

The Maine NSDA District Committee cordially invites you to participate in the District Qualifying Tournaments on January 27, 2024 and February 10, 2024.

To review complete event rules district tournament procedure, download [the NSDA High School Unified Manual](#).

## Eligibility

NSDA member schools **without financial obligations** to the Maine district from the previous year and the NSDA national office may compete to qualify for the [National Speech and Debate Tournament in Des Moines, Iowa in June](#). Upon checking into the tournament, coaches are **required to provide payment for outstanding district and national fees**. Entry fees may be paid within 30 days.

Students are eligible for entry if they have:

- Competed previously to earn at least 25 merit points.
- Paid a one-time individual membership fee.
- Created and linked a member account on [speechanddebate.org](https://speechanddebate.org) and [tabroom.com](https://tabroom.com).

**TIP:** When you start your registration, look for the eligibility dashboard to see which of your students comply with the above requirements. This resource guides you through [managing rosters for NSDA members](#).

## Events and entry limits

In comparison to the Maine Forensic Association, the National Speech and Debate Association runs a limited number of main events. [Review the High School Unified Manual for a complete listing](#). Also, check out [Comparison of End-of-Season Competition](#).

We can qualify entries to nationals ([see below](#)) assuming we meet minimum requirements as itemized in the unified manual. **An event is subject to being canceled if:**

- Senate includes fewer than 6 schools and 10 entries
- House has fewer than 16 entries
- A speech or debate event has fewer than 4 entries

Additionally, each school is subject to entry limits based upon their individual strength (based on the number of paid members and degrees on record with the national office prior to the district tournament entry deadline (see page 68 of the unified manual)). **To maximize your entry limits, ensure all of your students' points and memberships are paid as soon as possible.**

**TIP:** View your entry limits by logging into [speechanddebate.org](https://speechanddebate.org) and viewing **District Info**.

# Invoicing

Tournament entry fees are due to be postmarked within 30 business days after the tournament completes. Thereafter we will assess a \$40 late fee.

Make checks payable to the "Maine NSDA District" and mailed to:

Maine NSDA District  
% Lyndsy Denk  
240 Forest St  
Westbrook, ME 04092

Outstanding invoices for the national office must be paid by 9 a.m. of the respective tournament day. The fastest way to pay the NSDA is to process a credit card payment via your [speechanddebate.org](https://speechanddebate.org) account.

# Tournament audit and protests

Per NSDA regulations, we will have an audit procedure in place for all events. An auditor in Tabulation will monitor incoming ballots and release to only coaches the session/round results via [tabroom.com](https://tabroom.com) so they, too, can audit the results.

**Coaches agree to NOT share results with any students, judges, or other parties until the conclusion of the awards ceremony.**

Coaches have until the end of the next session or round to address concerns with the auditor and District Committee. After the final round of each event, coaches have until the beginning of the awards ceremony.

Protests must be filed in accordance with the unified manual (see page 94).

# Dale Denno Congressional Debate, January 27, 2024

## Registration overview

The Dale Denno Congressional Debate Qualifier will be held January 27, 2024 at the Maine State House in Augusta, Maine. [Enter your registration through tabroom.com](https://tabroom.com).

|                                                          |                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Legislation due to</b> <a href="#">Nyssa Gatcombe</a> | Dec 22 8:00 a.m.  |
| <b>Registration due</b>                                  | Jan 24 11:55 p.m. |
| <b>Fees frozen</b>                                       | Jan 26 5:00 p.m.  |

**NOTE:** All of your school fees and outstanding invoices must be paid prior to the beginning of the tournament. If you have not paid the national office by the start of competition, you will be ineligible to compete.

This tournament will offer:

- House (as many chambers as possible based on entries)
- Senate (one chamber)

Students entered in Congressional Debate may choose to also enter in debate (double-enter) or Speech (double- or triple-enter). For students entered in more than one event, **coaches MUST submit with registration single-entry event preference** on tabroom.com prior to the start of the second tournament day.

## Entry limits per event

In addition to school strength entry limits:

- Senate is limited to 2 entries per school.

