

**Special Arrangement for 72nd Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival (2020)
due to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

COVID-19 pandemic has brought significant impact to our daily lives and widespread event cancellations and postponements. As an organiser of large-scale inter-school annual events involving over 100,000 students, the Association endeavors to ensure that the Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival is safely held along with appropriate standard of hygiene. It is our primary concern to provide our students, adjudicators both local and overseas, and supporting staff with the safest possible environment for competitions. In view of the uncertainty over the evolvement of the COVID-19, the Association has decided to put the following special arrangements in place for this year's Speech Festival (2020).

- **Only Solo / Duo classes would be held for the Speech Festival.** Such arrangement is made to minimise the gathering of large number of students during practices and performance.
- **All classes would be held by “Video Submission Mode”.** For details, please refer to “Guidance Notes of ‘Video Submission Mode’” (Annex 7 of the Rules and Regulations).

In response to the rapidly evolving situation regarding COVID-19 in the past two months, the Association decided and announced the former arrangement in early July 2020 and the latter in early August 2020, so that schools, teachers, parents and students have ample time to make preparations. The schedule of the Festival events has been adjusted under the “Video Submission Mode”. **Please read and observe the Rules and Regulations including Annexes 1 - 7. The most updated Annex 2 - “Important Dates to be Noted” is as at 4 August 2020. The Annex 7 has been released on the Association website on 26 August 2020.**

The Association is always dedicated to the development of aesthetic education for the youth of Hong Kong. While facing the completely unprecedented circumstances that the pandemic has brought, the Association will make every effort to keep the Speech Festival going and continue to offer a constructive platform for students to realise their artistic potential. We hope that students taking part in the coming Festival will find inspiration, wisdom and comfort through understanding humanity and humour conjured up in literary craft, a powerful antidote in a time of massive upheaval.

**Hong Kong Schools Music and Speech Association
August 2020**

72nd Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival
16 November to 16 December 2020

Dates in the main body are for live performance, which are no longer applicable. For the event dates of Video Submission Mode, please refer to Annex 2

Rules and Regulations
English Speech

- * For some classes, there are requirements and details given in the class description of the Syllabus. Such information is also an integral part of the Rules and Regulations which members / competitors must also take note of and observe.
- * Unless it is otherwise specified, when the class concerned is a duo class, the term “competitor” refers to a competing team, not the individual member(s) of a team.

All competitors must be students of members of the Hong Kong Schools Music and Speech Association (the Association) and must enter the Festival through such members. Members may enter their own students only (please refer to 1.1 for duo classes). It is the members’ responsibility to inform their students of every detail about the competitions. The Association will not approach individual competitors. It is the responsibility of members / competitors to ensure that information given on the entry forms is valid, complete and meet the requirements of respective classes. The Association bears no responsibility for checking of the eligibility of the entry. Submission of an entry implies consent from the members / competitors to abide by these Rules and Regulations and will strictly observe the Rules and Regulations. Any entry that is disqualified before or after the competition because of not meeting the eligibility or violating the Rules and Regulations, will not be informed separately and no entry fees will be refunded.

If competitors are found to have violated the Rules and Regulations, whether before, during or after the competition, the violation may result in:

- (i) disqualification – the competitors are not permitted to participate in the competitions; or
- (ii) the competitors may participate in the competitions and be given comments, but they will not be awarded any marks or certificates; or
- (iii) the competitors may participate in the competitions but the marks will be affected.

1. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Competitors must be Hong Kong students who are aged between 5 and 23 and attending whole-day school / half-day school in kindergarten, primary, secondary and special schools, or studying full-time in universities / post-secondary institutes in Hong Kong. Students attending university / post-secondary institute may enter the Festival on their own and they may only enter class N196 (See 1.2).

- 1.1 **Solo / Duo Entries** include solos and duos except class N196. In duo classes, at least one of the competitors must be the student of the member that enters them.
- 1.2 Class N196 (Public Speaking Solo - Secondary 6 and University / Post-secondary) opens to students who are aged 23 or under and study full-time in secondary 6 education level, or in one of the institutes listed in the List of Universities and Post-secondary Institutes Eligible to Enter the Speech Festival in Annex 1.
- 1.3 Native English speakers may only enter open classes.

2. ENROLMENT

2.1 Entry Forms

2.1.1 e-Entry Form – On-line Enrolment System

Members can logon the On-line Enrolment System and fill in competitors' particulars for enrolment.

2.1.2 Entry Form (printable version) – Member's Area

Members can download the formatted entry forms from the Association website with their membership number and password. The entry forms must be printed out with a full coverage of details on white blank A4 size (210mm x 297mm) paper. The Association reserves the right to reject any entry forms which are not in the officially approved format.

The two types of entry forms are listed as follows:

(i) Duo Entry Form (for classes N223-225)

(ii) Solo Entry Form (for classes stated in 1.1 and 1.2)

Members must submit the correct type(s) of entry forms.

2.1.3 University / Post-secondary students who wish to enter class N196 may submit their request for Entry Form for University / Post-secondary Students through the Association website.

2.1.4 ONE entry form can only be used for ONE entry.

2.1.5 Competitors should use their names identical to that of their Hong Kong ID cards / birth certificates for all the entries.

2.2 Substitution or swapping of competitors, and change of area codes or class numbers will not be permitted after the submission of entry forms.

2.3 Competitors entering more than one class (including English Speech and Chinese Speech) may bear a risk of time clash. This may result in their own decision whether to attend the competition(s) or not.

2.4 Competitors should enter classes according to the age, education level (primary 1 to secondary 6) or gender stipulated in the current Syllabus. Competitors who fail to do so will be disqualified.

