



REGENT LEGACY ACADEMY

August 1, 2026

Regent Legacy Rookie & Novice Invitational
2026 Speech and Debate Tournament
Saturday-Sunday, September 26-27, 2026
Online via NSDA Campus

Dear Speech and Debate Community:

After our initial pilot last year, the Regent Legacy Academy Speech and Debate program is pleased to invite you and your program to join us for our second Rookie & Novice Invitational which will take place this year on September 26th and 27th on the NSDA Campus platform.

We will be offering a full-service invitational with a relaxed schedule featuring 4 rounds of Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum, and Parliamentary Debate on Saturday as well as 3 rounds of Congress and Policy Debate. On Sunday, we will offer 4 rounds of all CHSSA and SCJFL speech events. All events will be tabbed on “total cume” with certificates for every student and medals for top students. We are defining “rookies” as students attending their first ever tournament, and “novices” as students in their first semester of competition, including attending less than 3 tournaments in the spring 2026 semester. Debaters who’ve never done speech before are welcome to enter speech competition, as are experienced speech competitors who’ve never done debate. We also strongly encourage experienced high school students to judge rounds in their event for the benefit their own academic growth.

As always, we reserve the right to merge events as entries warrant but will do so to best preserve the spirit and character of each particular event. To minimize cross-entries and facilitate a true rookie / novice experience, we are not allowing double entry for events offered on the same day. Students may still enter one debate event on Saturday and one speech event on Sunday.

We will be using the 2026-2027 national topic in Policy with debates constrained to the evidence packet, the September/October topic in Lincoln-Douglas, the September/October topic Public Forum, a lighthearted mix of fact, value, and policy resolutions in Parliamentary Debate, and Congress bills taken from the September 2026 NSDA Docket. All events will be single flighted with a prep room and topic announce over Zoom for Extemp and Parli.

We are looking forward to providing a positive first competition for all of your new students!

Sincerely yours,

Matt Conrad
Head Coach

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Web Registration

Entries will only be accepted online at tabroom.com. If your program has never set up accounts on tabroom.com, please contact us for assistance in setting your program up on that website. Students are not able to compete on the NSDA Campus platform and judges cannot access their ballots without a tabroom.com account that is linked to the school/program account.

Payment

As in recent years, schools are required to pay their registration fees before the tournament. Please contact us if you require alternate arrangements. Payment is available via Venmo @RegentLegacy. We are setting up a Square online credit card system that will be linked to on tabroom invoices.

Deadlines – All Times Pacific:

Registration Opens: July 1, 2026 9:00am

Fees Freeze: September 22, 2026 11:55pm

Judging Due: September 22, 2026 11:55pm

Registration Closes: September 22, 2026 11:55pm

Drop Deadline: September 22, 2026 11:55pm

Nuisance Fines Begin: September 22, 2026 11:55pm

Please contact us directly for any changes after the September 23rd deadline.

Debate Topics:

Policy Topic: NSDA 2025-2026 Topic (National Health Insurance)

Lincoln-Douglas Topic: September/October Topic (Outer Space Colonization)

Public Forum Topic: September/October Topic (Data Center Construction)

Parliamentary Debate: One lighthearted fact, value, or policy topic will be provided each round

Congress Topics: Bills will be taken from the September NSDA congressional docket and posted on tabroom as the tournament approaches

Divisions:

Middle School Novice / Rookie and High School Novice / Rookie in all events. We are defining “rookies” as students attending their first ever tournament, and “novices” as students in their first semester of competition, including attending less than 3 tournaments in the spring 2026 semester. Debaters who’ve never done speech before are welcome to enter speech competition, as are experienced speech competitors who’ve never done debate.

Patterns:

All events will be single flighted. Students can only enter one debate event and one speech event.

Judges

Schools are expected to provide at least 50% of their judging obligation. Each judge covers two Parliamentary, Public Forum, or Policy teams or two Lincoln Douglas debaters or duo entries. Each speech judge covers six speech entries outside of duo. Schools will pay a judging penalty fee per speech slot, Congress entry, Lincoln Douglas/Duo Interp or Policy/PF/Parli team not covered by school judges.

We also strongly encourage experienced high school students to judge rounds in their event for the benefit their own academic growth, so long as they provide positive, constructive feedback to new students.

All judges are expected to have an electronic device (laptop/desktop computer, iPad/tablet, or at minimum a compatible smartphone) capable of accessing the NSDA Campus platform and we will charge nuisance fees if judge problems cause the tournament to run late. All debate judges are also expected to have a basic judging paradigm available on tabroom.com for students to review before rounds.

Electronic Device Failure Policy

We strongly encourage all students and judges to use a wired Internet connection and have a backup device and backup connection (like a hotspot) ready to go in the event of device failure or loss of an Internet connection. In the event of device failure or loss of connection, students and coaches should notify the tournament immediately and will have 15 minutes to restore their connection and return digitally to their round. If the student or judge is unable to return in time, we will make reasonable accommodations to attempt to allow the affected students to finish their round – speech students may have to give their speeches to their judge in a backup competition room or will be judged on the basis of their interrupted performance. Policy, Parli, and Public Forum debaters may have to continue as “mavericks” without their partner and Lincoln-Douglas debaters may have to forfeit their round.

Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy

We are following the guidelines of the NSDA on generative artificial intelligence, as codified for the 2027 NSDA National Tournament in the 2026-2027 NSDA High School Unified Manual:

“At the 2027 National Tournament, in events in which speeches must be the original created work of a competitor (OO, INF, IX, USX, SW, EXC, IMP, EXP) students are prohibited from quoting or paraphrasing text directly from generative AI sources. Generative AI should *not be cited as a source*. The exception is that a student delivering a speech about the topic of AI may quote AI to illustrate their points about AI, in accordance with existing quoted word limits. While generative AI may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and sources, the original source of any quoted or paraphrased evidence must be available if requested.