## Participation requirements

An event is subject to being canceled if:

- Senate includes fewer than 6 schools and 10 entries
- House has fewer than 16 entries

In order to count, the above minimum number of students **must participate by giving at least one speech each during the morning and afternoon sessions**.

If low numbers warrant the cancellation of an event, coaches will be allowed to register affected students in a different event, even if the registration deadline has passed.

## Docket

[Click here to view the docket.](#)

## Judge requirements

Each school is required to provide 1 judge per 4 entries. Family members are not eligible to judge.

If you can have any extra judges, please contact any district committee member.

NOTE: We might ask coaches of smaller teams to judge a chamber that does NOT contain any students from that school. This is determined after registration closes.

## Fees

**Each entry: \$10**

Your district committee will provide lunch for all competitors. To offset this expense, we will charge **\$3 per student**.

## Schedule

|                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Prior to 8:15 a.m. | Coaches confirm check-in |
| 8:30 a.m.          | Welcomes and briefings   |
| 9:00 a.m.          | Chambers convene         |

Breaking for lunch and the start of afternoon sessions will be determined by tournament officials based on how morning sessions proceed. Students and coaches are responsible for staying informed of changes in the schedule throughout the day.

## Tabulation

Senate will run 2 separate sessions (morning and afternoon) with no break.

For House, we expect preliminary chambers in the morning and then eliminate to a final chamber with our top Representatives in the afternoon.

## Speech and Debate, February 10, 2023

### Registration overview

The Speech and Debate Qualifier will be held February 10 at Poland Regional High School. [Enter your registration through tabroom.com](https://www.tabroom.com).

|                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Registration due</b> | Feb 7 11:55 p.m. |
| <b>Fees frozen</b>      | Feb 9 5:00 p.m.  |
| <b>Judges due</b>       | Feb 9 5:00 p.m.  |

**NOTE:** All of your school fees and outstanding invoices must be paid prior to the beginning of the tournament. If you have not paid the national office by the start of competition, you will be ineligible to compete.

This tournament will offer:

| Speech events                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Debate events                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dramatic Interpretation</li><li>• Duo Interpretation</li><li>• Humorous Interpretation</li><li>• Informative Speaking</li><li>• Original Oratory</li><li>• Program Oral Interpretation</li><li>• International Extemporaneous Speaking</li><li>• United States Extemporaneous Speaking</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lincoln-Douglas Debate</li><li>• Public Forum Debate</li></ul> |

**NOTE:** There are **no divisions** (that is, all events comprise all levels of experience) at this tournament.

Students entered in Speech may double-enter in another Speech event and add Congressional Debate as a third event. Students entered in debate may choose to double-enter in Congressional Debate. For students entered in more than one event, **coaches MUST submit with registration single-entry event preference** on tabroom.com prior to the start of the second tournament day.

## Entry limits per event

In addition to school strength entry limits, a school may enter no more than 4 competitors in each Speech and debate event.

## Participation requirements

An event is subject to being canceled if there are fewer than 4 entries.

If low numbers warrant the cancellation of an event, coaches will be allowed to register affected students in a different event, even if the registration deadline has passed.

## Topics and resolutions

### Extemporaneous Speaking

Each round will focus on a different topic as itemized below:

|                               | United States                    | International                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Round 1</b>                | The Judicial Branch              | Global Health                      |
| <b>Round 2</b>                | Science and technology           | Militaries and Armed Conflicts     |
| <b>Round 3</b>                | Racial Justice                   | Environmental Issues               |
| <b>Round 4</b>                | The First Amendment              | International Diplomacy            |
| <b>Round 5</b> (if necessary) | Arts, Entertainment, and Society | Southwest Asia and Northern Africa |

## Lincoln Douglas

**Resolved:** The United States ought to substantially reduce its military presence in the West Asia-North Africa region.

## Public Forum

**Resolved:** The United States federal government should ban single-use plastics.

## Judge Requirements

Each school is required to provide experienced judges only. Judges are expected to be available for the entire day, including final rounds, however we can accommodate half judges so long as the math meets or exceeds your judge burden (that is, 2 half judges equal a whole).

First-year-out judges are **not eligible** for this tournament.

