Speech – Stage Properties (Props)

Submitted on Mon, 05/15/2023 - 9:49 AM

**Indicate the category of the proposed recommendation**
State Tournament Recommendations regarding Format and Non-NFHS Rules or NFHS Experiments

**Authors of the Proposal**
MSCA Speech Advisory Committee:
Dana Amdahl, MSCA President
Ross Eichele-MSCA Past President
John Kleinwolterink
Bev Diles
Brian Stoebner
Zach Prax

**Activity/Activities (Check all that apply)**
Speech

**Current Rule/Policy**
State the rule/policy as it appears in the current MSHSL Handbook or Activity/Sport Specific Rules and Policies.
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 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.

**Proposed Recommendation**
Submit your proposed change to the above-stated rule/policy.
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.

Include any other policies that are impacted by this proposal.
None.

**Rationale**
What is the history of the proposal?
Proposal submitted to Speech Advisory by Rachel Schieffelbein of Chatfield High School.
Speech Advisory discussed this proposal at length and drafted the language we propose adding to the current rule.

**How does your proposal benefit education-based opportunities and MSHSL Mission and Beliefs for all Minnesota students?**

This addition to the current rule is intended to remove the threat of penalty for inadvertently touching their hair, face, etc.

**What other policies are significant in this proposal?**

None.

**Provide evidence of support for the proposal from other groups**

These coaches supported Rachel Schieffelbein’s proposal:

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**Impact**

**How does your proposal affect this activity, including its impact on all classes, areas of the state, and variety of schools?**

This proposal provides clarity for speakers, coaches, and judges.

**Administration**

**How does your proposal impact section and state tournaments?**

This proposal will reduce protests for rules committees to review, making tournaments run more smoothly.

**Length of Tournament**

**How does your proposal impact the needed competition time for section and state tournaments?**

No impact.

**Participants**

**How does your proposal impact the number of participants/teams?**

No impact.

**How does your proposal impact the percentage of participants/teams that would qualify for the state tournament?**
No impact.

**Facilities**
How does your proposal impact the facilities needed to accommodate your recommendation at both the section and state level?
No impact.

**Awards**
How does your proposal impact the number of awards at both section and state?
No impact.

**Other**
Provide any other pertinent information not included in this proposal
None.

**Primary Author and Contact for Proposal**
Proposal submitted by
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Position
Coach

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