



Carolina East District Speech & Debate Tournament

On March 1st & 2nd, the Carolina East District will be holding the second portion of the NSDA District Tournament. We will be hosting the Speech & Debate Qualifier at Cary Academy in Cary, NC. This tournament determines who competes in all Speech and Debate from our district at the NSDA National Tournament June 15th through 20th in Des Moines, Iowa.

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. 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.

Registration will be held Saturday morning in the foyer of Berger Hall at Cary Academy. As registration finishes, we will begin competition immediately. All of your paperwork will need to be organized and signed. Please help us begin on time by having this done ahead of time. (Paperwork is discussed in detail later in the document)

Each school must complete a District Tournament Registration Form. This form is automatically completed for you after you enter and complete your registration on Tabroom. This form must be fully completed, printed, signed, and turned into Crawford Leavoy by February 28th, 2025 (per NSDA rules).

Please send to:

Crawford Leavoy
103 Nuttree Way
Durham, NC, 27713

In accordance with new rule changes, we will permit changes to registrations after the seven day deadline, but the registration must be received by the February 22nd date to insure entry into the tournament. All students and judges must be concurrently registered for the tournament on the Tabroom website as well. We must have both the electronic and hard copy version of your registration.

Cordially,
Crawford Leavoy, District Chair - Durham Academy
Michelle Boswell - Cumberland Polytechnic HS
Ben Denton - Pinecrest HS
Kim Eckstein - Apex Friendship HS
Kaitlin Lumpkins - Jack Britt HS
RJ Pelliccotta - Cary Academy



Schedule

Saturday, March 1, 2025

Time	Speech Events	Debate Events
8:00 AM	Registration Opens (until 8:30A)	
8:45 AM	Judge Meeting - Announcements & Clarifications	
9:00 AM	US Extemp Draw	
9:30 AM	Speech - Flight A - Round One	LD & PF - Round One
10:45AM	International Extemp Draw	
11:30 AM	Speech - Flight B - Round One	LD & PF - Round Two
<i>Lunch Served from 11:15AM to 1:45 PM</i>		
1:00 PM	US Extemp Draw	
1:30 PM	Speech - Flight A - Round Two	LD & PF - Round Three
2:45 PM	International Extemp Draw	
3:30 PM	Speech - Flight B - Round Two	LD & PF - Round Four
4:30 PM	US Extemp Draw	
5:30 PM	Speech - Flight A - Round Three	LD & PF - Round Five
7:00PM	International Extemp Draw	
7:30PM	Speech - Flight B - Round Three	
<i>Dinner Served from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM</i>		
8:00 PM		LD & PF - Elimination Round One

Sunday, March 2, 2025

Time	Speech Events	Debate Events
8:00 AM	US Extemp Draw	
8:30 AM	Speech - Flight A - Round Four	LD & PF - Elimination Round Two
10:00 AM	International Extemp Draw	
10:30AM	Speech - Flight B - Round Four	LD & PF - Elimination Round Three
<i>Lunch Served from 11:00AM to 1:00 PM</i>		
12:00 PM	US Extemp Draw	
12:30 PM	Speech - Flight A - Semifinals	LD & PF - Elimination Round Four
2:00 PM	International Extemp Draw	
2:30 PM	Speech - Flight B - Semifinals	LD & PF - Elimination Round Five
4:00 PM	Extemp Draw	
4:30 PM	Speech - Flights A & B - Finals	LD & PF - Elimination Round Six
<i>Awards will be held as soon as all events are done</i>		

- Awards will occur as soon as the final round has concluded and been tabulated.
- The District Committee will post updates throughout Sunday as that time becomes known.
- This schedule is subject to change
- **All judges are obligated throughout the tournament.**



Rules

The debate portion of the District Qualifier will follow the guidelines that are in the [Unified High School Manual](#) from the NSDA. The Event guidelines for all events can be found on pages 29-67.

