



To: All Eligible Rocky Mountain North NSDA Schools
From: The Rocky Mountain-North District Committee (Seth Willden, Sarah French-Hahn, Angela Smith, Kristina Getty, Paul DeMaret, and Pat DeMartine)
Date: January 21, 2020
RE: National Qualifying Information and Registration Process

Hello all of you lovely speech and debate humans. It is that time of year again. Welcome to the gauntlet of Speech and Debate Qualifiers that will overtake your Saturdays like the Black Death took over half of Europe in the 14th Century . . . At least this plague won't include fleas and rats . . . we hope. Please keep reading this document. Please.

Registration is now open! Registration will occur on Tabroom.com, specifically rockymountainnorth.tabroom.com. Send checks to Angela Smith, made payable to Rocky Mountain North NSDA.

As decided by the district, the qualifying tournament will take place over three weekends at three locations:

All Speech Events will take place at Loveland High School on March 7. Pat DeMartine (Loveland) will host.

Policy, Public Forum, and Lincoln-Douglas Debate will be held at Holy Family High School on March 13 and 14. Lisa Cillessen (Holy Family) will host.

Congressional Debate and Big Questions Debate will be held at Resurrection Christian School on March 28. Angela Smith (Resurrection Christian) will host.

Due to modifications from the National Speech and Debate Association, The District Tournament will run using the pilot program, which is slightly different than the way the National Qualifiers are traditionally administered. Please make sure to read carefully the Pilot

Plan rules before registering for the tournament. For some more light reading (but without the friendly diction), you can read all about the rationale and rules [here](#).

Debate Qualification Pilot:

In order to get students a minimum number of rounds and in the joyful hope of not having a never-ending tournament that requires massive amounts of judges, we will be following these NSDA pilot rules:

1. Every debater is guaranteed four preliminary rounds in their event of choice with a single judge for each round
2. No doubling in debate events (Congress and Big Questions are excluded from this as they are super special and require special care. Like and orchid).
3. All competitors who have 0 or 1 losses in the preliminary rounds proceed to paneled double elimination rounds that include the potential loss in the preliminary round.
4. Elimination rounds proceed until the number of remaining competitors equals the number of national qualifiers for that event.

Speech Qualification Pilot:

Since we adore our speech students almost as much as our debaters, we will follow these NSDA pilot rules:

1. Every speech competitor is guaranteed 3 rounds in their event of choice. Depending on judges and finances, preliminary rounds will have 1 or 2 judges.
2. If elimination rounds are required, at least 25% of the competitors will proceed to these rounds. More if there isn't a clear break.
3. Elimination rounds will be paneled and continue until the number of remaining competitors equals the number of national qualifiers for that event

Again, pilot rules and rationale can be accessed [here](#).

Registration:

1. Please go to rockymountainnorth.tabroom.com to register competitors. Your children will thank you. I will thank you. The universe, well, we're still waiting for a response from them. Ensure that you and your students have tabroom accounts. Because of how prevalent (and I do mean prevalent) tabroom.com has become in tournament administration, this should be easy in terms of student registration. Please email or call Seth Willden at seth.willden@holyfamilyhs.com or 303-506-2282 for additional questions. Now bow to the fickle tabroom gods, you heathens.
2. **Single Entry Letter of Intent Forms:** Double-entered students must select their event preferences before they compete at districts. Coaches must fill out the student preferences

digitally during the registration process. To do this, click the "NSDA Forms" tab in your school's registration. All auto-qualified students must fill out the PDF version of the National Tournament Single Entry Letter of Intent form.

- 3. A student who enters three (3) events (unless the third event is Congress or BQ) or fails to properly complete the Single Entry Letter of Intent form will be disqualified. Them's the rules, folks.**
- 4. Materials needed for Speech Contestants:** The original source of each Interpretation selection must be available at the tournament in case of protest. POI contestants must have their bibliography available. Contestants in Original Oratory and Informative Speaking must have printed manuscripts of their speeches available at the tournament. It shall be the duty of each coach and each student entered in Interpretation contests to determine absolutely that the cutting being performed meets NSDA rules.

Financial Information:

1. All teams and competitors must have paid dues to the National Office in order to participate in the District Tournament. Please check your school account on speechanddebate.org to ensure your school's eligibility.
2. Remember to get your NSDA points recorded before 2/16 so they count towards your total team degrees for the district tournament quota allowances. With the online system, your members and degrees will need to be updated via tabroom.com. Simply resync your tabroom roster with the NSDA via your tabroom dashboard. It's just that simple!
3. The district committee HIGHLY recommends that you fill in alternate spots on the entry form in case you have an illness or other extenuating circumstances.

Tournament schedule will be coming soon to a theatre near you.

With respect to those who are offended by speech impediments, I will refrain from wording the last line here to mimic that of a slightly portly, stuttering, animated pig.

“That's all folks.”

Seth Willden

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