

Maine NSDA District National Qualifier Tournaments Invitation (2021)

The Maine NSDA District Committee cordially invites you to participate in the District Qualifying Tournaments to be held **March 13, 2021 and March 27, 2021**. Both tournaments will be held remotely due to current pandemic restrictions.

A complete manual for the Congressional and Debate/Speech District Tournaments can be found at <https://www.speechanddebate.org/high-school-unified-manual/> (Please review pages 24-57 for Event Rules, and pages 60-100 for District Tournament Operations)

NSDA Schools without financial obligations to the NSDA National Office may compete at either or both tournaments and qualify students to attend the virtual National Speech and Debate Tournament in June (June 13-19, 2021).

The Main Events (meaning all events we offer at our Qualifiers) will be offered LIVE, although remotely during the week of Nationals in June. Duo Interpretation will be offered asynchronous at our March 27th tournament (see below) - and those students that qualify for Nationals in Duo Interpretation will be given the opportunity to perform their Duo piece remotely in the same room, or on split screens in two different locations. ALL SPEECH EVENTS will compete LIVE but REMOTE at Nationals, but are encouraged to submit a video taped performance as a backup in case there are technical difficulties. (Except the two Extemp events. They have to compete live)

Congressional Debate and Debate will be LIVE but REMOTE at Nationals in June.

ALL SUPPLEMENTAL Events will be asynchronous, with students submitting video files of their performances in the weeks prior to Nationals. (Again with one exception - Extemp Debate is the only supplemental event that will be held Live but Remote)

Entry fees for this year's District Tournament is \$5 per student entry (Public Forum and Duo Interpretation is therefore \$10 per team entry) Entry fees are owed based on an invoice generated on Friday, the day before the tournament commences. Entry fees may be paid using Purchase Orders after each tournament is completed. Please make checks payable to the **"Maine NSDA District"** or to **"Joe Pelletier"** and mailed to the address provided on the invoice.

Tournament Audit

The NSDA requires that we have an auditing procedure in place for all National Qualifier Tournaments. Electronic balloting makes this process easier, and our auditors will do their best throughout the day to make sure tabulations are accurate. At the end of the morning and afternoon sessions (in Congressional Debate), and at the conclusion of each Round (in Speech and Debate) the Auditing Committee will examine an auditing report and compare it to results as

recorded in Tabroom. As they complete their work, the ballots will be made available to coaches to examine on Tabroom.com. It is the expectation of the District Committee that these results NOT be shared with students or anyone else until after the tournament has been concluded and the Awards Ceremony has been held.

Congressional Debate

The “Maine NSDA Paul Bibeau Congressional Debate National Qualifier” will be held March 13th. Registration on Tabroom.com is currently open. We encourage early registration to help with planning. Registration Deadline is Monday, March 8, 2021 at 8 p.m. A school’s allotment for Congressional Debate is determined by their total number of members and degrees (see chart on page 66 of manual, link above)

The docket is currently available as a Google Document (shared) and as an email attachment (sent by CD Moderator Randy Hughes-King)

The manual will explain these requirements in more detail, but we need a minimum of SIX *schools* to register at least a single Senator (and those Senators must actually participate) to hold a Senate Chamber. We need a minimum of 16 *students* to be registered and participate in the House in order to hold a House chamber. In order to count, the above minimum number of students **must participate by giving at least one speech during the morning and afternoon sessions.**

Qualifiers to Nationals

Final details will not be known until after registration closes on March 8th, but it is expected that we will have preliminary House chambers in the morning and a Final Chamber of our top Representatives in the afternoon. Final numbers of competitors will determine the number of qualifiers, but we hope to be able to qualify FOUR Representatives to Nationals, as well as TWO Senators.

Entry in this tournament is restricted to current NSDA member schools, and only to students with NSDA membership. Tabroom.com is set up to only allow eligible students to be registered, but it is the affirmative duty of each coach to confirm that only “Districts Eligible” students participate in this tournament.

Schedule for the Day (Congressional Debate - March 13)

Prior to 8:15 a.m. -- Coaches confirm registration on Tabroom.com

8:30 a.m. -- Student Briefing / Judges Briefing

9:00 a.m. -- Chambers convene with the taking of the oath, nomination and election of Presiding Officers, and setting of the docket for the morning.

