



South Carolina Congressional Debate IN PERSON District Tournament

Senate will have TWO preliminary sessions and no finals.
House will have ONE preliminary session, followed by finals.

Congress Tournament Schedule – In Person at Eastside HS, February 1, 2025

8:00AM – 8:30 AM: Opening Assembly
8:30 AM – 11:00 AM: Senate Session 1 / House Preliminary Session
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Lunch
1:00 PM – 3:30 PM: Senate Session 2 / House Finals
TBA: Awards

Congress Rules and Procedures

The Congressional Debate will follow the ranking and placement guidelines that are in the NSDA Unified Manual. The Congressional Debate rules are listed on pages 43-54 and on 90-95. Listed below are some of the highlights as well as local district policies.

A selection from January NSDA legislation packets will be chosen by the district committee and posted at <http://southcarolina.tabroom.com> by January 10, 2025. There will be three pieces designated for each session with two backup pieces of legislation that may be used only in the event that all legislation for a given session has been fully debated.

Entry Limits

The number of students you may enter to the Congressional Debate portion is determined by the members and degrees that your school has on record as of January 25, 2025 at 5 PM EST. Please enter all NSDA points prior to this date and time.

<u>NSDA Degrees</u>	<u>Senate</u>	<u>House</u>
1-20	2	2
21-35	2	3
36-55	2	4
56-75	2	5
76-100	2	6
101-150	2	7
151-200	2	8
201-250	2	9
251-300	2	10
301-350	2	11

Placement in Houses

Coaches may request which of their students are in the same chambers with each other as long as the students are evenly divided among chambers. Coaches may not, however, request that their students be placed in chamber with certain students from other schools.

Presiding Officers

There will be only one Presiding Officer per session. At the beginning of Session One, the Parliamentarian will conduct the election. At the end of the first Senate session, this process is repeated to determine the Presiding Officer for the second session. No student may preside twice in Senate preliminary chambers unless no other student is willing to preside. In the House Finals, there will also only be one Presiding Officer. That election takes place using the same protocol as the preliminary session listed above. The Presiding Officer in House Finals may or may not have presided in the preliminary session.

Docket Setting

Each session will have three pieces of legislation that may only be debated in that session. Additionally, there will be two pieces of backup legislation which may only be used if the legislation in a session is completely exhausted after a full debate. The docket order for the first session will be set by a traditional Ways and Means process where a single committee of one representative per school meets at the front of the room at the beginning of the session to choose the order of the docket for the first session only. The docket is then presented to the chamber as a whole for a vote and passes as long as a simple majority of the chamber is in agreement. If the committee cannot get a simple majority vote of the chamber, it goes back to work and proposes a new agenda. Once the agenda proposed by the Ways and Means committee is approved by a simple majority vote of the chamber, it may not be amended during the day without unanimous consent of the chamber. However, any docket change cannot add the backup legislation or legislation from another session. Only primary legislation for that session can be involved in a docket revision. Backup legislation can only be debated after primary legislation is fully debated and must be debated in the exact order that it is listed.

In the case of the Senate, the docket order for the second session will use the same process and will be set at the end of the first session before the lunch recess. The House Finals docket order will be chosen in the same way at the beginning of the final session.

Recency and Direct Questioning:

Preset, randomized recency will be used in every round of Congressional Debate at the National Tournament. All district tournaments must use preset, randomized recency in Congressional Debate.

Direct questioning will be used in every round of Congressional Debate at the National Tournament. All district tournaments must use direct questioning in Congressional Debate.

Senate Qualifiers

The South Carolina District is able to qualify two senators for the district as long as at least six schools and 10 students enter the Senate. This is done through a standard two session Congress with a single Senate chamber. Top two finishers will qualify. IF we fail to have 6 schools and 10 students, we will not hold a Senate chamber. Remember that each school may enter 2 senators!

House Qualifiers

House of Representatives: A district must have a minimum of 16 competitors to seat a House of Representatives. Refer to the chart below to determine number of House chambers and advancement to the National House (note that the number of students in the far left column is based on participation—speaking or presiding at least once):

National Tournament Qualification Requirements for House

<u>Participating Students</u>	<u>Qualifiers</u>
16-29	2
30-58	4
59-87	6
88-116	7
117-145	8
146+	9

Judges

Judge Quota and Judge Registration Requirements

1. Your judges cannot judge your students; therefore, all schools must provide unaffiliated judges or be willing to pay for the hiring of these judges.
2. All judges must have an active free account on Tabroom.com so please be sure that is taken care of before attempting to enter your judges.
3. Every school must provide one judge for every six Congress entries.
4. In addition to being fully trained in Congress, your judge(s) must also be able to judge in person all day on February 1.
- 5 We must have a trained parliamentarian for each chamber.

