



Carolina West District Speech & Debate Tournament

Welcome to the Carolina West NSDA District Qualifier Tournaments. These tournaments will determine who competes from our district at the NSDA National Tournament, which will be held this year from June 12-17 in Louisville, KY.

Our district qualifier tournament for Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum, Policy, and all Speech events will be held March 5-6. Registration is at carolinawest.tabroom.com. For specific rules or questions that are not answered below, please consult the NSDA Unified Manual.

Due to the nature of school entry limits, we ask that you update your students' NSDA points through the NSDA's Point Application at least 10 days prior to the tournament they are entering. Students must have a minimum of 25 NSDA points on record, as well as be registered individually through the NSDA website to be eligible to compete at the District Tournament.

Additionally, all fees must be paid with the NSDA prior to competing at the tournament. Any school with outstanding NSDA fees will not be allowed to compete until those fees are paid in full.

Your first step in the registration process should be reading the updated NSDA High School Unified Manual, available on the NSDA website (<https://www.speechanddebate.org/>). We encourage you to print a copy for yourself or save a digital copy and have it on hand at the District Tournament. Most questions you may have during the qualification process can be answered directly by the Manual. Rules for each specific event can be found on pages 23-59. Procedures for tabulation and tournament management can be found on pages 75-90.

In accordance with NSDA rules, we will permit changes to registrations after the seven day deadline, but the registration must be received on Tabroom at least seven days ahead of the tournament (February 26th for LD/PF/Policy/Speech) to ensure entry into the tournament.

NOTE: For liability reasons, each school must have a faculty member present and fully available for the duration of the tournament, including registration. In lieu of a faculty member, the principal may designate an approved adult that will be present for the entire tournament and accept full responsibility for the team. This must be submitted ahead of the tournament in writing on school letterhead by the principal or headmaster. This applies to ALL tournaments in the series. Additionally, we cannot accept independent entries and, per NSDA rules, ONLY the faculty coach of record can register the team online and fill out the hard copy paperwork. Please adhere to this very important rule.

Please be sure to read the information in this invitation to ensure your registration is conducted properly. We look forward to seeing all of you at all three tournaments in this NSDA National Qualifier series!

Most sincerely,

Your Carolina West District Committee:

Keith Pittman (Asheville & SILSA), District Chair

Scott Bennett (NW Guilford), Member

Mike Bischoff (North Mecklenburg), Member

Megan Butt (Providence), Member

Patrick Moss (Chase & East Rutherford), Member



Tournament Guidelines

All district qualifying tournaments will follow the guidelines found on pages 60-90 of the NSDA Unified High School Manual. Some of the highlights of those rules are listed in this document. However, the Carolina West Committee encourages you to read the manual, as you will be responsible for following those rules and guidelines. In addition, the district committee has implemented additional guidelines for this tournament as noted below.

School Fee

Each school will be assessed a \$50 school fee in addition to individual student entry fees.

Entry Fees

This year since we are virtual with no host costs, we have again reduced entry fees to \$25 per student regardless of the number of events entered. This includes those who entered Congress in January. All students will owe only a one-time fee of \$25.

Drop Fees

Drop fees will be assessed at the following rates:

- LD/PF/Policy/Speech drops after 4 PM Friday, February 25th: Original cost of entry per event.
- LD/PF/Policy/Speech drops after 4 PM Wednesday, March 2nd : \$50 per student per event, plus original entry cost.
- Other drops after 8 AM Saturday, March 5th: \$100 per student per event plus original entry cost.

No drop fees will be assessed for any students that can be REPLACED with other NSDA members on your team. Please understand that the NSDA uses a "quota" system where the number of students who qualify for nationals is based on the number of entries in the event. So when you drop a contestant, you potentially lower the number of students from our district who can go to nationals in that event.

Entry Limits

A school's entry to the District Tournament is based around their degree strength on file with the NSDA. Tabroom will automatically show you the number of allowed entries based on your team's degree strength.



Double Entry Guidelines

- Students may double enter in any two speech events (including both Extempers if desired).
- Students may enter one speech event and one debate event if they choose.
- Students may not enter two debate events.
- Some speech events will run in the same time slots. Double entered students need to plan accordingly and know that some events will overlap. Please do not hold up the tournament. 15 minute forfeit rules may apply.
- Any student who wishes to double enter in more than one partner event must have the same partner for both events (This applies to Public Forum, Policy and Duo).
- Students may enter two events in addition to Congress, but no student may compete in more than 2 events if one is not Congress, and no student may compete in more than 3 events under any conditions.

