

2020 NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT QUALIFIERS

The New England District Committee invites you and your students to participate in the **2020 New England District Qualifying Tournaments**. As in past years, we will hold the Congress Qualifier and the IE & Debate Qualifier on separate dates. Information for both tournaments can be found below.

DISTRICT CONGRESS QUALIFIER:

Lexington Community Center
39 Marrett Road, Lexington, MA 02421
Saturday, 1/18/2020

DISTRICT IE & DEBATE QUALIFIER:

Catholic Memorial High School
235 Baker Street, West Roxbury, MA 02132
Friday, 1/31/2020 (Debate only) and Saturday, 2/1/2020 (IE & Debate)

INFORMATION PERTAINING TO BOTH TOURNAMENTS:

(All coaches should read these particulars, and only then proceed to details regarding each tournament)

District Status:

- The New England District has attained Level Three status for 2020. What does this mean?
 - CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE:
 - Last year, under the new qualification structure set forth by the NSDA, New England qualified two students in the SENATE and four students in the HOUSE, and we are hopeful that we can do the same this year.
 - In order to do so, we would need at least 8 different schools represented in the SENATE and at least 32 individuals represented in the HOUSE.
 - Please note: in order for a student to count toward these minimums, they must speak or preside at least once.
 - IE & DEBATE:
 - The District is entitled to three qualifiers in every event, given the following:
 - In partner events (DUO, PFD, POL) we must have at least 10 entries
 - In single person events (DI, HI, INFO, IX, LD, OO, POI, and USX) we must have at least 12 entries
 - Any event not meeting that threshold is entitled to two qualifiers, as long as there are at least 4 entries in the event.
 - Additionally, we may take four qualifiers in any event that has 50 entries (in a partner event) or 58 entries (in a single person event).
- **We encourage all member schools with eligible students to participate so that we may reach these goals!**
 - It is important that we enter as many students as possible to ensure full qualification within each category.

- If you wish to participate in the qualifier but do not wish to attend the national tournament, please email [Sarah Donnelly](mailto:sarah.donnelly@nsda.org) so that qualifying slots may be awarded to the appropriate students.

Eligibility:

- Students must be registered, fully paid NSDA members before the close of registration for the district tournament.
- **Additionally, students must be officially registered as a member user with a valid, unique email address on the NSDA website.**
- They must appear on your NSDA roster as both a member and as “districts eligible”.

Judging:

- **We ask that all schools strive to provide neutral judges. Given the configuration of the rounds and the likelihood of school conflicts, neutral judges are integral to allow us to provide fair and balanced judging panels.**
- CONGRESS: All participating schools must provide one judge.
- DEBATE: All participating schools must provide one judge for every two entries **in each division** - for example: 3 L/D and 1 Policy will require 2 L/D judges and 1 Policy judge.
- IE: All participating schools must provide one judge for every five entries.

Fees:

- \$15.00 per **student** (not per entry) plus a \$35.00 school fee.
- The school fee is a one-time fee: schools who participate in both the Congress Qualifier and the IE & Debate Qualifier will only pay the school fee once.
- All fees are assessed to offset tournament costs (primarily to hire necessary unaffiliated judges).

Drops:

- In order to reach the number of participants necessary to maximize our number of qualifiers, we ask all schools to strive to not have drops if at all possible.
- There will be a \$25 fee for drops made on the day of the tournament.
- Substitutions will be accepted and **will not** incur a fee.