The general tournament guidelines for the District Qualifier can be found on pages 81-95 and 118-130. Instructions specific to the debate portion of the tournament can be found on pages 102 through 109. Instructions specific to the speech portion of the tournament can be found on pages 115 through 118.

School Fee

There will be no school fee for the 2025 District Tournament.

Double Entry Guidelines

- Students may enter:
 - Any two of the speech events, or
 - Any one debate event
- Students may double enter between USX and IX
- 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 can compete in more than 3 events under any conditions.

Rules Concerning Judges

1. Current high school students may not judge any portion of the district tournament series.
2. College-age judges are permitted.
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.
4. Judges need to be available throughout the tournament. They should not leave the tournament until all rounds are completed.
5. Judges may be in both the Speech pool and Debate pool
6. Each judge must register for a minimum of 1 pool in each event (Debate - LD or, PF; Speech - Platform, Interpretation)

Judge Ratios

Every school must supply judges in the following ratios:

- In Speech Events, 1 judge per 4 entries; \$150 for missing quota
- In Lincoln-Douglas Debate, 1 judge per 2 entry; \$150 for missing quota
- In Public Forum Debate, 1 judge per 2 entry; \$150 for missing quota
- In Policy Debate, 1 judge per 1 entry; \$150 for missing quota



Judge Bond

A judge bond of \$100 is required. In the event that your judges do not appear for all assigned rounds, the judge bond will be forfeited. Once you have forfeited your judge bond, a \$50 fine will be assessed for each round missed.

Judge Strike System

On March 26th, each school will be given the opportunity to strike two judges in the tournament. These are universal strikes. Therefore, you can strike Sam Higgins from judging your school in every event, but you cannot only strike Sam in LD, but not Extemp.

In the event that the District Committee has to add a judge to the judging pool after the list of judges is published, we will offer them to you as a free strike. This means that you can strike them whether you have used your strikes or not.

Strikes must be submitted by 9:00 PM on Friday, February 28th, 2025.

Scripts & Manuscripts

This year, we will not be collecting scripts & manuscripts for all scripted speech events per NSDA requirements. **However, it is the expectation of the District Committee that every manuscript in Interpretation, Oratory and Informative is available within 20 minutes of being requested. These scripts and manuscripts should be in your possession and transmittable to the District Committee.**

For all Interpretation events, each entry should have:

- The original book/manuscript/play in which each page being used in competition is clearly marked.
- Each page should also be copied, and words actually spoken should be highlighted while each word not being used is clearly crossed through.
- Any transitional phrases should be written where they appear in the text and the introduction should also be included.

For Informational Speaking and Original Oratory, each entry should have:

- The student's original speech with correctly formatted MLA citations for all sources should be included.

For any electronic sources that can not be printed, the coach should have the source on an electronic device during the days of the district competition.

Please note, the only reason a script/manuscript will be requested is if there is a challenge to a competitor's piece. If requested, the competitor/coach must produce the script or manuscript in a timely manner. If the competitor/coach cannot produce the script or manuscript in a timely manner, the protest will be upheld.



Topics & Topic Areas

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 are:

- International Extemp
 - Americas & Caribbean
 - Africa & Southwest Asia
 - East Asia, Central Asia, & Oceania
 - Energy, Environment, & Global Health
 - Europe
 - Global Conflicts & International Organizations
- United States Extemp
 - Business, Economics, & Industry
 - Energy, Environment, & Natural Disasters
 - Foreign Policy & National Security
 - Healthcare, Immigration, & Social Issues
 - Politics & Democracy
 - The Supreme Court, Civil Liberties, & Legal Controversies

Lincoln-Douglas Debate Topic

Resolved: The development of Artificial General Intelligence is immoral.

Public Forum Debate Topic

Resolved: In the United States, the benefits of the use of generative artificial intelligence in education outweigh the harms.

Policy (CX) Debate Topic

Resolved: The United States federal government should significantly strengthen its protection of domestic intellectual property rights in copyrights, patents, and/or trademarks.



