



FULTON FORENSICS FACE-OFF

Dear Coaches,

First, many thanks to all the coaches who've worked so hard to move us into the virtual world this year and a special thanks to Molly, Cara, and Mandy for their willingness to share materials with us. Thanks to all of you, Fulton High School is pleased to invite you to our first novice speech and debate tournament, the Fulton Forensics Face-Off, **February 19-20, 2021**. The tournament will be held virtually using SpeechWire and Zoom to host rounds. All debate events will be synchronous (live) and all individual events will be asynchronous (pre-recorded).

Please note that we define novice competitors as those students in their first or second year of high school level interscholastic speech and debate competition. We will offer competition in the following events: Extemporaneous Speaking (combined US and International), Informative Speaking, Original Oratory, Program Oral Interpretation, Interpretation (combined Humorous and Dramatic), Prose/Poetry Reading (combined), Radio Speaking, Lincoln Douglas Debate, and Public Forum Debate. We reserve the right to cancel events if entry numbers are low. All schools will be allowed up to three entries per event at a cost of \$8 per entry.

Registration for this tournament will be handled through www.speechwire.com, and registration will open **January 25, 2021**. The registration deadline will be **February 10, 2021**. The drop deadline without a penalty is **February 17, 2021 at 4:30 PM**.

Also, please note the judging obligation of one judge for every eight entries. Please fill out our [judging form](#) for ANY of your school judges, including coaches and student judges. We will accept student judges who have earned 150 or more NSDA points. Judges must be entered by **February 16, 2021**.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out--questions and concerns are welcomed as they will help us iron out difficulties in advance.

We hope to see you and your teams next month!

Sincerely,

Stacey Bonderer
Speech and Debate Coach
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Sierra Milligan, Teddy Hubbuch, and Seth Windsor
Fulton Speech and Debate Executive Board

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General Rules and Entry Information

1. A student may enter only two individual events.
2. A student may enter in only one format of debate.
3. We will comply with all MSHSAA rules and regulations regarding the use of electronic devices and the internet. In the event MSHSAA rules do not exist for a category, NSDA rules will apply.
4. Our fee is \$8 per entry.
5. Novice competitors are defined as students in their first or second year of high school level interscholastic speech and debate competition.
6. The judging obligation is one judge for every eight entries.

Events Offered

Synchronous Events Synchronous Prelims Synchronous Elims	Asynchronous Events Asynchronous Prelims Asynchronous Elims
Lincoln Douglas Debate Public Forum Debate	Extemporaneous Speaking (combined US and International) Informative Speaking Interpretation (combined Humorous and Dramatic) Original Oratory Program Oral Interpretation Prose/Poetry (combined) Radio Speaking

Deadlines

Initial Entries via SpeechWire	February 10, 2021 at 4:30 PM
Judge Registration via our Judge Form	February 16, 2021 at 4:30 PM
Extemp Questions Sent via Email	February 17, 2021 by 1:00 PM
Finalized Entries Due via SpeechWire	February 17, 2021 at 4:30 PM
Event Recording Links Due via SpeechWire	February 17, 2021 at 4:30 PM

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Schedule

*All debaters and judges should arrive 15 minutes before start time so we can verify attendance.

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

1:00 PM - Extemp topics sent to coaches

4:30 PM - Event recording links due in SpeechWire

6:00 PM - Asynchronous judging of individual event rounds 1 and 2 begins

*** All videos will be evaluated by two different judges. This will constitute the two preliminary rounds of all individual events.*

Friday, February 19, 2021

3:00 - 3:30 PM - Registration confirmation via Zoom

4:00 PM - Debate Round 1

6:00 PM - Debate Round 2

6:00 PM - Asynchronous ballots of individual events rounds 1 and 2 due

8:00 PM - Debate Round 3

Semifinalists will be posted as soon as possible Friday night.

