use of flash cameras during a performance are prohibited at all levels of competition. The videotaping and audio recording of most of the performances would be a violation of copyright laws. The use of flash cameras is a distraction to the performers as well as others in the audience.

Section 8. The Committee in charge shall have the power to meet all unforeseen emergencies at the district or region contests and the State Festival.

ARTICLE III-EXPENSE

Section 1. For district and region contests and the State Festival, each school shall pay all expenses for its own contestants. SDHSAA policy requires that pro-rated expenses for all entries, as submitted on an entry form, must be paid when checking in for the contest. *(*there are no pro-rated fees for the state festival.)*

SDHSAA policy does allow a school to substitute competitors at the initial level of competition at no increased cost. Schools may add additional competitors (with a corresponding increase in the pro-rated expenses). Schools may drop entries but must still pay the pro-rated expenses unless the entries have been dropped prior to the entry deadline date.

Section 2. CHAIRPERSON STIPEND. The Chairperson for district and region contests will be paid a stipend of \$4.00 per entry in the contest. The amount of the stipend will be added to each school’s contest entry expenses.

Section 3. SURPLUS/DEFICIT. In a district and region contest the surplus or deficit resulting from the contest shall be pro-rated among the participating schools on the basis of the number of contestants each school has participating in the contest. The stipend and other expenses of the district chairman shall be considered a part of the contest expenses. The other expenses may include such items as postage; phone calls; rent of a hall for the contest, if not held in the host school; and other related expenses for the operation of the contest. It should not include personal expenses of the chairman or committee members.

Section 4. CONTEST WITHDRAWAL. When a school finds it necessary to WITHDRAW any or all of its contestants from an oral interpretation contest after filing an “intent to participate”, such school **shall notify the SDHSAA and the committee chairperson of its withdrawal on or before the date their online contest entry form is due.** Failure to supply such notice of withdrawal makes the school responsible for its pro-rated share of the actual expenses. If a school finds itself unable to give notice of withdrawal before the deadline because of weather conditions, the illness of contestants, or some other act of God, release from this responsibility may be obtained by filing a report of the circumstances with the Executive Director of the SDHSAA. The listing of a school’s name in this SPEECH HANDBOOK as being in a certain district or region does not constitute “intent to participate” without submitting the proper “intent” form.

Section 5. REFUSING TO PAY. Any school refusing to pay its share of the expenses of the district or region contest, shall be automatically suspended from the SDHSAA, and no member in the SDHSAA shall be permitted to compete in any contest where the suspended school is a competitor. Suspension automatically ends with the payment of the obligation.

Section 6. PARTICIPATION FEES FOR ORAL INTERPRETATION.

1. Class “B” schools will be responsible for paying pro-rated expenses at the district and regional contest levels.
2. Class “A” schools will pay pro-rated expenses for their region contest.
3. All pro-rated expenses shall be paid at the time of registration at the district or region contest. There are no pro-rated expenses for the State Festival.

ARTICLE IV-CONTESTANTS

Section 1. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

1. The SDHSAA Board of Directors determined that students in grades 7 through 12 that meet SDHSAA eligibility standards are allowed to participate on the high school oral interpretation team. Students in grades 7 and 8 are allowed to participate on the high school team provided their school district policy allows 7th and 8th grade student participation on a high school team.
2. Contestants shall be selected by each school and the school certifies that each contestant from their school is eligible as stated in the SDHSAA By-Laws.
3. Contestants, while performing their selection, must be physically present at the contest.

Section 2. SCHOOL ENTRY LIMITATIONS. A school is allowed one entry in each section.

Section 3. CONTESTANT LIMITATIONS. No contestant may enter more than two sections of the oral interpretation contest. The two-section limitation DOES NOT APPLY to students entering Readers Theatre. Students in a Readers Theatre group may enter up to three events.

Section 4. STATE SUPERIOR WINNERS. Contestants receiving a “superior” rating in the State Festival will be eligible to compete in the same section of future oral interpretation contests.

Section 5. USE OF COSTUMES AND PROPERTIES. Contestants are forbidden to use costumes or properties in giving their selections, and the penalty for violation shall be disqualification.

