

# 2021 Ladue Novice Invitational

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## 2021 VIRTUAL Ladue Novice Invitational

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Dear Coach and Squad:

The Ladue Horton Watkins Chapter of the National Forensic League would like to invite you to attend our fifty-fifth annual Ladue Novice Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament on the **19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of November**. We will be hosting in conjunction with the varsity tournament at Clayton High School. We will be using Speechwire and using Zoom to host rounds.

We shall offer competition in the following events: Extemporaneous Speaking, Informative Speaking, Original Oratory, Radio Speaking, Interpretation (combined Humorous and Dramatic), Poetry Reading, Prose Reading, Storytelling, Congressional Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Policy Debate, and Public Forum Debate. We invite you to enter up to four entries per event and we will take entries from the waiting list on a first come, first served basis.

Also, 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 welcome to contact us during the tournament to be added to the pool. *Please remember that students must be in their second year of competition with at least 150 NSDA points to judge.*

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. My cell phone number is 314.807.1571. You may send tournament related e-mails to me at mbeck@ladueschools.net. E-mail is the best method of communication.

Entries shall be accepted until **Wednesday, 10 November 2021 at 5:00pm**. We would appreciate your confirmed entry no later than **Monday, 15 November 2021 at 5:00pm** - drops after this time forfeit the entry fee. Drops on the day of the tournament will result in a deduction of five sweepstakes points per entry.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Cara Borgsmiller and the Parkway West Speech and Debate team for putting together the norms, policies, and procedures the Saint Louis area is using for virtual tournaments. As always, we are incredibly grateful for Cara's leadership and service to this activity and our district.

We look forward to welcoming you for a weekend of virtual competition!

Thank you,

Ryan Tung  
*Student Tournament Director*

Molly Beck  
*Head Coach*

Casie Sambo  
*Assistant Coach*

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## Deadlines

Initial Entries	Finalized Entries
Due in Speechwire by Wednesday, 10 November 2021 at 5:00pm <b><u>No schools may enter after this time and no additional entries will be accepted</u></b>	Changes due by Monday, 15 November 2021 at 5:00pm <b><u>Any drops after this time will be charged the entry fee</u></b>

Judge Submissions
All obligated judging assignments must be entered on <a href="#">THIS FORM</a> Monday, 15 November 2021 at 5:00pm <b><u>Any obligation not met will result in the dropping of entries.</u></b>

## 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 twelve (12) event entries
- 1 judge for every eight (8) debate entries

### Eligible Judges include:

- Coaches should mark as much availability as possible
- Current students in at least their second year of competition who have earned 150 or more NSDA points can judge novices
- All judges must have access to the internet to able to judge

**All judges, including coaches and current students, should sign up on [THIS FORM](#).**

### 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, et cetera. Please remember you are a “virtual guest” in their homes.

For more information please see our [Judge Training Hub](#).

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## General Tournament Information

1. A student may enter two individual events and debate.
2. A novice shall be defined as any student who has had NO high school level, interscholastic, speech and debate competition experience prior to the 2021-2022 academic year.
3. 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 performances in the time allotted for each round.
4. Debaters may enter only one division of debate.
5. Laptops will be permitted in the following events, per MSHSAA guidelines: Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Policy Debate, Public Forum Debate, Extemporaneous Speaking, Poetry Reading, Prose Reading, and Radio Speaking. Students may use internet during debate and extemporaneous speaking rounds per MSHSAA rules for the virtual format.
6. Changes in school entries will be accepted without penalty until Monday, 15 November 2021. After that point in time the entry fee will be forfeited.
7. Cancellations at registration will result in a five-point deduction in sweepstakes points per entry.
8. Each school is required to provide one judge for every eight (8) debate entries and one judge for every twelve (12) events entries. Judges may be advanced students. Please choose student judges who will provide positive, critical remarks for our novice guests.
9. A coach or qualified sponsor must be immediately available at all times per MSHSAA guidelines.
10. As a courtesy to all participants, judges, coaches, and parents we ask that all conversations and actions be school-appropriate when students are in the virtual tournament space.
11. All competitors and judges are expected to arrive in their virtual rooms fifteen (15) minutes before a round is scheduled to begin. This is when technology needs to be tested, email chains should be set-up, etc.
12. Every effort should be made to keep your camera turned on during debate rounds (including the judge). The exception will be if it is necessary to improve connectivity. In event out rounds, competitors WATCHING should turn their cameras off. Only the judge and performer should keep their cameras on to improve focus and audience adaption.
13. Please ensure all district expectations, policies, and procedures related to COVID-19 are being followed at all times. If you plan to offer your students the opportunity to compete in-person at school, make those plans now and talk to your tech department about technology needs.
14. Except for a change necessitated by a double entry, contestants are expected to speak in the order assigned.
15. If internet connections drop out mid performance, judges or contestants should inform the tournament staff. We will wait up to ten (10) minutes 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 after ten (10) minutes, they will forfeit/take last and/or the judge will be replaced and previous contestants will need to perform again.

