

# 2023-2024 SPEECH & DEBATE BULLETIN



**ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR ACTIVITIES:**

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**Colorado High School Activities Association**

*'Seeking Excellence in Academics, Activities*



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[www.chsaanow.com](http://www.chsaanow.com)

August 2023

Activities Directors together with Speech and Debate Coaches:

The Colorado High School Activities Association would like to welcome you to the 2023-2024 Speech and Debate competitive season. We are looking forward to another successful season for our schools, students, coaches, adjudicators, and our supportive communities.

The Speech and Debate Advisory Committee, as they do every year, has worked to create a document that will help you to understand the rules and regulations associated with this activity. Their efforts are to prepare you for the regular season and the CHSAA State Tournament. With three State Tournament classifications, it is important for you to know and understand the new format, the rules that govern each level, and who to contact to get your team the most relevant information. This is where you will find that information. For information throughout the year, I encourage you to connect with us through our website: [www.CHSAANow.com](http://www.CHSAANow.com), and other social media platforms.

Please take time to become thoroughly acquainted with this document and the Speech & Debate Handbook.

Enclosed you will be able to locate the general policies that will be in effect during the 2023-2024 season. The critics/judges are expected to enter the [CHSAANow Speech and Debate website](http://www.CHSAANow.com), hover over the activities and select speech and debate in the dropdown. From that main page, they can complete the online test. The critic/judge's test is a requirement for those judges before they will be considered to judge a for any State Tournament.

Best wishes for a successful season and we appreciate your contributions to high school activities and supporting Speech and Debate in Colorado.

Sincerely,

Rashaan Davis  
Assistant Commissioner  
[rdavis@chsaa.org](mailto:rdavis@chsaa.org)

## **CHSAA Speech and Debate Mission:**

The CHSAA mission in speech and debate is to provide opportunities and assist its participants in developing diverse communication skills while competing at the highest levels in high school speech and debate. The purpose of this is to instill discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship, honesty and integrity in a highly specialized activity. CHSAA Speech and Debate coaches teach their participants to respect the activity's core values, work hard and compete honestly.

## **CHSAA Speech and Debate Inclusion Statement:**

The CHSAA Speech and Debate community believes inclusion is vital to our community. We are committed to providing a safe and equitable learning and competitive environment that fosters a mindset of empathy, respect, and belonging for all involved in Speech and Debate, including, but not limited to, students, coaches, judges and community members. We honor differences including races and cultures, genders and sexual orientations, abilities and aspirations, identities and affiliations, socioeconomics and worldviews. Embracing our diversity prepares our community to thrive. Individuals found to have violated this policy will be subject to the full range of sanctions, up to and including removal from the tournament premises.

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# CHSAA Speech Organization

**Philosophy:** CHSAA seeks to provide a positive competitive speech experience for Colorado high school students by

- Supporting a state-wide competitive speech program to provide students with the opportunity to develop and to perfect communication skills
- Supporting education and development of coaches
- Supporting the education and development of speech judges
- Creating a competitive environment governed by sportsmanship and fair play
- Developing rules and regulations to create a common ground for the running of tournaments
- Organizing regional and state competitions
- Providing information and resources designed to make speech programs more effective

Table of Organization: CHSAA operates three different classifications for Speech and Debate, each of which will hold a state championship competition (3A/4A/5A). Each fall, CHSAA will post online the Current Season Bulletin, which lists all schools by classification. Any school may petition CHSAA to enroll in a division different than the one that matches their school enrollment. To do so, the school's athletic/activities director must notify CHSAA in the spring of the year of their intention to do so the following year.

## **CHSAA Speech Chain of Command:**

- CHSAA is governed by the **Legislative Council**, which must approve any changes in rules or procedures. Any proposed changes must be presented to the Legislative Council at their April meeting; and if approved, those changes become effective the following school year.
- The **CHSAA Assistant Commissioner** who administers speech is Rashaan Davis. He is the commissioner in charge of CHSAA speech activities in the state of Colorado. His executive assistant is Nicole Jimenez.
- The **Speech Activities Committee** is the representative body that proposes and passes rule changes to be presented to the Legislative Council. This committee is appointed by CHSAA. While every attempt is made to provide each region with a representative, that is not always possible. Members are appointed to a three-year term. In order to be considered, interested coaches must have their principals submit their names to CHSAA by April of the year prior to when they wish to replace an outgoing committee member. This committee meets in March once all three state competitions have been concluded so that their new proposals can be taken to the Legislative Council for approval. When called upon, the committee also convenes at the fall speech conference and/or during the summer.
- The **State Tournament Chair** is selected by the CHSAA Assistant Commissioner with input in the form of nominations from the State Speech Committee/Coaches. The chair is selected for a two-year term. The first year he/she serves as co-chair and the second year he/she acts as State Tournament Chair. This assures that the chair will always have experience in running the State Tournament. Those who are nominated need not be members of the State Speech Committee. Coaches who are interested in serving should let a member of the State Speech Committee know that they would like to be nominated.

