



New Mexico Speech and Debate Coaches:

You and your team are cordially invited to the Seventh Annual Capitol Congress at the New Mexico State Capitol, a.k.a. the Roundhouse, on Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2024.

The New Mexico Speech and Debate Association proudly sponsors this tournament, which represents a unique opportunity for students to simulate the legislative process in an authentic legislative environment.

Events:

Competitors may register in either House or Senate. Each school shall be limited to 2 entries in Senate (pending review based on registration numbers and interest) while registration in House shall not be capped. Senate slots should be filled by each team's most experienced, motivated, and skilled competitors.

Novices should be registered in House (though they are not outright barred from entry in Senate), but these chambers will be mixed. Non-novice competitors registered in House are encouraged to use their experience to help novices develop their skills and learn parliamentary procedure. The tournament director will strive to ensure that each House chamber features a productive balance of novice and non-novice competitors.

Awards:

- In each House chamber, the top three overall competitors shall be recognized, as well as the top three novice competitors.
- In the Senate, the top five overall competitors shall be recognized. There shall be no official recognition of novices in Senate.
- Placings within each chamber will be determined by the lowest cumulative ranks from all judges of both sessions, with the parliamentarian's rankings used as tiebreaker.
- It is incumbent upon each coach to email a list of novices to the tournament director by the registration deadline, and to ensure that each student on that list meets the NMSDA's novice criteria for Congress. N.B. The NMSDA is piloting a set of new novice guidelines this year, which are included in full at the bottom of this invitation.

Submitting Legislation: E-mail proposed legislation John.Russell@navajoprep.com no later than midnight on Thursday, September 5. Dockets will be published no later than Sunday, September 8.

- Session One legislation will have *federal* jurisdiction.
- Session Two legislation will have *statewide* jurisdiction.
- All schools may submit one piece of legislation for each session, keeping in mind the jurisdiction for each session.
- In order to keep the number of items on each docket reasonable given

Important Dates:

Legislation due: Thursday, Sept. 5

Entries due in Tabroom and list of novices emailed to tournament director: Wednesday, Sept. 11

Legislation distributed: Sunday, Sept. 8

Final Entries due: Friday, Sept. 13

Fees:

Each student registration is **\$10**. Cash is acceptable. Checks should be made out to: New Mexico Speech and Debate Association and paid at registration.

Lunch:



Schools are responsible for providing lunch for their students. The lunch break is short, so bringing your own lunch is a very good idea.

Judging Obligation: Schools will be required to submit 1 judge for every 5 students competing.

Schedule:

8:30am - 9:00am: Opening Meeting on the Senate Floor

9:00am - 11:30am: Session One (federal)

11:30am - 12:00 pm: Lunch break

12:00 pm - 2:30 pm: Session Two (state)

2:30pm (or ASAP): Awards Ceremony

We hope you will join us for this early kick-off to the 2024-25 Speech and Debate season!

Sincerely,

Adelynn Rizvi

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Addendum: 2024-2025 NMSDA Novice Guidelines (being piloted this season)

- 1.E.iii. Novice divisions will be offered in CX, LD, and PF (subject to divisions collapsing pending entry numbers, see “Running the State Debate Tournament). The top performing novice in Congress and in each speech event will be recognized, but there is not a separate novice division (see “Running the State Congress Tournament” and “Running the State Speech Tournament”). If practicable, the top novice competitor in any collapsed debate divisions should also be recognized. N.B. The top novice competitor shall only be recognized if there is more than one novice competing in the event.
- 2.C.iii. Eligibility for Novice divisions
- 2.C.iii.a. No student in their third year of competition shall be classifiable as a novice in any form of speech or debate.
- 2.C.iii.b. No student who has broken to an elimination round at a State or District Championship shall be classifiable as a novice in any form of speech or debate. For any events that do not run elimination rounds at either of these events, any ranking in the top three shall have the same effect.
- 2.C.iii.c. No student who has attended and competed at the National Speech and Debate Tournament at either the high school or middle school level shall be classifiable as a novice in any form of speech or debate, with the exception of students who competed in supplemental events only. .
- 2.C.iii.d. In debate events (Congress included), a novice is defined as any student in their first year of competition OR a student who has competed in fewer than 8 rounds, cumulatively, in the previous season in any style of Debate (Big Questions, Congress, Extemp Debate, Lincoln-Douglas, Policy, Public Forum, World Schools) and who is not declassified for any of the reasons stated in 2.C.iii.a-c.



- 2.C.iii.e. In speech events, a novice is defined as any student in their first year of competition OR a student who has competed in fewer than 8 rounds, cumulatively, in the previous season in any style of Speech, including supplemental events, and who is not declassified for any of the reasons stated in 2.C.iii.a-c.
- 2.C.iii.f. It shall be the responsibility of each student's coach to communicate the novice designations of their competitors to tournament directors properly and punctually. For speech events, novice designation shall be communicated via the checkbox in Tabroom. For any debate event running a separate novice division, novice designation shall be communicated simply through registration in the novice division (N.B. a novice student may compete in varsity if desired but cedes any claim to special recognition in doing so). For any debate event not running a separate novice division, whether by design or due to low registration numbers, novice designation shall be communicated via a clear email to the tournament director to be sent by the end of the tournament's registration deadline (or, if a division collapse occurs after the registration deadline, within 24 hours of notification of the collapse) when requested by the tournament director. Should a coach neglect to communicate novice designations properly and punctually, the tournament director shall be under no obligation to rectify any issues with novice recognition or classification.