



August 2019

Dear Coaches,

It is our pleasure to invite you to the Twenty-Third Annual Saints Classic Speech and Debate Tournament, to be held on our school's North Campus on October 18-19, 2019. Since 2010, over three dozen different schools from seven different states have attended our tournament at least once, and we'd be honored for you to join us this year.

Please note: This year we intend to run as much of the tournament through Tabroom as possible, including electronic balloting where practicable. Please have your judges set up Tabroom accounts and link them to your respective schools, and we ask for your indulgence as we learn the vagaries of running a tournament on Tabroom.

We offer competition in the following events – all events are open divisions unless otherwise noted with a (V/N), in which case we offer separate divisions if entry numbers permit.

- **Debate** – Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Policy Debate, Public Forum Debate
- **Student Congress** – Due to having Top Six qualifying status for the Kentucky Tournament of Champions, Student Congress will be contested in one division.
- **Speech Flight A** – Dramatic Interpretation, Duet Acting, Impromptu Speaking, Original Oratory, Program Oral Interpretation, Prose Interpretation (V/N)
- **Speech Flight B** – Declamation (open to 9th/10th grade students only), Duo Interpretation, Extemporaneous Speaking (V/N), Humorous Interpretation, Informative Speaking, Poetry Interpretation (V/N)

In addition to qualifying students from MHSAA member schools for the State Championship in the spring, our tournament also qualifies competitors for the following national tournaments.

Kentucky Tournament of Champions	Public Forum: Finals for Gold Division, Semis for Silver Division Speech: Dramatic Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Extemporaneous Speaking, Humorous Interpretation, Informative Speaking, Oral Interpretation (bids can be earned in either Poetry or Prose), Original Oratory, Program Oral Interpretation Student Congress: Top Six
National Individual Events Tournament of Champions	Qualifying Events: Dramatic Interpretation, Duet Acting, Duo Interpretation, Extemporaneous Speaking, Humorous Interpretation, Informative Speaking, Original Oratory, Program Oral Interpretation

The Saints Classic offers a number of unique features that we believe augment the educational value of our activity and hope pique your interest in our tournament. These include:

- **No coin flip in preliminary rounds of Public Forum Debate, with Pro always speaking first.**
- **Use of the 3 minute summary and 3 minutes prep time, per the NSDA pilot rules for PF.**
- **Congress competition with preliminary sessions on Friday and a Saturday morning supersession with a designated topic focus.**
- **7 minutes prep time for Policy Debate**
- **Novice awards in DI, HI, and Public Forum Debate**
- **Allowance for disclosure and critique in debate rounds.**

As has been the case since 2013, we will present the Perry Tyner Tate Memorial Award at our tournament and welcome the nomination of students you consider worthy of this award. More about Perry and the criteria for the award can be found later in this invitation. The 2018 winner of this award was Jessica Styres of Madison Central High School.

In addition to our traditional judge lounge spread, we plan to provide a complimentary pasta dinner for students on Friday night. We also plan to host our coaches' dinner on Friday night in order to provide those who dedicate so much time and energy to this activity an opportunity to relax and share some social time. We will make every effort to ensure that coaches are not judging during the time of the dinner.

While we have added three buildings and significant space to our campus since the inaugural Saints Classic in 1997, we have some genuine limits to the number of competition spaces we can access. Once those spaces are filled, we will need to close the tournament. To allow as many schools to attend as possible, we do have some initial entry limits that we ask you to note as you prepare your entry.

We hope to see you at our place in October. If we don't answer your questions here, just ask.

Best,

Darin M. Maier, Jharick Shields, and Ruthie Taylor.

Coaching Staff, St. Andrew's Episcopal School Speech and Debate

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Rules of Competition

Lincoln-Douglas Debate

- The 6-3-7-3-4-6-3 time format will be used. Four minutes of prep time per debater.
- ***This year, competition in Lincoln-Douglas Debate will take place in a single open division, so we will only debate the September/October topic Resolved: In the United States, colleges and universities ought not consider standardized tests in undergraduate admissions decisions.***
- We will recognize the top novices competing in Lincoln-Douglas Debate.

