Tarheel East District Virtual Speech & Debate Tournament

On April 25 &26th, the Tarheel East District will be holding the virtual portion of the NSDA District Tournament. We will be hosting the Speech & Debate Qualifier via Zoom. This tournament determines who competes in all Speech and Debate from our district at the virtual NSDA National Tournament June 14th through 19th, 2020.

Due to the nature of this tournament, registration is now closed. Only students who were submitted via Tabroom registration and the Google Form application are eligible for competition at the virtual Tarheel East District Tournament.

Additionally, all fees should be paid with the NSDA prior to competing at the tournament. We recognize that due to the nature of school closures and being off campus, that this may be difficult. We encourage you to reach out to the National Office in order to seek relief.

There is no day-of registration procedure for the tournament as a whole. Entries will be confirmed the Friday prior to the tournament. All of your paperwork will need to be organized, signed, scanned and emailed prior to the beginning of Round One.

Please be sure to read the information in this invitation as we have changed a great deal of it due to the nature of the changes in the tournament.

You'll find the changes in this invitation have been highlighted for your convenience.

Cordially,

Crawford Leavoy, District Chair - Durham Academy

on behalf of:
Michelle Boswell - Cumberland Polytechnic HS
Patrick Jessee - Cary HS
Brittanie McNeil - Massey Hill Classical HS
RJ Pellicciotta - Cary Academy

Speech Schedule

Saturday, April 25th, 2020

7:30AM	*Semifinal Postings Released*
8:00AM	USX Extemp Draw Begins
8:30AM	USX Semifinals Begin
9:00AM	HI Semifinals
9:45AM	DI Semifinals
10:00AM	IX Extemp Draw Begins
10:30AM	IX Finals Begin
11:00AM	POI Semifinals
11:30AM	OO Semifinals
1:00PM	INFO Semifinals
1:30PM	USX Extemp Draw Begins
2:00PM	USX Finals
3:30PM	HI Finals
4:45PM	DI Finals
6:00PM	POI Finals
7:15PM	OO Finals
8:30PM	INFO Finals

Sunday, April 26th, 2020

8:00PM	*Awards Ceremony*

Debate Schedule

Sunday, April 26th, 2020

	DEBATE
8:00AM	*Debate Pairings Released*
8:30AM	*Debate Tech Check-In*
9:00AM	Debate - Round One
11:00 AM	Debate- Round Two
1:00 PM	Debate - Round Three
3:00 PM	Debate - Round Four
5:00 PM	Debate - Round Five
7:00PM	Debate - Round Six *(If Needed)*
8:00PM	*Virtual Awards Ceremony*

- Awards will occur as soon as the final round has concluded and been tabulated.
- The District Committee will post updates throughout Sunday as that time becomes known.
- This schedule is subject to change
- **All judges are obligated throughout the tournament.**

Rules

~~The debate portion of the District Qualifier will follow the guidelines that are in the Pilot District Tournament Operations Manual. The tournament guidelines can be found on pages 15 through 22 of the Pilot District Tournament Operations Manual.~~ The debate portion of the District Qualifier will follow the guidelines that are in the Unified High School Manual. The tournament guidelines can be found on pages 69 through 72 of the Unified High School Manual. The Event guidelines can be found on pages 23-33 of the Unified High School Manual.

~~The speech portion of the District Qualifier will follow the guidelines that are in the Pilot District Tournament Operations Manual. The Tournament guidelines can be found on pages 26 through 28 of the Pilot District Tournament Operations Manual.~~ The speech portion of the District Qualifier will consist of a Semifinal evaluated by 3 judges, and a Final evaluated by 5 judges. The Semifinal pairing will be paired as seeded round based off of the applications sent to the District Committee. The Event guidelines can be found on pages 43 through 52 of the Unified High School Manual.

School Fee
There will be no school fee for the 2020 District Tournament.

