



FIRST TIME COACH

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to wear my name badge?

Yes. For security reasons, we ask that adults at the tournament wear their identifying materials at all times. As a First Time Coach, you can wear a new-this-year ribbon that shares this achievement. It is so exciting to have you join us for the first time!

What is the Tournament Book?

The Tournament Book (or T-Book as it's often abbreviated) is your guide to all things National Tournament! *All competitors, coaches, and judges MUST read pages 1 through 58, which are tabbed in black along the edge.* It is your responsibility to know the information in these pages! Please encourage the students on your team to do so, too.

I have a question or concern relating to NSDA rules, who should I ask?

All rules for the National Tournament can be found in the Unified Manual which is downloadable at www.speechanddebate.org/rules-forms-manuals. Please keep in mind that your local/state rules may be different than those used for this tournament. If you still have questions or concerns after consulting the Unified Manual, please stop by the Tournament Office and speak to someone on duty there. For Tournament Office locations, see page 65 of your Tournament Book.

I have a question that I cannot find an answer to! What should I do?

If you cannot find the answer to your question in the Tournament Book or via the Nats19 Guidebook app, then you can stop by the **Tournament Office** (the Press Club room at the Sheraton or the Kessler room at the Crowne Plaza) or call/text the **NSDA Help Line** at (920) 748-6206.

What is the Nats19 Guidebook app?

We have created a **FREE** app for the tournament. This app contains maps, schedules, postings, and more! All attendees should download this app and use it as a go-to resource for finding critical information. To download the app, follow these instructions:

1. Go to the app store that corresponds with your device and search for "Guidebook."
 2. Follow the prompts on your screen, and Guidebook will download.
 3. Open up the Guidebook app on your device to get started. (For desktop users or users with Windows Phones, navigate to guidebook.com/ or browse in your web browser.)
1. Use the Search box to type in "Nats19."
 1. Tap "Download Guide" to download the guide to your device. You may be prompted to allow push notifications and location services.

NOTE: We strongly recommend allowing push notifications so you don't miss any important tournament announcements! Each time you wish to enter the app, click the Guidebook icon and select Nats19 from the My Guides section of the landing page.

How do meals work during the tournament?

During the tournament day, there are a variety of options for food. For those who have **pre-purchased meal tickets**, you can pick up your meals at either the Sheraton's Lone Star Preconvene or the Crowne Plaza's Dallas Grand B-D. The Sheraton also has **grab 'n go concession items** for purchase throughout the week. **The Plaza of the Americas** is conveniently located adjacent to the Sheraton across the skybridge and offers multiple dining options.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where are the competition spaces?

How do I get to them?

Many competition spaces are hotel guest rooms.

Each room has had the furniture removed so that it has room for competitors and judges. To get to most rooms, you'll need to use the elevators. The Sheraton Dallas Hotel (North, Center, and South Towers) and adjoining Conference Center feature many elevators and escalators to get you to your competition rooms in a timely fashion. However, it is the fundamental responsibility of all contestants and judges to arrive on time to rounds. Travel issues (in or outside the hotel) will not be an accepted excuse. Arriving late to a round can result in disqualification or loss of judge bond.

Due to the large volume of attendees at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel, you are strongly encouraged to arrive at least 90 MINUTES PRIOR to the start of the first round to allow adequate time to board the elevators at least ONE HOUR in advance of round 1. Equip your competitors with their round location and speaker number, if applicable, each morning so they can easily get into the correct elevator line.

To access competition rooms via elevators, you must board from the first floor. If you are staying in a guest room and need to switch towers or make your way to the Conference Center, you MUST be downstairs prior to 7:00 a.m. each day to ease the burden on the elevators. For more information see page 32 in your Tournament Book.

Where are the schematics?

Round pairings/schematics can be found on the Nats19 Guidebook app or on *Tabroom.com*. They can also be found in the Lone Star Preconvene (Sunday) and Grand Hall (Monday-Thursday). For further details, see page 27 of your Tournament Book.

Where is ballot pick up and drop off?

