VHSL Virtual Speech/Debate
Technical Requirements for Participants

THIS IS PART OF A LARGER DOCUMENT THAT COVERS ALL ASPECTS OF THE VHSL'S VIRTUAL TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES AND IS INTENDED TO SUPPORT COACH, COMPETITOR, AND JUDGE PREPARATION FOR OUR VIRTUAL SEASON.

The Virginia High School League is primarily using the NSDA Campus platform to conduct its virtual speech and debate state level tournaments during the COVID-19 pandemic. This document provides guidance to coaches, competitors, and judges regarding hardware and software requirements.

NSDA Campus is integrated with NSDA's Tabroom software, so all coaches, competitors, and judges *must* have Tabroom accounts linked to their schools rosters to be able to participate in the league's online competitions.

NSDA Campus Equipment & Connection Requirements

NSDA Campus is an internet based platform. It does not require the download of any applications and runs only on the Google Chrome browser (ensure you have the latest Chrome update). We recommend competitors, judges, and coaches watch this 3-minute overview of NSDA Campus.

A laptop or desktop is required to participate in online debate — You cannot run NSDA Campus on your smartphone or tablet.

The device must have a camera capability and the camera and microphone must be permissioned to run on Google Chrome browser (this can be accomplished during the testing process).

Use an external microphone or headset with microphone included to ensure you can be heard. We recommend headphones (*e.g.,* corded cell phone earbuds or gaming headphones) attached to the computer via audio jack or USB. Ear pods (e.g. Samsung Galaxy buds, AirPods) connected to the device are also acceptable, but please note that bluetooth devices may create a delay of voice and video connection (and are not recommended).

High Speed Internet Connection — We recommend a minimum bandwidth speed of 5 MBPS. If you are unsure of your internet speed, please visit www.fast.com to run a test.

If your connection is inadequate, consider the recommendations below to improve connectivity and optimize performance when competing from home.

- Reboot the router
- Update the firmware
- Use a dual-band router
- Move closer to the router
- Create a separate channel
- Enable WME/WMM (if applicable)

- Connect via ethernet instead of Wi-Fi
- Minimize interference (e.g. walls, home appliances, electronic devices)
- Do not have multiple windows or tabs open as this uses up bandwidth.

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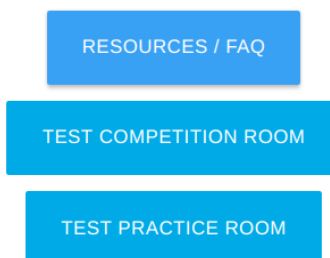
Team Tournament Preparation

NSDACAMPUS

The VHSL strongly recommends that coaches prepare their teams for online competition by visiting the National Speech & Debate Association's NSDA Campus orientation page as part of their regular practices leading up to tournaments.

Coaches, competitors, and judges can access Test Practice and Test Competition Rooms from this page.

NSDA Campus offers free practice space for NSDA members, built into NSDA accounts. Current NSDA members can log into their NSDA accounts and experience the video conferencing portion of NSDA Campus. NSDA Campus practice rooms are accessible via the left sidebar on your NSDA Account page (not in Tabroom).

A Training Guide is also available.

Profile
Your Profile
NSDA Voting
NSDA Campus
Reports
Search Records
Membership Reports
Schools ✛

RESOURCES / FAQ

TEST COMPETITION ROOM

TEST PRACTICE ROOM

Please note that given the added preparation the NSDA Campus platform requires, judges, especially, must be identified and trained well before a tournament. In addition to the regular event knowledge and skills, judges must also know NSDA Campus procedures and meet the equipment, connection, and private location requirements.

Coaches, judges, and competitors must watch the following NSDA Campus Orientation Videos:

For Competitors

For Judges

Coaches should watch any and all videos as they are expected to help all aspects of their team which includes judges in addition to competitors.