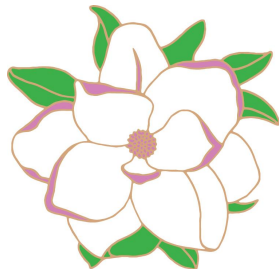


On behalf of the Magnolia Speech and Debate District Committee, Jackson Preparatory School, Germantown High School, and Hattiesburg High School, all active member schools of the Magnolia Speech & Debate District are invited to register for the 2023 Magnolia District Qualifier Tournament Series. The tournament series spans three weekends and locations:



1. February 24-25, Debate @ Jackson Prep (Flowood)
2. March 3-4, Congress @ Germantown (Madison)
3. April 1, Speech @ Hattiesburg

Registration is now open at magnolia.tabroom.com

Please read over the information below and contact micah.everson406@gmail.com with any questions. Also, check out <https://www.speechanddebate.org/all-about-districts/>

The information below is presented as a guide, not a comprehensive rule book. Coaches and competing students should be sure to read and review the relevant sections of the NSDA Unified Manual which can be found here: <https://www.speechanddebate.org/high-school-unified-manual/>.

In the most recent version of the manual (Oct 13, 2022), the event rules start on page 24.

Guidelines for the district qualifier tournaments start on page 61. There is usually an update to the manual in January or February. I will keep coaches informed of any changes. **For returning coaches, this year's qualifiers will run practically the same as last year.** (But remember that we are no longer using the double-down format in either Speech or Debate.) There are no significant changes for registering or competing in the tournament. **For new coaches**, make sure that you read through all the information below to get a sense of how the tournament works.

Here is the breakdown of the events each weekend:

Weekend 1 - Debate

Feb 24-25

@ Jackson Prep

- Policy
- Public Forum
- Lincoln-Douglas
- Big Questions

Weekend 2 - Congress

Mar 3-4

@ Germantown

- House
- Senate

Weekend 3 - Speech

Apr 1 (Saturday only)

@ Hattiesburg

- US Extemp
- International Extemp
- Original Oratory
- Informative
- Program Oral Interp
- Dramatic Interp
- Humorous Interp
- Duo Interp

Notable differences from MHSAA events:

- Big Questions is added to Debate events; Congress is split into House & Senate

- Many MHSAA speech events are not included (Dec, Impromptu, Prose, Poetry, Duet Acting, Storytelling, Expos), and Extemp is split into International and United States.

Eligibility, entry limits, and fee information below apply to all three weekends. More details for each individual weekend can be found further below.

Supervision

A **coach must be present** on campus at all times during the competition. Students without a coach present will not be allowed to compete.

Deadlines

Like most tournaments in Mississippi, the deadline for registration will be Monday night the week of the tournament. The deadline for judges will be Tuesday night. Also like most tournaments, it is extremely helpful both for planning and troubleshooting if you are able to get tentative entries registered well in advance.

School Eligibility

- To compete at District qualifiers, schools must be **paid member schools** of the NSDA.
- Also, any outstanding fees to the NSDA (usually student membership fees) **must be paid in full before a school competes** at any of the three weekends of the tournament. This applies even if the unpaid student is not competing - *all* fees for a school must be paid.
- You can check all fee information by logging into your www.speechanddebate.org account and going to “School Finances” in the left-hand menu.

School Entry Limits

- All schools may enter up to 2 students in the Senate.
- School entries in the House are dependent on team strength. (The more degrees you have, the more entries you get in the House.)
- School entries in all categories other than Congress and Big Questions are limited to 4 entries per school, per event **and** to an overall cap on entries which is determined by team strength. (Again, the more degrees you have, the more entries you get.)
- You can see your school’s strength on your NSDA school profile (log in at speechanddebate.org). Then find your number of entries allowed by referencing the “Entry Allotment” charts at <https://www.speechanddebate.org/district-tournaments/>.
- Big Questions is special - entry limits do not apply.

