



WYOMING HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

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2026 WHSAA STATE SPEECH AND DEBATE TOURNAMENT

Cheyenne Central High School Cheyenne, WY 82007 (in-person)

March 12-14, 2026

INTRODUCTION, PHONE NUMBERS, RULES

The Wyoming State High School Speech and Debate Tournament will be held in Cheyenne, Wyoming on March 12-14, 2026. This bulletin contains information and forms pertinent to the State meet. If, after reviewing this data, you have questions concerning any aspect of the 2026 State Speech and Debate Tournament, please do not hesitate to contact the WHSAA office in Casper at 307-577-0614 or the Tournament Director, Lisa Shadrick at lisa7856@myncsd.org. Please review the latest version of the State Tournament Rules in the WHSAA Handbook completely and carefully. If after reviewing the rules you have any questions, please contact Allen Pino (President, Wyoming Speech and Debate Association) at pinospeechanddebate@gmail.com.

REGISTRATION

Registration will be held from 11:00am-12:30pm, Thursday, March 12 at Cheyenne Central High School with a possible check in available through Tabroom.com Further specifics will come. Please review the official [tournament schedule](#) carefully. At registration, your final entries will be verified. Name changes and substitutions will be permitted at registration, but no additional entries are allowed at registration. Any "drops" that occur at registration will be charged the appropriate cancellation fee as provided for in the State Tournament Rules:

"Each cancellation at registration (not substitutions) will cost the infringing school \$20 for each student dropped and \$50 in the case of each debate team (PF and CX or LD) entry. This penalty can be avoided by contacting the Tournament Director Lisa Shadrick lisa7856@myncsd.org. before 10:00 a.m. on Thursday before the tournament begins."

ENTRY FEES

The State Tournament fee schedule/registration form is enclosed in this bulletin. With the fee schedule/registration form, please send a school voucher for your entry fees to the WHSAA Office, 6571 East 2nd Street, Casper, WY 82609. There is no refund for students who subsequently do not attend the meet. The entry fee deadline is **Tuesday, March 10, 2026**.

ENTRY LIMITATIONS

A student is limited to two events at the State Tournament, and may enter two events scheduled at the same time. Students may enter 2 events in the same pattern unless one is coupled with Congress, Extemp, or a Debate. A high school is limited to a total of 20 student entry slots. Each student entered in any event slot constitutes an entry. All team events (a duo team, a public forum team, a policy team) counts as one entry. Schools are allowed to distribute those 20 entry slots as they wish; there is no limit per event.

ENTRY FORMS: IMPORTANT TO FOLLOW TO ENSURE PROPER ENTRY INTO THE TOURNAMENT

Enclosed in this bulletin is the tournament information. Tournament entry will be done electronically. Most, BUT NOT ALL material will be submitted through the Tabroom website. Please make sure that you complete all of the necessary information at that site. Entry procedures are listed below.

- Student Participants, Event Entry, and Judge information will all be submitted on the website: <http://wyostate.tabroom.com>
- Student Congress Bill and student placement should be emailed to Lisa Shadrick by **Thursday February 26, 2026 by 4pm** at lisa7856@myncsd.org.
- **Fees sheets** and **Eligibility forms** should be returned to the WHSAA: Please list the names of those students you are entering in the State Tournament and have their eligibility certified by your principal. Please print or type students' names -- first and last names. **Due: Tuesday, March 10, 2026.**

It is important that your entry forms and related materials be submitted as outlined in this bulletin. High School coaches are expected to be extremely conscientious in regard to the State Tournament entry forms and the additional information, which they are required to submit. It is the coaches' responsibility to ensure the accuracy of their school's entry in the State Tournament.

