

Francis Howell North Speech Round Robin

October 10, 2025

Dear Coaches,

The Francis Howell North chapter of the National Speech & Debate Association is pleased to invite your team to the Francis Howell North Speech Round Robin on Friday, October 10! Please read this full invitation carefully to ensure your students are well prepared for this experience. All teams are welcome to enter up to **THREE** in each event. Additional entries will be granted depending on our judging and building 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.

Also, please note the judging obligations for each school. Please fill out our [ONLINE JUDGING FORM](#) for ANY of your school judges, including student and coach judges. *Please remember that students must be in their second year of competition with at least 150 NSDA points to judge.*

Please register through Speechwire by **Wednesday, October 1, at 4 p.m.** *No additional entries will be accepted after this time.* Drops can be made without penalty by **Wednesday, October 8, at 4 p.m.**

We hope to see you there!

Your hosts,

The Francis Howell North Speech and Debate Team

Randy Pierce, Head Coach
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Noah Slaughter, Assistant Coach
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Officers Daiyan Hassan, Vanessa Ng, Regan Griffin, and Jasmine Dong

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 THREE in each division. Charge is \$8/entry.*

Events

Varsity United States Extemporaneous Speaking
Varsity International Extemporaneous Speaking
Varsity Original Oratory
Varsity Informative Speaking
Varsity Radio Speaking
Varsity Humorous Interpretation
Varsity Dramatic Interpretation
Varsity Duo Interpretation
Varsity Program Oral Interpretation
Varsity Storytelling

Novice Extemporaneous Speaking
Novice Original Oratory
Novice Informative Speaking
Novice Interpretation (combined DI & HI)
Novice Prose/Poetry Reading (students choose ONE)
Novice Radio Speaking

Divisions

- Novice - First-year competitors
- Varsity - All other competitors. First-year competitors may choose to compete in the varsity division.

Schedule

ALL should arrive 15 minutes before start time

Friday, October 10

Registration -	2:45 p.m.
Draw -	3:30 p.m.
Round 1 -	4:00 p.m.
Draw -	5:15 p.m.
Round 2 -	5:45 p.m.
Draw -	7:00 p.m.
Round 3 -	7:30 p.m.
Awards -	9:30 p.m.

Deadlines

Initial Entries	Finalized Entries
Due in Speechwire by Wednesday, Oct. 1 @ 4 p.m. <i>No schools may enter after this time. Entries may not be added after this time.</i>	Drops due by Wednesday, Oct. 8 @ 4 p.m. <i>Any drops after this time cannot be filled and will be charged an entry fee.</i>

Judge Submissions
Judges must be entered on our JUDGE FORM by Monday, Oct. 6 @ 4 p.m.

Judging Requirements and Expectations

Schools will be obligated to provide rounds for judging based on entry totals. Each school is required to bring **1 judge for every 8 speech entries** or fraction thereof.

Eligible judges include:

- Coaches should mark as much availability as possible. Your MSHSAA-required supervisory coach will be considered on STANDBY for ALL rounds. This person must register as a judge.
- Current varsity students who have earned 150 or more NSDA points can judge novices.

All judges should sign up on our [JUDGE FORM](#).

Judge Expectations:

- Please sign up knowing you should arrive at FHN at least 15 minutes prior to the round's 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/attire, appearance, etc.

How to Register

1. Coaches will need to log in 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.
3. You will NOT input judges into Speechwire. Please sign up on our [JUDGE FORM](#).

General Rules

- ALL SCHOOLS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A SUPERVISING COACH PER MSHSAA REQUIREMENTS PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE TOURNAMENT as well as the number of judges required by the entry.
- All attendees are expected to adhere to school rules and be respectful of the school space.
- All students and judges are expected to arrive in their rooms 15 minutes prior to the start of the round.
- A student may enter up to two speech events.
- Extempers may not enter in more than one division: United States or International.
- Novice competitors must be in their first year of competition.
- Except for a change necessitated by a double entry, contestants are expected to speak in the order assigned.
- In Extemp, speaking order will take precedence for those double-entered. Extemp speeches will be given FIRST.
- 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. Double-entered students are expected to inform their judges that they may be late prior to the start of the round.
- The use of the internet during rounds WILL be permitted. Please review the [MSHSAA rules](#) regarding this issue. While the internet will be attempted, reliable access is not guaranteed. Students should prepare accordingly. There will be no access to printers on site.
- All rounds will allow for spectators. All individuals in the room are expected to adhere to community health norms and reasonable requests. If these cannot be followed, the tournament reserves the right to remove spectator access.
- We will recognize the top SIX in each event, with final placings determined by the following:
 - Lowest total cumulative speaker ranks
 - Reciprocals from all rounds
 - Total speaker ranking from all rounds
- We will recognize the top FIVE schools in sweepstakes.

Event-Specific Rules

- We will default to [MSHSAA Rules](#) for all MSHSAA events. For instance, Radio Speaking WILL NOT include commercials. Non-MSHSAA events will use NSDA rules.

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, and use of a script may affect scoring. 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, and use of a script may affect scoring.. The goal is to educate, not to advocate. Visual aids are allowed. Time limit—10 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Extemporaneous Speaking— 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 draw room for prep. They will be dismissed by draw staff.

- Novices may choose from United States or International topics.
- Speech time limit— 7 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Radio Speaking - The contestant will present a five-minute radio news broadcast of international, national, and local news. The broadcast must include a sports update and a weather update. NO commercials are allowed. Time infractions will be weighted heavily.

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. Time limit – 10 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Storytelling - Contestants will prepare a story geared for an audience of five to ten year old children. Contestants will present their stories from a seated position. No notes may be used. Time limit - 8 minutes maximum, no minimum.