

## COMPETITION RULES

- Each team must have a minimum of three and a maximum of seven poets.
- Each team should prepare at least 4 original poems for competition: **three individual pieces and one group piece**. The group piece must be comprised of least 2, or at most 4 poets performing a poem they wrote collaboratively. Your team may perform their group piece in the round of their choosing.
- Round 3 is the “1 Minute Speed Round.”** All poems (either a solo piece or a team piece) performed in this round have a time limit of one minute.
- Every registered poet must perform at least once, but no more than twice.
- Poets may not perform more than one solo piece during the slam. Poets may touch the stage again during their group piece, however.
- 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 both Saturday and Sunday of the weekends of April 29<sup>th</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup> at Busboys & Poets - Brookland. The Grand Slam Finals will take place on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 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 Saturday, May 13<sup>th</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 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