

# 2025-26 IESA SPEECH ADVISORY MEETING

## Minutes and Recommendations

January 13, 2026 – 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), Corilynn Hensel-McCullough (Dwight, Coach), Heather Meade (Minooka, Coach), Sarah Wheeler (Illioopolis Sangamon Valley, Coach), Yvonne Vicks (Amboy, Coach), and Kat Sgiers (Sandwich, Coach).

The IESA Speech Advisory Committee, in its meeting on January 13, 2026, made the following recommendation to the IESA Board of Directors:

### Recommendation #1- Terms and Conditions

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Current</b>        | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Proposed</b>       | CONTEST AREA TRANSFERS: To alleviate the stress on contest hosts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Schools will not be allowed to request an area change/reassignment after June 15 of the contest year.</li><li>2. Schools without a host will not be allowed to transfer to an area with a host.</li></ol> |
| <b>Rationale</b>      | This provides guidance to participating schools on when to submit a transfer request. The deadline also gives host schools an opportunity to adjust their contest preparations.                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Speech T&amp;C</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>IESA By-Law</b>    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Admin Vote</b>     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Board Action</b>   | <b>APPROVED</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

### Recommendation #2- Terms and Conditions

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Current</b>        | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Proposed</b>       | All rounds are to start at the designated time. The Advisory Committee recommends that hosts/judges not start rounds early unless it has been requested by the performer(s).                                                                                                           |
| <b>Rationale</b>      | While contest is about and for the experience of the performer, there are family and friends who will be following the posted performance time as their guide for arrival. It is disappointing for spectators and performers if an event is arbitrarily moved to an earlier time slot. |
| <b>Speech T&amp;C</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>IESA By-Law</b>    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Admin Vote</b>     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Board Action</b>   | <b>APPROVED</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

### Recommendation #3- Terms and Conditions

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Current</b>  | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Proposed</b> | It is the responsibility of the participating schools to ensure that there is proper supervision at contest and that they are responsible for the conduct of their performers and other persons representing their school. |

Coaches, students, and/or spectators found to be in violation of the ethics of competition or the principles of good sportsmanship may be dismissed or ejected from the contest venue.

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Rationale</b>      |                 |
| <b>Speech T&amp;C</b> |                 |
| <b>IESA By-Law</b>    |                 |
| <b>Admin Vote</b>     |                 |
| <b>Board Action</b>   | <b>APPROVED</b> |

## **2025-26 Coach Award Recipients**

**Distinguished Service- Laura Anglin, Metamora**

**Class Act- Wes Skym, Arlington Heights South**

**Ken Bradbury Lifetime Service- Tami Schroeder, Springfield Christian School**

### **Points of Emphasis**

1. Workshop
2. Coach etiquette
3. Newsletter
4. Judge philosophy

### **Discussion Topics**

1. Recommended that the following change be made to the Terms and Conditions:
  - a. General Contest Information/Points of Emphasis
    - i. Consolidate A. and C.
2. Reviewed the new adjudication rubric. No recommendations.
3. Discussed changes to the judge philosophy. Judge instructions will be updated to reflect the use of new adjudication forms.
4. Discussed assisting new judges by creating a script for them to read prior to each performance or session. IESA administrator to create a script.
5. Discussed the development of a judge training video. Video to include general information. IESA administrator to create the video.
6. Reviewed current participation trends. No recommendations.
7. Reviewed the Speech calendar. No recommendations.
8. Reviewed the financial composite of the 2025 Speech contests. No recommendations.
9. Discussed the creation of a coach etiquette guide. IESA administrator to create the document.
10. Reviewed the contest areas from 2025. Recommendations were made by the Committee and will be reviewed by the IESA administrator for balance.
11. The 2026 workshop schedule was finalized.

**Next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2027 at the IESA Office.**