

2021 NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT QUALIFIERS

The New England District Committee invites you and your students to participate in the 2021 New England District Qualifying Tournament. Our District IE & Debate Qualifier will be held virtually using tabroom.com and NSDA Campus.

Dates:

Friday, March 5, 2021 (LD & PF only) and Saturday, March 6, 2021 (IE & Debate)

*"SNOW" DATE: Sunday, March 7, 2021 - If the committee determines that widespread connectivity issues make completing the tournament on Saturday impossible, competition may be suspended and every attempt will be made to resume on Sunday morning.

The NSDA National Tournament will take place virtually during the week of June 13-18.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The New England District of the National Speech & Debate Association is committed to providing its participants, judges, coaches, and staff the opportunity to pursue excellence in their endeavors. This opportunity can exist only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. Accordingly, all forms of harassment and discrimination, whether written or oral, based on race, color, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, citizenship, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by any applicable federal, state, or local law are prohibited, whether committed by participants, judges, coaches, or observers. Individuals who are found to have violated this policy will be subject to the full range of sanctions, up to and including removal from the tournament.

Entry Caps:

- 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.
- Information about your school strength can be found on your NSDA school profile page by logging in at www.speechanddebate.org. Click on the [District Info] tab.
- Tabroom should automatically limit your entries based on your school's strength.

Registration: Registration for speech & debate events will close on Friday, February 26, 2021 at 8:00 PM.

Double Entry:

- Double entry is allowed with the following restrictions:
 - No double entry between Debate events (Big Questions, 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.

District Status:

- The New England District has attained Level Three status for 2021. What does this mean?
 - The NSDA altered their rules for the 2021 National Tournament to encourage more participation. This year ONLY:
 - The District is entitled to FOUR qualifiers in every event, given the following:
 - In partner events (DUO, PFD, POL) we must have at least 10 entries in that event at Districts.
 - In single person events (DI, HI, INFO, IX, LD, OO, POI, and USX) we must have at least 12 entries in that event at Districts.
 - Any event not meeting that threshold is entitled to two qualifiers, as long as there are at least 4 entries in that event at Districts.
 - Additionally, we are entitled to one qualifier in Big Questions, provided we have 10 entries in that event at Districts.
- **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 NewEnglandNSDA@gmail.com 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, and must have a valid tabroom.com account linked to their school.**
- 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.**
- 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:

- \$10.00* 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).
- **Note: Due to the online format, we are able to reduce the usual \$15.00 entry fee per student to \$10.00 per student for this year only.*

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:

All required forms can be found on the “NSDA Forms” tab on the district tournament registration page on tabroom.com, and must be emailed to NewEnglandNSDA@gmail.com prior to the start of the tournament.

You will need to submit:

1. SCHOOL CONSENT form
2. SINGLE ENTRY LETTER OF INTENT form(s): 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.
 - 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 & EVENT SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Rules:

- We will operate this tournament according to the NSDA [2020-2021 High School Unified Manual](#) and the NSDA “New Guidelines” for Use of Internet-Enabled Devices in all events (found within the Unified Manual). We highly encourage all participants to read these documents.
- Note: The NSDA has changed the rules for Interpretation event sources. You can find information specific to each event in the Unified Manual.

Scouting:

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

Individual Events Sourcing & Requirements:

- All contestants must bring copies of their cuttings. All source material must be publically available throughout the duration of the tournament. See the [2020-2021 District Tournament Operations Manual](#) for details about permitted source material. (page 46-47).

- It is the affirmative duty of each coach and each student entered in Interpretation contests to determine absolutely that the cutting being performed meets all rules for material. Interp source material must be available at all district tournament contests in the event of a protest.
- All contestants and coaches should read the specific rules that pertain to their event, which can be found in the [2020-2021 District Tournament Operations Manual](#).

Oratory & Informative Speaking Requirements:

- Each student's manuscript must be available in electronic form throughout the duration of the tournament.
- The script must identify quoted materials, state the number of quoted words and include a works cited page in APA or MLA format. (Maximum of 150 directly quoted words)
- Both the student and coach must attest by signature that the speech is the original work of the contestant.

Big Questions Debate:

Since Big Questions 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
- All competitors must be NSDA members and eligible to compete in the district tournament series.
- 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.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY

World Schools Debate:

- The New England District hopes to advance three World Schools teams to the National Tournament. Each team will consist 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.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

- Friday (LD & PF only)
 - 2:45-3:00 PM - Coach check-in
 - 3:30 PM - Judge Meeting
 - 4:00 PM - Round 1

- 6:00 PM - Round 2
 - Saturday
 - 7:45-8:00 AM - Coach Check-in
 - 8:30 AM - Judge Meetings
 - Saturday Speech Schedule:
 - 9:00: Speech 1
 - 10:45: Speech 2
 - 12:30: Speech 3
 - 2:15: Speech 4
 - 4:30: Elims begin and will proceed as needed
 - Saturday Debate Schedule:
 - 9:00: Round 3 PF/LD, Round 1 BQ
 - 11:00: Round 4 PF/LD, Round 2 BQ
 - 1:00: Round 5 PF/LD, Round 3 BQ
 - 3:00: Round 6 PF/LD, Round 4 BQ
 - 5:00: Round 7 PF/LD, Round 5 BQ (if needed)
 - 7:00: Round 8 PF/LD, Round 6 BQ (if needed)
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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](#)