2023-2024 Speech Rules Changes

The following changes were proposed by the Speech Coaches Advisory Committee, and approved by the MSHSL Board of Directors on October 5, 2023.

Citations on Visual Aids

<u>Previous Rule/Policy</u>: All materials quoted, paraphrased, or summarized from other sources (including visuals) must be documented in the submitted script (within the text or in a works cited listing or both) and orally and/or visually during the presentation.

<u>New rule</u>: All materials quoted, paraphrased, or summarized from other sources must be documented in the submitted script (within the text or in a works cited listing or both) and orally. Visual aid source material must be documented in the submitted script (within the text or in a works cited listing or both) but does not need to be to be cited orally and/or visually during the presentation.

Stage Properties (Props)

<u>Previous Rule/Policy</u>: Speech General Rules, Definitions, page 2. E. Stage Properties No stage properties shall be used during a speaker's delivery, with the exception of Discussion, in which contestants may sit in chairs, and Informative, in which visual aids are allowed and may be 3-D. Books, notecards, and scripts are not considered properties, provided the script is used only as a script. If a student uses a script, she/he must hold the script and refer to it.

<u>New Rule:</u> Add this language: No part of an entry's body is to be considered a prop (such as hair, ear, etc.) Clothing, shoes, or jewelry are not considered part of an entry's body.

Determining Finalists/Tie-Breaker

<u>Previous Rule/Policy</u>: Results from head to head matchups will be used to break ties. If a tie still occurs, or head to head cannot be used, the tabulators will add the actual ranks of the fifteen speakers met in Rounds 1, 2 and 3 by each speaker in the tie. The speaker in the tie whose opponents have the lowest total of ranks will advance. If a tie still occurs, reciprocal fractions of actual ranks will be used.

New Rule: Results from head to head matchups will be used to break ties. If a tie still occurs, or head to head cannot be used, the tabulators will use the **average** opponent rank of the speakers met in Rounds 1, 2, and 3 by each speaker in the tie. The speaker in the tie whose opponents have the lowest average ranks will advance. If a tie still occurs, reciprocal fractions of actual ranks will be used.