

# **GENERAL SPEECH, DEBATE & THEATRE HANDBOOK 2021-22**

**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>

**SPEECH ACTIVITY FORMS at [www.SDHSA.com](http://www.SDHSA.com)**

**In the VARSITY BOUND AREA:**

*Oral Interpretation Intent Form*  
*Oral Interpretation Entry Forms*  
*One-Act Play Intent Form*  
*One-Act Play Entry Forms*  
*Debate & IE Tournament Intent Form*  
*Debate & IE Tournament Entry Forms*  
*Sanction of Interstate Fine Arts Events Application*  
*Drama: Set Design Entry Form*  
*Drama: Costume Design Entry Form*  
*Drama: Marketing Entry Form*  
*Regions A & B Floor Plan & Lighting Needs Form*  
*One-Act Play Administrative Verification Form*

**SPEECH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
Michelle McIntyre, SF Washington	Class "AA" Oral Interp	2024
Joey Lore, RC Central	Class "AA" One-Act Play	2024
Molly English	Class "A" Interp	2025
Kristi Fischer, Flandreau	Class "A" One-Act	2026
Adam Rudebusch, Castlewood	Class "B" One-Act	2023
Eric Martens, Great Plains Lutheran	Class "B" Interp	2023

**DEBATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
Kerry Konda, Aberdeen	Class "AA" Debate	2024
Travis Dahle, SF Jefferson	Class "AA" Debate	2025
Thomas Merriman, Beresford	Class "A" Debate	2024
Michael Larson, Lennox	Class "A" Debate	2025
Laura Raeder, SF Lincoln	Administrative Rep.	2025

**Articles and Sections from the  
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE  
SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION  
that relate to the Speech Activities**

**CONSTITUTION OF THE  
SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL  
ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION**

**Preamble**

The school districts of the state of South Dakota, acting by and through their duly elected school board members, having heretofore associated together in the creation and development of a voluntary, non-profit association organized for the advancement of both curricular and co-curricular interscholastic activities, do hereby jointly and in cooperation with each other, and with the non-public schools authorized by law to join therein, for the perpetuation of the Association, do hereby establish this Constitution and these By-Laws.

**ARTICLE I  
NAME**

This Association shall be known as the South Dakota High School Activities Association, (referred to herein as the Association or as the SDHSAA) and its duration shall be perpetual.

## **ARTICLE II OBJECT**

The purpose of this Association is to direct and coordinate interscholastic activities carried on by the member high schools of South Dakota.

It shall have the duty and obligation to control, coordinate and direct the operation of the interscholastic activity programs of its member schools. Among these programs shall be those in athletics, speech, music, student council, publications and such like or related programs as now or hereafter may be organized among member schools and which are recognized by the By-Laws.

It shall also attempt to equalize activity opportunity by standardizing qualifications for participants, coaching and directing procedures and treatment of visiting teams and participants in connection with all activities.

## **ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 2. BASIS FOR CLASSIFICATION BY ENROLLMENT.** When member schools are classified according to enrollment for participation in the various athletic or fine arts activities sponsored by the Association, Average Daily Membership (ADM) based on enrollment in grades 9-11 from one year previous as documented by member schools on the SD SIMS NET Average Daily Membership Report form. The ADM shall be the basis upon which schools are classified. Member schools shall submit the above referenced form on or before January 15 on an annual basis. The SDHSAA shall compile the enrollment data and said data shall be the basis for a two-year classification with such enrollment figures being set forth in bulletins sent out annually by the SDHSAA.

## **ARTICLE VII ADMINISTRATION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Functions, Powers, Duties)**

**Section 2. CONTROL OF ACTIVITY DATES.** All interscholastic events and dates for such events shall be approved, cleared or arranged for by the Board of Directors.

**Section 5. CONTROL OF OTHER ACTIVITIES.** The Board of Directors shall have the power to adopt such rules and regulations in connection with any and all high school activities not inconsistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association as it may feel necessary. In order to organize, plan and supervise the operation of the various activity programs, the Board of Directors shall appoint advisory committees consisting of not less than three nor more than seven members, who shall be either administrators or persons qualified to teach or coach the activities in the committee's charge. These advisory committees shall be responsible to the Board of Directors, and their decisions shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

**Section 10. CONTROL OF ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS.** The eligibility of students of member high schools to participate in South Dakota High School Activities Association events will rest with the Board of Directors of the Association under the powers of Section 3.