DUO Interpretation
Due to current social distancing guidelines, the Tarheel East District Committee cannot condone that DUO teams gather in order to record their pieces. Therefore, the DUO qualifiers and alternates will be determined by application only. The District Committee will use the applications in order to rank the teams to produce a final ranking amongst the applicants.

Double Entry Guidelines
-   Students may double enter in any two of the speech events they desire.
-   Students may enter one speech event and one debate event if they choose.
-   Students may enter two events in addition to Congress, but no student may compete in more than 2 events if one is not Congress, and no student can compete in more than 3 events under any conditions. *This provision does not include Big Questions debate or applying for World Schools.*

Rules Concerning Judges

1. Judges must have graduated from high school. First-year out judges may be registered, but are free strikes.
2. 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.
3. Judges need to be available throughout the tournament. They should not leave the tournament until all rounds are completed. This is necessary because the elimination rounds require multiple judges and we cannot use "dirty" judges.
4. Judges may be in both the Speech pool and Debate pool
5. Each judge must register for a minimum of 1 pool in each event (Debate - LD, PF, CX; Speech - Platform, Interpretation)

Judge Ratios

Every school must supply judges in the following ratios:
- In Speech Events, 1 judge per 5 entries; $100 for missing quota
- In Lincoln-Douglas Debate, 1 judge per 2 entry; $100 for missing quota
- In Public Forum Debate, 1 judge per 2 entry; $100 for missing quota

Hired Judging

Because of the nature of the virtual tournament, the District Committee will work to bring in a variety of neutral, qualified judges from outside the District.

Judge Strike System

On April 22nd, each school will be given the opportunity to strike two judges in the tournament. These are universal strikes. Therefore, you can strike Sam Higgins from judging your school in every event, but you cannot only strike Sam in LD, but not Extemp.

In the event that the District Committee has to add a judge to the judging pool after the list of judges is published, we will offer them to you as a free strike. This means that you can strike them whether you have used your stikes or not.

Strikes must be submitted by 11:59PM on Friday, April 24th, 2020.

Fees

Please pay all outstanding NSDA fees prior to April 25th. You must pay the remaining balance at registration in order to be allowed to compete. If you need help in arranging payment, or have questions because of school closures/stay-at-home orders, please contact the National Office.

Each student will incur a fee of $30.00 for the District Tournament, regardless of the number of events that they enter. This must be paid for all students at this tournament; if your student has competed at the Congressional Debate portion of the NSDA District Tournament in February, there will not be an additional registration fee for that student.

We recognize that it may be difficult to have a school check cut at this current time. We are happy to generate an invoice for you and hold it until you are able to make payment. No school will be barred from competition in the 2020 Virtual Tournament because of a payment issue. However, those fees will need to be paid as soon as possible.

Limits

A school's entry to the District Tournament is based around their **degree strength** on file with the NSDA. Tabroom will automatically show you the number of allowed entries based on strength.

Topics & Topic Areas

Extemporaneous Speaking Topic Areas

International Extemporaneous Speaking
1. Americas
2. Asia
3. Energy & Environment
4. Europe
5. Middle East & North Africa
6. Sub-saharan Africa
7. World Conflicts

United States Extemporaneous Speaking
1. 2020 Election
2. Economics
3. Education
4. Environmental Issues
5. Healthcare
6. Law & Justice
7. Science & Technology

Lincoln-Douglas Debate Topic
Resolved: Predictive policing is unjust.

Public Forum Debate Topic
Resolved: The United States should increase its use of nuclear energy for commercial energy production.

Policy (CX) Debate Topic
Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce Direct Commercial Sales and/or Foreign Military Sales of arms from the United States.

Submission Guidelines for Speech Events

All speech entrants in DI, HI, POI, INF, and OO, will submit a recorded video of their performance to the District Committee. The submission must be recorded on Loom, and submitted via an approved Google Form. All submissions must be done by the Coach of Record and that coach must certify that the recording is the correct performance and is unaltered in any way.

