

Judging Instructions – Speech

Know your Speech Judge Code.

This code is found when you sign-in each day. When we post each flighted round (20 minutes before the round), look for your code. If you do not see it, you are on StandBy for that round. Judges not picking up ballots 10 minutes before the round will be fined \$25 and we will start swapping-in judges. If you are on StandBy and we call your name and you are not there, your school will be fined \$25. We will have your code listed on the left of each event. Know your event and your code when you come to the Ballot Table. We will give you your schematic and a ballot pack. Go to your room quickly and, when all three judges (for FX, DX, OO, HI, DI, Duo only... Imp, Prose, Poetry only have one judge/section) have assembled and you have at least one competitor in a room, close the door and begin the round. One judge should be appointed the timekeeper. Time signals are mandatory in FX, DX, and Impromptu.

A Word on Timing....

As the District Tournament is designed to advance the best students in the Mid-Atlantic to NFL Nationals, we want to make sure that we are not unnecessarily harsh in timing issues. Hence, we allow a :30 second grace period in all speech events in order to keep our rules in line with those in Virginia and the NFL. We know that there are no grace periods in College Forensics, but this is NFL and there is a :30 second grace period. Should a student go beyond the :30 second grace period, that student may not receive first in the round. For limited prep events (FX, DX, Imp), time signals must be given, counting down from five minutes. ***A student may not be penalized for being overtime if the speech is not timed with a stop watch.***

A Word on Ballots...

NFL Nationals does not use ballots. NFL District Ballots are only a courtesy. For the sake of time, long comments are not encouraged. Write your feedback while students are speaking. When a student is done speaking, the ballot should be done. The colored master ballot must be filled-in in the same order as found on the schematic. Students need not speak in that order, depending upon the demands of double-entry. The most important issue is to rank all students 1-7 (with 1st being best and 7th being worst and the ranks in between corresponding accordingly) and get the ballot to the Ballot Table ***as soon as possible***. We cannot move on to the next round without all the ballots from previous rounds tabulated and audited. All the members of 3-judge panels should come together to the ballot table in Cabell Hall (where you picked up your ballots) and should wait while we double-check your ballots.

A Word on Double-Entry...

Students are going to be double-entered at this tournament. They may ask to speak early and then leave; please allow them to do so. They may appear once the round has started, since they were speaking in the previous round. Have them speak, as close as possible, to the order found on the schematic. Release extempers as soon as possible so that they can get to Prep in a timely fashion. Your cooperation in this will keep the tournament moving on time.

A Word on Disqualifications...

Judges may not, under any circumstances, disqualify a student. If there is a question on a piece, or a concern, that issue is to be directed to the Ombudsman, who will then either deal with the issue out of hand or refer it to the Tab Table. Judges may only rank 1-7. At this tournament, as in every NFL National Qualifier across the nation, there are those brave students who are competing outside their area. They are running declamations as HI, they are speaking for a brief time in OO, they are using scripts in Duo. These students are doing this so that others can go on to Nationals. If a student violates an NFL rule, such as using a script, they should be ranked at the bottom of the round.

A Word on Food...

Meals need to be eaten on-the-run. This tournament is a tough one on judges, as we are attempting to keep things on time and rolling effectively. We promise that we will feed you better than any other tournament you've been to. Do not go off campus. All judges not on the schematic are on standby. We will release the judge pool once we are sure that all rounds are going off.

A Word on Deportment...

There are no oral critiques, there are no disclosures of decisions. Please, judges, do not discuss the round with the student afterward; as these discussions can oftentimes lead students and coaches to new levels of expectation-based hysteria and not only clog a performance, but lead to precious hours of senseless drama. Encourage each student in his or her event and, certainly, be friendly. But these students are hopped-up on caffeine, are jumpy, and are expectant. The District Tournament is to run smoothly and efficiently and you can be integral to this heavenly state of forensics Nirvana through your professionalism in the competition rooms, your friendliness to all students, and your confidentiality.

A Word on Public Forum and Congress...