## **ARTICLE VIII LOCAL ADMINISTRATION OF CONTESTS**

**Section 1. PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBLE.** The principal of the high school or the superintendent of schools or the athletic/activities director, or his authorized faculty representative shall be the official representative for each member school, and such principal or superintendent shall be responsible to the Association for all matters pertaining to the activity relations of the school.

**Section 2. CONTESTS APPROVED BY PRINCIPAL.** No contest shall be arranged with another school without the sanction of the high school principal, superintendent, or athletic/activity director.

**Section 3. LOCAL RULES.** Local rules pertaining to eligibility of student players and performers in inter-school competition may be made and enforced by the local school officials, provided such rules are not inconsistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association.

**Section 6. CONTESTS WITH NON-MEMBER SCHOOLS.** No contest shall be held or scheduled with a school that is eligible to membership in this Association and which at the time is not a member, and no contests of any kind shall be scheduled or held with a non-member school without specific approval of each such contest from the Executive Director. In all such approved contests with non-member schools all By-Laws and rules of this Association shall apply.

**Section 7. NO SUNDAY CONTESTS.** There shall be no inter-school contests of any kind sponsored or participated in by member schools held on Sundays.

**ARTICLE IX  
PROHIBITED ACTS AND PENALTIES**

**Section 4. UNAPPROVED CONTESTS, MEETS, OR TOURNAMENTS.** A member school shall not sponsor nor enter a team or contestants in any contest, meet, or tournament that has not been sanctioned by the Board of Directors. Any member school that violates this regulation shall be liable to discipline, including reprimand, monetary fine, or temporary suspension, by the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE X  
AMENDMENTS**

**Section 7. AMENDMENT OF CONTEST REGULATIONS.** Contest or meet regulations for the various activity programs may be amended by proposal of the advisory committee for the particular activity involved, with approval by the Board of Directors. (See Article VII, Section 5) A majority vote of the fine arts and athletic advisory committees involved is required.

**BY-LAWS OF THE  
SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL  
ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION  
CHAPTER I - GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**PART I - SCOPE OF BY-LAWS**

These By-Laws constitute the rules and regulations governing all approved interscholastic activity programs and the provisions of this chapter shall be applicable to all such activities except as may be otherwise provided as to certain specific programs.

**PART II - ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

The Advisory Committees authorized by Article VII, Section 5 of the Constitution of this Association shall include, but shall not be limited to, advisory committees on girls' athletics, boys' athletics, athletic directors, speech, music, journalism, and student council activities. The Board of Directors shall fix the terms of the members to afford continuity and provide for such meetings of the committees as it deems necessary. It shall be the duty of each respective advisory committee to plan and recommend to the Board of Directors for its approval, a program of activities for its assigned activity.

**PART III - SCHOOL PARTICIPATION**

Any high school which is a member of this Association is eligible to participate in the activities sponsored by the Association.

**PART IV - STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR FINE ARTS AND ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION**

**Section 1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.**

- A. **Age.** The student must be under 20 years of age at the time of participation.
- B. **Enrollment.** Must have enrolled not later than the sixteenth school day of the current semester.
- C. **Eight Semester Rule.** A student shall be eligible for four first semesters and four second semesters of interscholastic competition. For the purpose of this subsection, enrollment and attendance in school or participation in one or more contests shall count as a semester of eligibility. Once a student enrolls as a ninth grader, all semesters must be consecutive unless waived as per Article VII, Section 3 (1) of the Constitution.

**NOTE:** Attendance Defined: If the student is used in the ADM count, full or partial day, they are considered to have attended school.