Section 6. USE OF LECTERN. A stand to hold manuscripts shall not be considered a property. Schools wishing to use a stand for holding a script are responsible for bringing their own stand to the contest.

Section 7. SINGING. Singing in an oral interpretation contest is forbidden. The penalty for violation shall be a lower rating and/or ranking by the judge(s).

Section 8. USE OF OWN COMPOSITIONS. A student may not interpret their own original compositions in any oral interp event with the exception of Readers Theatre which can be entirely student written.

Section 9. RE-USE OF SAME SELECTION IN THE SAME EVENT PROHIBITED. No contestant shall use the same selection in the same contest event in district, region or State competition which he/she has used in previous years of competition in that event in district or region contests or the State Festival.

A “selection” shall be defined as: “The entire work from which a cutting is taken, including plays. Adaptations of works which give credit to the original author shall be considered the same selection as the original work. An exception to this rule is that cuttings taken from an anthology shall not invalidate the anthology for future cuttings by a contestant provided different literature is used.”

This rule, which applies to all Oral Interpretation contest events, does not prohibit the continued use of the same selection in the local contest as long as the student does not advance out of the local contest with the selection.

Section 10. USE OF SAME SELECTION IN MORE THAN ONE CONTEST EVENT IN SAME YEAR PROHIBITED. At district, region and State competition, no contestant shall use the same selection in more than one contest event the same school year.

Section 11. CHANGE OF SELECTIONS. The regulations permit a winner at one level of competition to change selections for the next level of competition.

Section 12. SUBSTITUTION OF COMPETITORS. Whenever the winner of a local contest is unable to participate at the initial level of competition an alternate competitor from that school shall be allowed to enter the competition after an administrator from that school signs a statement to certify the alternate’s eligibility (see: Article IV, Section 1.

Whenever the winner of a district or region contest is unable to participate at the next level of competition, the next highest ranked non-qualifier shall be allowed to advance into that next level of competition.

ARTICLE V-CONTEST MATERIALS

Section 1. CONTEST EVENTS. The district and region contests and the State Festival shall be divided into seven contest events:

1. Serious Reading
2. Duet Interpretation
3. Humorous Reading
4. Non-Original Oratory
5. Poetry Reading
6. Readers Theatre
7. Storytelling

Section 2. ROYALTIES FOR CONTEST MATERIALS. The SDHSAA assumes no responsibility for the payment of royalties or other fees connected with the performance of any material at a speech contest. It is the local school’s responsibility to secure all rights to perform materials.

Proof of satisfaction of royalty obligations shall be available upon request at all levels of competition. NOTE: The “Proof” can be a photocopy of a performance license, a photocopy of an invoice showing the royalty cost plus a photocopy of the payment check, a photocopy from a play catalogue listing that the play is either free royalty or in the public domain, or if written by an individual, a statement granting the school permission to perform the work.

Section 3. SOURCE OF SELECTIONS. With the exception of Non-Original Oratory and Readers Theatre, all selections in Storytelling, Serious Reading, Poetry Reading, Humorous and Duet must be cuttings from novels, short stories, plays or poetry that are copyrighted and published in either electronic or print form.

1. Recorded material (video tape, DVD’s, audio tape, CD’s or phonograph recordings) **OR** material from the internet that is not published and copyrighted is prohibited.
2. Original material published in a high school publication such as a newspaper, literary magazine or yearbook is prohibited.

The contest entry form requires that the following information be provided: title of selection, author, source (book, magazine, or website), date published and publisher.

In the event a selection is challenged, the original published source or proof of publication of any selection used in Storytelling, Serious Reading, Poetry Reading, Humorous or Duet must be immediately available at the district or region contest or the State Festival. If the original published source is unavailable, a photocopy of the entire artifact (not only the cutting), or digital copy can be used (if immediately available). If proof of “legal” publication is not immediately available, the selection must be disqualified.

3. **GENERATIVE AI.** Where published material is required, students are prohibited from performing material created by generative AI sources. While generative AI may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and

material, the original source of any material that is performed must be available if requested. Students in all categories are prohibited from using generative AI to write introductions and transitions.

