



Spring 2020

Dear Administrator,

Thank you for supporting speech and debate at your school. We're proud to have your students and coaches as members of the National Speech & Debate Association Honor Society, and we welcome their participation in our online National Tournament or Senior Open this year in lieu of the in-person event.

Participant security is a top priority for the organization. The online competition will utilize three platforms: Tabroom.com, Classrooms.cloud, and Zoom.us. Classrooms.cloud is the platform that will be used to conduct the competition rounds and connect participants to Zoom for the video conferencing portion of the event. Tabroom.com will serve as the tournament information hub and tabulation system. Classrooms.cloud and Tabroom.com will both abide by the NSDA Privacy Policy (available at [www.speechanddebate.org/privacy-policy](http://www.speechanddebate.org/privacy-policy)).

A number of restrictions will be used to protect participants in the Classrooms.cloud platform using Zoom. Competition will be passcode protected during all preliminary rounds, and will only be made available to participating schools and judges. The ability to use Zoom backgrounds will be turned off. The ability to share screens and file share through the chat will be limited where possible.

All judges and competitors will be given a strict naming convention that must be used in each round (e.g., Judge - Lauren Burdt) so that all round participants may be easily identified. Any participant not using that naming convention will be removed from the room and sent to the ombudsperson to learn appropriate procedure. Finally, tournament staff and volunteers will have a small, dedicated number of rooms they are responsible for monitoring. They will constantly rotate through rounds and can quickly remove anyone violating tournament policy. Participants may report disruptions to the tournament helpline, where staff will be prepared to send volunteers into the room to handle the problem immediately.

We understand many parents and school districts have security and privacy concerns. We will do our best to accommodate these issues and strive to eliminate as many barriers as possible to participation in Nationals. We are proud to have the support of the National Federation of State High School Associations in continuing to hold this event, and we appreciate everyone working to make it possible to give our students this opportunity.

Sincerely,

J. Scott Wunn  
Executive Director