



January 20, 2022

Dear Coach and Colleague,

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Greetings as we delve into the second half of the ever-charging school year, and approach the National Qualifying Tournament series. Important changes will occur this year regarding these events. PLEASE read and print this information for reference. For those who are new to this process, and for those who have done this for a long time, this information is important going forward. Presently, it has been determined that the majority of the District Tournaments will be held in person, with the exception of the Big Questions qualifier, which will be held virtually over a 4-day period.

To begin this series, the New Jersey District Big Questions Qualifier has been scheduled for February 23-27, 2022, leading up through the Montville Tournament and the District Congress. **The District Congress will be in-person at Ridge High School while the Montville tournament will be virtual on February 26th.** Registration for all District Tournaments must be completed at www.tabroom.com; you have probably already noticed the series posted on the Tabroom site. **The Big Questions registration will be due on Saturday February 12th; District Congress must be entered by Saturday, February 19th, 2022. Legislation will also be due on or before February 19th.** All registrations open one month prior to each event.

The New Jersey District Speech and Debate Tournament will be held for all NJ District members on Friday and Saturday, March 25th and 26th, 2022. As this tournament will be in person at Delbarton School, it is our hope that we can begin registration at 3:00 pm on Friday, and thus end at a reasonable time on Saturday. The primary reason we have moved Big Questions to a virtual format was to guarantee shortening the length of this Speech and Debate event. If you want to participate in any, or all of these tournaments, make certain that you have paid your NSDA dues and any outstanding balances for new members wishing to participate. All materials regarding registration for Speech and Debate MUST be completed by Saturday, March 19th, the second day of the State Tournament. ***Please be vigilant about paying dues, recording points, and making certain, that at the very least, you have had your competitors register as a member of the NSDA, so that their degrees will count towards your point total.*** You will know that a member has completed the process if a check appears to the right of his or her name. We would like to continue to be recipients of the bonus entries going forward, so PLEASE be vigilant regarding this process. As of this writing, our District's point recording is drastically down. This threatens the luxury of qualifying three entries per category next year. For returning members, you know the drill. Pay your National dues, and enter points. I know the system takes getting used to, but auto-post is much improved. BUT, auto-post will not work on Tabroom and the

NSDA website if your students are not on your roster. For Speechwire tournaments, entry points sometimes still need to be recorded, but having e-ballots has made it easier. SO...please just find the time to update your memberships, your points, and your degrees. If you are new to the process, please reach out, I am more than willing to help.

World Schools Debate Team:

Once again, we have available the World Schools Debate program format to qualify students for TWO teams to Nationals. Immediately following the District Tournaments, New Jersey will create a blended, interscholastic team to compete in the international program. Each team will consist of 3-5 students (5 being the preferred number) who will train, practice, and ultimately compete as a unit. Any students who are interested in participating in this event must have competed in any of this year's upcoming District Tournaments (Congress, Speech, and/or Debate) and has or has not initially qualified in their main event. If they so choose, students may preference the World Team above the other qualifying events. Should any student (or an alternate) eventually qualify in another preferred main event, he or she can accept that main event, and an alternate will replace that contestant, should the World Teams drop below 4. Any student who expresses a desire to compete must be willing to work amicably with the cohort and strive to create a collegial atmosphere representative of Team New Jersey. They should apply with the understanding that they will meet 5 or 6 times either on ground or virtually (dependent upon future circumstances) at a mutually agreed upon time, and work online as a unit prior to Nationals. Any student interested in participating in this event, should send me a letter/ essay on or before Sunday, March 6th stating his or her intentions to participate, what contributions he or she could bring to the team, and why the District Committee should consider his or her application. The following link will give your students an idea of what they are to expect: <https://www.speechanddebate.org/competition-events/>. Scroll down to World School Debate.

Beginning with our first showing at the last National tournament in Dallas, New Jersey has had recognized top speakers, and has consistently advanced to out rounds, placing 3rd in Birmingham in 2016. We are hopeful that the teams we will assemble this year will perpetuate the legacy our prior teams first established. **This event is not exclusive to debaters, as all events have skill sets that cross apply in this collaborative format.** Students may submit their essays to me through email at either marytuff@aol.com, mgormley@delbarton.org as well as by mail to: Mary Gormley, 41 Genoble Road, Monville, NJ 07045. Should there be any questions or concerns regarding applicants, we reserve the right to reach out to the coach of record for feedback.

