

Online Debate in Arkansas 2020-2021 Season

Please view the Platform Presentation:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1tauVEqvBSpzHsBJ7i9HXyQ6BoYgEmuLuWP7umQFxnzs/edit?usp=sharing>

Agenda

- Rationale
 - The kids!
 - Reality check about COVID-19
 - Faith and patience (in your colleagues, in us, in our community)
 - National circuit tournament announcements (evolving)
 - Program relevance to school/district/administration
 - Sustaining program strength
 - Community building and collaboration
- State Qualifiers 2020-2021
 - Proposal- ACTAA will host five (5) Regional Qualifying Events. They will be held online. These regionals will be held throughout the year and may offer different events. Tournaments can still host their own invitational online events as they choose but only the five Regional Qualifying Events will be qualifiers for State this year. Students can complete at as many regional events as they choose. **We will utilize the updated ASC qualification guidelines and document that was discussed on May 28th. These will be attached in a separate document. These will be voted on along with this proposal. If a student qualifies at an out of state tournament but also competes at a regional, a wavier can be completed to compete at the state tournament.**
 - All Regional Qualifying Events will be tabulated and managed by Rosie Valdez Block and Rachel Mauchline. Each Qualifier will have a different 'region' as the host of the event. There will be a number of schools assigned to each region. **The school coaches in that region will serve as 'hosts,' though their students still can compete in the tournament.** These school coaches will be responsible for dividing the financial responsibility of the tournament both in regards to profit and cost.
 - **Regional Relevant Dates**
 - **Region 1 - September**
 - **Region 2- October/November**
 - **Region 3- December/January**
 - **Region 4- February**

- NSDA Districts at Bentonville High School (or Online) Feb 26th-28th
- Region 5- March
- Arkansas State Championships at Fayetteville High School (or Online) April 2nd-3rd
- Implementation v. Administration
 - ACTAA State Committee Members/Host Member will serve in Tab Room at at least one regional tournament
 - Hosts
 - Possible roles for host coaches
 - Auditors
 - Minor Tech Issues
 - Check rooms (most important)
 - Judge training
 - Virtual bus check
 - Ombudsman (a must)
 - Room monitors (IPDA and extemp draws/prep rooms)
 - Phone line
 - Award Ceremony Virtual
 - Events
 - Debate
 - N/V Lincoln Douglas
 - N/V Policy
 - N/V Public Forum
 - N/V IPDA
 - Worlds
 - Big Questions
 - Congressional
 - Forensics
 - Humorous Interp
 - Dramatic Interp
 - Original Oratory
 - Informative
 - Prose
 - Poetry
 - Impromptu
 - Extemp
 - Storytelling
 - Program Oral Interpretation
- Event logistics
 - Things we cannot do (boundaries are good!)
 - No Partner or Group Events in Forensics

- Topic Draw
 - IPDA
 - We discussed beta testing and have done research on other IPDA previously held online tournaments at the college level (averaged at a smaller scale than we see at times in AR) Rosie and Rachel are discussing the potential of beta testing multiple options with coaches as 'example participants'
 - Draw Topics
 - Prep Room
- Roles/Notes
 - Tabulation
 - State tabulator is currently Rosie Valdez Block--this proposal has all regionals being tabbed by current tabulator with host assistance from State Committee
 - Platform Management
 - In this proposal Rachel Mauchline will oversee the platform utilization and the merging of the platform with tabulation
 - Platforms (Screen Share)
 - Options
 - Zoom Room Meetings
 - Yaatly
 - Classrooms.Cloud
 - NSDA Campus
 - Junior High vs. High School
 - With the regional system, these tournaments would be for high school students only. Junior High would still have competitions as established by the Junior High Rep and other junior high coaches
 - Without the regional system, invitational tournaments would still need to be either high school or junior high due to platform capacity. Junior High would still have competitions as established by the Junior High Rep and other Junior High coaches
- State 2021
 - If in person, will be held at Fayetteville High School on April 2nd and 3rd. There will be an announcement about the tournament being held in person or online by _____ (TBD by the ACTAA State Committee and ACTAA Executive Council
 - If online, a number of the issues discussed above will apply **BUT NO MATTER WHAT... ALL STUDENTS THAT QUALIFY TO THE STATE TOURNAMENT WILL HAVE SOME FORM OF A STATE TOURNAMENT**. There will be a later TAC forum to discuss this **IF** this happens.

