

**NORTHEAST ALABAMA DEBATE AND PUBLIC SPEAKING LEAGUE**  
**Guidelines 2019-2020**  
**Hosted by Jacksonville State University**

Affiliation: Jacksonville State University is not affiliated with any National Speech/Debate organization. We are hosting this event to provide a service to students in our regional area. If your school requires competition credits to attend a national event, we regretfully do not offer those at this time.

***Competition Entry***

Deadline for submitting a completed Registration Form is 11 days prior to the event. There will be 2 events each fall and 2 events each spring. The Awards ceremony will be held during the 2<sup>nd</sup> event in the spring. The fall dates will be announced the last week of August and the spring dates will be announced the last week of November.

Multiple teams from each school are allowed for each event. The Debate Competition may not exceed four (4) teams per school, per level and the Public Speaking Competition has no limit to number of entries. Students must have been enrolled in the appropriate age groups for the Middle School (6-8<sup>th</sup> grades) and High School Competitions (9-12<sup>th</sup> grades). Home school students will need certification from their cover organization to confirm grade level.

Due to scheduling conflicts, students will not be able to participate in both the public speaking and debate events. Students may not switch from one registered event to the other after the application has been submitted.

There will be two (2) categories and two (2) levels of competition:

- High School Debate Events
- Middle School Debate Events
- High School – Public Speaking Events
- Middle School – Public Speaking Events

***Judges***

For every two teams entered in the Debate Competition, each school will be required to supply one (1) judge. For every three (3) teams entered in the Debate Competition, each school will be required to supply two (2) judges.

For every three (3) entries in the Public Speaking Competition, each school will be required to supply one (1) judge.

***Scoring***

Scoring will be calculated by reference to a Northeast Alabama Debate and Public Speaking League scoring rubric.

***Fees***

There are no fees required to participate in the NEADL.

### ***Registration Penalties***

As this is a service to you, JSU is providing the locations for the events to occur. Teams that pull out of the competition without enough notice may be limited in their participation in the future.

### ***Supervision***

Each school will ensure sufficient supervision for all of their students. Coaches cannot be responsible mentors and do not count as responsible supervisors. Remember that supervisors must be approved by your school or organization so one school's supervisors cannot be responsible for watching students from another school.

JSU reserves the right to limit spectators due to fire and safety regulations.

### ***Collegiality and Sportsmanship***

We are committed to providing a positive experience for all the participants and require mutual respect from all individuals associated with this event. Any form of harassment or discrimination will result in individuals or teams being disqualified from participating. Anyone who believes that they are a victim of harassment of any type should report it to event officials immediately.

## **Competition Event Protocols**

### ***Public Speaking Competition***

The purpose of the Public Speaking Competition is to provide students with an opportunity to present oral talks in a public forum. Speech topics will be decided per semester. The material must be original.

Supervision is the responsibility of each school/team coach. Adult supervision approved by your school/organization should ensure the behavior of the participants. At the university, loud, distracting behavior outside classrooms is strongly discouraged. Students should not enter competition rooms during active presentations. Distractions during these events will result in expulsion from the room. Fire safety regulations may limit the number of spectators allowed in each room.

### **Participation Guidelines**

1. Middle School Participants must be in grades 6-8 during the 2019-2020 school years. High School Participants must be in grades 9-12 during the 2019-2020 school years. Students from private, religious, or home-school groups are also invited to compete, but a letter signed by the administrator/umbrella organization will be required to certify that their entry meets the age/grade restrictions for a middle school or high school team.
2. There is no limit to number of entries in the Public Speaking Competition. As public speaking and debate events will be occurring simultaneously, students will be unable to compete in both events. All entries will be on a first-come, first-served basis. When the event is full, we reserve the right to close registration, but will have a wait list in case of any cancellations.

## Competition Guidelines

1. Speakers are required to wait until a judge arrives before entering any of the competition halls.
2. Each speech will be provided 4-6 minutes. A judge will indicate the student has two (2) minutes remaining and then one (1) minute remaining.
3. No duplication of material between events or from previous competitions will be allowed. No costumes or props please, with the exception of demonstration speeches.
4. JSU reserves the right to alter the number of events and the structure based upon the number of entries.
5. Protests must come from the coach or indicated club representative in writing indicting the event, room, time, judge, students involved, and a signature of the coach. Concerns expressed by parents or students cannot be investigated. Please remember that this is a service for the students and everyone is a volunteer trying to provide a learning experience for the students.
6. JSU will provide certificates for the top three (3) winners of each event.
7. Time-keeping is performed by the judge or the opposing team.
8. Phones, iPads, and computers must be in silent mode.

## Competition Penalties

1. A contestant who does not appear at the scheduled time and place will be marked last and given no points for the event.
2. “No-show” schools or organizations that register one or more individuals, but fail to notify of a cancelation, will be banned for participating for one year.