**CHSAA believes that serving in any of these positions is a learning experience and therefore, believes that the opportunity to serve should be shared. To give as many people as possible a chance to serve, when possible, no committee member can continue for a second consecutive term.**

**A goal of this organization is to communicate as effectively as possible. Therefore, remember these important ways to stay updated:**

- CHSAA has a website for speech: [www.chsaanow.com](http://www.chsaanow.com) ([access activities and go to speech and debate](#))
- Phone: 303-344-5050 when prompted, press #4 for Activities
- E-mail: [rdavis@chsa.org](mailto:rdavis@chsa.org) or [njimenez@chsa.org](mailto:njimenez@chsa.org)

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### **Legislative Council**

72 school administrators acting as voting members representing every league in the state. Approve all committee reports and new by-law and rules changes.

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### **Board of Directors**

17 members from geographical regions act similarly to a school board. Oversee the day-to-day running of the association.

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### **CHSAA Staff**

7 administrators charged with implementing the by-laws of the association and producing the state championships in the sanctioned activities.

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### **Sport and Activity Committees**

Set up the individual activity playoff and championship format. Determine starting dates as well as ending dates for the activity.

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### **Speech Activities Committee**

On this eight-person committee, every effort is made to balance the committee so that there are at least two representatives from each of the different classifications. All CHSAA Speech and Debate rules are approved by the activities committee, as there is no National Federation Rules committee. Rules are expected to meet the needs of all Colorado students, regardless of the size or background of their schools.

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### **FALL COACHES CONFERENCE**

(4-5 people) Organizes & assigns coaches to run the fall workshop for all Colorado speech coaches.

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### **Speech Tournament Committee**

(Tournament Director and Co-Director and additional coaches) The Committee hosts and administers the State Tournament by the rules set up by the Speech Activities Committee & CHSAA. Assigns people to work all of the positions needed to run the state tournament. Attempts to assign workers for state to include experienced and newer coaches from all areas of the state.

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### **Speech Activities Committee**

Through its sub-committees tries to involve newer and more experienced coaches in its activities. Their goal is to try to maintain 1/3 of the people involved in the activity as newer coaches. Every attempt is made to try to educate newer coaches through involvement at the tournaments and the Fall Coaches Conference.

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# CHSAA Speech and Debate Calendar

## I. **DATES:**

- A. WINDOW OPENS: November 1st
- B. 3A State Tournament – February 2-3, 2024 – Niwot HS
- C. 4A State Tournament – February 23-24, 2024 - TBD
- D. 5A State Tournament – March 1-2, 2024 – Rocky Mountain HS  
*\*Pending site and date availability*

## I. **[The 2023-2024 Speech Calendar](#)**

**CALENDAR UPDATES:** Nicole Jimenez, [njimenez@chsaa.org](mailto:njimenez@chsaa.org)

To ensure an adequate judging pool for the State Tournaments, no invitational tournament may be held in the same geographic region on the same weekend as the 3A, 4A, or 5A State Tournaments. Invitational tournaments on the same weekend as these State Tournaments in a different geographic region than the one where the tournament is being held are subject to approval by the CHSAA.

# CHSAA Bylaws

## **BYLAW CHANGES**

No active bylaw changes

**CHSAA Bylaws:** Coaches should familiarize themselves with the CHSAA bylaws relevant to Speech and Debate. These bylaws can be found on the CHSAA website.

**STUDENT ELIGIBILITY (Bylaw 5000.1):** A student shall be eligible represent his/her/their school in speech activities sanctioned by the CHSAA if such student meets the following requirements:

- CHSAA Bylaws 1720 {Stricter Standards) – The student meets any stricter standards of eligibility set by his/her school.
- CHSAA Bylaws 1720b {Conduct) – In the judgement of the principal of the student's school, he/she/they are representative of the school's ideals in matters of citizenship, conduct, and sportsmanship.
- CHSAA Bylaws 1790 (Co-op Programs)
- During the period of participation, the student must be enrolled in courses that offer in aggregate a minimum of 2.5 Academic units per semester.

