

# HEAT RULES – Australian Poetry Slam 2018

All entrants to the Australian Poetry Slam 2018 agree to abide by the following rules, terms and conditions.

1. Maximum of 20 entrants per heat.
2. Enter at the venue on the night of the heat 30 minutes before the heat commences. Some states may have alternative sign-up processes please **contact your state heat coordinator** for more details.
3. Contestants must reside in the state in which they are competing. In some cases, if your nearest heat is interstate, an exception can be made. In such cases, if you compete interstate and are one of the two winners, you will progress to that state's final. Example: You live in NSW but your nearest heat is across the Victorian border in Swan Hill. You may compete there. If you are a winner at the Swan Hill heat, you progress to the Victorian State Final.
4. Random draw for performance order.
5. ABSOLUTE two minute limit. Time starts at your first word or when the timekeeper feels the performance has begun (no additional time allowed for introductions). Points will be deducted from the final score for exceeding the time limit — one point for every 30 seconds over time. For example: At 2:01 minutes you will lose a point. At 2:31 minutes you will lose another point...
6. Five judges chosen by the MC at random from the audience.
7. Judges hold up score cards using a 1 – 10 scale, with 10 being the highest. Of the five scores for each poet, only the middle three scores are counted. The decision of the judges is final.
8. Poem must be the original work of the performer written within the last 12 months. **No plagiarism folks.** One or two recognisable pop culture references are okay.
9. Performers must be prepared to perform two different poems in the heat.
10. National Final will have two rounds. Contestants must come prepared with two different poems to participate in both rounds.
11. In the case of a tie the MC will conduct a "slam off" tie-breaker performance contestants must be prepared with a third poem to allow for this eventuality.
12. No musical accompaniment. No props. No costumes. (ie; clothing related to the content of your poem)
13. Two performers with the highest scores in each State's Heats will proceed to the State Final
14. Employees of Word Travels, Australian Poetry Slam and venues that are hosting heats may not compete.
15. Rules may vary slightly from state to state. Please check with your State's Heat coordinator with any questions.