

NSAA News

December 2018











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"NSAA activities...
the other half of
education."

Executive Director's Notebook

Jay Bellar, NSAA Executive Director



Reflections

So often, in fact, too often, we seem to focus on the negative news about our schools. School leaders are frequently put in the position of defending what their schools are doing for their students. With that in mind, I have asked myself – what are the things that are great about schools across Nebraska?

IT'S OUR KIDS. Great schools can't exist without a great group of kids. The students here in Nebraska are a very talented bunch of individuals. They work hard and do their best to excel in both academic and extracurricular activities. I've been able to watch them compete against each other in our State Championships and have been very impressed, not only with the skill level that they compete at, but their desire to achieve their goal of winning a State Championship. The excitement of these activities has been very gratifying to be a part of and I am eagerly waiting for the State Unified Sports, Bowling Championships as well as the State Play Production Championships that take place early in December.

A SPECIAL CLIMATE. The climate of a school includes its students and its diversity, but it includes so much more than that. A positive nurturing climate is another great thing about Nebraska schools. The teachers and coaches know the students by their names and many of them have taught brothers and sisters within the same family. I believe school communities are special in this respect, too, because you look out for one another and help each other when needed. When I visit with staff members of member schools, I wait expectantly to hear them elaborate about how they care for their students/athletes. I truly believe we all enthusiastically work together to create a productive, positive, and rewarding atmosphere in which all students will learn and grow. We work hard to create lasting memories through quality learning experiences and special events which are the other half of education.



NSAA Board of Directors



Kathi Wieskamp District I Lincoln Public Schools



Mark Norvell District I Fillmore Central



Thomas Lee District II Omaha Northwest



Dr. Bob Reznicek District II Boys Town



Dr. Jon Cerny District III Bancroft-Rosalie



Dan Keyser District IV Sutherland



Alan Garey District V Medicine Valley



Dr. Troy Unzicker District VI Alliance

NSAA Staff



Jay Bellar Executive Director



Deb Velder Associate Director Assistant Director



Jennifer Schwartz



Ron Higdon Assistant Director



Jon Dolliver Assistant Director



Nate Neuhaus Assistant Director



Dan Masters Assistant Director Assistant Director



Jeff Stauss



Ashton Honnor Marketing Specialist



Megan Huber Business Manager



Cindy Callaway Office Manager



Ronda Schmidt Administrative Assistant



Alicia McCoy Administrative Assistant



The NSAA Would Like to Thank Our Corporate Partners





















Reflections from page 1

A GREAT STAFF. A school can't be great unless the people in charge have the desire to be great. I'm sure each member school has a staff that work hard at becoming the best staff they can be. I know that many teachers are continually going back to school to further their education to find new strategies to help students learn, and coaches also attend clinics to help strengthen their programs. It is evident by these actions that they want the students to be successful in whatever extracurricular activity they choose to do. In any job or business it is important to be kind and respectful to each other and by doing this, it shows that the leaders of your teams are working hard at being good role models for your children. Another part of a great staff is keeping the lines of communication open with students and parents. In doing this, it lets the parents know how much you care about their child and in turn allows parents to understand where you as a coach, teacher, and/or school are coming from. If we are on the same page, only good things can happen! This is true with NSAA, we appreciate keeping the lines of communication open with our member schools. We are here to make the experience of being in an extracurricular activity one that is a memory to treasure.

A GREAT COMMUNITY. I refer back to the old African proverb "it takes a village to raise a child" and I couldn't agree more. We know you are striving to teach your students that it is important to be a productive part of the community. One of our goals within the NSAA has been helping teach the unwritten curriculum. We are proud that we have a hand in preparing students for their future and for having a small part in them making a positive difference in the community in which they live or one day hope to put down roots. Over the past few weeks, I have had the opportunity to watch many of your communities participate in NSAA activities and I can say how impressed I am with not only the students and coaches who participated, but with the communities that the students represented. It was obvious by the attendance at these events that communities, big or small, are proud of their student athletes. The fans that attended were outstanding in how they positively cheered on their teams. It was a pleasure to see how schools and their communities work together to ensure success for all students. Even though not all teams got the ending they wanted, it goes without saying that our students are supported well within their communities. Here at the NSAA, we Thank You for your continued support of high school activities, the other half of education.