Speech Rules

The 2025 Carolina East NSDA District Tournament will utilize the rules listed in the District Tournament Operations Manual. The Event guidelines for all events can be found on pages 29-67. The general tournament guidelines for the District Qualifier can be found on pages 81-95 and 118-130. Instructions specific to the speech portion of the tournament can be found on pages 115 through 118.

General Rules

1. Minimum Rounds - At least three preliminary rounds must be held in all speech events.
2. Number of Judges - One, two or three judges may be used in preliminary rounds, as determined by the District Committee. All sections of an event must have the same number of judges as all other sections in a round throughout the tournament. Elimination and final rounds must use three or more judges per section. All elimination round judge panels must consist of odd numbers of judges, and no elimination or final round may use fewer judges per section than any previous round.
3. Judges - should rank each entry in order, best to worst, 1-7. Ties are not permitted; points are not necessary

District Committee's Stipulations

1. We will hold 4 preliminary rounds in all speech events
2. We will utilize 1 judge in each preliminary round in speech.

Preliminary Rounds

Preliminary round sections are assigned with at least four and no more than seven entries each; the ideal is sections of six. The priorities for paneling these rounds, in order, are:

1. Avoid entries from the same school in the same section
2. Avoid entries competing against each other multiple times
3. Avoid schools competing against each other multiple times

Speaker order is varied within preliminary rounds so that every entry's average speaker position is as equal as possible to all other entries in the same event. Each entry should speak early in a round (first 2 speakers) and late in a round (last 2 speakers) at least once during preliminary rounds.

In all cases, the computer should be primarily used to create pairings to ensure impartiality and true randomness where necessary; however, the speech tabulation staff should check the computer to ensure pairing priorities are correctly followed.

If there are sections with uneven numbers of students, students receiving the lowest rank in the larger section will have their rank truncated. That is, if section A has 6 students and section B has 5, both the fifth and sixth ranked students in section A will receive a rank of 5.



Preliminary Round Breaks

After the preliminary rounds are concluded, the entries are ordered by rank total, lowest being best. If each entry is given four or more scores (if there are four prelims with one judge, or three prelims with two judges each, etc.) then the worst (highest) rank score is dropped from their rank total.

If there are less than eight entries, no elimination rounds are required. Any event with eight or more entries must break to elimination rounds.

The District Committee may choose how many entries will advance to elimination rounds in each event. The break point for elimination rounds must meet the following standards:

- Number of entries that will advance in each event will be announced prior to the start of round 1.
- A minimum of 25% of an event's entry total (rounded up to the nearest whole number) must advance in each event. No final may be smaller than four entries. For example, an event with twelve entries must clear a minimum of four students to finals.
- All entries whose rank totals are tied with an advancing entry also advance. For example, if the target to advance is six, but a rank total tie exists between sixth and seventh, the top seven entries advance.

Elimination Rounds

If more than seven entries advance, section a quarter or semifinal round. Sections should have no fewer than four and no more than seven entries. If more than 21 entries advance, quarterfinals must be held. If 15-21 entries advance, semifinals in three sections are held unless the District Committee has set and communicated a lower threshold for quarterfinals. Ranks are not truncated in elimination rounds.

Snaking Sections

Elimination rounds are snaked: the top placing entry is placed in the first section, and the next entries are assigned in order by the rank totals going into the round until the number of sections is exhausted. The next entry is placed in the last section and the rest filled in up to the first section. Then, the next entry is placed in the first section and filled in to the last, and so on.

SAMPLE SNAKED ELIMINATION ROUND

Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4
Seed 1	Seed 2	Seed 3	Seed 4
8	7	6	5
9	10	11	12
16	15	14	13
17	18	19	

Sections are then adjusted by swapping entries with the same rank total to avoid entries from the same school competing in the same section, where possible.



