



2020-2021

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

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## Speech Sub-section, Section and State Guidance and Information

March 15 updates: Camera and Internet Use, page 4

Note that the resumption of all activities and athletics are subject to change based on the most current information, directives from state government and health department officials, and member school feedback.

### COVID Related Guidance:

1. Educate students about physical distancing, handwashing and sanitizer use, and other immune system protocols.
2. Any person who has had a fever or cold symptoms in the previous 24 hours should not be allowed to take part in rehearsals and should contact his or her primary care provider or other appropriate healthcare professional.
3. Individually or as a group, participants should confirm that they are symptom free. These confirmations can be aligned with the CDC's "Coronavirus Self-Checker" or current MDH recommendations.
4. A record should be kept of all individuals present at rehearsals and performances (contact tracing).
5. It is recommended that personal prep areas are to be set up prior to rehearsal – Markers should be set up at least 6 feet apart so participants have a specific place for their own bag, water bottle, etc. One marker should be assigned per student.
6. Avoid grouping of participants at start and end of practice/rehearsal or during transitions. Staggered start times for practices and meetings are recommended, when possible and when practice space does not allow students to come and go from separate areas.
7. Whenever possible, participants should maintain the recommended six feet of distancing between individuals and should not be in contact with each other. In addition, there is to be no sharing of equipment/props to the extent that it is possible.
8. Post-performance celebrations or congratulations should be no-touch and should be done with appropriate social distancing.

Additional Fine Arts-specific guidance and links can be found here: [MSHSL Fine Arts Guidance](#)

## COVID-19 NOTICE

### PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

In accordance with governmental directives, the MSHSL will offer certain activities subject to compliance with local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and guidelines. The Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Education and the MSHSL have developed guidance and requirements related to youth sports, use of school facilities and modifications of MSHSL activities designed to keep participants safe and reduce the spread of COVID-19. Even with these measures, the MSHSL cannot guarantee that students or other individuals participating in organized athletic activities (“Participants”) will not be exposed to COVID-19. Participants and their parents/legal guardians should consider the risks before participating in any MSHSL activities. It is a shared responsibility to protect everyone from COVID-19 and Participants should follow MDH/CDC guidelines to reduce the risk of exposure, including but not limited to the following:

- Stay home as much as possible;
- Stay at least 6 feet from other people if you are in public places;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- Wash your hands often, with soap and water. Wash for at least 20 seconds;
- Always wash your hands after being in a public place;
- Always wash your hands after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing;
- If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol;
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Throw used tissues in the trash;
- Wear face coverings/masks that cover your nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of your face.

In recognizing the serious nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and the positive impact that participation in MSHSL fine arts activities and athletics has on student participants, it is imperative that students and families know and understand the following:

1. Participating in MSHSL activities is **voluntary**.
2. While participating in MSHSL activities, all laws as well as MSHSL and school rules, guidelines, and protocols related to COVID-19 must be followed.
3. Participant acknowledges the contagious nature of COVID-19, and the Participant understands that there is risk of injury and/or illness from participating in MSHSL activities, including the risk to have direct or indirect contact with individuals who have been exposed to and/or diagnosed with COVID-19.
4. Participant agrees that if he/she is exposed to, or infected by, COVID-19 during the period of participation, they will immediately cease participation and follow Minnesota Department of Health protocols for schools and activities and MSHSL guidelines for notification and return to participation.
5. Participant has signed a separate Eligibility Statement connected to general participation in MSHSL athletics/activities and agrees that the terms of that statement are wholly incorporated into this document and that the terms of this document are incorporated into the Eligibility Statement.

Additional information regarding Activity Participation and COVID can be found at:

- [health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/sportsguide.pdf](https://health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/sportsguide.pdf),
- [health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/k12planguide.pdf](https://health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/k12planguide.pdf)
- [www.mshsl.org](http://www.mshsl.org)
- [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org)

# 2021 Speech

## Sub-Section and Section Information

This document is a supplement to the [2020-2021 MSHSL Speech Guidance and Information](#) document. All COVID-19 safety procedures in that document apply to sub-section and section competition.

### Competition Format

Region Committees have local control in organizing and running their State-qualifying competitions while following the rules in the [2020-2021 MSHSL Speech Guidance and Information](#) and [2020-2021 Speech Rules and Policies](#).

Competitions can be virtual or in-person with limitations.

### In-Person Competition

Sub-sections and sections are encouraged to consider in-person competition option only if all of their participating schools are allowing students to travel for activities at the time of event planning.

There must be no more than four teams on site at any time; the structure/format will need to be considerably altered. Note: This is an increase of one team from the previous guidance.

All COVID-19 safety procedures in the [2020-2021 MSHSL Speech Guidance and Information](#) must be followed.

Section competition must be completed by April 17, 2021.

### Virtual Competition

Sections may select their own websites/platforms for running the tournament.

Sections may create virtual competition procedures and policies that work best for their schools – synchronous vs. asynchronous, etc.

Schools are encouraged to allow their students to participate in virtual competitions at their individual school buildings. This may assist with internet access and also allow the team members to have the community feel that in-person gathering provides. All COVID-19 safety procedures in the [2020-2021 MSHSL Speech Guidance and Information](#) must be followed.

