

FRANCIS HOWELL NORTH INVITATIONAL

Francis Howell North High School | St. Charles, MO

Dear Coaches,

The Francis Howell North Chapter of the National Speech & Debate Association is pleased to invite your team to our fall invitational - VIRTUALLY!! We will be using Speechwire and Zoom to bring you this event. We are offering an array of events and debates for both varsity and novice competitors. Please read this full invitation carefully to ensure your students are well prepared for this experience. All teams are welcome to enter up to **FOUR** in each event. **Additional entries will be granted depending on our judging availability. You may add to the waitlist and these will be released on a first-come, first-served basis. HOWEVER, you must associate an entry with a name to claim those spots in the waitlist line.**

Please note the judging obligations for each school. Please fill out our [ONLINE JUDGING FORM](#) for ANY of your school judges, including student judges. Of course, if varsity members do not advance, they are also welcomed to contact us during the tournament to be added to the pool. *Students must be in their 2nd year of competition with at least 150 NSDA points to judge.*

Please register through Speechwire by **Wednesday, October 20th at 4 pm**. *No additional entries will be accepted after this time.* Adjustments can be made to existing entries after this date only if room allows. Drops can be made without penalty by **Wednesday, October 27th at 3 pm**.

We hope to see you the last weekend of October!

Your hosts,

Tournament Director/Assistant Coach

Chris St. Aubin

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(636) 577-8538

FHN officers: Evan Becker, Carly Gordon, Emily Gantz, Pavan Kolluru

Head Coach

Randy Pierce

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Events Offered

(We reserve the right to collapse divisions and/or events if numbers are low)

Each school may enter up to but no more than FOUR in each division. Charge is \$8/entry.

Events

Open Domestic Extemp
Open International Extemp
Open Original Oratory
Open Informative
Open Humorous Interp
Open Dramatic Interp
Open Program of Oral Interp
Open Duo Interp
Open Radio Speaking

Novice Extemp
Novice Original Oratory
Novice Informative
Novice Interp (HI/DI)
Novice Prose OR Poetry

Debate

Open Public Forum
Open Lincoln Douglas
Open Policy

Novice Public Forum
Novice Lincoln Douglas
Novice Policy

Divisions

- Novice - First-year competitors
- Open - In Debate, this is meant for second, third and fourth-year competitors. In Events, this is intended for all but novices. First-year competitors CAN enter here. Second-year competitors WILL enter here for events.

SCHEDULE

*ALL should arrive 15 minutes before start so we can check rooms

Wednesday -Friday

Async Speech Rounds 1 and 2 are Judged

Friday, October 29

Registration - 3 pm

Debate Round 1 - 3:30 pm

Debate Round 2 - 5:30 pm

Debate Round 3 - 7:30pm

Saturday, October 30

Debate Round 4 - 8:00 am

Extemp draw for finals - 10:00 am

Synchronous Speech finals - 10:30 am

Debate Semifinals - 12:30 pm

(Debate Quarterfinals at 12:30 if over 4 undefeated.)

Debate finals (or semis) - 2:30 pm

Awards - 5:00 pm

(Awards may be later if we have debate quarterfinals.)

Deadlines

Initial Entries	Finalized Entries
Due in Speechwire by Wednesday, Oct. 20th @ 4 pm <i>No Schools may enter after this time</i>	Changes due by Wednesday, Oct. 27th @ 3 pm <i>Any drops after this time cannot be filled and will be charged an entry fee</i>

Asynchronous Duo/Back-up Recordings

Links must be submitted via Speechwire by Wednesday, Oct. 27th @ 3 pm
Any entries not uploaded will be considered a drop and will forfeit the entry fee.
All entries found to have inaccessible links will be given last in the room. It is your duty to check this before submission.

Judge Submissions

All obligated judging assignments must be entered on [THIS FORM](#) by Monday, Oct. 25th @ 4pm
Any obligation not met will result in the dropping of entries.

Judging Requirements and 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. Your MSHSAA-required supervisory coach will be considered on STANDBY for ALL rounds. It will help us if you tell us who that is and when.
- 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 be able to judge

All judges, including coaches 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. Don’t sign up for times you can’t make.
- All judge comments should focus on the competitor’s performance in the round - not on their clothing, competition space, if they are masked, etc. Please remember you are a “virtual guest” in their space.

