



**NORTHWEST RANKIN
SPEECH AND DEBATE TEAM**

5805 HIGHWAY 25 • FLOWOOD, MS 39232

**NORTHWEST RANKIN SPEECH AND DEBATE
TEAM HANDBOOK**

As a member of NWR Speaks, the Northwest Rankin High School speech and debate team, I understand that I represent my team, my school, and ultimately my own personal character. I understand that it is the responsibility of my parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and myself to read, acknowledge, and understand the rules set before us and the consequences to the actions deemed inappropriate by the terms of this handbook.

INTEGRITY · HUMILITY · RESPECT · LEADERSHIP · SERVICE

INTRODUCTION

It is the duty of team members and their parents and/or legal guardians to read this handbook and return the required paperwork. These documents must be in place before season membership can be finalized and students can begin to compete with NWR Speaks.

Required documents include:

- 1. HANDBOOK AGREEMENT FORM**
 - a. Parent Signatures
 - b. Student Signatures
- 2. PLAYER INFORMATION SHEET (RCSD)**
- 3. STUDENT PARTICIPATION CLEARANCE FORM (RCSD)**
- 4. DRUG TESTING CONSENT FORM (RCSD)**
- 5. CONCUSSION INFORMATION FORM (MHSAA)**
- 6. STAR SPORTSMANSHIP CERTIFICATE (MHSAA)**
- 7. INFORMED CONSENT FORMS FOR EACH OFF-CAMPUS TRIP (RCSD)**
- 8. MEDICAL RELEASE FORM**
 - Attach a copy of your current insurance card.
- 9. DIGITAL LIKENESS (PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEO) RELEASE FORM**

All signers understand that (1) a copy of all paperwork will stay on file for the duration of the current season, (2) any disciplinary action taken will be based on the rules and regulations herein, and (3) failure to abide by the rules will result in a series of actions that can lead to expulsion from the team.

I. TEAM DEFINITIONS

A. AUDITIONS

1. Any student wishing to participate as a member of NWR Speaks must complete an audition. Adjudicators for the audition will consist of coaching staff, volunteer adjudicators, and/or select graduating (senior) members of the current team.
2. Auditions for current Northwest Rankin High School students will be held during the spring semester of the prior school year.
3. Eighth graders at Northwest Rankin Middle School who would like to join the team as freshmen at Northwest Rankin may audition during the high school audition time or – seeing enough interest from an eighth grade group – the coaching staff may arrange to hold a separate audition at the middle school.
4. Students who transfer to Northwest Rankin in the fall may arrange with the coaching staff and the student leadership to complete an audition within the first three weeks of the fall semester.
5. Returning members must complete the audition process and will be accepted based on factors which include their individual performance at auditions as well as their work completed and conduct in the current season.

B. OFFICERS – All officers are expected to maintain a GPA of 3.5 or higher (half A's / half B's).

1. **TEAM CAPTAIN** – Ideally this leader will be classified as a Junior.

- a. Criteria for Selection – Team Captain must:
 - i. Be a member of the varsity squad;
 - ii. Have earned a minimum of 100 NSDA points;
 - iii. Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of speech, debate, and interpretation events;
 - iv. Uphold the values in the NSDA honor code; and
 - v. Earn the approval of all members of the coaching staff.
- b. Responsibilities – Team Captain will:
 - i. Preside over team leadership meetings;
 - ii. Compete in a variety of events throughout the season;
 - iii. Compete in every tournament the team attends, as qualified;
 - iv. Assist with scheduling and planning rehearsals;
 - v. Coach novice and varsity squad members during rehearsals;
 - vi. Organize entry information prior to tournament deadlines,
 - vii. Account for all students at each transportation load-in;
 - viii. Field questions, comments, and concerns from varsity and novice squad members;
 - ix. Promote a positive, growth-minded team atmosphere, and;
 - x. Fulfill other duties as assigned.

2. **CHIEF OFFICER** – Ideally this leader will be classified as a Sophomore.

