

Event Categories - SCJFL MS Speech 3/7/25

Platform - Persuasive, Informative

Limited Preparation - Impromptu, Spar

Interpretation - Cold Reading, Declamation, DUO, HI, Poetry, Prose, Storytelling

General Technical Rules

A) Time Signals

- a) **Not Required** for **Platform** and **Interpretation** events
 - i) Memorized event, notes are discouraged
- b) **Required** for **Limited Preparation** events
 - i) Event Specific Instructions for Impromptu and Spar are located on the back

B) Memorization

- a) **Platform** and **Interpretation** events are typically memorized; notes are discouraged.
 - i) **Exception:** Cold Reading

C) Grace Periods

- a) A grace period of **30 seconds** over the maximum time limit of **Platform** and **Interpretation** events is provided.
 - i) **Exceptions:** Cold Reading (no time limit)
- b) A grace period of **15 seconds** over the maximum time limit of **Limited Preparation** events is provided.
- c) A speaker exceeding the grace period of their respective event **cannot** be ranked first (Rank 1) in the round.
- d) **During elimination rounds**, audience interaction, such as laughter, may be cause to extend this grace period (at the discretion of the judges).

D) Visual and Audio Aids (VAs)

- a) VAs are **optional** for the **Informative** and **Persuasive** events within the **Platform** category.

E) Props/Manuscripts

- a) Usage of **one chair** is permitted in the Storytelling event.
- b) Manuscripts are small binders/folders that contain the piece the speaker is presenting. They are **not considered** a prop and are **required** for the following events:
 - i) Poetry, Prose
- c) Besides the exceptions above, props are **prohibited** in all of the **Limited Preparation** and **Interpretation** events offered at the SCJFL MS Speech tournament.

F) Notecards

- a) Impromptu is limited to nothing larger than a **blank 4x6** index card or notecard.
- b) Spar is limited to **blank notecards or paper**, but may not use pre-written notes or any other reference materials

G) Photography/Filming

- a) Unsanctioned recording or filming of student speeches is **prohibited** in the SCJFL per Section XI of the SCJFL bylaws.

H) Judge Decisions and Conferral

- a) **In all rounds**, Judges should be making their rankings independently and should not reference or take suggestions from audience members, competitors, or coaching staff.

- I) Speaker Interactions
 - a) Neither judges nor spectators/parents should interact with speakers during the round and during speech delivery outside of rule-specified interactions.

Event Specific Rules

- A) Time Limits on Speech Delivery
 - a) **10 minutes Max** for the following events: Persuasive, Informative, Declamation, DUO, HI
 - b) **7 minutes Max** for the following events: Poetry, Prose
 - c) **5 minutes Max** for the following events: Storytelling
 - d) **No Time Limit** for the following events: Cold Reading
 - i) **1 minute Max** for preparation/reading over the material in Cold Reading
 - e) **Impromptu and Spar discussed below**
- B) Impromptu Procedure
 - a) **Timing:**
 - i) Speakers have **7 minutes total** for preparation and speech delivery. Timing starts as soon as the topics are provided.
 - b) **Topics:**
 - i) Topics are found on your online ballot in FTN. Each speaker will have a **unique set** of 3 topics they will receive from you.
 - c) **Restrictions:**
 - i) Speakers cannot consult others during prep, nor may they read discarded topics aloud. A given example can only be used twice in a tournament.
 - d) **Materials:**
 - i) A blank notecard (maximum size 4x6 inches) is permitted; no props are allowed.
 - e) **Judges' Duties:**
 - i) Judges or designated timers provide **audible time signals during prep and visual cues during the speech** (4 fingers for 4 minutes remaining, 3 fingers for 3 minutes and so on until 1 minute remains, a C shape with your hand at 30 seconds remaining, and a 10 finger countdown at 10 seconds remaining).
- C) Spar Procedure
 - a) **Rules:**
 - i) Please reference the **"Event Rules"** tab in the top portion of the online ballot. It will outline the times for the event as well as the order of speeches.
 - b) **Side Assignment:**
 - i) Judges assign debaters to pro or con **before the topic is given**. The pro side strikes one of three topics, then the con strikes another, leaving the final resolution for debate.
 - c) **Crossfire**
 - i) Debaters may question each other and may only take questions from other Spar competitors listed for that round.
 - d) **Preparation, Internet Usage, and Materials:**
 - i) No additional prep time or internet access is allowed during the debate.
 - ii) Blank paper or notecards are allowed, but pre-written notes and reference materials are prohibited.
 - e) **Judges' Duties:**
 - i) Judges or designated timers provide **audible time signals during prep and visual cues during the speech** (3 fingers for 3 minutes and so on until 1 minute remains, a C shape with your hand at 30 seconds remaining, and a 10 finger countdown at 10 seconds remaining).