Speaker Order

Speaker order in elimination rounds is determined by totaling the entries' past speaker orders and ordering the section by the reverse of their previous speaker position totals, so the entry with the highest total of past orders speaks first, the next highest speaks second, and so on. Speaker order may be adjusted to accommodate double entry.

Advancing from Elimination Rounds

After each elimination round, placement order is determined first by lowest total ranks in all preliminary rounds, dropping the worst (highest) preliminary round rank for each entry whether or not each entry received four or more scores in prelims. Then add the total of all ranks earned in elimination rounds.

Beginning in 2022-2023, elimination round ranks are no longer multiplied by two. Ties are broken by the lowest rank totals from the last elimination round only.

Six entries advance out of a semifinal round (an elimination round with two or three sections), together with any entry tied with an advancing entry on both overall rank total and ranks in the previous elimination round. Twelve entries should advance out of a quarterfinal, together with any entries tied with an advancing entry on both overall rank total and ranks in the last elimination round. Advance the top overall entries, not equal numbers from individual sections. If more than seven entries are tied to advance to finals from semifinals, or more than 14 are tied to advance to semifinals from quarterfinals, then all entries tied for the last spot on both scores are excluded from advancing.

Final Round

If the number of entries clearing to finals is equal to or lower than the number of slots the district will send to Nationals, it may be skipped; otherwise, finals must be held. Speaker order in finals is determined by the same method as elimination rounds. Final round judge panels should consist of an odd number of at least three judges and should never be smaller than the number of judges used in any previous round of that event.



Determining National Qualifiers and Alternates

If elimination rounds were held: Qualifiers are determined by the cumulative scores of finalists based on the factors below. After finals, the order of placement overall is determined by, in order:

1. The last round competed in. This means that when determining the overall final rank of every student in an event, a finalist places better than a semifinalist, a semifinalist places better than a quarterfinalist, etc.
2. Lowest total overall ranks score, dropping the worst prelim rank
3. Highest total reciprocal of all ranks, dropping the worst prelim rank, and multiplying elimination and final reciprocals by 2.
4. Lowest total ranks in the final round
5. Judge's preference (head-to-head) in the final round
6. Highest total reciprocal of ranks in the final round
7. Judge's preference (head-to-head) in elimination round(s)
8. Judge's preference (head-to-head) in prelim round(s)

If ties still exist for a spot to Nationals, hold a run-off round with three judges. The winner of the run-off, on ranks, judges' preference, then reciprocals, wins the tie.

If no elimination rounds were held: The order of placement overall is determined by, in order:

1. Lowest total overall ranks score (do not drop any ranks)
 2. Highest total reciprocal of all ranks
 3. Judge's preference (head-to-head) in prelim rounds
- If ties still exist for a spot to Nationals, hold a run-off round with three judges. The winner of the run-off, on ranks, judges' preference, then reciprocals, wins the tie.



Debate Rules

The debate portion of the District Qualifier will follow the guidelines that are in the Unified High School Manual. The Event guidelines for all events can be found on pages 29-67. The general tournament guidelines for the District Qualifier can be found on pages 81-95 and 118-130. Instructions specific to the debate portion of the tournament can be found on pages 102 through 109.

The following rules apply to Lincoln-Douglas, Policy, and Public Forum debate events at the district tournament. Any tournament violating these rules will be invalid, with no national qualification granted. A district may choose to use one of three methods to run their district debate tournament: round robin, single elimination bracketed, or double elimination bracketed. This selection must be finalized and publicized at least one week prior to the start of round 1. Debate events may use different methods, e.g. Policy could be a single elimination bracketed tournament, Public Forum could be a round robin, and Lincoln-Douglas could be a double elimination bracketed tournament.

District Committee's Stipulations

1. We strive to hold 5 preliminary rounds with one judge in events with more than 6 entries.
2. We will clear all winning records.
3. We will use a double elimination bracket
4. In the event that an event is smaller than 6 entries, we will use a round robin format.

