



RULES OF THE SLAM

POEMS & PERFORMANCE

- 1) Poems can be on any subject and in any style.
- 2) Each poet must perform work that they have created. Plagiarism will result in dismissal from the festival.
- 3) No props. Poets can use their given environment and the accouterments it offers, such as microphones, mic stands, the screen itself (shifting angles and such), if these accouterments are available to other competitors as well. Individuals whose use of props in a poem appears to be more calculated and the result of a specific intent to enhance, illustrate, underscore, or otherwise augment the words of the poem will have 2 points deducted from their score. This deduction, which can only be applied after a formal protest has been lodged against the offending poet, will not be made by the MC, but by the Protest Committee.
******If your team has a poem that is questionable of the prop rule you will be able to submit to slam committee 3 days prior to your scheduled bout to be approved or denied. As we are navigating a new virtual world, we do not wish to negate innovation and creativity but also want to ensure that all poets play fair.*
- 4) No musical instruments or pre-recorded music, a poem which violates this rule will be assessed a score of zero.
- 5) No costumes, a poem which violates this rule will be assessed a score of zero.
- 6) No virtual backgrounds/ filters allowed. No pre-determined locational backgrounds that enhance the poem are allowed. Example: Poet performs a "Green" poem while in a forest with tree's in the background referencing forestation.
- 7) Pre-recorded group poems only will be allowed. Editing poems will be the responsibility of the team not the festival. Pre-recorded poems must be submitted to assigned google drive prior to the festival's first day. Pre-recorded poems must be labeled 1. Team Name 2. Title of Poem. If you submit pre-recorded poems less than a week prior to festival beginning and the video is unable to be downloaded by production crew, the festival will not have enough time to contact you and resolve the problem. Please give time for us to review and resolve any technical issues by submitting two week or more prior,
- 8) SOCIAL DISTANCE. Even if you apart of the same germ pod as fellow team members we want poets to set an example of safety for the audience. Poets performing group pieces must be 6ft

apart without physical contact occurring during the poem. Rise & Shine takes the safety of our participants and our viewers seriously. Utilize technology, editing and pre-recording videos to ensure your protection. Pre-recorded group poems that do not practice social distancing will not be shown. If a group poem is performed live and appears to anyone viewing that social distancing is not being practiced a protest can be prompted. If a social distance protest is submitted and is ruled as a violation the poem will receive a zero. Safety is of utmost importance.

***Virtual Rules are still being developed but will be finalized by November 1, 2020

Sampling

It is acceptable for a poet to incorporate, imitate, or otherwise “signify on” the words, lyrics, or tune of someone else (commonly called “sampling”) in the poet’s own work.

The Repeat Rule

Two poems performed during preliminary bouts may be repeated at finals, but no poems can be repeated during preliminary bouts.

The Time Limit

No performance should last longer than the time limit of 3mins 10secs, at 3:11 the poem will receive a zero score. Time begins when the performance begins, this does not include a virtual mic check to ensure the poet is heard. Mic Check can be done by a poet stating, “Rise and Shine”. A poet is certainly allowed several full seconds to get settled after mic check, but as soon as any element of performance begins (physically or verbally), the timekeeper can start the clock. The poet does not have an unlimited amount of “mime time.” Poets with ambiguous beginnings and endings to their performances should seek out the timekeeper at each venue to settle on a starting & ending time. After x minutes, there is a 10-second grace period (for example: (in the 3-minute rotation) up to and including 3:10:00).

The announcement of the time penalty and its consequent deduction will be made by the MC or scorekeeper after all the judges have reported their scores. The judges should not even be told that a poet went overtime until it is too late for them to adjust their scores.

Maximum Time Limit

3 minutes and 10 secs

Influencing the Crowd Before the Bout Begins

Poets can chat casually with anyone in the crowd before the bout begins (except the judges if they have already been chosen). They are not, however, allowed to send private DM’s to the judges or have anyone do this for them. Furthermore, inside the Zoom (in the presence or

within chat of the audience) they must not act in any way that would make more of an impression than another competitor waiting for the competition to begin. Poets who violate this rule will be given one warning by the MC, Bout Manager, or production managers. Further violation will result in a disqualification.

Bout Draw

A poet arriving later than the scheduled bout draw will be assigned the one. If more than one poet arrives late to the bout draw, then they will be assigned the earliest slots based on their arrival time or random draw. If poets miss the bout draw in its entirety the team will be disqualified. Bout draw will happen within the assigned zoom room 30mins before the bout. The bout draw will be facilitated by an online randomizer.

Tournament

Eligibility: Anyone aged 18 and older is eligible to compete.

