

STATEMENT FROM WHSFA

The Wyoming High School Forensics Association has been closely following the latest updates regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) from the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), federal, state, and local health organizations. Based on the best available information we have made the decision to reschedule the 2020 State Speech & Debate Tournament onto a virtual platform. For so many of our participants, the State tournament is a capstone experience and one that we are going to work vigorously to protect. We are not alone. This effort will be executed with direct assistance and partnership with the University of Wyoming and WHSAA. This invitation provides important information and an action plan for when various items will be released regarding the registration process, the online platform, procedures, best practices, practice opportunities, etc. On behalf of WHSFA we would like to thank the University of Wyoming Debate team and Director Matt Liu, WHSAA, Nick Ryan from Liberty University, our committees, and countless other individuals who have been working tirelessly to make this experience a tournament that we can all be proud of. This will be an enormous challenge, but it is also an opportunity to protect speech and debate at an important time.

Best,
Londe Gagnon
President, Wyoming High School Forensics Association

SOCIAL DISTANCING IMPORTANCE

The WHSFA and the WHSAA does not condone social gathering in any form. The tournament will be designed to follow all social distancing guidelines that the state of WY and individual communities have decreed. Coaches are encouraged to remind their students to strictly adhere to these guidelines. Social distancing is the priority during COVID-19. Coaches should not join debaters / partners in PF, LD, etc, should not be in the same room. Coaching should occur over Zoom, Slack, even FaceTime, etc. (whatever your schools approve, of course).

INTRODUCTION, PHONE NUMBERS, RULES

The Wyoming State High School Forensics Tournament will be held online on April 22, 23, 24, 25, 2020. This bulletin contains information and forms pertinent to the State meet. If, after reviewing this data, you have questions concerning any aspect of the 2020 State Forensics Tournament, please do not hesitate to email the tournament director Matt Liu (mliu6@uwyo.edu) or the WHSFA president Londe Gagnon (lgagnon@tcsd.org). Matt is serving as co- State Tournament Director this year along with Nick Ryan (nryan2wc@gmail.com) who will be tabbing the tournament. Please review the latest version of the State Tournament Rules in the WHSAA Handbook completely and carefully (certain adjustments will be made in order to accommodate an online platform). If after reviewing the rules you have any questions, please contact Londe Gagnon at 307-699-0537 or at lgagnon@tcsd.org. Call the WHSAA office if you need a copy of the State Tournament Rules or print it off the WHSAA homepage under handbook (www.whsaa.org). During the tournament, if you experience issues or you need help troubleshooting, please contact Matt at 703-554-4628.

REGISTRATION

Registration will be held from April 7 until April 14 at 5pm. We will use Tabroom.com for registration and tournament administration. The specific tournament website where you can register is: <http://wyomingsdsc.tabroom.com> . Please review the official tournament schedule [enclosed] carefully. After April 14, name changes, event changes, and substitutions will be permitted until April 21 at 5pm but **no** additional entries are allowed after April 14 . Any "**drops**" that occur after the April 21 deadline will be charged the appropriate cancellation fee as provided for in the State Tournament Rules:

"Each cancellation at registration (not substitutions) will cost the infringing school \$20 for each student dropped and \$50 in the case of each debate team (PF and cross-x or L-D) entry. This penalty can be avoided by sending an email to the tournament director at nryan2wc@gmail.com before 1p.m. on Wednesday, April 22 before the tournament begins."

Final "onsite registration" must be completed the day of the tournament on tabroom.com from 1pm-3pm on April 22, 2020.

In addition to the normal registration on tabroom, all participants need to fill out the following documents:

[Contact Info](#)

[Honor Code Form](#)

[Recording Release Form](#)

All participants (competitors and judges) will need to participate in a very short pre-tournament check-in. This is to make sure everyone's tech works, well before the tournament begins.

Shortly after the initial registration ends, we will open time slots for all participants to complete a check-in. We will ensure there are many and diverse time slots so you can check in with one of UW Debate's Zoom Room Managers at your convenience. The check in will take not more than 15 minutes, and the primary task will be making sure that every participant can be seen, be heard, see others and hear others. If there are tech issues one of our Zoom Room Managers will help you trouble-shoot them. This allows us to identify any technological issues well ahead of the tournament and gives us time to resolve them. (there is more information on this at the end of this invite).