2.5 In all classes where an age requirement is stipulated, the governing date shall be 31 December 2020. Examples:

Aged 23 or under	Born on or after 1 January 1997
Aged 5 and above	Born on or before 31 December 2015

2.6 Area Code

2.6.1 U denotes Urban district (including Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, outlying island and Sai Kung).

2.6.2 E denotes the New Territories East district (including Sheung Shui, Fanling, Tai Po and Shatin).

2.6.3 K denotes Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung districts (including Tsing Yi).

2.6.4 Y denotes Tuen Mun and Yuen Long districts (including Tin Shui Wai).

- 2.6.5 N denotes classes which will not be divided into districts. These competitions may be held at any venues in U/E/K/Y districts. These classes include Open, Bible Speaking, Public Speaking, and Drama except class no. 214-215.
- 2.6.6 Except N classes, competitors may choose to compete in any one district in U/E/K/Y.
- 2.7 The Association reserves the right to allocate any competitions to be held in any venues.
- 2.8 In any district where a class has only one entry, the Association reserves the right to group them up with the same class in other districts.
- 2.9 **Entry Form Submission Period**
- 2.9.1 On-line Enrolment: On-line entries will be accepted from 10:00 a.m. on 1 September 2020 to 5:00 p.m. on 16 September 2020.
- 2.9.2 In person: Entries submitted in person will be accepted from 1 September to 5:00 p.m. on 15 September 2020.
- 2.9.3 Under no circumstances will late entries be accepted.
- 2.9.4 Depending on the classes entered, competitors may be required to submit other information / documents. Please refer to the Important Dates to be Noted in Annex 2 or on the Association website for the deadlines.
- 2.10 **Entry Fees**
- 2.10.1 Please refer to the current Syllabus for the entry fee of each class.
- 2.10.2 Once the entry form is submitted, competitors who fail to attend the competition for any reason (including circumstances stated in 6.3), apply for withdrawal, are not permitted to enter the venues or violate the Rules and Regulations, no entry fee will be refundable.
- 2.11 **Entry Forms Submission**
- 2.11.1 The Association reserves the right to reject entries without required supporting documents.
- 2.11.2 On-line Enrolment
- Members should compile competitors' entries and submit to the On-line Enrolment System before the on-line submission deadline. Settle the payment by post with the following attachments the latest 17 September 2020:
- (i) Payment Advice (PA – downloadable from the On-line Enrolment System);
 - (ii) cheque / cashier's order (ONE cheque / cashier's order for ONE payment advice only); and
 - (iii) a stamped and self-addressed envelope for the return of the payment receipt.
- The Association accepts no responsibility for any loss, delay or damage during postal delivery. The receiving date of the above documents shall be in reference with the postmark.

2.11.3 In Person

Members or the delegated persons must bring to the Association:

- (i) the valid original membership card;
- (ii) all the entry forms;
- (iii) the completed Payment Record Form (PRF); and
- (iv) ONE cheque / cashier's order in the amount of the sum of the entry fees.

The Association will issue a payment receipt and return the membership card to the member or the delegated person.

2.11.4 University / Post-secondary students must submit photocopies of their student ID cards with their entry forms.

2.12 If members have not completed the enrolment procedures, his / her students cannot enter the competitions. Any entry forms or documents already submitted to the Association will be destroyed without further notice.

2.13 **Entry Form Receipts**

Each entry form submitted will be issued with an Entry Form Receipt (EFR). Members can download the Entry Form Receipts from the Association website from 20 October 2020 onwards for distribution to their students. University / Post-secondary students who enter on their own must collect the Entry Form Receipts with their student ID cards at the Association from the aforesaid date onwards.

2.14 **Competition Notifications**

For the identification of competitor's status, the Association will issue a Competition Notification (CN) for each and every class that the competitor has entered in, i.e. if a competitor has entered two classes, he / she will be given two Competition Notifications. Members must bring along their valid original membership cards to collect the Competition Notifications at the Association from 10:00 a.m. on 27 October 2020 onwards for distribution to their students. University / Post-secondary students who have entered on their own must collect the Competition Notifications with their student ID cards at the Association from the aforesaid date onwards.

3. **REGULATIONS**

3.1 **General Rules**

3.1.1 The Association reserves the right to make any amendments to the Syllabus. The amendment, if any, will be posted on the Association website. The most updated version posted on the Association website overrides the previous ones.

3.1.2 The Association reserves the right to allocate a competition in any session on any date and at any venue within the Festival period. Usually there will be three sessions, i.e. morning, afternoon and evening sessions, set for each day. Each session will normally last for three to four hours.

- 3.1.3 Depending on the number of entries in each class and the length of time required for the piece, the Association will allocate competitors of the same class into a number of groups. Each group, being judged by one adjudicator, is independent of the others and so are the results.
- 3.1.4 The Association reserves the right to make changes, modifications and cancellations of any arrangements for the Festival as it may deem necessary or expedient.
- 3.1.5 Competition information is given on the Competition Notifications. Members / Competitors can also access the details from the Festival Timetable posted on the Association website with:
- (i) the membership number and password; or
 - (ii) the reference number as shown on the Entry Form Receipt.
- If a request for change is to be made, please refer to Annex 3 for the items that may be allowed to be altered, the application dates and procedure, the fees, and the required documents. The altered items will be updated to the on-line Festival Timetable – Revised Version.
- Please refer to Annex 2 or the Important Dates to be Noted on the Association website for the release dates of the above documents / timetables.
- 3.1.6 The Association will decide on the full schedule of all competitions. The order of competitors' performance and groupings for each competition will be assigned by ballot draws. Competitors who fail to perform according to the published order will be considered performing "not in assigned order". They will only be given comments. Neither marks nor certificates will be awarded to them.
- 3.1.7 Competitors should report to the Festival assistants at the Reporting Time specified on the Competition Notification. Once the competition starts, the adjudicator / Festival assistants have the right to refuse anyone (including competitors) from entering the venue. As a result, a competitor may miss important announcements or his / her assigned order.
- 3.1.8 No alternative arrangement (such as re-allocating competitors to other groups, etc.) will be made for competitors who do not attend as scheduled, whatever the reason.
- 3.1.9 Competitors must bring with them the required valid documents to report to the Festival assistants. For verification of their identity, spot checking will be made. Competitors failing to present such documents to the Festival assistants before they perform will only be given comments. Neither marks nor certificates will be awarded to them. The required documents are as follows:

Solo or Duo class competitors must bring:

- (i) the Competition Notification; and
- (ii) the student ID card / student handbook / Hong Kong ID card* / travel document of each member, all of which must be original and bear a recent photo.

