JOHN C. STENNIS CENTER

FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

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Please consider this your school’s invitation to attend the 2020 virtual edition of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Novice Tournament on October 2-3 . The Stennis Center has long been affiliated with the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) and is the sole sponsor of the competition in Congressional Debate at the NSDA National Tournament.

In order to foster and promote Forensics in the South, the Stennis Center agreed in 1995 to underwrite the costs of a novice tournament. As a result of the commitment of the Stennis Center, **each school must still furnish enough qualified judges to cover its entries, but there will be NO FEE to compete.**

The focus of the tournament will be on getting new students involved in Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, Speech Events, and Congressional Debate. This year’s tournament will continue the tradition of Workshop sessions led by Mississippi coaches in the tournament’s Speech Events where recorded tutorials are offered coupled with a Q & A for attendees scheduled post Workshop session.

**Definition of *Novice****.* The definition of *novice* for this tournament is as follows: A novice student is a student that has never competed in speech or debate events prior to this academic school year on the HIGH SCHOOL level. This rule does not apply to incoming freshmen who may have competed on the Middle School level. However, Middle School students who have competed at High School tournaments before this year are not eligible to compete at Stennis. Eligible students who may compete at Stennis must be in grades 9-12. Please review this definition carefully, and please enter only those students who truly qualify for *novice* status. Any competitors who violate the rules above will be disqualified immediately. Please email the Tournament Director with any questions about *novice* status or eligible students for Stennis competition at [scott.waldrop@hattiesburgpsd.com](mailto:scott.waldrop@hattiesburgpsd.com).

*A few new directions:*

1. Ballots will be ONLINE through Tabroom.com. All coaches, competitors, and judges will need to create a Tabroom.com (free) account to participate in the tournament. Every judge and competitor will need a device with a microphone and camera. Use of Google Chrome as your browser is highly recommended.
2. Postings for all rounds will be blasted on Tabroom.com.
3. An adult sponsor (authorized by the school) must in attendance at all times whether by judging at the tournament or waiting in the virtual designated judging pool.
4. We will accelerate the schedule when possible – please remain available during the tournament to avoid forfeiture.
5. If you are not listed on a debate round – please stand by in the designated virtual judging pool.
6. All school judges – both IE and debate are obligated to judge one (1) round past their student’s elimination; please remain available.
7. Only the judge(s) and competitors may access their competition rooms. This means a few things: (1) No observers, (2) Students that are not competing in the tournament will not have access to rounds, (3) Coaches will not be able to view their student’s rounds. (The reason for these limitations is security.)
8. Every team will have a virtual squad room available throughout the tournament. Coaches, judges, and students registered for that school for the tournament will have access.
9. All IE’s, except for Extemporaneous Speaking, will be ASYNCHRONOUS. Deadlines for submission of videos is the tournament deadline, Monday, September 28, by 7:00pm.
10. Test rooms are available on the NSDA website with a login – these rooms will show you what a competition room will look like.
11. Video links for IE’s (except for Extemp) will be accessible on the ballot.

**Workshop Sessions.** A series of recorded tutorials on various topics will be offered during the 2020 Stennis tournament for interested students, coaches, and judges. These recorded tutorial links will be posted on the Tournament Schedule in advance of the tournament. The goal is to have these tutorials posted in advance of the tournament so participants can adequately prepare questions for the Q & A sessions to follow.

**Entry Limits.**  A school may enter up to ten (10) entries in Policy, Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum, Declamation, Poetry, Prose, Dramatic Performance, and Extemporaneous Speaking.

**Entry Deadlines.** The deadline to enter the tournament is Monday, September 28, at 7:00pm. Judges are due on Tuesday, September 29, by 7:00pm. Any and all changes to registration must be emailed to [scott.waldrop@hattiesburgpsd.com](mailto:scott.waldrop@hattiesburgpsd.com) after Tuesday, September 29.

**Judges-General Requirements**. A school MUST register a sufficient number of judges to cover its own entries; otherwise, the tournament cannot accept a school’s entries. Experienced high-school students who have earned at least 150 National Speech and Debate Association points may judge. Schools should help provide a positive experience for the novice competitors by encouraging only serious, committed, trained students to accept this offer to judge. Designate high school students with HS in judge registration ***under the appropriate JUDGE section. There are three (3): Debate, Speech, and HS designations for each.***

**Judges-Specific Requirements**. One (1) judge for each Policy Debate team, one (1) judge per two (2) Lincoln-Douglas debaters, one (1) judge per two (2) Public Forum Debate teams, and one (1) judge for each six (6) entries (or fraction thereof) in Speech Events.