- a. Criteria for Selection – Chief Officer must:
 - i. Be a member of the varsity squad;
 - ii. Have earned a minimum of 75 NSDA points;
 - iii. Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of speech, debate, and interpretation events;
 - iv. Uphold the values in the NSDA honor code; and
 - v. Earn the approval of all members of the coaching staff.
- b. Responsibilities – Chief Officer will:
 - i. Attend all team leadership meetings
 - ii. Compete in a variety of events throughout the season;
 - iii. Compete in every tournament the team attends, as qualified;
 - iv. Manage all team social media accounts;
 - v. Coordinate and communicate promotional photography opportunities at tournaments;
 - vi. Assist the Team Captain during rehearsals;
 - vii. Coach novice and varsity squad members during rehearsals;
 - viii. Promote a positive, growth-minded team atmosphere; and
 - ix. Fulfill other duties as assigned.

3. TEAM ADVISOR – Ideally this leader will be classified as a Senior.

a. Criteria for Selection – Team Advisor must:

- i. Be a member of the varsity squad;
- ii. Have served in a team leadership role in at least one prior season;
- iii. Have earned a minimum of 150 NSDA points;
- iv. Uphold the values of the NSDA honor code;
- v. Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of speech, debate, and interpretation events; and
- vi. Earn the approval of all members of the coaching staff.

b. Responsibilities – Team Advisor will:

- i. Attend all team leadership meetings;
- ii. Keep appropriate records of all team leadership meetings;
- iii. Compete in a variety of events throughout the season;
- iv. Compete in every tournament the team attends, as qualified;
- v. Support the Team Captain and Chief Officer by answering questions and addressing concerns;
- vi. Assist the coaching staff with coordinating schedules (rehearsal, audition, tournament, etc.);
- vii. Coach novice and varsity squad members during rehearsals;
- viii. Promote a positive, growth-minded team atmosphere; and
- ix. Fulfill other duties as assigned.

4. NOVICE REPRESENTATIVE – There is no classification requirement/for this leader.

a. Criteria for Selection – Novice Representative must:

- i. Be a member of the novice squad;
- ii. Demonstrate a natural capacity for leadership and clear camaraderie with other team members;
- iii. Uphold the values of the NSDA honor code; and
- iv. Earn the approval of a majority of NWR Speaks members and all members of the coaching staff.

b. Responsibilities – Novice Representative will:

- i. Attend all team leadership meetings;
- ii. Provide insight about the desires, concerns, and/or needs of the members of the novice squad;
- iii. Compete in a variety of events throughout the season;
- iv. Compete in all tournaments the team attends;
- v. Promote a positive, growth-minded team atmosphere; and
- vi. Fulfill other duties as assigned.

5. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR – One student director is chosen to run the NWR Speaks Tournament and any other tournament(s) that might take place on the Northwest Rankin Campus during this competition season.

a. Criteria for Selection – Tournament Director must:

- i. Be a member of the varsity squad;
- ii. Have served in a team leadership role in at least one prior season;
- iii. Have earned a minimum of 100 NSDA points;
- iv. Uphold the values of the NSDA honor code;
- v. Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of speech, debate, and interpretation events; and
- vi. Earn the approval of all members of the coaching staff.

b. Responsibilities – Tournament Director will:

- i. Attend appropriate team leadership meetings;
- ii. Compete in a variety of events throughout the season;
- iii. Compete in all tournaments the team attends;
- iv. Work closely with the coaching staff to coordinate the complex elements of the NWR Speaks tournament;
- v. Field questions from and provide instruction to team members during the NWR Speaks tournament;
- vi. Help the coaching staff coordinate food for the Student Lounge and the Judge Lounge;
- vii. Identify and recommend team members for specific tournament duties;
- viii. Promote a positive, growth-minded team atmosphere; and
- ix. Fulfill other duties as assigned.

C. STUDENT OFFICER ELECTIONS

1. The NSDA national office provides coaches with two options for how to select student officers:
 - a. Students vote based on their degree level (Level 1 = 1 vote; Level 8 = 8 votes); or
 - b. Students wishing to be officers may sign up based on requirements given by the team, and the coaching staff chooses from those eligible
2. NWR Speaks will use a blended selection process for determining leadership roles, with certain roles being elected based on degree level and others being nominated by students and selected by the coaching staff.
3. Students may choose to opt out of voting and of being considered for leadership roles on the team.

D. NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE ASSOCIATION DEGREE LEVELS

| | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. | Degree of Merit | 1 st Level | 25 NSDA Points |
| 2. | Degree of Honor | 2 nd Level | 75 NSDA Points |
| 3. | Degree of Excellence | 3 rd Level | 150 NSDA Points |
| 4. | Degree of Distinction | 4 th Level | 250 NSDA Points |
| 5. | Degree of Special Distinction | 5 th Level | 500 NSDA Points |
| 6. | Degree of Superior Distinction | 6 th Level | 750 NSDA Points |
| 7. | Degree of Outstanding Distinction | 7 th Level | 1000 NSDA Points |
| 8. | Degree of Premier Distinction | 8 th Level | 1500 NSDA Points |

II. COMPETITION EVENTS / NATIONAL TOURNAMENT QUALIFICATIONS

A. EVENTS OF COMPETITION

1. DEBATE EVENTS
 - a. Policy Debate (CX)
 - b. Lincoln-Douglas Debate (LD)
 - c. Public Forum Debate (PF / PFD)
 - d. Congressional Debate (CON)
2. FLIGHT A INDIVIDUAL EVENTS
 - a. Prose Interpretation (PRO)
 - b. Dramatic Interpretation (DI)
 - c. Original Oratory (OO)
 - d. Impromptu Speaking (IMP)
 - e. Program Oral Interpretation (POI)
 - f. Duet Acting (DUET)
 - g. Storytelling (ST)
3. FLIGHT B INDIVIDUAL EVENTS
 - a. Poetry Interpretation (PO)
 - b. Humorous Interpretation (HI)
 - c. Informative Speaking (INFO / INFORM)
 - d. Extemporaneous Speaking (EXT / EXTEMP)
 - e. Declamation (DEC)
 - f. Duo Interpretation (DUO)
 - g. Expository Speaking (EXP)

B. NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE ASSOCIATION (NSDA) NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

1. The number of entries given to each school at the NSDA district qualifying tournaments is based on the number of degrees held by the entire team.
2. The chart that explains the degree/entry calculation is located in the NSDA District Tournament Manual at speechanddebate.org.
3. Students must have a minimum of 25 NSDA points (Degree of Merit) and be registered on the NSDA website to be eligible to compete at the NSDA qualifying tournaments.
4. The number of students who represent Mississippi (the Magnolia District) at the NSDA National Championship Tournament in each event is based on how many students compete in that event at the district tournament.

5. The events at the NSDA National Championship Tournament are:
 - a. Congressional Debate: Senate;
 - b. Congressional Debate: House;
 - c. Policy Debate;
 - d. Lincoln Douglas Debate;
 - e. Public Forum Debate;
 - f. International Extemporaneous Speaking
 - g. United States Extemporaneous Speaking
 - h. Original Oratory;
 - i. Humorous Interpretation;
 - j. Dramatic Interpretation; and
 - k. Duo Interpretation.
6. HOW ENTRIES TO MAGNOLIA DISTRICT QUALIFIERS ARE CHOSEN
 - a. NWR Speaks may enter no more than four entries in any one event.
 - b. About two months before the qualifying competition, the coaching staff will estimate how many entries the school will have for district qualifiers based on the degree/entry calculation chart.
 - c. Any team members who have competed in the NSDA National Tournament in a prior season will be eligible to choose their entry to qualifiers first.
 - d. The next entries will be chosen based on the competitors in each event with the most tournament wins during the current season (followed by most breaks to finals, semifinals, etc. and then round ranks).

C. NATIONAL CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE (NCFL) GRAND NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

1. The National Catholic Forensic League is an organization that originated from the Catholic secondary school community in the United States that welcomes membership to all schools public and private and that hosts their annual Grand National Tournament on Memorial Day weekend.
2. Northwest Rankin High School is a member of the Jackson Diocese. This district consists primarily of schools in the Jackson metropolitan area and the north half of the state.
3. The number of students who qualify for the NCFL national tournament is determined by the number of schools that register as members of the Diocese, rather than by how many students register to compete in the tournament.
4. 2-6 students can qualify in each event, based on the number of registered schools.
5. The events at this tournament are:
 - a. Congressional Debate;
 - b. Policy Debate;
 - c. Lincoln-Douglas Debate;
 - d. Public Forum Debate;
 - e. Extemporaneous Speaking;
 - f. Oral Interpretation of Literature (“OI” or “OIL”; alternating Prose and Poetry rounds combined into one event);
 - g. Duo Interpretation;
 - h. Original Oratory; and
 - i. Dramatic Performance (Dramatic Interpretation and Humorous Interpretation combined into one event).
6. Each school may have up to 40 total entries.
7. Each school may have no more than six (6) entries in any single category.
8. Each student may enter 1-4 events in the tournament: 1 debate event, 2 individual events, and Congress.
9. HOW ENTRIES TO JCFL QUALIFIERS ARE CHOSEN
 - a. Any competitor/team that wins an individual event or makes it to finals in a debate event during the fall semester will earn an entry in that event.
 - b. Any competitor/team that places in the top 3 in an individual event or reaches semifinals in a debate event twice during the fall semester will earn an entry in that event.
 - c. Provided there is still space in the event, any competitor/team that reaches finals in an individual event or quarterfinals in a debate event three times during the fall semester will earn an entry in that event.
 - d. If six entries in an event have not been earned through the aforementioned criteria and the team has not reached its max of 40 entries, those spots will be available to any students who have competed in the available individual or debate event at a fall semester tournament regardless of their ranking.
 - e. The NWR Speaks coaching staff will fill any remaining entries at their discretion.

D. NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL EVENT TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS (NIETOC)

1. Events include DI, HI, DUO, OO, and DUET.
2. Qualifying Tournaments are determined by the NIETOC National Committee.
3. A pre-determined number of bids is given out at each qualifying tournament based on the number of entries in the event at the qualifying tournament.
4. Student competitors must earn two bids in an event to qualify and be eligible to compete at NIETOC.

E. MHSAA SPEECH AND DEBATE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. Events include
 - a. Congressional Debate (House and Senate; this tournament happens on a separate weekend)
 - b. Debate: CX, LD, PFD
 - c. FLIGHT A: PR, DI, OO, IMP, DUET, POI
 - d. FLIGHT B: PO, HI, EXT, DEC, DUO, INFO
 - e. Expository Speaking (Flight A) and Storytelling (Flight B) will be offered as supplemental events
2. A student who qualifies for State Championships must compete in all qualified events at the tournament. Refusal to attend state championships may eliminate that student from continuing with the team the following season, from any national competition he or she has qualified for, and from any remaining senior privileges (like wearing NSDA cords at graduation).
3. Students qualify for MHSAA State Championships by doing exceptional work at tournaments throughout the season. All in-state tournaments and several regional competitions earn students legs toward qualification for state. Qualification requirements are:
 - a. DEBATE: Finals once OR semifinals once OR quarterfinals twice; and
 - b. INDIVIDUAL EVENTS: First place once OR second place through semifinals twice.

III. DISCIPLINE

A. DEMERITS AND THE DISCIPLINE LADDER

1. NWR Speaks works on a 20-point demerit scale. Once a team member has demerits added to their discipline report, they remain until the end of the current season.
 - a. 1 - 3 demerits = Warning
 - b. 4 - 6 demerits = Team probation and proof of dedication
 - i. The team member must complete an assignment that will benefit the team.
 - ii. If the assignment is completed within two weeks, the team member will receive no suspension from competition.
 - iii. If the assignment is not completed, the team member automatically moves to the third rung of the ladder and receives a one-tournament suspension.
 - c. 7 - 12 demerits = One-tournament suspension for each infraction on this rung
 - d. 13 - 15 demerits = Team member will no longer be eligible to compete in state championships and/or national qualifying tournaments
 - e. 16 - 19 demerits = One-month suspension from competition
 - f. 20 demerits = Termination from the team
2. Each rule listed in this handbook is followed by a number in parentheses. This number equals the number of demerits each offense is worth.
3. The discipline ladder will be maintained on the team drive.
 - a. It is the responsibility of each team member to keep up with how many demerits they have.
 - b. If asked, the coaching staff will let the student know in a timely manner, but it will not be a priority to disclose the information that should be maintained by the student.

B. TOURNAMENT REHEARSAL RULES

1. NWR Speaks class period will follow a curriculum designed to teach all team members all events and prepare the team for success in competition. Failure to participate in classroom assignments is unacceptable. (No demerits; classroom behavior will affect class grade.)
2. Any competition selection must be given approval before being performed in a competition. Performing a selection in competition without the knowledge of the coaching staff is unacceptable. (3)
3. Each prepared piece must be seen before every tournament a student attends. Selections can be performed for any member of the coaching staff, the team captain, the chief officer, or the team advisor no later than the

- Monday before each tournament. (1)
4. Debate cases must be turned in to the coach and team captain no later than the Friday before the first tournament the cases will be used. (1)
 5. Updated cases must be resubmitted prior to being used in competition. (1)

