

COMPETITION RULES*

- ☐ Each team must have a minimum of three and a maximum of six poets.
- ☐ Each team should prepare at least 4 original poems for competition, at least one of which needs to be a group piece. Each team, however, is allowed a **MAXIMUM OF TWO GROUP PIECES DURING THEIR BOUT**. The group piece must be comprised of least 2, or at most 4 poets performing a poem they wrote collaboratively. The group piece(s) may be performed in any of the four rounds.
- ☐ **Round 3 is the “1 Minute Speed Round.”** The poem (either a solo poem or a group piece) performed in this round has a time limit of one minute.
- ☐ Poets may not perform more than one solo piece during the slam. Poets may touch the stage again in **ONE** of the two group pieces permitted. In other words, poets may not touch the stage more than two times during the bout.
- ☐ Poets have 3 minutes (**with the exception of Round 3**) to perform with a 10 second grace period. Going over 10 seconds results in a 0.5 deduction from total score (i.e. 3:10= -0.5; 3:20= -1; 3:30 = -1.5; etc). The time starts at the first utterance after the poet says his/her name, school, and poem title.
- ☐ Poems must be original and of the poet's own construction. **NO PLAGIARISM** allowed, or it will result in disqualification.
- ☐ Poets may **NOT** use any props, costumes, or musical accompaniment (this can include mentioning and touching clothing or jewelry; we will explain).
- ☐ Good sportsmanship is required. Coaches are expected to model this behavior.
- ☐ The poets will be judged by five audience members on a scale of 0.0 to 10.0. The lowest and highest scores will be dropped, and the three middle scores are added together for the final score. This means that the highest possible score is a 30.
- ☐ Poets may not perform poems with profanity or offensive language (if you can't say it on the radio, you can't say it on stage). Violation will result in a 1.5 point deduction from the poet's total score; potential disqualification; and scorn from the host, organizers, and parents.
- ☐ Memorization of poems is not required, but *highly recommended*. All poets, however, are not allowed to physically hold a piece of paper or handheld device while performing; doing so will result in a 1.5 point deduction and/or potential disqualification. If a poem is not memorized, it may be placed on the music stand we provide, and poets will not be penalized by the judges for doing so.
- ☐ The preliminary bouts will take place on Saturday April 28th at Woodrow Wilson High School. The Grand Slam Finals will take place on Sunday, May 6^h at the Kennedy Center.
- ☐ If your team advances to finals, your team is free to use any of the poetry that was performed in previous bouts.
- ☐ The top scoring team from each prelim bout will advance to the Grand Slam Finals on Sunday, May 6th.
- ☐ Before each slam the bout manager and a single representative of each team will draw numbers to determine the order of the slam. The preliminary bouts will go as such:

Each bout will be composed of no more than 5 teams rotated within 4 ROUNDS:

- Round 1 - Team A, Team B, Team C, Team D, Team E
- Round 2 - Team B, Team C, Team D, Team E, Team A
- Round 3 (1 Minute Speed Round) Team C, Team D, Team E, Team A, Team B
- Round 4 - Team D, Team E, Team A, Team B, Team C