



2020-21 NSAA Speech Modifications

These modifications are subject to change in response to COVID-19.

Participants, coaches, staff, judges, or spectators that have COVID-19 symptoms, feel sick or have been advised to quarantine or isolate by public health or school officials, shall not attend or participate in practice or competition. The NSAA requires all non-active participants, coaches, and spectators to wear face coverings. Face coverings should cover the nose and mouth. Physical distancing of 6 feet should be maintained when possible.

The health and safety of students, staff, and local communities remain the priority of the NSAA.

The NSAA is implementing the following requirements for host schools of all regular season speech contests:

- Active participants are permitted, but not required, to wear face coverings during competition.
- Spectators and judges are required to wear face coverings at all times.
- Coaches and non-active participants are required to wear face coverings at all times.
- All interactions between participants, spectators, and judges should maintain 6 feet of physical distance.
- Areas with at least 6 feet of distance must be created for all judges during competition.

In addition to the winter season guidelines, recommended protocols for contest hosts are:

- Utilize rooms with good ventilation and air change rate for both in-person practice and competition
- Minimize in-person practice time to 30 minutes, with physical distancing, when possible
- Restrict attendance at in-person contests
- Restrict who is allowed in performance rooms during in-person contests (ex. judge & active participant(s) only)
- Designate specific team areas/rooms for participating schools at in-person contests
- Provide only pre-packaged or boxed meals/snacks for hospitality rooms/concession stands
- Provide separate or multiple restrooms for participating schools/judges
- Provide hand sanitizer in all competition rooms/team areas
- Disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in performance areas/rooms
- Conduct speech contests virtually (SpeechWire/NSDA Campus, Tabroom.com/NSDA Campus, Zoom, etc.)
- Utilize electronic ballots/tabulation (SpeechWire, Tabroom.com)
- Hold a digital awards ceremony (Zoom, Facebook Live, etc.)
- Communicate contest protocols/information to all participating schools/judges well in advance of the contest