

# Suggestions for Selecting Orders of Competition

Over the past several years, Sectional Speaking Contest hosts have found it very valuable to set up the Order of Competition before the actual day of the contest. This helps for several reasons:

- 1) Contestants will know ahead of time when they compete. Sectional hosts can send out a schedule to the chapters or print the Order of Competition in the contest program.
- 2) Setting up the Order of Competition before the day of the contest assists with the organization of the event so that members who are in multiple competitions are scheduled so contests do not overlap.

A key element to organizing your Sectional Speaking Contest is placing students in orders of competition that compliment each other and allow the Sectional Contest to flow smoothly.

Members are only allowed to compete in two individual and one team event. However, it is very important that you know which competitions these are so that you can place them in an order that doesn't conflict. THUS the Pre-Registration Form is very important in helping things run smoothly.

There are three contests to watch for as you set up the Order of Competition...

- 1) Discussion Meet
- 2) Extemporaneous Speaking
- 3) Parliamentary Procedure

If a member is in Extemporaneous Speaking, don't forget they need 30 minutes to prepare before they speak. It is best to start the first participant preparing 30 minutes before all other contests. Example: If contests start at 4:00 p.m., have first participant preparing at 3:30 p.m.

If that same student is in Discussion Meet, it would be good to ask the student to come early so they can be the first one to prepare for the Extemporaneous Contest and then when the contest begins, you only have to wait about 15 minutes to start the Discussion Meet.

If a member is in multiple competitions and those competitions include the ones listed above – you want to start them with the Discussion Meet as early as possible as this will effect a group of students. Three to seven students are in a round of Discussion Meet so you don't want to hold this contest up. Participants should not have to wait for another person competing unless there are multiple rounds of competition.

If a member is on a Parliamentary Procedure team, that team should be scheduled as one of the very first teams or one of the last teams to compete if the member has other competitions to compete in.

Again there is no exact way to lay out the Order of Competition, because various situations can arise depending on the actual number of competitors in each competition, but hopefully these suggestions will assist you.