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## Individual Events Rules and Guidelines

Judges will be instructed to take note of the time of each performance. Individuals that speak more than 30 seconds beyond the allotted time will have their rank reduced by one spot by each judge. Otherwise, judges may consider time in all rankings or not.

Per MSHSAA virtual event recommendations, all competitors must remain within the frame of the camera for the entirety of their performance. MSHSAA rules will be followed for all speech events.

Spectators will be permitted for the final round.

The structure of the tournament will be two preliminary rounds with competitors breaking straight to the final round.

### Extemporaneous Speaking

Maximum Time: Seven (7) minutes

After drawing three questions concerning current foreign or domestic affairs, the contestant will choose one and prepare a speech. During the allotted thirty (30) minutes of preparation time, the contestant may not consult with others. One 3x5 notecard may be used during the delivery of the speech (if the contestant desires); however, this may result in a lower ranking. We will use political cartoons in finals.

**Important Notes:** If competitors are double-entered in Extemporaneous Speaking, then they MUST complete their Extemporaneous Speaking round first and MUST inform the draw room staff that they need to be moved up in the draw order. ALL competitors MUST report to the draw room for check-in when draw begins.

### Informative Speaking

Maximum Time: Ten (10) minutes

The speech must be informative in purpose, reflect the original thoughts of the contestant, and include no more than one hundred and fifty (150) words of direct quotation. The speech is to be recited from memory.

### Original Oratory

Maximum Time: Ten (10) minutes

The speech must be persuasive in purpose, reflect the original thoughts of the contestant, and include no more than one hundred and fifty (150) words of direct quotation. The speech is to be recited from memory.

### Radio Speaking

Maximum Time: Five (5) minutes

The contestant is to present a five (5) minute broadcast of international, national, and local news. The broadcast must include a sports update, a weather update, and a thirty-second (30 second) original commercial, which will advertise a well-known product/service. Time infractions will be weighted heavily.

Important Note: Students will turn their camera on to do a brief check-in with the judge and will then turn their camera off for the speech so the judge is only hearing the competitor's voice.

### Interpretation

Maximum Time: Ten (10) minutes

The student will present, from memory, a cutting of quality literature from a published novel, short story, or play. Each selection must be suitably introduced. Selections must possess literary merit and be of good taste. Material may be dramatic or humorous.

### Prose Reading

Maximum Time: Eight (8) minutes

The selection must be suited to the reader and audience and be of literary merit. The selection is not to be memorized and must be delivered from script and be suitably introduced.

### Poetry Reading

Maximum Time: Eight (8) minutes

The selection must be verse, suited to the reader and audience, and be of literary merit. The selection is not to be memorized and must be delivered from script and be suitably introduced.

### Storytelling

Maximum Time: Eight (8) minutes

Contestant will prepare a story geared for an audience of five (5) to ten (10) year old children. Contestants will present their stories from a seated position. No notes may be used.