Section 4. INTEGRITY OF THE ORIGINAL WORK. Any cutting of a work of literature must maintain the integrity of the original source and preserve authorial intent. A complete script of the cutting used should be immediately available at all SDHSAA competitions. The complete script of the cutting would include:

1. A photocopy of every page from which any line of the cutting is taken; pages are to be in the order in which they are performed.
2. All words used from the script should be highlighted (any words/lines not used should be left unmarked).
3. Any word changes (to eliminate profane language) and/or additions (for transitions) must be indicated clearly in ink.

Section 5. USE OF MANUSCRIPT. The use of manuscripts is optional in all Oral Interp categories. Judges are NOT to base final judgments on use or non-use of manuscripts.

Section 6. ELECTRONICALLY PUBLISHED MATERIALS. With the exception of Non-Original Oratory and Readers Theatre, electronically published materials may be used in SDHSAA interp contests. All cuttings must be from “copyrighted and published” sources that are available to the public in either electronic or print form.

Section 7. USE OF SELECTIONS WHICH ARE IN BAD TASTE: CHOICE OF SELECTION AND SELECTION CONTENT. In choosing a selection to be used in any of the seven contest events of oral interpretation, the contestant and/or the coach should pick material that has literary merit and will not offend the moral standards of the community nor be in bad taste. Contestants whose interpretation is judged to be offensive or in bad taste will be given a lower rating and/or ranking by the judge(s).

Contestants should be especially sensitive to the use of offensive language, including cursing or profanity, as audiences at contests will be quite diverse.

Procedure Followed When A Selection or Content Of Selection Complaint Is Received:

1. Complaints must be submitted in writing and must be signed.
2. The complaint is sent to the administrator who certified the selection met the community standards of their school.

Section 8. SOUND EFFECTS. Mechanical or instrumental sound effects are not allowed. However, humming, “Ah-ing”, “Fa-La-La”, and “Doo-Wop” and other sound effects created by the performers are permissible. Sound effects CANNOT be created by using the stools, scripts, stands, or singing. **This applies to all categories.**

Section 9. NON-ORIGINAL ORATORY. This contest event consists of interpreting a selection from a single source. The contest event shall include selections such as orations, addresses, lectures and essays that are conducive to oratorical interpretation. (No cuttings from poems, plays or other works of fiction are allowed in this contest event.) The Non-Original Oration can be serious, humorous or a mixture of serious and humorous sentiments. Non-Original Oratory has been exempted from the “copyrighted and published” regulation because oratory, in its origin, is basically an oral medium of communication. However, selections shall not be the original work of the contestant. The maximum time of presentation, including the introduction, is ten minutes. The use of a manuscript is optional.

Section 10. SERIOUS READING. This contest event consists of interpreting a selection from a single source of dramatic literature or prose with literary merit and appropriate to the reader. The selection must have been copyrighted and published and be available to the public in either electronic or print form. The mood of the selection must be essentially serious in nature. The maximum time of presentation, including the introduction, is ten minutes. The use of a manuscript is optional.

Section 11. POETRY READING. Literature for the poetry contest event shall be selected by the contestants. They shall choose poetry to develop one theme or to illustrate the abilities, moods or characteristics of one author. If they choose to develop a theme, the contestants may select the works of one or more authors. In any case, the poetry may be one long selection, a cutting from a longer selection, or a series of short selections. The contestants may include in their presentation such introductory or transitory remarks as are necessary to establish mood and to orient the audience properly. Only poetry from the best of literature should be used. This includes plays. The poetry in the selection must have been copyrighted and published in either electronic or print form and be available to the public. The use of a manuscript is optional. The maximum time of presentation, including the introduction and transitory remarks, is ten minutes.

Section 12. HUMOROUS READING. Humorous prose shall include all stories, plays and essays written in prose, together with all plays written in verse. The selection from a single source must have been copyrighted and published in either electronic or print form and be available to the public. Whenever possible, contestants should be encouraged to

make their own cutting from literature to be used. Only the best literature and selections of literary value should be used since it offers the greatest opportunity for interpretation. The use of a manuscript is optional. The maximum time of presentation, including the introduction, is ten minutes.