Policy Debate

- The 8-3-5 time format will be used. Seven minutes of prep time per team.
- The topic will be the 2019-2020 NFHS topic *Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce Direct Commercial Sales and/or Foreign Military Sales of arms from the United States.*

Public Forum Debate

- ***This year, we will implement the pilot rules for Public Forum approved by the NSDA. Thus, the time format will now be 4-4-3-4-4-3-3-3-2-2, with three minutes of prep time per team.***
- The topic will be the September/October topic *Resolved: The European Union should join the Belt and Road Initiative.*
- **Because we believe in the importance of fully preparing for both sides for debate, the Saints Classic does not utilize a coin flip, except in elimination rounds where teams have not previously met. The Pro team will always speak first.**

Student Congress

- We will utilize the legislation listed in the MHSAA Bill Book, posted to the tabroom site. Bills A-L-T-W-BB-MM will be used in Session 1, while bills H-J-R-AA-DD-NN will be used during Session 2.
- The finals session will focus on one topic area to be announced by Friday, October 11, with bills written by St. Andrew's.
- Out of state schools wishing to submit legislation for the preliminary sessions must send their bills to maierd@gosaints.org by Friday, October 4. Schools wishing to add legislation to the finals session must bring that legislation to registration.

Speech Events

Speech events will be governed by MHSAA rules, which largely follow the NSDA and NCFL. Where the MHSAA rules do not speak to an issue, NSDA and/or NCFL rules will be used with the proviso that any piece in question meeting the rules of either NSDA or NCFL will be considered acceptable for competition.

There is no minimum length for a speech performance, but the maximum length is 10 minutes with a 30-second grace period, save Extemporaneous Speaking and Impromptu Speaking (7 minute maximum each). A contestant whose performance goes over the grace period may not be ranked first in that panel, with further reduction in rank left to the discretion of the judge, with the following advice:

- If competitors are not offered time signals, ranks should not be adjusted. Competitors who are offered and refuse time signals take responsibility to comply with time rules.
- The sanction between a contestant who exceeds the grace period by 5 seconds and by 2 minutes should be different. Judges will be advised of this as well.

Decency clauses will be required for students competing in the following events: Declamation, Dramatic Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Duet Acting, Humorous Interpretation, Poetry Interpretation, Program Oral Interpretation, Prose Interpretation. It is the affirmative responsibility of a student to present a properly signed decency clause upon the request of the tournament staff. **Judge concerns about the propriety of a piece are to be directed to the tournament staff, not taken up or acted upon by the judge on their own.** A piece considered published under NCFL or NSDA rules will satisfy publication requirements for the Saints Classic.

Entry Details

Entry Limits are as follows:

- Speech Events – 6 (Duo and Duet teams count as a single entry)
- Debate Events – 4 in any given division (PF and Policy teams count as a single entry)
- Congress – 6, with solicitation of chamber assignments to be made after registration closes
- Additional entries will be waitlisted with decisions on entry made after registration closes
- Students may enter up to four events total in the following combinations:
 - One debate event, one Flight A event, and two Flight B events.
 - Two Flight A events and two Flight B events.

Entry Fees are as follows:

- \$25 School Fee
- \$10 for all events that involve a single contestant
- \$12 for all events involving a two-person team (Duet, Duo, Policy, Public Forum)
- \$10 judge penalty for each uncovered entry in speech events
- \$25 judge penalty for each uncovered entry in debate events
- Fees are set at the close of registration at 9:00 pm on Monday, October 14.
- Drops between the close of registration and 4:00 pm on 10/16 pay the original entry fee. Drops between 4:00 pm on 10/16 and 12:00 noon on 10/18 are assessed a \$10 penalty in addition to the original entry fee, while drops after 12:00 noon on 10/18 are assessed a \$20 penalty. The tournament director has the discretion to waive drop fees where deemed appropriate.

Judge Quotas

- 1 judge covers 2 entries in debate events.
- 1 judge covers 6 entries in speech events.
- We will allow judges to be cross-listed between speech and debate events or multiple debate events, but any judge being cross-listed is expected to be available and prepared to judge any event they are listed for (i.e. don't cross-list a judge for PF and LD and then request PF only).
- Any school entering policy debate is required to provide the first judge of their obligation.
- All judges are expected to be available for one round after the elimination of the school's last contestant in an event.
- We will have some judges for hire, but very much prefer your judges to your money.
- In rating judges, please use the following scale:
 - A – Very experienced (meets at least one of the following criteria: multiple rounds experience judging at a national tournament or high-end regional competition, at least 50 rounds judging experience with 30 in the category being judged, or a former competitor with 500 NSDA points and at least 10 rounds judging experience)
 - B – Experienced (meets at least one of the following criteria: judges elimination rounds regularly at local tournaments or preliminary rounds at multiple regional tournaments, 20 rounds experience with at least 10 in category being judged, or former competitors with at least 250 NSDA points, even if they haven't judged)
 - C – Somewhat Experienced (has judged at least 10 rounds of competition or competed in high school but did not earn 250 NSDA points)
 - D – Novice Judge (less than 10 rounds experience)
 - E – Student Judge (high school student who has at least 150 NSDA points)

Please note: A judge who misses a ballot assignment will incur a \$25 fine for their school, which must be paid prior to the release of the school's ballots. If a judge is in the bathroom or outside the judge's lounge at the time of ballots being released, please let us know. We would very much prefer giving the judge a ballot than assessing the school a fine. Also, judge names must be entered in Tabroom by the entry deadline, as judge fees will be set based on what we have in the system at the close of registration.