This year the deadline date of March 6th is emphatic. As a District Committee we would like to have ample time to review the applications, and determine whether an added step of competition should be added. NSDA would like the teams announced with the rest of the District results, or very soon thereafter.

For those unfamiliar with Big Questions, the same link provided for World Schools will lead you to an explanation of this event. <https://www.speechanddebate.org/topics/>

This year's BQ resolution is: **Resolved: On balance, societies benefit from religious belief and practice.**

Once again, make sure your NSDA membership fees are up-to-date, and that your competition points are recorded. Doing this helps your students, your school, and your district.

Thank you for all that you do,

Discard all old manuals and familiarize yourself with the new information found at the NSDA website. This tournament is evolving but remains intense, designed for optimum fairness and preparation for the National Tournament in Louisville, KY. Be patient with the District Committee as we fulfill our obligations to follow the dynamics in the guidelines and rules.

All original documents with necessary signatures must be handed in order for your students to participate. Be proactive in your responsibility. ALL guidelines for registration can be found in the newly revised District Manual found on www.speechanddebate.org . Particulars concerning our tournament can be found on the checklist. To avoid disqualification, PLEASE make certain all rules regarding interpretation and public address are followed implicitly.

You are required to register at www.tabroom.com. All original documents and fees must be handed in the day of the tournament.

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT TOURNAMENT SERIES CHECKLIST

- Renew NSDA team membership; enter new members (include emails and passwords); update points; pay individual membership fees for all new members with 25+ points.
- Link all NSDA members to Tabroom: this guarantees eligibility for Districts; connects NSDA for auto-posting points. **Make sure that each student's name is identical on each platform.**
- Registration opens on Tabroom on January 23rd for Big Questions Tournament which will take place virtually over a 3–5-day period (TBD by the number of entries). The current plan is that there will be 2 rounds on Wednesday, February 23rd 2 on Thursday, February 24th with out rounds on Friday, February 25th . The final round will be held either in person during the Montville/District Congress Tournament (should both contestants be present) or virtually that day, or on Sunday, February 27th . The winner and runner-up of this event qualify to Nationals. Should the champion or runner-up qualify in a Main Event, the alternate(s) will advance. BQ does not appear on the preferential form.

- **BIG QUESTIONS TOURNAMENT:** begins FEBRUARY 23rd : ALL NSDA outstanding bills have been paid; COACH REGISTRATION FORM MUST BE SIGNED AND SUBMITTED.
- Registration opens on Tabroom on January 26th for District Congress (House and Senate) to be held during the Montville tournament on February 26th. Registration and Legislation is due on February 19th. Legislation should use the NSDA template and be sent to me at marytuff@aol.com.
- **DISTRICT CONGRESS:** FEBRUARY 26TH: ALL NSDA outstanding bills have been paid; COACH REGISTRATION FORM MUST BE SIGNED AND SUBMITTED.
- Registration opens on Tabroom on February 25th for all IE Speech and Debate (LD; PF; CX). At this time, all students who are, or have been, entered in more than one event, or have applied to the World Team MUST also submit a Single Letter of Intent, Part B. All students who had auto-qualified at last year's Nationals MUST complete Part A. This form can be found here: <https://www.speechanddebate.org/district-tournament-single-entry-letter-of-intent/>.
- **WORLD TEAM APPLICATION ESSAYS DUE:** MARCH 6th to marytuff@aol.com or mgormley@delbarton.org
- **SPEECH AND DEBATE TOURNAMENTS:** FRIDAY, MARCH 25TH & SATURDAY, MARCH 26TH: ALL NSDA outstanding bills have been paid; COACH REGISTRATION FORM MUST BE SIGNED AND SUBMITTED!
- **All student preferences must also be made on Tabroom before the Speech and Debate portion of the series commences. That checklist is used when we determine the qualifiers who move up in the cue when a student has opted for another event for which they have qualified.**
- ALL titles for an Original Oratory, Informative, and POIs, and all titles and authors for an HI, DI, and DUO must also be entered on Tabroom before the onset of the tournament.

Payment should be made to the New Jersey Speech and Debate League
Attn. Adam Leonard

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary T. Gormley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Mary T. Gormley,
NJ District Chair
Delbarton School