During a round, the contestants may enter the competition room. A District Referee will share their screen and play each of the recordings one time without stopping. The three judges must evaluate the round based only on the one-time playing of the recording.

Pilot Speech Rules

~~The 2020 Tarheel East NSDA District Tournament will utilize the new Pilot Rules for District Tournament in speech. More information can be found in the Pilot District Tournament Operations Manual on pp 26-28.~~ <mark>The speech portion of the District Qualifier will consist of a Semifinal evaluated by 3 judges, and a Final evaluated by 5 judges. The Semifinal pairing will be paired as seeded round based off of the applications sent to the District Committee.</mark> The Event guidelines can be found on pages 43 through 52 of the Unified High School Manual.

General Rules

1. ~~Minimum Rounds - At least three preliminary rounds must be held in all speech events.~~
2. Number of Judges - ~~One, two or three judges may be used in preliminary rounds, as determined by the District Committee. All sections of an event must have the same number of judges as all other sections in a round throughout the tournament.~~ Elimination and final rounds must use three or more judges per section. All elimination round judge panels must consist of odd numbers of judges, and no elimination or final round may use fewer judges per section than any previous round.
3. Judges - should rank each entry in order, best to worst, 1-7. Ties are not permitted; points are not necessary

~~District Committee's Stipulations~~
1) ~~We will hold 3 preliminary rounds in all speech events~~
2) ~~We will utilize 2 judges in each preliminary round in speech.~~

~~Preliminary Rounds~~

~~Preliminary rounds sections are assigned with at least four and no more than seven entries each; the ideal is sections of six. The priorities for paneling these rounds, in order, are:~~
1) ~~Avoid entries from the same school in the same section~~
2) ~~Avoid entries competing against each other multiple times~~
3) ~~Avoid schools competing against each other multiple times~~

~~Speaker order is varied within preliminary rounds so that every entry's average speaker position is as equal as possible to all other entries in the same event. Each entry should speak early in a round (first 2 speakers) and late in a round (last two speakers) at least once during preliminary rounds. **In all cases, the computer should be primarily used to create pairings to ensure impartiality and true randomness where necessary; however, the speech tabulation staff should check the computer to ensure pairing priorities are correctly followed.**~~

~~Preliminary Round Break~~

~~After the preliminary rounds are concluded, the entries are ordered by rank total, lowest being best. If each entry is given four or more scores (if there are four prelims with one judge, or three prelims with two judges each, etc.) then the worst (highest) rank score is dropped from their rank total.~~

~~Preliminary Round Break (continued)~~
~~Any event with eight or more entries must break to elimination rounds. If there are between 8-16 entries in an event, a final round of at least four entries must be held. The break point for elimination rounds is determined based on the total count of entries at the start of the tournament. 25% of that entry total rounded up to the nearest whole number, or a minimum of four entries, advance to elimination rounds. All entries whose rank totals are tied with an advancing entry also advance. For example, if the target to advance is six, but a rank total tie exists between sixth and seventh, the top seven entries advance.~~

~~Event~~	~~'19 Entries~~	~~Elim?~~	~~1st Elim~~	~~25%~~
~~DI~~	~~38~~	~~Yes~~	~~Semi~~	~~10~~
~~DUO~~	~~14~~	~~Yes~~	~~Final~~	~~4~~
~~HI~~	~~18~~	~~Yes~~	~~Final~~	~~5~~
~~INF~~	~~19~~	~~Yes~~	~~Final~~	~~5~~
~~IX~~	~~14~~	~~Yes~~	~~Final~~	~~4~~
~~OO~~	~~38~~	~~Yes~~	~~Semi~~	~~10~~
~~POI~~	~~12~~	~~Yes~~	~~Final~~	~~4~~
~~USX~~	~~19~~	~~Yes~~	~~Final~~	~~5~~