MaxPreps Statistics Leaders



GIRLS BASKETBALL BOYS BASKETBALL

GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING



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December U.S. Bank Believers & Achievers





Elijah Vedral Bishop Neumann



Elizabeth Blaser Columbus



Emma Hansen Omaha North



Franklin Fields
Falls City



Grace Kanel HTRS



Grace McDonaldCentura



Jaden Ferguson Lincoln Southwest



Jarod Hergott Thayer Central



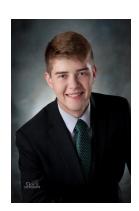
Jatin Cranmore Scottsbluff



Julia Thiele Clearwater



Kalen Dockweiler Callaway



Kasey Brabec Schuyler



Music Director Debbie Martinez Receives National & State Recognition



Debbie Martinez of Millard North High School has been named Nebraska's National Federation of State High School Association's (NFHS) 2018-19 Outstanding Music Educator of the Year.

Martinez was nominated for the NFHS award by the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) in collaboration with the Nebraska Music Educators Association (NMEA). Nominations are based upon outstanding service and unselfish devotion to interscholastic music by high school or college music educators. The NFHS Outstanding Music Educator Award was first given in 1989. Since then, 170 sectional and 305 state awards have been awarded.

Martinez holds a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Nebraska - Omaha and a Masters of Music Education from Florida State University. She is recognized as an outstanding music teacher, known for building excellent classroom culture. She has been a mainstay in the Millard School District with tenures in two elementary schools, Millard North Middle and currently at Millard North High School.

Martinez has built a career on the personal mission of "providing quality music education for every child." Her mission can be identified in the many curriculum building projects and orchestra camps that she has founded and led. She's also had a commitment to building upon new initiatives, and is often described as a founder, creator and leader in the music community. Martinez's string program has flourished with exponential growth in participation. It is the largest in Nebraska growing from 33 students to now over 190 string players.

Martinez was honored and presented with the award in Lincoln at the Nebraska Music Educators Association annual awards banquet on November 15th.

Nebraska's NFHS Music Educator Award Winners since 2002

- 2002 Bryan Johnson, Oakland-Craig High School
- 2003 Dean Dahlke, Bertrand High School
- 2004 Gene Torrens, Elkhorn High School
- 2005 Dr. Michelle Bluford, Elkhorn High School
- 2006 Fred Ritter, Columbus High School
- 2007 Sharon Hoffman, Bayard Public Schools
- 2008 Byron Braasch, Lewis & Clark Middle School
- 2009 Stan Johnson, Shickley Public Schools
- 2010 Dave Klein, Kearney Public Schools
- 2011 Cheri Helmer-Riensche, Papillion-La Vista South High School
- 2012 William Reichert, Broken Bow High School
- 2013 Cheri Helmer-Riensche, Regional Winner, Papillion-La Vista South
- 2013 Rita Stinner, Western Nebraska Community College
- 2014 Rex Barker, Millard South High School
- 2015 Patricia Ritchie, Millard West High School
- 2016 Denise Cotton, Lincoln Southwest High School
- 2017 Tom Jaworski, Regional Winner, Adams Central High School
- 2018 Debbie Martinez, Millard North High School



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American Legion Baseball, Participation after July 31st

NSAA Approved Ruling & Interpretation for 3.2.7.6 allows for high school baseball coaches to work with their high school players, with no restrictions, starting in Week 46 of the standardized calendar through July 31st.

Some state, regional and national American Legion baseball tournaments have started extending past July 31st which requires high school coaches to abide by the organized practice rule (Bylaw 3.2). During the November meeting the NSAA Board approved the following:

Approved Ruling & Interp. For 3.2.7.6 (#2)

If a high school coach or other adult associated with the school baseball program is also the coach of an organized non-school Junior or Senior Legion baseball team that will practice and compete after July 31st in preparation for a qualifying state, regional or national Legion baseball tournament; that school must seek a waiver for the school-year, out-of-season Bylaw 3.2.3 (Organized Practice) from the NSAA Executive Director to continue their practice and competition through the completion of these tournaments.

