Hudson Valley District Tournament

I hope your 2020 - 2021 competitive season has been as good as it can be given the circumstances. This invitation is going to go through the ins and outs of the Hudson Valley District tournament, which is the qualifying tournament for this year's NSDA Virtual National Tournament. So let's start with the basics of the District Tournament.

When: February 27, 2021 from 8:30 AM until its conclusion which generally is around 5 PM

What: We will be running all virtual, synchronous rounds on the NSDA Campus platform in Congress (House), Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum, Policy Debate (if interest), Informative Speaking, Original Oratory, International Extemp, US Extemp, Humorous Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Programmed Oral Interpretation, and Duo Interpretation (Split Screen).

Why: To qualify for the NSDA National Tournament which will take place virtually from June 13 - 18. The specifics of that tournament (specifically in terms of the degree to which speech will be asynchronous at that tournament) will be finalized by February 15 (https://www.speechanddebate.org/nationals/).

Who Can Compete: For a student to be eligible to compete at Districts, the following things need to be true by Wednesday, February 24th.
- Your School must be paid in full with dues and memberships
- Each student entry must be a member in good standing with the NSDA. To be a member in good standing, the following must be true
    - You need to have purchased a lifetime membership for that student
    - The student must have a valid account with www.speechanddebate.org. To have a valid account, the student needs to sign up and provide a valid and verified email
    - The student needs to have 25 or more merit points
- You cannot exceed the total number of valid entries for your school

In order to check a lot of this "who" information, the coach should log into www.speechanddebate.org . When you log in, on the menu on the right, click School Profile . On that screen, you can see if your membership is paid and if you have an outstanding balance. If you do have an outstanding balance, please click on School Finances to resolve this. If you click on School Roster, a list of all your active members will appear. The last column on this shows whether or not a student is Districts eligible. If they are not eligible, there is a red circle with a slash in that spot. A few things to check
- Does that student have an email in that row? If not, that's probably because that student hasn't made an account and linked that account to your school. Have them do that.
- They don't have 25 points. Either enter more points if that student has competed enough or realize that that student will not be able to compete at Districts.
- You haven't bought that student a membership. The fourth column on this sheet will indicate the student's status as to that regard.

Attached here is a link to a Google Sheet that shows each school's present status as of 1/27/21. The column in yellow will say TRUE if your schools is paid for this year. The column in green shows your

present strength. This number grows as you have more members and members with higher degrees. **The important columns here are the two in orange**. These show how many entries you can have for the District Tournament. If you need more slots, then you need to increase your strength by recording more points for existing members and/or adding new members who will have more than 25 points by the time of the district tournament.

For a given squad, you can only enter
- **Up to as many entries as your strength allows as per the above linked Google Sheet**
- **Up to 4 entries in any category except the House**
- **Up to the number of allowed entries in the House as per the above linked Google Sheet.**

Who Qualifies for Nationals: Because our District once again has 16 Charter Schools (schools that have maintained the membership above a specific level for at least 3 years), we have an elevated level of ability to qualify students.

In the **House**, we can qualify 2 students if we have between 16 - 29 students that compete. If we have 30 - 58 students, we can qualify 4 students.

In **all other categories**, we can qualify 2 students if we have 4 or more entries (with at least 2 schools represented in that event). If we get to 10 entries in any event, we can qualify 3 students in that event.

FOR 2021 ONLY - IF YOU HAVE STUDENTS THAT COMPETE AT DISTRICTS AND DON'T QUALIFY IN THE CATEGORY THEY ARE ENTERED IN, YOU ARE ENTITLED TO TWO AUTOMATIC ENTRIES IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL EVENTS FROM THAT GROUP OF STUDENTS. The supplemental events at nationals are prose, poetry, expository speaking, storytelling, extemp commentary, extemp debate, and impromptu.

How do I register?

To register for the tournament, go to www.tabroom.com. Our tournament can be found as the Hudson Valley District Tournament once you log in in the list of available tournaments. You can also access the tournament by clicking the NSDA tab at the top of the screen.

When you click "Register", you will be brought to a screen where you will see if a student is eligible to enter. Only those students that are eligible on that screen can be entered. You can also

see this eligibility on your school's NSDA roster. There is a column that says "Districts Eligible" that will indicate eligibility with a check or not with an X.

Is Double Entry allowed?

Students may be double entered in any TWO speech events. Double entry is not possible between the debate events or between a speech event and a debate event. House students may not double enter.

What are the judging requirements?

All judges need to have judged prior to this tournament. This ought not be anyone's first tournament judging as this is a NATIONAL QUALIFIER.

The judging requirements are as follows:
- 1 judge for every 2 debate entries
- 1 judge for every 4 speech entries
- 1 judge for any number of House entries
There is no hired judging available. All entries must be covered.

It is VERY LIKELY that judges entered to judge one pool may be needed to judge in other pools. For instance, we have used debate and speech judges to judge Congress as well as some Debate and Congress judges to judge speech. It is unlikely that we will use Speech judges to judge Debate unless we know the person has done this before.

All judges should expect to judge every round of the tournament.

What forms do I need to submit?

Once your registration in complete, be sure to click the NSDA Forms tab and download and complete your School Consent Form. Email jovan75@gmail.com with that form. Additionally, for any double entered student, you must Enter Preferences for which of the two categories they prefer. The forms generated should be printed out and emailed to me as well.