**SPEECH SEASON (Bylaw 5010):** The competitive season shall be from October 1 (4A/5A Novice/3A Varsity) and November 1 (4A/5A Varsity) until the completion of the March (5A) state tournament, exclusive of National Speech and Debate Association competitions.

EXCEPTION: An individual student or team may represent a member school in a contest outside the competitive season in recognized national events and with written permission from the school's principal and the CHSAA office. NSDA Qualifying events and the National Tournament do not need approval from the CHSAA office.

**MAXIMUM CONTESTS (Bylaw 5020):** A student may be represented at no more than 22 meets a year, during the competitive season, exclusive of the state tournament and National Speech and Debate qualifying events and the National Speech and Debate Association National Tournament.

**AWARDS (Bylaw 5030):** No school or representative of a school shall be allowed to give or to receive a speech award for debate or individual events the value of which exceeds \$20.00 (excluding engraving). Existing traveling trophies are exempt from this rule until they are retired. This rule is exclusive of league, state tournaments and National Speech and Debate Association qualifying contests.

### **Coaching:**

All speech coaches who assume full responsibility for students under their direction at any level (varsity, junior varsity, etc.) shall be registered with the CHSAA.

A registered coach is a coach who is one of the following:

- a) a coach who has completed the CHSAA 1<sup>st</sup> year Coaches Course
- b) a CHSAA-certified coach whose certification is on file with the CHSAA
- c) a CDE-licensed teacher who has coached a CHSAA-sponsored activity at a member school  
within the last three years

**All coaches, regardless of length of time spent coaching must pass the CHSAA Coaches test prior to the first competition of the season. Your Athletic**

**or Activities Director MUST register you in the CHSAA Digital Platform and you must complete the required information.**

**Academic All State/Academic Team Champions and the Les Schwab Award**

For your information, CHSAA has programs that for which your team/program and/or students can qualify. Please see your Athletic/Activities Director for more information or review the Awards page on CHSAANow – click this link below for more info:

<https://chsaanow.com/sports/2021/7/29/awards.aspx>

# CHSAA Speech Activities Committee

Thank you to our Speech Activities Committee!

<b>ASHLEY MCCULLOCH</b> Eaglecrest High School <a href="mailto:amcculloch2@cherrycreekschools.org">amcculloch2@cherrycreekschools.org</a>	<b>CHRISTINE JONES</b> Cherokee Trail <a href="mailto:cjones81@cherrycreekschools.org">cjones81@cherrycreekschools.org</a>	<b>DANIELLE LOPEZ</b> Delta High School <a href="mailto:danielle.lopez@deltaschools.com">danielle.lopez@deltaschools.com</a>
<b>RENEE MOTTER</b> Air Academy <a href="mailto:renee.motter@asd20.org">renee.motter@asd20.org</a>	<b>ANNA STEED</b> Strive Prep-Rise <a href="mailto:asteed@striveprep.org">asteed@striveprep.org</a>	<b>MARYROSE KOHAN</b> George Washington <a href="mailto:maryrose_kohan@dpsk12.org">maryrose_kohan@dpsk12.org</a>
<b>LOUIS URIBE</b> University Schools <a href="mailto:luribe@universitieschools.com">luribe@universitieschools.com</a>		

**CHSAA COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 9:00 AM**

This meeting will be a virtual meeting via ZOOM. If you plan on presenting a proposal or a topic for discussion, please contact Rashaan Davis, Assistant Commissioner at CHSAA. Changes made at the meeting, pending the legislative council process, are in effect for the 2024 season.

**COMMITTEE PROPOSALS**

If you plan on bringing a proposal to the committee you must submit a CHSAA Committee Proposal Form that has been proposed by a league and signed by the league president. This form is due one week prior to the committee meeting. Please email this form back to Nikki Jimenez ([njimenez@chsaa.org](mailto:njimenez@chsaa.org)).

**HOW TO GET RECOMMENDED FOR A COMMITTEE:**

Contact your league president, athletic director, or Legislative Council Representative in February for a recommendation.

