

2021 VHSL Class 1-3 Central, North, and Class 5 - D Regional Debate Tournament(s)

Date: Saturday, March 20th, 2021 **Location:** Tabroom.com and ZOOM

Directors: Michael Villacrusis, Tournament Director mwillacrusis@rockingham.k12.va.us Will Crockett, Activities Director wcrockett@rockingham.k12.va.us
(Central AND North Region)

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(Group 5 - Region D)

Regions:

Central Region	North Region	Group 5 - Region D
Broadway	Brentsville	Albemarle
Buffalo Gap	Central	Brooke Point
Charlottesville	Clarke County	Harrisonburg
Fluvanna	East Rockingham	Mountain View
Fort Defiance	George Mason	North Stafford
Monticello	Independence	Patrick Henry - R
Parry McCluer	Lightridge	Stafford
Riverheads	Luray	William Fleming
Spotswood	Madison County	
Staunton	Middlesex	
Stuarts Draft	Stonewall Jackson	
Turner Ashby	Strasburg	
Wilson Memorial		

Registration: Forms AND Online Registration Due by 5:00 pm Friday, March 12th.
No entries will be accepted after the deadline without prior contact and approval from your tournament director.

Send [entry forms](#) to YOUR respective Region’s Tournament, Activities Director, and your own Activities Director as well. We will be registering competitors and judges online this year using [tabroom.com](https://www.tabroom.com). If you are unfamiliar with this debate tournament registration site and/or have questions or any difficulty please contact Steve O’Baugh at sobaugh@rockingham.k12.va.us. Please note, per VHSL policy: “Individuals/teams must be present and compete to receive awards, advance to the next level of competition and/or earn sweepstakes points.”

Facility:

The tournament(s) will be held online via ZOOM. Please make sure Zoom is accessible for your school. If not please work with your IT division in order to make it available for the tournament date. If there are concerns with your school division's policy and making use of this competition platform please refer your AD and/or superintendent to Darrell Wilon, Assistant Director for Academic Activities at dwilson@vhs.org. It is also strongly encouraged and highly recommended that debaters be on campus to debate virtually as schools should have a more stable internet connection and better technology available as opposed to working from home. This is not required to participate, however.

Here are some additional resources for use in consideration of the virtual nature of this year's tournament(s):

Resource	Description
Creating a Tabroom.com Account and Setting up your Team	The very first thing anyone not on Tabroom.com will need to do is create an account, establish their team, and register for tournaments. This video covers all of this vital information.
Creating a Student Account in Tabroom.com	Here is a brief overview of how coaches may create student competitors accounts for use in virtual competition.
Linking Student Accounts in Tabroom.com	In order for your team to compete (especially if NSDA Campus is being used) there will need to be a step taken beyond simply creating your roster - competitors will need to create their own accounts and link them to the roster you have created. This video goes over this.
VHSL Zoom Guidelines for Debate	Here are details for all VHSL Debate events when making use of the Zoom platform for competition.
VHSL Zoom Competition Procedure(s)	This overview is primarily for tournament directors making use of Zoom but is also good for coaches and competitors to review to see exactly how tournaments will be run.

Events:

Policy Debate (CX)
 Lincoln Douglas Debate (LD)
 Public Forum Debate (PF)
 Student Congress (SC) - **If warranted.** More on this below under "Tournament Format".

Topics:

Policy - Resolved: The United States federal government should enact substantial criminal justice reform in the United States in one or more of the following: forensic science, policing, sentencing.

Lincoln Douglas - Resolved: The United States ought to guarantee universal child care.

Public Forum - Resolved: On balance, the benefits of creating the United States Space Force outweigh the harms.

Topics (cont'd): Student Congress - [Here](#) is the link to posting legislation for Student Congress. Legislation, including Super Session, is due by the registration deadline (see above).

Please be sure to post to your appropriate region.

Topic areas -
(The two options per area are *not* listed
in order of required submission.)

Domestic: 1. Forest Management
2. Policing Alternatives

International: 1. Armenia
2. U.S./Peruvian relations

Economic: 1. Debt Collection Agencies
2. Small Business Relief

Virginia: 1. Child Care/Daycare
2. Freedom Information Act

Schools should take care not to submit more than one piece of legislation in a topic area until all areas have been addressed (i.e. No two Domestic pieces of legislation unless International, Economic, and Virginia have also had something submitted.)

Each school competing in Student Congress must also submit one bill or resolution for Super Session. The Super Session topics are:

Domestic: Federal Building Security

International: Travel Bans

Economic: Speculation Regulations

Virginia: Motor Vehicle Operation
Licensing Regulations

Tournament Format: CX, LD, and PF Round determination: Per the VHSL Manual -

“In all four divisions of debate, **pairings shall be determined by the tournament director to provide the most equitable schedule possible depending on the number of participants in each group.** A director may choose either a round-robin format or...in the event there are more than eight teams, the director shall schedule four preliminary rounds using the power pairing format below. In Lincoln-Douglas the final round side determination shall be via coin flip.