C. TOURNAMENT DEPARTURE RULES

1. Appropriate dress upon departure is expected. You will be given one of three options of how to be dressed when the team leaves Northwest Rankin. (2)
 - a. OPTION ONE - Fully dressed in competition suit.
 - b. OPTION TWO - Team polo shirt and school-appropriate skirt, khaki pants, or blue jeans without holes.
 - c. OPTION THREE- Casual dress (only if we don't compete the day of departure or if there is time to change at the hotel before the tournament).
2. Departure time will always be given for every location. Transportation leaves at that time. Competitors should arrive at least 10 minutes prior to departure time.
 - a. Being late for departure is unacceptable. (2)
 - b. Being late for departure from the hotel harms the team. (1)

D. TRANSPORTATION RULES

1. Students will treat parent chaperones with respect and regard any direction from them as direction from the coaching staff. Any complaint about a student from a parent chaperone will result in a demerit. (1)
2. If travel is by bus, you will regard the bus driver's rules as if they are directly from the coaching staff. (1)
3. The team will keep the bus clean. If the bus is dirty at the end of a trip, every member of the team who rode the bus will receive demerits. (2)
4. If travel is by an arrangement other than RCSD bus, specific instructions will be given for those trips and another travel agreement will be signed by the student and parent.

E. HOTEL RULES

1. Students will be assigned to a hotel room by the coaching staff. No changes to room assignments will be allowed unless approved by a member of the coaching staff. (1)
2. Each room will be assigned a room leader. Anything deemed misconduct by a parent or room leader will result in immediate disciplinary action by the coaching staff. (2)
3. A curfew will be given each night of a hotel stay. Failure to comply with the curfew will result in disciplinary action:
 - a. Being out after curfew or allowing another student into their room after curfew. (8)
 - b. Refusing to inform a member of the coaching staff about a missing teammate. (5)
4. If a student leaves the hotel for any reason without permission:
 - a. The student(s) will be immediately terminated from the team and sent home at their parent's expense.
 - b. If roommates have knowledge of this infraction and choose not to tell the coaching staff they will also face disciplinary action. (5)

F. TOURNAMENT LOCATION RULES

1. Disrespect of any kind will not be tolerated. (1)
2. Feelings of mistreatment should be brought directly to the coaching staff, and not dealt with through other students, parents, and etc. Failure to include the coaching staff will not be tolerated. (2)
3. Students must abide by all rules presented by the staff at each tournament site. (1)
4. Students are required to abide by all rules set forth in the Rankin County School District High School handbook. (Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action through the school.)
5. Students may not use cell phones outside of the student lounge at competitions. All student cell phones should be switched to *off* or *airplane mode* when in competition.
 - a. Speaking on a cell phone outside of the student lounge at a tournament. (2)
 - b. Having a cell phone go off during a competition round. (5)
6. Students should stay and watch their competitors in rounds. There are a few exceptions:
 - a. If you are cross-entered, you should ask to be excused and leave after finishing your first event, but you should stay and watch the remaining competitors in the round after performing your second event. (1)
 - b. No student is required to stay and watch Extemporaneous Speaking.

7. Once a round is complete, you should report back to the student lounge and wait for postings for the next round. (1)
8. The entire team is responsible for the Northwest Rankin section of the Student Lounge and Extemp Prep Room. It is your responsibility to clean up after yourself. Complaints from the host school will result in disciplinary action for the entire team. (2)
9. No public displays of affection are permitted. (2)
10. No outside food will be allowed in student lounges without permission prior to the tournament. (2)

G. AWARD CEREMONY RULES

1. The team always sits together during awards ceremonies, no exceptions. (2)
2. No food or drinks will be allowed inside the awards ceremony spaces. (1)
3. Students must show respect for all awards recipients regardless of personal opinions about them. Observe the one clap rule for every placement except for first. Each winner is given a standing ovation. (2)
4. The entire team will stand for the announcement of each team sweepstakes award. (2)
5. There will be no horseplay, loud talking, or inappropriate noises during the ceremony. (1)
6. After the ceremony is over, students will remain seated until the coaching staff gives you directions. (1)

H. TRANSPORTATION HOME RULES

1. If a student's parents plan alternate transportation home from the tournament, students must submit an alternate transportation permission form to a member of the coaching staff **before leaving for the tournament**. If the form is not received by that time, it can not be honored and the student will be required to travel home with the team.
2. THE WALMART RULE – Team members may not criticize other competitors or express negative opinions about the tournament while on campus for competition. Once the team is on the bus and well on the way home, the coaching staff will give permission for constructive, critical discussion of the tournament experience. (2)
3. Parents will be provided with an approximate arrival time before the trip home begins. Students will be reminded to send notice home that the team is in transit, and the coaching staff will send notification through the team's Remind.
4. No one will be allowed to leave Northwest Rankin to go home until the Captain and coaching staff have checked the bus to make sure it is clean.
5. Non-driver students must arrange for parents to be at the school at the time the bus arrives. Demerits will be given if a member of the coaching staff has to wait more than fifteen minutes for a student to be picked up by a parent or guardian. (2)

I. DIGITAL COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL SHARING RULES

1. NWR Speaks uses multiple online communication tools including our website (www.nwrspeaks.com), email, social media, and the free phone apps GroupMe and Remind. Neither of these apps connect personal contact information to messages, and both include members in a group setting.
2. All student members of NWR Speaks should verify with the team advisor that they have access to the team GroupMe, and should check with the coaching staff to ensure that they are enrolled in Remind.
3. Parents may opt in to the NWR Speaks Remind for the season and should speak with a member of the coaching staff with questions about how to join.
4. Everyone enrolled in the team GroupMe must adhere to the following:
 - a. No profanity or vulgar comments. (1)
 - b. No accusations or accusatory language toward an individual or group of individuals. (1)
 - c. No negative comments about teachers, staff, or students. (1)
 - d. No impersonating other members of the group; member identities must be clearly, accurately established. (1)
5. Leadership team members will get approval from the coaching staff to open groups for specialized discussion (e.g. Policy Debate) in order to reduce traffic on the primary group, but apart from these competition-related groups, team members should only use the team's GroupMe for NWR Speaks-related discussion.
6. Students with private personal questions, comments, or concerns should avoid posting these to GroupMe; instead, these inquiries should be addressed in person or via email with a member of the coaching staff.
7. Remind will be used to send one-directional informational text blasts to enrolled team members and their parents.
8. The team will make official social media posts on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
 - a. Team members, parents, community supporters, and anyone else connected to NWR Speaks are

- encouraged to follow NWR Speaks (@NWRSpeaks on all platforms) and share NWR Speaks posts.
- b. Anyone wishing to submit content to the NWR Speaks social media should communicate their message with the chief officer, who will verify it with the coaching staff and publish it on social media.
9. As members of NWR Speaks, students with personal social media accounts represent themselves, the team, Northwest Rankin High School, and the Rankin County School District, and must work to do this in a positive light. Team members must keep in mind the following guidelines:
 - a. Everything you post is public information – any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online – even if you limit access to your site. Information (including pictures, videos, comments, and posters) may be accessible even after you remove it.
 - b. What you post may affect your future.
 - i. Employers and college admissions officers review social networking sites as part of their overall evaluation of an applicant.
 - ii. Carefully consider how you want people to perceive you before you give them a chance to misinterpret your information (including pictures, videos, comments, and other posts).
 - c. NWR Speaks team members are prohibited from using public social media platforms or private messaging services to make critical comments about the team, competitors, or members of the coaching staff. (3)
 - d. Similar to comments made in person, NWR Speaks will not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior online, including but not limited to:
 - i. Derogatory or defamatory language. (1)
 - ii. Comments that create a serious danger to the safety of another person or that constitute a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person and comments or photos that describe or depict unlawful assault, abuse, hazing, harassment, or discrimination; selling, possessing, or using controlled substances; or any other illegal or prohibited conduct, including violating the Rankin County School District Handbook’s Acceptable Use Policy. (Disciplinary action will be taken through the school.)