All double or triple entered students must sign a single entry letter of intent indicating which event they would choose for NSDA Nationals in the event that they qualify in both. That letter is available for download in the right hand section of the district's Tabroom.com invitation page.

Rules Concerning Judges

1. Judges must have an active Tabroom.com account and be able to log into it.
2. Judges must have graduated from high school. First-year out judges may be registered, but are free strikes. **Coaches must designate any first-year out judge as such as part of the registration process. Failure to do so will result in the offending school losing all of its judge strikes and could result in the disqualification of the judge and forfeiture of the school's judge bond.**
3. Judges must be aware of all NSDA rules regarding event procedures, scoring, and requirements of the event you have placed them in. If a judge is unfamiliar with the rules and regulations, or unfit to judge (as determined by the District Committee) your judge bond will be forfeited and the judge will be disqualified..
4. Judges need to be available throughout the tournament. They should not leave the tournament until all rounds are completed. This is necessary because the elimination rounds require multiple judges and we cannot use "dirty" judges. Your judge bond is subject to be forfeited if your judge fails to show when called for a round until all judges have been cleared by the District Chair.
5. Judges may be used in both the Speech pool and Debate pool. The district committee will attempt to use your judges in the pool in which you place them. However, **any judge may be used for any event at any time.** Please make sure that each of your judges know this.
6. **Debate judges must be trained for and willing to judge both Lincoln Douglas and Public Forum.**



Judge Ratios

Every school **must** supply judges in the following ratios. **No hired judges will be available.**

- In Speech Events, 1 judge per 4 entries or fraction thereof.
- In Lincoln Douglas and Public Forum Debate, 1 judge per 2 entries or fraction thereof.
- In Policy Debate, 1 judge per 1 entry.

Schools not meeting their judge quota will be asked to drop the proportionate number of student entries.

Extra Judge Bonus Credit

Due to our incredible need for judges at this tournament due to paneling rounds, **teams will be issued a \$100 credit in their entry fees for each DEBATE judge provided that is OVER the team judge quota.** These judges must be at least one full year out of high school to receive this credit. Please let District Chair Keith Pittman know if you will be providing extra judges for fee credit.

Judge Bond

Since the tournament is virtual, we are waiving the usual \$200 judge bond. However, a \$50 fine will be assessed for each round missed by any judge. This will be strictly enforced. Please make sure all of your judges are present for each assigned round.

Judge Strikes

Each school may request to strike up to three judges. These strikes must be presented to the District Chair writing (or by marking them on Tabroom) prior to the end of final on site registration. Strike requests after that are at the discretion of the district committee and may not take effect immediately. However, no judge strike requests will be accepted after the first round begins. Judge strikes in the Debate and Speech tournament weekend are universal and apply to all events. In other words, a judge strike in LD will also be effective for all other speech and debate events. You may not request to strike a judge in one event only.

First-year out judges will be considered "free strikes" and do not count against a school's three strike limit. These strikes are unlimited.

In the event that the District Committee has to add judges to the judging pool after the list of judges is published, we will offer them to you as free strikes and they will not count against the three strike limit.

Judge strikes will be honored unless the committee determines that doing so would cause an unreasonable hardship to the tournament or that no other workable or reasonable options exist for judging a particular round.

Due to the number of schools in each Congress chamber, the committee cannot guarantee honoring strikes in House or Senate.



Competition Platform

The Carolina West District Tournament will use NSDA Campus as the virtual platform for all events. All events will be synchronous, including Duo Interpretation and Public Forum. Partners may perform/compete together or at separate locations depending on their school's policy. Judges should not penalize students for being together or separate.

Round Observation Policy

Due to NSDA Campus being a closed virtual platform, we will be unable to accommodate observers in rounds at any of this year's district tournaments.

Scripts & Manuscripts

All Interpretation and Oratory scripts are required to be available and on-site in the event of a challenge as required on pages 44-53 of the NSDA Unified Manual. These will not be taken up at registration. However, failure to produce these according to the exact specifications listed in the NSDA Unified Manual whenever requested could result in disqualification. **You are urged to read pages 44-53 carefully. In the event of a protest or challenge, simply producing the script is not enough.**

Presentation of Interpretation Performances:

All interpretation events, including Duo will be held synchronously. Judges should not penalize students for their natural surroundings or for audio or video quality of their virtual feed. Additionally, per instructions in the NSDA Unified Manual on page 72, we will be enforcing the following rule. *"Competitors may not use green screens, virtual backdrops, on-screen text, or professional equipment enhancements such as professional lighting kits or professional grade camera recording and audio devices during their performance in any event. Professional equipment includes items like softboxes or an auditorium's lighting system; use of these items is not permitted. Backdrops of a solid color with no special markings may be used by competitors and judges."*

Duo Interpretation:

Duo will be held synchronously with both competitors live together in the same room. The district will be using Option 1 on page 73 of the NSDA Unified Manual. Per that rule, separate rooms and screens are not permitted. Both partners must appear together. Masks may be used if required by the school of the participants. Students with masks are not to be penalized.

