

2018 West Central Area Speech Team Handbook

RULES FOR WCA SPEECH TEAM

1. Eligibility

All eligibility rules as written in the official Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Handbook apply to students participating in speech. Complete regulations are outlined in the MSHSL Handbook. Refer to your Student Handbook for the alcohol, drug, and tobacco policy.

2. Scholastic Eligibility

Students will be expected to turn in their missing homework assignments before 8:15am Friday morning.

Teachers will grade and post all missing work assignments before 7:30am Monday morning.

Office staff will generate a report from the gradebook and email it to all teachers for revision on Monday. This report will be in effect from Tuesday (A.M) to the end the day the following Monday.

Teachers will inform students that they have been placed on the Fail List.

3. Attendance Eligibility

Students must be in school **the entire school day** on the day of an activity in order to practice or compete in extra-curricular activities. Exceptions for dental appointments, funerals, etc. must be cleared with the principal or activities director. If you are missing class, you should miss activities.

4. Attendance at Practice

When you commit to speech, you commit to attending speech practice, just as you do when you are out for a sport. If you cannot be at practices, do not plan to join speech. You must have a minimum of **two** individual practices with a coach before you can attend your first meet. After that, you must practice **at least once a week** with a coach. Please bring your critique sheets and practice form from the previous week to your practice.

If you are absent from practice without an excuse:

First Offense: **You have an unexcused missed practice; the practice must be made up.**

Second Offense: **You have two unexcused missed practices. You will not be allowed to attend our next meet, and you must make up your missed practices.**

Third Offense: **On your third unexcused missed practice, you will be off the speech team!**

Please inform us **before the end of the school day** if you cannot attend your scheduled practice. All of us have busy schedules and our time is important. Let's value everyone's time. If you sign up, show up. Also, don't take the last practice of the day unless it is necessary due to another time commitment. Try to sign up at the beginning of the week for the week so everyone can plan their schedules. Thank you!

5. Good Sportsmanship

Part of being in speech is learning to take criticism gracefully. Accept victory and defeat in a gracious manner. View your judges as people with good intentions who want to help you improve. Sometimes we love the judges' comments and sometimes we do not. We must learn to accept those comments and gain from them. Speech is a subjective activity; not all judges

will see your speech the same way. Use the variety of comments you receive to make your speech better.

Also, remember that making negative comments about a judge or a competitor makes our school look bad. The halls at speech meets are often crowded, and it is easy to overhear other people talking.

Remember, you represent the WCA community, school, and speech team. Show respect for yourself, others, and the school buildings.

6. Attending Meets

You are expected to attend the speech meets you sign up for. Committing to speech means committing to practice and to attending the meets.

The school has to pay a fee for you to attend the meet and is also paying judges who are hired based on how many students we are bringing to the meet. If you do not attend a meet you were registered for, you will be required to pay the school district **\$8.00** (unless you do not attend due to illness or other excused absences). Pay your fine in the office or to Mr. Foslien.

7. Membership on the Speech Team

In order to be a member of the speech team, you must do the following:

- 1) Fill out the MSHSL eligibility form and the handbook form before the first meet.
- 2) For grades 7-9 pay the \$65 activity fee in the office. Grades 10-12 pay the \$75 activity fee in the office. The school does have a policy for covering some or all of the activity fee for families that cannot afford this fee. Arrange this with Mr. Foslien. (The fee is \$30 for grades 7-9 and \$40 for grades 10-12 if you are in another winter activity.)
- 3) Practice at least once a week.
- 4) Attend at least **three** speech meets during the regular speech season.

8. Dress

You **MUST** dress appropriately for all meets. It is a dress-up day. Do not wear clothes that have holes in them or are too short. You must look as dressed up and professional as possible. The presentation of the speaker is often as important as the presentation of the speech. We will stay dressed up for awards.

9. Sub-section Meet

If you place at a regular season meet by the time sub-section registration is due, you will compete at the sub-section speech meet.

10. Lettering in Speech

Speech team members can earn a letter in speech. Here is how:

- A. Meet the requirements mentioned in 1-7 above.
- B. Earn 20 points during the season in the following ways:

6th place = 3 point	3rd place = 4 points
5th place = 3 points	2nd place = 5 points
4th place = 3 points	1st place = 6 points
- C. Earn ½ point for each speech meet you participate in.
- D. Earn one point for each practice throughout the season, up to 10 points, except for make-up practices, which will not count in your practice point total.

Please read the rules in your speech handbook in addition to the following:

Practices will be held in Mrs. Kreft's, Mr. Holmes's, and Mr. Ray's rooms, as well as the library conference room. Sign-up sheets for practice will be posted near the library. Please sign up in advance for a practice time that works for you and **we will assign** you a coach for that week.

Transportation is provided to and from meets, with all students dropped off at the school in Barrett after a meet. The only exception to this is if the bus passes through your hometown on the way home from a meet. If this occurs, we can drop you off at the regular bus stop if you choose.

Students may NOT drive their own vehicle to meets. You must ride back with the team unless a parent/guardian picks you up at the meet. If this is the case, your parent/guardian must give a coach a signed note stating that they are taking you. **Your coach must see both your parent and get a note. Your coaches cannot make exceptions to these rules.** If you experience extenuating circumstances, please discuss them with Mr. Foslien, WCA Activities Director.

It's Good to have Goals!

Speech is an event that requires a lot of dedication, hard work, and responsibility on **your** part. **You** are responsible for your success. **You** must work to achieve your goals during the season.

Here are some goals that might help you stay focused.

- () Select a piece you enjoy.
- () Write a solid introduction, have it checked by a coach, and memorize it.
- () Practice **at least** three times a week, once at school and twice at home.
- () Help another speech team member work towards improvement with his/her piece.
- () Feel good about what you have done so far.
- () KNOW you can improve.
- () Get a good rank.
- () Get an even higher rank.
- () Place at a meet.
- () Place even higher at the next meet.
- () Earn a speech letter.
- () Advance to Sub-Sections.
- () Get in to the final round at Sub-Sections.
- () Advance to Sections.
- () Get into the final round at Sections.
- () Advance to State....**AWESOME!**

We are looking forward to a wonderful speech season!!

~Your WCA Speech Coaches

