

Lassiter Speech and Debate Handbook



2023-2024

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COACHES:

Coach Cazzola earned her Bachelor's of Science in Secondary Education at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. She was a seventeen time National Champion in combined Cross-country and Track and Field events and set five Division III national records and competed at the USA championships three consecutive years. She continued her Masters of Science in Educational Leadership and Sports Management directly after completion of her first degree and was a sponsored athlete from 2014-2017. She is highly motivated and expects the best from all students and is honored to be a part of the Lassiter community. She began teaching at Lassiter in January of 2018 and couldn't be happier with the level of dedication toward success and excellence that our school and greater community share. She was recognized as a coach with Premier Distinction by the NSDA in 2020. In 2022, she was recognized as the [GFC A Speech Coach of the Year](#). She's delighted to be a coach for the Lassiter Speech and Debate Team.

Coach Waters began his speech and debate journey at Grovetown High School in 2011 as the director of a new program. Under his leadership, the team earned two state championships in Lincoln Douglas Debate and qualified eight students to the National Speech and Debate Association Tournament. During that time, he received the Peach Fuzz Award (2012) and was voted the [GFC A Speech Coach of the Year](#) (2014). In 2015, after moving to the Atlanta area, he worked as an Assistant Coach at Marist School for two years where he coached a debater to the team's first State Championship in Lincoln Douglas. His tenure at the school led him to earn his first [coaching diamond from the NSDA](#) in 2017.

After departing Marist, Coach Waters moved to Northview High School in 2017. The team grew significantly under his leadership, earning 46 bids to the GFC A State Tournament, 36 bids to the Tournament of Champions, 8 bids to NIETOC, and 18 qualifiers to NSDA Nationals. In 2020, the GFC A named Northview a School of Excellence, and the NSDA recognized the school as a Debate School of Honor. In 2021, Coach Waters was the recipient of the [GFC A Debate Coach of the Year Award](#) and the [NSDA Don Crabtree Distinguished Service Key](#). In 2022, he was received the [GFC A Richard Bracknell Service Award](#).

In the fall of 2022, Coach Waters moved to Lassiter High School where he earned his [second diamond from the NSDA](#). He also currently serves as the GFC A Director of Operations and tabulates many tournaments in the state. While he did not participate in the activity as a high school student, he is passionate about seeing students succeed in the activity. He recognizes the impact of this activity on helping students in whatever they endeavor to achieve when they leave high school.

PHILOSOPHY:

The competitive debate opportunities are available to all students. Students choose to participate and may also choose their level of their participation. A sincere effort will be made to provide appropriate opportunities to every deserving student at every level of competition. However, it is important to remember that forensics is a **competitive activity**, and the most successful students will be those that exhibit intelligence, hard work, determination, motivation, and natural skill.

Participation on the LHS debate team is designed to yield the following benefits:

- 1) offer student an environment where knowledge, effort, and intellectual skills are promoted and reinforced
- 2) provide basic and advanced instruction for debate students in argumentation theory, cross examination, analysis, and synthesis of ideas
- 3) provide frequent practice and tournament opportunities
- 4) provide the opportunity to work as part of a team of students and teachers/coaches, emphasizing mutual respect and support for the experiences of all participants
- 5) provide support for the forensics activity (co-curricular and extra-curricular) in the state of Georgia.

Parents are an important resource to the Lassiter Debate and Speech Team in many ways. They can support their children's participation in practice rounds and tournaments and assist with fundraising. Parents are a critical resource for transportation to and from tournaments. No matter what level of involvement, parents are welcome and encouraged to observe their child engaged in the activity.

EVENT DESCRIPTIONS:

Debate Events

Lincoln Douglas: Lincoln-Douglas Debate typically appeals to individuals who like to debate, but prefer a one-on-one format as opposed to a team or group setting. Additionally, individuals who enjoy LD like exploring questions of how society ought to be. Many people refer to LD Debate as a “values” debate, as questions of morality and justice are commonly examined. Students prepare cases and then engage in an exchange of cross-examinations and rebuttals in an attempt to convince a judge that s/he is the better debater in the round.

Public Forum: As a team event, students who compete in Public Forum need to be able to work well with a partner. Balanced teams, both in terms of preparation before debates and contributions within a debate, helps provide a competitive advantage during tournaments. PF looks at current event topics. Students who do Public Forum must be prepared to debate in front of judges without any formal debate training. Being able to persuade a range of judges is a central component to this event. Additionally, PF is focused upon debating varying resolutions that change frequently, which exposes students to a variety of topics during a singular competitive season.