Contact Dan Masters if you have any questions at dmasters@nsaahome.org.

NSAA State Unified Sports, Bowling Championships

The NSAA State Unified Sports, Bowling Championships will be held in Lincoln on December 3rd at Sun Valley Lanes. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students and can be purchased online or at Sun Valley Lanes the day of the Championships. Doors will open at 9:30 a.m. with a 10:30 a.m. start.

For more information including the Championship schedule, head over to the NSAA website.

NFHS Learning Center Offering Free Course on "Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention"

National Federation of State High School Associations

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (November 29, 2018) —Addressing the realities of physical and psychological wellness, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has developed "Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention" – a free online education course available on the NFHS Learning Center at www.NFHSLearn.com.

Stress, anxiety and depression create challenges for many individuals, including interscholastic studentathletes, and severe conditions can lead to suicide.

Through the "Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention" course, answers are provided to numerous questions that students – as well as peers or any guardian responsible for the care and well-being of a student – may face in these situations.

"It is critically important that we all understand the many factors that impact our mental health," said Dan Schuster, NFHS director of educational services.

Click here for the full article on the NFHS website.



Have you followed the NSAA social media channels?

The NSAA Fall Championships are wrapping up! Be sure to follow all of the NSAA social media channels to stay updated on the latest Championship action. @nsaaevents on Twitter is your primary source for Championship scores and updates.



Update Your School Membership Directory

The NSAA utilizes your School Directory to send communication to the administration and coaches listed. Please make sure that this information is correct and updated *at all times*. To do so, login to your AD login page and under OTHER FORMS select School Directory, which will then take you to your School Directory Information page where you can make changes as necessary. This is also where you'll go to see if your coaches have completed their online rules meetings. Please contact the NSAA office at 402-489-0386 with any questions.





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Statement of Principle on Conduct Synopsis

Adopted by the NDE, NSAA, NCSA, NASB, NSEA, NRCSA, NCA and NSIAAA

Recently, students in our schools have been experiencing negative, harassing, and bullying conduct during the school day, and at school activities by the spectators attending those events or, and at times by opponents in an activity, that is directed at the school's participants and spectators, often with a racial component. Such conduct is unacceptable and does not reflect the foregoing basic tenants of our society.

It is the responsibility of our organizations to promote and respect the liberty interests of all persons who may participate in or attend any educational endeavor sponsored by our organizations which includes ensuring that common courtesy is shown for all persons, insuring tranquility for all, and being responsible that no one person abuses their liberties to the detriment of other persons.

As the educational leaders of Nebraska's school system, we firmly support Nebraska schools and communities in proactively involving teachers, administrators, students, parents, and community members in developing and maintaining a positive school and community culture that supports learning opportunities for all persons, and ensures that respect and courtesy are shown to all persons.

Conduct by any person that does not show respect for and courtesy of other persons in Nebraska schools and any school activity is prohibited and shall not be tolerated – period.



Music Director & Adjudicator Training

In an effort to improve communication of new NSAA music legislative proposals and District Music Contests (DMC) points of emphasis, Music Directors and DMC adjudicators will pilot the viewing of an NSAA points of emphasis presentation before DMCs this spring. The goal will be to fully launch these presentations as required viewing for the 2019-20 contests. Presentations will be short, less than five minutes, and viewable online.

In an effort to improve DMC adjudication training, adjudicators will pilot the viewing of the NFHS course, *Introduction to Music Adjudication*, before DMCs this spring. The goal will be to fully launch this course in 2019-20 as required viewing, once every three years, by registered adjudicators.

Further information: https://nsaa-static.s3.amazonaws.com/textfile/music/training.pdf.



2018-19 NSAA District Meetings

District 1

Wednesday, January 9 – 10:00 a.m. – NSAA Office, Lincoln

District 2

Wednesday, January 9 – 10:00 am – Boys Town Conference Center

District 3

Wednesday, January 9 – 12:00 noon – Norfolk Administration Building

District 4

Wednesday, January 9 – 1:00 pm – ESU 10, Kearney

District 5

Wednesday, January 9 -1:00 pm CST/12:00 pm MST - The Tassel, Holdrege

District 6

Wednesday, January 9 – 9:00 am – Alliance Public Library

A Reminder to Compete With Respect

Concerns have been expressed in regard to the lack of respect being afforded to students, coaches, officials, spectators and host staff.