**D. Scholastic/Academic Eligibility Rule.**

- 1. **Preceding Semester.** The student, unless they are entering high school for the first time, shall have successfully earned a minimum of two (2) units of credit which are used in the issuance of a diploma, for the preceding or for the most recent semester of attendance in any accredited high school. For the purposes of this subsection, enrollment in school for fifteen school days or participation in one or more contests shall constitute a semester in determining eligibility. However, the Board of Directors or the Executive Director shall have the authority to waive the attendance rule when and if a student withdraws from school as a result of an injury or illness and does not return to any school for the remainder of the semester and the student does not receive any high school course credits.

**NOTE: Failure to earn two (2) units of credit the previous semester causes the student to become ineligible the entire following semester.**

**NOTE: Only credits accepted by the school for graduation may be used in determining whether a student has successfully earned two (2) units of credit. Source: Minutes of the January 10-11, 2001 Board of Directors Meeting.**

2. **Current Semester.** The student shall (a) be enrolled in an accredited high school and attend courses for which a minimum of two (2) units of credit may be earned towards the issuance of a diploma, (b) be receiving alternative instruction as set forth in **SDCL 13-27-3** or (c) any student in grades ten, eleven, or twelve may apply to an institution of higher education or a postsecondary vocational education institution as a special student in a course or courses offered at the institution of higher education or postsecondary vocational education institution. Correspondence/college courses approved in advance by the high school principal for which credits earned are used in the issuance of a high school diploma may count towards the two (2) units of credit eligibility requirement. **(Refer to SDCL 13-28-37)**
3. A student's grades which are dependent upon completion of a project such as a vocational education project after the close of the academic school year shall be determined by the grade averages of record assuming satisfactory completion of the project.
4. **Credit Recovery.** Students who have been declared ineligible because of academic deficiencies from the previous semester/trimester may earn scholastic/academic eligibility by taking an academic course(s) via the options approved by the SD Department of Education. Examples include, but not limited to, online courses, in-district credit recovery courses, alternative education settings, digital courses, etc. The principal must monitor the successful completion of the course(s) and reinstate eligibility only after the successful completion of 2 units of credit as per Chapter I, Part IV, Section 1, Subsection D., page 8 of the Bylaws.
5. **Beginning and Ending of a Semester.** For the purpose of this subsection, the first semester shall be considered as ending on midnight on the day before the second semester begins and the second semester shall be considered as starting on the first day classes are held in said semester. The actual ending of the first/second semester or school year, rather than the date of graduation exercises or diploma date, controls the determination when eligibility terminates.

**Section 2. GRADES OF TRANSFERRED STUDENT.** In the case that a student just transferred from another school the scholastic record from the former school shall be used for determining eligibility. The student shall not participate in any interscholastic contests until the official transcript of grades is received from the former school and academic eligibility is verified.

## **PART V-PROTESTS-REVIEW OF DECISIONS**

**Section 1. DECISIONS OF THE JUDGES FINAL.** Judges' decisions in any contest are by their nature necessarily regarded as final and shall not be considered as the basis for protest.

**Section 2. BASIS AND PROCEDURE FOR PROTEST.** Protests based upon a challenge to the interpretation given to a contest regulation or administrative ruling thereon must be submitted in writing within 24 hours after the contest, to the chairman of the district or region committee. The committee shall render its decision promptly to the Executive Director of the Association, and shall notify the protestor, by telephone, to be followed by a written notice of its decision sent by first class mail to the protestor. An appeal from the decision of the district or region committee shall go directly to the Board of Directors. The decision of the Board of Directors shall be final.

### **CHAPTER II**

#### **Part I**

#### **Section 1. CHANGE OF SCHOOLS EFFECT ON ELIGIBILITY.**

E. A student cannot transfer from:

1. a high school in another state to a high school in this state, or
2. a member school to another member school, or
3. a non-member school to member school,

and be eligible for athletic/fine arts participation if he/she were not eligible due to personal conduct violations (i.e. training rule violations, code of conduct violations, activities violations, etc.) for such participation in the state/member school from which he/she transferred. This provision also includes those students who transfer under sub-section (m)---open enrollment students.

A student who would be ineligible at their previous school may not become eligible for competition at any level by transferring. The school at which the ineligibility occurred determines the period of ineligibility. A transfer at the beginning of a school year does not decrease or eliminate the period of ineligibility.