General Rules for Single and Double Elim Bracketed Events

1. **Minimum Rounds:** At least four preliminary rounds are held in all debate contests unless only four entries compete. If only four entries compete, three preliminary rounds may be held.
2. **Number of Judges:** One or three judges may be used in preliminary round debates, as determined by the District Committee. All debates must have the same number of judges as all other debates in a round throughout the tournament. Elimination rounds must use three or more judges per round. All judge panels must consist of odd numbers of judges, and no elimination or final round may use fewer judges per panel than any previous round.
3. **Forfeits:** Judges should notify the District Committee of a student who arrives to their round more than 15 minutes after the posted start time of the round. If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student was more than 15 minutes late. Debaters who are 15 minutes late forfeit the round, but the District Committee may waive the penalty. For a speech competitor, the District Committee may choose to drop each judge score in the round by two ranks. The judge(s) should not adjust the student's ranks themselves. The District Committee may waive the penalty.
4. **Judges** in preliminary rounds must award a win/loss, with no ties permitted, and speaker points to each individual debater on a 30-point scale. The District Committee must decide and communicate whether speaker points will be assigned using a full, half, or tenths point scale before the start of round 1. Judges in elimination rounds only award a win/loss without points.



Pairing and Tabulation Rules

Rounds 1-2 are randomly preset, and any subsequent rounds must be powermatched.

Pairing Presets (Rounds 1-2)

Preset rounds are sectioned with the following priorities in order:

1. Avoid two entries from the same school debating each other
2. Avoid entries debating each other more than once
3. Avoid any entry in CX and LD debating on the same side of the topic more than once
4. Avoid any entry drawing a bye (due to uneven numbers) more than once
5. Avoid any entry debating more than one opponent from the same school
6. Avoid any school drawing a bye (due to uneven numbers) more than once

Pairing Powermatched Rounds (Preliminary Rounds after Round 2)

After round 2, entries are ordered or seeded by the following:

1. Highest number of rounds won
2. Highest ballot count
3. Highest total entry speaker points with highest and lowest ballots' scores dropped (drop the highest and lowest total team score in CX and PF, not the lowest score of each speaker)
4. Highest total entry speaker points
5. Lowest average opponent seed
6. Coin flip/random number

Debates are assigned within brackets. All entries with the same win count are grouped in the same bracket.

Pull Ups

Begin with the top bracket (the most wins). In a non-side-locked round, which is all rounds in PF, and odd numbered rounds in LD and CX, pull ups are required either if numbers are uneven or there is no way to avoid scheduling a debate between entries from the same school or entries that have previously debated. In side-locked (even rounds in CX or LD), pull ups are also required if the number of teams due to debate affirmative is not equal to the number due to debate negative. Until these conditions are met, pull up an entry or entries from the brackets below according to the following priorities in order:

1. Pull entries up only if they are due to debate the short side in a sidelocked round
2. The pull up should not force a debate between entries in the same school
3. The pull up should not force a debate between entries that have previously debated
4. The pull up should come from the nearest bracket possible
5. The pull up should have the worst (highest) average opponent seeding

Do not avoid pulling an entry up because they have been previously pulled up. Pull ups are re-seeded into their new bracket as they would be based on the tiebreakers other than win/loss. For example, if a pull up has the eighth best high/low speaker points out of 12 entries in a bracket, they are given the eighth position despite having fewer wins.

Pairing

Once the bracket has an even number of entries, schedule entries such that the entry with the best (lowest) SOP score debates the entry with the worst (highest) SOP score. Then the second best debates the second worst, and so on. The following priorities should be used in pairing powermatched debates:

1. Avoid entries debating each other more than once
2. Avoid two entries from the same school debating each other
3. Side equalization in CX and LD
4. Position in the bracket as determined by SOP scores

If there is an odd number of entries, one entry will receive a bye. The bye is not assigned first in powermatched preliminary rounds. Instead, it should be assigned in a way that creates the best pairing according to the priorities listed above. The bye must go to an entry that cannot advance to elimination rounds (if impossible, it should go to a team with zero wins) and must not go to an entry that has already received a bye. If possible, the bye should not go to a school that has already received a bye.

