**Speech Event Rules**

Please see [this page](https://sites.google.com/view/pcfl/training-videos-and-faq) for example videos of many events.

**Declamation (DEC)** - The time limit for all events is 10 minutes with a 30 second “grace period.” A selection used in Oratorical Declamation must have been originally delivered in the form of a speech by its author, a person other than the present speaker. The speaker must have an introduction which is at most one minute and names the work, author, and describes the circumstances under which the speech was originally presented. The original speaker's words must not be altered for the presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted. The same selection used in the first round of competition must be used throughout the entirety of the tournament. Selections may include professional speeches, public orations, eulogies, and sermons. Declamation follows NCFL Rules; see the NCFL [Master Ballot](http://ncfl.org/NCFLnew/PDFs/NCFLMasters/NCFLMasterBallot-DEC%28Fall2019%29.pdf) and [Critique Sheet](http://ncfl.org/NCFLnew/PDFs/NCFLMasters/NCFLCritiqueSheet-DEC%282015%29.pdf) for more.

**Dramatic Performance (DP)** – The time limit for all events is 10 minutes with a 30 second “grace period.” The presentation must be from a single published play, single published script, or single fictional or non-fictional work. The same selection used in the first round of competition must be used throughout the entirety of the tournament. The presentation may not use physical objects or costuming. The selection may be dramatic or humorous, usually following a plot. The selection must be presented from memory and not refer to any notes or scripts. DP follows NCFL Rules; see the NCFL [Master Ballot](http://ncfl.org/NCFLnew/PDFs/NCFLMasters/NCFLMasterBallot-DP%28Fall2018%29.pdf) and [Critique Sheet](http://ncfl.org/NCFLnew/PDFs/NCFLMasters/NCFLCritiqueSheet-DP%282015%29.pdf) for more.

**Duo Interpretation (DUO)** -- The time limit for all events is 10 minutes with a 30 second “grace period.” The presentation must be from a single published play, single published script, or single fictional or non-fictional work. The same selection used in the first round of competition must be used throughout the entirety of the tournament. The presentation may not use physical objects or costuming. The selection may be dramatic or comedic and may include creative movement without restriction with the exception that the two students may not look at one another or touch one another (in-person).  Focus should be off-stage. The selection must be presented from memory and not refer to any notes or scripts. Duo follows NCFL Rules; see the NCFL [Master Ballot](http://ncfl.org/NCFLnew/PDFs/NCFLMasters/NCFLMasterBallot-DUO%28Fall2019%29.pdf) and [Critique Sheet](http://ncfl.org/NCFLnew/PDFs/NCFLMasters/NCFLCritiqueSheet-DP%282015%29.pdf) for more.

**Extemporaneous Speaking (EX)** - Each topic will be in the form of a question. Contestants may make notes during the preparation time, but the use of notes, cards, briefs or other aids is prohibited during the speech. The time limit is 7 minutes with a 30 second “grace period.”  Extemp follows NCFL Rules; see the NCFL [Master Ballot](http://ncfl.org/NCFLnew/PDFs/NCFLMasters/NCFLMasterBallot-EXT%28Fall2018%29.pdf) and [Critique Sheet](http://ncfl.org/NCFLnew/PDFs/NCFLMasters/NCFLCritiqueSheet-EXT%282015%29.pdf) for more.

*PLEASE NOTE that speakers will receive their topics and spend 30 minutes prepping in another room; they will arrive one at a time to speak for you.  They may choose to stay in the room afterward or they may leave. So, don’t be alarmed if you show up to your NSDA Campus Room and are the only person there.  If no one shows up within 10 minutes of the start time, please contact the Tab Room.*

**Oral Interpretation (OI)** - Students present selections in the appropriate category – in alternate rounds prose or poetry. The time limit for all interpretation events is 10 minutes with a 30 second “grace period.” The student must hold a manuscript and appear to be reading. This manuscript may be used as a prop in their speech. Prose and Poetry both follow NCFL Rules for Oral Interpretation; see the NCFL [Master Ballot](http://ncfl.org/NCFLnew/PDFs/NCFLMasters/NCFLMasterBallot-OI%282017%29.pdf) and [Critique Sheet](http://ncfl.org/NCFLnew/PDFs/NCFLMasters/NCFLCritiqueSheet-OI%282015%29.pdf) for more.

**Original Oratory (OO)** - The contest comprises only memorized orations actually composed by the contestants and not used by them during a previous season. No visual aids are permitted. The time limit is 10 minutes with a 30 second “grace period.” Not more than 150 words of the oration may be direct quotations from any other speech or writing and such quotations must be identified in a printed copy of the oration supplied upon request of the tournament director. Extensive paraphrasing from other sources is prohibited. Oratory follows NCFL Rules; see the NCFL [Master Ballot](http://ncfl.org/NCFLnew/PDFs/NCFLMasters/NCFLMasterBallot-OO%28Fall2018%29.pdf) and [Critique Sheet](http://ncfl.org/NCFLnew/PDFs/NCFLMasters/NCFLCritiqueSheet-OO%282015%29.pdf) for more.

**Timing Rules**

Each event has a 30 second grade period over its time limit (7 min in Extemp, 10 min in everything else). A competitor who exceeds the grade period does not necessarily have to be ranked last, but they cannot be ranked first. There is no minimum time in any event; judges may consider penalizing a shorter performance, but there is no requirement to do so and there is no  set standard to determine what is “too short.” Note that the tab room will not make any adjustments to rankings after the judge submits their ballot - it is up to the judge to assess any penalties for going over the grace period.

Judges should ask speakers if they wish to receive time signals - it is NOT a signal of lack of preparation to request time signals! In Extemp and Impromptu, judges are EXPECTED to provide time signals from 5 down. Speakers may also time themselves - this is permitted, and students should not be penalized for using their own timers.  Note that the judge’s time is the only official one for the round.

If time signals are not provided according to the competitor’s request, the judge may not consider timing in their rankings.

#### During Rounds

* Keep time
* Give whatever time signals speakers request - in Extemp it is EXPECTED that judges give time signals from 5 down. In all events it is a sign of preparation, not lack of preparation, to ask for signals.  Also, if a student wishes to time themselves, that is allowed - but your time is the only official record for the round.
* DO NOT converse with the students. DO NOT give oral feedback. Welcome them, thank them, and that’s it.
* Ensure that the speaker’s name matches the spot on the ballot that you are ranking
* Type comments during performances. You can use tabroom (be sure to save comments after each speaker) or a separate doc. Please do not wait until the speaker has finished to begin typing your ballot.  This can greatly delay the tournament. We greatly encourage you to test your system to keep two windows or screens open or even use two different computers.

#### After Rounds

1. Dismiss all competitors
2. Enter and confirm rankings for the competitors
3. DO NOT CONFER WITH THE OTHER JUDGES! Decide independently.
4. Take a screen break, have a snack, and hydrate!
5. Note that comments will remain open until the end of the tournament, though we would recommend entering your immediate thoughts before going to your next round.

### No shows

Please continue to hold the round until all students who are present have been heard.  If you are missing a student please contact the tab room before submitting your ballot.

### Advice

* A great resource for judge training: <https://sites.google.com/view/judge-training/home>
* A video explaining how to use tabroom.com (debate-specific but still useful): <https://youtu.be/lEHBHm5itGY>
* A set of event explainers and sample rounds with commentary: [PCFL Resources and Videos](https://sites.google.com/view/pcfl/training-videos-and-faq?authuser=0)
* Dos and don’ts of writing a ballot: <https://youtu.be/iXb9N05hl6g>