

**2021 Northern Lights NSDA Speech Qualifier**  
March 18-20 - Online

Greetings Speech Coaches,

On behalf of the Northern Lights District Committee, it is my pleasure to invite you and your team to the 2021 NSDA District Qualifier in Speech, held online via hybrid format on Thursday, March 18 through Saturday, March 20. Please use the 'register' tab at <http://northernlights.tabroom.com> to complete your registration.

Important tournament information is listed below. Please let me know if you have any questions.

**Northern Lights NSDA Speech Qualifier Tournament**  
**March 18-20, 2021 - Online**

**Format:** The tournament will be held in a hybrid format with preliminary rounds in DI, HI, INFO, OO, and POI held asynchronously via submitted recordings. Semifinals and finals will be held live/synchronously in those events. IX and USX will hold live/synchronous prelims and elims as mandated by the NSDA guidelines. Duo will be held asynchronously via split-screen recordings for both prelim and elim rounds. More details pertaining to recordings can be found below.

**Schedule:** Due to the size of our tournament, 8 flighted preliminary rounds will be needed. We will hold 4 prelim rounds each on Thursday, March 18 and Friday, March 19 from 3:30-9pm. Semifinals and Finals will be held live on Saturday, March 20 from 9am-3:30pm. The full schedule is below.

**Platform:** Zoom will be used for all live competition rounds. Students will not attend asynchronous rounds.

**School Obligations:** Participating teams are asked to provide one judge per four entries or fraction thereof. Each judge is obligated for the duration of the tournament; however, teams may enter multiple judges to cover one spot. For example, you may have one judge cover Thursday rounds and another judge cover Friday and Saturday. Please use the judge notes section on Tabroom to communicate availability.

**School Fees:** There is a \$25 team entry fee. Each individual entry is \$8 (\$16 for Duo). District dues will also be assessed based on team strength. Please ensure that all NSDA balances are paid prior to the tournament.

**Recording/Video Guidelines:** We will follow the video guidelines/rules established by the NSDA in the [Unified Rules Manual](#) on pages 70-71. All recordings must be submitted by Wednesday, March 17 at 12pm. This will allow time for the committee to review links to ensure they are accessible and functioning. Coaches will be notified ASAP if there is an issue. Students can choose recording software that best meets their needs (Zoom, Quicktime, camera or video

computer app, etc.) so long as the recording rules are followed. Each entry is allowed to submit one video. Recordings should be uploaded to the internet to create a URL that is accessible to judges. If uploading to Youtube, an unlisted page is recommended for privacy reasons. If uploading to Google Drive, be sure the share settings allow anyone with the link to view. We will not post video links publicly. More information on how to submit video links will be shared soon.

**Live Semifinals/Finals:** Students advancing to elimination rounds are expected to perform live on Saturday, March 20. However, if a competitor experiences unresolvable technical issues, their preliminary round recording may be used as a substitute. All tech troubleshooting options must be exhausted before a recording is allowed in elimination rounds. Teams are strongly encouraged to test the Zoom platform prior to the tournament.

**IX/USX:** All extemp. rounds will be held live with draws and 30 minutes of preparation time. The draw room and competition rooms will be hosted in Zoom. We will avoid scheduling preliminary extemp. rounds in the 3:30pm time slot so students have time to set up their performance spaces and double check their technology.

**Duo:** All Duo will be asynchronous via split-screen recordings. Videos for Duo can be recorded on the platform of students' choice. Meeting platforms such as Zoom have proven to have the capability to create side by side split screens. Each partner must record their portion of the Duo from a different room (via a separate window) than their partner. This applies to Duos who share the same residence. Students may not record their performances at different times and edit them together. More resources on split-screen duo can be found on the NSDA website.

### **Tournament Schedule:**

#### Thursday, March. 18

2:00-3:00pm - Registration, team check-in  
3:00 - Judge check-in  
3:30 - Flight A: Round 1  
4:30 - Extemp. Draw  
5:00 - Flight B: Round 1  
6:00 - Extemp. Draw  
6:30 - Flight A: Round 2  
7:30 - Extemp. Draw  
8:00 - Flight B: Round 2

#### Friday, March 19

3:00pm - Judge check-in  
3:30 - Flight A: Round 3  
4:30 - Extemp. Draw  
5:00 - Flight B: Round 3

6:00 - Extemp. Draw  
6:30 - Flight A: Round 4  
7:30 - Extemp. Draw  
8:00 - Flight B: Round 4

Saturday, March 20

8:30am - Extemp. Draw  
9:00 - Semifinals: Section A  
10:00 - Extemp. Draw  
10:30 - Semifinals: Section B  
12:00pm - Extemp. Draw  
12:30 - Flight A: Finals  
1:30 - Extemp. Draw  
2:00 - Flight B: Finals  
4:00 - Awards (Zoom livestream)

Event patterns will be announced by Monday, March 15.