SOP (Seed + Opponent Seed) scores are calculated by adding the seeding of the entry together with their average opponent seed up to that point in the tournament. The top seeded debaters might end up lower in the bracket than worst seeded debaters if they debated against worse opponents. The goal of SOP is to even out the difficulty of the brackets over the course of the tournament.

Break this pattern of SOP as minimally as possible to avoid higher pairing priorities. In an event with an uneven number of entries, the bye goes to the entry with the worst SOP score overall that has not yet been awarded a bye. If two entries must debate against each other a second time in either preliminary or elimination rounds, in LD and CX, the second debate must have sides reversed from the first debate; in PF, the coin flip is still used.

In all cases, the computer should be primarily used to create pairings in preset and powermatched rounds to ensure impartiality and true randomness where necessary; however, the debate tabulation staff should check the computer to ensure pairing priorities are correctly followed.

Elimination Rounds

After preliminary rounds, the entries should be ranked in order based on the same seeding rules used for powermatching. The District Committee may choose either to advance all entries with a winning record or only advance all entries with one or zero losses.

If the number of entries clearing to elimination rounds is fewer than the number of entries that qualify, the clearing entries will automatically bye to Nationals. The District Committee may choose whether to advance the next highest seed as the next qualifier, or they may choose to hold run-off rounds between the debaters in the next highest bracket. Contact the ombudsperson on duty if you run into this scenario for assistance.

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If your district is using the single elimination bracket, proceed with the “Method 2: Single Elimination Bracket” rules found below. If your district is using the double elimination bracket, skip to “Method 3: Double Elimination Bracket” to finish your tournament.

Method 2: Single Elimination Bracket

Advancing entries will be placed in a single elimination round bracket. The best seeded entry debates the worst seed, the second-best seed debates the second worst, and so on. If the number is not a power of two, then the top seeded debaters are given byes until the bracket is complete. The winner of the best/worst debate should debate the winner of the middle debates, the winner of the second best debates the next middle, and so on.

SAMPLE SINGLE ELIMINATION BRACKETS



Debaters should flip a coin in any LD and CX debate where the entries have not previously debated. If LD and CX debaters have previously debated, they should debate on the opposite sides of the topic from the previous round. PF debaters always flip for sides/position and may choose the same sides and speaker positions as previous debates.

At least three judges must judge each elimination debate. Every round must have an equal or greater number of judges than all previous rounds, and all debates of a given round must have the same number of judges. Brackets may not be broken to avoid same-school debates. Coaches of debaters in same school debates may either decide who advances without a debate or elect to hold a debate as normal.

The winner of the majority of ballots in each debate advances, while their opponent is eliminated. The tournament must continue until the number of entries active is equal to or lower than the number of qualifiers; further rounds for recognition may be held at the discretion of the District Committee.

Determining National Qualifiers

Qualifying spots are always determined by wins in elimination debates. A district which qualifies one entry must conduct a final round (if there are multiple entries advancing to elimination rounds). A district which qualifies three entries must conduct a debate between the two non-advancing semifinalists for the third slot to the National Tournament.



Determining Alternates

Alternate placement is determined by one of two methods. By default, the preliminary round seeding method is used; District Committees that opt for run-offs must publicize that decision before the start of round 1 of each event.

OPTION 1: PRELIMINARY ROUND SEEDING

The order of the finishers is determined by the following tie-breakers in order:

1. Winner of the final round
2. The last round competed in, e.g., a student in finals places better than a student that does not advance from semifinals
3. Preliminary round seeding as determined by the tie-breakers used to break

Method 3: Double Elimination Bracket

Districts may elect to use a double elimination bracket for the elimination rounds of their district debate tournament. A double elimination bracket requires that an entry must lose two debates in elimination rounds before they are eliminated from the tournament. This method requires more elimination rounds than a single elimination bracket.