ENTRY FEES

The State Tournament fee schedule/registration form is part of the registration procedure from tabroom.com. With the registration form, please send a school voucher for your entry fees to the **WHSAA Office**, 6571 East 2nd Street, Casper, WY 82609. There is **no refund** for students who subsequently do not attend the meet. The entry fee deadline is **April 22, 2020**.

ENTRY LIMITATIONS

A student is limited to two events at the State Tournament, and may **not** enter two events scheduled at the same time. A high school is limited to a total of 20 student entry slots. Each student entered in any event slot constitutes an entry. All team events (a duet team, a public forum team, a cross-examination team) counts as one entry. Schools are allowed to distribute those 20 entry slots as they wish; there is no limit per event.

ENTRY FORMS: IMPORTANT TO FOLLOW TO ENSURE PROPER ENTRY INTO THE TOURNAMENT

Enclosed in this bulletin is the tournament information. Tournament entry will be done electronically via tabroom.com. Please make sure that you complete all of the necessary information at that site. Entry procedures are listed below.

****Student Participants, Event Entry, Director of Forensics, and Accompanying Judge information will all be submitted on the tabroom website**

****Student Congress Bill and student placement should be emailed to Londe Gagnon by April 14, 2020. Our intention is to match the houses placement as closely as we can to the original pairings from the originally scheduled State tournament. We will have this information out to coaches by April 15.**

****Fees sheets should be returned to the WHSAA**

It is important that your entry forms and related materials be submitted as outlined in this bulletin. High School coaches are expected to be extremely conscientious in regard to the State Tournament entry forms and the additional information, which they are required to submit. It is the coaches' responsibility to insure the accuracy of their school's entry in the State Tournament.

DEADLINES FOR ENTRIES

Initial entry deadline is April 14, 2020 at 5pm (no additional entries accepted after this).

Congress breakdowns and legislation must be submitted by April 14, 2020 at 5pm.

Final Registration Deadline is April 21, 2020 at 5pm. (name changes, substitutions and drops allowed until this time)

Fees should be mailed by/on April 22, 2020.

RULES

The WHSAA State Forensics Tournament follows the rules available at www.whsaa.org whenever possible. Some provisions will be made due to the online platform. *(Please refer to this clause in the handbook- "Under exceptionally extraordinary circumstances, the Tournament Committee has the authority to modify the rules governing the operation of the State Tournament. The exercise of such authority shall be communicated to all coaches as soon as possible.")* These revisions will be listed in this invite.

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING TOPICS

All extemporaneous questions should be taken from the past three months of NFHS and NSDA extemporaneous practice topics. These will be the February, March and April topics.

CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

Each participant entered in Congressional Debate **may** submit one Bill or Resolution (only one bill or resolution). Bills or resolutions intended for use in the state tournament must be submitted electronically via google docs (only one email per school please) to Londe Gagnon at lgagnon@tcsd.org (**DUE – April 14, 2020 at 5pm**). The bill or resolution must be properly submitted to fit on a single 8 1/2" x 11" white sheet of paper. All bills or resolutions received with the entry forms will be organized and posted on the tabroom website- <http://wyomingsdsc.tabroom.com>. Schools may access those bills for each of their students through the Website

Bills or resolutions which are not submitted with the official entry forms and which are therefore "late" (i.e. submitted later than the entry deadline of **April 14, 2020** will **not** be accepted for distribution by the Tournament Director. "Late" bills and resolutions may be added to the bottom of the agenda order. Copies need to be distributed to schools online.

The number of houses will be dependent on the number of entries. The formula « Base of Three » will be used to split entries. Coaches will be able to place up to three of their competitors in a given house depending on the number of houses needed for Congressional Debate. This distribution will be honored if received before the distribution of the chamber lists and the bills associated with each chamber.

RANKING, RATINGS, AND DECISIONS

In the individual events: ranking of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, will be given. Ratings on a 51-100 point scale will also be given in the preliminary rounds. "No Shows" will count as a rank of 9 and 0 speaker points (rating). Please note the State Tournament Rules concerning the use of "clean breaks" based on ranks only to qualify for semifinals in individual events. In debate: each debate will be judged on a win-loss basis; each debater will also be evaluated on speaker points. Qualification procedures for advancement to elimination rounds are outlined in the State Tournament Rules. It is the policy of the Wyoming High School Activities Association that all decisions, scores, ranks, rating, etc. of groups or individuals or debate teams are final and without appeal. Any undue attempt to influence a critic or judge may result in the disqualification of the individual student or the school concerned. Protests should be submitted via google form to the Tournament Director and the appropriate adjudication procedures followed, as specified in the State Tournament Rules.

