



NORTHERN BEACHES EISTEDDFOD

2026 SYLLABUS

Speech & Drama

v2 Published 28 January 2026

Enquiries

Please submit enquiries to Heather Pitt (Speech & Drama Convenor), assisted by Trish Collier, via our website: northernbeacheseisteddfod.org.au

Major Awards

ACTOR'S AWARD

S303

1st Prize - \$400

2nd Prize - \$200

3rd Prize - \$100

SPEECH & DRAMA CHAMPIONSHIPS

S300 Junior

1st Prize - \$150

2nd Prize - \$75

S301 Intermediate

1st Prize - \$200

2nd Prize - \$100

S302 Senior

1st Prize - \$250

2nd Prize - \$125

SPEECH & DRAMA SCHOLARSHIP (INVITATIONAL)

1st Prize - \$300

2nd Prize - \$150

3rd Prize - \$75

Entering the Eisteddfod

How do I enter?

Northern Beaches Eisteddfod uses the STARDOM entry system for all entries to be submitted online. Please use your existing login details from previous events or create a new account if you are entering for the first time.

Through STARDOM, competitors can check and modify their entries before the closing date:
10 April 2026 – 11:59 PM.

Late entries may be submitted and changed after the closing date, until **30 April 2026 - 11:59 PM** with a **Late Entry Fee of \$40.00** applied. No changes can be made after 30 April.

Please visit our website to enter in this year's Northern Beaches Eisteddfod.
www.northernbeacheseisteddfod.org.au/enter

EARLY ENTRIES CLOSE 10 APRIL 2026 – 11:59 PM

LATE ENTRIES CLOSE 30 APRIL 2026 – 11:59 PM

Sponsorship

The Northern Beaches Eisteddfod is a volunteer, non-profit organisation very much dependent on the support of competitors, families, teachers and sponsors.

The Northern Beaches Eisteddfod committee would like to thank those of you who have supported the Northern Beaches Eisteddfod in the past, and those who are contributing for the first time.

If you would like to contribute to the Northern Beaches Eisteddfod, please add the level of sponsorship to your online entry form, or you can contact the committee to provide us with your details by emailing northernbeacheseisteddfod@gmail.com. Please inform us of any specific category's and/or awards you would like to sponsor or contribute to and provide a further written description of your contribution where appropriate.

Privacy Statement

1. The Northern Beaches Eisteddfod collects personal information about competitors and parents or guardians before and during the conduct of the eisteddfod. The primary purpose of collecting this information is to enable the Northern Beaches Eisteddfod to provide an annual performing arts competition.
2. The Northern Beaches Eisteddfod from time to time discloses personal information to others (government departments, people providing services to the eisteddfod, including specialist adjudicators and volunteer helpers).
3. If we do not obtain the information referred to above, we may not be able to enrol or continue the enrolment of the competitor.
4. Some of the personal information collected is published in the Programme and the Syllabus. On occasions, personal and group achievements, results and contributions are published in newsletters, magazines, the web site and in the press.
5. Competitors and their parents may seek access to personal information collected about them by contacting the Administrator, Northern Beaches Eisteddfod. However, there will be occasions when access is denied. Such occasions would include where access would have an unreasonable impact on the privacy of others, where access may result in a breach of the Northern Beaches Eisteddfod's duty of care to the competitor or where competitors have provided information in confidence.
6. If you provide the Northern Beaches Eisteddfod with the personal information of others, such as teachers, you should inform them that you are disclosing that information to the Northern Beaches Eisteddfod and why, and that they can access that information if they wish and that the Northern Beaches Eisteddfod does not usually disclose the information to third parties.
7. The Northern Beaches Eisteddfod has adopted a Privacy Policy in accordance with the Commonwealth Privacy Act, 2000.

Committee

President:..... Verity Powers
Vice President:..... Karen Crawford
Administrator:..... Sally Dean
I.T. Officer:..... Niall Powers
Speech & Drama Convenor:..... Heather Pitt
Assistant S&D Convenor:..... Trish Collier

General Rules and Conditions

- **Category Special Rules and Section Rules override General Rules where applicable.**
- Failure to comply with the rules will result in disqualification* or penalties. Please read all rules carefully.