DEADLINES FOR ENTRIES

Online entry deadline is **February 26, 2026**. The Tournament Director must have your entries by this date in order to determine the number of panels and judges needed for the State Tournament and to process Congress legislation. The entry deadline is approximately two weeks prior to the State Tournament, as provided for in the State Tournament Rules. You should review this particular section of the State Tournament Rules for the relevant details pertaining to the entry deadline. As stipulated in the State Tournament Rules, it is the responsibility of each school's Director of Forensics to adhere to the entry deadline.

In the event that entries are received from schools after the entry deadline, but before one week prior to the State Tournament, then those schools shall not be eligible for sweepstakes awards. In past years, this sanction has applied to several schools. In the event that entries are received from schools within one week prior to the State Tournament, those schools shall not be permitted to enter or participate in the State Tournament.

After the expiration of the entry deadline, schools that are entered in the State Tournament will be allowed to change, correct, update, or otherwise modify their State Tournament entry form through the Tabroom.com website. **Any changes in entry can be made until Wednesday March 11, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.** After Wednesday evening and through Thursday registration, only name changes or substitutions will be allowed. Those should be made directly with the Tournament Director Lisa Shadrick in writing through email lisa7856@myncsd.org. No additional entries will be permitted during this time-frame or at registration. It is the responsibility of the high school coach to update any corresponding paperwork and additional fee assessment, based on changes made after the entry deadline, with the Wyoming High School Activities Association. Drop in entries are not deducted from the initial entry fee assessment.

RULES

The WHSAA State Forensics Tournament follows the rules available at www.whsaa.org. Additionally, recent changes to the rules, passed by the Wyoming Speech and Debate Association, will be in effect. Allen Pino, President of the WSDA, will make these revisions available to all coaches by February 26, 2026 (see here: [2026 Rules](#)).

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING TOPICS

All extemporaneous questions should be taken from the past three months of NFHS and NSDA practice topics.

IMPROMPTU SPEAKING TOPIC AREAS

1. "Would You Rather?" Dilemmas
2. Proverbs & Sayings
3. Headlines From the Future
4. Moral Crossroads
5. (Quarters - if needed) **Closing Lines** (Each is a final sentence — build a speech that leads to it.)
6. (Semis) Words as Themes
7. (Finals) Alternate Realities

CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

Each participant entered in Congressional Debate may submit one Bill or Resolution (only one bill or resolution). Bills or resolutions intended for use in the state tournament must be submitted electronically via Google docs by the Head Coach (only one email per school please) to Lisa Shadrick at lisa7856@myncsd.org. (DUE – February 26, 2026 at 4 pm). The bill or resolution must be properly submitted to fit on a single 8 1/2" x 11" white sheet of paper. All bills or resolutions received with the entry forms will be organized and posted on the Tabroom.com website. Schools may access those bills for each of their students through the website. Please name the electronic file using this convention: **Last name, First name, School - Title of bill or resolution**

Bills or resolutions which are not submitted by the entry deadline of February 26, 2026, and in the manner noted above, will not be accepted for distribution by the Tournament Director. "Late" bills and resolutions may be added to the bottom of the agenda order provided that sufficient copies for the entire Congress are available from the "late" school. If "late" bills or resolutions are accepted for addition to the agenda order, they may be added only to the bottom of the agenda order after all the correctly and timely pre-submitted bills have been debated. The tournament staff will not duplicate "late" bills or resolutions at the state tournament. The number of houses will be dependent on the number of entries. The formula Base of Three will be used to split entries. Coaches will be able to place up to three of their competitors in a given house depending on the number of houses needed for Congressional Debate. This distribution will be honored if received before the distribution of the chamber lists and the bills associated with each chamber.

For Congressional Debate splits please reference pages 20-21 of the handbook.

RANKING, RATINGS, AND DECISIONS

In the individual events: ranking of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, will be given. Ratings on a 51-100 point scale will also be given in the preliminary rounds. "No Shows" will count as a rank of 9 and 0 speaker points (rating). **Please note the State Tournament Rules the following tie breakers adopted at the 2025 Coaches Fall Meeting:**
Individual events which have 60 or more competitors, will break to quarterfinals. Individual events with 21 or more competitors will break into semifinals. Quarterfinals will break the top 24 competitors. Semifinals will break the top 12 competitors. Tie breakers will be based on the following in order of priority.