Section 13. DUET INTERPRETATION. The purpose of Duet Interpretation is to give students the opportunity to develop their characterization. Duet Interpretation is an exercise composed of two students. The selection from a single source must have been copyrighted and published in either electronic or print form and be available to the public. The material used by the contestants must meet the high standards of good literature. Cuttings from plays, verse plays or other works may be presented. A selection may be of humorous or serious nature.

Material presented by all contestants shall be appropriate for public performance by high school students. Every precaution should be taken to ensure that no questionable material is selected.

A narrated introduction, or transitional material within the cutting may be given by one or both members. Only during the presentation of the introduction and/or original transitional material may physical or eye contact be made with the duet partner. The narrated introduction shall be included in the time limit for the selection.

The use of a manuscript is optional. The performance must begin from the "center stage" area. During the selection, off-stage-focus must be employed by both contestants. The contestants may react to each other's verbal and/or non-verbal expressions, but they may not touch each other. Pivoting, turning or one or two steps may be used to indicate stage directions or transitions.

Throughout the selection, each of the two performers may play one or more characters, so long as performance responsibility remains balanced.

Cuttings of multiple scenes must be bridged by memorized narration. Cuttings may be made either from one continuous piece of dialogue or from short bits of dialogue.

The time limit for Duet Interpretation shall be ten minutes. An entry will not be penalized if its performance is less than ten minutes.

Section 14. STORYTELLING. The purpose of Storytelling is to give students the opportunity to develop the art of creating a mood wherein a spoken narrative transports the audience to the time and place of the story being recounted. A storyteller is a narrator - not an actor or actress - and although gestures, pantomime, movement, and characterization are not barred, they must be used with restraint. The focus of the presentation must be on the narrative, with the teller acting as a presenter and not a performer. The teller must clearly grasp and convey the meaning of the tale. The judge should rate highly the mechanics of superior speaking: fluency, vocal variety, articulation, eye contact, gesture. The use of a manuscript is optional. The storyteller may speak standing or seated in a chair or combination of both. No stools are permitted. The chair used in performance must be provided by the host site. No props or visual aids may be used. "When the teller has been successful in bringing the tale to life, the telling will seem entirely natural, almost effortless".

- a. Single published, printed story, anecdote, tale, myth or legend must be *retold* without the use of props.
- b. The maximum time is five minutes, but the story may be briefer without penalty. An introduction must be included within the five-minute time limit
- c. The student may not tell a story he/she used in previous years of competition in Storytelling within district or region contests or the State Festival.
- d. Gestures, pantomime, and characterization may be used with restraint but the focus must be on the Narrative.
- e. A theme shall be chosen by the Speech Advisory Committee annually. **The theme for the 2024-25 school year shall be – Love**

Section 15. READERS THEATRE. Readers Theatre is an event in which a group of three to six students interpretively present literature.

1. Readers Theatre vs. One-Act Plays. While the One-Act Play is a theatrical performance of a play (or play cutting) Readers Theatre encourages the students to create a scripted ensemble performance that focuses on the use of interpretative skills to present prose, poetry and/or drama without the aid of costumes, make-up, set or props.
2. Selections/Materials. Materials used may include prose, verse, drama, speeches, diaries, letters, essays, original compositions, etc. NOTE: A school may not use any of the same literary materials in two consecutive years, but other literature from the same "selection"/source may be used.
3. Time Limits. The time limit for a Readers Theatre performance including the introduction is ten minutes.
4. Preparation and Presentation.

- A. Manuscripts are optional. They may be held and/or placed on music stands. If manuscripts are used, members of the group must carry their manuscript as they move from place to place during the performance.
- B. Costumes, make-up, and props are prohibited, but it is allowable for a school to have the participants dress in a uniform manner.
- C. Performers may use either a uniform set of stools (between 24" and 30" high, having no back and unable to swivel) or a set of straight chairs. A school SHALL NOT use a combination of stools and chairs. The maximum number of chairs or stools allowed shall be no greater than the number of performers in the group. *Schools are responsible for providing their own stools or chairs.* **NOTE: The performers cannot stand or kneel on the chairs or stools. The chairs or stools are only to be used for sitting.**
- D. Limited stage movement shall be allowed. The narrator may move about and the compositional groupings may change.
- E. The performers may react to each other's verbal and/or non-verbal expressions, but they may not touch each other.
- F. A narrated introduction or transitional material within the cutting may be given by one or more members. Only during the presentation of the introduction and/or original transitional material may physical or eye contact be made with the other members of the group. The narrated introduction shall be included in the time limit for the selection.

