

ARTICLE VII: The State Tournament - Qualification and Eligibility

Section 1. Date: The date of the State Tournament shall be determined by the CSSC at the preceding spring meeting. The preferred date for the State Tournament will always be the last full weekend of April or the weekend preceding the last full weekend of April.

Section 2: Competitive Year: The CHSSA competitive year is defined as the year beginning the day following the state tournament in a given year to the final day of the next state tournament; thus, a competitive year covers the time from one state tournament to the next.

Section 3. Place: Any college campus or suitable location determined by the CSSC.

- A. A site for the State Tournament should be submitted two years in advance by the Area responsible for hosting the tournament. The last date for this to transpire would be the Spring CSSC meeting two years prior to the date of the Tournament.
- B. If a site is unavailable or a cancellation occurs with the Area, the President of CHSSA or the Vice President Activities shall assume the task of locating a site. This may be at any suitable location within the State of California. A site should be submitted at the CSSC meeting following the announcement of an Area's inability to find a location or following a cancellation.

Section 4. Accommodations Policy for Individuals with Disabilities

- A. Competitors requiring special accommodations must submit such requests in writing to the Vice President of Activities no later than the State entry deadline.
 1. The competitors school shall be financially responsible for any costs incurred by CHSSA in meeting the needs of the student(s) or adult(s) representing said school.

Section 5. Distribution of Entrants in Events

- A. Distribution of individual events entries: There shall be fifty-six entrants in each individual event held at the State Tournament. Eight of these entrants shall come from each of the four Areas.
 1. At the Spring Meeting of the CSSC every year, the Area Chairpersons in committee shall recommend to the CHSSA President an allocation of the remaining seventeen entrants in each individual event using the following formula (Only those assessments received and recorded by the treasurer by March 31 of that school year shall be counted toward an area and leagues assessment totals):
 - a. The sum total of CHSSA assessments collected by CHSSA for the current year and the two immediately prior years shall be determined from records kept by the Treasurer and Area Chairpersons.
 - b. The sum total of CHSSA assessments collected within each Area for the current year and the two immediately prior years shall be determined.
 - c. The Area total for each three-year period shall be divided by the grand total of all assessments for the three-year period. This shall yield a percentage total which shall be multiplied by seventeen, which total shall be added to the eight allocated to an Area to determine the total Area allotment. Area totals must be rounded up or down so that the total of all qualifiers allocated equals 49. (e.g.: percentage total = 0.25; $0.25 \times 17 = 4.25$; $4.25 + 8 = 12.25$; $12.25 - 12.0$ qualifiers)

- d. The final numbers may appear something like the following:
- Area 1 = 12.2 qualifiers
 - Area 2 = 11.6 qualifiers
 - Area 3 = 13.3 qualifiers
 - Area 4 = 11.9 qualifiers
- e. A grid is laid out with each Area followed by twelve squares, the twelve squares representing one individual event of the twelve offered at the State Tournament. To accommodate the fractions of whole numbers, the Areas draw in turn making sure that no column added to more than 49 vertically. Each column is labeled A, B, C etc., and the letters are drawn to distribute the qualifiers. Then the letters are drawn naming at random all twelve individual events. The names of the individual events take the place of the A, B, C etc. at the top of the column.
2. In the absence of a unanimous recommendation in "1" above, the President shall make the final decision as to the allocation of remaining entrants to each Area.
 3. A written summary of the decision and the reasons for it shall be sent to each CSSC member within two weeks after the meeting.
 4. Bonus entries: A bonus of seven entries per existing individual event will be added (one panel), using the following formula (Appendix G: worksheet):
 - a. Based on the previous three years' State Tournaments and total league entries, the number of sweepstakes points earned shall be divided by the total number of allocated league entries.
 - b. This number is to be used to rank the leagues in order.
 - c. To be eligible to receive additional entry(ies) to an event at the State Individual Events Tournament, a League must average .5 sweepstakes points over the previous three (3) years in that particular individual event, or .75 over in Duo Interpretation.
 - d. The seven (7) bonus entries shall be distributed to each eligible League, in rank order. Any remaining entry/entries shall be distributed to the Leagues with the greatest average wins per entry, in rank order. In the event of a tie, the tie will be broken in the same manner based on the previous four (4) years, five (5) years, etc. until the tie is broken.
- B. Distribution of Student Congress entries: There shall be ninety entrants in Congress plus twelve presiding officer entrants. Twenty-one entrants in Congress shall be allotted to each Area. Each League will be allotted one presiding officer entrant. A bonus of six entries for Student Congress will be added (one per House) using the following formula:
1. Based on the previous three years' State Tournaments and total league entries, the number of sweepstakes points earned shall be divided by the total number of allocated league entries.
 2. This number is to be used to rank the leagues in order.
 3. The top seven leagues shall each receive one bonus entry.
- C. Distribution of Policy and Lincoln-Douglas Debate entries: There shall be sixty- four entries in both Policy Debate and Lincoln-Douglas debate. Each Area shall receive fourteen Policy Debate and fourteen Lincoln-Douglas debate entries. In addition to these fifty-six entries, an additional eight bonus entries shall be distributed using the following formula:

1. To be eligible to receive additional entry(ies) to the State Debate Tournament, a League must average two (2) wins per allocated entry or better.
 2. The eight floating entries shall be distributed:
 - a. One to each eligible League.
 - b. Any remaining entry(ies) shall be distributed to the Leagues with the greatest average wins per entry.
 3. Tie-breaker: In the event of ties between Leagues, the tie shall be broken on the basis of greater average wins per entry in the four previous State Tournaments. If a tie still exists, the tie shall be broken on the basis of average wins per entry five years prior, six years prior, etc.
- D. Distribution of Public Forum and Parliamentary Debate entries: There shall be forty-eight entries in both Public Forum and Parliamentary Debate. Each Area shall receive twelve Public Forum and Parliamentary Debate entries.
- E. Legislative intent regarding "allocated entries": For the purposes of the bonus entries, any averages will be calculated using the number of entries originally assigned to a league for that year, NOT the number of entries which actually compete at the State Tournament. This provision is designed to encourage leagues to fill all of their slots to the State Tournament by making it more difficult for leagues to receive bonus entries if they don't use all of their allocated entries.
- F. Distribution of entrants within each Area.
1. At the spring meeting of the CSSC every year the Area Chairpersons shall recommend to the President the allocation of qualifiers to the recognized leagues within each Area. Distribution within Areas may follow any guidelines including:
 - a. Geographical distances;
 - b. Population;
 - c. Continued educational development;
 - d. Potential growth;
 - e. Overall participation in forensic competition;
 - f. Sustained forensic competitive activity;
 - g. Financial assessments paid to CHSSA using the same process as described in "A" above.
 2. In the absence of unanimous recommendation of the entrants within an Area, the CHSSA President shall make the final decision as to the allocation of entrants to the recognized leagues within an Area.
 3. Each recognized League within an Area shall be allocated a minimum of one entrant in each State Tournament, provided the League meets the requirements of qualification retention in Section 4 below.
 4. A League may not relinquish all its qualifiers without a release signed by all League members.
 5. In the event that a League cannot fill its allocated slots or because slots become available for any reason including penalties, insufficient alternates to fill all available slots as they become available, or other reasons, those slots shall be re-distributed to other Leagues within the Area. If there is only one other League in the Area, the slots will be allocated to the remaining League. If there are three or more Leagues in the Area, the first slot will be allocated to the League with the most entrants at their state qualifier tournament in that event. Additional slots will alternate, with the 2nd slot going to the League with the 2nd most entrants at their state qualifier tournament. If more than 2 slots are available, the additional slots will alternate between the remaining Leagues.

In the event of a tie, ties will be broken based on the procedures for allocating bonuses.