Tournaments using a double elimination bracket will use the same rules as a single elimination bracketed tournament for preliminary rounds and determining which entries will clear to elimination rounds. The first elimination round will also be conducted according to the same rules as the single elimination bracketed tournament. The best seeded entry debates the worst seed, the second-best seed debates the second worst, and so on. If the number is not a power of two, then the top seeded debaters are given byes until the bracket is complete.

Pairing Elimination Rounds

After the first elimination round, a double elimination format bracket is divided into a “winner’s bracket” of debaters who have not lost in elimination rounds, and a “loser’s bracket” of debaters who have already lost one debate in elimination rounds. The winner’s bracket operates exactly like a single elimination format bracket, except that when an entry loses, they are moved to the loser’s bracket instead of eliminated from the tournament.

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The loser's bracket is paired among teams with one loss. The loser's bracket teams are 'seeded' with either a) the better seed of the last loser's bracket debate they won, or b) the worse seed of the last winner's bracket debate they lost. For example, the loser of a winner's bracket debate between the 1 and 8 seed is seeded 8 going into the next loser's bracket debate. The winner of the loser's bracket debate between the 5 and 11 seed in the loser's bracket is seeded 5 going into the next loser's bracket debate. Each loser's bracket round must have a number of entries equal to a power of 2 (powers of 2 are 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, etc.). If there are more debaters than that, give byes to the best seeded debaters until there is a power of 2 number of rounds. For example, if there are five entries in the loser's bracket, one will receive a bye and the bottom four seeds will debate. If there are 13 entries in the loser's bracket, five will receive byes and the bottom eight seeds will debate. If there are six entries in the loser's bracket seeded 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11, byes are given to the 5 and 6 seeded entries.

Pair the debaters in the loser's bracket so that the average total seed of the two debaters competing against each other is the same as all other debates in the loser's bracket. Using the above example, the 7 and 11 seeds would debate (sum 18) and the 8 and 10 seeds would debate (sum 18).

Debaters may debate the same opponents they have already faced in preliminary rounds, but they may not debate twice in elimination rounds. When the seeding schedules two entries to debate for a second time in elims, flip one half of the opponents such that the seed total of all debates are as close as possible to each of the others while avoiding repeat debates. In these cases, the "worst" seed sums will be 2 higher than the "best" seed sums. Using the above example, imagine the 8 and 10 seeds had already debated in elims. Instead of keeping each seed sum at 18, the 7 and 10 seeds would debate (sum 17) and the 11 and 8 seeds would debate (sum 19).

Rounds between entries from the same school may either be debated or decided at the coach's discretion; do not break brackets to avoid same-school debates.

Determining National Qualifiers

Qualifying spots are always determined by wins in elimination debates. A district which qualifies one entry must conduct a final round (if there are multiple entries advancing to elimination rounds) between the champion of the winner's bracket and the champion of the loser's bracket. If the undefeated entry loses the final round, the two entries in finals must switch sides and debate again. The winner will qualify to the National Tournament. A district which qualifies three entries must conduct a debate between the two non-advancing entries that were eliminated in the round before the final round, one from the winner's bracket and one from the loser's bracket.

Determining Alternates

Alternate placement is determined by one of two methods. By default, the preliminary round seeding method is used; District Committees that opt for run-offs must publicize that decision before the start of round 1 of each event.



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. Coaches can file an official Rules Protest here: [2025 Carolina East Protest Form](#)

Notes from the Unified Manual:

- Judges assigned by the tournament committee shall be final unless protested before the tournament has begun. If a judge(s) is added to the judge pool after the tournament has begun, any protest must be made prior to the session in which that individual(s) 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:** If a member must recuse themselves, the coach will be replaced by a District Chair from outside of the District, if present at the tournament.
- **Proxies for Tab Officials:** Due to their nature as tabulation officials, members of the District Committee may not file protests at the District Tournament on behalf of their students. They must appoint a proxy prior to the beginning of the tournament with the District Chair who will file all protests on their school's behalf.