Entries

1. Entries will be accepted online subject to the following:
 - a. It is the responsibility of the competitor (parent or guardian in the case of a minor) to correctly complete and submit the entry form in accordance with the General Rules and Conditions and any Special Rules or Conditions applied to the category and the specific section.
 - b. Entries will only be accepted if accompanied by the full entry fees for all sections entered.
 - c. **Early online entries close at 10 April 2026 – 11:59 PM.**
 - d. Late online entries may be submitted at the discretion of the Northern Beaches Eisteddfod Committee, up until **30 April 2026 - 11:59 PM**, and accompanied with a **\$40 Late Entry Fee**. The Late Entry Fee also applies to entries that are modified after the closing date. No further changes may be made to entries after 30 April 2026.
2. The age of the competitor on **31 May 2026** will be recognised by the committee who reserves the right to request proof of age.
3. **RESTRICTED SECTIONS** are confined to competitors who have NEVER won a FIRST prize at any recognised Eisteddfod, Festival, or Competition in that particular category as of 1st March in the current year.
4. A solo competitor may compete only once within any section or combined section.
5. In the case of duets, trios, quartets and quintets, names and ages of all members **MUST** be stated on the entry form. No competitor may compete more than once in these sections. Provision may be sought for substitution of competitors in extreme circumstances provided written application is approved by the convenor.
6. Any competitor who has won two consecutive Championships, Arias, or Concerti is not eligible to enter that section in the following year.
7. Scholarships can only be awarded once to any competitor in a category.
8. Intending competitors, who have been pupils of, or have taken lessons from the Adjudicator for the particular section, in which they are entering within the previous 6 months, are ineligible to enter that section.
9. The committee reserves the right to cancel any section in which, in their opinion, there are an insufficient number of entries, or to combine two or more sections.
10. **FINALS** will be held in any section if the number of entries warrants it.

Performance

11. Where there are fewer than six competitors in a section, only one prize will be awarded. When there are six to ten competitors in a section, two prizes will be awarded. When there are eleven or more competitors in a section, three prizes will be awarded. The Adjudicator/s, with the permission of the Convenor or Committee Member in charge, may award more or less prizes.
12. Where events are run with limited entries, cash prizes will be adjusted accordingly by the Convenor(s).
13. Entry Fees will be refunded only if it is necessary to cancel a section.
14. The time stated in the programme is the scheduled time of commencement of the section. **Competitors MUST be ready to perform on stage 30 minutes before that time** in the order set down in the programme unless they have permission from the Convenor or the committee member in charge for that session. Failing this, they will be eligible for adjudicator comments only.
15. No competitors may perform outside their sections unless they have the permission of the Convenor/s following a written application stating specific reasons.
16. Except as provided in this rule no person may substitute for the original competitor as named on the official entry form. In duos, trios, quartets or quintets provision may be sought for substitution of competitors in extreme circumstances provided written application is approved by the Convenor.
17. A competitor may perform in more than one section, but may only perform once within any solo, duo, trio, quartet or quintet section.
18. Each item may be performed only **ONCE** during the Eisteddfod. For any variations to this rule, refer to the Special Rules at the beginning of each Category.