Power Pairing Format -

1. Rounds 1 and 2 paired at random with regional constraints.
2. Round 3 paired on win-loss records and speaker points (High-High).
3. Rounds 4 paired on win-loss records and speaker points (High-Low).
4. Top four debaters break to semifinal* rounds.
5. Break to the final round."

* - Due to the large number of potential entries there may be a quarterfinal round in Lincoln-Douglas and/or Public Forum. Alternate in L-D (fifth place) will be determined based on preliminary round record and through the VHSL tie-breaking procedure as indicated in the Debate Manual.

Fewer than eight teams may necessitate a Round Robin format being used.

Tournament Format (cont'd): Student Congress Round determination: Following the Debate Rules Clinic in the fall of 2019 the recommendation that will be followed is that regions consisting of twelve (12) Student Congress debaters or fewer need **NOT** have a competition at the regional level. ~~In order to determine whether such a competition is necessary, it is being asked that you complete~~ pre-registration form linked on the first page under "Registration".

Per the VHSL Manual - "The number of representatives or senators participating determines whether the meet is divided into multiple chambers. In general, 24 representatives or senators per chamber is ideal, with chambers ranging in size from 15 to 30 members. If there is to be more than one chamber, schools and regions should be split equally between or among chambers. At the regional tournament, each chamber should meet between two and four sessions, as determined by the Clerk of Congress."

Tournament set-up will be finalized after all Tabroom.com registrations and/or entry forms have been submitted to their respective tournament director.

Tournament format finalization will be communicated following the registration deadline.

At that time any, and all, coach's decisions will need to be made and communicated back to that coach's respective tournament director before the date of the tournament, otherwise the tournament will proceed with school seeing school (see below by "Coach's Decision").

Schedule - Registration – 8:00am to 9:00 am (Judges should check in by 8:30)
Judges Meeting – 8:30 - 9:00 am

Policy: Preliminary Round 1 – 9:00 am to 11:00 am
Preliminary Round 2 – 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Preliminary Round 3 – 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Preliminary Round 4 – 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm
Break Rounds (if needed) – Immediately after tabulation results of Preliminary Rounds.

If doing a round robin rounds will continue on after the fourth round until all teams have seen each other.

Awards – 6:30 pm*

Lincoln Douglas & Public Forum Preliminary Round 1 – 9:30 am to 10:30 am
Preliminary Round 2 – 10:30 am to 11:30 pm
Preliminary Round 3 – 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm
Preliminary Round 4 – 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Break Rounds (if needed) – Immediately after tabulation results of Preliminary Rounds.

If doing a round robin rounds will continue on after the fourth round until all teams have seen each other.

Awards – 6:30 pm*

Prep Time(s): Policy - 8 Minutes Lincoln-Douglas - 3 Minutes Public Forum - 2 Minutes

Student Congress: General Meeting, Swearing-In, and Pledge – 9:00 am
Committees and Docket – 9:15 am to 9:30 am
Session 1 – 9:30 am to 11:00 am
Session 2 – 11:15 am to 12:45 pm
~~Session 3 – 2:30 pm to 4:00~~

Voting of Outstanding Representative – 12:45
(If no Super Session required - based on entries.)

Super Session (if needed) – 1:30 – 3:00

Voting of Outstanding Representative – 3:00

Awards – 6:30 pm*

*** - Each respective Region may end earlier as entries allow.**

Coach's Decision(s): Per the VHSL Debate Manual, coach's decisions will apply to a round robin format only.

If a tournament is set-up with preliminary rounds followed by elimination rounds schools will not face themselves in the preliminary rounds.

“In this format, (round robin) each team would be assigned a debate against each of the other teams. If that involves a debate against a team from the same school, the coach must state at the time of entry whether:

1. The teams/individuals shall debate as scheduled.
2. The ballot shall be awarded to the team/individual with the ***higher*** overall record, and all competitors will receive speaker points and ranks from the average of all rounds.
3. The ballot shall be awarded to the team/individual with the ***lower*** overall record, and all competitors will receive speaker points and ranks from the average of all rounds.
4. The ballot shall be awarded to the team/individual ***specified by the coach***, and all competitors will receive speaker points and ranks from the average of all rounds.

Judges: The tournament will attempt to provide independent, qualified judges. However, each school is asked to provide a judge (1) if they have ***any*** entries in Lincoln-Douglas Debate AND a judge (1) if they have ***any*** entries in Public Forum Debate. The coach may serve as one of these judge requests if so desired.

Judges will be paid the going rate. If a coach is called upon to judge they should not necessarily expect payment due to the obligation of being present and prepared with judges in the first place. Judges are required to attend the training at the beginning of the day and any violations of the appropriate behavior form (including disclosures) may also be grounds for withholding payment.