Region Secretaries can contact Amy Doherty for a list of individuals who are able and willing to assist with the planning of virtual competition.

Section competition must be completed by April 17, 2021.

[NSDA Online Competition Tips](#)

## Camera Use Policies and Procedures

The frame is the area seen by the audience through the lens of the camera.

The student MAY:

Move out of the frame

Move into the frame

Move close to the camera

Move away from the camera

Hold up a hand in front of the camera (not physically touching it)

The student MAY NOT:

Physically manipulate the camera

Pan across

Zoom in

Zoom out

Move the device

## Internet Use

Students will need to use the internet to connect virtually to tournaments. The Speech Advisory Committee discussed additional internet use and how to oversee students' possible internet use for research at sub-section and section tournaments. Because there is no practical way to enforce a prohibition on using the internet for research in extemp speaking, that rule is suspended for this year for section and state competition. However, students still may not communicate with other people during their preparation time for the purpose of receiving assistance with their speech.

## MSHSL 2021 State Speech Tournament

Virtual competition, using Speechwire.

Friday, April 23, 2021: Class AA

Saturday, April 24, 2021: Class A

Specific time schedule: TBD

- Friday, April 23 will be afternoon/evening
- Saturday, April 24 will be daytime

All categories will be synchronous with the likely exception of Duo.

Schedule will be posted on MSHSL.org Speech page.

## MSHSL State Tournament Plans - Duo

Following are current plans, taking into account maximum safety. Restrictions may lessen as the tournament dates get closer, but participating schools should plan for the following.

Duo will be conducted asynchronously, with the submission of prerecorded videos.

There will be three options for Duo prerecorded videos:

1. Split-screen, separate rooms (may be unmasked, if distanced from others in the room)
2. One room, separated by a minimum of 10 feet at all times, unmasked. Stationary camera, no zooming or panning. A distance of 10 feet should be clearly marked on the floor, on the wall, or by the placement of marked furniture, and visible in the video. All practice must be done masked; masks are to be removed for recording only.
3. One room, separated by a minimum of 6 feet at all times, masked with a cloth-like facial covering that conforms to the face and must cover the nose and mouth. A plexiglass face shield can be worn in addition to the cloth-like facial covering, but not as a replacement. Stationary camera, no zooming or panning. A distance of 6 feet should be clearly marked on the floor, on the wall, or by the placement of marked furniture, and visible in the video.

Note: Whether the room has a plexiglass divider has no impact on the above requirements, unless the plexiglass divider runs from the floor to the ceiling, and wall to wall. Plexiglass dividers are useful in preventing the spread of droplets, but do not stop the movement of aerosols. Plexiglass dividers are helpful additions to the above requirements.

Sibling groups or students who live in the same household must abide by the requirements listed above.

## Duo Recording – Additional Rules, Policies and Tips

Video submission information will be provided.

A Duo piece has a maximum of 10 minutes, as in previous years. However, to allow time to start and stop recording, the maximum video length must be no longer than 10 minutes and 30 seconds in length and must be no larger than 250 MB.

Acceptable formats: MP4, MOV, WEBM, 3GPP, 3GPP2, FLV, WMV, and MPEG

No editing:

- Students may not record their performances separately and edit them together.
- Recordings may not be edited using any software; all submissions must be non-stop footage of the entire performance.
- Students may not trim a recording, even to remove the seconds that they walk to and from the recording device to push start/stop.

Equipment:

- Professional equipment enhancements may not be used. Professional equipment includes professional lighting kits, professional grade camera recording and audio devices, and softboxes. Students are welcome to film their recording on their school's auditorium stage, but the use of stage lighting is not permitted. Lavalier microphones and ring lights are permitted.
- Competitors may not use green screens, virtual backgrounds, or on-screen text.

Camera:

- The camera must remain on throughout the duration of the performance; a student may not turn off their video at any point during their recording.
- Students may move closer to and further from the camera to simulate zooming, though the camera must remain stationary.
- Students may cover the camera with their hands or body.
- Competitors may determine how close or distant the camera is set up in order to maximize both verbal and nonverbal communication.

Other:

- The use of lighting tricks like shadow puppets are not permitted.
- Other individuals may be present while filming, but audience interaction (laughing, applause, etc.) must not be included in the performance.
- If possible, it is recommended that students and judges remove items that may be distracting in the background. Backdrops of a solid color with no special markings may be used by competitors and judges.

Split-screen recording:

- Videos can be recorded on the platform of students' choice.

- Each partner MUST record their portion of the Duo from a different room (via a separate window) than their partner. This rule also applies to Duos who share the same residence.
- The following are provided for recording tips and tricks, although the competition rules may vary:
  - [Example of NSDA split-screen recording](#)
  - [NIETOC tips for recording split screen](#)

Thanks to the MN NSDA District committees for portions of the above language.

## Hiring Judges

Development of a full judges' registration system on the new MSHSL webpage is still in production. Previously registered judges should follow the steps under Speech here: <https://www.mshsl.org/fine-arts-judges-2020-2021> New judges can be sent to the same link where they will find a brief registration form. Once completed, they will be added to the list of judges. Note: There is no registration fee for 2020-2021.

Further details will be shared as they are developed.