Pairing Procedures

Debate

- Policy debate will have four preliminary rounds, Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum five.
- Rounds 1 and 2 will be paired at random, each team should expect to debate each side once.
- Remaining preliminary rounds will be paired high-low in brackets respecting side constraints. We will attempt to avoid lag-pairing as much as possible but reserve the right to use it if needed to ensure a timely end to preliminary round competition on Friday.
- To avoid the unfair advantage of giving contestants likely to advance a free win, byes will be assigned to a contestant in the lowest bracket possible.
- For elimination rounds, please note the following:
 - Our default plan will be to break Policy Debate to semifinals and other debate events to quarterfinals, unless entry numbers lead us to do otherwise. In Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum, every contestant who has a 4-1 or better record will get the opportunity to participate in some elimination round.
 - In order to debate in an elimination round, a team must have a better than .500 record at the end of prelims. For example, a policy team going 2-2 who ranks in the top four may be named as a semifinalist but may not debate the round.
 - Elimination brackets in debate will not be broken in any circumstance. If two debaters from the same school are slated to debate each other, the coach may either advance the higher seed or have the students debate.

Speech

Individual events will be paired as follows:

- Each competitor will have two preliminary rounds, randomly sectioned, with one judge each round.
- The top 12 competitors will advance to semifinals, using the following criteria
 - Low cumulative rank
 - High cumulative points
 - Sum of inverse reciprocals
 - Judge preference
 - All students tied for 12th place after all these tie-breakers will advance to semifinals.
- Each semifinal will involve half the remaining field with a school's representation in the semifinal split evenly between the two panels – seedings may be shifted to ensure school balance between sections. We will at all hazards seek to empanel two judges in each semifinal round. Prelim scores carry into the semifinals and the top six competitors (along with any unbreakable ties) will advance to finals based on the same criteria used to determine the semifinals break.
- All final rounds will be judged by three judges if at all possible. Speaking order will be set by the tabulation software and may only be manipulated by the tab room to avoid competitors from the same school being listed back to back. All prior scores in addition to finals are used to determine the final placings.

Material Requirements

No student may use material that he/she has used in a previous year's competition, regardless of the events involved. Additionally, a student may not use the same speech or cutting in more than one event.

For interpretation pieces, the student must have access to the original source, an ISBN number for their piece, or photocopies of the pages from the source of their cutting and lacking such information when challenged may result in the student's disqualification. A student who is determined to have created their own material or to have added text not present in the original source will be disqualified and will have the academic dishonesty reported to their coach and relevant officials at the student's school. The tournament will accept as "published" a piece that meets the guidelines found in either the National Speech and Debate Association's High School Unified Manual (p.42-44 of the June 2018 update is most relevant on this question) or on the National Catholic Forensic League website.

Awards

Trophies will be given to the following individuals/teams:

- All finalists in speech events
- Debaters who advance to at least the quarterfinal round
- The top 8 students competing in Student Congress
- The presiding officers of the preliminary and super chambers in Student Congress
- The top three novice competitors in Dramatic Interpretation and Humorous Interpretation
- The top four novice squads in Public Forum Debate, and the top four novice debaters in Lincoln-Douglas Debate.

Sweepstakes trophies will be given as follows:

- Debate sweepstakes, which will include Congress
- Speech sweepstakes
- Overall sweepstakes trophies to the top three schools.

To determine sweepstakes, each school's entry will count using the following scale.

- Debate: 1st place 8 points, 2nd place 6 points, semifinalist 4 points, quarterfinalist 3 points
- Congress: 1st place 8 points, 2nd place 6 points, 3rd/4th places 4 points each, 5th-8th places 3 points each, all other supersession participants 1 point
- Speech: 1st place 5 points, 2nd place 4 points, 3rd place 3 points, other finalists 2 points, semifinalist 1 point

Food

We understand that for many schools, the bulk of the cost for participating in Speech/Debate is borne by the students and their families and that many students have to figure out how to stretch the money their parents give them so as to feed themselves for the weekend. To reduce that pressure, we plan to, as in years past, offer a plated pasta dinner to be served to students in the Commons on Friday night. There will be no charge for this meal. Additionally, we will have our Student Lounge in operation throughout the tournament. **We respectfully ask that food from outside not be imported into the Student Lounge.** If a student has dietary issues that need accommodation, please notify us in advance of the tournament and we will do what we can to assist.

