

Frequently Asked Questions about Speaking Events at the Regional Meet

Q: Where do I find a schedule for my regional contests?

A: Access your regional handbook. All regions are posted at this link: <https://www.uiltexas.org/academics/regional>

Q: Can competitors in Prose & Poetry change selections from district to region?

A: Yes. You are cautioned to be certain your new documentation will pass documentation check since it won't have gone through the review process at invitation and district meets. You will also need to create a new official Documentation Form with the updated selection(s). Secure the appropriate signatures on the new form, as well.

Q: Is my school responsible for providing judges for the regional meet?

A: Read the Region Handbook for your site. All regions are unique in their requirements. Pay particular attention to deadlines and requirements included in the handbook about speech/debate. If questions still remain, contact your region, not the state office, since regions have different processes.

Q: Are there additional fees associated with speech/debate events at region?

A. Sometimes there are fees so consult the information provided in your region handbook.

Q. Who do I submit my students' prose documentation to for review?

A: Consult the information provided in your particular region's handbook. If you are unclear on procedures, contact the Region Director or Prose/Poetry Contest Directors for your site.

Q. What should I do if I my Prose Reader or Persuasive Speaker or LD Debater can no longer compete?

A. Immediately contact your district director/regional director so preparations can be made in advance to contact the alternate. In addition, speaking events are different from other contests in that your drop also impacts sectioning or pairings that have already been set, as well as the number of judges required. It is essential that you not wait until the day of the meet to drop your student. No-Shows are subject to penalties.

Q. Can my speech and debate students compete in other academic events?

A. If a student qualified in both speech and academic events, they are allowed to compete in both as long as they do not conflict on the Academic Conflict Pattern. The Academic Conflict Pattern is followed at region and state so if your student qualified in 2 conflicting events because your district did not follow the ACP, they may not compete in both, even if the region time schedule provides.

Q. Are rounds open to the public?

A. They are, but there are specific restrictions on audiences. In debate rounds, all audience members are to sit in front of the judge(s). They may not take notes, bring computers into the round, or have cell phones out. If debaters competing in the tournament have a bye for a round, they are not allowed to watch another round.

See the contest rules for each speaking event regarding audiences. No audience member should be distractive in any way.

Coaches: Review thoroughly with your qualifiers the UIL contest rules and, if applicable to their contest, the computer guidelines so they go into their region with knowledge about time limits, potential rule violations, and contest procedures. Preparation on the details promotes confidence and competency.