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INTRODUCTION

Individual Events, Congressional Debate Tournament, and Speaking Eagle Triathlon

The Juan Diego Catholic High School Speech and Debate Team invites you to our annual individual events and congressional debate tournament. We will offer individual events recognized by the Utah High School Activities Association, National Speech and Debate Association, and National Catholic Forensic League.

A triathlon award is offered in the open and novice division for the students in the entered in at least three individual events.

The tournament will be a paneled, two-day event. Students are encouraged to enter both panels, and they may double-enter within panels. We will offer novice and open in every event.

WHAT'S NEW?

If you've attended Silver and Blue before, observe this quick summary of what you can expect in 2016. Please know that all changes are made with an intent to be consistent with the tournament's mission.

- We will be using judge cards to assist in tracking judging commitments. It is our hope to have this tournament will be an online ballot tournament in the coming years. In order to do this, we need to see how many ballots are being reassigned. Please note, missed ballots or missing judges will result in fines assessed to the schools.
- We will continue with the decision from last year to remove quarter-finals for large events. While this was a difficult decision given the entry size in some events, it did make a large difference in how quickly the tournament moved towards awards.
- We do have a new Director of Forensics at Juan Diego Catholic High School. Please welcome (back) Sara Baker to the Utah Debate community.

SIGN UP SHEET

Feel free to use the following sign up sheet to help your students sign up for the competition.

https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/1zLiNNPu_56Snj9XUY1VnJhV7gAKeW_IU5BZ5rFWwq0A/edit?usp=sharing

EVENTS AND RULES

The mission of Silver & Blue is to give students an opportunity to compete in individual events consistent with standards and norms common at the highest level of competition. For this reason, rules will be enforced that have historically been ignored at many Utah competitions. Therefore, coaches should encourage their students to prepare and practice their events in a manner consistent with those standards. Coaches and students should consult the links provided in the descriptions below. Students who violate these rules may receive a rank of nine for the round in which the infraction occurred, or ranked last in their congressional debate chamber. If there are any questions, please email the tournament director.

Students who observe rule violations should report them to their coach, who should then report them to the tournament director.

For event rules and descriptions, please visit the [National Speech and Debate Association Website](#). Each of the events below can be accessed through this link. If you are unfamiliar with an event, we would encourage you to utilize this resource. The website has been recently updated.

[Speech Events Offered](#)

Panel A:

- National Extemp
- Impromptu
- Duo Interp
- Oratory
- Program Oral Interp (this replaces prose/poetry)
- Storytelling - The storytelling theme for this tournament is sports stories

Panel B:

- Foreign Extemp
- Spar (**speech style, not win/loss**)
- Humorous Interp
- Dramatic Interp
- Informative Speaking
- Declamation

Ballots

In an effort to simplify judging and bring the expectation for interps in line with national standards, proprietary ballots will be used at this tournament.

Computer Use in Congressional Debate and Extemp

Computers are permitted, however any wireless communication is not permitted between the time extemp prep begins, and when the last extemper has started their speech. Phones will not be permitted at all. All extempers consent to allow the prep room manager to inspect their computers to see if any devices are connected during this time. Extempers will not be permitted to access their phones during prep, so they should plan to bring a timer.

Similarly, congressional debate students must disable all wireless functionality on their computers while their chamber is in session.

Congress

The congress docket is available for download closer to the tournament.

All other standards, rules, and expectations for congress will follow those set forth by the National Speech and Debate Association.

Please give special attention to terms used and rules regarding precedence (sometimes called priority) and speech times.

NOVICE ELIGIBILITY

The students that may participate in the novice division are those that did not participate in a high school speech or debate event prior to the 2016-2017 academic year. Even if the student competed only one time, or only did a debate event prior to this season, they are still considered ineligible for novice competition.

All students may participate in open competition.

COMMUNICATION AND POSTINGS

Information about the tournament will be posted on Tabroom.com. This will include postings and final round results. A complete packet with preliminary results will be emailed to coaches at the conclusion of the tournament.

PANELS AND SCHEDULE

Panel A: National Extemporaneous, Impromptu, Duo Interp, Oratory, Program Oral Interp, Storytelling

Panel B: Foreign Extemporaneous, Spar, Humorous Interp, Dramatic Interp, Informative Speaking, and Declamation

Students can double enter within panels

Congress will not be paneled and students participating in congress may not enter in any other event.

Individual Events Schedule

Friday

2:45-3:15 Registration

3:30-4:45 Panel A Round 1

4:45-6:00 Panel B Round 1

6:00-6:30 Dinner break

6:30-8:00 Panel A Round 2

Saturday

8:30-9:45 Panel B Round 2

9:45-11:00 Panel A Round 3

11:00-12:15 Panel B Round 3

12:15-12:45 Lunch

12:15 - 3:00 We will begin semifinals for events with 28 or more competitors and finals for events with 14 - 27 competitors. Elimination rounds will post ASAP to expedite the completion of the tournament.