Example: If Leagues A, B and C are in an area, and League A gives up 3 slots in Impromptu due to insufficient entry. 2 impromptu slots will be given to the League with more entrants in their state qualifying tournament. One impromptu slot will be given to the remaining League.

League Presidents will be required to report an accurate count of entries in each event based on the number of competitors that completed round 1 when they submit their qualifying entries and alternates.

If a League misrepresents the number of participants, the matter will be referred to the executive committee, which may censure the offending League by stripping the League of as many qualification slots in that event for the upcoming year as they deem appropriate.

- G. No motion to increase the number of entrants in the State Tournament in a particular event will be considered unless accompanied by answers to the following questions:
1. Revisions to the schedule necessary to facilitate extra entries.
 2. How many more rooms will be needed? How will we provide those?
 3. How many more judges will be needed? How will we provide those?
 4. Additional logistical components required by addition.
 5. Rationale for addition of this event or increase in entry numbers?

Section 6. State Qualification Tournaments

- A. Students shall be qualified to the State Tournament by participation in state qualification tournaments sponsored and managed by the recognized Leagues.
- B. League presidents by the January CHSSA meeting will have on file with the Vice-President Activities their league's procedures for administering their state qualifier(s). These procedures should include at minimum provisions for entry, paneling, tabulation and protest. In the event of a protest, the league will be held to these guidelines by the Protest Committee. In the event of a protest for which the submitted procedures do not apply, the Protest Committee will use the CHSSA By-Laws, to the extent possible, to rule on the protest. It will be the League president's affirmative duty to distribute copies of league procedures and CHSSA By-Laws to all member schools. In the event that a League chooses not to submit State qualification procedures, qualification tournaments shall be run according to the State Tournament rules as closely as possible.
1. Single judges may be used in preliminary rounds if an insufficient number of judges is available.
 2. At least three judges shall be used in semi-final and final rounds of qualification tournaments.
 3. At least two preliminary rounds shall precede the final round in any event.
 4. Fee schedules to cover the costs of tournaments and League expenses may be set by the sponsoring League.
 5. Suitable awards may be presented by the League.
 6. Rules for all events shall be the State Tournament rules as set by these By-Laws.

7. The method of tabulation of event results shall be as close as possible to the method outlined for the State Tournament.
 8. Leagues may appeal 1-7 above to the CHSSA President.
- C. Scripts for all prepared individual events with appropriate cover sheets shall be sent to the League president by certified mail or hand-delivered at least three weeks prior to any state qualification tournament. The League President shall notify a coach of any rule violations no later than one week prior to the tournament. Any corrections necessary for a script to be legal for State Tournament competition must be delivered to and approved by the League President prior to the first round of the State Qualification Tournament in order for the student to compete.
- D. Qualification retention: The standard minimum requirement for retention of state qualification from a state qualification tournament shall be the following:
1. Eight schools competing in the state qualification tournament as a whole.
 2. If a League cannot fill the number of qualifiers they have been awarded, or if a League loses a qualifier in an event due to an assessed penalty then those unfilled slots will be given to other leagues within their Area as per rotation set up in Article VII, Section 5, Paragraph D2.
 - a. The League shall hold the tournament or event(s) to determine the qualifiers for that League. For example, if League X should have three qualifiers in oratory and there were fewer than five schools entered in oratory, League X would hold the event at the state qualification tournament to determine its top three contestants.
 - b. Immediately following the tournament the League president shall notify the Area Chairperson of the events in which there were too few schools entered.
 - c. The Area Chairperson shall immediately contact the president of a designated League that a run-off for qualifiers is necessary in the event(s).
 - d. A run-off for qualifiers shall be held between the League with too few schools entered and a designated League as indicated below:

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|----------|------|---|------|---|---------------|
| AREA I | GGSA | > | CFL | > | GGSA |
| AREA II | CVFL | > | YFL | > | SoVFL > CVFL |
| AREA III | TVFL | > | SCDL | > | WBFL > TVFL |
| AREA IV | CBSR | > | OCSL | > | SDIVSL > CBSR |
 - e. The run-off for qualifiers shall be held between the two Leagues, each having an equal number of entries in the event(s). The date, time, and place shall be arranged by the Area Chair. The League with too few schools entered shall send to the run-off students who would have qualified for the State Tournament. The designated League shall send an equal number of contestants in the event(s) to the run-off. The contestants from the designated League shall be the alternates already chosen for the event by that League.
 - f. The winners, equal to the number of qualifiers the League with too few schools entered would have received, shall qualify in the event(s). The Area Chairperson shall be notified of the winners via telephone. The Area Chairperson shall insure that the two League presidents are aware of the results.
 - g. If the run-off must be held after April 1, the winners shall be eligible to participate in the State Tournament.
 - h. Should an alternate from the designated League become eligible for the State Tournament from his original League and has also qualified through the run off, that alternate shall represent his original designated League, drop his/her

qualification position from the run-off, and the first alternate from the run-off would become a qualifier for the State Tournament.

- E. School Eligibility: All CHSSA member schools in good standing that have students qualified and who are members in good standing of recognized Leagues may be entered in the state qualification and State Tournament. Each school participating in a state qualification tournament must be guaranteed at least one entry in each event.
1. No school shall be admitted to a state qualification tournament unless the school's CHSSA assessments are postmarked on or before two weeks prior to said state qualification contest. A league found to have allowed a non-CHSSA paid school to enter a qualifying tournament will be fined \$100 per event in which the school competed. The delinquent school's dues plus the late fee (as in Article 1. Sec 1, a.3), and assessed fines must be paid before any [of the delinquent school's] league schools are allowed to pass final registration at the State Tournament.
 2. The sponsoring League may set reasonable deadlines for submitting entries and entry materials to facilitate setting panels, rounds, judges and physical facilities.
 3. The sponsoring Leagues may set reasonable deadlines for payment of tournament fees.
- F. Student Eligibility.
1. A student must physically reside in the state of California.
 2. A student fulfills residence eligibility requirements provided that s/he resides within the recognized school attendance area of his/her parents' or legal guardians' residence and s/he:
 - a. Enters the ninth grade of any CHSSA school from the eighth grade of an elementary or junior high, or
 - b. Enters the tenth grade of any CHSSA school from the ninth grade of a junior high school, or
 - c. Enters a CHSSA school as a legally sponsored foreign exchange student.
 3. A student who first enters the ninth grade of any school following the student's completion of the eighth grade in any school may be eligible for competition during a maximum period of time that may not in any way exceed eight semesters of attendance at that school or any other school.
 4. A contestant must be a bona fide student at the school s/he represents at the state qualification tournament. Bona fide student means the student has not graduated and is enrolled in and passing at least four classes at the school s/he represents.
 5. No student or team shall be allowed to pass final registration at a state qualification tournament or the State Tournament unless accompanied for the duration of the tournament by a certified staff member from the school or an adult sponsor designated in writing by the school principal.
 6. Transfer students: For the purposes of interscholastic speech competition, eligibility of a student who transfers from one school to another shall be determined as follows:
 - a. for students who have not participated in interscholastic speech competition, a student transferring from School A to School B becomes eligible immediately.
 - b. for students who have participated in interscholastic speech competition:
 - 1). A student who transfers from School A to School B as a result of change of residence by his/her parents or guardians shall be become eligible immediately.
 - 2). A student who transfers from School A to School B without a change of residence on the part of parents or guardians from the attendance area of School A shall become eligible at School B after one year.
 - 1) Exception: School district mandated transfer.