Student Eligibility

- In order to compete at any District qualifier, students **must** have already earned the **degree of Merit** (25 NSDA points). Those points must be **posted** through the coach’s NSDA (speechanddebate.org) account prior to tournament registration.
- Students must have also **created an account** on speechanddebate.org and linked to their school, and student **membership fees** (\$20) must have been paid. (Coaches, not students, handle membership fees through the school NSDA account.)

Student Entry limits

- Generally speaking, students are limited to **three events** across the three weekends: one entry in Congress, and two entries in other events.
- Big Questions is the exception - it does not count towards any entry limits. However, because all debate events happen at the same time, a student who enters Big Questions *may not* enter Policy, Public Forum, or Lincoln-Douglas.
- Congress weekend: a student may enter the House or Senate, but not both.
- Debate weekend: a student may enter ONE event: PF, Policy, LD, or BQ.
- Speech weekend
 - a student who already competed in PF, Policy, or LD may enter ONE event.
 - a student who already competed in Big Questions may enter TWO events.
 - a student who did not compete at all in the debate weekend may enter TWO events.
 - but no student may enter BOTH International Extemp and US Extemp
 - Senate/House entries have no bearing on speech entries
- Thus, the **maximum** a student could enter is four events: one Congress, Big Questions, and two speech (but not both Extemp). A student who does not enter Big Questions would be limited to three events.

School Fees

\$25 per school, per weekend of competition

Student Fees

\$10 per student, per event (meaning partner events cost \$20)

Judge Fees

\$30 per missing judge in Debate & Speech - see additional notes on judges below under each weekend.

Late Fees

\$10 per registration change after Monday evening deadline

All fees are paid to **Magnolia Speech & Debate**.

Debate Weekend

February 24-25 at Jackson Prep (Flowood)
Public Forum, Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Big Questions

Topics

Public Forum - Feb 2023 NSDA Topic

Resolved: In the United States, right-to-work laws do more harm than good.

Policy - 2022-2023 NFHS Topic

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its security cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in one or more of the following areas: artificial intelligence, biotechnology, cybersecurity.

Lincoln-Douglas - Jan-Feb 2023 NSDA Topic

Resolved: Justice requires open borders for human migration.

Big Questions - 2022-2023 NSDA Topic

Resolved: Humans are primarily driven by self-interest.

Schedule (tentative)

Friday, February 24

- 4:00pm - On-Site Registration
- 4:30pm - Round 1, all events
- 5:30pm - PF/LD/BQ Round 2
- 6:00pm - CX Round 2
- 7:30pm - PF/LD/BQ Round 3
- 8:00pm - CX Round 3
- 9:00pm - PF/LD/BQ Round 4
- *We will accelerate the schedule when possible, but our priority is getting the pairings right so that we don't have to re-do anything.*
- *We must start the last round of the night by 9:30pm. Rounds will be bumped to Saturday if not started by 9:30pm.*

Saturday, February 25

- 8:30am - PF/LD/BQ Round 5, CX Round 4
- 10:30am - PF/LD/BQ Round 6 (likely quarterfinals)
- 11:00am - CX Round 5
- 12:30pm - PF/LD/BQ Round 7 (likely semifinals)

- 1:00pm - CX Round 6 (if necessary)
- 2:30pm - PF/LD/BQ Round 8 (likely not necessary)
- 4:30pm (or earlier) - Awards

Policy Schedule is tentative - will likely be a round robin.

Qualifiers

In all events except Big Questions, our district will have **2** national qualifiers, unless...

1. There are fewer than 4 entries in an event. Then we do not get to hold the event and we have no national qualifiers.
2. There are 30 or more entries in an event. Then we get **3** national qualifiers in that event.
3. There are 50 or more entries in an event. Then we get **4** national qualifiers in that event.

In Big Questions, there must be at least 10 entries to get **2** national qualifiers. If fewer than 10, we get *no* national qualifiers. We cannot get more than 2 national qualifiers.

Debate Judges

- Every school competing must provide **at least** one judge for the tournament's duration. You may not "buy out" *all* of your judging obligations.
- One judge is obligated for every **two debate entries**.
- Uncovered judge obligations will be charged \$30 each.
- Please bring judges, even above and beyond your obligation. Qualifier tournaments in particular thrive or grind to a halt based on judge availability.
- Judges should watch the 6 min video and read the brief materials on judging Debate found on the NSDA Website: <https://www.speechanddebate.org/judge-training/>. NFHS training is also strongly encouraged (ask me about that if you don't know about it).

