



Carolina West Congressional Debate Tournament

Congress Tournament Schedule – Ardrey Kell HS, February 23, 2019	
8:00AM – 8:30 AM:	Opening Assembly
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM:	Senate Session 1 / House Preliminary Session
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM:	Lunch
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM:	Senate Session 2 / House Finals
TBA:	Awards

Congress Rules and Procedures

The Congressional Debate will follow the ranking and placement guidelines that are in the Pilot District Tournament Operations Manual from the NSDA. The Congressional Debate rules are listed on pages 5-8 and 19-20. Listed below are some of the highlights as well as local district policies.

Legislation

Legislation will be chosen by the district committee and posted at <http://carolinawest.tabroom.com> by February 1st, 2019. There will be three pieces designated for each session with two backup pieces of legislation that may be used only in the event that all legislation for a given session has been fully debated.

Entry Limits

The number of students you may enter to the Congressional Debate portion is determined by the members and degrees that your school has on record as of February 16th, 2019 at 5PM EST. Please enter all NSDA points prior to this date and time.

NSDA Degrees	Senate	House
1-20	2	2
21-35	2	3
36-55	2	4
56-75	2	5
76-100	2	6
101-150	2	7
151-200	2	8
201-250	2	9
251-300	2	10
301-350	2	11
351-400	2	12



Placement in Houses

Per page 19 of the NSDA Pilot Manual, *“students will be randomly placed in each chamber by the tabulation software; coaches may not select which chamber their students will compete in.”*

This is a change from previous years where schools were allowed to group students together with teammates. This directive is a part of the new NSDA pilot rules.

Presiding Officers

There will be two Presiding Officers per session. No student may preside twice in preliminary chambers unless no other student is willing to preside. At the beginning of Session One, the Parliamentarian will conduct two separate back to back elections for that session. The winner of the first election chooses whether to preside the first half of Session One or the second half. The winner of the second election gets the other half. At the **end of the first Senate session**, this process is repeated to determine the two Presiding Officers for the second session. In the House Finals, there will also be two Presiding Officers. That election takes place using the same protocol as the preliminary session listed above. No one may serve the entire final session of House unless no one else was willing.

Docket Setting

Per the new NSDA pilot rules, each session will have three pieces of legislation that may only be debated in that session. Additionally, there will be two pieces of backup legislation which may only be used if the legislation in a session is completely exhausted after a full debate. The docket order for the first session will be set by a traditional Ways and Means process where a single committee of one representative per school meets at the front of the room at the beginning of the session to choose the order of the docket for the first session only. The docket is then presented to the chamber as a whole for a vote and passes as long as 2/3 of the chamber is in agreement. If the committee cannot get a 2/3 vote of the chamber, it goes back to work and proposes a new agenda. Once the agenda proposed by the Ways and Means committee is approved by a 2/3 vote of the chamber, it may not be amended during the day without unanimous consent of the chamber. **However, any docket change cannot add the backup legislation or legislation from another session. Only primary legislation for that session can be involved in a docket revision. Backup legislation can only be debated after primary legislation is fully debated and must be debated in the exact order that it is listed.**

In the case of the Senate, the docket order for the second session will use the same process and will be set at the end of the first session before the lunch recess. The House Finals docket order will be chosen in the same way at the beginning of the final session.

Cross Examination

The Carolina West District Tournament will be using direct questioning for cross examination where questioners are recognized for 30 second intervals in which a series of questions are asked before moving to the next questioner.



Senate Qualifiers

The Carolina West District is able to qualify **two** senators for the district. This is done through a standard two session Congress with a single Senate chamber. Top two finishers will qualify.

House Qualifiers

The Pilot District Tournament Operations Manual changes the qualification process for the House. In years past, we have been limited to 1 qualifier per House preliminary chamber. The new rules will allow us to qualify **four** Representatives if we have two preliminary chambers and **six** Representatives if we have three preliminary chambers.

Session One is a preliminary session with two judges and a parliamentarian. We will have the corresponding number of chambers (according to the chart below) during Session One of House. No prelim chamber will seat more than 29 students. At the conclusion of the preliminary session, we will advance the corresponding number of students to Finals with four judges and a parliamentarian. The chart below will determine the number of qualifiers.