**Judges:** We will panel elimination round judges prior to the tournament using the coach vote conducted last year. Once hired judges are placed, we will round out panels with HCs and experienced assistant coaches as much as possible. Our goal is to have this set before the tournament so coaches and judges know their Saturday schedule. All preliminary rounds will have three judges. There will be three judges in semifinals and seven judges in finals with the hi/lo ranks dropped.

**Registration:** Registration will open on our [Tabroom site](#) at 8am on Friday, Feb. 19 and will close on Friday, March 12 at 8pm. Fees will freeze when registration closes. Drops after the deadline are allowed but will not be refunded. Any drops/substitutions after the deadline should be communicated to me via email. Please let me know if you run into any issues when registering.

Other reminders:

1. Make sure that all competing students are NSDA members at least seven days prior to the tournament. This rule is absolute and exceptions cannot be made. Tabroom will not allow non-members to register.
2. Be sure that you have paid all outstanding membership fees for new members.
3. Use the invoice provided on Tabroom to request a check for entry fees. Remember that all schools are assessed a \$25 team fee in addition to entry fees (\$8 per speaker). Chapter dues are also assessed at this tournament: 1-30 member strength of team = \$55; 31-60 = \$65; 61-90 = \$75; 91+ = \$85. No dues the first year for a new school. Dues will be manually added to your Tabroom invoice once registration closes.

I will try to have this updated ASAP, but if you need to print your invoice with dues included before the deadline, please email me so I can make those updates.

4. All Northern Lights payments should be made to "Northern Lights Speech and Debate" and mailed to Moorhead High School, Attn. Andrew Tichy, 2300 4th Ave. S. Moorhead, MN 56560. All NSDA payments should be mailed to the National Office or paid online through your NSDA account.

**Tournament qualifiers/Awards:** New this year, we will qualify FOUR entries in each event with 10+ entries. Events with nine or fewer entries will have TWO qualifiers. Awards will be mailed to schools the week after the tournament.

**Single Entry Letter of Intent Forms:** Coaches of double-entered students must select their event preference prior to the start of the tournament. To do this, click on the "NSDA Forms" tab after logging in to your Tabroom account. Since we are using Tabroom this year, you do not need to print these forms! Remember that students are only allowed to compete in two district series events (Congressional debate does not count toward the double entry policy).

**District Award Nominations:** The District Committee is seeking nominations for individuals in the following categories: Student of the Year and Coach of the Year. Nomination submissions are done electronically. Information about each award and submission deadlines are below:

- **Northern Lights NSDA Student of the Year - Due: Friday, March 12**

*This prestigious award is presented to a graduating senior in each district who best represents the tenets of the Association's Code of Honor: integrity, respect, humility, leadership, and service. Nominees must also have strong academic credentials and a commitment to the speech and debate community. Each year, six students who win the district award are selected as finalists for the William Woods Tate, Jr. National Student of the Year Award. To nominate a deserving senior, please visit <https://www.speechanddebate.org/student-of-the-year-nomination-form/>. Though we generally announce our student of the year award at our District Speech Tournament, this award is open to ANY NSDA senior student in the Northern Lights District, whether or not they are participating in speech.*

- **Northern Lights NSDA Coach of the Year - Due: Friday, March 12**

*The NSDA's James M. Copeland High School Coach of the Year award annually honors high school coaches who reflect outstanding leadership and commitment to speech and debate activities. To be eligible for nomination, a high school coach must:*

1. *Currently work as a high school speech/debate coach in an NSDA member school.*
2. *Have completed five consecutive years of experience as a high school speech/debate coach at an NSDA member school (experience need not be in the same school).*
3. *Plan to continue working as a high school speech/debate coach next year at an NSDA member school.*
4. *Agree to be nominated.*
5. *If selected as the winner, be able to participate in the NSDA Tournament and/or be present (virtually) to accept the award at the National Tournament.*

More information can be found [here](#). To nominate a deserving coach, please visit <https://www.speechanddebate.org/high-school-coach-of-the-year-nomination-form/>.

**Supplemental Event Entry:** For the 2021 National Tournament only, every member school that participates in the district tournament series will have the opportunity to enter up to two non-qualifying students in supplemental events at the online 2021 National Tournament. These students must have attended the district tournament but not earned qualification in any event. This applies to every school that participated in the district tournament, regardless of whether they qualified students to the National Tournament, and it only applies to the 2021 National Tournament. If a student is chosen as one of the two non-qualifying students for their school that enters in supplemental events and then moves up from an alternate slot to qualify in a main event, their school may move an additional non-qualifying student into supplemental events.

**National Tournament Info:** Details about the 2021 NSDA National Tournament can be found [here](#).