Lunch breaks and afternoon session start times will be determined by the Congressional Debate Moderator (or their designee) for the day. **Students and Coaches are responsible** for staying informed of changes in the schedule throughout the day.

Judges (Congressional Debate)

There is **NO Judge Obligation** for Congressional Debate. We are required to use unaffiliated scorers and parliamentarians for this tournament, so the District Committee will seek judges. Coaches of smaller teams are sometimes asked to judge a chamber that does NOT contain any students from that school. If you are aware of any available unaffiliated judges, please let us know. Please clearly indicate whether that judge needs to be paid by the District Committee or if they are volunteers. There is a **\$30 per school fee** to help offset the expense of hiring Congressional Debate judges.

Speech and Debate

The Debate (PF and LD) and Speech Qualifier will be held March 27th. Registration on Tabroom.com will open on February 27, 2021 (day of States). We encourage early registration to help with planning. Registration Deadline is **Monday**, March 22, 2021 at 8 p.m.

Speech Events

As long as we have enough entries (at least four entries from two or more schools) that actually compete on March 27th - we will Qualify TWO entries in each category to attend Nationals in June.

The Maine District would qualify THREE entries to Nationals in any Speech or Debate Event that has at least ten entries in it. This is a remote possibility which would be remarkable!

Schools are limited to no more than FOUR entries in any single event, and have an overall cap on the total number of entries from the school based on a formula that uses the schools total number of NSDA members and degrees.

Speech Events offered at this tournament are:

- Dramatic Interpretation,
- Humorous Interpretation,
- Informative Speaking,
- Original Oratory,
- Program Oral Interpretation,
- International Extemporaneous and
- U.S. Extemporaneous.
- Duo Interpretation IS OFFERED, but with students submitting video for asynchronous competition on tournament day.

If low numbers warrant the cancelation of any of the above events, coaches will be allowed to register their students for a different event, even if the registration deadline has passed.

Duo Interpretation

Due to safety concerns, we will offer Duo Interpretation as an asynchronous event at the March 27th tournament. Videos must be submitted by 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24th.

Page 71 of the NSDA manual reads in part:

“Submissions or recordings may not be edited using any software; all submissions must be non-stop footage of the entire performance done through the permitted submission platform. The camera being used must remain stationary throughout the entire performance, and no zooming or panning is permitted. Other individuals may be present while filming, but audience interaction (laughing, applause, etc.) must not be included in the performance.”

Videos (or a video link) will be sent to an assigned judge when Rounds One and Two are posted during the day of the tournament on March 27th. The Final Round of Duo will have a panel of three judges. Ballot results will be tabulated in the same manner as ballots from other Speech events offered at the NSDA District Qualifying Tournament.

The same version of the video that was submitted prior to the tournament will be used throughout the tournament. Students who qualify for Nationals in this event may create a new recording for Nationals, or use this same video for that submission.

Judge Requirements (Speech and Debate - March 27)

A school is required to provide an experienced judge for every five entries registered, or for a fraction thereof. (Meaning six entries would require 2 judges be provided for the day) Judges are expected to be available for the entire day, including Final Rounds. A judge that is available for only some rounds will be treated as a half judge. We especially have a need for fresh judges in the afternoon, so schools are strongly encouraged to provide an extra judge in speech and debate if they can come in at noontime.

First Year Out students are not eligible to judge at this tournament.

Speech Events will use the "Up/Down Method" for all speech events - as explained in the manual (see above link) on page 81, and pages 82-84. This means that it is likely that speech will have two preliminary rounds, followed by a staggered Final Round of Flight A and Flight B. It is plausible that some events could go three preliminary rounds and then a Final Round; the schedule below will be adjusted if that becomes a reality.

Student competitors may double enter in Speech events. Any student who double enters (or triple enters if one event is Congressional Debate and/or Big Questions Debate) MUST have their coaches register their single event preference on Tabroom.com prior to the start of the second event. (This electronic requirement replaces the paper copy of the Single Entry Letter of Intent previously required at the morning registration.)