- i. Lowest cumulative ranks with lowest score dropped (Sum of ranks with lowest score from prelims dropped)
 - ii. Reciprocal fractions — competitors' ranks are converted to fractions with the lowest rank dropped (1st = 1.00, 2nd = $1/2 = .5$, 3rd = $1/3 \approx .333$, etc.), then summed; higher reciprocal total is better.
 - iii. Lowest cumulative ranks with all prelim scores (Sum of ranks from all prelims)
 - iv. Reciprocal fractions — ALL competitors' prelim ranks are converted to fractions (1st = 1.00, 2nd = $1/2 = .5$, 3rd = $1/3 \approx .333$, etc.), then summed; higher reciprocal total is better.
- If a tie remains unbreakable by those two, all tied contestants advance. For quarterfinals, a minimum of 20 (rounds of 5) and a maximum of 28 may advance into quarterfinals (rounds of 7 competitors). In semifinals a minimum of 10 (rounds of 5) and a maximum of 14 may advance to semifinals (rounds of 7).

In debate: each debate will be judged on a win-loss basis; each debater will also be evaluated on speaker points. Qualification procedures for advancement to elimination rounds are outlined in the State Tournament Rules. It is the policy of the Wyoming High School Activities Association that all decisions, scores, ranks, rating, etc. of groups or individuals or debate teams are final and without appeal. Any undue attempt to influence a critic or judge may result in the disqualification of the individual student or the school concerned. Protests should be submitted in writing to the Tournament Director and the appropriate adjudication procedures followed, as specified in the State Tournament Rules.

TIME LIMITS

Students should carefully adhere to the specified time limits for their events. Failure to do so will more than likely result in rating penalties. Please review the State Tournament Rules for exact times and violation penalties.

JUDGES

The following commitment shall be required from those schools participating in the State Tournament:

- 6 or fewer entry slots: 1 judge who can judge 8 rounds or a combination of judges who will judge 8 rounds.
- 7-12 entry slots: 2 judges who can judge 8 rounds each or a combination of judges who will judge 16 rounds
- 13 + entry slots: 3 judges who can judge 8 rounds each or a combination of judges who will judge 24 rounds

Schools will be obligated for judging no more than the following rounds:

- 6 or fewer entry slots: eight rounds of judging
- 7-12 entry slots: sixteen rounds of judging
- 13 or more entry slots: twenty-four rounds of judging

No school shall be required to judge rounds in excess of their commitment. Schools may provide for all rounds of judging with as many judges as they wish to provide. They may specify which judge is to cover which part of the obligation. No judge may be obligated to judge more than eight rounds. **HIRED JUDGES- Any team that needs help fulfilling a judge obligation may pay \$50 per day for a full-time hired judge. Please let Lisa Shadrick know if you need to take advantage of that provision.*

Teams are not allowed to bring and/or count first-year-out individuals toward their judging obligation. No person who graduated in the previous year may judge at this year's state tournament. Per the WHSAA rules: "Former Wyoming high school students who are one year out of high school and who were active participants in competitive speech activities shall not be permitted to serve as "accompanying" judges."

It is the responsibility of the Director of Speech and Debate from each high school to impress upon the accompanying judges their responsibilities and duties. These judges are important to the efficient functioning of the tournament. Try to bring a compliment of judges. Accompanying judges and coaches should be able to judge a wide variety of events. Please have all judges complete the [2026 Wyoming State Tournament Judge Signup](#) and submit them with your entries by **Feb 26, 2026**. School accompanying judges do not qualify for paid judge positions.

ELECTRONIC BALLOTS

The State meet will be held in-person, but we will ask judges to use electronic devices for e-ballot purposes. Please ask assistant coaches and accompanying judges to have a linked Tabroom.com account and a suitable device ready by registration of the State tournament.