~~These are the 2019 Tarheel East District Numbers as a reference of what the 1st Elimination Round would be and how many people would make that round.~~

Elimination Rounds
If more than seven entries advance, section a quarter or semifinal round. Sections should have no fewer than four and no more than seven entries. ~~If more than 21 entries advance, quarterfinals must be held. If 15-21 entries advance, semifinals in three sections are held unless the District Committee has set and communicated a lower threshold for quarterfinals.~~

The District Committee will seed the applicants based on the information provided in their application. This seeding will be utilized in order to contestants. Elimination rounds are snaked: the top placing entry is placed in the first section, and then the next entries are assigned in order by the rank totals going into the round until the number of sections is exhausted. The next entry is placed in the last section and the rest filled in up to the first section. Then, the next entry is placed in the first section and filled in to the last, and so on. Sections are then adjusted by swapping entries with the same rank total to avoid entries from the same school competing in the same section, where possible. Speaker order in elimination rounds

is determined by totaling the entries' past speaker orders and ordering the section by the reverse of their previous speaker position totals, so the entry with the highest total of past orders speaks first, the next highest speaks second, and so on. Speaker order may be adjusted to accommodate double entry.

Advancing from Elimination Rounds

After each elimination round, placement order is determined first by ~~lowest total ranks in all preliminary rounds, dropping the worst (highest) preliminary round rank for each entry whether or not each entry received four or more scores in prelims. Then add~~ the total of all ranks earned in elimination rounds <u>multiplied by two.</u> Ties are broken by the lowest rank totals from the last elimination round only.

Six entries advance out of a semifinal round (an elimination with two or three sections), together with any extra tied with an advancing entry on both overall rank total and ranks in the previous elimination round. ~~Twelve entries should advance out of a quarterfinal, together with any entries tied with an advancing entry on both overall rank total and ranks in the last elimination round.~~ Advance the top overall entries, not equal numbers from individual sections. If more than seven entries are tied to advance to finals from semifinals, or more than 14 are tied to advance from semifinals from quarterfinals, then all entries tied for the last spot on both scores are excluded from advancing.

Final Round

If the number of entries clearing to finals is equal to or lower than the number of slots the district will send to Nationals, it may be skipped; otherwise, finals must be held. Speaker order in finals is determined by the same method as elimination rounds. Final round judge panels should consist of an odd number of at least three judges and should never be smaller than the number of judges used in any previous round of that event.

Determining National Qualifiers & Alternates

Qualifiers are determined by the cumulative scores of finalists based on the factors below. After finals, the order of placement overall is determined by, in order:

1) The last round competed in.
2) Lowest total overall ranks score, dropping the worst ~~prelim~~ rank and multiplying elimination and final round ranks by 2.
3) Highest total reciprocal of all ranks, dropping the worst ~~prelim~~ rank, and multiplying elimination and final reciprocals by 2.
4) Lowest total ranks in the final round.
5) Judges preference (head to head) in the final round
6) Highest total reciprocal of ranks in the final round
7) Judge's preference (head to head) in elimination round(s)
8) ~~Judge's preference (head to head) in prelim round(s)~~

Debate Rules

The following rules apply to Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum debate events at the district tournament. The district tournament is a double elimination contest. Entries who receive their second loss are eliminated from the tournament.