*The Hong Kong Juvenile ID card does not bear a photo of the holder and therefore is not an acceptable identification document at the Speech Festival.

- 3.1.10 When the Festival assistant calls upon a competitor to perform, he / she will read out the competitor's assigned order as well as the competitor's name, both in English.
- 3.1.11 The adjudicator may stop a competitor who is not well prepared or does not perform up to the required standard and competitors' marks will be affected.
- 3.1.12 Before the announcement of results, no one (including competitors, teachers and parents) is permitted to approach the adjudicators. Anyone who violates this rule may be asked to leave the venue. If the person is a competitor, he / she will only be given comments. Neither marks nor certificates will be awarded to him / her. When enquiries are to be made, the Festival assistants should be the persons to be approached.
- 3.1.13 No audio-visual equipment for any purpose will be allowed for all classes unless otherwise specified. Competitors who violate this rule will only be given comments. Neither marks nor certificates will be awarded to them.
- 3.1.14 Prompting, cueing or conducting is not allowed during competitions. Violation will lead to the competitors' marks being affected.
- 3.1.15 Neat, tidy and appropriate attire is required during competition.

3.2 Number of Entries

- 3.2.1 Competitors of Solo entries / individual members of Duo entries are allowed to enter only once regardless of the area code in the same class.
- 3.2.2 Each competitor can only enter one class in the same level / grade / age. This rule also applies to Solo Verse Speaking (Non-Open) classes (classes U/E/K/Y 20-70).
- 3.2.3 Competitors of Solo entries / individual members of Duo entries who fail to follow the rules on the number of entries stated in 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 will only be permitted to compete in ONE of the competitions concerned. The competition to be retained is randomly drawn electronically. Competitors will be disqualified in the non-retained competitions.
- 3.2.4 Competitors / individual members of Duo entries are allowed to perform only once regardless of the area code in the same class. Competitors who violate this rule will only be given comments. Neither marks nor certificates will be awarded to them.

3.3 Competition Materials

- 3.3.1 Sources of set pieces have been printed in the Syllabus, and in most classes the ISBN and names of publishers have been provided. Members / Competitors must make their own effort to obtain the required materials for competitions. Members / Competitors are advised to allow enough time for ordering the required materials. All members / competitors should check against the full set of pieces kept in the Association.
- 3.3.2 If competitors fail to perform the whole piece during the competition, they will only be given comments. Neither marks nor certificates will be awarded to them.
- 3.3.3 Addition, removal, change or repetition of any words / phrases / lines of a set piece is prohibited. Competitors violating this rule will have their marks affected.

3.3.4 Competitors performing a wrong piece or a piece of different version from the set piece / own choice piece submitted will only be given comments. Neither marks nor certificates will be awarded to them.

3.3.5 Own Choice Pieces / Original Works

3.3.5.1 Members / Competitors are required to use the Own Choice Form (OC Form) for submission of the titles, pieces and original works to the Association in person or by a delegated person on or before the specified deadlines. The Association will issue a confirmation slip upon receipt of each title / piece / work. Only the one submitted first will be accepted for competition. Competitors failing to comply will be disqualified. Please refer to the following deadlines for action:

Class	Title	Full Text / Script ⁺	Deadline
N195-196	✓		4 Nov 2020
N212-213	✓	✓	5 Oct 2020
N216-218	✓	✓	5 Oct 2020

⁺ The full text / script with title and name of the author should be typed out and printed on a piece of white blank A4 size paper.

3.3.5.2 It is the responsibilities of members / competitors to ensure that Own Choice pieces are not selected from the pieces set in the current Syllabus. The current list of set pieces is posted on the Association website. Competitors violating this rule will only be given comments. Neither marks nor certificates will be awarded to them.

3.3.5.3 Own Choice pieces must not be used for more than one class. Competitors violating this rule will only be given comments. Neither marks nor certificates will be awarded to them.

3.3.5.4 The adjudicators will take into account the quality and appropriateness of Own Choice pieces selected / original work when awarding marks to the performances.

3.3.5.5 The adjudicators / Association reserve(s) the right in any circumstances to reject any pieces / original work which are considered to be inappropriate for performance. The concerned competitors are disqualified and not permitted to participate in the competitions.

3.3.5.6 Adjudicators reserve the right to stop performances which exceed the specified time limit and marks will be affected.

3.3.5.7 All photocopies submitted for adjudicators' reference will be destroyed after the Festival.

3.3.6 It is the competitors' responsibilities to observe and comply with the copyright law, and ensure their rights of using the materials. The Association will not be held responsible for any infringement of copyright.

3.3.7 All text in brackets in the set pieces needs to be recited unless otherwise specified. Competitors who fail to do so will have their marks being affected.

3.4 Rules for Different Classes

3.4.1 All classes must be performed from memory at the competition, except Solo Prose Reading classes. Competitors violating this rule will only be given comments. Neither marks nor certificates will be awarded to them.

3.4.2 Each Duo entry must comprise 2 performers. Violation of this rule will lead to disqualification of the competitions concerned.

3.4.3 Competitors must fully familiarise themselves with the class requirements given under the respective classes in the Syllabus.