TIME LIMITS

Students should carefully adhere to the specified time limits for their events. Failure to do so will result in speaker point or rating penalties.

There will be adjusted prep times in the debates to accommodate for the online format:

CX Debate- 10 min

PF Debate- 4 min

LD Debate- 5min

JUDGES

The following commitment shall be required from those schools participating in the State Tournament:

6 or fewer entry slots:

2 rounds judged personally by the coach.

7-12 entry slots:

Either 2 rounds judged personally by the coach and provide one judge who shall be available for the entire tournament; or 4 rounds judged personally by the coach.

13 + entry slots:

Either 2 rounds judged personally by the coach and provide two judges who shall be available for the entire tournament; or 4 rounds judged personally by the coach and provide one judge who shall be available for the entire tournament; or 6 rounds judged personally by the coach.

Schools will be obligated for judging no more than the following rounds:

6 or fewer entry slots: six rounds of judging

7-12 entry slots: twelve rounds of judging

12-20 entry slots: eighteen rounds of judging

No school shall be required to judge rounds in excess of their commitment. Schools may provide for all rounds of judging with as many judges as they wish to provide. They may specify which judge is to cover which part of the obligation. No judge may be obligated to judge more than eight rounds.

It is the responsibility of the Director of Forensics from each high school to impress upon the accompanying judges their responsibilities and duties. These judges are important to the efficient functioning of the tournament. Try to sign up a compliment of judges. Accompanying judges and coaches should be able to judge a wide variety of events. Please have all judges signed up through tabroom.com by April 19. Strikes will be available through tabroom.com. Please add all judge availability, contact info including phone number and email in tabroom.com .

WHSFA encourages participating programs to sign up as many judges as you can. This online format affords a unique opportunity for interested judges around the country to help out. Instructions for judge signups can be found at the bottom of this invitation

CONFLICT PATTERNS

Please recall that a student may **not** enter two events scheduled at the same time. A student **may** enter

two events scheduled at different times in different conflict patterns.

PATTERN "A" EVENTS

Cross-Examination Team Debate
Lincoln-Douglas Debate
Public Forum Debate
Memorized Dramatic Interpretation
If offered -Memorized Duet Interpretation
Program Oral Interpretation

PATTERN "B" EVENTS

Extemporaneous Speaking
Memorized Humorous Interpretation
Manuscript Poetry Interpretation
Memorized Original Oratory
Congressional Debate
Memorized Informative Speaking

DEBATE TOPICS

We will be using the March topics.

Reminder - The March PF Topic is: *Resolved: The United States should increase its use of nuclear energy for commercial energy production.*

Reminder - The March/ April LD Topic is: *Resolved: Predictive policing is unjust.*

Reminder- the CX Topic for the year is: *Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce Direct Commercial Sales and/or Foreign Military Sales of arms from the United States.*

STUDENT DECORUM

Coaches are asked to impress upon their students, for whom they are responsible, the importance of approaching the state tournament with seriousness and responsibility. All judges will be asked to monitor student behavior in the contest "rooms" in an attempt to ensure fairness to all contestants and the coaches are hereby reminded of their duties in so far as student conduct and propriety are concerned.

SCHEDULE

[Link to Schedule](#)

Pairings will be released 30 minutes before the start of the round.

Competition Room check-in must occur 10 minutes before the round (unless doubling prohibits this)

LINKS TO PERTINENT & IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Statement about the Security of the Online Platform

[Zoom Rules & Setup & General Introduction to an Online Tournament](#)

[Best Practices - General](#)

[Procedure for Debate Rounds](#)

[Procedure for Memorized Events \(including POI and Poetry\)](#)

[Procedure for Extemp Rounds](#)

[Procedure for Congress Rounds](#)

[Internet and Access Best Practices](#)

[Pre Check In Process](#)

[Tabroom Tutorial](#)

[Signing up Judges](#)

[Judging Strikes](#)

Registration Forms- REQUIRED FOR EACH COMPETITOR

[Contact Info](#)

[Honor Code Form](#)

[Recording Release Form](#)