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## Placing in Individual Events

The top seven (7) competitors with the lowest total scores will advance to finals. Tie breaking procedures for individual events will be as follows (in this order):

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

## Congressional Debate Rules and Guidelines

1. Students entering Congressional Debate may not be entered in any other individual events.
2. Schools shall use the legislation packet provided for all debate. We will be using the [Fall 2021 East MO Legislative Packet](#). The Clayton Fall Classic is using the same packet. Each house shall determine the docket order in first ten (10) minutes of Session One.
3. A tournament-appointed varsity member will serve as Presiding Officer in each house and will oversee the house. One of these Presiding Officers will be assigned to oversee finals.
4. Sessions One and Two will take place during Round One and Round Two of individual events. Super Session will convene during individual event finals.
5. Procedure for advancement to Super Session will be based on rankings from the judge. We will use an NSDA-style scoring system in which the judge will score each speech and then rank the top eight competitors in the room, with all non-ranked competitors receiving a ranking of 9. The top twelve (12) contestants, based on lowest accumulated ranks, will advance to Super Session.
6. Speeches of authorship and sponsorship are welcome. Authorship speeches are not guaranteed since we typically host schools outside of East MO.
6. Tie breaking procedures will be as follows (in this order):
  1. Judges' Preference in Super Session
  2. Average speech score in Super Session
  3. Average speech score in preliminary rounds
  4. Drop high and low scores for all rounds
  5. Number of speeches

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## Debate Rules and Guidelines

On Friday, we will host three preliminary rounds of debate. On Saturday, the quarterfinal, semifinal, and final rounds of debate will take place. All elimination rounds of debate will permit spectators.

Email chains should be set up and offered to all competitors and judges before the round begins.

This tournament will use the following NSDA topics:

Lincoln-Douglas Debate - Resolved: A just government ought to recognize an unconditional right of workers to strike.

Policy Debate - Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its protection of water resources in the United States.

Public Forum Debate - Resolved: Increased United States federal regulation of cryptocurrency transactions and/or assets will produce more benefits than harms.

### LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE

1. Lincoln-Douglas Debate time limits will be 6-3-7-3-4-6-3 with five (5) minutes of preparation time per debater.
2. Unless stated otherwise in this packet, Lincoln-Douglas debate will follow MSHSAA rules and guidelines.

### POLICY DEBATE

1. Policy Debate time limits will be 8-3-8-3-8-3-8-3-5-5-5-5 with eight (8) minutes of preparation time per team.
2. Teams will be composed of two people - no "mavericks." Teams must remain constant in personnel throughout the tournament or forfeit eligibility for elimination rounds.
3. Teams will debate both sides of the resolution
4. Teams must present a case from one (1) of the four (4) National Federation of State High School Association's suggested novice topic areas:
  - A. Substantially strengthen federal surveillance and standards for lead in drinking water
  - B. Substantially limit the use of hydraulic fracturing by energy companies in the United States
  - C. Substantially strengthen federal standards for agriculture-related runoff into lakes and streams
  - D. Substantially increase the protection of wetlands in the United States

Kritiks and counter plans are NOT permitted. Students violating any of these restrictions will receive a loss and will forfeit eligibility for elimination rounds. Please do not enter students who will not adhere to these guidelines.

5. Unless stated otherwise in this packet, policy debate will follow MSHSAA rules and guidelines.

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## PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE

1. Public Forum Debate time limits will be 4-4-3-4-4-3-3-3-2-2 with four (4) minutes of preparation time per team.
2. Teams will flip for sides and speaker position each round. The winner of the coin toss can choose either side (pro or con) or speaking position (first or second).
3. Teams will consist of two people - no “mavericks.” Teams must remain constant in personnel throughout the tournament or forfeit eligibility for elimination rounds.
4. Competitors must remain seated during the grand crossfire.
5. Unless stated otherwise in this packet, policy debate will follow MSHSAA rules and guidelines

\*\*Notice to Debate Competitors:

Many of your judges will be members of the Ladue School District community. Some of the judges will be judging for the first time. We advise you to keep this in mind and adjust your performances accordingly.

### **Advancing in Debate**

There will be four (4) rounds of preliminary debate competition. At the end of the preliminary rounds, the top eight (8) entries will advance to the quarter-final round.

When determining advancing teams, the tie-breaking procedures are as follows (listed in order):

1. Win/loss record
2. Head-to-head
3. Record of opponent to whom the debater lost
4. Total opposition record
5. Opposition's opposition record
6. Speaker ranks (Policy and Public Forum)/Speaker points (Lincoln-Douglas)

In case of a forfeit or bye, the winning team will receive a win and the average of their speaker ranks/ratings.