All speech ballots are delivered to competition rooms. Monday through Wednesday, the speech ballot return is outside **Austin 1** (located on the second floor of the Sheraton). Beginning Wednesday, Supplemental and Consolation event ballot return will be outside **Austin 2**. Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, World Schools Debate, and Big Questions Debate are adjudicated via **online balloting**.

How and when will I know if my students advance to elimination rounds?

Results of all elimination rounds prior to finals will be posted in the following locations. Results will also be available via *Tabroom.com* and the Nats19 Guidebook app.

Main speech events will be posted in the Sheraton's Grand Hall at the following times:

Top 60 Speech (Rounds 7/8) Tue. midday

Top 30 Speech (Rounds 9/10) Tue. evening

Speech Semifinalists (Rounds 11/12) Wed. midday

Speech Finalists Wed. evening

Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, and Public Forum teams who win at least 8 prelim ballots will advance to Rounds 7/8. Each qualifying team will begin with a clear record and debate double down and out until two remain for a final round. Beginning with round 7, CX, LD, and PF judges will announce their decisions at the end of the debates.

Congress, World Schools, and Big Questions will be announced at their respective competition venues, with the exception of the Tuesday evening NSDA Student Party in Grand Hall.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the NSDA Student Party? Is it required?

The NSDA Student Party, presented by the Institute for Speech and Debate, is a posting party that will include **games, food, and music**. Located in the Sheraton's **Grand Hall**, this is a time where students and coaches can relax, hang out with other competitors, and see who is advancing to elimination rounds! While we encourage you to take advantage of all the fun and excitement that is the Student Party, attendance is not required.

How does re-registration work for supplemental and/or consolation events?

Coaches will re-register their students for supplemental and consolation events by logging into their tournament registration via **Tabroom.com**. Coaches may re-register students for either supplemental or consolation events as soon as their students appear in the system as eligible for re-registration. Supplemental Re-registration will end promptly at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18. For more details, see page 23 of your Tournament Book.

If I did not pre-register students for supplemental and/or consolation events, may I add them now?

Registration on Sunday, June 16 is the last day to add supplemental and/or consolation events. It costs \$40 for each supplemental event and requires two rounds of judging. Consolation events are \$20 and require one round of judging. Covered judging can be purchased for \$30 per round.

If my students are no longer competing Thursday or Friday, how should we spend our remaining time at the tournament?

There are a variety of options for students who are not competing on Thursday and Friday. Many teams choose to **watch final rounds**. You can find a schedule for all final rounds on pages 28 and 29 of your Tournament Book. Additionally, students who have completed their

junior or senior year may volunteer to **serve as judges at the Middle School National Tournament**. Of course, you're also welcome to do some **sightseeing** here in Dallas.

Please keep in mind that even if your students are no longer competing, your school's judges still must fulfill their judging assignments.

My high school students are eliminated from competition, are they eligible to judge at the Middle School National Tournament?

Any high school student who wishes to judge at the Middle School National Speech & Debate Tournament after being eliminated from main event competition must be a **junior or senior** during the 2018-2019 school year with **250 honor society points**. Students not meeting this criteria will not be eligible to judge. Student volunteers earn two merit points for each round judged! Eligible students should meet in **Remington** (4th floor) on Wednesday and Thursday to judge. Prior to judging, all students must attend judge training. The first judge training will be held at 8:30 a.m. each morning.

Do all elimination round participants get an award?

Yes, any student who advanced to an elimination round in a main event will receive an award. Students in the semifinals and/or finals will be given their award on stage. For more details about trophies and other awards, please see pages 54 and 55 in your Tournament Book.

Should we attend final rounds even if no one from our school is competing?

The final rounds are an opportunity for you and your students to see the nation's finest competitors. The rounds are highly enjoyable and educational! Many schools arrive early in order to get the best seats, so plan accordingly if it is important for your team to sit together!

The schedule for all final rounds begins on page 28 of your Tournament Book.

Frequently Asked Questions

NOTES:

[illegible]



NSDA STORE










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SHERATON DALLAS HOTEL
AUSTIN BALLROOM 3

WED • 8 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
THU • 8 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
FRI • 8 A.M. TO 2 P.M.