CONFLICT PATTERNS

Please recall that a student may enter two events scheduled at the same time. A student may enter two events scheduled at different times in different conflict patterns (students may be entered in 2 A events so long as one is not a Debate, or 2 B pattern events so long as one is not Extemp or Congress).

PATTERN "A" EVENTS

Cross-Examination Team Debate
Lincoln-Douglas Debate
Public Forum Debate
Memorized Dramatic Interpretation
Memorized Duet Interpretation
Program Oral Interpretation
Impromptu

PATTERN "B" EVENTS

Extemporaneous Speaking
Memorized Humorous Interpretation
Manuscript Poetry Interpretation
Memorized Original Oratory
Congressional Debate
Memorized Informative Speaking

THE LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE and THE PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE TOPIC

These topics are the ones specified in the February NSDA Rostrum for **March** or on the [NSDA website](#).

The Lincoln Douglas Debate Topic is ; **Resolved: The United States military ought to abide by the principle of non-intervention.**

The Public Forum Debate Topic is **Resolved: The United States federal government should ban corporate acquisition of single-family residences.**

The Cross Examination Debate Topic is Resolved: Resolved: The United States federal government should significantly increase its exploration and/or development of the Arctic.

MEALS

Information will be forthcoming

STUDENT DECORUM

Coaches are asked to impress upon their students, for whom they are responsible, the importance of approaching the state tournament with seriousness and responsibility. We ask that students not be allowed to bring external speakers which, when played in halls outside contest rooms, can be distracting. All judges will be asked to monitor student behavior in the contest rooms in an attempt to ensure fairness to all contestants and the coaches are hereby reminded of their duties in so far as student conduct and propriety is concerned. Coaches are asked to monitor their students carefully during the entire tournament. Problems (if any) which occur are the responsibility of the appropriate coach/school. Students should remain at their team space unless competing, observing a round, or getting meals.

EQUITY OFFICE

The Wyoming Speech and Debate Association prohibits all forms of harassment and discrimination. Accordingly, all forms of harassment and discrimination, whether written or oral, based on race, color, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, citizenship, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by any applicable federal, state, or local law are prohibited, whether committed by participants, judges, coaches, or observers. Individuals who are found to have violated this policy will be subject to the full range of sanctions, up to and including removal from the tournament premises.

During the tournament, an Equity Office will be available for anyone who needs to bring any item or concern to the attention of our Equity Officers. Information, including process, rooms, and times will be available at Registration the first day of the tournament.

STUDENT SUPERVISION

It is the responsibility of coaches to know where their students are and to have a team place for them to be in between rounds. Teams are liable for any damage or harm to the facility.

T-SHIRTS & SWAG

This year, we are offering multiple options for State T-shirts and state swag. Proceeds go to the Wyoming Speech and Debate Association. Order forms for the shirts can be found [here](#). Additional merchandise will be available for purchase at the tournament.

2026 WYOMING STATE HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH AND DEBATE TOURNAMENT*

Cheyenne Central High School 5500 Education Drive, Cheyenne, WY 82009

March 12-14, 2026



**Schedule subject to change, but all possible attempts to hold to this will be made*

Thursday 3/12/26

11:00 AM	12:30 PM	Registration	
1:00 PM	3:00 PM	Round 1 D	
3:00 PM	4:30 PM	Round 1 H	Congress work session and congress round 1
4:30 PM	6:30 PM	Round 2 D	4:30 PM State Meeting 1
6:30 PM	8:00 PM	Round 2 H	
8:00 PM	10:00 PM	Round 3 D	