Tabulation of Speech Events

Three preliminary rounds will be held in each Speech event. At minimum, the top 25 percent of students in each event after preliminary rounds will break to elimination rounds. Preliminary rounds will have a minimum of one judge. Elimination rounds will have a minimum of three judges. Complete tabulation rules may be found on pages 88-91 of the NSDA Unified Manual

Tabulation of Policy Debate

We will use a round robin format for Policy Debate as described in Option 1 on page 76 of the NSDA Unified manual. If more than six teams enter, the committee will consider using the LD/PF option below and announce its decision prior to round one.



Tabulation of Lincoln Douglas and Public Forum Debate

We will hold four guaranteed preliminary rounds of both LD and PF. After round 4, all teams with a 4-0 or 3-1 record will advance to elimination rounds. We will use a ***double elimination bracket*** after the four guaranteed rounds as long as it is logistically possible within our two day schedule. If it is not reasonably logistically possible, the district committee will revert to a single elimination bracket and will make and publicize that decision and its rationale for the decision to the district within four days of the start of the tournament. Preliminary rounds will have one judge. Elimination rounds will have a minimum of three judges. Speaker points for all rounds will use a half point scale. We will break ties for alternates to nationals using Option 1 on page 81 of the NSDA Unified Manual. Please refer to pages 76-83 of the NSDA Unified Manual for complete tabulation protocols and rules.

Extemporaneous Speaking Topic Areas

The National Office of the NSDA will be providing questions for both United States and International Extemporaneous Speaking. These topic areas will be announced closer to the tournament. The Carolina West NSDA District Tournament will use cross examination in the final round, time permitting.

Congressional Debate

The Congressional Debate qualifiers were determined in January. Congress qualifiers are welcome to also enter this tournament in another event of their choice.

World Schools Debate

Carolina West will once again be fielding two World Schools teams at NSDA Nationals. These teams will consist of students who entered the district tournament in at least one event and either did not qualify for nationals or indicated in advance a preference for World Schools over their district event. A form will be sent to all coaches after the district tournament offering them the chance to nominate World School competitors. The district World Schools coaching staff will select the members within one month of the district tournament and notify the chosen team members and their head coaches

Protests & Decorum

We ask that you remind your judges and students that due to the nature of the District Tournament, emotions are typically high, and tempers short. We ask that students, judges and coaches work to maintain proper decorum throughout the tournament.

We ask that you are very aware of all rules in the NSDA Unified Manual. You should submit a protest only when you are sure that a rule has been violated. We will respond with serious attention. Protests are accusations. We want everyone to feel respected and honored as we conduct this tournament. Please handle the protest with tact, discretion and dignity. Do not involve a student in an unnecessary dispute.



Some additional notes:

- **Harassment:** Harassment, in any form, at any contest is prohibited and is grounds for disqualification. See policy below.
- **Disputes:** The District Committee has the full power to adjudicate disputes or interpretation of rules, but may not change the rules. The District Committee is authorized to determine how a rule is to be interpreted or applied in a specific dispute or critical question of procedure. If the District Committee cannot resolve, the National Office or acting Tournament Referee must be phoned for a ruling.
- **Protests:** Judges assigned by the tournament committee shall be final unless protested before the tournament has begun. If a judge is added to the judge pool after the tournament has begun, any protest must be made prior to the round in which that individual is assigned to judge. If protested, the District Committee shall hear the protest, and its decision will be final. Members of the District Committee involved should recuse themselves.
- **Protest Committee:** This is made up of the district committee. If a district committee member must recuse themselves, the member may be replaced by a District Chair from outside of the district or a member of another district committee, if present, at the tournament.

Tab Room, Audit, and Results Posting Policy

The Carolina West District Committee has an open tab room policy. Coaches-of-record are welcome to visit the tab room at any time and observe or review any activity within the tab room. The only exception is in the rare event when the district committee may need to meet in an executive session to deliberate on a matter requiring the sensitivity of a closed door session. In these cases, the committee will be transparent with the involved coaches about its decision.

