



Dear Coach and Team:

The Ruskin Golden Eagles Chapter of the National Speech and Debate Association cordially invites your team to enter the **2026 Gloria Henry Ruskin Golden Eagle Last Chance Speech and Debate Tournament** to be held **February 27-28, 2026**. We will be using SpeechWire Tournament Services and entries for the tournament should be entered online at <https://www.speechwire.com>, Tournament: ***Gloria Henry Last Chance Speech and Debate Tournament***

We will offer the following events: Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, Policy Debate, Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Combined Prose/Poetry, International Extemp, U.S. Extemp, Original Oratory, Informative Speaking, Congressional Debate.

Policy, LD, & PF debaters will have four rounds of preliminary competition, breaking to quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals (unless entry numbers dictate breaking to sems or finals). Individual Events will have two preliminary rounds, breaking to semifinals and finals. Congress will have two preliminary sessions breaking to a two part Final Super Session held during IE Semifinals and Finals, unless entry numbers dictate a single smaller section.

Please note that as per MSHSAA regulations, laptops and all other electronic devices are permitted, HOWEVER, Ruskin does not guarantee power sources. Students using electronic devices in classrooms may not unplug any electronic device in order to utilize an electrical outlet.

Each school must have a coach or adult sponsor available to judge. Also, if you know of any local recent grads and/or adults who would be willing and able to be a judge at our tournament, please help us contact them. We will also take any senior judges with over 150 NSDA points to judge novice division debate and IEs if needed.

The entry deadline is **Friday, February 20, 2026**. Entries will be guaranteed two per event, with wait-listed entries being granted as equitably as possible. We are a smaller school, with around 55 - 60 rooms, so we may not be able to guarantee much more than that.

We look forward to hosting you and your teams.

If you have any questions, email, text, or call Gabe Moyer at 913-219-8057 (cell), gabriel.moyer@hickmanmills.org

Sincerely,

Gabe Moyer
Director of Speech and Debate
Tournament Chair

SCHEDULE

Friday, February 27th, 2026

2:30 - 3:30	Registration in Glassdoor Hall outside Cafeteria
3:00	Extemp Draw
3:30 – 5:00	Student Congress Session 1
3:30 - 5:00	Round 1 Individual Events
5:00	Extemp Draw
5:30 – 7:00	Student Congress Session 2
5:30 - 7:00	Round 2 Individual Events
7:00	Debate Round 1
8:30	Debate Round 2

Saturday, February 28th, 2026

7:00 – 7:30	Registration in Glassdoor hall outside Cafeteria
7:30	Extemp Draw Sems
8:00	Semifinals Individual Event
9:30	Debate Round 3
11:00	Debate Round 4
1:00	Extemp Draw Finals
1:00 – 2:30	Congress Super Session
1:00	Finals Individual Events
2:30	Debate Quarterfinals
4:30-ish	Awards Assembly

General Rules:

1. A student may enter a maximum of two individual events plus debate; Congress may only enter that specific event during IEs plus debate; debaters may only enter one debate event and extempers may only enter IX or USX, not both.
2. Each school must provide a qualified school judge for each day of their school competition.
3. Trophies will be awarded to the top three places in Individual Events and Debate, with medals being awarded for 4th-6th places.
4. **Entry fees are \$8 per entry. Schools are financially responsible for all entry fees as of 3:00 P.M. Wednesday, 2/18/26.**
5. All MSHSAA, NSDA, and Ruskin High School policies will be in effect; competitor misconduct (smoking, harassment, assault, vandalism, etc.) could result in disqualification.
6. No playing of musical instruments (guitars, mandolins, harmonicas, harps, etc.) or electronic music without the use of headphones is permitted in the school.
7. A concession stand for competitors will be open, as well as a hospitality room for adults. Please have students keep food and drink in the cafeteria area please.
8. Tab will be in the Counseling Center and open throughout the tournament. Results will become permanent 10 minutes after final tabulation.
9. The Entry deadline is Wednesday, February 18, 2026. Schools are responsible for tournament fees on and after this date.

10. Every effort will be made to provide judges from our local community; however, every school entering the tournament must have a qualified judge available every round in which they are competing. Coaches may be used as judges.
11. Every school must have a qualified adult supervisor present during competition.