- 2) Exception: Approved transfers from School A within the same school district.
 - 3). In addition to legitimate transfers as listed in this Article VII, Paragraph L, during grades 9 through 12, a student may transfer only once from one school or other school to another without affecting his/her eligibility, unless material inducement such as scholarships have been offered to the student who is currently competing in interscholastic speech activities. In such a case, the student shall be ineligible for an academic year.
 7. The preceding rules regarding residence and transfer eligibility for participation in interscholastic speech activity shall be in force at all interscholastic League and/or CHSSA related activities held during a school year.
 8. Any student who competes for a college or community college is not eligible for high school competition. Students from different schools are not allowed to compete as a team at any state qualifying tournament or the State Tournament.
 9. The CHSSA President shall disqualify any school or student who violates the eligibility standards or residency requirements.
- G. School and Student Intent to Compete: No student or team shall be entered in a state qualification tournament unless the intention of the student(s) and coach is to compete for state qualification in the event entered. No student or team shall be entered in the State Tournament unless the intention of the student(s) and the coach is to compete for the state championship in all rounds of the event(s) entered. Violations of this demonstration of commitment to compete shall result in disqualification.
- H. Double qualification.
1. No student may enter an event in a state qualification tournament in which s/he has previously qualified for the State Tournament during that school year.
 2. If the student has won the right to be an alternate at a state qualification tournament and at a later state qualification tournament wins the right to state competition in that same event, s/he loses the original status as an alternate.
 3. No student may participate in more than one individual event at the State Tournament. Should an individual qualify in more than one event, s/he must choose which qualification s/he shall retain and so inform the League president within three days after the qualification tournament.
 4. No student may participate in more than one debate event at the State Tournament. Should a student qualify in more than one debate event, s/he must choose which qualification s/he shall retain and so inform the League president within three days after the qualification tournament.
 5. A student may compete in one individual event and one type of debate at the State Tournament with the following exception: A student may not compete in both enter in both Parliamentary Debate and Extemporaneous speaking at the State Tournament. Should a student qualify in both Parliamentary debate and Extemporaneous speaking, s/he must choose which qualification s/he shall retain and so inform the league President within three days after the qualification tournament.
 6. Students in Congress at the State Tournament may not compete in any other event.
 7. If an Area Chairperson is not notified of a student's choice of individual events, the Area Chairperson shall select the event for the student and notify the League president of the decision.

I. Certification of qualification tournaments and contestants.

1. The League president shall certify and forward complete results including copies of all prepared speeches that qualified for the State Tournament to the Area Chairperson. The League president shall also forward complete copies of tabulation cum sheets of qualification tournaments and a list of participating schools. The Area Chairperson shall certify the results of the qualification tournament, determining that the qualification tournament was conducted properly and appropriately in compliance with CHSSA rules and regulations. This certification, with all requisite information as determined by the Vice President Activities, shall be delivered to the Vice President Activities by the date and on the appropriate forms designated by the Vice-President Activities.
2. If a qualified student cannot attend the State Tournament, the Area Chairperson must be notified no later than 8:00 pm on the Wednesday prior to the State Tournament so that the proper alternate may be substituted. At no time should a coach notify an alternate; that is the Area Chairperson's duty. An alternate must be from the same Area as the contestant being replaced, first choice going to the alternate in the event from the League from which the contestant was dropped. Notification of non-participation must be provided on the appropriate form determined by the Vice-President Activities. Notification of non-participation may be provided at the State Tournament "on site" registration; however, no alternate shall be added at the State Tournament. All alternates must be determined and notified no later than 11:00 pm the day prior to the State Tournament.
3. If time permits the rerunning of a qualification tournament or any part of that tournament, the Area Chairperson may refuse to certify a tournament or parts thereof in cases of gross infractions of CHSSA rules. If time does not permit the rerunning of the tournament, the Area Chairperson may bring the matter to the next CSSC meeting for whatever action the CSSC deems necessary for the following year.
4. If the Area Chairperson refuses to certify the tournament as outlined in 3. above, the League president may appeal to the CHSSA President who may uphold or deny the appeal.
5. Entrants from a League that has not met financial responsibilities to the CSSC shall not be certified until those responsibilities are paid in full.