Preliminary Bout Structure

There will be 4 teams per bout. Each bout will consist of 4 rounds, each team performing once each round. Teams are not allowed to send up the same poet twice as an individual poet within a bout, but the individual poet may be included within a group poem after performing individually. At the conclusion of each bout, the poet will receive a ranking of 1-6 based on placement within competition groups.

A designated poet will add the title of "Coach" to their zoom name and be asked by the MC before their turn within a poet which poet they would like to call upon. The "Coach" will comment with the chat either poet's name, group piece, or prerecorded poem and title of poem.

Calibration poets will only perform before the first round begins.

Judging & Scoring

All efforts shall be made to select five judges who will be fair. Competing poets and any persons who are associated with a specific poet or group of poets are not eligible to judge.

Once chosen, the judges will: 1) be given a set of printed instructions on how to judge a poetry slam, 2) have a private, verbal crash course by the MC or Bout Manager on the art of poetry slam judging (where they can ask questions), and 3) hear the standardized Official MC Spiel, which, among other things, will apprise the audience of their own responsibilities as well as remind the judges of theirs.

Having heard, read, or otherwise experienced these 3 sets of instructions, a judge cannot be challenged over a score. Complaints, problems, and/or disagreements regarding the impartiality of the judges should be brought privately to the attention of the MC or Bout Manager BEFORE the bout begins. Having heard and understood the complaint, the Bout Manager or MC will then decide (also privately) that cannot be further challenged.

Replacing a Judge.

If a judge leaves the bout, a replacement judge will be found, and a non-competing poet will be selected to share a poem, which will not be scored, and the bout will continue normally. If there are any judging pairs, the pair will be split to replace the missing judge. The poet affected by the judge's leaving will have the option to repeat their current poem or use a different one within the round, and the poet will have the ability to repeat the initial poem if they advance to Finals or semi-Finals.

Scoring

The judges will give each poem a score from 0 to 10, with 10 being the highest or "perfect" score. They will be encouraged to use 1 decimal place to preclude the likelihood of a tie. Each poem will get five scores. The high and the low scores will be dropped, and the remaining three scores will be added together.

Ties

If, at the conclusion of all rotations in a bout a tie exists for 2nd, 3rd or 4th place, the team will share the ranking. If a tie exists for 1st place the tied teams will enter a tiebreaker round performing one more poem each. Judges will select one poem or the other of what wins the round. The poem selected by the judges that wins the round will receive the rank of 1, the poem that does not win will receive the 2.

MC's

The MC will announce to the audience each poet's name. The MC will also require that all judges comment their scores publicly within the chat, no judge can change their score after it is revealed unless immediately followed by comment that it is a typo. The MC is expected to move the show along quickly and keep the audience engaged and interested in the competition. Since the MC must be completely impartial, any witty banter directed at individual poets, teams, poems, or scores is inappropriate. Even genuine enthusiasm must be carefully directed. The safest thing to do is encourage the audience to express their own opinions.

Finals

After the preliminary bouts are completed, the top 4 teams with the highest scores and rankings advance to the finals. All poems in the finals are 3 -minute (or less) poems, with a 10 second grace period. A two poems performed during preliminary bouts may be repeated on Finals.

There will be 2 calibration poets before finals begins selected by organizing committee. Finals

will consist of 4 rounds. The team with the highest cumulative scores of the 4 rounds will be crowned the Rise & Shine Grand Slam Champion. If there is a tie between the top 2 teams, they must perform 1 more poem in a sudden death match. Title and money cannot be shared. In a sudden death match, judges indicate which team they prefer by choosing one poem or the other (no scores) and the champion is crowned.

Prizes

Grand Slam Champion Team receives \$2,000. \$500 for each poet apart of the winning team will be delivered via PayPal.

The Rise & Shine Rule

Rise & Shine is about uplifting and encouraging our national community in a virtual space. We encourage every team to embrace their higher self during the team competition. Verbally violent communication and/or harassment/ trolling will not be tolerated within the festival. If harassment outside of the festival occurs and is reported during the festival among participants, judges, or attendees it will be addressed through a conflict resolution team and could result in disqualification from the festival. Conflicts that arise prior or after the festival must be handled personally by those involved.

Frequently Asked Question

1. Can a poet protest if they do not have a strong personal Wi-Fi connection? No, personal technical difficulties cannot be anticipated, nor is a competing poet's personal Wi-Fi the responsibility of the festival. Please troubleshoot your equipment and digital platforms.
2. What if a poet is muted during their performance? A mic check with a go ahead from the MC is vital to prevent this but if this happens, the MC will ask the performing poet to begin their poem again once they are unmuted.
3. What if a pre-recorded video is played by the production team without the sound? The production team will restart the video.