

## Sweepstakes

[Please read the following Rules carefully to avoid disappointments.]

Several years ago we decided to award a Sweepstakes trophy to the school garnering the highest number of points at the Fair. We also considered the idea of Sweepstakes as an indication of excellence and *broad* participation. In doing so, however, we realized that larger schools by their very nature would have an advantage over smaller schools by entering more students in more events. In order to make it possible for smaller schools with high quality programs to be on a somewhat equal footing with the larger schools, we came up with a system that would count only two Superior ratings for each event in which the school entered. This way, if a school entered 100 poems and another only 20, both could be on an even par if at least two students from each school were awarded a Superior in that event. Each event would be assigned varying points based on amount of time estimated to prepare for participation, and on the difficulty of the event.

The system seemed to work for a while, and was further extended to award both a Sweepstakes, a First Runner Up and a 2nd Runner Up for each Division (High School; Junior High; Middle/Intermediate School; and Elementary School. This year, we will offer five trophies at each level: Sweepstakes, 1st Place, 2nd Place, 3rd Place and Honorable Mention.

Over the years we have learned, however, that when a large school with several teachers enters several bowl teams, this leveling attempt may be thwarted in favor of larger schools. Therefore, after careful consideration, we revised our point system to alter the points possible for the Language Bowl. Since that time, rather than count both a 1st and a 2nd place finish in the Bowl from the same school, we count only the higher of the two. That is, if a school has more than one team that finishes in 1st or 2nd place, only one will be counted. (E.g., School A wins 1st place in 2nd year and 2nd place in 3rd year: 35 points are awarded; School B has two teams that go to take 1st place in their respective levels: 35 points awarded; School C has two 2nd place finishers: 25 points awarded.) This will still allow teachers and students to benefit from the preparation and competition involved in the Language Bowl, yet eliminate to some extent the disparity inherent in “big school-little school” competitions. We know the system is far from perfect, but it is the one we have decided to use. ***If you choose to participate, you agree to abide by our decisions.***

The Sweepstakes points will be awarded as follows:

### Elementary Schools

Event	Skit	ImpConv	ImpTalk	PrepTalk	Hum Story	Poetry	Show&Tell	Name Tag	Lang Bowl	Total (Max)
Points*	20/20	15/15	15/15	15/15	10/10	10/10	10/10	5	35 or 25**	230

### Intermediate/Middle Schools and Junior High Schools

Event	Skit	ImpConv	PrepTalk	Hum. Story	Poetry	Show&Tell	Name Tag	Lang Bowl	Total (Max)
Points*	20/20	15/15	15/15	10/10	10/10	10/10	5	35 or 25**	200

### High Schools

Event	Skit	ImpTalk	PrepTalk	Hum. Story	Test	Show&Tell	Name Tag	Lang Bowl	Total (Max)
Points*	20/20	15/15	15/15	10/10	10/10	10/10	5	35 or 25**	200

\*Only two Superiors in each category or event will count toward the Sweepstakes competition.

\*\*Note: 35 points will be awarded to the finalist in the Language Bowl; 25 points will be awarded to the Team they defeat in the final round (i.e., the runner-up). Schools may *enter* multiple teams if they have several teachers and levels, BUT ONLY ONE Language Bowl Team Finalist or Runner-up will be counted towards the trophies.