19. A competitor must NOT repeat any “own choice” item with which he or she has won a FIRST prize at the Northern Beaches Eisteddfod for at least TWO years following the year in which the award was received.
20. Competitors must take care that items are taken from books or editions as stated in the Syllabus.
21. No teacher or parent, except in the capacity of Accompanist or Conductor, will be allowed backstage or on the stage at any time, except with the permission of the committee.
22. Prompting, except by an Adjudicator, is NOT PERMITTED.
23. The Committee reserves the right to substitute Adjudicators/s if the need arises.
24. In OWN CHOICE Sections, originals or copies of the chosen piece/pieces for use by the Adjudicator MUST BE HANDED IN at the Registration Table before commencement of the Section. Competitors are responsible for collecting their original at the conclusion of the section.
25. If copies are used the competitor (parent or guardian in the case of a minor) is responsible for obtaining permission from the copyright owner if required. The committee does not countenance, sanction or approve any infringement of the **copyright** act and has the right to destroy any unlicensed photocopies. Each competitor (parent or guardian in the case of a minor) is responsible for ensuring that copyright is not breached.
26. Exceeding the specified time limits will result in penalties or disqualification*. A bell may be rung to signal “Time” and the competitor must IMMEDIATELY leave the stage. Every care will be taken for Competitors’ safety but the Committee will not be responsible for any injury sustained by any Competitor or attendee during the Eisteddfod.
27. No privately-owned videos, cameras, phones or recording devices of any kind to be used in the halls at the request of the committee and in compliance with copyright law.
28. Purchase of a ticket and/or entry to the Northern Beaches Eisteddfod is accompanied with the understanding that you must abide by the rules and regulations set out in the Syllabus and the Programme.

Adjudication

30. No persons will speak to or approach any adjudicator or the adjudicator’s table before, during or after the Eisteddfod except Eisteddfod staff.
31. Protests may be lodged in writing on the appropriate form accompanied by a \$15 fee and handed to the registrar/convenor either prior to, or within ONE HOUR of adjudication. No action will be taken without a formal protest.
32. The Adjudicator’s decision is final.
33. The decision of the committee on any question, dispute or protest will be final.

**Disqualified competitors will receive adjudicator’s comments only; no marks will be awarded.*

***A category is defined as one of the following: Speech & Drama or Vocal.*

Speech & Drama Special Rules

1. **Own choice:** An unmarked, legible copy must be provided for the adjudicator clearly showing the title, author and name/s of character/s performed (where applicable). All work must be memorised, unless otherwise stated. In all “Own choice” selections, suitability of material is essential. Offensive language and blasphemy are unacceptable. In compliance with Copyright Laws Own choice copies will be destroyed. Original or authorised copies may be returned.
2. Competitors (parent or guardian in the case of a minor) are responsible for ensuring pieces registered and performed comply with General Rules and Conditions - All Categories, Speech and Drama Special Rules, and Section requirements regarding author, theme, publication, or version. Any competitor performing a piece that does not comply with all conditions for the section entered will be disqualified*. Competitors (parent or guardian in the case of a minor) are reminded to pay special attention to rule General Rule 19.
3. Groups/Schools who have won FIRST PRIZE in the Northern Beaches Eisteddfod will not be allowed to perform the same piece for TWO YEARS following the one in which the award was received.
4. Competitors exceeding specified time limits, risk being disqualified*.
5. Competitors, teachers and parents are reminded that prompting, except by the adjudicator (General Rule 22) will result in disqualification* of the competitor.
6. No teacher or parent is allowed on the stage or backstage at any time, except for Group Sections S393, S394, S395, S396, S397, S398, S399 where special rules apply.
7. Arrangements for placement of bulky props for all other sections must be made prior to the commencement of that section with the Convenor. Props must be removed from the stage at the conclusion of the performance.
8. Teachers are responsible for providing and organising operation of sound recordings as required.

**Disqualified competitors will receive adjudicator’s comments only. No marks will be awarded.*

Dress Code

Attire should be neat & appropriate for performance on stage. No thongs or beach wear please.

Speech & Drama Sections

SPEECH AND DRAMA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Entry Fee: \$20

RULES:

1. Competitors in sections S300, S301 and S302 must enter and perform in at least two other solo sections in this category to qualify for participation in the relevant championship.
2. All competitors must perform TWO memorised pieces as below, one of which may have been performed in another section. No props or costumes allowed. A chair and table will be provided.
3. Minimum number of entries to be 8 or section may be combined or cancelled. Entry fees will be refunded if the section is cancelled.
4. Selected competitors may be invited to enter a championship during the Eisteddfod.
5. Any competitor who has won two consecutive championships is not eligible to enter that section the following year.