General Rules & Instructions

1) No debate is valid if started after 9:30PM unless it is the final day of the tournament.
2) At least three rounds must be held in all contests.
3) One or three judges may be used in the first two debate contest rounds (even if there are eight entries or less), as determined by the District Committee. When eight or fewer debate entries remain, three judges must be used. Any odd number of three or greater may be used for debate elimination and final rounds. Once multiple judges have been used, it is essential that the same number or higher be used for all subsequent rounds. All sections within the the same event must use the same number of judges. College-age judges are permitted at the discretion of the District Committee. Current high school students may not judge any portion of the district tournament series.
4) If a judge fails to fulfill a judging assignment, a fine may be assessed at the discretion of the District Committee.
5) Judges assigned by the tournament committee are final unless protested before the beginning of the tournament. If a judge is added to the pool after the tournament begins, any protest must be made prior to the round in which that individual is assigned to judge. If protested, the District Committee will hear the protest, and its decision is final. If a member of the committee is involved in the protest, they should be recused.
6) The District Committee may permit a judge strike policy at the district tournament
   a) Districts are encouraged to solicit opinions of all schools in the district when determining whether a strike system will be used, and if so, what type of system. The decision of the District Committee is final.
   b) If a District Committee chooses to implement a judge strike system, the chair must submit a complete description of the proposed strike procedure to the national office for the approval. The description must be approved at least seven days prior to the beginning of the tournament.
   c) The system used must be maintained throughout the entire district tournament.
7) Permission to use laptop computers in any event shall be autonomous decision of the District Committee. Granting usage subjects debaters to the guidelines contained in the rules section of this manual. ***The Tarheel East District Committee has decided to utilize the Pilot Internet Rules 2019-2020 for Extemporaneous Speaking, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate and Policy Debate.***
8) Debaters who are 15 minutes late forfeit the round, but the District Committee may waive the penalty.
9) In the case of a disqualification, all previous decisions will stand and no revision of decisions will occur unless dictated by a specific protest procedure (eg. evidence violation).
10) Harassment in any form at any contest is prohibited and is grounds for disqualification.

General Rules & Instructions (continued)

11) Scouting is strongly discouraged.
12) The District Committee or tournament committee appointed by it has the full power to adjudicate disputes or interpretation of rules but may not change the rules. The District Committee is authorized to determine how a rule is to be interpreted or applied in a specific situation. In a case of a serious dispute or critical question of procedure, which the District Committee cannot resolve, the national office or acting tournament referee must be phonned for a ruling. Please consult the national office to determine the referee for your event.

Absolute Pairing Priorities

The following seven pairing priorities are absolute and control the pairing procedures described below:

1) Draw a bye if one is required. Draw the bye first, before pairing any other rounds.
    a) All entries eligible for a bye must be included in the drawing of a bye.
    b) Until three entries remain or drawing for a national qualifier, byes will first be drawn from entries losing to an entry who is still undefeated. If no entries have lost to an undefeated or the entries losing to an undefeated have also drawn a bye, a blind draw will take place among all once-defeated teams who have not drawn a bye.
    c) No entry will have more than one bye until three entries remain. When three entries remain, the bye must go to the undefeated even if the entry has previously received a bye. If no entries are undefeated, draw the bye from all entries who have not previously drawn a bye.
    d) An entry may not refuse a bye.
2) Do not pair a school against itself unless they are:
    a) The only two remaining undefeated entries, or 3 f 4 undefeated entries, or 4 of 5 undefeated entries.
    b) The last two once-defeated entries.
    c) The last two of three once-defeated entries and the other entry draws the bye.
    d) A majority of the once-defeated after the bye is drawn and after the undefeated bracket has been paired.
3) Do not pair entries that have met before in the tournament.
    a) Exception: Two entries who have met previously may meet again to avid the same school meeting, or they may meet again if all remaining teams in that bracket have previously met.
4) Do not break brackets at any time. Undefeated entries are in one bracket and once-defeated entries are in another bracket. If there are an odd number of undefeated entries, then and only then, should a once-defeated be drawn up to meet an undefeated entry.
    a) Draw from the teams who are "due" the opposite side of the undefeated opponent they will face. In Public Forum, draw from all eligible undefeated teams.
5) Entries in Policy and Lincoln-Douglas Debate (not Public Forum) who have debated an unequal number of affirmative and negative rounds are considered due the side they have debated the least. Side constraints cannot violate the priorities listed above that are substantially more important.