A judges' lounge will be set up in the Walker Resource Center to provide complimentary food and drinks for all judges and coaches throughout the tournament. Additionally, we plan to hold our famous coaches' dinner on Friday night, and will try to ensure that all coaches are excused from judging assignments in order to fully enjoy our hospitality.

Computers and Electronic Retrieval

The Saints Classic has the following protocols in place regarding the use of computers and other electronic devices:

- While we will do our best to make our networks available, we do not guarantee access to the internet during the course of the tournament, and students are advised to plan accordingly.
- For debate events, we will use the Piloted Guidelines for Laptop Use in Debate Events (found beginning on p.26 of the High School Unified Manual.)
- Students in Extemporaneous Speaking will be allowed to use the internet for research during preparation time, but not after dismissal to the competition room.
- In NO circumstance will a student be allowed to receive any sort of competitive advantage from non-participants in the room where competition occurs – this includes coaches, parents, hired judges, or other students. Any student found doing so should expect to be disqualified from the tournament and the tournament reserves the right to report such behavior to the school's administration or to the MHSAA.
- Cellphones are to remain on silent (not vibrate) or off while in the preparation room but may be used to keep track of preparation time.

Observation, Disclosure and Critiques, and Scouting

Regarding these issues, we start with the premise that this is an educational activity and policies should begin with that in mind. However, we also know that some people in the past who have made poor decisions, and so we put forth these guidelines for observers, disclosure/critique, and scouting.

Observers may be present in preliminary rounds only with the permission of the Tournament Director or his designee. All debate elimination and speech final rounds are considered to be open to those attending the tournament, but such observers are admonished that:

- Their behavior should be such that upholds the spirit of the activity.
- If an observer watches a final round, they are expected to remain in the room for the entirety of the final round, as opposed to watching competitors from their school and then leaving. ***The only exception we could foresee is if a student became suddenly indisposed or had some other sort of medical emergency necessitating their leaving the room.***

Inappropriate behavior by observers may be dealt with by the Tournament Director as needed, including the deduction of Sweepstakes points from the offending party's school. Additionally, such behavior may be reported to the Mississippi High School Activities Association or the appropriate governing body for Speech and Debate should the offending school be from out of state. If this becomes an issue, the tournament reserves the right to close elimination rounds from observation and/or to sanction the school(s) involved, including banning said school from sending any observers to any elimination round.

On disclosure and oral critiques, the coaching staff at St. Andrew's firmly believes that because ours is an educational activity, immediate feedback can have immense value in the learning process. Thus, for debate events, disclosure of decisions and oral critique is specifically allowed under the following conditions:

- **The decision on whether to disclose or provide critique belongs to the judge and the judge alone.** We will respect the decision of a judge not to disclose their decision.
- Such discussions should not hold up the timeline of the tournament.
- All participants in such discussion are expected to behave in a respectful and professional manner. Debaters who choose not to do so may be sanctioned by the tournament, up to and including disqualification of the contestant and/or deduction of sweepstakes points against the school involved. Judges are also admonished to be respectful to competitors regardless of whether they choose to make comments orally or via the ballot.
- Our plan is to announce elimination round decisions in the rooms at the conclusion of the debate, but judges wishing to refer debaters to their ballots for comments are welcome to do so.
- Disclosure and critique **does not** serve as an adequate substitute for a completed ballot. Judges are advised that well-written ballots are also educational tools that coaches and debaters can use to refine arguments and presentation.

On scouting, we acknowledge a range of opinion on what this term means and its ethical implications. That said, it is the considered opinion of the St. Andrew's coaching staff that the sharing of ***legitimately obtained*** information improves strategic decision-making and clash, thus enhancing the competitive and educational benefits of our activity. As such, we will make no effort, nor will we support the actions of others, to prevent the following activities:

- Flow sharing within a squad, including from adults serving as judges.
- Discussions between debaters and/or coaches regarding strategies, arguments, or speaking styles observed from other teams.
- Creating an "intelligence sheet" to keep track of cases and arguments run by other teams.
- Squad members sharing observations about judging paradigms and practices.

Actions that we will seek to prevent should we become aware of it include

- Selling or purchasing flows from rounds previously debated.
- Audio or video recording of a debate by a judge.
- Coaches listening at doors of rooms where they do not have a debater competing.
- Sending students or adults into rounds unless related to one of the competitors in the room.