Schools should understand the seriousness of their responsibility to everyone and the privilege of representing their school and community. As educators, we must recommit ourselves to the preservation of respect. Unfair acts prohibited by the spirit and intent of the rules include the use of disconcerting acts or words.

Deliberately disrespecting the rules and fellow participants in the hope or expectation of gaining an advantage is deplorable and indefensible. It is imperative that administrators, coaches, officials and students make an extra effort to model the type of behavior that illustrates the educational values of activity participation. Conduct that berates, intimidates or threatens anyone, based on gender, ethnicity, or sexual preference is unacceptable.

NSAA Important Dates & Deadlines

NSAA Cup Information

NSAA Publications Order Form

NSAA Cup

Information about the NSAA Cup competition and standings can be found on the NSAA website here.

2018-19 NSAA Cup classifications are available on the NSAA website.

November NSAA Board of Directors Meeting Notes

The November NSAA Board of Directors Meeting was held at the NSAA Office in Lincoln on November 8th, 2018. The meeting minutes can be found on the NSAA website <u>here</u>.

December Moratorium

The December Moratorium is December 22nd-26th. Other important NSAA dates, including future Moratorium dates, can be found on the NSAA Calendar located here.



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Requirements for Ejected Coaches & Players

Enforcement of the "sit-out rule" for ejections from high school contests for unsportsmanlike conduct is a responsibility of the member school. Failure to properly enforce this rule could result in other sanctions by the NSAA.

Administrators will be expected to promptly file a report with the NSAA whenever a participant or coach from their school has been ejected from any high school contest. Such filing must be done online under the AD login section of the NSAA website.

Enforcement of the "sit-out rule" is expected to begin immediately, regardless whether it is regular-season or tournament play.

Any athlete ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next athletic contest at that level of competition and any other athletic contest at any level during the interim. Any athlete ejected for a second time during a season from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next two contests at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim. Any athlete ejected for a third time during a season from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next three contests at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to other penalties the NSAA or school may assess. During the time of their "sit-out" suspension, athletes who are ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct may not suit up or participate, but it is the school's discretion whether such athlete is able to travel with the team or sit on the team bench. (The athlete is permitted to practice per school's discretion.)

Coaches who are ejected for the first time will be required to sit-out the next contest at that level, plus all other contests at any level during the interim. Coaches may not be present at the contest site during the time of their "sit-out" suspension. The coach will also be required to successfully complete the NFHS online course "TEACHING AND MODELING BEHAVIOR" within 10 days of the ejection.

Coaches who are ejected a second time in a season will be required to sit-out the next two contests at that level, plus all other contests at any level during the interim. Coaches may not be present at the contest site during the time of their "sit-out" suspension. The coach will also be required to successfully complete the NFHS online course "FUNDAMENTALS OF COACHING" within 10 days of the ejection.

Medical Personnel at Regular Season Contests

Severe injuries, sudden illnesses and other critical incidents do not often occur during school activities, but it is important for every school to have an emergency action plan (EAP) for administrators, faculty, coaches and staff members to follow should emergencies occur. Due to lack of universal availability of medical coverage and other logistical reasons, NSAA does not require that schools have a physician, trainer or ambulance on-site at regular season activities; however, each school should have a plan in place should there be an emergency involving students, coaches, officials or spectators requiring medical attention.



Are your head and assistant coaches C.E.R.T.I.F.I.E.D?

NSAA Bylaw 2.12 stipulates, "In order to serve as a head or assistant coach or sponsor of any activity sponsored by the NSAA, the individual must possess a valid Nebraska Teaching Certificate or Nebraska Administrative and Supervisory Certificate and have a written contract of employment as a coach or sponsor with the schools in which he/she is to perform these duties." Yes, this does include coaches/directors/sponsors/advisers in the non-athletic activities as well: Play Production, Music, Speech and Journalism.