Required forms:

- SCHOOL CONSENT forms must be signed and brought to the tournament. This form can be found on the “NSDA Forms” tab on your registration page on tabroom.com.
- SINGLE ENTRY LETTER OF INTENT forms
 - These forms are required for any student registered for more than one event at the New England District Tournaments.
 - Furthermore, a student who competes at the New England District Tournaments and is nominated as a member of our World Schools contingent must also complete this form.
 - This form can be found on the “NSDA Forms” tab on your registration page on tabroom.com, and must be received at registration or the student may be required to drop from one event.
 - Please note:
 - A student who double-enters in a partnership event & an individual event must attend Nationals in the partnership event if they qualify in both unless they meet the following guidelines:

- If two students qualify in a partnership event together and both also qualify in an individual event, these students may choose to enter the individual events at the National Tournament if so designated on the "Single Entry Letter of Intent" form.
- If two students qualify in two partnership events as partners, these students may choose to enter ONE of the partnership events at the National Tournament, if so designated on the "Single Entry Letter of Intent" form.

Rules:

- We will operate this tournament according to the NSDA [Pilot District Tournament Qualification Manual](#) and the NSDA [Pilot Internet Rules](#).
- We highly encourage all participants to read these documents.

RECOGNITION:

- **Student of the Year**
 - Coaches may nominate a deserving graduating senior member for the District Student of the Year Award. This award is intended to spotlight a student whose attitude transcends trophies and accolades; a student who characterizes the very traits of humility, integrity, leadership, respect, and service touted by the NSDA Code of Honor.
 - All nominations MUST be made through the [NSDA website form](#) no later than Friday, 1/17/2020. Once a coach submits a nomination, it will automatically be forwarded to the District Chair.
 - The student selected as District Student of the Year will be eligible to be selected as NSDA National Student of the Year.
- **District Community Member Awards**
 - The NSDA has also instituted a recognition program to honor other District Community Members for their service in the following categories:
 - Coach of the Year
 - Assistant Coach of the Year
 - New Coach of the Year
 - Volunteer of the Year
 - Alumni of the Year
 - Communicator of the Year
 - If you would like to nominate a district community member to be recognized, please send a nomination of no more than 500 words via email to [Sarah Donnelly](#) by Friday, 1/24/2020.

All District Recognition Awards will be given on Saturday, 2/1/2020 at the awards ceremony for the IE & Debate qualifying tournament.

World Schools Debate:

- The New England District hopes to advance two World Schools teams to the National Tournament. Each team will be comprised of 3-5 students from one or more schools.
 - Following our District Tournaments, an email will be sent with application information.
 - ONLY STUDENTS WHO COMPETE AT A DISTRICT TOURNAMENT WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A SPOT ON OUR DISTRICT WORLD SCHOOLS TEAMS.
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INFORMATION PERTAINING SPECIFICALLY TO CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE QUALIFIER:

Date:

- Saturday, 1/18/2020

Location:

Lexington Community Center
39 Marrett Road
Lexington, MA 02421

Events offered:

- Senate
- House

Entry Caps:

- Schools may enter up to two students in the Senate.
- Schools may enter the number of students in the House equivalent to their member degree allowance noted on page 9 of the [Pilot Manual](#).
- The number of total entries each school may register is based on your school strength, a formula calculated by the NSDA based on your coach and student participation records.
- More information on school strength can be found on page 9 of the NSDA [Pilot District Tournament Qualification Manual](#), or you may visit your school profile page by logging in at www.speechanddebate.org.
- Tabroom should automatically limit your entries based on your school's strength.

Registration is now open on Tabroom.com. Due to the intricacies of planning this tournament, registration will close on Saturday, 1/11/2020.

Legislation is due by Wednesday, 1/8/2020 and should be emailed to Sarah Donnelly at donnely1013@gmail.com. The packet will be posted on Tabroom.com.

