



Oregon School Activities Association

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January 2, 2019

To: Activity Directors and Head Speech Coaches

From: Brad Garrett, Assistant Executive Director

Subject: Reminders and Announcements

Below are a variety of different reminders and announcements. Please take a few moments to review each item and contact me if you have additional questions.

1. Speech District Directors

All Speech Districts are required to have nominated and selected their District qualifying event Directors by now. Contact information for those selected needs to be submitted using an online form this year.

Individuals selected as Directors of their District Tournaments need to complete the online form at the link prior to Monday, January 7, 2019.

[Click Here to Submit District Tournament Director Information](#)

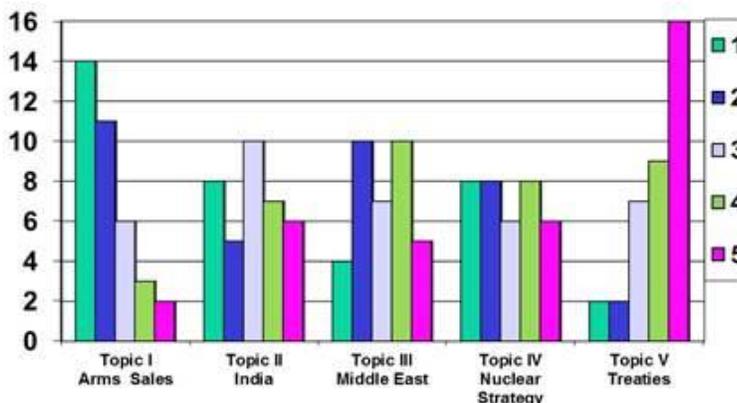
2. Speech District Qualifying Events

Speech Districts will be required to use Tabroom.com to conduct their qualifying events again this year therefore all schools hosting Speech events are encouraged to utilize Tabroom during the regular season to work out any issues prior to your qualifying event. Qualifying tournaments have been created in Tabroom and the goal is to distribute login information to all District Directors regarding how to access this information by February 4, 2019. Support will be available for those with questions.

3. Final Voting on National High School Debate Topic

Below are the results from the first round of balloting of topic areas for the 2019-2020 national high school policy debate topic. Two final topics, Arms Sales and Nuclear Strategy, received the lowest aggregate vote totals.

2019-2020 Debate Topic Balloting Results





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I have attempted several different timelines to collect votes from the Oregon Speech community but have failed in increasing the number of individuals submitting their thoughts – a total of 6 last year. Given that if you have a distinct preference on one of the topics listed above please shoot me an email prior to Friday, January 4 and I will tally and submit our choice based on those responses I receive.

4. Speech District Alignments

The OSAA has requested that the OHSSL-CA review current District configurations. The current alignments have not been modified, outside of adding or dropping schools, for an extended period. District alignments should help ensure that all participants have equitable qualifying opportunities into the State Championships. This may require that schools be shifted in some way to help reach that goal.

Any recommendations to modify the current structure would need approval by the OSAA Executive Board before being implemented and would not be put into place until the 2019-20 school year.

If you have input or suggestions on proposed changes, please contact Patrick Gonzales (gonzomouth@gmail.com).

5. Required District Protest Committees

Each District shall have procedures that outline what will occur if/when a coach submits a protest. Below are suggestions/recommendations from the State Championships protest committee on how to achieve that requirement.

The rule book states in 10.4.7. "Each district shall handle its own protests."

We interpret this rule for situations which occur involving the district tournament and before the state tournament begins.

1. Scripts and Speeches for District Finals should be submitted to the district director prior to the event.
2. Challenges should happen within 24 hours on the end of the district tournament.
3. A coach who protests should first approach the coach of the student. If this is not resolved. . .
4. The district coaches meet to resolve the issue through any fair mechanism created by the district chair. This could include but is not limited to discussion, an up/down vote, a 0-5 ("fist-to-five") vote, or other voting method. This group process might even include a coach from another district to add a voice or mediate the process.
5. When in stalemate, the district director makes the decision.
6. If the district director cannot decide, then our OSAA staff member decides.

Thanks for thinking through this process prior to your District Tournament.