Individuals that do not possess either of the certificates listed above, may serve as a head or assistant as long as they successfully complete the requirements for a Special Services Coaching Permit (NSAA Bylaw 2.12.2). This information can be found on the NSAA webpage under the Coaches tab. It is important to remember that certification is not complete until the individual has applied and received their certificate from the Nebraska Department of Education Certification Office. Schools should request a copy of the certificate and have it on file at the school.

Non-certified personnel may be contracted by the school, but such personnel shall be Coaches Aides. (NSAA Bylaw 2.12.3). There are restrictions and limitations for Coaches Aides. Refer to the respective Bylaw for a complete listing in regard to Coaches Aides.

If you should have questions in regard to coaching requirements, contact Debra Velder at dvelder@nsaahome.org.

Are your officials on the NSAA Officials Roster?

3.12.2 Officials for Varsity Contests.

Only those officials who are registered with the Association may be used by member high schools to officiate varsity competition in football, baseball, basketball, wrestling, soccer, softball and volleyball competition, and start track & field meets.

Athletic Directors are expected to confirm that all officials hired to officiate varsity contests have been classified by the NSAA. The NSAA Officials Roster is available on your AD login page under "NSAA OFFICIALS & JUDGES."

NSAA Fall Championship Results



GIRLS GOLF
SOFTBALL
BOYS TENNIS
CROSS COUNTRY
VOLLEYBALL
FOOTBALL

IMPORTANT LINKS

2018-19 NSAA Constitution & Bylaws

2018-19 NSAA Media Manual

2018-19 NCPA Academic All-State Information

NSAA Catastrophic Insurance

NSAA Sanctioned Events

Requests – Contests, Officials, Equipment

Become an NSAA Official!

Coaching Steps to Certification



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Student Advisory Committee Spotlight

Breanna Gill, Junior at Ponca High School



Perspective is a particular attitude toward, or way of regarding, something also known as point of view. Inclusion is the action or state of being included within a group or structure. Combining perspective and inclusion is one very important aspect of building a successful, respectful, and hardworking team. This was one lesson I learned while attending the NFHS National Student Leadership Summit.

This summer my fellow NSAA SAC members and I were given the amazing opportunity to attend the NFHS National Student Leadership Summit in Indianapolis, Indiana. Being from a small town in Nebraska, some of the things I was able to

experience on this trip were very unusual and foreign to me. Through the whole summit, I was pushed out of my comfort zone, but in a good way, through activities such as some of the breakout sessions.

All of the breakout sessions were uncomfortable, fun, and informative. I learned a lot of new things by being pushed and forced to talk about, or do things outside of my comfort levels. One of my favorite breakout sessions was the Perspective and Inclusion. This was led by Gregory Dale, Ph.D., a sports psychologist. In this breakout session he gave us topics such as, "Should what happens in the locker room stay in the locker room?" and "Should freshmen have to do all of the dirty work?" Then we had to debate about the topics, saying if we agreed or disagreed. The whole point of this breakout session was for us to realize that in order to be a good leader and create a healthy, successful team, we have to include everyone, and sometimes we have to change our perspective to help the whole team achieve a goal.

After our sessions we had a lot of down time before lights out, and I had the chance to hang out and get to know my NSAA SAC members better. I also got to meet people from other states and even different countries. Meeting new people also brought me out of my comfort zone, because I don't usually like change. However, it was amazing hearing about their home life and compare it to mine. I realized that even though we were all from different places, we were all there for one thing, and that was to build our leadership skills.

This leadership summit was put on to help us, the younger generation, realize that we are the next generation of strong leaders. We have the opportunity to make a change if we listen and take action. I am very grateful to have been selected to attend and experience the NFHS National Student Leadership Summit.

Unified Sports, Track & Field Update

Due to a limited number of teams that registered for Unified Sports, Track & Field, the activity will be held in exhibition form during the upcoming spring.

The NSAA and Special Olympics Nebraska will continue to provide the following:

- Refund those schools that registered for 2019
- Education and training for those schools interested in exhibition competition
- Outreach and growth opportunities with the goal of gaining more schools for a possible 2020 launch

Activities Directors and school administrators should "stay tuned" for more information in the coming weeks. Contact Dan Masters if you have any questions at dmasters@nsaahome.org.