# CHSAA Speech & Debate Committee Report

## CHSAA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT April 2023

### SPEECH ACTIVITIES

Ashley McCulloch, Eaglecrest  
Chair

CR11

#### I. MAJOR CHANGES FROM LAST YEAR'S REPORT:

- a. Date Changes for 3A and 5A tournaments (see below)

#### II. RATIONALE:

- a. None

#### III. FINANCIAL IMPACT:

- a. None

#### IV. DATES:

- |                  |          |                      |
|------------------|----------|----------------------|
| a. 3A Tournament | Niwot HS | February 2-3, 2024   |
| b. 4A Tournament | TBD      | February 23-24, 2024 |
| c. 5A Tournament | TBD      | March 1-2, 2024      |

#### V. NOTES:

- a. Sharon Wilch Award
  - 4A- Bill Brown, Woodland Park High School
  - 5A- Maryrose Kohan, George Washington High School
- b. See date changes for 3A and 5A tournaments
- c. Background check systems will be evaluated over the coming months
- d. Artistic Plagiarism - we previously had no statement about it. We're adopting/aligning with NSDA's stance from the NSDA High School Unified Manual.
- e. Extemp rules:
  - i. We specifically added a rule about students using more than one 3x5 notecard (or even full sheets of paper) in extemp not being able to rank higher than 4<sup>th</sup> in the round (unless fewer than 4 in round, then ranked last)
  - ii. We added a rule requiring extemp students to turn in their question slip to their judge.
- f. Change due date for legislation for Congressional Debate
- g. Discussion: the use of AI to generate a speech
- h. Revision: Roles and responsibilities at the state tournaments

#### VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- a. Scheduling Rule Change for State Tournaments - Interp, Info, OO, POI
- b. Sweepstakes: revisit the logistics after the 5A tournament
- c. Background checks: tabled

- d. Need for equity in internet access at State Tournament sites should be least- restrictive and offer equal access to both in-district and out-of-district competitors, judges, guests, etc.
- e. Limit Notecard size in Extemporaneous Speaking
- f. Embargo February and March NSDA legislation for use at state tournaments, not to be used at any invitational tournament in Colorado
- g. Changes to gendered language
- h. Referred several items back to Judge Committee to tweak/modify after the conclusion of this season based on new learnings from this year:
- i. revisit judge requirement quota

**VII. 2022-2023 COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

- a. **Ashley McCulloch**, Eaglecrest – Chair, **Sarah French**, Greeley Central, **Gregg Hawkins**, Palisade, **Renee Motter**, Air Academy, **Anna Steed**, Strive Prep-Rise, **Maryrose Kohan**, George Washington, **Louis Uribe**, University, **Danielle Lopez**, Delta.

# Debate Topics

All debate topics can be found at [NSDA DEBATE TOPICS](#). At the beginning of each year, the NSDA releases potential debate resolutions for the year. Member students and coaches can vote for the resolution 1 week prior to the release date. The policy debate topic is selected for the entire school year and does not change.

## LINCOLN DOUGLAS DEBATE RESOLUTION RELEASE SCHEDULE:

September/October – released August 8  
 November/December – released October 1  
 January/February – released December 1 (3A/4A State Resolution)  
 March/April – released February 1 (5A State Resolution)  
 NSDA National Tournament – May 1

## PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE RESOLUTION RELEASE SCHEDULE:

September/October – released August 8  
 November/December – released October 1  
 January – released December 1 (3A State Resolution)  
 February – released January 1 (4A State Resolution)  
 March – released February 1 (5A State Resolution)  
 April – released March 1  
 NSDA Nationals – released May 1

The topics used at the State Tournament are based on the month that the state tournament is held.

Classification	LD Topic	PF Topic	CX Topic
3A February 2-3	January/February Resolution <i>Released December 1</i>	January Resolution <i>Released December 1</i>	N/A
4A February 23-24	January/February Resolution <i>Released December 1</i>	February Resolution <i>Released January 1</i>	<b>2023-24 Policy Debate Resolution</b>
5A March 1-2	March/April Resolution <i>Released February 1</i>	March Resolution <i>Released February 1</i>	

*\*Invitational tournaments may use different topics. Please read your invitation carefully. If you are not sure which topic will be used at an invitational tournament, contact the tournament director.*

# Events Offered

Each school may bring a maximum of four entries in each of the events offered at the State Competition.