Friday 3/13/26

8:00 AM	9:30 AM	Round 3 H	
9:30 AM	11:30 AM	Round 4 D	9:30 AM State Meeting 2
11:30 AM	1:00 PM	Round 4 H	
1:00 PM	3:00 PM	Round 5 Debate	2:30 PM IE Ballot Verification
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	Round 6 Debate	5:30 PM Debate Ballot Verification
6:30 PM	8:00 PM	Quarterfinals PF, Octafinals LD, Quarters IES (if needed)	

Saturday 3/14/26

8:00 AM	10:00 AM	Round D Semis, Debate Semis (LD Quarters)	
10:00 AM	12:00 PM	Round H Semis, Super Congress 1	
12:00 PM	2:00 PM	Drama, PF, CX, Duo, Impromptu, POI Finals (LD semis & LD Finals)	
	2:00 PM	4:00 PM	H Finals, Super Congress 2
5:00 PM		Awards	

FEE SCHEDULE / REGISTRATION FORM AND STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Return this form and payment to the **WHSAA Office, 6571 East 2nd Street, Casper, WY 82609.**
(YOU MAY ALSO EMAIL THE FORM TO: EMAIL Brent Rose brose@whsaa.org)

DEADLINE: Tuesday March 10, 2026 (please submit by March 5, if possible)

Entry Limitations

A student is limited to two events at the State Tournament. Each individual may enter the following: A single event OR Any two events in any pattern (excluding debates, congress, or extemp OR A debate event, congress, or extemp and another event not scheduled at the same time.

A high school is limited to a total of 20 entry slots. Each student entered in any event slot constitutes an entry. All team events count as one entry. An individual student who is entered in two events counts as two entry slots. Schools may enter their allowable 20 entry slots distributed among the various events as they wish, so long as the maximum number of entry slots per school remains at 20. (Rule: 8.3.3. WHSAA Handbook)

		# OF ENTRIES		
School Registration Fee (Make sure to include in your total)				\$75.00
Each Cross-X Debate Team	15.00 X	_____	=	_____
Each L-D Debate Entry	15.00 X	_____	=	_____
Each Public Forum Debate	15.00 X	_____	=	_____
Each Duet Interp. Team	15.00 X	_____	=	_____
Each Congressional Debate	10.00 X	_____	=	_____
Each Individual Event Slot	10.00 X	_____	=	_____
TOTAL STATE SPEECH REGISTRATION FEE				\$ _____

CERTIFICATION OF STUDENTS ELIGIBILITY --

I hereby certify that the students participating in the categories listed above are eligible to attend the 2026 Wyoming High School "State" Speech Tournament representing: _____ High School in full accordance with the rules of the Wyoming High School Activities Association.

Speech Instructor

Principal or Superintendent

Date

High School

WY STATE 2026 DEADLINES by 4pm each day

Thursday, February 26, 2026, 4pm

- Complete online Entries on WY State Tabroom Site 2026 - <http://wyostate.tabroom.com>
- Enter judges on Tabroom and complete WY State Judge Signup 2026
- Submit Congress Bills to Lisa Shadrick

Thursday, March 5, 2026, 4pm

- Submit your team's [Registration/Eligibility Form 2026](#)
- Coach of Season: [2026 Coach of the Season Nomination Form](#)
- Student Ambassador: [2026 Student Ambassador Nomination Form](#)
- Submit any proposals: [Proposal Format](#)
- Memorial Scholarship: [2026 Memorial Scholarship Nomination Form](#)

Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 4pm

- Finalize changes to registration (only name changes allowed beginning March 12)
- Submit your team's pictures to the [WY State Slideshow Folder 2026](#)
- Pre-order deadline for WY State T-Shirts 2026
 - [Flyer](#)
 - [Order Form](#)

Important State Tournament Links (will be updated)

[WY State Tabroom Site 2026](#)

[WY State Judge Signup 2026](#)

[WY State Rules 2026- WSDA](#)

[WY State T-Shirts 2026 Order Form](#)

WY State Slideshow Folder 2026 (coming soon)

Congress Legislation (will come soon)

State Meeting Agenda (will come soon)

Map (coming soon)