- Regardless of whether the season goes in-person at any point, the online regionals will still occur, and the qualification will still be based on the regional model
- School-hosted Invitationals
 - Under current proposal, would NOT be state qualifiers...this is an all or nothing approach that we believe ensures equity, transparency, and accessibility
 - BUT you are still able to host invitationals as you wish
 - If regional proposal is not adopted, then the current alternative would be that every existing state qualifying tournament figure out how to do this on their own, which does not ensure equal and fair competition for our students
 - Fewer options
 - Difficulty qualifying/uneven qualifiers
 - Disaster strikes!
 - Remember...faith and patience...
 - **If you choose to host an invitational (with or without the regional system) and want to hire Rosie and Rachel to tab, you can contact tabbypatties@gmail.com NOT our personal DMs and emails**
 - Must begin these conversations ASAP--set-up is infinitely more involved than in-person tournaments and each of us must work different moving parts in tandem
- Equity and safety issues and online competition
 - Safety concerns and solutions
 - Recording of rounds
 - Judges (adult access to students)
 - Compromised security (bombing)
 - Supervision of students
 - Cheating/Integrity Issues
 - Coaching
 - Stealing prep/infinite prep
 - Technology gaps
 - Forfeit times/procedures
 - Judge glitches
 - Sound/video/lag/cutouts
 - Access
 - Internet
 - Location
 - Technology
 - School compliance/cooperation

- Schedule

- Three-day C (Friday evening, Saturday, Sunday elims only)
 - Depending on how the first regional goes, this schedule may be modified and adapted in order to best serve the needs of students

- **Finances**

- ACTAA will be the “banker” for the money with tournaments. Prior to the tournament season, schools will pay their school fees to ACTAA per the number of regionals they are doing during a semester. Example: 2 regionals = \$100.
- Tournament fees will be paid to ACTAA and any remaining profit will be split to the host schools either as a check or credit for the state tournament.

<u>Profit</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
Entry Fees	Trophy Order
Drop Fees	Mailing Awards
Missing Judge Fees	Judge Payment
School Fee	Platform Cost
	Tab Staff (Invitationals)

- **Rationale**
 - Unlike other large scale tournaments, we don't have the ability to keep entry fees the same, however ACTAA regionals will still have significantly cheaper entry fees than other online competitions. Online tournaments mean you don't have to get a bus, a driver, hotels, transportation, bringing judges to the event, etc.
- **Profit-**
 - There will need to be increases in entry fees for regional tournaments in order to accommodate the expenditures-
 - World Schools Team (3-5 People) \$50
 - Debate Team Events (2 People) \$40
 - IE Events and Congress (1 Person) \$20
 - Similar to currently held Arkansas tournaments, there would be a school fee for each school, similar to many if not all national tournaments. This would help again cover the cost of mailing awards and tournament platform.
 - School Fee \$50
 - There will also be more accountability with judges on an online platform since judges can't simply 'pass their ballot'
 - \$25 per missed round per judge

- Judge training from host schools and reaching out to your alumni will help with not having to hire as many judges
- Platform Cost- This is still up in the air based on beta testing of our platform options. It's also based on schedule choices for the event. As of this moment, classrooms.cloud is the most stabilized and tested platform, but NSDA Campus might be more accessible price wise but TBD. They have published details about NSDA Campus on June 7th. This doesn't state price but says it'll be affordable.
 - Based on estimating tab entries, event size, caps on events, etc. It's estimated we would need around 100 rooms (high estimate)
 - Classrooms.cloud this would cost \$6,000 BUT WE PLAN TO USE NSDA CAMPUS
 - We hope other options will be available in the Fall that will be cheaper but we are assuming based on current price ranges for platforms.
 - There is also the potential based on discussion for the ASC committee to have some tournaments hosted via multiple platforms
- [Invitationals Only] Tab Services- Tabulation of the Event, as done with normally in person tournaments or previously held national online tournaments, will have a fee. Per tournament that is an invitational, tabulation will cost \$500.