Harassment & Discrimination

Coaches can file an official Equity Concern here: [2025 Carolina East Equity Concern Form](#)

The NSDA Harassment & Discrimination policy states:

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.

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.



Awards & Recognition

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 2nd.



Awards & Recognition (Continued)

All Nominations Need to Be Submitted Prior to March 2nd

District Coach of the Year

“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.”

The Nomination Form can be found here: [District Coach of the Year Nomination Form](#)

Alum of the Year

"The Alum of the Year Award showcases a speech and debate alumni from your district who has utilized their speech and debate talents to achieve success for themselves and the speech and debate community. "

Please send a letter of nomination to carolinaeastdistrict@gmail.com by March 2nd, 2025.

Administrator of the Year

“The National Speech and Debate Association annually recognizes outstanding high school administrators who have succeeded in providing high-quality opportunities for students in speech and debate programming as well as demonstrating exemplary contributions to the profession.”

The Nomination Form can be found here: [District Administrator of the Year Nomination Form](#)

New Coach of the Year

“Each District Committee may award a District New Coach of the Year to a deserving member coach in their district, and from those district-level award winners, a National New Coach of the Year is selected.”

The Nomination Form can be found here: [New Coach of the Year Nomination Form](#)

Assistant Coach of the Year

“Each District Committee may award a District Assistant Coach of the Year to a deserving member coach in their district, and from those district-level award winners, a National Assistant Coach of the Year is selected.”

The Nomination Form can be found here: [Assistant Coach of the Year Nomination Form](#)



Fees

Please pay all outstanding NSDA fees prior to March 1st. You must pay the remaining balance at registration in order to be allowed to compete. You will not be able to compete without paying.

Each student will incur a fee of \$30.00 for the District Tournament, regardless of the number of events that they enter. This must be paid for all students at this tournament; if your student competes at the Congressional Debate portion of the NSDA District Tournament in February, there will not be an additional registration fee for that student.

There will be no entry fees for students representing a new NSDA school.

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 strength.

Directions

Cary Academy is located at:
1500 N Harrison Ave
Cary, NC 27513

Hotel Accommodations

The District Committee has not secured hotel blocks for the District Tournament in order to give schools flexibility when making arrangements. Please let someone on the District Committee know if you need help in making accommodations.



Paperwork to Submit

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

1. Tabroom Registration - **Due February 24th, 2025 at 4PM**
2. District Tournament Registration Form
 - This is a form generated by Tabroom after you complete your registration.
 - Must be completed, printed, and signed by the coach.
 - Any potential alternate who may replace a student who drops must also be an NSDA member at the school for which they are entered for at least seven days prior to the District Tournament.
 - Alternate substitutions must meet all qualifications as those originally entered on the form.
 - No student may compete that is not on that form. Drops must be removed and alternate substitutions must be added prior to the start of the tournament.
 - A copy of this form must be sent to carolinaeastdistrict@gmail.com by March 1st
3. National Tournament Single Entry Letter of Intent (for students who are double entering at the District Tournament held on March 1st & 2nd) - **Due at Registration on March 1st, 2025**

How To Register on Tabroom.com

The following instructions are how to register on www.tabroom.com.

1. Logon in the top right-hand corner of the screen.
2. Search "Tarheel" in the top right-hand corner of the screen. After you do this the first time, the tournament will always appear in your login screen unless you drop completely from the tournament.
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). **I would advise that you 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 House or Senate. 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 "Greensheets" (printed registration forms) are under "NSDA Forms" as well as your Single Entry Letter of Intent. You'll find that you can rank Congress and Worlds currently. However, you will be able to resubmit for any student that is also competing in the March portion of the District tournament.
6. Under "Judges" you will enter the name of the required number of judges. You must add them to the Tabroom system if you haven't already. On the right-hand side, you'll find "Add Judge."
7. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Crawford Leavoy.