

2021 ASAA/First National Bank Alaska State High School Drama, Debate, & Forensics Championships

Coaches,

The UAA Seawolf Debate Program in conjunction with ASAA & First National Bank are proud to host this year's State Championship tournament. We are genuinely happy to serve you and your students during this event! We aim to run an efficient tournament that enables all of our State's competitors to get the best possible feedback from judges; engage one another in the forensics arts in a way that is fun, entertaining, and educational; and gives them the best opportunity to let their talents shine.

Registration

Registration for competition will take place entirely through this website (SpweechWire). (The entry deadline will be 11:59 pm on February 1st.) Entry fees, academic award applications, and anything other than event registration will be handled separately. Sandi Wagner (sandi@asaa.org) should be sending out information in a separate e-mail providing the necessary details for those functions.

Before you begin the registration process, let me highlight a few items. As always, we will use the ASAA DDF rules. For information regarding the rules of a particular event, see the DDF Handbook, at the following URL:

<https://asaa.org/wp-content/uploads/handbook/ddf/complete/ASAA-2020-2021-DDF-Handbook.pdf>

We will offer the standard events hosted at the Alaska State DDF Championship tournament. Each squad is limited to 15 competitors. Event limits (per school) are as follows:

- 3 entries in HI, DI, Duo, Solo, Duet, DX, FX, OO, Inform
- 2 entries in RT, XComm
- 9 (total) entries split between Policy, LD, & PF

Location/Tournament Software

This year's tournament will take place virtually using the SpeechWire & Yaatly platforms. Most events will take place in a live online setting (Yaately) with eBalloting (SpeechWire). However, Readers' Theatre and Pantomime will be offered asynchronously (SpeechWire). For RT & Panto, coaches will upload a video within SpeechWire prior to midnight the Sunday before state (February 7th at 11:59 pm). Judges will then watch the videos and submit ballots throughout the week.

In preparation for the tournament, your school will need to build an "organization" on Yaatly. A Yaatly organization is the way in which your schools coaches, judges and competitors will gain access to the platform on which the State DDF Championships will be held. It's likely you've already created such an organization, but in case you haven't, you can find direction on how to do so at <https://info.yaatly.com/user-guides/guide-for-organization-managers>.

If preparation for the tournament, you will also need to create logins for you, your students, and any judges you provide within SpeechWire. <https://www.speechwire.com/p-video-resources.php>

Judges

This will be a fantastic year to provide our students with a regionally diverse judging pool! Therefore, we are requiring schools to provide judges using the following breakdown:

- 1 (Tier 1, 2, 3) preliminary round judge for every 6 (or fraction thereof) entries in speech/interp/acting
- 1 (Tier 1, 2, 3) elimination round judge for every 3 (or fraction thereof) entries in speech/interp/acting
- 1 (Debate) preliminary round judge and quarterfinal round judge for every 2 (or fraction thereof) entries in debate
- 1 (Debate) semifinal round judge for every 4 (or fraction thereof) entries in debate
- 1 (Debate) final round judge if entered in debate

*For those in smaller communities, please communicate with me if this is an unrealistic burden.

If you have any contacts anywhere in the world, we would really appreciate if you could help with the judge recruiting effort. Please e-mail me the names and e-mail addresses of potential judges or have them contact me at shawn.debate@gmail.com. (We highly prefer that they have judged at least one tournament in a virtual environment so that they aren't struggling with figuring out the technology piece of the puzzle.

Coaches

When registering your squads, please ensure that a coach will be present each day to fill your standby judging obligations (at least 1 judge per school per day) and chaperone duties (virtually within Yaatly). Please e-mail me the name of the coach that will be on site during each day of the competition. (shawn.debate@gmail.com) Ideally, you will only be used as standby judges. That being said, I know several coaches enjoy judging and have a wealth of experience that can provide exceptional comments on the ballots. Thus, if you would like to judge -- not simply as a standby judge -- please indicate that you are happy to judge.

If you have any questions about the registration process, please don't hesitate to e-mail me at shawn.debate@gmail.com.

Your tournament staff is comprised of:
Steve Johnson (Host & Tournament Director)

Shawn Briscoe (Tab Director & Nationals Coordinator)
Sandi Wagner (ASAA Representative)

I can't wait to "see" you at the State tournament. Please tell your competitors that I wish them the best of luck and hope their 2021 State Championship tournament is a fun experience!

Welcome & Best of Luck!
Shawn F. Briscoe
Tab Director & Nationals Coordinator