## ***Debate Competition***

### Participation Guidelines

1. Middle School Participants must be in grades 6-8 during the 2019-2020 school years. High School Participants must be in grades 9-12 during the 2019-2020 school years. Students from private, religious or home-school groups are also invited to compete, but a letter signed by the administrator/umbrella organization will be required to certify that their entry meets the age/grade restrictions for a middle school or high school team.
2. Each school is limited to a maximum of four (4) teams per Debate Competition, per level, with a minimum of two (2) debaters per team and maximum of three (3) debaters per team. It is highly suggested to have three (3) debaters per team. If a team only has two (2) debaters, one of them will have to participate as the 3<sup>rd</sup> constructive speaker.
3. Evidence packets will be given to the teams no later than two (2) weeks before the first competition date.
4. Students may be asked to present both an Affirmative and Negative Speech in a competition. Please be prepared for both.
5. As speech and debate events will be occurring simultaneously students will be unable to compete in both events. All entries will be on a first-come, first-served basis. When the event is full, we reserve the right to close registration, but will have a wait list in case of any cancellations.

## Competition Guidelines

1. Debaters are required to wait until a judge arrives before entering any of the competition halls.
2. Timing is as follows:
  - a. Affirmative 1 6 minutes
  - b. Cross-Examination 2 minutes
  - c. Negative 1 6 minutes
  - d. Cross-Examination 2 minutes
  - e. Affirmative 2 6 minutes
  - f. Negative 2 6 minutes
  - g. Affirmative 3 4 minutes
  - h. Negative 3 4 minutes
  - i. Prep Time 3 minutes per team (can be used between any speeches)
3. There may be no more than four (4) justifications presented in the 1<sup>st</sup> constructive speech. All justifications *must* be introduced in the 1<sup>st</sup> constructive to be considered.
4. The 2<sup>nd</sup> constructive speaker may only discuss justifications that have been mentioned by the 1<sup>st</sup> constructive speaker and present new statistics supporting the justifications.
5. The 3<sup>rd</sup> constructive speaker may only discuss justifications and statistics that have been mentioned by the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> constructive speakers. The judge will disregard any additional justifications introduced after the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> constructive and will impose an appropriate score deduction against any speaker violating this rule.
6. Competitors cannot have access to any electronics at all except a device that is only a timer (i.e., the use of mobile phones, tablets and computers for any purpose, including to keep time, is completely prohibited). Competitors using electronic timers may show them to the judge before the round to verify that the devices are only timers. Any access to electronics in violation of this rule will result in automatic default of the round to the opposing teams. However, the judge will allow the round to be completed to assign individual scores.
7. Competitors cannot communicate during a round with anyone except the judge, opponents and teammates on a team of no more than three competitors. This rule prohibits any form of communication whatsoever with any alternates or spectators. Any communication in violation of this rule will result in automatic default of the round to the opposing team. However, the judge will allow the round to be completed to assign individual scores.
8. No person in the competition room, including spectators, will cause any unnecessary disturbance to the round or engage in any unnecessary noise or distracting movement. Spectators are prohibited from entering the room, leaving the room, or talking during a speech except in cases of true emergency. If spectators must leave the room, then they must try their best to wait to exit the room in-between speeches.
9. Hall monitors will be assigned to keep noise and breaches of etiquette in the halls to a minimum. It is important to note that college classes are still ongoing during the times of the debate tournament and must not be disturbed.
10. JSU will provide certificates for the top three (3) winners of each event.
11. The following recognitions will be issued for each debate division at the spring Awards Ceremony:
  - a. Top 3 schools in number of wins.
  - b. Top 3 schools in win percentage.
  - c. Top 3 individual speakers by average score.
12. JSU reserves the right to alter the number of events and the structure based upon the number of entries.

## Competition Penalties

1. Teams that do not appear at the scheduled time and place will be marked last and given no points for the event.
2. “No-show” schools or organizations that register one or more teams, but fail to notify of a cancellation, will be banned for participating for one year.

## ***Judging***

1. Scoring will be calculated by reference to a Northeast Alabama Debate and Public Speaking scoring rubric.
2. Conflict of interest (i.e. having a connection with a student on one of the competing teams). These Judges should recuse themselves and ask an event organizer to provide a substitution.
3. Scores from each separate round are not cumulative and are not considered in the final elimination unless there is a tie and then the winner will be the team with the highest sum score of all events.
4. Debate: No disclosure of text will be required of the teams, but they will be limited to using text related to the published topics.
5. Number of rounds will vary based on the number of teams entered in the competition.
6. Participating teams are not allowed to discuss a competition even with other teams from their school/club/districts during the preliminary events.
7. All competitions will be grouped together randomly for the events. No club-affiliated judge will be allowed to officiate over a round that has one of his/her entries.
8. Protests/complaints should be filed by the coach identified in the application. Students and parent complaints will not be acknowledged. Official complaints will be investigated and adjudicated according to the rules and under the purview of the volunteer organizing committee from Jacksonville State.

## ***Time Limits***

Times are per team or individual.

Public Speaking	Informational speech	4-6 minutes
Debate	Affirmative 1	6 minutes
	Cross-Examination	2 minutes
	Negative 1	6 minutes
	Cross-Examination	2 minutes
	Affirmative 2	6 minutes
	Negative 2	6 minutes
	Affirmative 3	4 minutes
	Negative 3	4 minutes
	Prep Time	3 minutes per team (can be used between any speeches)