A transfer student will be eligible for athletic and fine arts participation provided he/she meets the eligibility requirements as set forth by Part IV---Student Eligibility for Fine Arts and Athletic Participation, Section 1---of the Bylaws of the SDHSAA and has completed any suspension for activities violations from the school they are transferring from.

**NOTE:** As these are student penalties and not penalties against the school, the penalty follows the student. A change in schools does not erase the violation or the penalty for the violation.

#### **Part II - REGULATIONS GOVERNING LOCAL ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Section 6. ANNUAL ELIGIBILITY REPORT.**

Prior to the start of any sport or fine arts activity, the high school principal or his/her designee shall verify to the coaching staff in each sport respectively and to the director of each fine arts activity respectively that the students participating in those activities meet all the eligibility requirements set forth in Chapter I, Part IV and Chapter II, Part I of the By-Laws.

In the event an ineligible student is allowed to participate in an interscholastic contest, forfeiture will be automatic. Additionally, the Board of Directors shall determine other penalties as deemed appropriate.

On or before June 15, each high school principal or his/her designee shall submit to the Executive Director the Annual Fine Arts Eligibility Report Form listing the names and other pertinent data of all students who participated in interscholastic fine arts activities for the school year just completed.

In the event a student becomes ineligible at any time during the school year, it shall be the duty of the high school principal or his/her designee to so inform the athletic coach or fine arts director at which time the student will be immediately withdrawn from all interscholastic competition.

### **PART III - RULES AND PROVISIONS FOR TOURNAMENTS AND MEETS**

**Section 1. SANCTIONED MEETS.** Sanction for all athletic and fine arts meets or tournaments involving non-member schools or out-of-state schools must be approved by the Executive Director of the SDHSAA. For all out-of-state athletic and fine arts activities, the SDHSAA shall follow the standards and procedures as established by the SDHSAA Board of Directors.

**Section 2. ELIMINATION TOURNAMENTS AND MEETS.** The Board of Directors shall have jurisdiction over all Association district and region tournaments and meets and shall divide the state appropriately for such tournaments and meets.

**Section 3. DELEGATED MANAGEMENT OF TOURNAMENTS AND MEETS.** The Board of Directors shall delegate the immediate management of district and region tournaments and meets to committees of school officials from the schools concerned with each; and shall give such committees power to handle all details connected with each; provided the tournament or meet in each case shall be operated in accordance with these Bylaws and rules.

**Section 4. BASIC PLANS FOR CONTESTS LEADING TO STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS.** The basic plans for dividing the schools into more than one class and providing tournaments and meets leading to state championships shall be determined by the association and may be amended by the same methods as used in amending other By-Laws. The basic plans shall be published by the Board of Directors in appropriate bulletins and copies sent to all member schools. These bulletins shall include, in addition to the details of the basic plans, the supplementary rules and regulations of the Board of Directors for implementing the basic plans.

When dividing the membership into classes for the purpose of competition, the Board of Directors shall use Average Daily Membership figures based upon the ADM in grades 9, 10 and 11. A copy of the enrollment data will be filed by the member schools with the Executive Director of the South Dakota High School Activities Association on or before the 15th day of January each year. Reclassification for all sports or fine arts activities shall be done at the same time so that the two-year periods are concurrent for all activities.

In the years of reclassification, the Executive Director will take the ADM on January 15th and formulate plans of alignments and disseminate to the membership on or before the 15th day of February to receive input into the staff alignment plans. The Board of Directors will make its final decision at the regular meeting held in February/March. In the years that end in 3, 5, 7 and 9 the plans will be addressing minimum change and equal numbers, provided the classification formula remains unchanged and in the year that ends in 1 the plans will address geography and equal numbers.

For activities in which there is no basic plan included in these By-Laws, the Board of Directors shall have authority to set up classifications and make assignment of schools to districts, sections or regions as it deems necessary.

