

**VHSL Region 4C
2025 Regional Debate Tournament**



Date: Saturday, March 22, 2025

Schedule:

8:30-9:00 AM: Registration
9:00 AM: Judge Briefing
9:30 AM: Round 1 Begins (plan for a full day – up until evening if needed)

Location: Rock Ridge High School
43460 Loudoun Reserve Drive
Ashburn, Virginia 20148

Tournament Host & Directors:

Jennifer Virbickis — Jennifer.virbickis@lcps.org
Assistant Director of Athletics, Rock Ridge High School

Rama Srinivasan — rama.srinivasan@lcps.org
Tournament Host Director, Rock Ridge High School

Sheryl Gusman — sheryl.gusman@lcps.org
Assistant VHSL Director, Dominion High School

Jim Dunning - jim.dunning.7532@gmail.com
Assistant Technical Director

Entry Procedures:

Region entry forms (available on the VHSL website) must be completed and emailed to Jennifer Virbickis, Sheryl Gusman, *and* Rama Srinivasan no later than **9:00 pm on Friday, March 14.**

1. Competitors and judges must also be entered via Tabroom.com:

VHSL 4C Regional Debate Tournament —
https://www.tabroom.com/index/tourn/index.mhtml?tourn_id=34891

Tabroom.com registration must be completed by **9:00 pm on Friday, March 14.**

2. Students are required to create Tabroom.com accounts and link them to your team's Competitors Roster so they can get updates on the Tabroom/NSDA Campus online platform.
3. Judges in Policy, LD, and Public Forum must also have Tabroom accounts linked to the team's Judges Roster so that they can also access the Tabroom/NSDA online judging platform. Except for Congress, we will be using online balloting for those events, so your judges must be trained in using them. **Please have them linked to your Judge Roster by Friday, March 14.**

Events:

Student Congress:

Each student competing in Student Congress must submit a bill or resolution on one of the approved VHSL Regional Congress Topics and each school must additionally submit a bill or resolution on one of the Super Session topics (posted on the VHSL Congress website and here). This process must be done ON-LINE, on the VHSL Student Congress website: http://www.instantaneous.com/VHSL_Congress/

The deadline for submission is Friday, 3/8/2024, 11:59:59 PM EST/EDT. Coaches, please encourage your students to submit legislation at least 24 hours in advance so that you can verify on March 9 that the legislation was successfully submitted by the deadline. **Failure to submit required legislation by the deadline will result in students being unable to compete, per VHSL requirements.**

Regional Topic Areas (Released January 2025)

Domestic

- 1. Assisted euthanasia**
- 2. Domestic terrorism**

Super Session: Social media ownership regulations

International

- 1. South Korea**
- 2. Greenland**

Super Session: New Zealand

Economic

- 1. Cryptocurrency**
- 2. Natural disaster relief**

Super Session: Debt ceiling

Virginia

- 1. Restorative justice**
- 2. Speed cameras**

Super Session: Ranked choice voting

Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum & Policy:

Topics used will be the standard March topics for each of the respective events.

Lincoln-Douglas: March/April topic:

Resolved: The development of Artificial General Intelligence is immoral.

Public Forum: March topic:

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

Policy: 2024-25 topic:

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

Eligibility:

Competitors must comply with VHSL eligibility requirements.

REMINDER: In order to participate, each school must have a coach or school representative with the team during the entire tournament.

Judges:

Schools are required to bring at least one qualified judge for each event entered, plus one additional judge qualified for at least two event areas. Qualified judges are trained in using Tabroom online ballots and NSDA Campus and completely familiar with the goals and round format/structure of the event; judges in Policy and Lincoln-Douglas must have prior experience in the event being judged. For example, a team entering a policy debate team, two LD debaters, and one PF team, must provide four qualified judges (one in each event area, plus the additional judge). Judges in LD and PF must be able to judge either event.

Coaches may register as judges, and all judges will be paid a per diem VHSL stipend of \$80.

Schedule/Rounds:

Registration is between 8:30–9:00 am. A Coaches & Judges meeting will occur around 9:00 am, and rounds should begin at 9:30 am. The number of competitors will determine the schedule and number of rounds. All determinations will be in accordance with the VHSL Handbook and Regional Directors Kit. Additional rounds may be needed after preliminary rounds to help determine who will advance to super regionals.

Awards:

Qualifications to Super-Regionals will be the top 3 Policy teams, top 3 Public Forum teams, top 4 Lincoln-Douglas debaters, and top 12 Student Congress representatives. The VHSL Handbook and Regional Directors Kit will be used in determining the top participants.

Team Champion:

For each event, teams are awarded sweepstakes points: 7 points for first place, 5 points for second place, 3 points for third place, 1 point for fourth place. The team with the greatest number of sweepstakes points in all events will be declared Region 4C Team Champion. If there is a tie, the number of firsts, seconds, and so forth will be used until the tie is broken.

Alternates/Substitutions:

One additional place beyond those qualified to the Super Regional tournament will be announced as an alternate for purposes of substitution (three in Congress). No additional alternates are allowed. Alternates are called up in the event a qualifying competitor cannot attend the Super Regional tournament. A student should not participate if they cannot commit to competing at both the Super Regional tournament on April 5 at Thomas Jefferson HS and the State Tournament on April 25-26 at JMU in Harrisonburg.

Protests:

Protests must be filed on site within 60 minutes of the announced results.