ARTICLE VI-TIME LIMITS

- 1. The **maximum time limit** for each selection shall not exceed ten minutes with the exception of Storytelling, which has a maximum time limit of five minutes. (plus a 30 second grace period).
- 2. There is **no minimum time limit** (i.e. an entry will not be penalized if the performance is less than ten minutes).
- 3. Each judge shall be one of the official timekeepers at every contest, with a stopwatch or stop clock. The judges will keep a record of each contestant's time and submit this record to the committee managing the contest/festival.
- 4. **Time begins** when the performance begins, either by the contestant's words or actions. The final time will be the average time of the three judges.
 - A. The oral interpretation committee for the district or region contest **must lower** the composite rank of any performance exceeding 30 seconds over the time limit. Any performer(s) exceeding the time limit cannot be ranked higher than any contestant(s) whose performance is within the 10-minute time limit.
 - B. At the State Festival, the State Festival Committee **must lower** the composite rating of any performance exceeding 10 minutes, 30 seconds.
 - C. Schools wishing to use time cards with their own competitors will be allowed to do so; however, no official time cards will be used or supplied.

ARTICLE VII-JUDGES AND JUDGING

Section 1. DISTRICT/REGION CONTESTS. For district and region contests the contest committee shall select the judges. It is the contest committee's responsibility to check with the schools in their district or region as to the acceptability of contest judges.

NOTE: No person connected with any of the schools represented in the contest or who is a relative of any of the contestants shall be selected to serve as a judge.

The judges shall be paid from assessments made against the schools entered in the contest. Districts and regions shall pay each judge a minimum of \$60 per round, with a maximum fee of \$100 per round. Judges will be reimbursed for mileage at \$0.51 per mile. Judges will also be paid a meal per diem of \$13 for breakfast, \$14 for lunch, or districts/regions will provide meals on site.

*** All Fine Arts judges are required to register as a "Fine Arts Official" on the SDHSAA website.**

Section 2. SELECTION OF JUDGES FOR THE STATE FESTIVAL. The Speech Advisory Committee shall select the 18 judges for the State Festival. The judging pool will be recruited and asked to apply to the Speech Advisory Committee for consideration into the judging pool. The requirements must include: each judge must be a collegiate or professional director; they should possess a personality that will assure giving constructive criticism

and encouragement to the contestants; they must evaluate her/his judging competencies carefully and indicate major and secondary areas of competency and preference; they should possess a vocabulary that will make it possible for her/him to record her/his impressions and suggestions clearly and concisely; and, they must have a background or experience sufficient to serve as an effective adjudicator (e.g., judging experience). **Judges must have judged a minimum of two oral interp contests during the current school year, and must complete the NFHS course, “Adjudicating Speech and Debate” every five years to be qualified to serve as a judge at the State Festival.** This pool of judges, once formed, will be rotated through each class and a list of alternate judges will be rotated into the yearly judging pool to allow new judges to enter the pool each year. State Festival judges will be paid out of the funds of the South Dakota High School Activities Association.

Section 3. JUDGES at the State Festival will be placed in a judging pool and will be assigned to judge contest sections without regard to the class of schools being judged.

Section 4. JUDGE CONDUCT & INTEGRITY. Individuals selected to serve as judges for SDHSAA district, region, or State Oral Interpretation competition are expected to maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct and integrity. These standards include:

1. Making decisions based upon the general rules for Oral Interpretation competition and the specific rules for the contest event being judged.
2. Avoiding judging situations in which the judge could have a conflict of interest.
3. Judges shall arrive at their decisions independently from other judges and individuals.
4. Judges shall not consult with one another until their ballots have been submitted to the contest management.
5. Judges shall direct any questions regarding contest procedure or the interpretation of contest regulations to the chairperson and committee conducting the district, region or State competition.
6. Inappropriate conduct by a judge would include direct or implied recruitment of contestants at the time of the contest (including asking students to consider attending a particular collegiate institution). **NOTE:** This does not prevent follow-up letters and contacts after the contest.

