



# RULE BOOK



# Word - The Front Line Rule Book

## Registering a team:

- A team consists of 4-6 members that all go to the same high school (years 9-13)
- Teams must be registered prior to Regional Heats with 2 teams maximum per school.
- If your team makes it through Regionals, the team roster can be adjusted prior to Slam Camp
- If you have a team of 4 or 5 you can top your team up to 6 members, as long as they are registered prior to Slam Camp

## If team members drop out of the competition:

- At any stage of the competition if team members need to drop out they can be replaced under the following conditions:
  - As long as you have the minimum requirement of 4 members, you do not need to replace them to continue in the competition
  - A team of 4 can replace 1 team member
  - A team of 5 or 6 can replace up to 2 team members

## Slam Rules (Regional Heats):

- Each team is required to perform 3 poems
- Poets must perform their own work and cannot read a poem on behalf of someone else. Plagiarised material will result in disqualification
- At least 3 poets from each team must perform at regional heats. Teams can perform solos, duets, or group pieces. Although duets and group pieces are not necessary for Regional Heats, it will be for teams that advance to Semi-Finals and Grand Slam
- Poems do not need to be memorised at this stage of the competition
- Each poem should be between 1-4 minutes. Poems outside of this time frame will not receive any penalties, but may be difficult to judge if they are too long or too short.
- No accompaniment by sound, props, or costume is allowed.
- Poems which have been performed in previous years of Word – The Front Line competitions cannot be used in the current Word – The Front Line competition.
- Bullying, heckling, or intentional disruption of another team's performance will result in disqualification

## Community Points

The 14 teams who advance through auditions will start off with 5 points. There are 5 days that all participants are expected to attend: all days of slam camp, a full day workshop, and semi-finals prep day. For each day that one or multiple team members are absent, 1 point will be deducted from the 5 points. Teams who have lost points can earn points back in 4 ways:

1. If all team members are present at Workshop #1 the team will make back 1 point
2. If all team members are present at the WORD Community Day the team will make back 1 point
3. If all team members attend a Stand Up Poetry open mic event, stay for the entire event, and share at least 1 piece of poetry the team will make back 1 point
4. Participate in the Community Challenge (details released later).

These points will be added to the teams scores at semi-finals.

## Slam Rules (Semi-Finals & Grand Slam):

- There are 3 rounds to the slam. All poets must be represented in writing and performance by the end of the 3rd round
- Poems should be between between 2:50-3:10. After this, a 10 second grace period will be given. Poems outside of this time frame will incur point deductions as follows:

Poem Time	Point Deduction
2:10-2:19	3
2:20-2:29	2
2:30-2:39	1
2:40-2:49	0.5
2:50-3:20	No Deduction
3:21-3:30	0.5
3:31-3:40	1
3:41-3:50	2

- Poets cannot use props in their performance, this includes objects, recordings, instruments, costumes, and performers outside of the team.
  - **Objects:** Only objects that are readily available to everyone can be used (i.e. the microphone, mic stand, the stage itself). No items brought onto stage on your person can be used to enhance your performance (i.e. an article of clothing, jewelry, wallet, phone etc.)
  - **Recordings/instruments:** Everything must be performed live. Beat boxing, singing, stomping, clapping are allowed. No instruments permitted.
  - **Costumes:** A costume is defined by any article of clothing that is worn by a performer that directly enhances the material in their poem. Articles of clothing that hold significant religious or cultural meaning that are worn by the performer on a regular basis are permitted. Changing clothes between rounds to enhance the message of your poem is a violation of this rule. School uniforms, or dressing in a uniformed way is fine.

If there are any doubts around this rule, please seek advice from your coach.

- Poems must be memorised and performed, not read off phones or paper
- Plagiarised material will result in disqualification
- Sampling or quoting other work within your poems is ok, as long as credit is given to the source. E.g. Maya Angelou once said “there is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you”
- Bullying, heckling, or intentional disruption of another team’s performance will result in disqualification
- Poems which have been performed in previous years of Word – The Front Line competitions cannot be used in the current Word – The Front Line competition. This includes at the Regional Heats.
- An original poem performed at the Regional Heats can be used in Semi-Finals and Grand Slam, as long as they adhere to all of the rules.
- Word – The Front Line is an uncensored space, however hate speech will not tolerated. This includes racism, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia, or discrimination of any kind purposefully directed in harmful way. This will result in disqualification.