

Constitution of the Idaho Speech Arts Teacher's Association

Revised 2004

Article I- Name

The name of this organization shall be the Idaho Speech Arts Teacher's Association.

Article II- Purpose

The purpose of this association shall be the promotion of speech arts programs in secondary schools by developing, encouraging, and improving the competitive speech arts; and to provide further opportunities for professional development of the speech arts teachers in Idaho.

Article II- Membership

Section 1: Membership. Membership in this organization shall be open to teachers and coaches of speech arts – debate, speech, and drama – legally qualified and regularly employed in the school systems they represent. All teachers and directors of speech arts in universities and colleges of Idaho shall be eligible for membership in this organization.

Section 2: Associate Membership. Associate membership in this organization shall be open to all those interested in supporting speech arts but not necessarily employed as a speech teacher or coach (administrators, student teachers, for example). Associate members are entitled to all rights and privileges of the association except to vote and hold office.

Article IV- Officers

Section 1: Officers. The officers of this association shall be president, 1st vice president, 2nd vice president, secretary, treasurer, and commissioner of speech, commissioner of debate, commissioner of drama, immediate past president, and executive office IHSA representative. Each year a 1st vice president, 2nd vice president, secretary, treasurer, commissioner of speech, commissioner of debate, and commissioner of drama shall be elected during the fall conference and the outgoing 1st vice president shall succeed to the presidency. Every third year beginning in 1955, a Board of Directors member shall be elected to serve three years. University and college personnel, who are members, are eligible to hold any office except that of the Board of Directors member.

Section 2: Duties of Officers.

- a. **President:** It shall be the duty of the president to preside over all executive board meetings and the convention and to conduct the business of the organization.
- b. **1st Vice President:** It shall be the duty of the 1st Vice President to preside at advisory board meetings, to preside and executive board meeting in the absence of the president and to plan the annual convention.

- c. **2nd Vice President:** The 2nd Vice President will assist the 1st Vice President in planning the fall convention.
- d. **Secretary:** It shall be the duty of the secretary to take the minutes, send them to the members and to conduct correspondence.
- e. **Treasurer:** It shall be the duty of the treasurer to collect the dues and fees for the fall conference, maintain the checking account and to pay the association expenses.
- f. **Immediate Past President:** it shall be the duty of the immediate past president to **publish a newsletter twice a year**. This shall be sent to all members. (revised 1998)
- g. **Board of Directors Member:** It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors Member to represent ISATA and the IHSAA State Board of Directors.
- h. **Commissioners:** it shall be the duty of the commissioners in speech, debate and drama to chair discipline meetings at general membership meetings and to report proposed rules changes to the Executive Board for action. Commissioners will also act as spokespersons for their disciplines, fielding questions from members and officers. They shall provide the immediate past president with information for the newsletter.
- i. **IHSAA Administrative Representative:** It shall be the duty of the IHSAA Representative to act as a liaison between this organization and the administrative office of the IHSAA

Article V- Executive Board

Section 1: Composition. The Executive board shall be composed of the presidents or representatives to the six district speech arts teacher organizations, the ISATA president, the ISATA 1st vice president, the ISATA 2nd vice president, secretary, treasurer, immediate past president, speech commissioner, debate commissioner, drama commissioner, IHSAA administrative, and State Board of Directors member. All members of the executive board must be current members of ISATA to have voting rights. The ISATA president shall serve as chairman.

Section 2: Vacancies. The executive board shall fill all offices that may be vacated following the state convention in this manner.

1. President- 1st Vice president will become president
2. Other Officers- Appointment shall be made by the President.

Section 3: Meetings. Meetings of the executive board shall be subject to the following conditions.

- a) All meetings of the Executive board shall be held at such place as designated by the resolution of the executive board or by written consent of all members of the executive board.

- b) The Executive Board shall hold two (2) regular meetings during the year for the purpose of transacting such business as may properly come before such meetings.
- c) Special meetings of the Executive Board may be called for any purpose at any time by the president, 1st vice president, or by any two board members. In calling such meetings a written statement must be provided as to the business planed for said meeting.
- d) The presence at a meeting of majority of the members of the Executive Board shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and the act or decision of a majority of the board members present at a meeting, duly held at which a quorum is present, shall be regarded as the act or decision of the Executive Board.
- e) Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Executive Board at a meeting may be taken without a meeting if consent in writing setting forth the action so taken shall be signed by all members of the Executive Board.
- f) The Executive Board, or any committee appointed by the Board, may hold a meeting by means of a conference call of which all persons participating by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

Section 4: Powers and Duties. The affairs of the organization shall be managed by the Executive Board. In carrying out its duties, the Board shall, in addition to its general powers have the power to:

- a) Adopts proposed rules and regulation for the regulation of interscholastic speech, debate, and drama competition.
- b) Interpret by majority vote any provision of these by-laws and such other rules and regulations as are adopted by the organization.
- c) To provide for the hearing and all determination of all protest (except protests of event rules, appeals and charges submitted to the organization.)

