

A NOTE FROM GRIEVANCE

WAYS TO AVOID DISQUALIFICATIONS AND OTHER PAINFUL SITUATIONS

The State Tournament is unique in many ways, not the least of which is how rules are enforced and the consequences for students if rules are violated. Most of the reasons students have been disqualified in recent years have been due to easily preventable mistakes. Please take some time to prepare your students for the special circumstances of the State Tournament

- **Use the codes you will receive at preregistration.** Unlike invitational tournaments, students **MUST** use the codes under which they were pre-scheduled; it does make a difference who is “A” and who is “B.” Students who switch codes, even inadvertently, may be disqualified from the tournament.
- **Have students carefully check their postings themselves,** instead of asking a teammate or friend to check them. Students who have ended up competing in the wrong room have been disqualified in the past.
- **Be sure you have original sources for all interp materials.** This might be the website that is publicly available or a book or magazine, but whatever the source, be sure to have the original sources readily available in the case of a grievance. Typed manuscripts are not acceptable. If there is a challenge regarding an entry and your students do not have the original source, they run a high risk of being disqualified, even before the challenged is considered!
- **The Artistic Plagiarism Standards of NSDA have been adopted by CHSAA.** Please be sure your students are performing their own, original interpretation of the material.
- **Remind your students that their pieces should be performed without added material.** Additions to a work may only be made for an introduction or for transitions.
- **Impress on your students the need to be on-time to rounds.** Students need to get to their rounds ASAP after they are posted. If there is some dire emergency that creates a reason for a student's lateness, inform the Tab Room IMMEDIATELY.
- **Have your extempers clean out their files to conform to evidence rules.** Extempers sometimes save old cards, outlines, and questions -- those cannot be open during Extemp prep at the State Tournament, and articles cannot be annotated or highlighted in multiple colors. Since most extempers are on devices now, just be sure they know what they can and cannot access during prep.
- **Encourage your students to behave professionally in rounds.** There have been grievances in the past about students who were obnoxious, belligerent, or otherwise unprofessional.
- **Tell students that cell phones must be turned off and put away during rounds (debaters may use them as timers ONLY).** An innocent call from a parent or even a cell phone that is on the table and “on” during extemp prep or a debate round could be construed as using an electronic retrieval device or consulting with others. A ringing phone during a speech could seriously distract the performer.
- **Encourage your students to bring any unusual behavior by judges or others to your attention immediately.** The Grievance Committee cannot do anything about a problem if the next round of that event has started. You may want your students to review the CHSAA publications regarding the expectations for judges and competitors.
- **Keep in touch with the Ombudsperson.** He/she will help you problem-solve any issues and explain procedures which might cause questions. That person will help prevent issues from going to the Grievance Committee and help prevent the possibility of disqualifying students.

Keep these procedures in mind and, hopefully, you and your team will avoid the painful situation of having students disqualified. Good luck and have a good State Tournament!