S300 JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP 8 – 11 YEARS

Consists of 2 parts:

1. Character Recital – Own Choice. Copy must be provided for the adjudicator.
Time Limit: 4 Minutes
AND
2. Verse Speaking or Prose Speaking - Own Choice. Copy must be provided for the adjudicator.
Time Limit: 3 Minutes

1st Prize..... \$150 2nd Prize \$75

S301 INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP 12 – 14 YEARS

Consists of 2 parts:

1. Character Recital - Own choice. Copy must be provided for the adjudicator.
Time limit: 5 minutes
AND
2. Verse Speaking or Prose Speaking – Own Choice. Copy must be provided for the adjudicator.
Time Limit: 3 Minutes

1st Prize..... \$200 2nd Prize \$100

S302 SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP 15 YEARS & OVER

Consists of 2 parts:

1. Character Recital - Own choice. Copy must be provided for the adjudicator.
Time limit: 6 minutes
AND
2. Verse Speaking or Prose Speaking – Own Choice. Copy must be provided for the adjudicator.
Time Limit: 3 Minutes

1st Prize..... \$250 2nd Prize \$125

SPEECH AND DRAMA SCHOLARSHIP (INVITATIONAL)

Entry Fee: \$20

RULES:

1. Entrants must be between 10 and 16 years (inclusive) as at 31st May 2026.
2. Minimum numbers of entries to be 10 or the section will be cancelled and entry fees refunded.
3. No winner may re-enter
4. Marks will not be re-issued
5. The Adjudicator's decision will be final
6. Protests will not be accepted

First and **Second** place winners in the following sections will be invited to enter:

S317, S318, S319, S320, S321, S322, S323, S324, S325, S326, S327, S328, S329, S330, S331, S332, S333, S335, S336, S340, S341, S342, S343.

1st Prize..... \$300 2nd Prize \$150 3rd Prize \$75

ACTOR'S AWARD

Includes a short improvisation class with the Guest Adjudicator.

Entry Fee: \$25

TIME LIMIT

S303 12 Years & Over

6 Minutes

Consists of 2 parts:

1. Participation in short improvisation class with the Guest Adjudicator.
2. Character Recital in costume - Own choice. Copy must be provided for the Adjudicator.

RULES:

1. Entrants must be 12 years and over as at 31st May 2026 unless invited to enter.
2. Competitors must enter and perform in at least two other solo sections in the Speech and Drama category to qualify for the Actor's Award.
3. Selected competitors may be invited to enter the Actor's Award during the course of the Eisteddfod.
4. Competitors may choose to repeat a character recital presented in another section.
5. Minimum number of entries to be 8 or the section will be cancelled and entry fees refunded.
6. No winner can re-enter for two years.
7. Marks will not be issued.
8. The adjudicator's decision will be final.
9. Competitors may choose to submit a short rationale to support their character recital - this is optional.

1st Prize..... \$400 2nd Prize \$200 3rd Prize \$100

VERSE SPEAKING - OPEN

Entry Fee: \$15

Copy must be provided for the Adjudicator

			TIME LIMIT
S314	7 Years & Under	Own Choice	2 Minutes
S315	8 Years & Under	Own Choice	2 Minutes
S316	9 Years & Under	Own Choice	2 Minutes
S317	10 Years & Under	Own Choice	2 Minutes
S318	11 Years & Under	Own Choice	3 Minutes
S319	12 Years & Under	Own Choice	3 Minutes
S320	13 Years & Under	Own Choice	3 Minutes
S321	14 Years & Under	Own Choice	3 Minutes
S322	15 Years & Under	Own Choice	3 Minutes
S323	Open Age	Own Choice	3 Minutes

AUSTRALIAN SECTION (Verse or Prose)

Entry Fee: \$15

Australian Poet or Author.

