

## **BEST PRACTICES FOR ONLINE DEBATING, COACHING, AND JUDGING**

### **Prior to the tournament:**

1. Please make sure that you have familiarized yourself with the NSDA platform prior to the tournament. This is important for all debaters, coaches, and judges.
2. Please make sure that all of your competitors and judges have linked tabroom accounts.
3. Please doublecheck the schedule and time zone.
4. Make sure that you have reliable internet – it is recommended to hardwire into your router if possible. If it is not possible, position yourself as close to your router as possible.
5. Discuss protocols for pre-round coaching, team meetings, etc.

### **During the tournament (Judges)**

1. Please make sure that you are present for all check-ins prior to rounds.
2. When judging, internet stability and technology permitting, have your camera on.
3. When not speaking, please make sure that your microphone is muted.
4. Make sure to click "Start Round" at the scheduled start time to confirm that everyone is present.
5. Please submit your ballot prior to giving an oral critique (time permitting prior to the start of the next round).
6. Be reasonable with respect to technical issues. Avoid penalizing students for technology issues which are outside of their control.
7. Do not move any debate off of NSDA Campus. Should another platform need to be used, it will be up to the tournament director to make that call and set up an alternative meeting.
8. Here are some helpful hints/solutions to common technology issues that may arise in a round you are judging:
  - a. Lagging audio—have the student try turning off the video to improve bandwidth
  - b. Noise in the audio—have students mute themselves if they are not speaking
  - c. Video quality—try readjusting lighting or screen angle, turn off video if it can't be solved

d. Disconnection—wait a reasonable amount of time for participant to reconnect. Ask partner to call them to determine the problem. Switch devices if necessary. Adjust speaking time so as not to penalize for the dropped connection. Pick up where the speech was dropped.

### **During the tournament (Debaters)**

1. Make sure that you are able to isolate yourself, so there are no outside distractions (parents, siblings, pets, loud noises, etc).
2. Please make sure that you are present for all check-ins prior to rounds.
3. Please make sure that your microphones are muted when not speaking.
4. If you have technical difficulties during your round, treat them as if you were in person – reach out to your judge first. If they cannot resolve the issue, please notify the tournament director (Ryan Nierman).

\*\*If any issues arise during the tournament, please email or call/text Ryan Nierman at [ryannierman@gmail.com](mailto:ryannierman@gmail.com) or 248-892-7161.