3:00 Humorous Interp Showcase and Awards. If finals rounds have not been completely tabulated, humorous interps will be showcased until awards are ready to announce. Any humorous interp competitor may participate.

For events with fewer than 14 entries, there will be a final round, however it will be judged by one person, rather than a three judge panel.

Congress Schedule

Friday

Session 1 3:30-6:00

Dinner Break 6:00-6:30

Session 2 6:30-8:30

Saturday

Session 3 8:30-11:00

A final will be held in divisions with multiple houses: 11:30-2:30

HOTELS

The following hotels are near Juan Diego High School

Comfort Inn Hotel: 801-571-2511

Springhill Suites: 801-572-1800

DOUBLE ENTRY PROTOCOL

Students that are double entered within their panel should observe the following protocol:

1. Report to the room where you will speak second. Inform the judge (or another competitor if the judge hasn't arrived) that you are double entered and you will be returning to deliver your speech.

2. Report to the room where you will speak first and deliver your speech. After the speech, go immediately back to your second room to finish your round.
3. If there are problems or questions, report immediately to the tabroom.
4. **If a student misses a round and does not observe this protocol, no accommodation will be made for that student.**

Students can enter in more than two events within their panel, however they do so at their own risk and are not guaranteed their rounds will wait for them. We need to stay on schedule.

We highly **recommend** any student entered into two or more events within the same panel bring sticky notes. Instruct your students to use the notes to notify judges they are double entered and intend to return (attach to doorway, leave with fellow competitor, give to judge to hold on to).

FEES

Entry Fees: \$30.00 school fee

\$7.00 per competitor per event. A duo entry is \$14.00 per duo.

REGISTRATION

Registration will be done on Tabroom, though any coach who prefers to email their registration may do that also.

Please observe all dealines posted on Tabroom.com for registering.

After Friday, November 13, fees for uncovered judges will be assessed to your account. Fees will not decrease after November 13th as a result of drops..

A list of entries and judges will be emailed to all coaches on Thursday, November 19th. Coaches must then reply to confirm that the entry is correct, or they should make necessary changes on Tabroom. An explanation of any unmet financial commitment will be included with this email.

TABULATION AND SCORING

Competitors will be ranked. **The ratings system of awarding S,E, G, F will not be used.**

The tabroom will be open to all coaches, and they will have access to all ballots as well as the computer records. For this reason, coaches are responsible to verify the

accuracy of all tabbing of individual results and sweepstakes awards. No corrections will be made after the tournament is concluded.

Competitors will all be ranked, with no ties. This also means that there will be no ties for 5th place, as is often the norm at tournaments in Utah.

The tournament director will determine who advances to finals and semi-finals based on cumulative ranks from preliminary rounds.

Final rankings will be determined with the following criteria:

1. All ranks from all rounds, including semis and finals will be cumulated, with the lower score being the better rank.
2. A majority of 1's will rank a competitor higher
3. Judge's preference

Finals rounds will be judged by a panel of three judges, except where entry in the event is fewer than 14 total entries.

AWARDS

Individual awards

The finalists in each event will receive awards.

The Speaking Eagle Award

There will be an award for the students with the best cumulative score in preliminary rounds of three events. This will be awarded to the top ten in novice and open. The winner of this award shall be known as the best individual events competitor of all time. Congressional debate students are not eligible because of schedule constraints. To be eligible, students should anticipate that they would need to double enter in at least one panel and enter in a single event of another panel. The tournament schedule makes this possible. A suggestion for this is to do an extemp style event in one panel and double enter for the second panel.

Coaches are instructed to ensure that their competitors' names have identical spelling across all their entries, because this is how the tab software knows to programmatically cumulate individual sweepstakes awards.

Sweepstakes Awards

We will award a sweepstakes winner. Sweepstakes points are earned with each prelim rank of 1 earning 6 points, 2 earns 5 points, 3 earns 4 points, and so on. There will be a sweepstakes award for the top performing school in a large school (5a and 4a) and small school (3a, 2a, 1a). This does require, however, that there be at least three schools entered in each group. Otherwise, classifications will be combined.

JUDGES

Please pay close attention to all matters relating to judges. By far, the greatest challenge to the operation of this tournament is providing enough judges. Your attention to these matters is all that is needed to make this improvement.

One judge is required for every 10 entries. These judges must be available for both panels. Teams with inadequate numbers of judges will be assessed a fee of \$100 for each missing judge. This will be assessed after the entry deadline.

If you would like to hire judges from the tournament to meet your commitment, this request must be made by November 10th. Requests for hired judges will be filled in the order they are received, and our ability to fill these requests is based on availability.