General Virtual Rules

- ALL SCHOOLS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A SUPERVISING COACH PER MSHSAA REQUIREMENTS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE TOURNAMENT. You will fill out an information form with contact information so I know who will be available and when.
- All students and judges are expected to arrive in their virtual rooms 15 minutes prior to the start of the round.
- All students should enter the room MUTED in case of others speaking.
- Every effort should be made to keep your camera turned on during rounds (including the judge). The exception will be if it is necessary to improve connectivity.
- In all rounds, viewers are encouraged to use the SPEAKER VIEW so you can see the performer more clearly.
- A student may enter up to two events. Students may not double enter in both divisions of extemp.
- Debaters may not enter more than one debate event: Policy, Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum.
- In Extemp, speaking order in finals will take precedence for those double-entered. You must report this to the draw chair to access the privilege.
- Any student more than ten minutes late to a round will forfeit participation in that round (provided the delay is not the fault of the tournament). DOUBLE ENTERED STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE BOTH FINAL-ROUND PERFORMANCES IN THE TIME ALLOTTED. Double entered students are expected to inform their judges that they may be late prior to the start of finals. This means arriving at the Zoom and alerting the tournament staff.
- Except for a change necessitated by a double entry, contestants in finals are expected to speak in the order assigned
- The use of the internet during rounds WILL be permitted. Please review the [MSHSAA rules](#) (p. 62) regarding this issue. Please note that ALL MSHSAA guidelines in this document will be followed.

- Debaters and Duo may perform in the same room together but do not have to. Judges will be instructed to expect different scenarios and not use deductions based on the setting or masking.
- Duo will be asynchronous. Teams may perform in the same (loom) room or may submit a split-screen performance. Entries opting for split-screen performance should reference [MSHSAA Rules](#) (p. 63) regarding use of the frame.
- All backup recordings will also follow [MSHSAA Rules](#) (p. 63) disallowing editing and movement beyond the frame.
- **ALL EVENTS and COMPETITORS must REMAIN FULLY VISIBLE IN THE FRAME FOR THE DURATION OF ALL PERFORMANCES whether synchronous or asynchronous.**
- If internet connections drop out mid-performance, judges or contestants should inform the tournament staff. We will wait up to 10 minutes **total** for each person for contact to be made. Contestants may pick up where they left off to complete their performance. They should not be penalized. If the contestant or judge is unreachable or exceeds the 10-minute window collectively, they will forfeit/take last, and/or the judge will be replaced, and previous contestants will need to perform again.
- All rounds will allow for spectators. However, those viewing a round must remain muted and off-screen. Those not adhering to these rules will be removed from the room.

Event Specific Rules

DEBATE RULES:

- Email chains should be set up and offered to all competitors and judges before the round begins.
- Advancing will be determined by:
 - Win/Loss record
 - Head-to-head
 - Record of opponent lost to
 - Total opposition record
 - Oppositions 'opposition record
 - Total speaker points if needed
- All debates will have extended prep time while virtual per [MSHSAA guidelines](#) (p. 62).
 - Policy: 8 minutes per side
 - Lincoln Douglas: 5 minutes per side
 - Public Forum: 4 minutes per side

Policy Debate — (8-3-5 time limits): Two-person teams will debate the NSDA/MSHSAA topic: **Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its protection of water resources in the United States.** NSDA rules will be followed. 8 minutes of preparation time will be allowed per team. The top four teams will advance to semifinals if the numbers allow. No mavericks. Novices cannot use Counter Plans or Kritiks. They must use a case from the following [novice case areas](#): Substantially strengthen federal surveillance and standards for lead in drinking water; Substantially limit the use of hydraulic fracturing by energy companies in the US; Substantially strengthen federal standards for agriculture-related runoff into lakes and streams; Substantially increase the protection of wetlands in the US.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate — (6-3-7-3-4-6-3 time limits): Individuals will debate the September/October NSDA/MSHSAA topic: **Resolved: The member nations of the World Trade Organization ought to**

reduce intellectual property protections for medicines. NSDA rules will be followed. 5 minutes of preparation time will be allowed per speaker. The top four debaters will advance to semifinals unless there are more than four undefeated entries in which case we will advance to quarterfinals. Per MSHSAA rules, we will NOT be using the Novice LD topic. All students should prepare the varsity topic.

Public Forum Debate – (4-3-4-3-3-3-2 time limits) Two-person teams will debate the September/October NSDA/MSHSAA topic: **Resolved: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization should substantially increase its defense commitments to the Baltic states.** The NSDA rules will be followed EXCEPT for speech times. 4 minutes of preparation time will be allowed per team. Teams will flip each round even if they have met before. The judge must flip the coin. The winner of the coin toss can choose either side (pro or con) OR the speaker position (first or last). The coin toss loser has the other choice. The top four teams will advance to semifinals unless there are more than four undefeated entries in which case we will advance to quarterfinals.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS RULES:

- All prelim rounds will be done asynchronously via Loom.
- All recordings must be submitted via Speechwire by Wednesday, October 27th at 3 pm. No recordings will be accepted after that time.
- Videos must be done in one take. Edited videos will be disqualified.
- We will default to [MSHSAA Rules](#) for all MSHSAA Events with one exception - in Radio Speaking, entrants must include a commercial approximately 30 seconds in length.
- Advancing 6 to finals will be determined by:
Lowest total cumulative speaker ranks
Total preliminary reciprocals
Total speaker ratings
- Final placings will be determined by:
Judges 'preference > Reciprocals from the round > Total Speaker Ranking from the round