3.4.4 **Open Classes:**

The standard of adjudication for these classes is highly maintained. These classes are for students who are native speakers using English as their first language.

3.4.5 **Non-Open Classes (only for non-native English speakers):**

These classes are for students who are non-native speakers using English as a second language. Competitors violating this rule will have their marks being affected.

3.4.6 **Verse or Prose Speaking Classes:**

Poems and Prose pieces must be memorised and recited in these classes. Competitors failing to comply will only be given comments. Neither marks nor certificates will be awarded to them.

3.4.7 **Prose Reading Classes:**

In these classes, the pieces must be presented as reading aloud from the text of the book which should be held in hand(s) and referred to. It should not be a memorised presentation. Competitors who use downloaded versions of electronic books for Prose Reading classes must show the adjudicator the proof of permission to use the materials at the competition. Apart from this, the materials must be properly bound for use in the performance. Competitors who violate the above rules will only be given comments. Neither marks nor certificates will be awarded to them.

Competitors should prepare the whole set piece from which an extract will be selected by the adjudicator at the time of the competition.

3.4.8 **Bible Speaking Class:**

In this class, the copy of the set text is obtainable from the Association. Competitors must recite the set text during competition. Competitors violating this rule will have their marks being affected.

3.4.9 **Public Speaking Classes:**

Please see the rules specified for these classes.

3.4.10 **Drama Classes:**

Including Shakespeare Monologue, Solo Dramatic Performance and Dramatic Duologue classes.

Hand props and costumes are permitted in these classes. The use of costumes may contribute to the overall performance, but the quality of speech, acting, originality and creativity are highly regarded. Music and sound effects are not allowed. Heavy / Fixed settings or electronic projection are

not permitted whereas some small and easily movable furniture items may be allowed. Competitors should memorise the drama scripts. During the performance, they should not hold the scripts in hand. Please also refer to 3.4.3. Competitors violating the above rules will have their marks being affected.

3.5 Rules at Competition Venues

3.5.1 Admission

3.5.1.1 Competitors should arrive at the competition venue and report to the Festival assistants at the Reporting Time specified on the Competition Notifications.

3.5.1.2 Competitors of solo classes and each member of duo classes may be accompanied by only one adult (either a teacher or a parent).

3.5.1.3 Seating priority will always be given to competitors of that competition. When there are not sufficient seats at a particular competition venue, the admission of accompanying teachers or parents may be refused.

3.5.1.4 In a competition in which the competitors are divided into batches, the competitors and their accompanying teachers or parents are admitted to the competition venue only during the assigned time slot. They must leave at the end of their time slot.

3.5.1.5 Non-competitors under the age of six will not be admitted to any competition venues.

3.5.1.6 In accordance with the limitations / requirements of the venue or request of adjudicators, the Festival assistants are authorised to take charge of the seating and admission arrangements in the competition venues.

3.5.2 Practice is strictly prohibited at the competition venues and the surrounding areas.

3.5.3 Rearrangement of any setup and facilities is prohibited. The Association reserves the right to claim compensation from those who damage the venue facilities.

3.5.4 No electricity, props, equipment, backdrops, etc. will be provided.

3.5.5 Anyone including competitors who causes undue disturbance in competition venues may be asked to leave the venue. If the person is a competitor, he / she may only be given comments. Neither marks nor certificates will be awarded to him / her.

3.5.6 The use of communication or electronic devices is prohibited at the competition venue. Photo-taking and audio or video recording of any part of a competition (including the time for verbal comments from adjudicators and the announcement of results) are also prohibited. Anyone who violates this rule may be asked to leave the venue. If the person is a competitor, he / she will only be given comments. Neither marks nor certificates will be awarded to them.

- 3.5.7 People attending the competitions should take care of their personal belongings. The Association will not be responsible for any loss.
- 3.5.8 The Association does not offer parking spaces at any venues.
- 3.5.9 Competitors and any persons attending the competitions should observe the guideline regarding hygiene measures and safety issues that the Association and venues issue.

3.6 **Prize-winners' Recitals**

Prize-winners who are recommended by adjudicators may be invited to perform at the Recitals. Without a substantive reason, prize-winners who fail to comply will result in any of their awards being withheld and no certificates issued. The Association has the right to set the programmes of the Prize-winners' Recitals to be held in any venues at any time. The Rules and Regulations of the current Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival should also apply to the Recitals.

4. **JUDGING CRITERIA**

- 4.1 Adjudication will be based on the overall performance of the competitors, including:
- Clarity of speech
 - Interpretation
 - Audience awareness
- 4.2 Specific judging criteria are set for Public Speaking Solo classes. Please see details stated in the class requirements of classes N192-196.
- 4.3 Competitors could decide whether or not their use of gestures, movements, music, costumes, props, etc. would enhance the quality of their performance.
- 4.4 The decision of the adjudicators on all artistic matters shall be final.

5. **AWARDS and MARKS**

- 5.1 Competitors will receive mark sheets at the end of the competition in which they have performed. Competitors will bear the risk of losing the mark sheets if they fail to collect them on the spot. Members should bring their valid original membership cards to the Association to collect the uncollected mark sheets for their students from 5 January 2021 onwards. All unclaimed mark sheets will be destroyed before the commencement of the next Speech Festival.
- 5.2 Placing will be awarded to the winners of each competition. However, in the cases when the best performance in the group is not up to the standard to obtain 80 marks, no placing, trophy or prize will be awarded.
- 5.3 A pennant will be presented to the first-place winner of each class / group at the end of the competition. Each duo will be awarded two pennants.
- 5.4 Certificates of three levels will be awarded to competitors for their achievement.

