



On behalf of the Magnolia Speech and Debate District Committee and St. Andrew's Episcopal School, active member schools of the Magnolia Speech & Debate District are invited to register for the Debate Event portion of our 2020 District Tournament Series, to be held Friday and Saturday, February 28-29.

Registration is open at magnolia.tabroom.com

Please read over information below and contact micah.everson406@gmail.com with any questions. Also, check out <https://www.speechanddebate.org/all-about-districts/>

Coaches and competing students should be sure to read and review the sections of the NSDA Unified Manual relevant to Debate Events, which can be found here:

<https://www.speechanddebate.org/high-school-unified-manual/>.

In the most recent version of the manual (Jan 2, 2020), the debate event rules start on page 23, including guidelines for laptop use and evidence rules..

Guidelines for the debate tournament start on page 69. Special additional rules are on page 89.

Big Questions debate has many special considerations, and all of the BQ info is on page 95.

Please read over the relevant pages in the manual AND the information below.

When reviewing the rules and when registering, please ask questions, point out my errors or inconsistencies, and generally help me and the committee stay clearly on track and staying transparent. This is a team effort!

(For example, if you notice in Tabroom that you were able to register a student for LD and BQ, which shouldn't be possible, let me know so that I can fix it. If you notice that Tabroom is calculating your registration fees incorrectly or not at all, let me know so that I can fix it. And shout out to the awesome coaches who did that for me at the Murrah tournament earlier this month :)

Location

The Debate Qualifier will be held at St. Andrew's Episcopal School (370 Old Agency Rd, Ridgeland, MS 39157). As always, a reminder that this is the campus in Ridgeland, *not* the lower school campus in Jackson.

Schedule

Friday, Feb 28

- 4:30pm-5:30pm - On-Site Registration
- 5:00pm - Policy Round 1
- 5:30pm - PF/LD/BQ Round 1
- 7:00pm - All events, Round 2

- 8:30pm - All events, Round 3
- *We will accelerate the schedule when possible, but our priority is getting the pairings right so that we don't have to re-do anything.*
- *8:30pm is probably optimistic for the last round. We must start Round 3 by 9:30pm, however. Round 3 will be bumped to Saturday if not started by 9:30pm.*

Saturday, Feb 29

- 8:00am - Round 4
- 10:00am - Round 5
- Noon - Round 6
- 2:00pm - Round 7
- 4:00pm - Round 8
- 6:00pm - Round 9
- *This schedule is tentative and the times above are arbitrary. We'll accelerate when possible, and we'll go as many rounds as it takes until we have determined qualifiers. Some events will take more rounds than others. We'll move as quickly as the judging supply and tabbing allows.*
- 7:00pm - Awards Ceremony - *timing of awards is entirely up in the air.*

Topics

Public Forum - Resolved: The United States should replace means-tested welfare programs with a universal basic income.

Lincoln-Douglas - Resolved: States ought to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

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

Big Questions - Resolved: Objective morality exists.

Entries

- In order to compete at any District qualifier, students **must** have already earned the **degree of Merit** (25 NSDA points). Those points must be **posted** through the coach's NSDA (speechanddebate.org) account prior to tournament registration.
- Students must have also created an account on speechanddebate.org and linked to their school, and student membership fees (\$20) must have been paid. (Coaches, not students, handle this through the school account.)
- In Public Forum, Lincoln-Douglas, and Policy Debate, each school is limited to **4 entries**.
- There is not a school limit in Big Questions.
- There is **no double entry** for this particular weekend. A student may not enter *any two* debate events, including Big Questions.

Keep in mind that this tournament in many ways is combined with the later Speech Events qualifier (Mar 27-28 at Hattiesburg High School), especially when it comes to entry limits.

- Students are limited to two events maximum in Speech *and* Debate. In practice, this means that a student may enter:
 - one Debate (CX, LD, PF) and one Speech (OO, Info, IX, USX, Duo, POI, DI, HI)
 - OR two Speech events
 - If a student wishes to enter Duo *and* either CX or PF, they must do so with the same partner.
- *Big Questions Debate does not apply to any of this. See special notes below.*
- Schools are limited to an overall number of entries in Speech *and* Debate events based on school strength (see bottom of email for specific numbers).
- Previous entry in the Congress tournament doesn't affect school or student entry numbers.

Qualifiers

In all events except Big Questions, our district will have **2** national qualifiers, unless...

1. There are fewer than 4 entries in an event. Then we do not get to hold the event and we have no national qualifiers.
2. There are 30 or more entries in an event. Then we get **3** national qualifiers in that event.
3. There are 50 or more entries in an event. Then we get **4** national qualifiers in that event.

Fees

- \$25 per school competing
- \$10 per student competing (i.e. \$10 for BQ or LD; \$20 for PF or CX)
- \$30 uncovered judge fee
- \$10 nuisance fee per change for registration changes after **Feb 24** deadline.
- All checks should be made to **Magnolia Speech & Debate**.
- All fees owed to the NSDA must be paid prior to the tournament or at registration. For example, if your school has not paid any student's \$20 membership fee via mail or online, you *must* bring that payment with you to the tournament. This applies even if that particular student is not competing. Any invoice that has been generated by NSDA must be paid.