**NOTE: To review the complete Constitution and By-Laws of the SDHSAA, please visit [www.sdhsaa.com](http://www.sdhsaa.com).**

**Visit the SDHSAA Website  
([www.sdhsaa.com](http://www.sdhsaa.com))  
for the latest SDHSAA Information**

- Rules & Regulations
- Forms
- State Oral Interpretation Festival Information & Results
- State One-Act Play Festival Information & Results
- State Debate & Individual Event Tournament Information & Results
- Listing of In-State Sanctioned Speech Contests & Festivals

## SPEECH ACTIVITIES GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **FINE ARTS PARTICIPANTS MUST MAINTAIN ELIGIBILITY.** During their June, 1996 meeting, the SDHSAA Board of Directors clarified the SDHSAA Constitutional and By-Law eligibility requirements for fine arts participants. The clarified policy, as adopted, states that: “All fine arts students involved with interscholastic competition who receive ratings and/or rankings, must meet all of the fine arts eligibility requirements including age, eight semester rule, academic rule and attendance rule.”
2. **SCHOOLS MUST SUBMIT ANNUAL FINE ARTS ELIGIBILITY REPORT.** In 1997, SDHSAA member schools adopted a By-Law, which requires schools to submit an “Annual Fine Arts Eligibility Report” at the conclusion of each school year. This “Report” should list the names of all fine arts students involved with interscholastic competition for the school year.
3. **SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN SPEECH ACTIVITIES.** The SDHSAA Board of Directors policy specifies, as determined by Board of Education policy in each school district, students in grades 7-12 may participate in region or state SDHSAA Oral Interpretation, One-Act Play, and Debate and I.E. activities.
4. **SPEECH EVENTS SEASONS.** To maintain a balance of speech activities within the overall schedule of SDHSAA, the Board of Directors have established specific seasons for SDHSAA sponsored speech events for South Dakota schools. The regulations for each speech activity include the dates for each activity’s season. Contest seasons are indicated by numbered weeks based upon the National Federation’s Standardized Calendar.
5. **SDHSAA IN-SEASON PARTICIPATION RULE.** Once a student reports for the school’s Oral Interpretation squad or the 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 is not permissible. However, a student can participate as an individual, not affiliated with a school in scholarship competitions such as, but not limited to, the American Legion Oratory Contest, and Voice of Democracy Contest. Students will be permitted to participate in the NSDA Big Questions Debate and World Schools Debate qualifiers outside of the regular debate season.
6. **CALENDAR OF SPEECH EVENTS.** A “Calendar of Speech Events” listing the in-state speech and theatre contests and festivals for this year can be found on the SDHSAA website “Speech” page.
7. **NO SUNDAY CONTESTS.** The SDHSAA Constitution specifically prohibits SDHSAA member schools from participating in any inter-school contest (where either a rating or ranking is given) which is held on Sunday.
8. **ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT TEAM AWARDS.** In an attempt to recognize the academic excellence of athletic teams and fine arts groups in each school, the SDHSAA created the “Academic Team Award”. The “Academic Team Award” recognizes all “varsity” level “teams” that achieve a combined GPA of 3.0 or higher.

The following speech activity “teams” are eligible for the award:

  - A. Oral Interpretation (Class “B” district contest entries/Class “A” region contest entries/Class “AA” State Festival entries)
  - B. One-Act (Class “B” & Class “A” region/Class “AA” State Festival play cast & crew)
  - C. Debate & Individual Events (Class “AA” & Class “A” State Tournament Entries)

For additional information on “Academic Team Awards”, see the “Academic Achievement Team Award” Section of the *FINE ARTS GENERAL HANDBOOK*.
9. **SPEECH ACTIVITY CONTEST SANCTION REQUIREMENTS & SPEECH TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS.**
  - A. **General Sanction Requirements for Speech Competition.**
    - 1) No competition will be held on Sunday.
    - 2) Each school entered in the competition is a member in good standing in its own state high school association.
    - 3) Each participant shall be eligible under the rules of his or her home state association.
    - 4) Awards shall be limited to those permitted by the state association with the most restrictive award rule.
  - B. **In-State Tournaments, Contests and Festivals.** Article IX, Section 4 of the *SDHSAA Constitution* requires that all contests, meets and tournaments be sanctioned by the SDHSAA. All approved in-state tournaments, contests and festivals are listed at the conclusion of the “Speech Section” and will be updated on the SDHSAA website ([www.sdhsaa.com](http://www.sdhsaa.com))
  - C. **Out-of-State Tournaments, Contests And Festivals.** SDHSAA member schools may participate in out-of-state speech activity tournaments, contests or festivals that have received interstate sanction from the SDHSAA.