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## Sweepstakes Information

The best two entries of each event will be tabulated for sweepstakes awards. The top three point-winning schools will receive awards.

### Individual Events Sweepstakes Points

Entry	1 point
Semi-final Round	3 points
Final Round	5 points
Third Place	8 points
Second Place	10 points
First Place	12 points

### Congressional Debate Sweepstakes Points

Entry	1 point
Super Session	10 points
Individual Award	12 points

### Debate Sweepstakes Points

Entry	1 point
Debate Win	5 points
Quarter-finals Round	12 points

## Tournament Schedule

### Friday, 19 November 2021

- 3:00-3:30pm – Registration via Zoom
- 4:00pm – Debate, Round I
- 6:00pm – Debate, Round II
- 8:00pm – Debate, Round III

### Saturday, 20 November 2021

- 7:15am – Registration for speech-only schools
- 7:30am – Draw for Extemporaneous Speaking
- 8:00am – Events, Round I
- 9:30am – Debate, Quarterfinal Round
- 11:00am – Draw for Extemporaneous Speaking
- 11:30am – Events, Round II
- 1:00pm – Debate, Semifinal Round
- 2:30pm – Draw for Extemporaneous Speaking
- 3:00pm – Events, Final Round
- 4:30pm – Debate, Final Round
- 6:00pm – Awards

Awards Ceremony: The awards ceremony will be held via Zoom. We will recognize the top seven 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.



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## 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](#).
  - a. Log into Speechwire and click team roster
  - b. 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.
  - c. 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.
  - d. Make sure that students can access their account BEFORE the tournament.
3. You will NOT input judges into Speechwire. Please sign up using this form. The tournament host will create these accounts.
4. You will need to upload your links for events
  - a. You must use Loom or Screencastify to record. These are free services. If this does not work for you, please contact the tournament host.
  - b. Please ensure the link is PUBLIC.
5. All [balloting](#) will be done via Speechwire. Here are [EVENTS](#) and [DEBATE](#) instructions.

## Virtual Tournament Suggestions

1. Create a virtual team room for the tournament. Check in with your students here 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.
2. Team GroupMe for quick communication with coaches if there’s an issue finding a room, judge is missing, etc.
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 call 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
  - a. Consider neutral backgrounds and think about the lighting in the space.
  - b. Everything in a recording needs to be bigger and louder than you think it does
  - c. Look into using an external microphone to improve sound. Listen back to recordings to see how the acoustics are and adjust accordingly.
  - d. Clarify with those in the house that during recordings/rounds they need to be as quiet as possible.
  - e. Think about camera angle and frame so you are capturing your full performance effectively.

Two of our 2020-2021 team officers – Grace Hu and Anna Reis – compiled a virtual tournament handbook that we updated throughout last year as we grew in the virtual competition space. Please feel welcome to share this document with your team.

[Virtual Tournament Guide](#)

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## 2021 Tournament Philanthropy

Each year, we put forward philanthropic efforts to raise money for causes that matter to our team and our community. A few years ago, the Saint Louis speech and debate community lost a Parkway West graduate to suicide. Just prior to Haran Kumar's passing, he told his mother that he wanted to donate "a zillion dollars" to the organization he was working with to heal. This organization is called [Every Child's Hope](#). While the organization was "founded in 1858 as an orphanage for children whose immigrant parents had died from cholera outbreaks," ECH now works toward "preventing child abuse, treating emotional trauma and mental health issues, and providing aftercare and follow-up services." 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.

This year, we will donate the money we would typically spend on hospitality and a portion of our entry fees to Every Child's Hope. We encourage all teams to donate to Every Child's Hope if it is financially viable.

**Any team donating more than \$75.00 to Every Child's Hope will be eligible to reduce their entry fee to LNI.**

- The team with the largest amount donated will have their entry fee waived
- The team with the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest amount donated will have their entry fee reduced by 50%
- The team with the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest amount donated will have their entry fee reduced by 25%
- Any team donating at least \$75.00 will have their entry fee reduced by 10%

**Please send proof of donation to our team at [talkingrams@gmail.com](mailto:talkingrams@gmail.com) – in the email, please be sure to share your school affiliation!**