**Event Rules: Debate** *The Stennis tournament will use the NSDA Campus online system. Schools should visit https://campus.speechanddebate.org to learn more about competition rooms and procedure.*

**Debate/Congress/Extemporaneous Speaking Judges:**

1. Debate, Congress, and Extemporaneous Speaking judges will be judging live.
2. Judges that are pre-assigned rounds should check-in at their assigned virtual room fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled time. Judges should wait until tab has cleared them from beginning their round.
3. One the round is completed, judges should virtually turn in their ballots by clicking SUBMIT ballot.
4. Judges will be expected to show at the judge pooling room 30 minutes before every round if they are not pre-assigned a round.
5. Judges are only released from the pooling room once tab has cleared that all rounds have begun.
6. If a judge is called from the pool, they are required to go to their rounds immediately.
7. Judges will turn in ballots immediately. Judges have the opportunity to edit ballot comments after submitting the completed online ballot with points/ranks/decisions.

**Policy Debate:** This is a switch-sides cross-examination division utilizing the NSDA Format for time and prep**.**

**Public Forum Debate:** This event will follow NSDA Format for time and prep. There will be assigned preliminary sides and PRO will speak first each round. Elimination rounds will be flip rounds and will follow normal procedures for determining sides and speaker position.

**Lincoln-Douglas Debate:** This event will follow NSDA Format for time and prep.

***Judges should not give oral critiques or disclose decisions.***

**Congressional Debate:** Schools may enter up to ten (10) novice students. Each chamber of Congress will have no more than 14 students. A percentage of students from each room will advance from the Preliminary Session to the Super Session. Qualified students and coaches will serve as Parliamentarians. The Congressional Debate workshop normally affiliated with Stennis Congress will be offered with the other tutorials to be posted on the Tournament Schedule. There will be one (1) preliminary session of Congressional Debate and a Super Session (Finals).

**Event Rules: Speech**

Individual Events Judging Procedure (with the exception of Extemporaneous Speaking).

1. Individual Event judges will receive their judging assignments by **4pm on Thursday**. An email will be sent out to coaches and judges.
2. Judges will have until Saturday morning at 10am to turn in their ballots.
3. Individual Event Judges signed up for Saturday rounds will need to report to the online judge pooling room by 10:00am. Roll call will be held to determine if judges are present. We will be calling replacement judges for any individual events from prelims at that time. Judges will be released by the judge assignment person ONLY after it is confirmed all judges have begun rounds.
4. Judges will need to be in the pooling room thirty (30) minutes before each round. Judges will be called from the pool and will only be released from the pool once all rounds have begun. Judges that adjudicate out rounds will be required to compete the out rounds immediately and in real-time. They will have an hour and a half from the assignment to complete their rounds.

**Extemporaneous Speaking: This is a live event.** There will be three (3) preliminary rounds in this event and a final round of six (6) competitors. Topics each round will alternate between Domestic and International questions. Students will choose between three (3) topics posted in the room by the proctor. They will then prepare their speech during a thirty (30) minute period. In this NOVICE tournament, one (1) notecard no larger than 4 X 6 inches and consisting of no more than fifty (50) words will be allowed for delivering the speech. The time limit for delivering the speech is seven (7) minutes; there is no minimum time limit. Students who exceed the time limit by more than thirty (30) seconds should not be given first place in a panel; further consequences of exceeding the time limit are left to the discretion of the judge.

**Poetry Interpretation**: There will be three (3) preliminary rounds in this event and a final round of six (6) competitors. The selection must come from an acceptable source as defined by the National Catholic Forensic League as explained at the NCFL website ([www.ncfl.org](http://www.ncfl.org)). The original source(s) must be present at the tournament. The selection must be presented from a manuscript. An introduction is required and is a part of the ten (10) minute maximum for time allowed; there is no minimum time limit. Students who exceed the time limit by more than thirty (30) seconds should not receive first place in the panel; further consequences of exceeding the time limit are left to the discretion of the judge. There should be no movement below the waist in this event.

**Prose Interpretation**: There will be three (3) preliminary rounds and a final round of six (6) competitors. The selection must come from an acceptable source as defined by the National Catholic Forensic League as explained at the NCFL website ([www.ncfl.org](http://www.ncfl.org)). The original source must be present at the tournament. The selection must be presented from a manuscript. An introduction is required and is a part of the ten (10) minute maximum for time. Minimal movement is allowed in this event. There should be no movement below the waist in this event.