Original Oratory—An original persuasive speech is written by the contestant, containing no more than 150 words of quoted material. Memorized delivery is required in the varsity division. Novices may use scripts but are encouraged not to. Time limit—10 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Informative Speaking— An original informative speech is written by the contestant. Memorized delivery is required in the varsity division. Novices may use scripts but are encouraged not to. The goal is to educate, not to advocate. Novices may use scripts but are encouraged not to. Visual aids are allowed. Please read the [RULES](#) (p. 39) Time limit—10 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Extemporaneous Speaking—Each coach entering extemp will receive a list of numbered topics roughly one week prior to the tournament. On Monday, October 25th, each coach will receive three random numbers (matching those on the list of topics) for each entrant which will indicate the three questions that the student must select from for their prelim speech. Novice extempers may choose from either the Domestic or International list of questions but may not “mix” their three choices between the two lists.

- Final-round contestants must report to draw 15 minutes before draw is scheduled to begin (if possible). Students will be shown three topics and will tell the draw chair what they select. They will have thirty minutes to prepare a speech. They must remain in the Zoom draw for prep.
- Contestants are allowed the use of one note card during delivery but risk the reduction of points for doing so. Speech time limit—7 minutes maximum, no minimum. Novices should not be penalized for the use of a note card.

Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation—Memorized selections from published material of literary merit are presented. Movement below the waist should be limited. Selections are to be properly introduced. Time limit—10 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Duo Interpretation—A memorized selection of any published source of literary merit is performed by two students. Performers may stand in

any arrangement suitable. Offstage focus should be used. Time limit—10 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Prose/Poetry Reading—Selections taken from a published source of literary merit are read from a script or a tablet/e-reader. Both should be properly introduced. Prose selections may contain no more than 50% dialogue. Poetry can be a singular poem or come from multiple sources connected either by an author or theme. It must be written in verse. Competitors will choose ONLY ONE to perform but will compete in sections of students doing both. Time limit—8 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Program of Oral Interpretation (POI) – Students create a theme or argument through the use of narrative, story, language, and/or characterization. They draw on selections from at least two of the following: prose, poetry, and/or drama. A manuscript must be used, and the pieces must be properly introduced. [NSDA rules will be used](#) (p. 45). Time limit – 10 minutes.

Radio Speaking – Students write a 5-minute-long script including news (international, national, and local), weather, sports, and a 30-second commercial. Content should be no older than 3:00 pm on Tuesday, October 26th. While speaking, the student should have their back to the camera.

AWARDS & SWEEPSTAKES RULES:

An awards ceremony will be presented via Zoom. We will recognize the TOP SIX competitors in each event as well as semi-finalists and 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. We plan to present medals to 4th-5th-6th in speech and trophies to 1st-2nd-3rd. In debate, trophies will go to the top four.

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

How to Register

1. Coaches will need to login to Speechwire.com to accept the tournament invitation.
2. You will register your team as usual. You will also need to [register each student's account](#).
 1. Log into Speechwire and click team roster
 2. For students already listed on your roster, click the student you want to send an activation email to. Use the email field to add their email address, and when that is saved, the student will immediately receive an email with an activation link to activate their account.
 3. For students not listed on your roster, use the fields at the top of the page to add students. If an email address is included, then the student will immediately receive an email with an activation link to activate their account.
 4. Make sure that students can access their account **BEFORE** the tournament.
3. You will NOT input judges into Speechwire. Please sign up [HERE](#). The tournament host will create these accounts.
4. You will need to upload your links for events. It is your responsibility to ensure the links work and are public-facing. If the links do not work for judges, they will be instructed to rank that speaker last.
5. All [balloting](#) will be done via Speechwire. Here are [EVENTS](#) and [DEBATE](#) instructions.

Virtual Suggestions

1. Consider creating a space either virtually or at your school for students to gather. 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.
2. Please speak with your administration before choosing to compete as a team at school. You may have different masking rules and may need to reserve your building to spread your students out.
3. Team GroupMe for quick communication with coaches if there’s an issue finding a room, the judge is missing, etc.
4. 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.
5. Maximize your internet by removing as many connected devices as possible and closing out as many programs on your call device as you can.
6. Familiarize yourself with the video conferencing software. Look for shortcuts and hotkeys. Use gallery mode to see all participants.
7. Do several practice recordings and/or zoom performances for events and practice rounds for debate.
 1. Have someone else watch and give you feedback on the recording or be present on zoom calls to test connections
8. Consider neutral backgrounds and think about the lighting in the space.
9. Everything in a recording needs to be bigger and louder than you think it does
10. Look into using an external microphone to improve the sound. Listen back to recordings to see how the acoustics are and adjust accordingly.
11. Clarify with those in the house that during recordings/rounds they need to be as quiet as possible.
12. Think about camera angle and frame so you are capturing your full performance effectively.