- The 3A State Tournament will offer Interpretation of Drama, Humor, Poetry, Duo Interpretation, Program Oral Interpretation, Combined Extemporaneous Speaking, Original Oratory, Informative Speaking, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, Congressional Debate, One-on-One Value Debate, Impromptu Speaking, and Creative Storytelling.
- The 4A State Tournament will offer Interpretation of Drama, Humor, Poetry, Duo Interpretation, Program Oral Interpretation, National Extemporaneous Speaking, International Extemporaneous Speaking, Original Oratory, Informative Speaking, Cross-Examination Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, and Congressional Debate.
- The 5A State Tournament will offer Interpretation of Drama, Humor, Poetry, Duo Interpretation, Program Oral Interpretation, National Extemporaneous Speaking, International Extemporaneous Speaking, Original Oratory, Informative Speaking, CX Debate, LD Debate, PF Debate, and Congressional Debate.
- NOTE: In order for an event to occur at the State Tournament and recognize a State Champion, there must be enough entries for the event to be viable
  - In speech events, CX, LD, PF and One-on-One Value Debate, this shall be defined as a minimum of four entries from at least two schools competing at the beginning of the tournament.
  - In Congressional Debate, a minimum of 12 entries competing at the beginning of the tournament.
  - Entries are expected to compete in all preliminary rounds.
  - The Tournament Director can waive these expectations for extenuating circumstances.

## DOUBLE ENTRY RULES

Students **MAY NOT** double enter at the 4A or 5A state tournament.

Students **MAY** double enter at the 3A Tournament under the following rules:

**Wave A events:** *Interpretation of Drama, Interpretation of Humor, Interpretation of Poetry, Original Oratory, Extemporaneous Speaking, One-on-One Value Debate, Creative Storytelling, Congressional Debate*

**Wave B events:** *Public Forum Debate, Lincoln Douglas Debate, Duo Interpretation, Program Oral Interpretation, Informative Speaking, Impromptu Speaking*

Double entry restrictions:

- Students may enter a maximum of 2 events – one Wave A event and one Wave B event.
- Students in Extemporaneous Speaking, One-on-One Value Debate, Public Forum Debate and Lincoln Douglas Debate may double enter, but may not double enter in another debate event or Extemporaneous Speaking (i.e. a student could enter Drama and PF, but could not enter Extemp and PF).
- Students in Congressional Debate may double enter in any wave B event, including PF and LD.

# Judge Requirements

For the state tournament, schools are required to provide one certified judge for every 5 event entries (or portion thereof) and one judge for every 2 debate entries (or portion thereof).

If you are interested in judging at any State Tournament, you must judge at one or more invitational meets during this school year and complete the annual certification test. The certification test will be posted on the [CHSAANow](#) website.

Judges will be paid by CHSAA at the current rate of judge pay (\$15/round, \$40 bonus for judging 3+ CX and/or waved debate rounds). Scorers and Parliamentarians will be paid for three rounds of judging for each session of Congressional Debate that they judge. In addition, the CHSAA structure for reimbursing for mileage and hotels shall be utilized.

- Mileage and hotel reimbursement will be paid to the party who incurred the expense.

## EXCEPTIONS:

**Coaches/Assistant Coaches:** The judge certification test is encouraged but not required for coaches and assistant coaches; however, all coaches and assistant coaches must complete the CHSAA Coach Certification Process

**Former Competitors/Experienced judges:** The requirement to judge at one or more invitational meets during this school year can be waived for experienced judges and former competitors; however, the judge certification test must be completed. Please reach out to Nicole Jimenez ([njimenez@chsaa.org](mailto:njimenez@chsaa.org)) to request a waiver.

## **SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

For all CHSAA sports medicine policies, procedures, and protocols, please visit the [Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Handbook](#).

Lightning and Tornado Policy and Procedures and Heat Acclimatization and Safety Priorities can be found in the [Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Handbook](#).



**ONLINE SPORTS MEDICINE HANDBOOK: [CLICK HERE](#)**



## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

[CHSAA Game Management & Sportsmanship Expectation Guide](#)

# The Americans with Disabilities Act

**All rules and policies contained within this bulletin are subject to the ADA's requirement to provide reasonable modifications for a disabled student(s). A reasonable modification(s) shall provide a disabled student with equally effective access [to the activity] unless the provision of such reasonable modification would constitute a fundamental alteration of the essential elements of the activity involved. Please refer to CHSAA bylaw 500 for more detailed information.**