6) When an entry has debated an equal number of affirmative and negative rounds, the team is considered eligible for either side in the next round. Side alteration from the previous round is not a priority and should not be considered in pairing. In Public Forum, no entry is due a side at any time.

7) During a specific round's pairing procedure, once an entry has appropriately been drawn up to the undefeated bracket or has drawn the bye, that entry is no longer considered a part of the once-defeated bracket and should not be considered when pairing the once-defeated bracket. Never re-pull an entry from the once-defeated bracket once an entry has correctly been drawn up, even if that particular pull up creates a priority conflict in the once-defeated bracket.

8) In every Public Forum debate, sides will be determined by a coin flip between the teams, even if the teams have previously met.

Pairing Rounds One and Two

Tabroom.com is designed to randomly create preliminary round pairings for rounds one and two to meet the following constraints:

1) Seeding is not permitted in the preliminary rounds
2) Unless the small number of entries or the random drawing of byes make it unavoidable, no team should meet another team from its school, and no school should meet another school more than once.
3) In Policy & Lincoln-Douglas Debate, each entry should be assigned one affirmative and one negative round unless it draws a bye.
4) If necessary, a bye should be drawn but no school may receive two byes in rounds one and two.

Pairing Subsequent Rounds

An entry is an independent unit and will be paired and assigned sides based upon its own record. The opponents debated or sides debated by other teams from its school are irrelevant and must not be considered when pairing or assigning sides.

1) Drawing a Bye
    a) All entries eligible for a bye must be included in the drawing of a bye.
    b) Until three entries remain or drawing for a national qualifier, byes will first be drawn from entries losing to an entry who is still undefeated. If no entries have lost to an undefeated or the entries losing t an undefeated have also drawn a bye, a blind draw will take place among all once-defeated teams who have not drawn a bye.
    c) No entry will have more than one bye until three entries remain. When three entries remain, the bye must go to the undefeated even if the entry has previously received a bye. If no entries are undefeated, draw the bye from all entries who have not previously drawn a bye.
    d) An entry may not refuse a bye.
2) Pairing the Undefeated Bracket - the undefeated bracket takes priority over the once-defeated bracket once any eligible bye has been drawn. Once this bracket has been paired correctly based

on the *Absolute Pairing Priorities* (above), it must not be adjusted or changed to eliminate conflicts in the once-defeated bracket. **NOTE:** If a once-defeated entry is pulled up to create an Absolute Pairing Priorities conflict in the UNDEFEATED bracket and there are entries in the once-defeated bracket than can be drawn up to avoid this conflict, a new entry should be pulled up.

a) Pair undefeated entries against undefeated entries.

b) In Lincoln-Douglas and Policy Debate, esure that Joy of Tournaments has properly paired the entries to ensure side qualization. Side alteration is never a priority, so this warning must be ignored.

    i) If pairing manually, place cards of entries with more affirmative rounds (due negative in the next round), in a pile to the right. Place cards of the entries with more negative (due affirmative in the next round) in a pile to the left. All entries who have an equal number of rounds (due either affirmative or negative) should be placed in a separate pile. If the piles are unequal, randomly draw from the pile of equal side to create equal piles.

    ii) If there are an odd number of undefeated entries, draw up a once-defeated entry who is due to uphold the opposite side of the undefeated entry.

    iii) Shuffle and lay out cards of entries due affirmative into a column on the left side of the table. Shuffle and place the cards of the negative entries in a column to the right of the affirmative column, ensuring that the Absolute Pairing Priorities are met.

c) In Public Forum Debate, ensure that Joy of Tournaments has paired brackets properly and no absolute priority has been violated. Side alteration and equalization warnings must be ignored.