During the summer months, there are no sanction restrictions insofar as the SDHSAA is concerned. The governing board of each member school shall decide whether their speech activity group(s) be allowed to travel during the summer vacation period.

1) **Interstate Sanctioning Policy: The 300 Mile Rule.** SDHSAA member schools are limited to one (1) interstate meet or tournament per sport/activity per year that exceeds 300 miles (one-way) from the South Dakota state border. If competition is in a non-neighboring state the competition must receive Interstate Sanction from the SDHSAA. (*Adopted: June 2007*) \*\*\*\*This rule only applies for physical travel and not digital competitions. Other sanctioning and rules apply such as no Sunday competition.

2) **Sanctioning Competition in Bordering States.** (*Adopted: June 2000*) Provided the competition is located within 300 miles of the South Dakota state border, speech contests that are held in a state directly bordering South Dakota are sanctioned and no sanction form is required.

D. **Securing Interstate Sanction for Out-Of-State Schools.** Many states require that competitions be sanctioned before their member schools can attend; therefore, it is recommended that schools holding a speech competition involving out-of-state schools should secure Interstate Sanction from the SDHSAA. Tournaments that desire to invite schools from another state should submit the “Application for Sanction of Interstate Non-Athletic Events” Form. This form, found with the “Speech Activity Forms” at the end of this “Speech Section”, should be submitted at least 30 days prior to the tournament or contest in order to allow sufficient time for the sanctioning process.

10. **CONTESTS WITH “NON-MEMBER” SCHOOLS.** Tournament directors should be aware that the *SDHSAA CONSTITUTION* (Article VIII, Section 6) prohibits holding any competition in which one of the participants is a South Dakota school that is not a member of the SDHSAA. Should a competition wish to invite a non-member school, the “General Fine Arts Information Section” contains an “Application for Sanction of Athletic and/or Fine Arts Contest with Non-Member.”

11. **HEAD SPEECH ACTIVITY COACHES & DIRECTORS MUST COMPLETE THE RULES MEETING FOR THEIR ACTIVITY.** The SDHSAA Board of Directors has adopted a policy which mandates that all head coaches/directors in each South Dakota high school speech activity program (oral interpretation, one-act plays, and debate & individual events) must complete an online rules meeting in their activity by the announced completion deadline for the activity. Completion of an online rules meeting by assistant coaches/directors is recommended, but is not mandatory. Failure of a head coach/director to complete a rules meeting will result in a \$50.00 fine assessed against the member school.

An email notification of online rules meeting deadlines for each of the speech activities will be sent to the head coach/director of each activity in all schools, as listed in the SDHSAA Member Directory. Speech directors who have questions about the speech rules meetings or any speech regulation should contact Brooks Bowman, SDHSAA, at Brooks.Bowman@sdhsaa.com. Phone: 605-224-9261.

### 2021-22 Mandatory Speech Rules Meeting Completion Timelines

ACTIVITY	APPROXIMATE DATE ONLINE	DATE TO BE COMPLETED
Oral Interpretation	August 15, 2021	October 1, 2021
Debate & I. E.	August 15, 2021	October 1, 2021
One-Act Plays	August 15, 2021	October 1, 2021

12. **SUPERVISION POLICY FOR FINE ARTS ACTIVITIES.** Anytime a school has students participating in an SDHSAA district, region or state contest/festival the coach/director of that activity or some other qualified staff personnel from the school should be in attendance throughout the competition. The SDHSAA adopted the following policy to ensure that qualified individuals accompany students: “All participating students at Fine Arts and Athletic Activities sponsored by the SDHSAA must be accompanied by their coach/director or, in cases of emergency, by an administratively authorized and approved individual. Students not accompanied by their coach/director or administratively authorized individual will be prohibited from participating in the event.