Judging**Resources:**

Please share with your judges the following resources as it will be beneficial to have them be familiar with the format in which we are operating. Any questions concerning any of the mechanics of judging or competing should be directed to Steve O’Baugh (sobaugh@rockingham.k12.va.us).

Resource	Description
Creating a Judge Account on Tabroom.com	While this is absolutely necessary for coaches, this is a video to pass along to all of those judges that you have made use of over the years.
Tabroom.com Judging	After having accounts created judges will most likely want to know what judging virtually looks like - especially the balloting process. This video goes over making use of the Tabroom.com platform for judging. When it comes to performance platforms such as NSDA Campus (below) or Zoom there are other documents with that information.
Zoom for Judges	This YouTube briefly shows how to go about accessing the Zoom competition space and what to do when first entering as well as in round.

Competitor**Resources:**

Please share with your judges the following resources as it will be beneficial to have them be familiar with the format in which we are operating. Any questions concerning any of the mechanics of judging or competing should be directed to Steve O’Baugh (sobaugh@rockingham.k12.va.us).

Resource	Description
Zoom for Competitors	This YouTube briefly shows how to go about accessing the Zoom competition space and what to do when first entering as well as in round.
VHSL Zoom Guidelines for Debate	Here are details for all VHSL Debate events when making use of the Zoom platform for competition.

Coach’s/Judge’s Lounge:

There will be a judge lounge set-up in Zoom to pool judges together following round completion so that ballots may be worked on. There will also be a chat space via Google Hangouts set-up for communication during the tournament - school e-mail accounts tend to not allow this so please plan on using a personal account or you may communicate via e-mail/text with the tournament director(s) throughout the course of the tournament.

Tab Room:

Tabulation will be done through Tabroom.com with tournament directors staying in the general area of Zoom for questions/concerns as they arise.

Team / Debater Area(s): Debaters are to remain in their competition space as they will be moved by our resident Zoom Master to their different locations requiring no input on their part.

If teams would like to set-up their own personal space via their own Zoom or Google Meet or whatever other service that team prefers that is up to the coach.

Observers: Coaches, debaters and other school representatives are free to discuss strategies and opposing teams, even to ask a team what it is running. All that is fine as long as they fully identify themselves by name and are clear and accurate about their association with any and all schools that they might represent. It must also be understood that following that disclosure, **the participants in a debate have no obligation to permit the visitors to remain in the room. Those asked about cases or defenses, their own or those of another school, are under no obligation to provide the information.** A school whose coaches, student debaters or other representatives fail to provide full and accurate disclosure or who unfairly pressure other participants into providing access or information they do not want to provide may be reported for unsportsmanlike conduct and discipline according to VHSL Rules and Regulations.

Prohibitions: The following are prohibited during a VHSL Debate Tournament: videotaping of rounds, (this including recording of virtual tournaments) switching judging assignments without prior approval from the tab room and assigning half-points.

Individual Awards: 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will receive recognition (With 4th place in LD being announced as having qualified for the Super Regional Tournament). The 4th place finalist in Policy and Public Forum and 5th place in Lincoln-Douglas will also be announced as call-ups for their Super Regional tournaments. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place (and 4th in LD) will participate in the Class 1-3 Central and North and Class 5 - C and D Super Regional Tournament(s).

No substitutions are allowed by VHSL rules (111.1.1). Awards will be announced via Zoom breakout room with all competitors/coaches present as they are able.

Awards “Watch Parties” are recommended as schools are able to do so. Unmuting will be requested to recognize champions in their respective events.

Any associated materials with awards (trophies, medals, certificates, etc.) will be handled and distributed by each region’s respective activities director.

Speaker awards, if recognized, will be based on the preliminary rounds performance

Team Awards: The team(s) with the greatest number of place points will be declared their Regional Champion. The team(s) with the second greatest number of place points will be declared their Regional runner up. First places earn 7 points, second places earn 5 points, third places earn 3 points, and fourth places earn 1 point. If there is a tie, the team with more first place winners will be declared their Regional Champion. If still tied, the total speaker points of the first place winners will break the tie.

Final Results:

The results of the tournament will be official as announced and sent out to coaches unless challenged within **one hour (60 minutes) of the end of the announcements/email time** by any team. Any team not contacting within the 60 minutes window of opportunity after awards have been announced and results have been shared via email forfeits the ability to challenge the results. The official results will be forwarded to the VHSL office in Charlottesville, VA and the Super Region Tournament Director within 24 hours of the end of the announcements. Individual schools are responsible for registering for the Class 1-3 Central and North Super Regional Tournament and Class 5 C and D Super Regional Tournament.

Super Regional Advancement:

Class 1-3 Central and North Super Regional Tournament at Turner Ashby High School, Saturday, April 10th, 2021.

Class 5 - C and D Super Regional Tournament TBD (Saturday, April 10th, 2021).

[Super Regional Entry Form](#)