**Dramatic Performance**: The selection, either humorous or dramatic in tone, shall last not more than ten (10) minutes. An introduction must be given and is included in the time limit. The selection must come from an acceptable source as defined by the National Catholic Forensic League as explained at the NCFL website ([www.ncfl.org](http://www.ncfl.org)). The original source must be present at the tournament. The selection must be memorized. There is no minimum time limit. Students who exceed the time limit by thirty (30) seconds should not receive first place in the panel; further consequences of exceeding the time limit are left to the discretion of the judge. Movement is allowed in this event.

**Declamation*: This is event is for 9th and 10th grade students only***. The selection shall last not mare than ten (10) minutes. An introduction providing the author, title, and circumstances of the original speech must be given and is included in the time limit. Acceptable material for this event will follow the rules of the National Catholic Forensic League as explained at the NCFL website ([www.ncfl.org](http://www.ncfl.org)). The speech must be memorized. There is no minimum time limit. Students who exceed the time limit by thirty (30) seconds should not be given first place in a panel; further consequences of exceeding the time limit are left to the discretion of the judge. Movement is allowed in this event.

***The final decision on any and all rules and procedural violations will be made by the Tournament Director, Scott Waldrop. Any questions concerning rules or procedures should be directed to the Tournament Director who can be reached at*** [**scott.waldrop@hattiesburgpsd.com**](mailto:scott.waldrop@hattiesburgpsd.com) ***or* 601-520-2583*.***

**Awards:** Appropriate trophies and medals will be mailed to all awardees post tournament. The awards ceremony will be held online at 7:00pm.

**Tournament Schedule**

***Students/Coaches/Judges are expected to report to their respective rooms twenty (20) minutes prior to the start of any event on the Stennis schedule.***

**Monday, September 28**

7:00pm Deadline for entries to be entered at [www.tabroom.com](http://www.tabroom.com)

**Tuesday, September 29**

7:00pm All judges must be finalized.

**Friday, October 2**

12:00-1:45pm Tournament Information/General Registration Completion/Questions

2:00pm All schools competing in Live Events must check in. (Policy, LD, Public Forum)

2:00pm **General Meeting Address**:

Mr. Brian Pugh, Executive Director, Stennis Center for Public Service

Mississippi State University Student Body President

MSU Debate President/Representative

Mr. Scott Waldrop, Tournament Director

3:00pm **ROUND I** Policy, Public Forum, and L-D Debate

3:30pm Q & A-Dramatic Performance Tutorial, led by Reginald Chapman, Hattiesburg High School

4:30pm Q & A-Declamation Tutorial, led by Anita Boyd, Laurel Christian School

5:00pm **ROUND II** Policy, Public Forum, and L-D Debate

5:30pm Q & A-Prose Interpretation Tutorial, led by Jessica Wilkinson, Pascagoula High School

6:30pm Q & A-Poetry Interpretation Tutorial, led by Rachel Clapper, Madison Central High School

7:00pm **ROUND III** Policy, Public Forum, and L-D Debate

7:30pm Q & A-Extemporaneous Speaking Tutorial, led by Sonya Harvey, Starkville High School

7:30pm *Congressional Debate Meeting – All students competing in Congressional Debate*

*are expected to attend.*

**Saturday, October 3**

8:00am **QUARTERFINALS** Policy, Public Forum, and LD Debate

8:00am Congressional Debate Session I

8:15am Round I Extemporaneous Speaking Draw

8:30am Round I Extemporaneous Speaking

9:45am Round II Extemporaneous Speaking Draw

10:00am All preliminary ballots for pre-prepared filmed events must be submitted at this time.

10:00am SEMIFINALS Policy, Public Forum, and LD Debate

Round II Extemporaneous Speaking

11:00am Session I of Congressional Debate Ends

12:00pm FINALS – Dramatic Performance, Prose, Poetry, Declamation

1:00pm FINALS Policy, Public Forum, and LD Debate

Round III Extemporaneous Speaking Draw

1:30pm Round III Extemporaneous Speaking

3:00pm Congressional Debate Super Session FINALS

3:30pm FINALS Extemporaneous Speaking Draw

4:00pm FINALS Extemporaneous Speaking

5:00pm Congressional Debate Super Session FINALS end

7:00pm Awards Ceremony Online