NFHS Heart of the Arts Award

The NFHS has developed its "National High School Heart of the Arts Award," which will be conferred to eight section winners as well as one national winner. The recipient must be an individual from a high school that is a member of an NFHS-member athletic or activity association.

The recipient could be any student, adult or group associated with the school's performing arts program. This award, which is similar to the Spirit of Sport Award, covers a plethora of performing arts disciplines: Music, Speech, Debate, Theatre, Visual Arts and other performing arts activities that state associations may sponsor.

This award seeks to recognize those individuals who exemplify the ideals of the positive heart of the arts that represent the core mission of education-based activities. The award may be given in recognition of a specific act or for an activity of longer duration.

For example, it could be awarded to an individual (or group) that:

*has demonstrated exemplary "heart," sportsmanship and/or citizenship in participation as it should occur;

*has exceeded normal expectations in assisting others within the school or community; or

*has overcome adversity or a challenging circumstance.

In the instance of a student, that student must be in good academic standing within his or her respective high school. Among the qualifying criteria that will be used are the student's grade-point average, the activities in which he or she is involved, and community involvement. Other candidates should possess similar positive character traits, such as a high level of integrity and ethics.

The nomination must be for something that occurred between January 1, 2018 and January 31, 2019. Nominated individuals do not necessarily need to still be enrolled in high school at the time of the nomination.

The section winners and the national winner will be publicized in an NFHS press release, as well as in the "High School Today" magazine. In addition, the national winner will be recognized in person at the NFHS Summer Meeting in Indianapolis in June of 2019.

If you have someone that is deserving of a nomination, please contact NSAA Assistant Director Ron Higdon at rhigdon@nsaahome.org. Nominations are due by January 16, 2019 to the NSAA. Please contact Ron with questions.



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NFHS Spirit of Sport Award

The NFHS has developed its "National High School Spirit of Sport Award," which will be conferred to eight section winners as well as one national winner. The recipient must be an individual from a high school that is a member of an NFHS-member athletic or activity association.

The recipient could be a coach, athletic administrator, administrator, contest official, trainer, student-athlete or any others associated with the school or the school's athletic program.

This award seeks to recognize those individuals who exemplify the ideals of the positive spirit of sport that represent the core mission of education-based athletics. The award may be given in recognition of a specific act or for an activity of longer duration.

For example, it could be awarded to an individual (or group) that:

*has demonstrated exemplary sportsmanship and/or citizenship in playing the game as it should be played;

*has exceeded normal expectations in assisting others within the school or community; or

*has overcome adversity or a challenging circumstance.

In the instance of a student, that student must be in good academic standing within his or her respective high school. Among the qualifying criteria that will be used are the student's grade-point average, the activities in which he or she is involved, and community involvement. Other candidates should possess similar positive character traits, such as a high level of integrity and ethics.

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If you have someone that is deserving of a nomination, please contact NSAA Assistant Director Ron Higdon at rhigdon@nsaahome.org. Nominations are due by January 16, 2019 to the NSAA. Please contact Ron with questions.



NSAA Speech Judges Registration

Register Now!

NSAA Speech Judges

The NSAA Speech Judge's Application for the 2018-2019 school year is available online at www.nsaahome.org.

Activity	Fee	Deadline
Speech	\$25.00	January 18, 2019

<u>Rules Meeting</u>. All judges must view the respective online rules meeting to meet the rules meeting requirement for each activity.

Nebraska Schools Activities Association Speech Rules Meeting Schedules

All judges and head coaches are REQUIRED to complete an online rules meeting for their activity.

2018-19 Online Rules Meeting Dates

Speech

September 26 to January 9

January 10 to January 16

January 17 to January 18

No Charge to Head Coaches & Judges

Basic \$25 Fee – Head Coaches & Judges

Late/Penalty \$50 Fee – Head Coaches & Judges

Please refer to your judge's login page frequently throughout the school year for updates, reminders and notifications.

Questions? Contact Cindy Callaway at ccallaway@nsaahome.org or 402-489-0386.

Registration Deadline
January 18, 2019



^{**}Make sure to pay specific attention to the rules meeting schedule to avoid additional fees.