

Kentucky Debate Coaches:

- Per the Handbook, please be notified of the following:

a. KHSSL State Debate tournament will offer **novice divisions** in Public Forum and Lincoln-Douglas. Open divisions of Congressional Debate and Policy Debate will also be offered.

b. If so inclined, you may nominate a fellow debate Coach as **Coach of the Year** via email to me by February 1.

- I remind you that the **State Debate tournament dates have changed** from when initially announced. The tournament will be held virtually on the late afternoon/evening of **Friday, March 12, plus all day Saturday, March 13**. Awards will be held virtually on **Monday, March 15**. Know that the Debate tournament will be intermingled in schedule with the outrounds of the Senior State Speech tournament, but the tournaments will be scheduled so that students and judges can fully participate in both -- they'll be busy, but it will be possible. I plan to make arrangements with Campus to run our live rounds through that platform.
- I'll have the **invitation and schedule published** no later than the Regional Speech Tournament date (February 6), but more than likely you'll have this information in late January.
- **Congressional debate legislation** will be due Friday, February 26 (NO LATE LEGISLATION) and will be limited to three pieces of legislation to be considered for inclusion in the 18-piece KHSSL State Debate docket (12 for prelims, 6 for finals), which will be released early the next week. Remember that all legislation for KHSSL State Debate is REQUIRED to be at its first tournament -- to be new legislation not debated before (in or out of state).

- Note that due to the unique circumstances electronic Congress competition requires (being able to see legislators on one screen), chambers THIS YEAR ONLY will be limited to no more than **16 per chamber** instead of the usual 24. This will include the Final round.
- This year is also the year we elect members of the **Board of Directors** to serve two-year terms. These roles are decided geographically by the Speech Regions, but I'll be soliciting nominees and conducting elections electronically from all member schools during February (nominees) and March (elections). Be thinking if you'd like to run. If you have any questions, please contact me or the Board member who currently represents your Region ([list here](#)).
- I also plan to survey the Debate membership about the possibility of adding **Extemporaneous Debate** as an event at the State tournament for a trial run next year. If you are unfamiliar with the event, I encourage you to seek out more information [at this link](#). This event has turned out to be extremely popular at the NSDA national contest each year with topics varying round to round. I think it could be a real shot in the arm to our competition numbers, so be thinking if you think it would be a worthwhile addition to the contest.

Wishing each of you a joyous 2021!

Steve