It is necessary to have a representative of the school in attendance for liability reasons, for those situations where a question on the interpretation of an SDHSAA regulation involving that school’s student(s) might occur, and in case a student should become ill or should be injured.

13. **COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE SDHSAA.**

A. **If in Doubt, Call or Email.** Speech activities directors that have questions about rules interpretations for a speech activity are urged to check with the SDHSAA in advance rather than allow a situation to develop where a student is penalized for a rule violation.

B. **Read SDHSAA Speech Activity Information.**



- 1) The rules for each of the SDHSAA speech activities can be found in the Speech Handbooks on the SDHSAA website.
  - 2) Emails with information about upcoming contests are sent to speech coaches/directors as the date of the competition approaches.
  - 3) Check the SDHSAA website at [www.sdhsaa.com](http://www.sdhsaa.com) for speech rules, contest updates, schedules, and results.
- C. Submit “Intent” & “Entry” Forms On Time.** Failure to file either the “Intent to Participate” form or the “Entry” form by their deadline hinders the planning for a district, region or state speech activity. **Speech entry forms not submitted on or before the deadline will result in a \$50.00 late fee.**
- D. Deadlines for Withdrawal.** The regulations for each speech activity include information regarding withdrawal from a contest. After a school files an “Intent to Participate” form, the notification of the school’s withdrawal from the SDHSAA competition must be done within the time limit specified in the regulations for the speech activity. **Failure to notify of withdrawal will make the school responsible for the pro-rated share of the contest expenses plus participation fees and chairperson stipends.**
- 14. SPEECH ACTIVITIES COOPERATIVES TIMELINES.** The SDHSAA established the following timelines for the creation of speech activities cooperatives:
- A. Oral Interpretation – the latest date for approving applications will be the June Meeting of the Board.
  - B. One-Act Plays - the latest date for approving applications will be the November Meeting of the Board.
  - C. Debate & Individual Events - the latest date for approving applications will be the November Meeting of the Board.
- The dissolution date for any speech activity cooperative is set at 30 calendar days prior to the cooperative application deadline dates.

## **CONTEST MODIFICATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

### **BASIC PHILOSOPHY**

When determining whether a student with special needs can compete in SDHSAA Speech Contests, we look at the needs of all the contestants and ask the following questions:

1. Can the student compete at the same time as the other contestants?
2. Does the student who has to be given special consideration gain an advantage?
3. Does the student who has to be given special consideration cause the other contestants to work at a disadvantage?

### **REQUESTING SPECIAL NEEDS MODIFICATIONS**

SDHSAA staff members will make some adaptations for students with special needs on an individual request basis. The request must be in writing and the conditions of the adaptations must adhere to the following criteria:

1. The request for adaptation must be made to the SDHSAA on school stationery as far in advance to the contest registration deadline as possible (a minimum of two weeks prior to the registration deadline). Requests will not be accepted over the phone.
2. The school requesting an adaptation must supply a medical certification of need.
3. The student must be able to compete at the same time as the other contestants in his or her district or region.
4. The student who is given special consideration does not gain an advantage over other contestants.
5. The student who is given the special consideration does not cause the other contestants to work at a disadvantage.
6. The school requesting a modification will be responsible for any additional expenses that result from the adaptation.

If the SDHSAA approves the modification, it is the speech activities coach’s responsibility to provide copies of all SDHSAA correspondence to all affected competition host schools and contest managers.

### **A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE OF HOW A MODIFICATION COULD BE USED**

A student who is medically certified as legally deaf desires to participate in Oral Interpretation competition. The SDHSAA might rule that the student could compete with the following adaptations:

1. The student may perform his/her selection using sign language, along with a certified interpreter provided by the student’s school.
2. The certified interpreter will stand behind the judge(s) and voice the signs that the student uses in performing the selection.
3. The certified interpreter is not to increase the emotion or inflection of the words, impacting the performance of the student.
4. Judges must be instructed that all criteria used to evaluate the student’s performance shall be the same as required of all other contestants.

### **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.”**