Saturday, February 20, 2021

7:00 AM - Asynchronous judging of individual event semifinals begins

8:00 AM - Debate Quarterfinal Rounds

9:00 AM - Asynchronous ballots of individual events semifinal round due

11:00 AM - Asynchronous judging of individual event finals begins

12:00 PM - Debate Semifinal Round

1:00 PM - Asynchronous ballots of individual events final round due

4:00 PM - Debate Final Round

6:00 PM - Awards Ceremony (link to be provided)

How to Register

1. Coaches will need to login in to SpeechWire.com to accept the tournament invitation.
2. Register your team per usual and make sure your student's accounts are registered.
 - a. Log into SpeechWire and click on team roster
 - b. For students already listed on your roster, click the student to whom you want to send an activation email. Use the email field to add their email address, and, when that is saved, the student will receive an email with a link to activate their account.
 - c. If a student is not already on your roster, you will need to use the fields at the top of the page to add students. Once you include an email address, the student will receive an email to activate their account.
 - d. Make sure students can access their account before the tournament starts.

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3. You will NOT input your judges through SpeechWire. Please sign your judges up with [this form](#).
4. You will need to upload your links for events.
 - a. Use Loom, Screencastify, or Zoom to record your events. These are free services.
 - b. Please make sure the link is listed as PUBLIC.
5. All [balloting](#) will be done through SpeechWire.

Judging Requirements and Expectations

- Schools will be obligated to provide one judge for every eight entries.
- Coaches should mark as much availability as possible.
- Current varsity students who have earned 150 or more points are welcome to judge.
- All judges must have internet access.
- School affiliated judges should be entered via the [judge registration form](#). Please do not submit directly into SpeechWire.
- Judges will be emailed information prior to the tournament about how to access their rounds via <http://live.speechwire.com>.
- All judging assignments will be posted in SpeechWire. Accounts will be connected by the host.
- Please sign up knowing you should arrive in your “room” 15 minutes prior to start time.
- Any rounds you sign up to judge will likely be assigned to you.
- All judge comments should focus on the competitor’s performance in the round—not on their clothing, competition space, etc. Please remember you are a “virtual guest” in competitors’ homes.

Virtual Tournament Rules

- Per MSHSAA regulations, all schools must have a coach available for the duration of the entire tournament. Please complete and submit [this coach contact form](#).
- All synchronous competitors are expected to arrive at their virtual rooms 15 minutes before the start of their round.
- All students should enter the room MUTED in case someone else is speaking.
- Cameras should be left ON unless turning them off is required to improve connectivity (this includes judges). Any SPECTATORS should keep cameras OFF.
- Any student who arrives 10 or more minutes late to a round will forfeit their participation (as long as the delay is not caused by the tournament).
- Contestants are to speak in the order assigned, unless a change is needed to accommodate a double entry.
- The use of the internet during rounds IS permitted per MSHSAA rules.
- Debaters must not share the same computer or be in the same room as their partner. Any debaters found to be in the same room or the same computer will be disqualified.

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- If a connection error is encountered, the judge or contestant should inform the tournament staff. A ten-minute time frame will be allowed for connection to be established. If a connection is made, the contestants should pick up where they left off and should not be penalized. If the technological issue cannot be resolved after ten minutes:
 - The competitor will have to forfeit/take last place
 - The judge will be replaced and previous contestants will need to perform again.

Debate Event Rules and Guidelines

- All contestants are held to the standard MSHSAA rules for these events.
- All debate rounds will be conducted synchronously/live.
- *Please note that most of the judges will be from the Fulton community and therefore, will be judging for the first time. We advise you to keep this in mind and adjust your performances as necessary.*
- Competitors in Public Forum must log in from separate devices and be in separate locations/rooms.
- Competitors may set up email chains in advance of the tournament for the exchange of evidence.
- The official MSHSAA time limits will be followed, including the expanding prep time.
 - Lincoln-Douglas: 5 minutes per side
 - Public Forum: 4 minutes per side
- Public Forum Tie Breakers:
 - Win/Loss record
 - Speaker ranks
 - Record of opponent lost to
 - Total opposition record
 - Oppositions' opposition record
- Lincoln Douglas Tie Breakers:
 - Win/Loss record
 - Record of opponent lost to
 - Total opposition record
 - Oppositions' opposition record
 - Total speaker points if needed
- All debate rounds will be held via Zoom

