



STATE DEBATE TOURNAMENT INVITATION

February 2021

Dear Coaches and Students:

You are cordially invited to the 2021 KHSSL State Debate Championship, which will be held **March 12-13 online via Tabroom Campus**. Note that the Final Rounds of the KHSSL State Senior Speech Tournament will be held between rounds of this tournament on Saturday, and any student who wishes to fully participate in both contests can and should do so. Please read this invitation thoroughly and carefully.

EVENTS AND REGISTRATION

State contests will be held in the following events.

- Congressional Debate
- Lincoln-Douglas Debate / Novice
- Lincoln-Douglas Debate / Varsity
- Policy Debate
- Public Forum Debate / Novice
- Public Forum Debate / Varsity

In each debate event, you may have **up to three (3) entries**. You may enter **up to 10 students** in Congressional Debate. **No doubling**.

Registration is on Tabroom at <http://khssldebatechampionship.tabroom.com/> and is due by **11 PM Eastern on February 27**. This is a firm deadline. Drop/Add will end nine days later on March 8 at 8 PM; no adds after. After February 27, adds go through the KHSSL email address ONLY (khsslboard@gmail.com) -- no texts or calls for changes. Automatic heavy penalties kick in for drops after March 8, so please try to be accurate early. See [KHSSL Handbook](#) pages 72 and 73 for a complete list.



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DEFINITION OF NOVICE

A novice debater shall be defined as any student in his/her first year of debate. That means if a student competed at Congress one time in a prior year or in a debate round one time in a prior year, that student is now a Varsity debater.

SCHEDULE AND ROUNDS

- Congressional Debate will have three 2-hour prelims and a 3-hour final session.
- Varsity and Novice Public Forum and Lincoln-Douglas shall compete in five preliminary rounds plus a Semifinal (best 4) and Final (winners of Semifinals) unless numbers require larger numbers of students in outrounds (see [Handbook](#) page 73).
- Policy is expecting a three-round Round Robin unless unexpected entries emerge. Schedule TBA.
- A full schedule of expected rounds is at the end of this invitation.

ENTRY FEES

Entry fees are \$12 per Congress entry, \$16 per Lincoln-Douglas entry (Novice or Varsity), and \$32 per Public Forum (Novice or Varsity) or Policy Debate team.

TOURNAMENT RULES

[The KHSSL Handbook](#) contains extensive information about how the State Tournament is put together and how tabulation determines advancement. Coaches are responsible for understanding these procedures and for explaining them to your team and their parents, your judges, etc.



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JUDGES

Judge Obligations and Hire Fees

- The judge quota is set at one judge required per five entries or fraction thereof for Congressional Debate
- The judge quota is set at one judge required per two entries for all other events.
- Teams may hire up to but not more than half your quota for \$130 each if you are bringing other judges, but you must provide at least half of your judges required regardless.
- It is considered standard operating procedure for the team coach to be one of the judges you bring as this is state tournament, and we want our best people in the judging pool to determine the state winners!
- All judges are obligated for all rounds. **Please note** that judges must be available the full day to count for the day, so no “Please no finals” requests unless you’re willing to pay the \$65 per day charge for a judge. We need you!
- It is not KHSSL’s norm to publish judge paradigms nor to honor requests for judge blocks without extraordinary circumstances. Contact the Executive Director with concerns.

Judge Training

From the Handbook regarding Debate Judges:

A qualified Debate judge is a judge who meets one of the following criteria:

- Judged at a minimum of one tournament during this season or during previous, recent seasons, and was trained either through the League’s Judge Training Program and/or by the coach of the School. (KHSSL recommends the [NFHS Judge Training Program](#) for judges new to Debate:
- Debated in High School and/or College
- Currently coaching or formerly coached



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CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

Due to screen restrictions, chambers of Congress will be restricted to thirteen participants per session (plus the Parliamentarian and two scorers). This is a pandemic-only rule change. In future years, we will return to chamber sizes as per [the Handbook](#).

Only **NEW legislation** may be submitted for KHSSL Congress. Violating this rule is a violation of the Code of Ethics.

Schools must **upload legislation through Tabroom** as part of their entry; limit of **three items per school**.

Students **MUST use established templates** to write legislation. That includes double-spacing, single page, and line numbers. See this website to download these templates:

<https://www.khssl.org/khssl-legislation-guidelines>

TABROOM AND CAMPUS

New judges should browse [here](#) and [here](#) to get started with establishing a Tabroom account.

Students without Tabroom accounts should browse [here](#) and follow instructions.

All debaters and judges will have to have accounts AND be linked to their school's account to participate in the state tournament. Get this finished early, not near the start of the tournament.

Information will be coming regarding school needs for Campus if you plan to have any students or judges work from school WiFi as they debate or judge. This information will be sent to registered coaches in early March.



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AWARDS

An awards program will be presented on the KHSSL YouTube channel at 7:30 PM Eastern on Monday, March 15 (immediately followed by the State Senior Speech Awards program). Coaches are strongly encouraged to plan watch parties with their teams (through virtual communications, of course).

In addition to the winners and high placement honors given in each event, speaker awards will also be given based on preliminary rounds in Debate events. I will mail out small awards soon after I receive your school's fees (or hand-deliver them in Lexington). For larger awards like team trophies (which are way too big to mail), you can expect in-person delivery from me in the Spring once I've been vaccinated (I'm 1C, so coming soon, but not yet). I look forward to a road trip of bling visits before June! If those winners' coaches make trips into Lexington before I've delivered (or if you have college students coming home for a weekend from UK or Transy, etc.), I'm happy to schedule a trophy exchange from their current resting place in my garage and send them to you that way.

I'll release ballots and scores later that evening so teams may have time to watch together, etc. Remember that students must be linked into your team Tabroom account (with their own Tabroom accounts established) to be able to see their ballots.

From the Executive Director:

It has been my honor to serve you during this year of new challenges. We will have a great debate tournament this year just as in years before. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you have about the event, and good luck to you and yours at the State Tournament! May the words be with you!

STEVE

Steve Meadows, Executive Director

Kentucky High School Speech League

khsslboard@gmail.com

859/927-1100 talk or text

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SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 27 (F)

Registration Deadline for STATE DEBATE, 11 PM Eastern.
Legislation Upload Deadline for Congressional Debate 11 PM Eastern (in Tabroom). Legislation released to schools by March 5.
Remember, legislation must be new/not debated elsewhere.

Over the next nine days, coaches can drop/add/sub in Tabroom or via email to khsslboard@gmail.com. Drops/Add's pay registration fee plus \$10. Subs free.

MARCH 8 (M)

Drop/Add Deadline 8 PM.

MARCH 12 (F)

6-8 PM Eastern	Congress Session 1
6 PM Eastern	Debate Round 1
7:15 PM Eastern	Debate Round 2

MARCH 13 (SAT)

8:30 – 10:30 AM Eastern	Congress Session 2
8:30 AM Eastern	Debate Round 3
10:00 AM Eastern	Debate Round 4
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM Eastern	Congress Session 3
1:00 PM Eastern	Debate Round 5
3:30 PM Eastern	Run-Offs as needed
<i>If also in 2nd half of Speech Finals, go to Debate first unless that final is Extemp – then go to Extemp first.</i>	
5:00 PM Eastern	Debate Semis
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM Eastern	Congress Final Session
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM Eastern	Debate Finals

If Debate Quarters needed due to numbers (not needed last year), schedule will adjust to start Debate rounds at 4:45 Eastern on Friday, round 2 of Debate at 6:00, round 3 at 8 PM Friday, and then adjust accordingly Saturday. Anticipate Policy Debate will be on a round robin schedule that will use many of these round times – stay tuned.

MARCH 15 (M)

7:30 PM Eastern AWARDS / KHSSL YOUTUBE channel