

New England NSDA District
National Qualifying
Speech & Debate Tournament

To all NSDA Member Schools of New England:

The New England District Committee invites you to attend our qualifier for the 2018 National Speech and Debate Association National Tournament in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida in June!

This year our qualifier will once again be hosted in Shrewsbury. Both days will be at the Sherwood Middle School 28 Sherwood Avenue, Shrewsbury MA 01545

Join us on Friday February 2nd and Saturday February 3rd for competition in Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, International Extemporaneous Speaking, Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking, Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Original Oratory, Program Oral Interpretation (POI) and Informative Speaking.

All information can be found in this invitation and at www.speechanddebate.org.

You may contact Marc Rischitelli, District Chair, at Charc98@hotmail.com with any questions.

We invite all members of the New England NSDA to compete at the tournament, even if you do not plan to attend the national tournament. Students wishing to compete but NOT qualify should be made known to the Chair, so that qualifying slots will be awarded to alternates where necessary. It is important that we enter as many students as possible to ensure full qualification within each category.

Once again our New England District, has qualified as "Level Three" status meaning we can qualify to the national tournament THREE ENTRIES in each category! Our District is entitled to three qualifiers in every event in which there are at least 10 team entries and 12 individual entries in each event. Any event with less than 10 teams entries or less than 12 individual entries is entitled to two qualifiers, as long as there are at least 4 entries in the event. In addition, we may take four qualifiers in any event that has 50 teams or 58 individual entries.

The number of entries a school may enter is based on the school's strength. Please consult the NSDA Unified Manual for details on this system and/or visit www.speechanddebate.org. Tabroom should limit your entries to the proper number.

- Team events (Duo, Public Forum & Policy) are only ONE entry against your quota.
- Each school may enter up to 4 in each event.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY: Students must be NSDA members and officially registered as a member user on the organization's website in order to compete at districts. They must show on your NSDA roster as both a member and district eligible. Student names will NOT show up on your Tabroom drop down if they are not eligible. This may require that you de-duplicate students and/or manage your NSDA links. In some cases there have been glitches that may require contact with the national office to fix.

There is no double entry at the NSDA National Tournament. However, the NSDA does permit double entry at District Qualifiers. The New England District Committee has once again decided to offer some double-entry opportunity. Double-entry is allowed with the following restrictions:

No double-entry between Debate events (Public Forum, Policy and L/D) but a debater can also enter an IE event.

Double-entry is allowed in IEs (IX, DX, DI, HI, Duo, OO, POI & INFO) but a student may not enter both extemps.

A student who double enters in a partnership event & an individual event must attend Nationals in the partnership event if they qualify in both unless they meet the guidelines in the next sentence. If two students are entered in a partnership event together (& qualify for Nationals) and both also qualify in an individual event, these students may choose to enter the individual events at the National Tournament if pre-registered on the "Single Entry Letter of Intent" form. If two students are entered in a partnership debate event as partners (and qualify to Nationals) and the same partnership also qualifies in duo, these students may choose to enter ONE of the partnership events at the National Tournament, if pre-registered on the "Single Entry Letter of Intent" form.

Other students who double enter in two individual events must include a "Single Entry Letter of Intent" at the time of registration indicating which event they would attend NSDA Nationals in if they were to qualify in both. The letter of intent form requires appropriate signatures. All such decisions (forms) must be received at registration or the student will need to drop from one event. THESE FORMS CAN BE PRINTED FROM TABROOM.

- IF A STUDENT ALSO ENTERED THE DISTRICT CONGRESS, THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED EVEN IF THEY DID NOT QUALIFY IN CONGRESS

- A STUDENT SHOULD COMPLETE THE FORM IF THEIR PREFERENCE IS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A MEMBER OF THE NEW ENGLAND USA WORLD SCHOOLS DEBATE TEAM

FEES: This is very much a not-for-profit event. All fees are assessed to offset the cost of obtaining neutral judges and limited tournament expenses.

\$10.00 per Student entry (Team events = \$20) and a \$ 35.00 School Fee

DROPS: Drops made after 8:00pm on Friday, January 26, 2018 will incur a \$10.00 per change nuisance fee. There will be a \$25 fee levied for drops made on the day of the tournament without proper substitution of an alternate from that school. Please arrive to registration on time so that the paneling and schedule for the tournament may run as smoothly as possible.

HOUSING: Unfortunately, we cannot offer housing. If you need recommendations for hotels in the area, please email me.

JUDGES: Due to very specific NSDA paneling rules, obtaining judges is always a crucial and difficult aspect to this tournament. Your understanding that we are working in the best interest of the District and your efforts to cooperate with our judge requirements is truly appreciated.

One judge must be provided for every 5 SPEECH event entries or fraction thereof.

In debate - One judge must be provided for every 2 entries in EACH of the DEBATE categories (for example: 3 L/D and 1 Policy will require 2 L/D judges and 1 Policy judge, not just 2 debate judges to cover both).

Note: Speech judges & hired neutrals may be used to judge PFD. We also reserve the right to mix qualified LD/PFD judge pools if necessary.

It is allowed (actually encouraged, but not required) that schools provide different judges for each day. Extra judges are always welcome!

When registering a judge, please use the comment section to indicate if a judge is Friday and/or Saturday.

