

## Offensive Speech policy

Participants must refrain from language, which intentionally demeans an ethnic group, gender, or religious belief. Participants must refrain from abusive or repulsive speech.

When a judge or coach believes such language has been used, they shall report the matter to the infractions table who shall report it to the Tournament Director for investigation. The tournament director and the participant's head coach shall question the participant to determine if this policy was indeed violated in intent and in fact.

The tournament director, infractions table, and head coach shall decide an appropriate action for that tournament: no infraction, a seven (7) point deduction, disqualification, or dismissal from the tournament premises. In all cases, these three groups should act in concert with each have a voice and vote. In every situation they shall act for the good of the entire MLFA, the good of the student, and the good of the school, which the participant represents. Team score considerations should not be a factor in this decision.

ALL cases in which discipline or no discipline is administered it must be reported by the Tournament Director to the Executive Committee within three (3) days of the tournament. The Executive Committee shall act as an appeals board with discretion to request the use of different language in a performance or request a piece not be used or speech be rewritten. If the Executive Committee believes that the tournament decision was made too hastily, they may reinstate the student's score for the purposes of qualification for state but no other adjustments to the team score or individual rank will be made after the tournament.