Debate Topics

- LD will use the January/February 2020-2021 topic, **Resolved: States ought to ban lethal autonomous weapons.**
- PF will use the February 2021 topic, **Resolved: On balance, the benefits of urbanization in West Africa outweigh the harms.**

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Individual Event Rules and Guidelines

- Standard NSDA rules will be used.
- All preliminary event rounds will be conducted asynchronously via SpeechWire.
- Contestants must record ONE speech that will be judged twice asynchronously.
 - **Coaches must upload links into SpeechWire February 17 by 4:30 PM**
- Judges should take note of the time for each performance. For asynchronous rounds use the length of the video as the time of the performance. Individuals who speak more than thirty seconds over the time limit should be marked down one rank.
- Any recording platform may be used. Loom is recommended. The privacy settings must be set to PUBLIC. Any inoperable links will automatically be ranked last in the room.
- No editing or post-production may be utilized; the recording must be shot in one take.
- For **RADIO**—students should be seated facing the camera but do not need to make eye contact. MSHSAA rules—no commercials.
- For **COMBINED EXTEMP**
 - On **February 17 by 1:00 PM** coaches with extempers entered in our tournament will receive a list of extemp questions.
 - Coaches should conduct a draw with their own teams. Extempers must record ONE speech that will be judged twice asynchronously.
- Elimination Rounds
 - The same video used for prelims will be judged asynchronously on Saturday.
 - **No live competition will occur.**

Advancing in Individual Events

The top twelve to fourteen contestants with the lowest cumulative scores will advance to semifinal rounds. Tie breakers will be total preliminary reciprocals and speaker ratings. If necessary due to low entry numbers, preliminary rounds will break straight to finals.

Placing in Individual Events

The top six competitors with the lowest scores will break to finals. Tie breaking at the finals level will occur in the following order:

1. Judges Preference (if available)
2. Reciprocals from the round
3. Total speaker ratings from the round

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Awards and Sweepstakes

We will recognize the TOP SIX competitors in each event as well as quarterfinalists, semifinalists, and finalists in debate. The top five teams will be recognized and the best two entries of each event will be tabulated for sweepstakes awards. The top three point-winning schools will be recognized.

Individual Event Sweepstakes Points

Event Entry	1 point
Event Semifinal Round	3 points
Event Final Round	5 points
Event Third Place	5 points
Event Second Place	10 points
Event First Place	15 points

Debate Sweepstakes Points

Debate Entry	1 point
Debate Win	5 points
Debate Quarterfinals	12 points
Debate Semifinals	12 points
Debate Finals Round	12 points

Virtual Tournament Tips

- We suggest setting up a meeting room for your team so you can easily check in with your students.
- Have a team GroupMe so your competitors can contact you quickly and report any issues that may arise.
- Maximize your internet performance by removing as many connected devices as possible and closing out as many programs on your device as possible.
- Have debate partners set up a method of communication during the rounds (such as a phone call). Make sure each is muted at the appropriate times.
- Familiarize yourself with Zoom and hold several practice recordings and/or Zoom performances for events and practice rounds for debate.
 - Have someone else watch and give you feedback on the recording or be present on Zoom calls to test connections.
- Consider neutral backgrounds and think about the lighting in the space.
- Clarify with those in the house that during recordings/rounds they need to be as quiet as possible.
- Think about camera angle and frame so you are capturing your full performance effectively.
- Look into using an external microphone to improve sound. Listen to recordings to see how the acoustics are and adjust accordingly.
 - Remember everything in a recording needs to be bigger and louder.