Section 5. PLAN OF JUDGING.

1. Literary Merit: The selection presented should have literary merit.
2. Interpretation: Includes thought content, emotional content, characterization, creation of mood, and image.
3. Voice: Includes articulation, pronunciation, force, timing, quality, and pitch.
4. Bodily Action: Includes poise, posture, movement, facial expression, gesture, and coordination of thought and action.
5. Establishing Proper Audience Contacts for the Type of Selection: Includes the kind and degree of communication, creating and holding interest and attention, and accomplishment of purpose.
6. Duet Judges should review Article V, Section 13.
7. Readers Theatre Judges should review Article V, Section 15.

The judges shall not give separate percentages for each item. However, they shall take into consideration all of the foregoing points in arriving at a decision as to the quality of the complete effect produced by the speaker.

In interpretative reading, it is the total effect of the reader’s achievement in communication which should be judged. Projection of the thoughts and ideas of the author from the printed page to the minds of the audience should be the major effort of the reader. Reading techniques, or extent of memorization of material should be considered by the judge only as he/she consciously becomes aware of them as a detraction from the total impression created by the reader.

Section 6. RATING AND RANKING OF CONTESTANTS.

1. **DISTRICT/REGION RANKINGS.** In district and region contests each judge is to rank the contestants 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and all the rest being given a rank of 6.
2. **QUESTIONABLE CONTENT OF SELECTIONS AT DISTRICT/REGION CONTEST.** In district and region contests, if in the opinion of the judge, a contestant has used offensive language including cursing or profanity in presenting their selection or whose selection is in bad taste, the judge is to lower the rankings the judge would have given the contestant.
3. **JUDGES AT THE STATE FESTIVAL SHALL USE ONLY RATINGS.**

4. **STATE FESTIVAL RATINGS.** At the State Festival, each judge is to rate the contestants using a rubric. A student will receive a Superior rating if two of the three judges rate the performance as “Superior”.
5. **ALL CONTESTANTS WHO RECEIVE A “SUPERIOR” RATING SHALL BE AWARDED A MEDAL.**
6. **QUESTIONABLE CONTENT OF SELECTIONS AT STATE FESTIVAL.** If in the opinion of a State Festival Judge, a contestant has used offensive language including cursing or profanity in presenting their selection, or whose selection is in bad taste, the judge is to lower the ratings the judge would have given the contestant.
7. **RULES VIOLATIONS.** If in the opinion of a contest judge, a contestant(s) violates one or more of the rules for the contest event, the judge must lower their ranking at the district or region contest level or the rating of the contestant(s) at the State Festival.
8. **DISQUALIFICATIONS.** It shall not be the duty of the judge or judges to rule on the disqualification of contestants or selections. A judge has no authority to disqualify a contestant or a selection. It is the responsibility of the contest committee to rule on the disqualification of contestants or selections.

ARTICLE VIII-MANAGEMENT OF DISTRICT AND REGIONAL CONTESTS

Section 1. The decisions of the judges shall be summarized by three or more referees and a report of the rankings given to the contest manager.

Section 2. THE USE OF RANKINGS. In district and region contests, numerical rankings for each contestant are to be used to advance to the next higher contest. Rankings are to be summarized by the use of the table below. Thus, a student receiving a combination of rankings from the three judges of 2, 2, 3 would be higher than a student who received a 1, 3, 4 ranking. In ranking, position on the table is all-important. A combination of rankings on the table is higher than anything to the right, **regardless of totals.** When the use of the rankings fails to break a tie, then all involved contestants with the tied rankings shall be permitted to advance.