Certificates	Marks obtained
Honours	90 or above
Merit	80 - 89
Proficiency	75 - 79

- 5.5 Only members can collect the certificates. They are responsible for distributing the certificates to their students. Certificates can be collected between March and May 2021; prior booking has to be made on the Association website between March and April 2021. The exact dates and details will be released on the Association website. University / Post-secondary students who entered the Festival on their own should bring their original mark sheets to the Association to collect the certificates in May 2021. Late collection after the aforesaid period or request for re-issuance of certificates, if accepted, will be subject to a handling fee.
- 5.6 Other trophies / prizes should be collected within the specified period stated in the Prize Collection Notification. Late collection, if permitted, will be subject to a handling fee.
- 5.7 If a trophy / prize is damaged or lost after collection, no replacement can be made.

6. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- 6.1 In cases where the Association anticipates that the live competitions become impossible, unsafe or unrealistic, the Association reserves the right to cancel the live competitions. If the situation is permissible, the Association may consider postponing the competitions or changing the format of live competitions to other means, e.g. video submission, and set the rules for those means. In this case, the Association is without any liability for compensation.
- 6.2 Cancellation
 - 6.2.1 Force Majeure - In the event of any strike, lock out, enemy action, hostilities, riot, civil commotion, malicious mischief epidemic, acts of government, governmental orders or any other circumstance (whether or not of a similar nature to the foregoing) over which the Association has no control which causes the cessation of or substantial interference with the performance of the Festival competition(s) as originally scheduled or reasonably re-scheduled, only part of the competition fees after deducting all expenses which the auditors of the Association certified to have been reasonably incurred for the preparation of the Festival competition(s) will be refundable proportionally.
 - 6.2.2 In cases of school suspension announced by the Education Bureau during outbreak of communicable diseases, or in cases of rainstorm and tropical cyclone, some competition(s) will be cancelled. The competition(s) arrangements are listed in Annexes 4, 5 & 6, and arrangements of specific competitions will be announced on the Association website.
- 6.3 Anyone suffering from communicable disease, or students from schools / classes of the school which are suspended because of the outbreak of communicable disease, are not permitted to attend any festival competitions or activities. Competitors who violate this rule will be disqualified.
- 6.4 If competitions are terminated after commencement because of any reasons, competitors who have performed will only receive comments and be awarded marks, but no placing will be awarded. The Association reserves the right to discontinue the competition and shall notify the Festival assistant of the exact time to discontinue the competition.

- 6.5 If the competition is run by video submission mode, the related arrangements and revised rules and regulations are detailed in Annex 7 to be released on 26 August 2020.

7. OTHER ISSUES

- 7.1 The decision of the Executive Committee on all matters arising from administrative issues and competitions, including the interpretation of the Rules and Regulations, shall be final.

7.2 Complaints and Suggestions

Apart from students attending university / post-secondary institutes, complaints must be made in writing and submitted to the Complaint Handling Committee of the Association by the member that entered the competitor(s) to the Festival and reach the Association no later than 5 January 2021. The members will be notified of the result in writing on or before 30 April 2021. For details of the complaint handling procedures, please visit the Association website.

If the member is a School Member, the submission must:

- (i) bear the signature of the school principal;
- (ii) bear the school chop; and
- (iii) include the membership number and correspondence address of the school.

If the member is an Associate Member, the submission must:

- (i) bear the signature of the member; and
- (ii) include the membership number and correspondence address of the member.

If students attending universities / post-secondary institutes would like to give comments, the submission must include:

- (i) the reference number; and
- (ii) correspondence address.

Only members of the Association can enrol in all activities held by the Association. All related services (such as submission of entry forms, collection of competition materials available at the Association, checking competition materials at the Association, etc.) will only be provided to members / persons who can present a valid original membership card.

For membership details, please visit the Association website.

Annex 1

List of Universities and Post-secondary Institutes Eligible to Enter the Speech Festival

* The version, released on 31 August 2020, is final.

1. Caritas Bianchi College of Careers
2. Caritas Institute of Community Education
3. Caritas Institute of Higher Education
4. Centennial College
5. Chu Hai College of Higher Education
6. City University of Hong Kong
7. City University of Hong Kong - School of Continuing and Professional Education
8. Community College of City University / UOW College Hong Kong
9. Gratia Christian College
10. HKCT Institute of Higher Education
11. HKU SPACE Po Leung Kuk Stanley Ho Community College
12. Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts
13. Hong Kong Art School (a division of Hong Kong Arts Centre)
14. Hong Kong Baptist University
15. Hong Kong Baptist University - Academy of Film
16. Hong Kong Baptist University - College of International Education
17. Hong Kong Baptist University - School of Continuing Education
18. Hong Kong College of Technology
19. Hong Kong Institute of Technology
20. Hong Kong Nang Yan College of Higher Education
21. Hong Kong Shue Yan University
22. Lingnan University
23. Lingnan University - Lingnan Institute of Further Education
24. The Chinese University of Hong Kong
25. The Chinese University of Hong Kong - School of Continuing and Professional Studies
26. The Education University of Hong Kong
27. The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong
28. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
29. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University - Hong Kong Community College
30. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University - School of Professional Education and Executive Development
31. The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
32. The Open University of Hong Kong
33. The Open University of Hong Kong - Li Ka Shing School of Professional and Continuing Education
34. The University of Hong Kong
35. The University of Hong Kong - HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education
36. The University of Hong Kong - HKU SPACE Community College
37. Tung Wah College
38. Vocational Training Council - Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education / Hong Kong Design Institute
39. Vocational Training Council - School for Higher and Professional Education
40. Vocational Training Council - Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong
41. Yew Chung College of Early Childhood Education
42. YMCA College of Careers

Source:

Website of Education Bureau of the Hong Kong SAR Government

Annex 2
Important Dates to be Noted
(Video Submission Mode)
(updated as at 4 August 2020)