If you are unable to meet your judge commitment, please inform the tournament director as soon as possible. There will be a limited number available for hire. Attendance of judges will be recorded by use of judge cards, similar to that of the State competition. *We will try to notify the coach when a judge misses a ballot, however we will not hold up the tournament for attempts to locate judges. Fees will be assessed for missing ballots. For each ballot we reassign (to a judge from another school), you will be assessed a \$15 fee.*

All judges on Saturday are committed to the final round. Fees will apply to semi and final rounds.

We will have a table at the tournament where judges can receive help and get their questions answered. New judges in particular are welcome and encouraged to take advantage of this service.

Schools bringing students in congressional debate must bring at least one judge that is able and willing to judge congress on Friday and Saturday.

FOOD

Dinner will be provided for coaches and judges. Food will be available for purchase for students.

WIRELESS ACCESS

A wireless internet signal is available from the school commons for guests. As a reminder to extemp and congress competitors – you may use your computers but wireless functionality must be disabled during prep and competition.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How big is the tournament?

In 2016, there were 21 schools in attendance, with 832 total entries. The table below lists each event, and the number entered for each event in the novice and open divisions. We are using our elementary building, which shares the campus with our high school building, so we anticipate these numbers will be higher for 2016

Event	Novice	Open	Totals
Congress	24	33	57
Declamation	20	16	36
National Extemporaneous Speaking	38	29	67
Dramatic Interpretation	16	17	33
Duo Interpretation	9	17	26
Humorous Interpretation	13	14	27
Impromptu Speaking	109	71	180
Informative Speaking	19	16	35
International Extemporaneous Speaking	39	32	71
Original Oratory	49	29	78
Program Oral Interpretation	21	19	40
Spont. Argumentation (Speech Style)	75	61	136
Storytelling	25	21	46
Totals			832

Why should my school attend this tournament?

Our goal is to give students the best experience to do individual events. We offer a schedule with two separate panels, and we accommodate double entry within panels. The size of the tournament has increased every year, with past attendees being impressed by the quality and quantity of awards, the food, and the beautiful campus.

Will there be debate events?

No.

Why aren't you using the ratings system (S, E, G, F)?

Ratings are both arbitrary and unnecessary. (Can someone tell me the difference between "superior" and "excellent"? Also, are these applied consistently across judges? Probably not.) There will be a final in each event, thus making ratings unimportant for tie-breaking purposes. There are less arbitrary tiebreakers for the final round, which will be judge preference, then using cumulative scores from prelims.

Why are all competitors ranked, with no ties for 5th?

Students and coaches want to know how well they performed. This data is more meaningful than just having a 5 and therefore gives students and coaches added perspective as they seek to improve. Concerns that students cannot handle being ranked low or in last place are unfounded. Yes, defeat is difficult, but it is an inherent quality of competition. This practice is widely accepted in other competitive circuits and in other competitive high school activities. Also, it simplifies judging.

Isn't it a little silly to have only one round of panel B on Friday?

Actually, the design of the tournament is for students to enter in panel A and panel B events, so ideally they will have competed in three rounds that night. Of course, they can single enter, but this would mean they have plenty of down time when they could be competing.

What tips do you have for helping my students win at this tournament?

Be brave and enter in less popular events. Spar and impromptu are always big and I'll admit those are fun events, but it can be tough when competing against 50+ other kids. In 2015, novice impromptu had 109 competitors! By comparison, novice duo interp had only nine entries! Encourage students to enter in something they aren't familiar with and learn about it online.

What tips do you have for winning sweepstakes?

The tabulation software will award points for every single preliminary rank, so having a large entry will certainly help. Also, keep in mind that we an award for large schools and small schools. Smaller schools that might not normally think of themselves as being competitive will have a better opportunity at this tournament.

I'm a new coach. Is this tournament for me?

Absolutely. New coaches will enjoy the opportunity to participate in an open tabroom while sharing experiences with colleagues from other schools. Coaches are

encouraged to check on the progress of their competitors, which will be made possible with 26 computers in the tabroom - all of which will be connected to the tournament. In the room adjacent to the tabroom, ballots will be organized and made available for immediate review for any head coaches that are interested. The tournament director and assistant director will be available at all times to address any inquiries or concerns that you have while at the tournament.

Why is there an emphasis on using rules from the NSDA and the NCFL at this tournament ?

This is part of an effort to increase the quality of competition and provide a more valuable experience for the students. It also gives clear expectations and is therefore more fair to the students. For example, students who prepare an interp event in accordance with the NSDA's rules do so under considerably more difficult conditions than someone preparing an interp with little regard for how it is cited and adapted. Judges are rarely aware of this when they rank the competitors. Rules enforcement keeps the playing field level.

This also keeps the preparations in line for what is expected at the national tournaments and their qualifiers, thereby giving students an opportunity to prepare for high stakes competition where they can represent their school and community on a bigger stage.

Finally, know that all rules will be enforced reasonably at the direction of the tournament director.

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