Use the following table to determine a student’s ranking. Any group of three numbers that appear to the left on the table is higher than any other group of three numbers to the right. **DO NOT ADD NUMBERS.**

←	Highest Rankings	Lowest Rankings	→
	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 3 1 2 2 1 2 3 1 2 2 3 1 2 3 2 3 3 4 1 2 3 3 4 2 3 4 4 3 4 5 4 5 5 6		
	1 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 2 3 2 3 2 3 3 4 2 3 3 3 4 2 3 4 4 3 5 3 4 3 5 4 4 5 3 4 4 6 5 4 5 4 6 5 4 5 6 5 6 6 6		
	1 2 3 4 5 6 2 3 4 5 6 2 3 3 4 4 5 3 4 5 6 4 3 5 6 5 6 4 4 5 6 5 5 6 6 4 5 6 5 4 6 6 6 5 5 6 6 6 5 6 6 6 6 6		

Section 3. ADVANCEMENT TO NEXT HIGHER CONTEST.

The following formulas should be used to determine the number of contestants that will advance from Class “B” district contests and from Class “A” and “B” region contests.

NOTE: The contestants used to determine the number of contestants that advance to the next contest level must be participating contestants in the event – not just contestants listed as entries.

1. **Class “B” District contests.** At the district contests, winning contestants will advance based on the following scale.
 If there are:
 1 to 2 contestants in the section = 1 contestant advance
 3 to 4 contestants in the section = 2 contestants advance
 5 to 6 contestants in the section = 3 contestants advance
 7 or more contestants in the section = 4 contestants advance
2. **Class “B” Region contests.** At the region contests, winning contestants will advance to the State Festival based on the following scale.

If there are:

1 to 4 contestants in the section = 2 contestants advance

5 to 8 contestants in the section = 3 contestants advance

9 or more contestants in the section = 4 contestants advance

3. **Class “A” Region contests.** At the region contests, winning contestants will advance to the State Festival based on the following scale.

If there are:

3 to 10 contestants in the section = 3 contestants advance

11 or more contestants in the section = 4 contestants advance

Section 4. The original decision of each judge is to be final. The judges are not to be called into conference to consider changes.

Section 5. All contestants who advance to the next level of contest shall receive an award.

Section 6. REGION CONTEST RESULTS REPORT LATE FEE. A \$50.00 Late Fee will be assessed to Region Oral Interpretation chairpersons whose “Region Contest Results Report” has not arrived at the SDHSAA office by 10:00 a.m. the day following the region contest.

ARTICLE IX-AWARDS

Section 1. DISTRICT & REGION MEDALS. Medals for the students advancing in each event of the oral interpretation contest shall be selected by the advisory committee. These awards shall be paid for by the South Dakota High School Activities Association.

Section 2. CLASS “B” DISTRICT TROPHY & CLASS “A” REGION TROPHY. The Association shall purchase a suitable trophy for the Class “B” school winning the most trophy points in the district contest and for the Class “A” school winning the most trophy points in the region contest. To determine the winner of the trophy, trophy points shall be awarded as follows:

1st place = 6 points

2nd place = 5 points

3rd place = 4 points

4th place = 3 points

5th place = 2 points

All other places = 1 point

These are based on the composite rankings that each contestant from a given school receives. In cases where the composite rankings for a contest event result in a tie, the trophy points will be given to each school tied for the place. The next placing will be omitted in the awarding of points (i.e. - if a tie for 2nd place exists, each school will receive 5 points and there will be no 3rd place points awarded - the next place will receive 3 points for 4th place).

The school receiving the most trophy points shall be awarded the trophy. In case of a tie, duplicate trophies shall be awarded.

Section 3. STATE FESTIVAL “SUPERIOR” RATING AWARDS. At the State Festival, any individual student, Duet or Readers Theatre group receiving a “Superior” rating shall receive a medal. To receive a Superior rating, a performance must be rated Superior by 2 of the 3 judges. A superior with Distinction rating is given when a performance receives a Superior rating by all 3 judges.

Section 4. STATE FESTIVAL TEAM EXCELLENCE AWARDS. All schools demonstrating high levels of performance at the State Festival shall be presented a Team Excellence Award plaque.

Section 5. AWARDS POLICY SUMMARY.