Due to lock-outs in Speech, and the attempt to get a variegated judge pool, expect to be on a judge panel for Public Forum or Congress. These are multi-judge panels. You will be listed for each event, based on your name. The same rules apply for picking up ballots 10-20 minutes before each round.

NFL Extemporaneous Speaking Rules

(Three Judges per Section)

The divisions shall be the United States and International. In the United States Division, topics will cover U.S. domestic and U.S. foreign policy. In the International Division, topics will cover the domestic affairs of foreign countries and the foreign affairs of all countries, including the United States. Extemporaneous Speeches shall require not more than 7 minutes for delivery. Contestants may make notes during the preparation time, but the use of notes, cards, briefs or other aids are prohibited during the speech.

(Three Judges per Section)

NFL Original Oratory Rules

This contest shall comprise only memorized orations actually composed by the contestants and not used by them during a previous contest season. No visual aids are permitted. Any appropriate subject may be used, but the orator must be truthful. Any non-factual reference, especially a personal one, must be so identified. **Length.** Orations shall require not more than 10 minutes for delivery. **Quotation.** Not more than 150 words of the oration may be direct quotation from any other speech or writing and such quotations shall be identified in a printed copy of the oration supplied prior to registration.

(Three Judges per Section)

NFL Interpretation Rules

Divisions. Separate contests shall be conducted in Dramatic, Humorous, and Duo Interpretation, each presented as memorized selections and without the use of physical objects or costume. Presentation shall not exceed 10 minutes. **Selections.** Selections used in these contests shall be cuttings from published, printed novels, short stories, plays or poetry. Monologues are acceptable in Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation. [In Duo Interpretation each of the two performers may play one or more characters so long as performance responsibility in the cutting remains as balanced as possible. [If the selection is prose or poetry and contains narration, either or both of the performers may present the narration.] During the presentation the contestant/team must name the author and the book or magazine from which the cutting was made. Adaptations may be used for the purpose of transition. **Focus.** In Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation, use of focal points and/or direct contact with the audience should be determined by the requirements of the literature being interpreted. In Duo Interpretation, focus may be direct during the introduction [the performers may look at each other] but must be indirect [off-stage] during the performance itself. **Source.** A cutting must be a single work of literature: one short story or one play or one novel or one or more poems. The original published source (or if unavailable a microfilm or microfiche copy) of any selection used in Dramatic, Humorous, or Duo must be immediately available at the tournament as well as a complete script of the cutting used.

VaFL Supplemental Rules

(Only One Judge per Section)

Impromptu Speaking is a competitive public speaking event in which a contestant draws three slip of paper out of an envelope and selects one upon which to speak. On these pieces of paper are thought-provoking quotations, one word abstracts, and general analytical questions. The speaker then spends part of the total time of 7 minutes preparing and speaking on the topic. Impromptu speaking is similar to Extemp, but is much "looser." Impromptu is far less structured and less evidence-based in order to allow for true spontaneity. A 3x5 notecard may be used. Verbal time signals must be given, counting down in :30 second increments, as soon as the student chooses their topic. When the student begins to speak, time signals should shift to hand. **Time limit:** 7 minutes with a :30 second grace period.

Prose Interpretation may be either humorous or serious. It must, however, be prose interpretation. This means no plays, musicals, or speeches. Essays are acceptable. Short stories are better for selections. Students must maintain the appearance of reading a script. A script must be used. **Time limit:** 10 minutes with a :30 second grace period.

Poetry Interpretation may be either humorous or serious. It must, however, be poetry interpretation. This means no plays, musicals, short stories, essays, or speeches. A long poem is acceptable or a program of various short poems composed according to authorship or theme is also acceptable. Students must maintain the appearance of reading a script. A script must be used. **Time limit:** 10 minutes with a :30 second grace period.

Storytelling may be either humorous or serious and an interpretation, from memory, of a children's story told as if to children. Think of it as G-rated Interp. No script may be used. **Time limit:** 10 minutes with a :30 second grace period.