

II. Recording Merit Points

A. Chapter Records

1. Students earn merit points for participating in interscholastic contests and for service in non-competitive speaking engagements, judging middle school or novice competition, coaching middle school students, and participating in theatrical speaking performances. See rules under each section below for more details.
2. Points may be recorded any time during a student's enrollment in grades 9-12 for speaking activities occurring during those grade levels, except for service projects, which may be recorded for up to one year prior. **Emails with changes/corrections to records must only be submitted by the advisor of record.**
3. Students may transfer one-tenth of their middle school (NJFL) points to their high school record, **not to exceed 50 high school merit points (maximum of 500 middle school points)**. A student will not gain high school membership, however, until s/he has earned at least ten points in high school competition.
4. The coach must take care to enter the student's legal name (not nickname), capitalizing appropriate letters. This is important for consistent identification of the student. "Bud," "Andy," "Jack," or "Jon" should not be a substitution for "Jonathan." "James Andrew Smith" is different than just "Andrew Smith."
5. Please record points promptly after each event in which points were gained. Indicate the correct start and end date; separate recording may be necessary for Congress, where there is a daily limit of 24 points.
6. Under "Where Held," list the place of each contest. If a school, list the name of the city and the name of the school: i.e., Pekin HS, Omaha-North HS. Generic names such as "Washington HS" are vague and such entries may be stricken. Use complete names (i.e.) Kansas City-Washington. If a college, list the name and city: i.e., Central State Univ.–Edmund. Avoid acronyms like UCLA or CSU.
7. An interested student or parent who is not deeply involved in debate or contest activity may be appointed Recording Secretary and given the responsibilities of keeping the credit point records. The instructor must still check records for accuracy.
8. Several tournaments participate in our automatic point recording program. Please see our Point Recording Guide for more information.

B. Recording Interscholastic Debates

1. Public Forum, Lincoln-Douglas, and Policy Debate are recorded in the "Debate" category, and are worth 6 points per win and 3 points per loss or non-decision. **Only one win/loss is recorded *per round***, so for a panel of judges, the prevailing decision is entered.
2. Congressional Debate or other assembly speaking (such as Model UN, Girls/Boys State) is recorded in the "Congress" category. Students earn 1-6 points per speech or per complete hour of presiding (so a panel of judge scores must be *averaged*). When a 6-pt. scale is not awarded, use the following conversion table:

8-pt. scale	30-pt. scale	60-100-pt. scale	Pts. to Record
8	28-30	97-100	6
6-7	23-27	90-96	5
4-5	18-22	84-89	4
3	13-17	77-83	3
2	8-12	70-76	2
1	1-7	60-69	1

Tourn. Placement	Pts. to Record
1st	24
2nd	23
3rd	22
4th	21
5th	20
...and so forth...	

No more than 24 points may be recorded per calendar day. An official scorer must be present. At least four schools must participate. At least four hours of debate must be held.

3. Non-Association debate events, such as Mock Trial, Parliamentary Debate, or Spontaneous Argument are recorded in the "Debate" category, and are worth 4 points per win and 2 points per loss or non-decision.
4. If a debate round is cancelled or not held due to forfeiture or drawing of a bye, no points are recorded.

5. If a debate round includes high school and middle school entries, the high school entry may not record points for that round; however, the middle school entry may record middle school points.
6. Wins or losses may not be recorded for debates against non-school entities, such as a civic organization. Public debates held before an audience of such an entity may be recorded under "Service," but cannot also be recorded with a win/loss under "Debate."
7. The International Public Policy Forum debate essay contest is recorded under Debate, as Policy Debate or Public Forum Debate.

C. Recording Interscholastic Speech Contests

1. A minimum of four schools must be present at a tournament for Association merit points to be earned in all events.
2. Public speaking or interpretive events are recorded by their individual category name. Student ranks, or rank-equivalents (conversion for point totals or alternate systems) are used.
3. Only **one rank or round placing** may be entered for a panel of judges. For elimination rounds prior to a final round, an average of a panel's ranks may be used. For the final round, tournament placement is the rank.
4. Main Association events may earn 6 points per 1st rank, 5 points per 2nd rank, 4 points per 3rd rank, 3 points per 4th rank, and 2 points for ranks of 5 and below. Those events include Extemporaneous Speaking, Original Oratory, Humorous/ Dramatic Interpretation, and Duo Interpretation.
5. Non-main Association events may earn 5 points per 1st rank, 4 points per 2nd rank, 3 points per 3rd rank, 2 points per 4th rank, and 1 point for ranks of 5 and below. Use the appropriate category name, or a similar category name as appropriate.
6. Extrapolate what speech categories best match outside contests. For example, American Legion Oratorical Contest's two speaking events are recorded as Original Oratory and Extemporaneous Speaking. Poetry Out Loud, Slam Poetry, and Spoken-Word Poetry are recorded as Poetry. Where ratings are used instead of rankings, please use the table below.
7. Use the following table to convert *non-rank ratings* to ranks for the purpose of online recording:

Non-Rank Round Rating	Grade	Points	Points	Rank to Input
Superior		25	95-100	1
Excellent		24	90-94	2
Good <i>or</i> Exceeds Expectations	A	20-23	71-89	3
Fair <i>or</i> Meets Expectations	B	15-19	42-70	4
Average <i>or</i> Does Not Meet Expectations	C	10-14	10-41	5
		0-9°	0-9°	None

° Severe deficiency, and therefore, not worth any points

D. Recording Non-Competitive/Service Speaking

1. **Limits:** Up to 200 service points may be reported per year, and service activities can only be retroactively recorded for the current and immediate past school years. *Students may not record points in both contest and service speaking* (this includes final rounds that may have an audience of more than 25 adults). Please see additional limits by type of service enumerated below.
2. **Audience Speaking Engagements:** Designation of audience and type of speaking must be in accordance with the following instructions:
 - a. Audience: It is to be named specifically as: PTA, Hartford Rotary Club, HS Assembly, Radio WHBC. If the audience is one usually composed of young people and 25 adults are also present, the audience may be designated as "Scouts and Parents" or "Hi-Y and Adults." These audiences qualify:
 - High School Assembly
 - Radio or Television Station (station letters)

- Rotary, Kiwanis, and other service, community, civic, veterans or political clubs/organizations
 - Place of worship/church congregation (please identify)
- b. No points are earned for speaking to a student audience of any kind other than the official high school assembly, so this exact term, "HS Assembly," must be used. Such vague entries as "school auditorium," "church," or "school" invalidate the entry.
 - c. **Adults:** Enter approximate number, at least 25. Only persons beyond high school age are regarded as adults.
 - d. **Type of Speaking:** The exact kind or type of speaking is to be stated. The title or subject is not to be written in. The term "Service" is too vague. One of the following designations is to be used: Analysis of Address, Master of Ceremonies, After Dinner Speech, Oratorical Interpretation, Book Review, Oration, Commentating, Persuasive Speech, Public Debate, Declamation, Panel Discussion, Interpretive Reading, Sales Talk, Sermon, Sportscasting, Storytelling, Impromptu, Extemporaneous Speech, TV & Radio Announcing.
 - e. **Length of Speaking:** Enter student speaking minutes. For a discussion, the time for each participant may be estimated. A minimum of four minutes is required for each service speech, or it should not be recorded.
 - f. **Point Value:** All students receive five points for each service speaking activity, with a limit of four projects per day. Summer Service speaking *may* be recorded, but workshops/camps/institutes may not. Coaches may not record more than one day of service speaking *per entry*.
3. **Judging:** Students will earn two points per novice or middle school round judged, with a limit of four rounds per day. Individual tournaments determine their own criteria for allowing students to judge.
 4. **Middle School Coaching:** High school students may earn two points per hour for coaching middle school practice sessions, which does not include tournaments. A maximum of 50 points per year may be recorded for coaching.
 5. **Theatrical Performance Speaking:** Students may earn points for acting/theatrical performances and/or theatre/festival competition.
 - a. Students will earn five points for each performance of a play in front of an audience or in competition.
 - b. A student may earn a maximum of 20 points for any particular play or for a particular competitive readers theatre selection, one act team, ensemble, choral reading group, etc.
 - c. Mime and non-speaking roles may not earn points.
 6. **Presentations Disallowed From Point Recording:** Students may not record points for inter-class or intramural debates or contests, summer institute tournaments, and school elimination or prize speaking contests, unless held before a high school assembly or adult audience and reported as a service speech. School public address announcements and Internet broadcasts/blogs may not be recorded. Finally, any presentation of inferior quality should be discounted.
 7. **District and National Tournament Points:** Points earned at the district and national tournaments are recorded automatically. For the district tournament, coaches will be emailed, prompting them to post those points.
- Questions? Email info@speechanddebate.org.

III. Individual Membership

A. Students

1. Once a student has earned 25 credit points (see section on point recording), at least 10 of which were gained in interscholastic contests, the local chapter advisor may enroll the student as a member upon payment of the \$20 enrollment fee.