J. DRESS CODE

1. Rules for all team members
 - a. All students must wear a suit for competition. Suits must be:
 - i. Clean;
 - ii. Tailored to fit the competitor wearing it; and
 - iii. A dark, neutral color that does not distract from the speaker’s message.
 - iv. Students with questions about their suits should get approval from a member of the coaching staff.
 - b. Students who compete in events with a partner must coordinate their suits. (1)
 - i. Duo/duet partners of the same gender should have matching suits.
 - ii. Duo/duet partners of different genders and debate partners should have suits with coordinating elements. (Example: A male competitor’s tie is the same color as his female partner’s blouse, or both competitors wear a black suit with a solid white shirt.)
 - c. All team members will be issued a team dress shirt or polo.
 - i. The team dress shirt must be worn to school on tournament days. (1)
 - ii. Students who do not advance to semi-final or final rounds of competition may change into their polo at the tournament site.
 - iii. Polos must be worn with dress pants, school appropriate skirts, khakis, or blue jeans without holes. (1)
 - d. Students must be fully dressed at all times at tournaments. (Among other things, this means that no NWR Speaks student should ever be seen at a tournament location wearing pajamas or house slippers.) (1)
2. Rules for female team members
 - a. Ladies must wear business appropriate makeup. (1)
 - b. Ladies who choose to wear skirt suits must wear skin-tone pantyhose. (1)
 - i. No competitor should compete in pantyhose that have visible runs in them.
 - ii. Students are responsible for having an extra pair of pantyhose in case they get runs.
 - iii. “Suntan” is the most universal pantyhose color, but competitors may opt for a selection that more closely matches their skin tone.
 - c. All ladies must wear closed-toed heels for competition. (1)
 - i. Heels should be in a neutral tone that coordinates with the color of the competitor’s suit.
 - ii. 2”-3” pumps or wedge heels are the most appropriate; character shoes are not business attire.

- iii. Students should keep a pair of flexible ballet flats in their bag at competition to walk between rounds; sneakers and house slippers are not appropriate between-round shoes. (1)
 - d. Students may wear minimal jewelry. (1)
 - i. Simple earrings: no longer than 1"; students with multiple piercings must keep nondescript stud or loop earrings in all holes other than the first one;
 - ii. One ring; rings must be worn on a ring finger;
 - iii. One necklace or bracelet; and
 - iv. One to two lapel pins (students may choose to wear their NSDA degree pin and a second lapel pin).
 - e. Ladies' hair must be secured out of the competitor's face. (1)
 - i. Loose hair is especially unacceptable for active events like Humorous Interpretation and Duo Interpretation, and students competing in those events must have their hair pinned back and sprayed.
 - ii. Students competing in events like Original Oratory and Extemporaneous Speaking may opt to leave half of their hair down, but at no point should any judge become distracted by being unable to see a student's face.
3. Rules for male team members:
- a. Men must wear dark dress socks that coordinate with their suits. (1)
 - i. No white socks
 - ii. No ankle socks
 - b. Men must wear a tie that coordinates with their suits. (1)
 - c. Hair must be neatly trimmed and professional. Male students who choose longer hair styles must use pins, gel, or hairspray to ensure that all hair is out of their eyes. At no point should any judge become distracted by being unable to see a student's face. (1)
 - d. Any jewelry a male student chooses to wear must be nondescript. (1)
 - i. Earrings must be small studs; no student may wear gauges or any flashy earrings;
 - ii. Bracelets and necklaces must be kept inside of competitor's clothing;
 - iii. One ring; rings must be worn on a ring finger; and
 - iv. One to two lapel pins (students may choose to wear their NSDA degree pin and a second lapel pin).
 - e. Men's shoes must match their suit. Typically, men wear black or brown dress shoes (that are the same color as their belt). Any shoe outside of this norm must be approved by the coaching staff. (1)

K. STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND DISCIPLINE

1. Team members must compete in every tournament the team attends for which they are eligible.
 - a. Failure to attend a competition will result in a suspension from the following tournament and will impact the student's participation grade in the speech and debate team class.
 - b. Students with school-related conflicts must communicate these at least two weeks prior to the tournament in conflict. (3)
 - i. The coaching staff will work with the other Northwest Rankin High School coaches to resolve conflicts involving multiple co- and extracurricular activities.
 - ii. Students with ongoing, irreconcilable conflicts may be removed from the speech and debate team for the remainder of the season.
 - c. Students who fail to communicate multiple tournament conflicts may lose senior privileges (e.g. graduation honor cords) or become ineligible for team membership the following season.
 - d. Students who compete in national qualifying tournaments must submit their single entry letter of intent form and notify the coaching staff of their intent to fund-raise and travel no later than the Monday prior to the tournament. Students who qualify for nationals and subsequently renege on their commitment may lose senior privileges or eligibility to participate the following season.
2. Every team member must attend all tournaments hosted by NWR Speaks. (10)
3. Every team member must attend the team's Spring Showcase. (8)
4. All team members and their parent/guardian must sign and return all required paperwork by the established deadlines. (2)