Section 7. Registration for the State Tournament

- A. The Vice President of Activities will by the preceding January meeting designate the due date for all State Tournament registration information to be delivered to the Area Chairperson or the Vice President of Activities. Such date shall be approximately four weeks before the start of the State Championships.
- B. The president of each League shall forward to the appropriate Area Chairperson by electronic mail or certified mail postmarked not later than the designated due date each of the following:
 1. A list of all qualifiers and alternates in each event as shown on the spreadsheet distributed by the VP Activities.
 2. League approved copies of all advocacy, expository, oratory, and prose/poetry, scripts for the qualifying contestants and alternates along with approved copies of all photocopy materials for dramatic interpretation, humorous interpretation, oratorical interpretation, thematic interpretation, and duo interpretation for the qualification contestants and alternates shall be sent by conventional mail or delivered in person.
 3. Tournament record and tabulation sheets for each event at the state qualification

tournaments.

- C. The coach of each contestant qualified for the State Tournament shall send notification of participation with delivery confirmation by the designated due date. Notification of participation includes completed entry forms and a check for entry/judging fees. The judging fee shall be \$100.00. Checks must be school checks, money orders, or cashier's checks. Entry fees for contestants dropped from the State Tournament less than two weeks before the State Tournament will not be refunded. Schools with more than six entries must provide a qualified judge for each additional six entries or fraction thereof (e.g.: 7-12 entries = 1 additional judge; 13-18 entries = 2 additional judges). The \$100 judging deposit per school shall be refunded only when all school judges have satisfactorily and substantially completed their judging assignments.
- D. Failure to meet state entry deadlines (online or postmark) will result in a \$150 fine for the offending school per deadline. Sending in partial online entry or mailing partial entry forms or payments may be fined up to \$150. In addition, failure to send notification of entry as required on or before the designated due dates (online or postmark) shall result in disqualification of the entrants. The area chairperson shall then be authorized to substitute alternates. Both the coach of the disqualified entrant(s) and the alternate(s) shall be notified by telephone and email immediately. In extenuating circumstances, penalties may be appealed in writing to the state tournament committee within 72 hours of notification of fine.
- E. Any correction of entry fees, forms and/or scripts requested by the Area Chairperson shall be made within 72 hours by the coach and sent to the Area Chairperson with delivery confirmation. If a student is found to have qualified with an illegal script, the school will be given 5 days to submit a new (legal) script to the area chair. The Chairperson shall notify the coach via the email address provided on the state tournament entry form. It will be the coach's affirmative duty to check said email address for requested corrections and provide the corrections within the 72 hour (or 5 day) deadlines. Failure to meet the deadlines will result in the entry being declared ineligible and the appropriate alternate being moved into their spot.
- F. A contestant is permitted to revise a script or change a selection after a state qualification tournament. However, any revision of an original script or selection or change of selection must be approved by the League president with a new cover sheet properly filled out and in the hands of the Area Chairperson two weeks prior to the State Tournament. Updating of original scripts to reflect current historical facts may be submitted to the Area Chair up to and including the time of registration.

Section 8. Student Conduct at State Qualification Tournaments and the State Tournament.

- A. Any complaints, challenges, or questions about tournament rules or operation must be directed through the school-designated adult representative.
- B. Students must not disturb other contestants by:
1. Entering or leaving a room during a performance;
 2. Any act of disturbance in or around a contest room.
- C. If a student who has placed in a final round is found to have violated the rules of the event, that student may be disqualified during or after state qualification tournaments

or the State Tournament:

1. The request for disqualification can be made by the adult representative of record of any member school. It must be made in writing. The procedure must follow the format outlined in Article VI, Section 2 of the Constitution of the CHSSA.
 2. In the event of disqualification:
 - a. The student must relinquish the trophy.
 - b. Other students placing below the disqualified student shall move up one rank.
- D. In the event a student, team, or school is disqualified after final registration at the State Tournament, a letter explaining the reason(s) shall be sent by the State Tournament committee to the principal of the school involved, with copies to the coach of the school and president of the League of which the school is a member.
- E. Students must be in appropriate tournament dress in order to receive awards on stage. Appropriate dress shall be determined by the Vice-President Activities or designee.