Head coaches are always welcome in the Tab Room. The name of every additional adult that a school plans to use as an authorized coach of record should be submitted to the District Chair by the conclusion of final registration. Schools are encouraged to designate more than one adult coach of record in case the Head Coach is unavailable. All designated coaches of record must be approved by their school's administration. Only head coaches and pre-designated coaches of record will have tab room access.

The Carolina West District Committee will employ a neutral Tab Room Manager with no affiliation to Carolina West. In 2022, this will once again be Greg Malis of Louisiana. The hands on pairing of rounds and judge assignments will be done exclusively by the neutral Tab Room Manager with the Chair and Committee assisting as needed but never without the presence of the Tab Room Manager.

All results will pass an initial committee audit before being released to coaches. As noted earlier, all coaches-of-record are welcome to be present to observe the initial audit.



In Speech events, results (ranks and points) are made available to all coaches-of-record at the end of each round but will not be publicly posted. It is the responsibility of each coach to check the results in the tab room if they choose to do so and report any potential errors to the District Chair within one round, per NSDA policy. Specific ballot comments are available to coaches only upon request.

In Debate events, results (without ballot comments) are publicly posted at the conclusion of each round except finals. Coaches-of-record have the right to request to see written comments from the ballot with the understanding that Tabroom allows judges to add additional comments later so the comment portion of the ballot may be incomplete. It is the responsibility of each coach to check the publicly posted results if they choose to do so and report any potential errors to the District Chair within one round, per NSDA policy. Coaches may see additional information from the ballot besides results upon request in the tab room.

If coaches believe errors in tabulation have occurred, they must first address the issue with the District Committee in a timely fashion. If the tournament is still in progress, the protest should be lodged within one round of the audit being available to coaches.

A final round audit for coaches-of-record only will be made available before the posting of awards. It is the affirmative duty of the coach to request to see the audited results, as they will not be publicly posted at that time. Coaches who request to see and personally audit the final results prior to awards shall not be denied that opportunity. Coaches are asked to not reveal final round results to students after inspecting the results but may reveal results prior to finals to their own students if they choose.

It is the affirmative duty of coaches to hold the District Committee accountable to their published auditing procedures and use this procedure to check results after each round. If a district is not auditing results and/or providing the audit to a coach representative, the coach representative should file a protest to the Committee, citing this procedural violation. If a protest is filed, the District Committee is required to contact the NSDA ombudsperson for a ruling.

Carolina West District Harassment and Discrimination Policy

The Carolina West 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. The NSDA prohibits all forms of harassment and discrimination. 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 premises. Violations of this policy should be reported to the tournament Ombudsman, the District Chair or a member of the Carolina West District Committee.



District Student of the Year

With the level of integrity, intellect and character that is among the student population in each district, the NSDA is proud to announce the implementation of the NSDA District Student of the Year award.

Each coach may nominate one student who exemplifies the leadership practices and positive qualities set forth by the National Speech and Debate Association.

The award will be based on coach nominations only. Nominations should be in the form of a 500-word

(or fewer) essay about the nominee and his or her service, passion and dedication to the district, the NSDA, and the activity of forensics. Nominations will be collected and reviewed by the District Chair and his or her committee. Whoever receives the strongest nominations for the award should receive the award.

The winner of the District Student of the Year award will receive a plaque from the National Speech and Debate Association during the Awards Ceremony of the District Tournament. His or her District Chair will present the award

To nominate, each nominee should reflect the following standard:

- A nominee must be an NSDA member in his or her senior year of high school.
- The nominee should uphold the NSDA Code of Honor.
- The nominee should demonstrate strong academic standards.
- The nominee should demonstrate participation in a wide array of community involvement and service.
- The nominee should exhibit dedication and commitment to the NSDA and forensics.

The nomination form can be found here:

<https://www.speechanddebate.org/student-of-the-year-nomination-form/>

To be considered, your form must be submitted by March 4th at 4 PM.

District Coach of the Year (Head, Assistant, New)

"The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in speech and debate. Students should be treated with the utmost respect, and their welfare should be considered in decisions by coaches at all times."

We want to recognize the coaches in our District that embody the tenants of the Coaches Code of Ethics. To that end, nominations will be taken for **Coach of the Year, Assistant Coach of the Year and New Coach of the Year**. A nomination process followed by a vote of head coaches will determine the Coach of the Year. For Assistant Coach of the Year and New Coach of the Year, the winner will be determined by a neutral committee from among those nominated.

Nomination forms for all three of these awards can be found at this link:

<https://www.speechanddebate.org/coach-recognition/> (Scroll toward the bottom.)

To be considered, your form must be submitted by Friday, March 4th at 4 PM.