DEBATE RESOLUTIONS:

Policy Debate –

Resolved: **The United States federal government should substantially increase its funding and/or regulation of elementary and/or secondary education in the United States.**

Lincoln-Douglas Debate –

Resolved: **Plea bargaining ought to be abolished in the United States criminal justice system.**

Public Forum Debate –

Resolved: **The United States should abolish the capital gains tax.**

**NSDA RULES WILL GOVERN ALL EVENTS - THIS INCLUDES
RULES ON USE OF COMPUTERS AND EVIDENCE RULES.**

Please review the NSDA website for details. We would especially point out the rules pertaining to sources of material for interpretation. Please bring necessary copies of scripts/original sources and oratories and read all rules pertaining to the events.

**IMPORTANT REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERP & ORATORY/INFO
ENTRIES - YOU MUST BRING COPIES OF SCRIPTS & ORIGINAL
SOURCES TO THE TOURNAMENT!**

Oratory & INFO: Each student's script must be brought to the district tournament and turned in at registration. The script must identify quoted materials, state the number of quoted words and include a work cited page. Both the student and coach must attest by signature that the speech is the original work of the contestant.

Interp (HI, DI, DUO, POI): Each Interp cutting must be brought to the district tournament and turned in at registration. Original sources must also be available at the tournament.

Please see the NSDA site on copies of scripts and rules on interp sources -

On-line interp sources approved by the NSDA for the 2017-2018 school year can also be found on the NSDA site.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (subject to change – and it often does!):

IMPORTANT - You CANNOT arrive at the school before 3:00PM

When you arrive, please bring your entire team to the gymnasium. All students, coaches and judges should remain there until the tournament begins. We will hold Registration in or near that location.

Friday Registration 3:00-3:30 – ALL SCHOOLS MUST REGISTER BY 3:30PM! (While not an invitation to be late & hold everyone up, in case of emergency, Marc's cell is 508-523-2113)

3:30 ALL Judge Meetings

POLICY - Friday

4:00PM - Round 1

6:30PM - Round 2

PFD - Friday

4:30PM - Round 1

5:45PM - Round 2

7:15PM - Round 3

LD - Friday

4:30PM - Round 1

6:00PM - Round 2

SPEECH - Friday

4:15PM - Round 1

5:30PM - Round 2

7:15PM- Round 3 (**NOT** in all events)

Saturday - 9:30AM - NEXT ROUND ALL EVENTS - Continuing elimination rounds

If an event's first Saturday round is a final, the schedule will be adjusted based on judge availability and it is unlikely to be at 9:30AM. Saturday IE rounds may also be split into A&B time slots depending on judge needs.

FOOD: We are still making arrangements and do not have details to provide but there will be food and drink for purchase. It may be limited but we will have it.

WORLD SCHOOLS DEBATE

The NSDA will once again include District competition in WORLD SCHOOLS DEBATE at Nationals.

World Schools Debate features a dynamic format combining the concepts of “prepared” topics with “impromptu” topics, encouraging debaters to focus on specified issues rather than debate theory or procedural arguments. This highly interactive style of debate allows debaters to engage each other, even during speeches. This challenging format requires good teamwork and in-depth quality argumentation.

I EXPECT NEW ENGLAND WILL FIELD TWO TEAMS AT NATIONALS (3-5 students each from one or multiple schools). Following our District Tournament, an email will come out with application information. ONLY STUDENTS WHO COMPETE AT A DISTRICT TOURNAMENT WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR OUR DISTRICT WORLD SCHOOL TEAMS.

NSDA DISTRICT STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Coaches may nominate a deserving graduating senior member for the District Student of the Year Award. The League has several mechanisms for recognizing competitive achievement, but this program annually rewards students whose attitude transcends trophies and accolades; a student who characterizes the very traits of humility, integrity, leadership, respect and service touted by the NSDA Code of Honor.

THE NOMINATION PROCESS: All nominations must be made through the NSDA website form at www.speechanddebate.org. Once a coach submits a nomination it will be emailed to me as District Chair. If you want to nominate a student, please do so ASAP and no later than January 26, 2018 to allow me to receive the nominations and disperse to a committee.

The winner of the District Student of the Year award will receive a plaque at our tournament.

Students selected as District Students of the Year will be eligible to win the NSDA National Student of the Year, to be presented during the National Tournament. In total, the top six students (the winner and five honorable mentions) will be recognized at the National Tournament.

Scouting - The NSDA Executive Council strongly discourages debate scouting at the District Tournament.

Registration is OPEN NOW. **Registration CLOSES at 8PM Friday, January 26, 2018.** The early registration date is absolutely necessary in order for us to prepare for the tournament.

CRITICAL - The OFFICIAL NSDA entry form (a/k/a "the green sheet") must be brought to the tournament with proper signatures. **THIS SHOULD BE PRINTED FROM TABROOM.**

We are looking forward to another great District Tournament to choose the next group of students to represent New England at nationals!

YOUR DISTRICT COMMITTEE:

Marc Rischitelli of Shrewsbury

Lisa Honeyman of Newton South

Paul Wexler of Needham

Sheryl Kaczmarek of Lexington

Sarah Donnelly of Natick