Tentative Schedule:

- 8:00 AM - Arrival/Registration
- 8:30 AM - General Assembly (Swearing in and Judge Meeting)
- 9:00 AM - Session 1 (Senate & House)
- 12:00 PM - Lunch
- 1:00 PM - Senate Session 2 & House Final
- 4:00 PM - Recess
- Awards will follow as early as possible

INFORMATION PERTAINING SPECIFICALLY TO IE & DEBATE QUALIFIER:

Dates:

- Friday, 1/31/2020 (Debate only)
- Saturday, 2/1/2020 (IE & Debate)

Location:

Catholic Memorial High School
 235 Baker Street
 West Roxbury, MA 02132

Events offered:

- **Debate:**
 - Big Questions Debate (new this year! See more information below)
 - Lincoln Douglas Debate
 - Policy Debate
 - Public Forum Debate
- **Individual Events**
 - Dramatic Interpretation
 - Duo Interpretation
 - Humorous Interpretation
 - Informative Speaking
 - International Extemp
 - Original Oratory
 - Program Oral Interpretation
 - US Extemp

Entry Caps:

- Each school may enter up to 4 in each event.
- The number of total entries each school may register is based on your school strength, a formula calculated by the NSDA based on your coach and student participation records.
- More information on school strength can be found on page 9 of the NSDA [Pilot District Tournament Qualification Manual](#), or you may visit your school profile page by logging in at www.speechanddebate.org.
- Tabroom should automatically limit your entries based on your school's strength.

Registration is now open on Tabroom.com. Due to the intricacies of planning this tournament, registration will close on Saturday, 1/25/2020.

Double Entry:

- Double entry is allowed with the following restrictions:
 - No double entry between NSDA Main Debate events (Lincoln Douglas, Policy, and Public Forum) but a debater may also enter an IE event.
 - Double entry is allowed in IE (DI, DUO, HI, INFO, IX, OO, POI, and USX), but a student may not enter both extemps.

Individual Events Sourcing & Requirements:

- All contestants must bring copies of their cuttings **AND all original source materials**.
 - Cuttings must be turned in at registration.

- Original sources may remain with the student, but must also be available at the tournament.
- Please see the NSDA site on copies of scripts and rules on interp sources, particularly the list of [approved websites for interpretation events](#).
- All contestants and coaches should read the specific rules that pertain to their event, which can be found in the [Pilot Manual](#).

Oratory & Informative Speaking Requirements:

- Each student's script must be brought to the district tournament and turned in at registration.
- The script must identify quoted materials, state the number of quoted words and include a works cited page.
- Both the student and coach must attest by signature that the speech is the original work of the contestant.

Big Questions Debate:

This is a new event to our qualifier this year. Since it is still a new event to NSDA, there are differences in qualification process & requirements from other events. Please note, the following applies ONLY to Big Questions Debate and ONLY for this year.

- We will hold a qualifier for Big Questions Debate IF we have at least ten members from at least two member schools registered.
- If we meet the above threshold, the top (one) student will qualify to attend Nationals.
- All students compete as individuals
- Big Questions entries will not count toward a school's district entry limits.
- The top-placing student will not be eligible to compete in the Big Questions division at the National Tournament if they have qualified in a main event. An alternate will be accepted if the top-placing student cannot attend.

Scouting:

- The NSDA Executive Council strongly discourages debate scouting at the District Tournament.

Tentative Schedule:

- Friday (Debate events only)
 - 3:00 PM - Arrival/Registration
 - 3:30 PM - Judge Meeting
 - 4:00/4:30 PM - Round 1
 - 5:15/5:30 PM - Round 2
 - Saturday
 - 8:00 AM - Arrival/Registration for Speech
 - 8:30 AM - Judge Meetings
 - 9:00 AM - Round 1 Speech / Round 3 Debate
 - 10:30 AM - Round 2 Speech / Round 4 Debate
 - 11:30 AM - Round 3 Speech
 - 12:30 PM - Round 4 Speech / Elimination Rounds begin
 - Elimination Rounds will continue as necessary; awards will occur as early as possible
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We look forward to seeing you at our District Qualifying Tournaments! Please feel free to contact any of the District Committee Members with questions.

Sincerely,

District Chair:

[Sarah Donnelly](#)

District Committee Members:

[Lisa Honeyman](#)

[Sheryl Kaczmarek](#)

[Marc Rischitelli](#)

[Paul Wexler](#)