Sweepstakes Rules:

1. Sweepstakes points in debate will be awarded as follows:
 - Debate win-----5 points
 - Qualifying for quarters-----15 points
2. Sweepstakes points in IEs will be awarded as follows:
 - Semifinals-----5 points
 - Finals-----10 points
 - Third place-----5 points
 - Second Place-----10 points
 - First place-----15 points
3. Sweepstakes will be determined by the TWO BEST ENTRIES in each event.

Individual Events Rules:

1. All MSHSAA events will follow MSHAA rules and non-MSHSAA events will follow NSDA guidelines.
2. U.S & International Extemp: Question topics will be current events on national and international issues. Time limit will be 7 min.
3. Original Oratory: The speech must be written by the student. It must be memorized. Time limit is 10 minutes. No more than 150 words may be a direct quotation.
4. Humorous & Dramatic Interp: Selections must be memorized and possess literary merit. Time limit is 10 min.
5. Duo Interp: Selections must be memorized and possess literary merit. Selections may be from any appropriate novel, play, or short story. Time limit-10 min. You may enter a DA to practice for Districts if you wish. Judges will be advised accordingly of the combined events and their rule discrepancies will be discussed with the judges.
6. Congressional Debate: We will use the NSDA December 2026 Legislation. The docket will be set as follows:
 - Session 1: 1, 2, 3
 - Session 2: 4, 5, 6
 - Super Session: 7, 8, 9, 10

Presiding Officers (PO) will be elected and judges will be instructed to consider them amongst the rest of the competitors. POs will be expected to use and track precedence in speeches and questions. No extraneous and/or frivolous motions/legislation (i.e. impeaching PO or breaking “cycle”) will be allowed from the floor.

7. Informative Speaking: The speech must be written by the student. It must be memorized. Time limit is 10 minutes. The purpose of the speech is for the audience to gain understanding and/or knowledge of a topic. NSDA rules for visual aids will be followed. No more than 150 words may be direct quotations.

Advancing in Individual Events

Advancing in IEs will be based on ranks, preferences (if paneled), reciprocals, and quality points. The top 6 will advance to finals. In Congressional Debate, the top 3-4 from each chamber will advance using judge ranks, preferences (if paneled), reciprocals, and Parli rankings to break ties. Prelim ranks may be used to break ties for placing in Congress finals.

Policy Debate:

1. All MSHSAA rules apply.
2. Time limits will be 8-3-5, with 8 minute prep time.
3. The 2025-2026 NSDA policy resolution, “**Resolved: The United States federal government should significantly increase its exploration and/or development of the Arctic.**”
4. A team more than 10 minutes late to a round shall forfeit, unless it is the fault of the tournament.
5. At the end of preliminaries, the eight top teams in each division will advance to quarterfinals based on the following determinant order: Win/loss, speaker rankings, record of opponent lost to, total opposition record, opposition to opposition record.
6. Rounds 3 & 4 will be power-matched based on the records from rounds 1 & 2.
7. There are no case limits (that was first semester).

Lincoln Douglas Debate:

1. All MSHSAA rules apply.
2. Time limits will be 6-3-7-3-4-6-3 with 4 minute prep time.
3. Rounds will be flighted. Competitors serving as timekeepers for the opposite flight are appreciated.
4. The resolution will be the NSDA January/February 2026 topic
5. A competitor more than 10 minutes late to a round shall forfeit, unless it is the fault of the tournament.
6. At the end of preliminaries, the eight top teams in each division will advance to quarterfinals based on the following determinant order: Win/loss, record of opponent lost to, total opposition record, opposition to opposition record, speaker quality points.
7. Rounds 3 & 4 will be power-matched based on the records from rounds 1 & 2.

Public Forum Debate:

1. All MSHSAA rules apply
2. Time limits will be 4-4-3-4-4-3-3-3-2-2 with a 3-minute block of prep time.
3. Rounds will be flighted. Competitors serving as timekeepers for the opposite flight are appreciated.
4. The resolution will be the NSDA February 2026 topic.
5. A team more than 10 minutes late to a round shall forfeit, unless it is the fault of the tournament.
6. At the end of preliminaries, the eight top teams in each division will advance to quarterfinals based on the following determinant order: Win/loss, speaker rankings, record of opponent lost to, total opposition record, opposition to opposition record.
7. Rounds 3 & 4 will be power-matched based on the records from rounds 1 & 2.