Judges

- Every school competing must provide **at least** one judge for the tournament's duration. You may not "buy out" *all* of your judging obligations.
- One judge is obligated for every two debate entries.
- Uncovered judge obligations will be charged \$30 each.
- Please bring judges, even above and beyond your obligation. Qualifier tournaments in particular thrives or grinds to a halt based on judge availability.
- Judges should watch the 6 min video and read the brief materials on judging Debate found on the NSDA Website: <https://www.speechanddebate.org/judge-training/>. NFHS training is also strongly encouraged (ask me about that if you don't know about it).

Deadlines

- Registration must be entered online by 11:59pm on **Monday, February 24**.
- Changes to registration after Monday, Feb 24, must be communicated via email to micah.everson406@gmail.com. Each change (other than a judge add) will incur a \$10 penalty.

Rules and Special Notes

- On Piloted rules, there are a few different ones, so here's the breakdown:
 - We ARE using the Piloted timing rules in Public Forum (3 min Summaries & 3 min prep time). We actually don't have a choice on this. Explanation [here](#).
 - We ARE NOT using Pilot District Qualification method (which is [here](#)). For this year at least, we are continuing with the traditional **up/down/out** double-elimination model, which is described in the district manual linked at the top of this invitation.
 - We ARE NOT using the piloted laptop rules. That means that students will NOT be allowed to connect devices to the internet during rounds. As with Congress earlier this year, my philosophy on this is that since it will not be allowed at the 2020 National Tournament, we will not allow it at Qualifiers. See pages 26-27 of the district manual for Guidelines for Laptop Use in Debate Events.
- Once each event gets down to 8 or fewer competitors, we are required to use at least 3 judges per round.
- **Supervision: A coach must be present** on campus at all times during the competition. Students without a coach present will not be allowed to compete.

Big Questions

Big Questions has some special considerations, as it is somewhat separated from the other events, so please pay attention to them. All of these points apply **only** to Big Questions:

1. In order to get **one** national qualifier from Mississippi, we need at least 10 debaters and at least 2 schools participating in Big Questions. We cannot get more than one national qualifier.
2. Big Questions entries must meet the same criteria as other entries in terms of student membership (at least 25 points and paid membership).
3. Big Questions entries do NOT count towards your school's entry limits. (e.g. If your school has 10 slots in Speech/Debate. You still get 10, regardless of Big Questions entries.)
4. The 4 entries per school cap does not apply to Big Questions. (i.e. You may enter 5 or even more BQ debaters, if you wish. In other events, 4 entries is the school cap.)
5. Big Questions does NOT count towards a student's individual entry limits. That means a Big Questions debater could theoretically enter 4 qualifier events: Congress, Big Questions, and two "main events."

- a. Logistically, we will not allow BQ entries to also enter LD, PF, or CX. (There isn't a rule against it - we just couldn't handle it at the tournament).
 - b. That means any Big Questions debater could enter in TWO speech events at the Speech Qualifier in March. (PF, LD, or CX debaters may only enter in ONE speech event at the qualifier in March.)
6. I can't explain this one, but it's in the rule book: If a BQ Debater qualifies in BQ *and* another main event (speech or congress), they *cannot* pick BQ for Nationals. They would have to go in their main event or not at all. I don't know why. It's just there in the rules.

Speech & Debate Slots (max entry limit)

These are the entry limits as of Jan 25. **The number listed for your school is not set in stone.** Unentered points from previous tournaments this year and/or points from upcoming tournaments may increase your limit.

Desoto Central HS, MS	12
Germantown HS - Madison, MS, MS	15
Hattiesburg HS, MS	15
Horn Lake HS, MS	4
Jackson Academy, MS	10
Jackson Prep School, MS	16
Lake Cormorant HS, MS	0
Laurel Christian School, MS	23
Lewisburg HS, MS	4
Madison Central HS - Madison, MS, MS	33
Mississippi School For Mathematics & Science, MS	15
Murrah HS, MS	33
Northwest Rankin HS, MS	18
Oak Grove HS - Hattiesburg, MS, MS	37
Oxford HS - Oxford, MS, MS	27
Pascagoula HS, MS	27
Perry Central HS, MS	0
Petal HS, MS	27
Presbyterian Christian School, MS	10
Purvis HS, MS	15
Ridgeland HS, MS	12
Sacred Heart Catholic School, MS	16
St Andrew's Episcopal School - Ridgeland, MS, MS	33
St Joseph Catholic School, MS	6
Starkville HS, MS	24
Tupelo HS, MS	0

West Harrison HS, MS	4
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- If your number is listed as “0,” please make sure that you have entered points from tournaments your team has competed at this year.
- If your school is not listed, you are not an “active” (read: paid) member school of the NSDA. It isn’t too late to join us! Log into your speechanddebate.org account and get payment handled!
- You can see all of this info on your speechanddebate.org account.

Members and Degrees (Strength)	Speech, Lincoln-Douglas, Policy, and Public Forum Entries Allowed
1-15	4
16-20	6
21-30	10
31-40	12
41-50	15
51-60	16
61-70	18
71-80	21
81-90	23
91-100	24
101-120	27
121-140	29
141-160	32
161-180	33
181-200	34
201-230	35
231-260	37
261-300	38
301-350	39
351-400	40
401-500	42
501-600	43
601 +	44