Events	Dates
Festival Syllabus released on the Association website	3 July 2020
Festival Syllabus (printed copy) available for members to collect at the Association office	from 26 August 2020
Entry Forms (printable version) available for members to download from the Association website	26 August to 25 September 2020
Submission of Entry Forms – on-line	1 September (10:00 a.m.) to 14 October 2020 (5:00 p.m.)
Submission of Entry Forms – in person	1 to 25 September 2020 (5:00 p.m.)
Deadline of submission of cheque payment for e-Entry Forms submitted to On-line Enrolment System	15 October 2020
Deadline of submission of Own Choice Pieces & Original Works (Please refer to Rules and Regulations 3.3.5 for details) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classes N195-196 - title • Classes N212-213 & N216-218 - title & full text / script Please refer to Rules and Regulations 3.3.6 of the “Chinese Speech Syllabus & Materials” for the deadline / details of submission of Own Choice pieces for Chinese Speech classes	9 November 2020 23 October 2020
Entry Form Receipts and Competition Notifications available for members to download from the Association website	from 2 November 2020
Competition Grouping Arrangement (Festival Timetable) to be released on the Association website	2 to 9 November 2020
Application for Alteration	2 November (10:00 a.m.) to 9 November 2020 (5:00 p.m.)
Competition Grouping Arrangement (Festival Timetable) - Revised Version to be released on the Association website	13 November 2020
Video URL Submission Period	16 to 30 November 2020
Collection of Mark Sheet	from 5 February 2021
Deadline of receiving Complaints and Suggestions	12 March 2021
Collection of Certificates (Prior booking by members has to be made on the Association website)	April to June 2021

- Every new posting on the Association website is set at 10:00 a.m. of the date.

Annex 3

Procedure for Alteration Application

The procedure stated below is to inform members / competitors on how to apply for alteration, how to complete the alteration application form, and items they can apply for alteration. Members / Competitors should study the procedure carefully before filling in the Alteration Application Form.

1 Items to be altered are restricted to:

1.1 Late Submission / Change of Own Choice Piece

Own Choice piece not yet submitted before the deadline or Change of Own Choice piece.

1.2 Change of Competitors' Personal Information on the Entry Form

Members / Competitors can apply for change of personal data filled in the Entry Form (e.g. misspelling of the competitor's name; change of phone number or school name, etc). Request for alteration of competition district, class or competitor(s) will not be entertained.

1.3 Change of Class

A change of class can be accepted only in the case where:

- a) A male competitor has entered a female class or vice versa;
- b) A competitor has entered a class not of his / her age group or education level; or
- c) A solo class competitor has entered a duo class.

1.4 Change of the Group in the Same Class

1.4.1 A change of group in the same class can be accepted only in the case where:

- a) Competition clashes with school examination, test and assessment;
- b) Competition clashes with dictation or other school events, the absence from which would affect the competitor's academic results; or
- c) Competition clashes with another competition of the Festival.

*It is not normally considered a clash if two events are scheduled on the same day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. It is at the Association's discretion if it is proved that travelling between the locations is problematic.

1.4.2 An alteration quota is set in each group. However, the quota may vary due to the number of entries in a class and the conditions of the venues. Therefore, applications are not guaranteed to be successful.

1.4.3 Members / Competitors should check Festival Timetable at <http://www.hksmsa.org.hk> the number of groups scheduled in the same class, when and where the competitions are held, etc., and then list on the form their order of preference to show which group they wish to be reallocated to.

2 Application Procedure

2.1 Members / Competitors should submit one Alteration Application Form per item of an entry need to be altered.

2.2 The Association handles Alteration Application from 27 October (10:00 a.m.) to 4 November 2020 (5:00 p.m.) Late submission of Alteration Application Forms will not be processed. (Such restriction does not apply to change of personal data on the entry form stated in 1.2.)

2.3 Members / Competitors should submit the Alteration Application Form(s) in person or by a delegated person so that he / she will be informed immediately whether or not the application is accepted, and correspondingly be given a confirmation slip and an updated Competition Notification should the application be successful. Applications via phone call, email, fax or post, etc, will not be accepted.

2.4 Please bring along the following documents when submitting the application. Applications will not be processed if documents are missing:

- a) Entry Form Receipt / Competition Notification;
- b) Proof of the competitor(s)' identity: A photocopy of Hong Kong ID Card / travel document (for wrong age group) or student handbook (for wrong education level), etc; and
- c) Other supporting documents: Examples of clashes and the supporting documents required are listed below. For more details, please refer to the Alteration Application Form. Template for (ii) can be downloaded from the Member's Area of the Association website.

Example	Other supporting documents
(i) Competition clashes with school examination, test or assessment	Examination timetable with the school chop / school calendar with the school chop (documentary proof of competitor attending class of the matching education level is mandatory if there is an indication of education level in the document submitted.)
(ii) Competition clashes with dictation or other school events, the absence from which would affect the competitor's academic results	A supporting letter (A) with the principal's signature and school chop

2.5 Fees

- 2.5.1 Members / Competitors should pay a handling fee of \$100 for each application except in the case when competition clashes with another competition of the Festival. For late submission / change of Own Choice piece, they should pay a surcharge equal to the amount of the entry fee of the class. For change of class, the surcharge is equal to the entry fee of the new class. Please refer to the Alteration Application Form for details.
- 2.5.2 Payment must be made in cash.
- 2.5.3 A confirmed alteration cannot be cancelled. Nevertheless, members / competitors may make another application for alteration and pay the respective fees.
- 2.5.4 Under no circumstances would the handling fee and surcharge be refunded.