Congress Weekend

March 3-4 at Germantown (Madison)
House, Senate

Legislation

Each school may (read: *should*) submit 2 pieces of legislation (either bill or resolution) for the bill book. The deadline to submit legislation is **Friday, February 3**. Please email legislation to micah.everson406@gmail.com. Make sure that it is in the [proper NSDA format](#). I would strongly encourage using **Google Docs**, if possible. Templates for Google Docs are available using the link above. *Do not submit legislation to me as a "pages" document.* Legislation will be publicly posted no later than **February 10**.

Schedule (tentative)

Friday, Mar 4

- On-Site Registration & Judges Meeting- 4:15-4:45pm
- Preliminary Session 1 - 5:00pm-8:30pm

Saturday, Mar 5

- Preliminary Session 2 - 8:30am-12:00pm
- Final Session - 1:30pm-5:00pm
- Awards Ceremony - 6:30pm

Qualifiers

Senate (# of schools/entries matters)

- In the Senate, we are guaranteed 2 national qualifiers as long as we have at least 6 schools and 10 students competing. **(This is a change from previous years.)**
- If we do not reach 6 schools *and* 10 students, our district will have no Senate qualifiers.

House (# of entries matters)

- In the House, we must have a minimum of 16 competitors. Fewer than 16 = no qualifiers.
- Our number of national qualifiers will depend on the number of entries:
 - 16-29 entries = 2 national qualifiers
 - 30-58 entries = 4 national qualifiers
 - 59-87 entries = 6 national qualifiers
 - 88-116 entries = 7 national qualifiers

Congress Judges

- Every school competing is expected to provide **one unaffiliated judge** for the Congress weekend. This must not be a parent of competitors, teacher, coach, or otherwise school-affiliated individual. A school alum who is at least 4 years removed from competition and does not know the current team's students would be acceptable.
- Judges should watch the 4 min video and read the brief materials on judging Congress specifically found on the NSDA Website: <https://www.speechanddebate.org/judge-training/>
- Unaffiliated judges and parliamentarians are required by NSDA rules. As in previous years, a coach who has no House entries may be asked to Parli in the Senate or vice versa.

Speech Weekend

April 1 at Hattiesburg
OO, IX, USX, Info, POI, DI, HI, Duo

Schedule (Tentative)

Saturday, April 1

There are **no flights**. All events will proceed following the same schedule, judge supply allowing.

- 8:00am-9:00am - On-Site Registration
- 9:00am - Round 1, *all events*
- 10:30am - Round 2, *all events*
- Noon - Round 3, *all events*
- 2:00pm - 1st Elim round, *most events*
- 3:30pm - 2nd Elim round, *some events*
- 5:00pm - 3rd Elim round, *if necessary*
- 6:30pm - Awards Ceremony - *will be pushed earlier if possible*

Qualifiers

In all speech events, our district will have **2** national qualifiers, unless...

1. There are fewer than 4 entries in an event. Then we do not get to hold the event and we have no national qualifiers.
2. **There are 30 or more entries** in an event. Then we get **3** national qualifiers in that event.
 - a. (We definitely can pull this off in at least a few events!)
3. There are 50 or more entries in an event. Then we get **4** national qualifiers in that event.

Speech Judges

- Every school competing must provide **at least** one judge for the tournament's duration. You may not "buy out" *all* of your judging obligations.
- One judge is obligated for every **five speech entries**.
- Uncovered judge obligations will be charged \$30 each.
- Please bring judges, even above and beyond your obligation. **Qualifier tournaments in particular either move quickly or grind to a halt based on judge availability.**
- Judges should watch the 4 min video and read the brief materials on judging Speech found on the NSDA Website: <https://www.speechanddebate.org/judge-training/>. NFHS training is also strongly encouraged (ask me about that if you don't know about it).