

## COMPETITION RULES

- Each team must have a minimum of four and a maximum of six poets.
- Every registered poet must perform at least once.
- Poets have 3 minutes to perform with a 10 second grace period. Going over 3:10 results in a 0.5 deduction from total score per 10 seconds starting at 3:10 (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 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.
- We ask that all teachers and coaches insure their students to do not perform poems with profanity or offensive language.
- Memorization of poems is not required, but highly recommended. Poets are allowed to read from paper or handheld device and will not be penalized by the judges for doing so.
- There is a mandatory group piece rule; all teams must have a poem involving at least 2, or at most 4 poets performing a poem they wrote collaboratively.
- The preliminary bouts will take place the week of April 18<sup>th</sup>, Semi-Finals bouts will take place the following week, and The Grand Slam Finals will take place on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Assuming your team advances from preliminaries to semi-finals, your team **may not repeat** any of the poems that were used in the preliminary bout, with the exception of one group piece. If your team advances to finals, your team is free to use any of the poetry that was performed in previous bouts.
- The top 2 scoring teams from each prelim bout then advance to Semi-Finals. There will be 2 Semi-Finals bouts, and the top 2 teams from each will then advance to the Grand Slam Finals on Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- 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 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 Team C, Team D, Team E, Team A, Team B
- Round 4 Team D, Team E, Team A, Team B, Team C

- For Semi-Finals and Finals, there will be 4 teams with four rounds total.