

2024-25 IESA SPEECH ADVISORY MEETING

Minutes and Recommendations

January 16, 2025 – IESA Office, Bloomington

The following members were present for the meeting: Nicole Schaeftbauer (IESA Executive Director), Shayla Grantham (Committee Chair), Wes Skym (Arlington Heights South, Coach), Nina Andrews (Dunlap Valley, Coach), Lynn Mueller (Watseka Glenn Raymond, Coach), Heather Meade (Minooka, Coach) and Kat Siegers (Sandwich, Coach). Tricia Dotson (Frankfort Hickory Creek, Principal) was not in attendance.

The IESA Speech Advisory Committee, in its meeting on January 16, 2025, made the following recommendation to the IESA Board of Directors:

Recommendation #1

Current General adjudication form.
Proposed Recommend the transition from a generalized adjudication form to a rubric.
Rationale The Committee feels that a rubric will give coaches more specific teaching/coaching direction. They feel it will also be beneficial to judges by giving them areas of importance to focus on, provide a stronger base for final rating, and encourage less experienced people to take on a judging assignment. For the 2025 contest season, the rubric will be for all events and all contest areas.

Speech T&C
IESA By-Law
Admin Vote
Board Action

Recommendation #2

Current Contest hospitality allowance is \$100.
Proposed Recommend hospitality allowance to be \$150.
Rationale With increasing costs, the increase would allow contest hosts to recover more of their food costs. Hospitality is open to all contest judges and contest staff.

Speech T&C
IESA By-Law
Admin Vote
Board Action

Recommendation #3

Current Contests are offered on the Friday and Saturday of Weeks 17, 18, and 19.
Proposed To offer contests on the Friday and Saturday of Weeks 16, 17, 18, and 19.
Rationale With GBK regional games and IMEA contests, the additional week will provide more scheduling options for host schools.

Speech T&C
IESA By-Law
Admin Vote
Board Action

Recommendation #4

Current Props for Solo events- single chair
Proposed Props for Solo events- single chair and/or table
Rationale Provides an additional option for solo events. This does not include Impromptu.

Speech T&C
Admin Vote
Board Action

2024-25 Coach Award Recipients

Distinguished Service- Gretchen Vance, East Peoria Central

Class Act- Whitney Heflin, Bartonville Oak Grove

Ken Bradbury Lifetime Service- Roberta Neumann

Points of Emphasis

1. Introductions
2. Criteria and their meanings
3. Props
4. Judge Information and Judge List- Hosts

Discussion Topics

1. Reviewed Team Improv games. The committee decided to keep the current lineup of games. Games will be reviewed yearly and rotated every two years.
2. Discussed adopting a judge protocol that had the judge raise their hand once a performance has reached time. No recommendation.
3. Reviewed substitution and eligibility requirements. No recommendation
4. Reviewed existing events and participation numbers. No recommendation.
5. Directed IESA administrator to create a Google folder with host materials. Materials would then be available online and mailed in a paper format.
6. Reviewed the contest areas from 2024. Recommendations were made by the Committee and will be reviewed by the IESA administrator for balance.
7. The Committee discussed several judge education initiatives. The first was conducting a virtual judge meeting to be conducted prior to the contest season. The meeting would go over judging expectations, protocols, adjudication forms, and answer any questions judges may have. A judge list with email contact information will need to be secured from the hosts. The second was to ask for judge availability from the judges on the our list for the upcoming season. This availability would then be sent to hosts prior to school concluding for the year. Both initiatives are aimed at strengthening our judging pool.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2026 at the IESA Office.