Copy must be provided for the Adjudicator

			TIME LIMIT
S324	10 Years & Under	Own Choice	2 Minutes
S325	12 Years & Under	Own Choice	3 Minutes
S326	14 Years & Under	Own Choice	3 Minutes
S327	Open Age	Own Choice	3 Minutes

HUMOROUS SECTION (Verse or Prose)

Entry Fee: \$15

Copy must be provided for the Adjudicator

			TIME LIMIT
S328	10 Years & Under	Own Choice	2 Minutes
S330	12 Years & Under	Own Choice	3 Minutes
S332	14 Years & Under	Own Choice	3 Minutes
S333	Open Age	Own Choice	3 Minutes

BOYS ONLY (Verse or Prose)

Entry Fee: \$15

Copy must be provided for the Adjudicator

			TIME LIMIT
S334	8 Years & Under	Own Choice	2 Minutes
S335	10 Years & Under	Own Choice	2 Minutes
S336	12 Years & Under	Own Choice	3 Minutes

POEM FOR TWO

Entry Fee: \$20

Must contain some unison work. No costume or props.

Copy must be provided for the Adjudicator.

			TIME LIMIT
S337	8 Years & Under	Own Choice	3 Minutes
S338	10 Years & Under	Own Choice	3 Minutes
S339	12 Years & Under	Own Choice	3 Minutes

MEMORISED PROSE

Entry Fee: \$15

Copy must be provided for the Adjudicator

			TIME LIMIT
S340	10 Years & Under	Own Choice	2 Minutes
S341	12 Years & Under	Own Choice	3 Minutes
S342	14 Years & Under	Own Choice	3 Minutes
S343	Open Age	Own Choice	3 Minutes

PROSE READING

Entry Fee: \$15

Competitors should note that reading from the book is preferable.

Copy must be provided for the Adjudicator.

			TIME LIMIT
S344	10 Years & Under	Own Choice	2 Minutes
S345	12 Years & Under	Own Choice	3 Minutes
S346	14 Years & Under	Own Choice	3 Minutes
S347	Open Age	Own Choice	3 Minutes

READING from BIBLE or SACRED TEXT

Entry Fee: \$15

All extracts must be from the Bible or sacred text - eg Koran, Torah. Competitors must read from the book only and must be spoken in English, NO TYPED or PRINTED SHEETS or PHOTOCOPIES will be permitted.

English language copy must be provided for the adjudicator.

			TIME LIMIT
S352	12 Years & Under	Own Choice	2 Minutes
S353	13 Years & Over	Own Choice	2 Minutes

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Entry Fee: \$15

No props or visual aids. Competitors should note that a bell will sound at two and a half minutes.

			TIME LIMIT
S355	10 Years & Under	Prepared Speech Own Choice	3 Minutes
S357	12 Years & Under	Prepared Speech Own Choice	3 Minutes
S359	14 Years & Under	Prepared Speech Own Choice	3 Minutes
S361	Open Age	Prepared Speech Own Choice	3 Minutes

FOR PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Entry Fee: \$15

Recitation, Character Sketch or Reading. Copy must be provided for the adjudicator.

			TIME LIMIT
S368	Open Age	Own Choice	3 Minutes

NURSERY RHYME

Entry Fee: \$15

Presentation of a traditional nursery rhyme. Costume optional.

Copy must be provided for adjudicator

			TIME LIMIT
S369	6 Years & Under	Own Choice	1 Minute
S370	8 Years & Under	Own Choice	2 Minutes

CHARACTER RECITAL IN COSTUME

Entry Fee: \$15

NO CURTAIN. Props to be put on stage by performer.

Copy must be provided for the Adjudicator

			TIME LIMIT
S371	8 Years & Under	Own Choice	2 Minutes
S372	10 Years & Under	Own Choice	3 Minutes
S373	12 Years & Under	Own Choice	4 Minutes
S374	13 Years & Under	Own Choice	4 Minutes
S375	14 Years & Under	Own Choice	5 Minutes
S376	16 Years & Under	Own Choice	5 Minutes
S377	Open Age	Own Choice	Minimum 6 Minutes, Maximum 8 Minutes

SHAKESPEARIAN RECITAL

Entry Fee: \$15

Not in costume - Please wear Rehearsal Blacks.