HOUSE SECTIONING AND QUALIFYING GUIDELINES

Participating Students	Preliminary Chambers	Students who Advance to Final Session per chamber	Qualifiers to nationals
16-29	1	N/A (2 prelim sessions with no Finals)	2
30-58	2	8	4
59-87	3	6	6
88-116	4	4	7

Judges

Judge Quota and Judge Registration Requirements

1. All judges must have an active free account on Tabroom.com so please be sure that is taken care of before attempting to enter your judges.
2. Every school must provide one judge for every six Congress entries.
3. **In addition to being fully trained in Congress, your judge(s) must also be able to judge at least one of the following: Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum or Speech and their alternate event(s) must be noted on your Tabroom registration.** Due to the fact that no one may judge someone from their own school, your Congress judges will likely be used in other events at the Ardrey Kell regular season tournament, which will run concurrently with the Carolina West District Congress.



Rules Concerning Judges

1. Judges must have an active account on Tabroom.com and know their login information.
2. Judges must be able to judge at least one other event category besides Congress.
3. Judges must have graduated from high school.
4. First-year out judges may be registered, but must be designated as such. These judges are "free strikes." Failure to identify first-year out judges could result in the disqualification of the judge, a missing judge fee assessment, and the loss of your judge bond.
5. Judges must be aware of all NSDA rules regarding event procedures, scoring, and requirements of the event you have placed them in. If a judge is unfamiliar with the rules and regulations, or unfit to judge (as determined by the District Committee) your judge bond will be forfeited.

Judge Bond

A judge bond of \$100 is required at the beginning of the day. We will return your check at the end of the day. In the event that your judges do not appear for all assigned rounds, the judge bond will be forfeited. Once you have forfeited your judge bond, a \$50 fine will be assessed for each round missed.

Fees & Limits

Please pay all outstanding NSDA fees prior to February 23rd. You must pay the remaining balance at registration in order to be allowed to compete. You will not be able to compete without paying.

Fees for this tournament will be added to your invoice for the regular district tournament for all other events on March 1-2. You may pay your entry fees on March 1st unless you are only competing in Congress.

Please note that although fees for the February 23rd Congress tournament may be deferred until March 1st, you are still responsible for bringing a \$100 judge bond to this tournament. Checks should be made out to "Carolina West NFL."



Paperwork to Submit

The following items need to be turned in to the appropriate listed person by their respective due dates.

1. Tabroom Registration for Congress - **Due February 15th, 2019 at 4PM.**
2. District Tournament Registration Form
 - This is a form generated by Tabroom after you complete your registration.
 - Must be completed, printed, and signed by the coach.
 - Any potential alternate who may replace a student who drops must also be an NSDA member at the school for which they are entered for at least seven days prior to the District Tournament.
 - Alternate substitutions must meet all qualifications as those originally entered on the form.
 - No student may compete that is not on that form. Drops must be removed and alternate substitutions must be added prior to the start of the tournament.
 - A hard copy of this form must also be signed and submitted.

Additionally, the National Tournament Single Entry Letter of Intent (for students who are double entering at the District Tournament held on March 1st & 2nd) will be **due at final registration on March 1, 2019**. This does not need to be presented at the Congress tournament but **MUST** be brought to final registration on March 1st.

How To Register on Tabroom.com

1. Go to www.carolinawest.tabroom.com
2. Logon in the top right-hand corner of the screen.
3. Click "Register" on the tabs of the tournament. You'll have to certify that the information you provide is accurate, and then make sure that you update your NSDA roster (this is pretty intuitive). **Please put in your points prior to this step so that you don't have to go back and do it. Remember, the number of entries you get is dependent on the number of degrees your program has.**
4. Under "Entries" you will find a drop-down menu on the right hand side. You can select any event offered. Once you select an event, you will have a list of your students who are eligible for the tournament. Select their name and click "Add Entry." You may continue to add until all of your slots are filled.
5. Your "Greensheets" (printed registration forms) are under "NSDA Forms" as well as your Single Entry Letter of Intent.
6. Under "Judges" you will enter the names of the required number of judges. **Judges must create Tabroom accounts for themselves if they don't have one already. (Or you may create an account for them and let them know the details.) Then you must add them to the Tabroom system if you haven't already. You may not enter judges who do not have Tabroom accounts. Tabroom will not accept them.** On the right-hand side, you'll find "Add Judge." Type in the email address associated with the judge and if it exists in Tabroom, they will be added as a judge. If they do not get added, they don't have an account yet and need to create one.