Coaches --

You are cordially invited to The Jim Combs Invitational! We are delighted to host you at **Lafayette High School in Lexington, KY** on **Saturday, December 12th 2026**.

Jim Combs was a member of Lafayette High School's Social Studies Department and the school's Speech and Debate Coach from 1990-2014. He loved Speech and Debate above all else and gave us the platform to revive this team in 2023, which had been relatively inactive since his retirement. He passed away in 2024, and we've founded and named this tournament after him to honor his commitment to the sport.

CATEGORIES

We will be offering **all KHSSL speech and debate events**. Please visit the KHSSL handbook for rules.

ENTRIES

Each event will be offering **unlimited** entries; however, only the top three scores in each event will count toward sweepstakes. Students may triple in IE. Students entering a debate event may only enter that one debate category and one IE event that is NOT extemp. Please be aware that we will not hold rounds for a late performer. It is recommended that students enter no more than 2 limited prep events. Each entry will be charged $6, with Duo Interpretation, Public Forum, and Improvisational Duo charging $12.

ENTRY DEADLINE is 11:55 pm EST on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025

You may drop online for free until 12pm EST on Thursday, December 10th. After that, drops will be $10. Adds will be allowed based on space in our school and judging quota. Substitutions are free. Please let us know about any changes before Saturday if possible.

JUDGES

SPEECH: You must provide one judge for every SIX entries or fraction thereof; 6 entries = one judge, 7 entries = 2 judges, etc. Remember that Duo Interpretation and Improvisational Duo count as 1 entry here.

CONGRESS: You must provide one judge for every SIX entries or fraction thereof; 6 entries = one judge, 7 entries = 2 judges, etc.

XD/LD/PF: You must provide one judge for every TWO entries or fraction thereof.

In the event you cannot provide the required number of judges, you may hire judges for $35 each. Schools must provide at least one judge and can only hire two judges. We want your judges, not your money! Any judge drops will be charged $50 each. Your judges should be familiar with the KHSSL rules and ballots. Of course, there will be lots of goodies in our hospitality room for coaches, judges, and drivers!

NOTES ON DEBATE EVENTS

Our (Lafayette) students will only be entered in debate events if entries are needed to create suitable competition for everyone involved. Those students who are entered will be eligible for individual awards but not for sweepstakes in their own tournament.

TOPICS: **We will be using current NSDA topics for LD and PF**. Since this tournament is in December, we will NOT be using the Novice LD topic; all LD competitors will use the 2026 November/December Topic. Current topics can be found on the NSDA website.

PAIRING: XD/PF/LD -- So long as numbers permit, students will be guaranteed four rounds. The first 2 rounds are randomly matched with preference of avoiding same school match-ups. After the first 2 rounds, students will be divided based on record and then power-matched for round 3. A similar division and match will be made for round 4.

Congress legislation: Submit legislation on tabroom. The deadline for legislation is **Friday, December 4th**. Should there be a limited amount of submissions, submitted legislation will be complemented by NSDA sample legislation. **This means legislation should be geared towards the national level, not the state level**. The legislation packet will be posted by Monday, December 7th by 5pm EST.

AWARDS

We will be giving awards to the top 6 performers in each speech event and congress. Non-congress debate awards will be given to the top four; speaker awards may be given based on number of entries. We will be offering separate debate and speech sweepstakes awards, awarding the top 3 schools in each.

FOOD

$7 food tickets can be purchased ahead of time; meals will have 2 pieces of pizza, chips, and a drink. You will need to place these orders on tabroom by 11:55 pm EST on Tuesday, December 8th.

We will also have snacks, candy, ice cream, and drinks available for purchase. It will be **cash only**.

SCHEDULE (subject to change)

SPEECH	XD/LD/PF	CONGRESS
Registration 7:00-7:40 am **Judges' Meeting** 8am		
Extemp Draw Round 1 8:00 **Round 1** 8:30-10:00 *Extemp Draw Round 2 10:00* **Round 2** 10:30-12:00 *Extemp Draw Round 3 12:30* **Round 3** 1:00-2:30 **Finals** 3:15	*XD Draw Round 1 8:00* **Round 1**: 8:30-9:30 *XD Draw Round 2 9:45* **Round 2**: 10:15-11:15 *XD Draw Round 3 12:00* **Round 3**: 12:30-1:30 *XD Draw Round 4 2:00* **Round 4**: 2:30-3:30	**Session 1**: 9:00-10:00 **Session 2**: 10:30-11:30 **Session 3**: 1:00-2:00 ***Super Session**: 3:00-4:00 **only if needed*
Awards 5pm (estimated)		

HOW TO ENTER

Please register online at www.tabroom.com. If you have any questions regarding the process, please let me know.

AED INFORMATION TO COMPLY WITH NEW KENTUCKY LAW:

- **Destination/Venue:** Lafayette High School
- **Venue Address:** 401 Reed Lane, Lexington, KY 40503
- **Person or email contacted at venue to discuss EAD:** Mrs. Riley Murray
- **Position/Title of person contacted:** Social Studies Instructor and Speech & Debate Coach
- **Is there an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) on site?** Yes, there are 4
- **If yes, where is/are they located:**
    - (1) Outside Room 233
    - (2) Outside the Guidance Office 017
    - (3) Outside of the gymnasium by exterior door 14C
    - (4) Interior hallway closest to room 220
- **Does the venue have an emergency response team (ERT)?** NO

Hope to see you all on December 12th!

Cheers,

Riley Murray, Coach
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