

Dear Colleagues,

WELCOME TO THE 2021 ONLINE VERSION of THE COLORADO CUP!

These announcements are intended for all schools who have already indicated that you plan to attend as well as any other schools who might still be looking for a tournament to meet their needs next weekend. Without further ado, here are some things you probably would like to know.

1. Registration is down compared to our live tournament last year. However, we have already reached 240 entries and expect to be around 250-300 total entries with 20+ entries in all events except Duo and Policy Debate.
2. I know that at this moment in time, it is exceedingly difficult to pin down student participants. For that reason, even though our registration deadline was set for Tuesday at 5:00 pm, I will waive drop fees and keep registration open for both adds and drops until Thursday at 9:00 am. **As long as student names and videos are submitted by that time, your entry will be accepted.** 😊
3. In light of diminished registration numbers, I am also opening up the waitlist for any schools who have entries in excess of the 5 per event limit we set in the invitation. As long as the event has a total of at least 20 entries, I will take up to 2 additional entries from all schools who have additional students wishing to participate.
4. **Judges, judges, judges.** Our judging policy is listed in the original invitation and your school's specific judging requirements are visible in the Judges tab on Speechwire. Please get judges entered ASAP. I don't want to drop any students from this tournament, but we will enforce our judging policy if we lack sufficient judges to run the tournament.
5. Our Equity policy is posted along with some additional guidance for judges. All judges will also be provided with a copy of this document.
6. Given that we have competitors from multiple states, we will generally follow NSDA rules for online competition.
7. The Congress docket is now posted.
8. I will be combining **Extemp** into a **single division** to help us ensure a larger number of bids are available to students for the NIETOC and KTOC. As is our tradition, we will not use specific Topic Areas each round, but will instead offer an array of topic choices.

9. Duo will be split screen and Async, including Elims (that was not clear in the invitation).
10. Async Prelim videos will be released to students when they are released to judges
11. **Policy on Technical Issues and Live Speech Elims.** If your Speech student has technical difficulties with a Live Elim Round, be aware that we will take the following steps.
 - a. Instruct ALL JUDGES that technical glitches MUST NOT be a factor in their decision.
 - b. Instruct ALL JUDGES to allow a speaker to RE-START from the beginning of their piece if their connection fails or significantly glitches for a period of more than 2 minutes. Comments from the first attempt at performing must be deleted and the re-start treated as the only performance.
 - c. In the event a competitor simply cannot find a reliable connection to allow them to compete live, we will e-mail their prelim video to their elimination round judges. This is only a LAST RESORT. We strongly encourage all coaches to help their students find an appropriate location to allow them to perform live during elimination rounds.

More announcements forthcoming as we get closer to the tournament! Most of these reminders will be included in a live document that will be shared with all coaches and judges during the tournament.

Warmest Regards,
Mike

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