1. Class “B” District Contest

A. District trophy to the school winning the most trophy points.

B. Individual bronze medals to all contestants advancing to the regional contest.

2. Class “B” Region Contests

A. Individual silver medals to all contestants advancing to the State Festival.

3. Class “A” Region Contests
 - A. Region trophy to the school winning the most trophy points.
 - B. Individual silver medals to all contestants advancing to the State Festival.
4. State Festival
 - A. Individual gold medals with lanyards to all individuals and members of Duet teams and Readers Theatre groups that achieve a “Superior with Distinction” or “Superior” rating. The medals will be draped on each “Superior” recipient.
 - B. Class “A” and “B” Team Excellence Award” plaque to all Class “A” and “B” schools receiving at least two “superiors”.
 - C. Class “AA” Team Excellence Award” plaque to all Class “AA” schools receiving at least four “superiors”.

Section 6. SPEECH ACTIVITIES AWARDS DRESS POLICY. Students receiving awards at district or region contests or the State Festival are strongly encouraged to wear “Competition Appropriate” Clothing.

Section 7. CASH PRIZES POLICY. In all oral interpretation contests under supervision of the Association, no cash prizes shall be offered.

ARTICLE X-PROTESTS

Section 1. BASIS FOR PROTESTS. The SDHSAA Constitution & By-Laws provides for protests based upon a challenge to the interpretation given to a contest regulation or administrative ruling.

Section 2. The contest judges are responsible for applying the contest rules for the contest event being judged. Judges’ decisions are hereafter regarded as final and shall not be considered as a basis for protest.

Section 3. DISTRICT & REGION CONTEST INFORMAL PROTEST PROCEDURE. It is recommended that the following informal protest procedure be followed:

1. All protests involving contest rules should be presented to the Contest Chairperson prior to the tabulation of results for that contest.
2. No tabulations shall be done until the dispute is resolved by the district or region committee charged with managing the contest. The decision of the district or region committee can be appealed to the SDHSAA Board of Directors (*SEE: [The SDHSAA By-Laws, Chapter I, Part V, Section 2](#)*).
3. Protests raised after the announcement of results will be resolved in the manner specified in the SDHSAA By-Laws (Chapter I, Part V, Section 2). In the event that a protest is raised after the announcement of results, the protest will not affect the outcome of that contest, but may affect advancement to the next level of competition

SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATION

From the SDHSAA Board of Directors

“If it is necessary to schedule school activities on the dates of an SDHSAA State Event, it is recommended that priority be given to the students who qualified for the state event.”

**2024 SDHSAA STATE ORAL INTERPRETATION
FESTIVAL SCHEDULE**

**Sturgis High School
December 6-7, 2024**

Friday Morning, December 6

8:00-9:00 a.m. Registration for Contestants

9:00 a.m. - First Session

"AA" - Non-Original Oratory

"A" - Serious Reading

"B" – Reader’s Theatre

Friday Afternoon, December 6

1:00 - 1:30 p.m. Registration for Schools Not Previously Registered

1:30 p.m. - Second Session

"AA" - Serious Reading

"A" – Reader’s Theatre

"B" - Humorous Reading

Friday Evening, December 6

5:30-6:00 p.m. Registration for Schools Not Previously Registered

6:00 p.m. - Third Session

"AA" – Reader’s Theatre

"A" - Storytelling

"B" - Storytelling

Saturday Morning, December 7

8:00-9:00 a.m. Registration for Schools Not Previously Registered

9:00 a.m. - Fourth Session

"AA" – Storytelling

"AA" - Humorous Reading

"A"- Non-Original Oratory

"A"- Duet Interpretation

"B"- Poetry Reading

"B" – Duet Interpretation

Saturday Afternoon, December 7

12:30-1:30 p.m. Registration for Schools Not Previously Registered

1:30 p.m. - Fifth Session

"AA" - Poetry Reading

"AA" - Duet Interpretation

"A"- Humorous Reading

"A"- Poetry Reading

"B"- Non-Original Oratory

"B" - Serious Reading

**INDIVIDUAL AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED
AT THE CONCLUSION OF EACH SESSION.**

**TEAM EXCELLENCE AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED
AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE FINAL SESSION.**