Annex 4
Competition Arrangements under School Suspension in an Outbreak of Communicable Disease

	Classes Categorised by Education Level <i>e.g. primary 3, secondary school</i>	Classes Categorised by Age <i>e.g. under age 15</i>
School suspension at <u>all</u> kindergartens / primary schools / secondary schools	The Classes of competitions affected to be cancelled. Competitors from suspended schools are not permitted to attend any competitions.	Competitions to be held as scheduled. The competitors not from suspended schools can participate in the competitions.
School suspension at <u>individual</u> kindergartens / primary schools / secondary schools	Competitions to be held as scheduled. Competitors from suspended schools are not permitted to attend any competitions.	
<u>Class</u> suspension at <u>individual</u> kindergartens / primary schools / secondary schools	Competitions to be held as scheduled. Competitors from suspended classes of the school are not permitted to attend any competitions.	

Note: Competitions scheduled to be held at the venues where school / class suspension being enacted may be cancelled.

** Information about arrangements for specific competitions will be uploaded on the Association website in due course **

No alternative arrangement (such as re-allocating competitors to other groups, etc.) will be made for competitors who do not attend as scheduled for any reasons.

Annex 5

Competition Arrangements during Rainstorm

If the Education Bureau announces school suspension before 6:45 a.m., the competitions of the affected classes of the day will be cancelled.

Warning signal issued <u>before</u> the reporting time	Classes Categorised by Education Level <i>e.g. primary 3, secondary school</i>	Classes Categorised by Age <i>e.g. under age 15</i>
Black Rainstorm Warning Signal / Red Rainstorm Warning Signal	If the signal is still in force: 1. at 6:45 a.m. - the competitions with the reporting time falling between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. will be cancelled 2. at 11:00 a.m. - the competitions with the reporting time falling between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. will be cancelled 3. at 3:00 p.m. - the competitions with the reporting time falling between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. will be cancelled	
Amber Rainstorm Warning Signal	The competitions of the kindergarten classes will be cancelled. The competitions of the primary school and the secondary school classes will be held as scheduled. Please refer to the time line stated in the box above.	The competitions will be held as scheduled. Competitors should decide on whether they would attend the competitions or not, and should hold responsibility of their own safety. <small>Note</small>

(to be continued)

(continued)

Warning signal issued during a competition	All Classes
Rainstorm Warning Signal	The competitions continue. Competitors should decide on whether they should stay on for the competitions or not, and would hold responsibility of their own safety.

Note: The competitions will be held as scheduled even if some of the competitors of the classes categorised by age are kindergarten students.

* Some of the competition venues are on school premises. When the schools concerned are closed due to rainstorm, the competitions to be held at such venues may be cancelled. Please refer to the Association website when it happens.*

** Information about arrangements for specific competitions will be uploaded on the Association website in due course **

No alternative arrangement (such as re-allocating competitors to other groups, etc.) will be made for competitors who do not attend as scheduled for any reasons.

Annex 6 Competition Arrangements during Tropical Cyclone

If the Education Bureau announces school suspension before 6:45 a.m., the competitions of the affected classes of the day will be cancelled.

Weather warnings issued <u>before</u> the reporting time	Classes Categorised by Education Level <i>e.g. primary 3, secondary school</i>	Classes Categorised by Age <i>e.g. under age 15</i>
Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 8 or higher / “Extreme Conditions”	Competitions to be cancelled if the weather warnings are to be / still in force: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. at 6:45 a.m. - for all competitions of the day 2. at 11:00 a.m. - for all competitions with reporting time scheduled for 11:00 a.m. and the subsequent competitions of the day 3. at 3:00 p.m. - for all competitions with reporting time scheduled for 3:00 p.m. and the subsequent competitions of the day 	
Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 3	The competitions of the kindergarten classes will be cancelled. The competitions of the primary school and the secondary school classes will be held as scheduled. Please refer to the time line stated in the box above.	The competitions will be held as scheduled. Note Competitors should decide on whether they would attend the competitions or not, and should hold responsibility of their own safety. ^{Note}

(to be continued)

(continued)

Weather warnings issued during a competition	Classes Categorised by Education Level <i>e.g. primary 3, secondary school</i>	Classes Categorised by Age <i>e.g. under age 15</i>
Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 8 or higher	Competitions to be terminated. Competitors should leave the venues as soon as possible.	
Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 3	Competitions for kindergarten classes are to be terminated. Competitors should leave the venues as soon as possible. Competitions for primary and secondary classes to be continued.	Competitions continue. Competitors should decide on whether they should stay on for the competitions or not and should hold responsibility of their own safety.

Note: The competitions will be held as scheduled even if some of the competitors of the classes categorised by age are kindergarten students.

** Information about arrangements for specific competitions will be uploaded on the Association website in due course **

No alternative arrangement (such as re-allocating competitors to other groups, etc.) will be made for competitors who do not attend as scheduled for any reasons.

Annex 7

Guidance Notes of “Video Submission Mode”

The 72nd Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival (2020) will be run by “Video Submission Mode”. This Annex contains the guidance notes of “Video Submission Mode”. **Members / competitors should read and observe the Rules and Regulations including Annexes 1-7**, except those that are only applicable for live competitions.

- 1 All Rules and Regulations are applicable in “Video Submission Mode”. There is no change to the procedure of enrolment and the method in grouping for each competition. Adjudicators will adjudicate the videos according to the existing judging criteria. There is no change to the scheme of awards and marks.
- 2 Competitors are required to video-record their performance and upload the video to designated platform. They will submit the video URL by completing an on-line Video Submission Form.
- 3 When competitors video-record their performance, they should follow the requirements in Section 3 of the Rules and Regulations. There are changes to the rules for some classes and they are listed in Section 5 of this Annex.
- 4 Competitors must strictly observe the **procedures for submission**, the **submission period** and the **specification of video** stipulated in this Annex in submitting the video URL. Any non-conformance may result in different penalties.
- 5 Competitors should read the updated Annex 2 “Important Dates to be Noted (Video Submission Mode)” as at 4 August 2020.
- 6 The performer(s) in the video must be the person(s) who entered the competition. Competitors failing to comply will be disqualified.
- 7 If any dispute arises, the Association reserves the right to make the final decision.

