

## SA Heat Rules - Australian Poetry Slam 2026

**All South Australian entrants to the Australian Poetry Slam 2026 agree to abide by the following rules and regulations.**

1. Maximum of 20 contestants per heat. The first 15 are guaranteed. If we exceed 20, the last five are drawn randomly.
2. Enter at the venue on the night of the heat 30 minutes before the heat commences.
3. Contestants must reside in the state in which they are competing.
4. Random draw for performance order.
5. ONE POEM ONLY. ABSOLUTE two minute limit. Time starts at your first word or when the timekeeper feels your performance has begun (no additional time for introductions). Points will be deducted from the final score for exceeding the time limit — one point for going over time and an extra point every 30 seconds beyond that. 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 host 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.
8. Poems must be the original work of the performer. **No plagiarism folks.** One or two recognisable pop culture references are okay.
9. No musical accompaniment. No props. No costumes. (ie: clothing related to the poem) Personal poem transcripts permitted.
10. In the case of a tie, the MC will conduct a “slam off” tie-breaker performance. Contestants must be prepared with a second poem to allow for this eventuality.
11. Two performers with the highest scores in each heat will proceed to the State Final.
12. Staff, guest poets and volunteers of Spoken Word SA, Word Travels, Australian Poetry Slam and venues that are hosting heats may not compete.
13. You may enter more than one heat, but only heats in your state.
- 14. Writers must perform a new piece at each progressive level/round starting from heats, to State/Territory Finals, to the National Final.**
- 15. 2026 works cannot have been performed in an Australian Poetry Slam event in a previous year.**
16. Contestants must sign a copy of the rules prior to performing.
17. The Judges’ and Organiser’s decisions regarding winners are final and cannot be contested. No correspondence or discussion will be entered into in this regard.
18. Please see full Terms and Conditions available at <http://australianpoetryslam.com> for more details.

# Addendum to Heats Rules

All material must be original and any entrant deemed by the producer to have plagiarised material and concepts from any source will be immediately disqualified.

A panel from the audience on the night will judge the heats. In all instances, the judges' decision is final.

I agree to be photographed and for the photos to be used for promotional purposes.

This document must be signed to be eligible to compete in the heats.

I..... (name, please print clearly)

..... (address)

.....

..... (email address)

..... (mobile phone)

I have read the rules and the addendum to the rules for the heats of the *Australian Poetry Slam 2026* and agree to abide by them.

Signature:

Date: