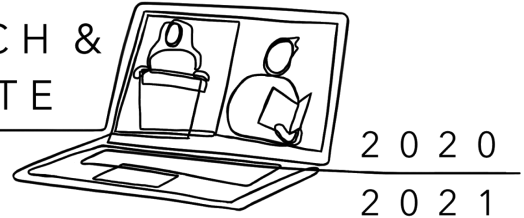


# MARQUETTE SPEECH & DEBATE



January 8, 2021

Dear Coach and Team,

The Marquette Speech & Debate Team is pleased to invite you to our 2021 Virtual Invitational Tournament, held February 12th & 13th, 2021. We will offer competition in the following events: Informative Speaking, Original Oratory, US Extemp, International Extemp, Radio Speaking, Humorous Interp, Dramatic Interp, DUO Interp, Prose, Poetry, POI, and Storytelling. Debate events will include Champion and Varsity Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum, and Policy. We will allow a maximum of three (3) entries per event.

## **Registration:**

Registration for the tournament will be held on [SpeechWire](#) and will be open Friday, January 8th, 2021. The deadline for registering entries will be January 29th at 4 pm, with entry videos due by Monday, February 8th at 4 pm.

## **Judging Obligations:**

Each school is expected to provide one (1) judge for every 12 event entries, and one (1) judge for every 8 debate entries. The deadline for judge sign-up is Friday, February 5th at 4 pm. All judges must sign up using the online form. [This is a link to the form.](#)

Please carefully read the following pages for full tournament information regarding schedules, events, rules, judging, videos, awards, and general information. There will be more information coming to you via email, but we want to make the initial packet available so teams can begin to make their plans. In the meantime, should you have any questions, please contact me via email or phone/text and I will reply promptly.

Looking forward to hosting your school,

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### REGISTRATION

First and last names of competitors should be submitted to SpeechWire for scheduling purposes by 4 pm, Friday, January 29, 2021 . Drops may be made without penalty until Friday, February 5, 2021.

<b>Entries due in SpeechWire</b>	Friday, January 29th @ 4:00 pm
<b>All Individual Event Video Links in SpeechWire</b>	Monday, February 8th @ 4:00 pm
<b>Judge Registration</b>	Friday, February 5th @ 4:00 pm

**\*\*These deadlines will be strictly adhered to due to the nature of how virtual tournaments function. Please communicate these deadlines with your students.**

### JUDGING REQUIREMENTS & EXPECTATIONS

Schools will be obligated to provide rounds for judging based on entry totals. Schools will be expected to withdraw entries to meet expectations if necessary. Judge obligations are:

- 1 judge for every 12 event entries
- 1 judge for every 8 debate entries

#### Eligible Judges include:

- Coaches should mark as much availability as possible
- Current Varsity students who have earned 150 or more NSDA points can judge novices
- Any alumni can judge both varsity and novice rounds
- All judges must have access to the internet to able to judge

**All judges, including coaches, alumni, and current students, should sign up [HERE](#).**

#### Judge Expectations:

- 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. Do not sign up for a time you cannot make.
- 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 their homes.
- For more information please see our [judging handbook here](#).

#### Coaches’ Lounge:

We will host a coaches’ lounge via Zoom throughout the tournament. Feel free to drop in with any questions or to say hello to your colleagues! More information will be provided later.

### RULES & ENTRY INFORMATION

1. A student may enter only two individual events.
2. A student may only enter in one format of debate: Policy, Lincoln Douglas, or Public Forum.
3. Students may enter only one division of Extemp.
4. Schools must recruit one adult judge for every 12 individual event entries and one adult judge for every 8 debate entries.
5. Entries must be made in SpeechWire with “activated” student accounts. Coaches are responsible for ensuring their students are registered on Speechwire and activated. The Host reserves the right to drop any entries that are still without names and/or activation in the week of the tournament so that we are able to appropriately plan the tournament. Advanced notice will be given.
6. We will comply with all MSHSAA rules and regulations regarding the use of electronic devices and the internet. It is a coach’s duty to ensure their students are aware of the rules and abide by

them.

7. In the event MSHSAA does not cover the event, NSDA rules will apply.

### **VIRTUAL TOURNAMENT RULES**

- Per MSHSAA regulations, a coach must be available throughout the duration of the entire tournament. While we will use volunteer judges first, all on-duty coaches **MUST BE AVAILABLE** to judge if needed.
- All LIVE ROUND competitors are expected to be “in room” 15 minutes prior to the start of the round in order to solve technical problems in advance.
- Cameras for both competitors and judges should be ON unless turning them off is absolutely necessary to improve connectivity. No spectators are allowed in the rooms.
- Students more than 10 minutes late to a live round, through no fault of the tournament, will forfeit the round.
- The use of the internet during rounds WILL be permitted. We will follow all MSHSAA guidelines regarding internet use.
- Because of current restrictions in St. Louis County and to promote equity, all debaters are required to login to different accounts and perform the round from their own locations.
- All DUO recordings must be recorded in split-screen.
- If a judge or contestant encounters a connection error, they should inform the tournament staff. A “ten-minute window” will be used to solve these connections/technological issues. If after the ten minutes the technology issue cannot be resolved:
  - A competitor will forfeit/take last place in the round
  - A judge will be replaced and the round will restart

### **Entry Fees**

- All single-person events will be assessed \$6.00 per entry
- All partnered events will be assessed \$12.00 per entry

### **TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

All individual events will be held asynchronously (pre-recorded), while all debate events will be held synchronously.

#### Asynchronous Events Judging:

- Extemp topics emailed to coaches – Wednesday, 3 February at 2:00 pm
- Individual event recordings uploaded to SpeechWire – Monday, 8 February at 4:00 pm
- Preliminary Rounds – Ballots due by Wednesday, 10 February at 11:00 PM
- Semifinals – Ballots due by Thursday, 11 February at 11:00 PM
- Finals – Ballots due by Friday, 12 February at 11:00 PM

#### Synchronous Debate Rounds:

Friday, 12 February

- 4:00 PM - Round I of Debate
- 6:00 PM - Round II of Debate
- 8:00 PM - Round III of Debate

Saturday, 13 February

- 8:00 AM - Quarterfinal Round of Debate
- 10:00 AM - Semifinal Round of Debate
- 1:00 PM - Final Round of Debate
- 3:30 PM - Awards

## AWARDS & SWEEPSTAKES RULES

A livestream ceremony will be presented; details will be emailed to coaches during the tournament. We will recognize the TOP SIX competitors in each event as well as quarterfinalists, semi-finalists, finalists in debate. In terms of team awards, we will recognize the top 5 teams. Each school's BEST TWO ENTRIES in each event/division will be tabulated for sweepstakes awards. Awards will be mailed to coaches following the tournament.

Points in Events & Debate will be awarded to the top two entries from each school as follows:

Any Entry.....	one point
Event Semi-Finals.....	five points
Event Finals.....	ten points
Event Third Place.....	five points
Event Second Place.....	ten points
Event First Place.....	fifteen points
Debate Win .....	five points
Debate Quarterfinals .....	five points
Debate Semifinals .....	ten points
Debate Finals .....	fifteen points

## EVENT RULES & PROCEDURES

### Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum, & Policy Debates

- All contestants are held to the standard MSHSAA rules for these events.
- All rounds are live/synchronous. No spectators will be allowed in any of the rooms.
- Competitors may set up email chains in advance of the tournament for the exchange of evidence.
- Competitors are expected to share any and all evidence read in their rounds if asked by their opponents. Judges may also call for evidence and/or cases.
- The official MSHSAA time limit will be followed, including the expanded prep time.
  - Policy: 8 minutes of prep per side
  - Lincoln Douglas: 5 minutes of prep per side
  - Public Forum: 4 minutes of prep per side
- All contestants are expected to keep track of their own prep time.

Debate Topics:

- Lincoln Douglas will use the January/February 2021 NSDA Topic which can be found at [www.speechanddebate.org/topics](http://www.speechanddebate.org/topics)
- Public Forum will use the February 2021 NSDA Topic which can be found at [www.speechanddebate.org/topics](http://www.speechanddebate.org/topics)
- Policy Debate will use the 2020-2021 NFHS/NSDA Topic of **Resolved: The United States federal government should enact substantial criminal justice reform in the United States in one or more of the following areas: forensic science, policing, sentencing.**

### Domestic & International Extemporaneous Speaking

- Standard NSDA rules will be used.
- On Wednesday, 3 February at 2:00 pm, coaches with extempers will receive an email with a set of questions. The tournament host may send questions earlier than this in the event COVID makes life more challenging on coaches in the organization of their draws.
- Coaches should conduct a draw with their own teams. Extempers will record one speech to submit for the entire tournament.
- Coaches should upload their students' speeches to SpeechWire no later than 4:00 pm on Monday, 8 February.
- Recordings must be submitted as a URL link -- file downloads will not be accepted. Coaches may decide which recording platform to use provided that it allows you to submit a URL link. (For instance, Loom has worked well for many schools.) Coaches should be diligent about checking to make sure that all their student's videos can be viewed using a private browser. An inoperable link will automatically receive last in the room.
- Students and/or coaches may not edit or use post-production software. The recording must be

shot in one take.

### **Oratory, Info, Humorous, Dramatic, POI, Prose, Poetry, & Storytelling**

- Standard NSDA rules will be used.
- Students may perform either a Prose or Poetry since they are combined.
- The camera used to record must remain stationary at all times.
- Judges will be informed that a contestant may be inventive with the medium, as long as their camera remains stationary at all times.
- Coaches should upload their student's speeches to SpeechWire no later than 4:00 pm on Monday, 8 February.
- Recordings must be submitted as a URL link -- file downloads will not be accepted. Coaches may decide which recording platform to use provided that it allows you to submit a URL link. (For instance, Loom has worked well for many schools.) Coaches should be diligent about checking to make sure that all their student's videos can be viewed using a private browser. An inoperable link will automatically receive last in the room.
- Students and/or coaches may not edit or use post-production software. The recording must be shot in one take.

### **Duo**

- Standard NSDA rules will be used
- The camera used to record must remain stationary at all times.
- Judges will be informed that a contestant may be inventive with the medium, as long as their camera remains stationary at all times.
- Split screen is required! Students must be in different spaces during the recording. "Editing" is permitted for the sake of lining up videos side by side, if necessary.
- Coaches should upload their student's speeches to SpeechWire no later than 4:00 pm on Monday, 8 February.
- Recordings must be submitted as a URL link -- file downloads will not be accepted. Coaches may decide which recording platform to use provided that it allows you to submit a URL link. (For instance, Loom has worked well for many schools.) Coaches should be diligent about checking to make sure that all their student's videos can be viewed using a private browser. An inoperable link will automatically receive last in the room.

### **Radio**

- Standard MSHSAA rules will be used.
- Speaking time is 5 minutes
- The speaker should not be seen; either by covering the camera lens, sitting with the speakers back to the camera, or using a blank screen with the speaker's name (such as on Zoom).
- No commercials

## **VIRTUAL SUGGESTIONS**

1. Set up a virtual meeting room for your students so you can check in with them between rounds. Consider requiring them to meet here to "ride the bus" to the event and "ride the bus" home so you can make sure they are present and debrief. If a coach is not judging they must remain in their team room so the tournament can find them.
2. Join the team GroupMe for quick communication with coaches if there's an issue finding a room, judge is missing, etc. (Detail to come.)
3. Set up a method of communication with debate partners. You may want to be on a call on a phone separate from the video call. Make sure each is muted at appropriate times.
4. Maximize your internet by removing as many connected devices as possible and closing out as many programs on your device as you can.
5. Familiarize yourself with the video conferencing software. Look for shortcuts and hotkeys. Use gallery mode to see all participants.
6. Do several practice recordings and/or Zoom performances for events and practice rounds for debate
  - a. Have someone else watch and give you feedback on the recording or be present on zoom calls to test connections

- b. Consider neutral backgrounds and think about the lighting in the space.
- c. Everything in a recording needs to be bigger and louder than you think it does
- d. Look into using an external microphone to improve sound. Listen back to recordings to see how the acoustics are and adjust accordingly.
- e. Clarify with those in the house that during recordings/rounds they need to be as quiet as possible.
- f. Think about camera angle and frame so you are capturing your full performance effectively.

## CHARITY: EVERY CHILD'S HOPE

*ECH is an organization that works to support a vast and growing population of St. Louis youth. Beyond providing mental health and trauma services, ECH provides a Head Start program and K-12 alternative schooling. They offer family and crisis support, foster care management, and parenting programs. They support homeless youth as well as pregnant and parenting teenagers. What's more, ECH only receives 55% of its necessary funding through the government. Donations are the primary engine of this impressive operation.*

Marquette is proud to join with the other schools in our district who have chosen Every Child's Hope as the focus for the important philanthropic aspect of what we do. Above and beyond our competition is the humanity instilled in our students through speech and debate. It is inspiring how our kids care about the world they live in and choose to direct much of their attention to helping others as an embedded function of each tournament. Typically, fundraising at tournaments is a fun and energetic activity with a lot of creativity in how the students support their cause. Sadly, virtual tournaments have greatly affected that energy. We are looking at some possibilities to include in our tournament, and will let you know soon how we plan to support *Every Child's Hope*.

For the schools who are less familiar with Marquette, we lost one of our beloved team members in August of 2019. It is our hope that through the vital work of *Every Child's Hope* there are fewer stories like Jesh. In advance, we thank you for supporting our cause.



NSDA Nationals, Dallas, June 2019