

- 1) Welcome (11:00-Noon)
- 2) Coaches should model best practices and educate their students. During school (practices/events) and outside of school....
- 3) General Considerations (Homepage)
<http://www.kshsaa.org/public/pdf/KSHSAAReturntoAct-General.pdf>
- 4) Debate Specific Considerations (Homepage)
<http://www.kshsaa.org/Public/COVID/PDF/Debate-Considerations.pdf>
- 5) NFHS Aerosol Study Main Page:
<https://www.nfhs.org/articles/unprecedented-international-coalition-led-by-performing-arts-organizations-to-commission-covid-19-study/>
- 6) Infographic Focused on Top 5 Key Recommendations
https://www.nfhs.org/media/4119362/artsed_safe_school_nfhs_infograph.png
- 7) FAQ
- 8) Please utilize the CHAT Feature to ask specific COVID related questions.

Debate FAQ

Q: With the virtual policy now in place, are there changes to the 500 road mile rule and number of competitions allowed per debater?

A: A huge thank you to the KSCA leadership for their work to prepare a very useful document: Tim Ellis (chair), Topeka-Washburn Rural, KSCA Second Vice-President Andrew Bauer, Halstead, KSCA 3A Classification Representative Betsy Dutton, Sterling, KSCA 2A Classification Representative Megan Hagaman, Salina South, KSCA Treasurer and Past President Eric Skoglund, Olathe Northwest, KSCA 6A Classification Representative

This is a must read for all debate coaches before the season begins. It should answer all your questions. See page 3-4 of the Virtual Policy Debate Supplemental Addition.

500 Road Mile rule must be followed for virtual debate for attending an out of state tournament and hosting an out of state tournament, all paperwork from other state associations must be received at least 30 days before the event date and if hosting and inviting out of state schools pages 3 & 4 of the KSHSAA G form must be filled out completely and sent to the KSHSAA at least 30 days before the event date.

Q: Are we allowing in-person meets or is this year going to be all virtual?

A: This is up to each school district, but schools and students may compete in both face to face and virtual debate tournaments.

Q: The virtual guidelines mentioned, communicating with administration about the new format. What exactly do we need to be telling them? What do they 'need' to know or consider?

A: The information on pages 3-4 of the Virtual Policy Debate Supplemental Addition would be the most relevant information to share with your administration.

Q: If we would have face to face tournaments (let's just imagine that), would the rules about Internet apply, or we'd have "no Internet" in person and "yes Internet" in virtual format?

A: The face to face tournament rules have not changed other than the additions to the Evidence Rules section in the manual on pages 11-14. The Appendix: Internet Use Rules on page 9 of the does a great job of specifically speaking to Internet usage during virtual debate rounds.

Q: Can't I use lapel mikes for kids? And what about kids who use ear buds and speak into ear-bud mike - would that be considered using special "audio devices" as mentioned in the guidelines?

A: On page 8 of the supplemental- Competitors and judges are required to have internet access and a device with a microphone and a webcam throughout the duration of the competition. This could include a smartphone, laptop, tablet, or desktop computer with an integrated or external microphone and camera.

Q: In the provision "Internet access may be used to retrieve files, exchange evidence and/or arguments, research arguments, and partner to partner communication," does "research arguments" mean that students can do open internet search during rounds?

A: Yes, it does mean that students can access the Internet to search during rounds. The KSCA committee's discussion centered around the idea that students will all be connected to the Internet already during the round, and it would be challenging or impossible to police what students are doing with their access. This aligns with the practices that NSDA and others have adopted for virtual competition. However, if someone did something like that, they would actually have to read the evidence and CUT the evidence as well, pretty much on the spot in the round, which would be a pretty significant competitive disadvantage. Our existing evidence rules means the team must provide more than a weblink to an article because the website might be blocked.

Q: Why is the recommended schedule assigns 2 hours for each round and 30 minutes for pairing after each round? Is the online process that long?

A: Others who have experienced online competition have reported a need for quite a lot of additional time between rounds. A lot of this is wrapped up in the extra time we recommend for students/judges to find their next competition “room” and check that all their tech is ready and connecting effectively, and the fact that it will be substantially more challenging for a host manager to (a) monitor these rooms to know whether there are problems and (b) respond to problems when they arise. Other reasons I have seen for this are increased fatigue on the part of students and judges compared to in-person competition and the need for additional time when a tournament is delayed due to technical difficulties in one or more competition “rooms.”

Q: How and when can I take the annual KSHSAA Debate/Speech/Drama Rules Meeting for all 9-12 grade head coaches?

A: All KSHSAA rules meetings are online only this year and will be available from August 17 – October 4 and the instructions can be found on our Debate and Speech pages of the KSHSAA website.

Q: When are the start and end dates for the 2020-21 debate season?

A: After review by the KSHSAA Executive Board all fall activities are proceeding as scheduled.

August 17 Practice begins

September 18 First Competition

January 16 KSHSAA 4-Sp and 2-Sp State Debate Tournaments