1 Procedures for Submission

1.1 Uploading Video

- 1.1.1 Upload the video to YouTube and set it as “Unlisted”. Name the video title according to the prescribed format (**Reference number – Name**). Please refer to the “Video Uploading and Submission of Video URL Procedures (Desktop / Mobile)”.

1.2 Submitting On-line Video Submission Form

- 1.2.1 After uploading the video to YouTube, retrieve the URL of the video, and fill out and submit the designated on-line “Video Submission Form” (Form). This Form will be available on the Association website (<https://www.hksmsa.org.hk/>) from 10:00 a.m. on 16 November 2020. It is **not acceptable** if the submission is via other video platforms or means of submission.

- 1.2.2 Each submission of the Form can only be used to submit the video URL and related information for ONE entry. If one competitor is entered for more than one class, please submit the Form separately.
- 1.2.3 Those who have successfully submitted the Form will receive a confirmation email. Receipt of a confirmation email does not mean the Association confirms the submission meeting the entry requirements. The confirmation email includes a copy of the submitted information.
- 1.2.4 Members / competitors must make sure all of the following are correct:
- (i) The **Reference Number** and the **Validation Code** filled in the Form must match that on the **Competition Notification (CN)**. Otherwise, the Association reserves the right of not processing the submission record.
 - (ii) **The video URL submitted must match with the competitor and class entered** (for example, when one competitor is submitting video URL for more than one entry, when one member is submitting video URL for different competitors etc.) The Association reserves the right of not adjudicating the concerned videos if the records do not match.
 - (iii) **All the information in the confirmation email** is correct, including the Name of competitor, Reference Number, Validation Code and the video URL. If any error is found, **please re-submit within the submission period.**
- 1.2.5 If the Form is re-submitted, the Association will take the information from the **last** successful submission (See 1.2.4(i)) as final.
- 1.2.6 Competitors must ensure the video URL is accessible before 5 February 2021 so as to allow adjudication.
- 1.2.7 If the video cannot be played during the period of adjudication, regardless of reasons, the competitors will not receive any comments, marks (grades) or certificates. The Association will not inform the individuals if such case arises.

1.3 Submission Period

- 1.3.1 The period of submission of the Form is **from 16 November (10:00 a.m.) to 30 November (5:00 p.m.)**.
- 1.3.2 Please reserve time for uploading the video and submitting the Form to avoid heavy upload traffic. The submission time is based on that of the Association server. Any late submission, regardless of reasons, will not be accepted.

1.4 Technical Support

- 1.4.1 If competitors have questions about video shooting, they can first read the “Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)” available on the Association website, the “Specification of Video” (See 2.1-2.5) or consult member that enters them to the competitions.

- 1.4.2 Please refer to the “Video Uploading and Submission of Video URL Procedures (Desktop / Mobile)”.
- 1.4.3 The Association will set up “Technical Support Centre” to assist competitors to upload the video and complete the Form. Competitors who need this service can find further details and make prior booking on the Association website. The services provided at these service centres are subject to the health instructions and restrictions given by the government and the measurements taken at individual venues. If the Association cannot provide such service or have to adjust the service available, the Association is not liable to any compensation.

2 Specification of Video

- 2.1 Competitors should follow the below order in recording the video:
- (i) Announce their name, the title of the piece and the author of the piece
 - (ii) Perform the whole piece once (Applicable to specific Chinese speech classes - If there are two pieces of material assigned for the same class, they must be recorded in the same video).
- 2.2 If competitor(s) perform the same piece repeatedly in a video, only the first performance will be adjudicated.
- 2.3 Competitors will be disqualified if they fail to comply with the below:
- 2.3.1 The video must be a single shot video footage. No special effects are permitted, such as adding soundtracks, audio, pictures, text, filters, transitions, colour adjustments, light adjustments, subtitles or special effects etc. No editing or post-production are permitted.
 - 2.3.2 The video must be recorded live and no dubbing is permitted.
- 2.4 Competitors’ marks will be affected if they do not observe the below:
- 2.4.1 The audio and video should synchronise and the sound quality is clear and smooth.
 - 2.4.2 The resolution of the video is 720p (1280x720) or above.
 - 2.4.3 The shooting should be done indoor with a simple background and sufficient light. The recording environment should be quiet.
 - 2.4.4 The entire video must clearly show the competitor’s full body, appearance and actions.
 - 2.4.5 When shooting, the camera should be stable without any camera movement.
- 2.5 Wearing a mask during recording may affect the performance. The Association encourages competitors to shoot at home or other safe environment without the mask on. Competitors should take the responsibility of assessing their own health risk and follow the health advice from the Government at that time.

3 Announcement of Result

Members can download their students' results from 5 February 2021 onwards. Member must bring along their valid original membership cards to collect the mark sheets and pennants (if any) at the Association from the same date. University / Post-secondary students who have entered the Festival on their own must bring their student ID cards to the Association to collect their mark sheets from the aforesaid date onwards. All unclaimed mark sheets will be destroyed before the commencement of the next Speech Festival.

4 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) / Enquiries

For any enquiries on the "Video Submission Mode", please visit the "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)" on the Association website, or contact the Association at 9189 9367 / 9532 7304.

5 Changes to Specific Classes

5.1 Prose Reading Classes (U/E/K/Y 158-175)

An extract from the set pieces will be announced on the Association website from 10:00 a.m. on 2 November 2020. Competitors should video-record the extract accordingly.

5.2 Public Speaking Solo Classes (N195-196)

No Question & Answer session will be held for these classes. Competitors are only required to present their prepared speech in the video.

5.3 Chinese Speech Classes: Nil