3) Pairing the Once-Defeated Bracket

    a) If necessary, check to see if the software selected a once-defeated entry to meet an undefeated. Unless absolutely unavoidable, ensure that the pull up into the undefeated bracket did not violate the Absolute Pairing Priorities.

    b) At this point, the undefeated bracket is final and should not be altered for any reason. When using the software, be sure not to move an entry into or out of the undefeated bracket.

    c) Follow the rules from the undefeated bracket for Lincoln-Douglas and Policy Debate as described in #2 above and for Public Forum in #3 above.

4) Determining National Qualifiers

    a) If a district is eligible to send only one entry to the National Tournament, the qualifier is the final round winner.

    b) If a district is eligible to send two entries:

        i) The last two remaining entries are the qualifiers.

        ii) If three teams remain, one will draw a bye (which must go to the undefeated if there is one or to an entry who has not previously drawn a bye) and the other two entries debate. The bye and the winner are the qualifiers.

Pairing Subsequent Rounds (continued)

    c) If a district is eligible to send three entries:

        (1) The last three remaining entries are the qualifiers.

        (2) If four entries remain and one is undefeated, all four entries will debate.

            (a) If the undefeated loses, then three entries remain and are the qualifiers.

            (b) If the undefeated wins, it and the other winning entry qualify. The two entries who lost to the qualifiers will debate and determine the third qualifier.

        (3) If four entries remain and there are no undefeated entries, all entries debate, and the two winners are two of the qualifiers. The two losing entries debate again to determine the third qualifier.

        (4) If five entries remain, a bye goes to the undefeated. If there is no undefeated, draw a bye from all entries who have not previously drawn a bye. The four remaining entries debate each other. The bye and the two winners are the qualifiers.

    d) If a district is eligible to send four entries:

        (1) The last four remaining entries are the qualifiers

        (2) If five entries remain, a bye goes to the undefeated and the other four entries debate each other. The bye and the two winners are three of the qualifiers. The two losing entries debate again to determine the fourth qualifier.

        (3) If six entries remain, draw two byes. Byes first go to the undefeated entries. If one undefeated entry remains, that undefeated entry receives a bye and qualifies. Then, a bye is drawn from the remaining once-defeated entries who have not already received a bye, and that entry qualifies. The remaining four entries debate each other. The two byes and the two winners are the four qualifiers.

        (4) If seven entries remain, a bye goes to the undefeated and the remaining six debate each other. The bye and the three winners and the qualifiers.

  5) Determining Alternates

A list of 14 alternates must be determined in events with 30 entries or more. In events with 29 entries or frewer, no entry that finishes in the bottom half of the field may be listed as an alternate. Alternates are determined by the most number of rounds debated. Byes and forfeit wins are counted as rounds debated. Ties must be broken in the following order:

        1. The result of head-to-head debate between the entries, if they met in the tournament.

        2. Total ballots. The number of ballots for a bye equals the number of judges in the round where the bye occured.

        3. A run-off round between the entries.

Protests & Decorum

We ask that you remind your judges and students that due to the nature of the District Tournament, emotions are typically high, and tempers short. We ask that students, judges and coaches work to maintain proper decorum throughout the tournament.

We ask that you are very aware of all rules in the NSDA Unified Manual. You should submit a protest only when you are sure that a rule has been violated. We will respond with serious attention. Protests are accusations. We want everyone to feel respected and honored as we conduct this tournament. Please handle the protest with tact, discretion and dignity. Do not involve a student in an unnecessary dispute.

Some notes from the manual:
- **Harassment:** Harassment, in any form, at any contest is prohibited and is grounds for disqualification.
- **Disputes:** The District Committee has the full power to adjudicate disputes or interpretation of rules, but may not change the rules. The District Committee is authorized to determine how a rule is to be interpreted or applied in a specific dispute or critical question of procedure. If the District Committee cannot resolve, the National Office or acting Tournament Referee must be phoned for a ruling
- **Protests:** Judges assigned by the tournament committee shall be final unless protested before the tournament has begun. If a judge(s) is added to the judge pool after the tournament has begun, any protest must be made prior to the session in which that individual(s) is assigned to judge. If protested, the District Committee shall hear the protest, and its decision will be final. Members of the District Committee involved should recuse themselves.
- **Protest Committee:** If a member must recuse themselves, the coach will be replaced by a District Chair from outside of the District, if present at the tournament.
- **Proxies for Tab Officials**: Due to their nature as tabulation officials, members of the District Committee may not file protests at the District Tournament on behalf of their students. They must appoint a proxy prior to the beginning of the tournament with the District Chair who will file all protests on their school's behalf.

