



# Be Heard MN Youth Poetry Slam Series

2015 Rule Book



*Let the voice of our youth lead us courageously into the future.*

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## **Be Heard MN Youth Poetry Slam Rules**

### **Etiquette**

- Poet's must participate in all Be Heard related activities the evening of their bout and as articulated in the schedule for all advancing poets in any level of the series (this includes, workshops, poet circles, check-ins, master classes, practices, rehearsals, fundraisers and more).
- Drugs, alcohol, sexual misconduct, cigarettes, violence, discrimination, harassment or violence of any kind will result in immediate disqualification and removal from the premises along with a two year probationary period in which you will not be allowed to participate in any TruArtSpeaks programming.
- Be Heard desires to encourage and invite audience and participants to deeply engaging with the creation and sharing of poetry, but emphasizes the importance of youth development, creativity and journey with their voice and story. Each aspect of the series is created with youth at the core.
- More than the slam is about a competition or winning a spot on the team, it is about sharing your story, networking and connecting with a community of your peers and other professional artists and arts institutions that can continue to provide you with a platform to develop your craft – take advantage of that at all times. Be outgoing and adventurous, support one another.
- Get free – this is about you doing you. Show us what you got.

### **Slam Rules & Regulations**

- Each poet must arrive to their assigned venue 45min before the slam is scheduled to begin. If a poet does not arrive by the 45min prior mark, they are at risk of losing their space in that evening's event.
- On-site registration will only occur in the event that a registered poet has not checked in 45min prior to the slam's start time. All registration must be done online to guarantee your space in the competition.
- This is an individual slam – only one poet on the stage at a time.
- Poets must be between the ages of 13-19 years old with a MN address to be eligible to compete in Be Heard (poet must not turn 20 prior to day one of Brave New Voices)
- All poems must be original works created by the performer.
- Plagiarism will result in the immediate forfeiture of your space in the competition.
- We want to hear and see you and you only. There are no props. Avoid wearing hats, gloves, scarves, backpacks and etc. during your performance so as not to be disqualified.
- Poems must be three minutes or less in length. There is a 30 second grace period. However, for every ten seconds exceeding the grace period, there will be a half point (.5) deduction from the overall score (example: 3:39 – no penalty; 3:40-3:49 - .5 point penalty; 3:50-3:59 – 1pt penalty and etc.).
- There is no censorship in this competition – HOWEVER, please be mindful of your audience and thoughtful in your creation. Excessive use of profanity may result in poor overall reception and understanding.
- Each poet should arrive prepared to read two poems.

### **Repeat Rule**

- Poets may not repeat the same poem during the same bout (in other words, you cannot recite the same poem twice in one evening). Additionally, poets can only repeat one poem if they have advanced to the semi-final rounds. Finalists, however, are allowed to repeat their best work. Choose wisely and remember, this is about demonstrating your craft as a writer and performer – we want to see your catalogue.

### **Preliminary & Semi-final bouts**

- Each preliminary bout will have two rounds. Round one will consist of up to twenty poets. Round two will consist of the top 12 scoring poets from round one. Six poets will advance from each preliminary bout into semi-finals.
- Poets may compete in as many preliminaries as desired until they obtain a space in the semi-final competition. However, poets may only register for one preliminary bout at a time. The registration will only allow for multiple sign-ups by one person after their originally requested bout has completed.
- Each semi-final bout will have two rounds. Round one will consist of up to fifteen poets. Round two will consist of the top ten poets from round one. Six of those poets will advance from each semi-final bout into the Finals.

### **Finals**

- Finals will consist of the top 12 poets competing in two rounds of poetry. It will result in the state of Minnesota having identified six youth to represent Minnesota in the international Brave New Voices youth poetry slam festival.

### **New Rules**

- In accordance with new practices during Brave New Voices, scores will only be announced between poems during the final competition. The focus is not on the score, but the poet, the community of poets and the power of their story. Not announcing scores only punctuates that point. We thank you in advance for your support of this new policy.
- In the event of a tie, poets will compete in a lightning round of competition. Poems must be 1.5min or less with a 30second grace period. Point deductions will remain the consistent as before mentioned.
- All photography and videography will be done by TruArtSpeaks staff or contract partners. This is for the safety of all participants involved in the process. Thank you in advance for your understanding.