Important Dates?

- Registration is presently open for the tournament.
- You must register your students and judges by Wednesday, Feb 24th at 5 PM.

- Congress legislation is due by Friday, Feb 19th at 5 PM. Email a PDF of your legislation to jovan75@gmail.com. I will supplement the bills provided with 4 bills from a neutral source
- For any entries in Oratory and Info, I need copies of all oratories and infos by Thursday, Feb 25 at 5 PM to jovan75@gmail.com.

What are the fees?

We are judge charging a blanket $50 entry fee per school (NOT PER ENTRY) so that we can hire some neutral judging. If this is problematic, just reach out.

What debate resolutions are used?

We will be using the February PF topic, the Jan/Feb LD topic and the 2020-2021 Policy.

What is the schedule of the Tournament/How does the District Tournament work?

The District Tournament is an odd beast with really particular rules that are different in different events.

In general, check in will be between 8 AM - 8:30 AM by coming to a Zoom link that will be provided. When you come to that Zoom link, please have confirmed with all of your students and all of your judges that they are ready to go.

At 8:30 AM, we will have a full tournament meeting. This will be REQUIRED for ALL COMPETITORS and ALL JUDGES so that we can get on the same page about how the day will work.

HOUSE - The rules have changed here which affect our schedule

We will have one preliminary round in the morning with chamber sizes between 8 - 15 students (depending on the number of entries). There will be a minimum of 2 preliminary chambers (and a maximum of 4).

If we have 16 - 23 entries, we will run 2 chambers. The top 4 students from each chamber will advance to the final

If we have 24 entries - 35 entries, we will run 3 chambers. The top 4 students from each chamber will advance to the final.

If we have 36 - 58 entries, we will run 4 prelim chambers. The top 3 from each chamber will advance to the final.

The schedule is difficult to predict because the length of the session is determined by the number of competitors as the session must have 10 minutes of time per entry.

We will begin the first session at around 9:30 AM, which will last between 80 and 150 minutes

The final will begin at 1 PM and last between 80 and 150 minutes.

We will either have 2 qualifiers (for 16 - 29 total entries) or 4 qualifiers (for 30 - 58 entries)

OFTENTIMES, WE NEED EXTRA STUDENTS TO COMPETE IN THE HOUSE TO MAKE CERTAIN NUMBERS. THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO HAVE YOUR KIDS COMPETE IF YOU INTEND TO HAVE THEM GO ONLY IN SUPPLEMENTARY EVENTS.

If you have students that you are actually trying to get to compete in the House at Nationals, send me an email (jovan75@gmail.com) because I want to see where the interest is.

DEBATE - The rules are fluctuating here as well

The schedule for debate will depend on the total number of entries we have in each debate event.

For any category with 6 or fewer entries, we will do a ROUND ROBIN STYLE tournament where each entry will debate all the other entries. This is allowed by the pilot rules. The two entries with the most ballots qualify. If we have ties, these are broken on HEAD TO HEAD (i.e who won the ballot when those teams met). In this structure, if you have multiple entries, they will be paired against each other but THEY WILL NOT DEBATE. As the coach, you will name a winner and report that to tab. Know this is going to happen and plan and strategize for this (which entry/team do I need to have more ballots…).

If we go with this structure, we will have the appropriate number of rounds (3 - 5) with a single judge in each room.

Round 1 - 9 AM
Round 2 - 10:15 AM
Round 3 - 11: 30 AM
Round 4 (if needed) - 1:30 PM
Round 5 (if needed) - 2:45 PM

The entire schedule will be published at the start of the day. Notice the very quick turn around time between rounds 1,2,3 and 4,5. That is because there is pre-published schedule. There is a break for lunch after R3

If we have more than 6 entries, we will be using the double elimination tournament as normal. In this structure, we will have 2 randomly paired prelims at 9 AM and 10:15 AM with one judge in each room. After that, those with 2 losses are eliminated. The undefeated then hit each other (assuming there are an even number of them) and the 1 downs hit each other. This structure continues until we have 2 (or 3 if 10 or more entries) entries remaining. We will move to 3 person panels once there are 8 or fewer entries as required. Because of this judging need, it is hard to establish a schedule from there as we may need to double flight rounds.

SPEECH - This is as normal

We will be employing the UP/DOWN double elimination model. This usually results in each category needing 3 rounds. Every student is guaranteed 2 preliminary rounds. Once a student has been in the bottom half of a round twice, they are eliminated. Once there are 7 or fewer students left in a category after the first 2 rounds, we go to a final.

For any given category, it is difficult to predict the schedule as we have to slot our judges in to make the schedule work. Generally speaking, we will accomplish the two preliminary rounds in each event prior to about 12:30 PM and then proceed to finals (or round 3 and then finals).

The exception here are the extemps where students are often double entered in the two extemp categories. Therefore these events cannot occur at the same time due to prep. For these events we will run USX1, then IX1, then USX2, then IX2, then a brief break followed by USX Final then IX Final. This is a long grueling day for the extempers. Prepare them for that eventuality

Awards

Once all rounds of the tournament have been concluded, there will be a webinar where the qualifiers are announced. This has traditionally taken place sometime between 4:30 - 6 PM.