Awards & Recognition

District Student of the Year

With the level of integrity, intellect and character that is among the student population in each district, the NSDA is proud to announce the implementation of the NSDA District Student of the Year award.

Each coach may nominate one student who exemplifies the leadership practices and positive qualities set forth by the National Speech and Debate Association.

The award will be based on coach nominations only. Nominations should bein the form of a 500-word (or fewer) essay about the nominee and his or her service, passion and dedication to the district, the NSDA, and the activity of forensics. Nominations will be collected and reviewed by the District Chair and his or her committee. Whoever receives the strongest nominations for the award should receive the award.

The winner of the District Student of the Year award will receive a plaque from the National Speech and Debate Association during the Awards Ceremony of the District Tournament. His or her District Chair will present the award

To nominate, each nominee should reflect the following standard:
- A nominee must be an NSDA member in his or her senior year of high school.
- The nominee should uphold the NSDA Code of Honor.
- The nominee should demonstrate strong academic standards.
- The nominee should demonstrate participation in a wide array of community involvement and service.
- The nominee should exhibit dedication and commitment to the NSDA and forensics.

The nomination form can be found here:
https://www.speechanddebate.org/student-of-the-year-nomination-form/

To be considered, your form must be submitted by April 24th

Awards & Recognition (Continued)

All Nominations Need to Be Submitted Prior to April 24th

District Coach of the Year

"The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in speech and debate. Students should be treated with the utmost respect, and their welfare should be considered in decisions by coaches at all times." The Nomination Form can be found here:
https://www.speechanddebate.org/high-school-coach-of-the-year-nomination-form/?fbclid=IwAR30sk25D3R1zvpoxTibAUEr4aYjdHjd-TzGBHv3nlHb6CiT4CShMWr6G9I

Alum of the Year

"The Alum of the Year Award showcases a speech and debate alumni from your district who has utilized their speech and debate talents to achieve success for themselves and the speech and debate community. "

Please send a letter of nomination to tarheeleastdistrict@gmail.com by April 24th.

Administrator of the Year

"The National Speech and Debate Association annually recognizes outstanding high school administrators who have succeeded in providing high-quality opportunities for students in speech and debate programming as well as demonstrating exemplary contributions to the profession." The Nomination Form can be found here:
https://www.speechanddebate.org/high-school-administrator-nomination-form/?fbclid=IwAR2ninJl-jKTYRU-HmgLlHkAIK7OY8Wq_vBaZTTqNFwgwZiDD5--HW3yIB4

New Coach of the Year

"Each District Committee may award a District New Coach of the Year to a deserving member coach in their district, and from those district-level award winners, a National New Coach of the Year is selected." The Nomination Form can be found here:
https://www.speechanddebate.org/new-coach-of-the-year-nomination-form/

Assistant Coach of the Year

"Each District Committee may award a District Assistant Coach of the Year to a deserving member coach in their district, and from those district-level award winners, a National Assistant Coach of the Year is selected." The Nomination Form can be found here:
https://www.speechanddebate.org/assistant-coach-of-the-year-nomination-form/

Volunteer of the Year

"The Volunteer of the Year Award showcases a speech and debate volunteer from your district who has utilized their talents to assist the speech and debate community in an exceptional manner. "

Please send a letter of nomination to tarheeleastdistrict@gmail.com by April 24th.