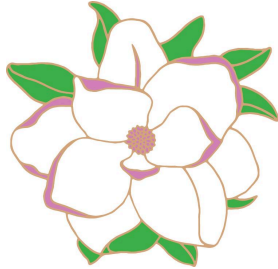


On behalf of the Magnolia Speech and Debate District Committee and Forest Hill High School, all active member schools of the Magnolia Speech & Debate District are invited to register for the Magnolia District Qualifier Tournament in Congressional Debate. The tournament will be held at Forest Hill High School on December 5-6, 2025.



Registration is now open at magnolia.tabroom.com

Student-written legislation for Congress is due via email to micah.everson406@gmail.com by Monday, November 17. The bill book will be posted online no later than Friday, November 21. See below for more information about legislation, including helpful templates.

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

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 (2026.1.3), the event rules for Congress start on **page 43**, and the guidelines for the district qualifier tournaments start on **page 81**, with Congress-relevant information specifically on **page 86** and **page 109 and following**.

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. Please contact me well in advance if you feel that your school cannot meet this obligation or if you have questions about who can count as a “coach.”

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

Unlike at MHSAA tournaments, Magnolia Congress is split into 2 separate events: House and Senate. The events are kept separate throughout: there is never a “joint session.”

- 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.)
- You can see your school’s strength on your NSDA school profile (log in at speechanddebate.org). Then find your number of entries allowed in the House by referencing the “Entry Allotment” charts at <https://www.speechanddebate.org/district-tournaments/> or **page 91** of the Unified Manual.

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

- A student may enter the House or Senate, but not both.

School Fees

\$25 per school

Student Fees

\$10 per student

Judge Fees

\$50 for Congress judge fee will be charged **as a default** for all schools. The fee will be waived if EITHER of the following conditions is met:

- 1) A school provides an **unaffiliated** judge available for at least 2 of the 3 sessions. 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.
- 2) A school’s entry is small enough that the coach may serve as an unaffiliated judge in a chamber in which their students are not competing. (e.g. A school has fewer students in the House than there are House chambers, or a school enters the House or Senate, but not both.)

Late Fees

\$10 per registration change after Monday evening deadline

All fees are paid to **Magnolia Speech & Debate** ([W9 here](#)).

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 **Monday, November 17**. 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 NSDA Format link above. **Do not submit legislation to me as a "pages" document.** Legislation will be publicly posted no later than **November 21**.

Schedule

This schedule is tentative. Changes, if necessary, will be clearly communicated through Tabroom.com emails the week of the tournament.

Friday, Dec 5

- On-Site Registration & Judges Meeting- 5:15-5:30pm
- Preliminary Session 1 - 5:30pm-9:00pm

Saturday, Dec 6

- Preliminary Session 2 - 8:30am-12:00pm
- Final Session - 1:30pm-5:00pm
- Awards Presentation (very brief) - 6:30pm

Qualifiers

Senate (# of schools *and* entries matters)

- In the Senate, we are guaranteed 2 national qualifiers as long as we have at least 6 schools **and** 10 students competing.
- **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 Tournament Format/Procedure

There are little to no changes in our Congress format from previous years.

- One prelim session of Congress will be held on Friday night for both House and Senate.
- A second prelim session of Congress will be held on Saturday morning for both House and Senate.
- A finals session will be held on Saturday afternoon for the House, if necessary. A final session will likely not be necessary for the Senate.
- *Depending on judge availability and other logistical concerns, we may move the Senate sessions around. (For example, to have both Senate sessions on Saturday, or to have the second Senate session on Saturday afternoon instead of the morning. Our default will be as described above, however.)*
- We will *not* allow for suspension of the rules for new legislation to be considered during the tournament.
- Session times: 3 hour minimum, but up to 10 minutes per student in chamber. If 25 or more in the chamber, we can default to 4 hour sessions. Session time does not include breaks.
- We will not use the $\frac{1}{3}$ of session restriction rule for legislation.
- We will allow coaches to split students into chamber groups where we have more than one chamber (as opposed to random assignments). This is what we have done in the past.
 - This does not guarantee placement in “Chamber 1” or “Chamber 2” - only that students from one school are grouped in a particular way. This is not for the purpose of placing students from one school into a particular chamber with students from another school.
- We will not use the student rank option. We have not used it in the past or at regular season tournaments.