Extra judges are encouraged. If you cannot pay your extra judge:

1. Advertise the judge as available for hire on the MFA listserv or
2. Reach out to any district committee member

| Speech events                                                     | Debate events                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 judge for every 5 entries registered, or for a fraction thereof | 1 judge for every 2 entries registered, or fraction thereof |

The Maine NSDA District Committee hopes to have a few judges available for hire. Contact a committee member if you need a judge. If available, hired judges will be provided at a \$70 charge to your invoice.

NOTE: Missing a judge (that is, failing to negotiate a hire or if we cannot provide a hire) will result in a \$75 fine to your invoice.

## Fees

**Each entry:** \$10 (\$20 for a paired event)

Your district committee will provide lunch for all competitors. To offset this expense, we will charge **\$3 per student**.

## Schedule

*The schedule is subject to change. Watch the live blog on [maineforensic.org/onlinetournament](http://maineforensic.org/onlinetournament) for updates throughout the tournament day.*

The district tournament includes NSDA-specific rules that extend the day beyond the normal tournament schedule. All participants should anticipate a flexible schedule based on the **tentative and loose schedule** below:

|                    |                                             |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Prior to 8:15 a.m. | Coaches confirm check-in                    |
| 8:30 a.m.          | Welcomes and briefings                      |
| 8:45 a.m.          | Extemp draw (extempers report to prep room) |
| 9:00 a.m.          | Start all events                            |

Subsequent rounds are based on tabulation requirements and variables of competition and may include elimination rounds prior to final rounds and double fighting events to accommodate judge panels.

Awards will be announced as soon as possible. Watch for email alerts and the live blog on [maineforensic.org/onlinetournament](http://maineforensic.org/onlinetournament).

## Tabulation

### Speech events

Speech will hold 3 preliminary rounds. Events with greater than 8 entries may result in up to 6 total rounds (elimination round(s) plus a final) as detailed on pages 87-89 in the unified manual. We will announce prior to round 1 based on entry numbers a better estimate.

### Debate events

Debate will use the single elimination method as described in the unified manual pages 76-77.

# Qualifiers

## Main events

As a Level 2 district, we can qualify 2 entries to nationals per event, assuming we meet participation requirements as itemized in the unified manual.

Final entry count at the start of competition will determine if we can qualify as many as 3 entries in House.

While it is possible to earn top rank in more than one event, coaches must complete Single Entry Intent at registration to identify the competitor's preference of event. The district committee will account for preference when awarding qualifier slots.

## World Schools Debate

The District can send up to two [World Schools Debate Teams](#) of 3-5 students to the national tournament. Coaches must fill out the Single Entry Intent including World Schools Debate in the preference ordering.

[Interested students should apply with this brief form](#) by February 16. Applicants must complete Single Entry Intent preferences.

The Maine District Committee will review applications and consider preference for:

- Single Entry Intent preferences
- Seniors (then junior, etc.)
- Alternate status in your other event(s)
- NSDA points (the more the better)

**COACHES NEEDED!** Each WSD team needs a coach. A single coach could opt to coach both teams. If you're interested, reach out to a district committee member. To learn more, reach out to [two-time coach Josh Denk](#) about his experience and best practices.

## So you qualified

Learn more about preparing for the national tournament starting on page 99 of the unified manual and on the [nats home page here](#).

## Awards

Competition awards will include:

- Plaques will be awarded to all individual national qualifiers.

- District Cumulative Sweepstakes Award (active participation in both debate and speech with a minimum of 3 entries each)
- Sweeps for each event category (Congress, Speech, and Debate)

Additionally, the District Committee seeks nominations for the following awards by the end of February 9:

- [District Student of the Year Award](#)
- [District High School Coach of the Year Award](#)
- Volunteer of the Year Award (Submit to [Matt Leland](#) your nomination in writing (Google Doc or email).)
- Communicator of the Year Award (Submit to [Matt Leland](#) your nomination in writing (Google Doc or email).)

Your 2023-2025 Maine District Committee:

*D'Arcy Robinson, District Chair, Poland Regional High School*

*Lyndsy Denk, Falmouth High School*

*Ellen Parent, Falmouth High School*

*Matt Leland, Bangor High School*

*Nyssa Gatcombe, Yarmouth High School*