Copy must be provided for the adjudicator

			TIME LIMIT
S378	12 Years & Over	Own Choice	4 Minutes

SCENE FOR TWO OR THREE

Entry Fee: \$20 per duo or trio.

NO CURTAIN. Props to be put on stage by performers.

Copy must be provided for the Adjudicator

			TIME LIMIT
S379	10 Years & Under	Own Choice	4 Minutes
S380	12 Years & Under	Own Choice	5 Minutes
S381	14 Years & Under	Own Choice	6 Minutes
S382	Open Age	Own Choice	6 Minutes

DUO MIME IN COSTUME

Entry Fee: \$20

Title cards of the mime, large enough to be read by the audience must be displayed.

Music optional. No props.

			TIME LIMIT
S385	12 Years & Under	Own Choice	5 Minutes
S386	13 Years & Over	Own Choice	5 Minutes

GROUP MIME IN COSTUME

Entry Fee: \$30

Group minimum 3, maximum 30 performers.

Title cards of the mime, large enough to be read by the audience must be displayed.

Music optional. No props.

			TIME LIMIT
S387	Primary School Students	Own Choice	5 Minutes
S388	Open Age	Own Choice	5 Minutes

SCENE FROM A PLAY

Entry Fee: \$30

Minimum of 3, maximum of 30 performers.

Choice of either a short play or an extract from a play.

- No curtain.
- Minimal props.
- Copy of script and cast list must be provided for the adjudicator.
- Prior to the starting bell teachers will be able to assemble performers and place props in the wings. Teachers may not remain backstage or onstage during the performance.
- Prompts may be given by the adjudicator or scribe only.
- Setting and striking of props etc. on and off the stage will be judged as part of the performance and included in the time.
- All props must be removed from the wings at the end of each performance.
- Offensive language and blasphemy are unacceptable.

N.B. It is the responsibility of teachers/directors to obtain a License for Performance Rights in respect of published plays. All royalties must be paid.

		PERFORMANCE TIME
S393	Primary School Students	Minimum of 10 Minutes and Maximum of 15 Minutes
S394	Secondary School Students	Minimum of 15 Minutes and Maximum of 30 Minutes
S395	Open Age	Minimum of 15 Minutes and Maximum of 30 Minutes

GROUP PRESENTATION

Entry Fee: \$30

Minimum of 3, maximum of 30 performers.

Choice of either a short scene from a published work, group devised scene, choral speaking or a combination of all/any on a uniting theme.

- No curtain.
- Minimal props.
- Copy of script and cast list must be provided for the adjudicator.
- Prior to the starting bell teachers will be able to assemble performers and place props in the wings. Teachers may not remain backstage or onstage during the performance.
- Prompts may be given by the adjudicator or the scribe only.
- Setting and striking of props etc. on and off the stage will be judged as part of the performance and included in the time.
- All props must be removed from the wings at the end of each performance.
- Offensive language and blasphemy are unacceptable.

N.B. It is the responsibility of teachers/directors to obtain a License for Performance Rights in respect of published plays. All royalties must be paid.

		TIME LIMIT
S396	Primary School Students	Minimum of 5 Minutes and Maximum of 10 Minutes
S397	Open Age	Minimum of 5 Minutes and Maximum of 10 Minutes

PHYSICAL THEATRE / COMEDY

Entry Fee: \$30

Minimum of 3, maximum of 20 performers

A comic presentation told largely without the use of dialogue.

- Props, costumes and music allowed.
- Prior to the starting bell teachers will be able to assemble performers and place props in the wings. Teachers may not remain backstage or onstage during the performance. Setting and striking of props etc. on and off the stage will be judged as part of the performance, and included in the time.
- Class list and synopsis should be included for the adjudicator
- All props must be removed from the wings at the end of each performance.
- Offensive language and blasphemy are unacceptable.

TIME LIMIT

S398 Primary School Students

Minimum of 5 Minutes and Maximum of 10 Minutes

S399 Open Age

Minimum of 5 Minutes and Maximum of 10 Minutes