Schedule

Prior to 8:15 a.m. -- Coaches confirm registration on Tabroom.com

8:30 a.m. -- Student Briefings / Judge Briefings

9:00 a.m. -- Round One of Speech and Debate

10:00 a.m. -- Round Two of Debate/ Round Two of Speech as soon as possible

11:30 a.m. -- Round Three of Debate/ potential for a third preliminary round of Speech
(if necessary)

Lunch Break after Debate Round Three/Speech Round Two (or Third Prelim)

1:00 p.m. -- Round Four of Debate (all debate competitors guaranteed four rounds)

Flight A Final Round of Speech
2:30 p.m. -- Elimination Rounds of Debate (as needed)
Rounds of Debate to follow as soon as possible - if needed
-- Flight B Final Round of Speech

Awards to be announced as soon as possible after final rounds - watch for email alerts

Debate Events (Lincoln Douglas and Public Forum)

There are no Novice or JV divisions offered at this tournament. All registered individuals/teams compete in a single division. Rounds one and two are randomly set through Tabroom.com, with subsequent rounds set by win/loss record and using the Tournament Manual to determine matchups. (see pages 74-76 of manual)

Just as in speech events, schools are limited to no more than four entries in a single event, and cannot enter more than their total school allotment based on the total number of members and degrees on record a week prior to the tournament.

The Maine District will qualify TWO entries to attend Nationals in Public Forum and Lincoln Douglas, as long as we are able to hold the event (minimum of four entries from two schools). We will qualify THREE entries to Nationals if we have at least 10 entries in an event, and have the remote possibility to sending FOUR Lincoln Douglas debaters to Nationals, if we have a minimum of 20 entries who actually compete in rounds on March 27th.

Resolutions

Lincoln Douglas: (March/April) ***Resolved: The United States ought to guarantee universal child care.***

Public Forum: (March) ***Resolved: On balance, the benefits of creating the United States Space Force outweigh the harms.***

Debate Events will use the "Pilot Rules" again this year. These rules are available at <https://www.speechanddebate.org/wp-content/uploads/District-Tournament-Pilot-Manual-2020-2021.pdf>

We will use the Single Elimination Method as discussed in the manual above, with all undefeated and once-defeated debaters advancing beyond Round Four.

Judge Requirements

Public Forum and Lincoln Douglas require one judge for every two debate entries registered, or fraction thereof in each event (Meaning three PF teams and three LDers would require TWO PF judges and TWO LD judges) These judges must be experienced, and since there is no Novice division, First Year Out students are ineligible to judge at this tournament.

Additional Opportunities

Each school that competes in either Qualifier Tournament has the ability to name two non-qualifying students (in the main events) to compete at Nationals in Supplemental Events. Those individual students must have competed in at least one of the Main District Qualifying Tournaments (March 13th or March 27th). They may enter multiple supplemental events (with some restrictions, as explained in the manual) - although this will increase the number of rounds your school is obligated to provide judges for. Supplemental Events are listed below. There are descriptions and rules for each event in the manual (linked above) on pages 54-58.

- Extemporaneous Commentary
- Prose Reading
- Poetry Reading
- Extemporaneous Debate
- Expository
- Impromptu
- Storytelling

In addition, the NSDA has added two new Supplemental Events this year:

- Original Spoken Word Poetry
- Pro/Con Challenge

World School Debate

The National Office will allow our District to send up to THREE World School Debate Teams of 3-5 students (and one coach/judge) each. Students may apply if interested, but must also discuss with you their preference, and you as coach must fill out the Single Entry Letter of Intent including World School Debate as an event and stating the order of their preference if they qualify in a Main Event. A separate form for the student to fill out prior to the tournament will be sent out in the coming days.

End of Year Awards

In addition to announcing our qualifiers and alternates at the end of the day, the District Committee takes nominations for the following awards:

- [District Student of the Year Award](#)
- [District High School Coach of the Year Award](#)
- [District High School Administrator of the Year Award](#)

We also give the following awards out - although no comparable National Award is given, so the NSDA does not have a link and application form to use. Please submit your nomination in writing prior to the March 27th Tournament. A Google Doc or emailed nomination will be fine.

- Volunteer of the Year Award
- Alumni of the Year Award
- Communicator of the Year Award

Your 2021 Maine District Committee:

Joe Pelletier (District Chair, Bangor), Dan Haskell (Cheverus), Lyndsy Denk (Falmouth), Jason Curry (Greely) and D'Arcy Robinson (Poland)