Rules Concerning Judges

1. Judges must have an active account on Tabroom.com and know their login information.
2. Judges must be able to judge at least one other event category besides Congress. (This is only if we share judges with the Eastside tournament.)
3. Judges must have graduated from high school.
4. First-year out judges may be registered, but must be designated as such. These judges are "free strikes." Failure to identify first-year out judges could result in the disqualification of the judge, a missing judge fee assessment, and the loss of your judge bond.
5. 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.

Judge Bond

A judge fee of \$200 will be charged for each judge that is a no show to any session.

Fees & Limits

Please pay all outstanding NSDA fees prior to January 20th. You must pay the remaining balance at registration in order to be allowed to compete. You will not be able to compete without paying.

Please note that although fees for the February 1 Congress tournament may be deferred until March 1st, you are still responsible for paying a \$200 judge fee to this tournament if there is a no show judge. Checks should be made out to "SC NFL."

Paperwork to Submit

The following items need to be turned in to the appropriate listed person by their respective due dates.

1. Tabroom Online Registration for Congress - Due online January 24, 2025 at 4PM.

2. School Consent Form Form

- ☐ This is a form generated by Tabroom after you complete your registration Under the “NSDA Forms” tab..
- ☐ Must be printed, and signed by the coach.

Additionally, the National Tournament Single Entry Letter of Intent (for students who are double entering at the District Tournament held on March 1st) will be due at final registration on March 1st 2025. This does not need to be presented at the Congress tournament but **MUST** be brought to final registration on March 1st.

How To Register on Tabroom.com

1. Go to <http://southcarolina.tabroom.com>
2. Logon in the top right-hand corner of the screen.
3. Click “Register” on the tabs of the tournament. You’ll have to certify that the information you provide is accurate, and then make sure that you update your NSDA roster (this is pretty intuitive). Please put in your points prior to this step so that you don’t have to go back and do it. Remember, the number of entries you get is dependent on the number of degrees your program has.
4. Under “Entries” you will find a drop-down menu on the right hand side. You can select any event offered. Once you select an event, you will have a list of your students who are eligible for the tournament. Select their name and click “Add Entry.” You may continue to add until all of your slots are filled.
5. Your School Consent Forms are under “NSDA Forms” as well as your Single Entry Letter of Intent.
6. Under “Judges” you will enter the names of the required number of judges. Judges must create Tabroom accounts for themselves if they don’t have one already. (Or you may create an account for them and let them know the details.) Then you must add them to the Tabroom system if you haven’t already. You may not enter judges who do not have Tabroom accounts. Tabroom will not accept them. On the right-hand side, you’ll find “Add Judge.” Type in the email address associated with the judge and if it exists in Tabroom, they will be added as a judge. If they do not get added, they don’t have an account yet and need to create one.
7. Judges need to complete the Congress Judge Certification in Tabroom prior to this tournament.

2025 South CAROLINA NSDA CONGRESS DOCKET

Each session has three primary and two secondary pieces of legislation. The primary pieces must be debated first. At the beginning of each session, the chamber will decide by simple majority which order to debate the three primary pieces for the session. The agenda is then locked and may only be changed by unanimous consent of the chamber. Secondary legislation is only to be considered after the three primary pieces have already been debated and voted on. Secondary legislation must be debated in the order listed. In no case may legislation be debated in a session other than the one in which it is listed. Primary and secondary legislation will be announced by January 10.

We will be using the NSDA January legislation, which is accessible

<https://www.speechanddebate.org/topics/>

Below are six we will use from the January legislation:

The complete information can be found at
www.speechanddebate.org/topics/

.

Legislation session assignments to announced by January 10:

SENATE AND HOUSE SESSION ONE TBD

Primary Legislation

Chamber decides order by simple majority.

Secondary Legislation

Must be debated in this order after above three are voted on.

SENATE SESSION TWO AND HOUSE FINALS TBD

Primary Legislation

Chamber decides order by simple majority.

Secondary Legislation

Must be debated in this order after above three are voted on.