In debate events, generative AI should *not be cited as a source*; while generative AI may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and sources, the original source of any quoted or paraphrased evidence must be available if requested.

In Interpretation events, students are prohibited from performing material created by generative AI sources. Generative AI should *not be used as a source of material*; while generative AI may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and material, the original source of any material that is performed must be available if requested.”

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

We believe that the cross-cultural understanding that forensics develops in understanding how different people experience the world differently and understanding different sides of an argument is one of the most important life skills that the activity develops. Thus we are proud to support the ongoing efforts of the NSDA and other forensics organizations to promote understanding. We will be including relevant language on our tournament ballots and will address judge sensitivity during our judge training.

Accessibility Policy

In keeping with our above DEI policy, we encourage coaches to contact us directly regarding any accommodations that the tournament needs to make to create an inclusive environment for all students.

General Rules:

The tournament will consist of four rounds of debate (three for policy and congress) and three rounds of speech all tabbed on total cume, with certificates for all participants and medals for top students in each event. We will merge smaller events as needed but make every effort to merge in ways that preserve the spirit and character of each event.

Sweepstakes:

We will offer two sets of sweepstakes awards – 1st through 3rd in speech and 1st through 3rd in debate.

Speech Rules:

We will generally follow CHSSA rules for high school events and SCJFL rules for middle school events, with exceptions considered on a case-by-case basis at the sole discretion of the tournament director. All speeches are expected to be the original work of the student and may not have been used in competition prior to Spring 2026. Extemp will be combined national and international, with rounds themed around questions of domestic, international, and economic issues. Impromptu topics will be lighthearted.

Debate Rules:

We again will generally follow CHSSA rules for high school and SCJFL for middle and elementary competition, with exceptions considered on a case-by-case basis at the sole discretion of the tournament director. Each program may have one hybrid team with another program and three person teams are allowed. “Maverick” debaters in Policy, Public Forum, and Parliamentary Debate will only be allowed under extreme circumstances. Computers are allowed in all debate events except Parliamentary Debate, in which case computers may be used in prep but not during actual rounds.

Congress Rules:

Congress will have two divisions, middle school and high school. Please designate the PO's with a 'po' for every FIVE entries; we will also welcome experienced competitors willing to serve as a PO. Congress bills will be taken from the September NSDA congressional docket and posted on tabroom.com as the tournament approaches.

2026 REGENT LEGACY INVITATIONAL FEE SHEET

Entry Fees

School Fee		\$70
Number of Speech/Congress entries	_____ X \$15 per entry	_____
Number of Duo Interp entries	_____ X \$20 per entry	_____
Number of Parli teams	_____ X \$40 per entry	_____
Number of Public Forum teams	_____ X \$40 per entry	_____
Number of Lincoln-Douglas entries	_____ X \$40 per entry	_____
Number of Policy teams	_____ X \$80 per entry	_____
Entry Fee subtotal		_____

Uncovered Entry Fees

Number of Speech/Congress entries uncovered	_____ X \$25 per entry	_____
Number of Duo Interp entries uncovered	_____ X \$25 per entry	_____
Number of Parli teams uncovered	_____ X \$75 per entry	_____
Number of Public Forum teams uncovered	_____ X \$75 per entry	_____
Number of Lincoln-Douglas entries uncovered	_____ X \$75 per entry	_____
Number of Policy teams uncovered	_____ X \$150 per entry	_____
Uncovered Entry Fee subtotal		_____

Total Fees Due _____

Payments must be made via Venmo @RegentLegacy. We are currently setting up an online credit card payment system and will publish that on tabroom invoices. Please be sure to include your school name, tabroom invoice number, coach name and contact information, and administrator name and contact information on the relevant payment forms.

REGENT LEGACY ROOKIE & NOVICE INVITATIONAL SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2026 / ALL TIMES PACIFIC

Saturday, December 26: Debate and Congress

8:30am Coach Registration on Zoom
9:00am Student Welcome Assembly on Zoom
9:30am Pairings Released & Judge Instructions
9:40am Tech Check-In & Parli Topic Announce
on Zoom / via Email Blast
10:00am Round One
11:00am Round One Decisions Due

11:15am Round Two Parli Topic Announce
11:30am Round Two
12:30pm Round Two Decisions Due

12:30-1:00pm Lunch Break

1:00pm Round Three Parli Topic Announce
1:20pm Round Three
2:20pm Round Three Decisions Due

2:35pm Round Four Parli Topic Announce
2:55pm Round Four
3:55pm Round Four Decisions Due

4:15pm Screening of Candy Jar on Zoom

6:00pm Awards on Zoom

Sunday, September 27th: Speech

8:30am Coach Registration on Zoom
9:00am Student Welcome Assembly on Zoom
9:30am Postings Released & Judge Instructions
9:40am Tech Check-In & Extemp Draw on
Zoom
10:00am Round One
11:00am Round One Decisions Due

11:15am Round Two Extemp Draw
11:30am Round Two
12:30pm Round Two Decisions Due

12:30-1:00pm Lunch Break

1:00pm Round Three Extemp Draw
1:20pm Round Three
2:20pm Round Three Decisions Due

2:35pm Round Four Extemp Draw
2:55pm Round Four
3:55pm Round Four Decisions Due

4:15pm Screening of Accidental Hero on Zoom

6:00pm Awards on Zoom

11:00pm Tournament Ballots Released to
Coaches