Section 5: Conflict of Interest. When a member of the Executive Board may have a conflict of interest regarding any matter under consideration by the Executive Board, the other Board members shall decide the issue.

Article VI – Meetings of Members

Section 1: Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the members of this organization shall be held at a place and time determined by the executive board. At least 10 days prior to the date of each annual meeting of members, a notice in writing setting forth the time and place of the meeting shall be **mailed made available on line or via email** to each member school by the 1st vice president.

Section 2: Special Meeting. Special meetings of the members of the organization may be called at any time by the president or by resolution of the executive board. It shall be the duty of the president to give notice of such meetings to members within five days following the call of the meeting. Notices of

special meetings of members shall contain a general statement of the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting for which the notice was given.

Section 3: Quorum. The presence in person, or by proxy, as defined in this section, of one-fourth (1/4) of the regular members of the organization, plus two officers shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of members. The members present at a duly organized meeting of the members may continue to do business until adjournment notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough members to leave less than a quorum present.

Section 4: Voting Rights. Each regular member shall be entitled to one vote at a regular and special meeting of members. A members vote may be exercised in person, or by proxy, in accordance with section 5 of this article.

Section 5: Proxies. At all the meetings of members, a member may vote in person or by proxy executed in writing by the member. Such proxy shall be filed with the president before or at the time of the meeting. The proxy shall be valid for only one meeting. One attending member may represent one proxy vote.

Section 5: Mail Vote. Any action required to be taken by members may, when deemed necessary by the President, be submitted to the members for a vote by electronic or hardcopy mail. Only individuals who are members when a vote is requested may vote.

Article VII – Amendments and Rule Changes

Section 1: Amendments. Any member of the association may propose an amendment to the constitution. The constitution may be amended in the following ways:

- a) The proposed amendment shall be submitted to the Executive Board at a regularly scheduled board meeting. The Executive Board shall submit the proposed amendment, by written ballot to the active membership by mail. A two-third majority vote of the active members responding within two weeks shall be necessary to ratify the amendment.
- b) The proposed amendment shall be submitted on the first day of the annual ISATA convention and voted on the second day of the same convention. A two-thirds majority of the votes cast is necessary to ratify the constitutional amendment.
- c) Proposed amendments, which are ratified by the membership, shall take effect immediately.

Section 2: Rule Changes. Proposed changes in rules governing competitive events are subject to the following guidelines.

- a) Proposed rule changes must be in written form.

- b) Proposed rule changes may be submitted to the Executive Board through a district representative or discipline commissioner for the first reading consideration.
- c) Proposed rule changes may be presented at the discipline meeting, as part of the fall general membership meeting for first reading consideration.
- d) Proposals, which are approved on a first reading, will advance to second reading consideration in the following manner.
 - 1. Proposals will be considered by the Executive Board at its next regular meeting. The Executive Board reserves the right to act on a second reading proposal, delay consideration to the future time, or conduct a vote of the membership by mail.
 - 2. Proposals eligible for a second reading at the time of the fall general membership meeting will be considered by the membership as part of the business meeting.
- e) Authors of proposed rule changes and other interested parties reserve the right to address the Executive Board and or the general membership in regards to the business meeting.
- f) A by-law, or rule, or regulation approved on a second reading and having received state IHSA authorization will become effective in the school year following its adoption.

By-Laws

- 1. The ISATA shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order. The president shall appoint a parliamentarian.
- 2. Copies of the constitution shall be made available for members at each ISATA convention.
- 3. The Executive Board at the spring meeting will approve the debate topic chosen by the national committee. Lincoln-Douglas **and Public Forum** topics will follow concurrently with national topics. The board will also determine the topic for panel discussion.
- 4. The dues for membership in this organization shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) annually; twelve dollars and fifty cents (\$12.50) annually for associate membership.
- 5. The expenses of the Executive Board members will be reimbursed by ISATA at a rate to be determined by the Executive Board, not to exceed those paid by the state.
- 6. By-laws may be amended at the convention by a majority of those present and voting.