Platform Speech (Prepared)

Informative: Informative is a speech written by the student with the intent to inform the audience on a topic of significance. Students in informative may use a visual aid. Informative gives students the unique opportunity to showcase their personality while educating the audience. An Informative is not simply an essay about the topic—it is a well researched and organized presentation with evidence, logic, and sometimes humor to convey a message. Topics are varied and interesting. Whether it be a new technological advance the audience is unaware of or a new take on a concept that everyone is familiar with, Informative is the students opportunity to teach the audience. Types of topics and structure vary greatly.

Original Oratory: Original Oratory is a speech written by the student with the intent to inform or persuade the audience on a topic of significance. Oratory gives students the unique opportunity to showcase their voice and passion for their topic. An Oratory is not simply an essay about the topic—it is a well researched and organized presentation with evidence, logic, emotional appeals, and sometimes humor to convey a message. Topics may be of a value orientation and affect people at a personal level, such as avoiding peer pressure, or they can be more of a policy orientation and ask an audience to enact particular policies or solve societal problems.

Platform Speech (Limited Prep)

Impromptu: Impromptu is a public speaking event where students have seven minutes to select a topic, brainstorm their ideas, outline and deliver a speech. The speech is given without notes and uses an introduction, body, and conclusion. The speech can be light-hearted or serious. It can be based upon prompts that range from nursery rhymes, current events, celebrities, organizations, and more. Impromptu is a public speaking event that tests a student’s ability to analyze a prompt, process their thoughts, organize the points of the speech, and deliver them in a clear, coherent manner. Students’ logic is extremely important. They must be able to take an abstract idea, such as a fortune from a fortune cookie, and put together a speech that has a thesis and supporting information.

Extemporaneous: Extemp combines international and domestic issues. Students are presented with a choice of three questions related to national and international current events. The student has 30 minutes to prepare a seven-minute speech answering the selected question. Students may consult articles and evidence to help with their preparation. The internet may be used during preparation time.

Interpretation

Program of Oral Interpretation: Program Oral Interpretation relies on the performer's ability to portray a wide range of characters and literature all held together under a common theme. Each program must contain at least two of the three genres and students are encouraged to include all three. There is a set time limit of ten minutes, with a thirty second grace period. Students who choose to compete in POI should focus on making an interesting argument that is supported in different ways by each piece of literature they select.

Humorous Interpretation: Humorous Interpretation, as its name indicates, is humorous. Competitors often use multi-character selections to tell relatable stories using humor as a device to connect with the audience. Think about your favorite comedian's latest stand up routine, or something funny that recently happened. Ask yourself why it's funny. Then ask yourself if that joke would be funny to, say, your mom, or great-great Uncle Joe. Humor is a complex human quirk. Each individual's sense of humor is unique. However, other aspects of humor are more universal in nature. So, when choosing an HI, it is imperative to consider not only the humorous elements of the selection, but also to keep in mind how the story itself will appeal to the audience. Not everyone will laugh at the same joke, but if a character's plight is relatable, the audience will identify with him or her.

Dramatic Interpretation: Dramatic Interpretation, contrary to its name, is not all about drama. While dramatic elements are key aspects of the event, melodramatic, or overly-sad selections are not ideal choices for performance. DI lacks props, costuming, sets, and other luxuries seen in various forms of performance art. There is a set time limit of ten minutes, with a thirty second grace period. Students who choose to compete in Dramatic Interpretation should focus on suspending the disbelief of the audience by portraying a realistic, emotional journey of a character(s). The performance should connect to the audience. Students who do Dramatic Interpretation may perform selections on topics of serious social subject matter such as coping with terminal illness; significant historical situations, events, and figures; as well as racial and gender discrimination, suppression, and oppression. Students should select pieces that are appropriate for them. Considerations for selecting a DI topic should include the student's age, maturity, and school standards.

PROCEDURES:**Tournament and Travel Procedures**

Students compete in all events by preparing at school and then attending tournaments held at other schools. Tournaments are usually two-day events that begin Friday afternoon and continue on Saturday until the late afternoon or evening. Some Varsity tournaments extend to Sunday and Monday. Many speech divisions, especially in the fall are Saturday only. Some novice tournaments are also Saturday only. Please be sure to check with tabroom for most up to date tournament schedules. Coaches will provide itinerary schedules for travel tournaments. Students will be able to attend tournaments locally, in-state, and out-of-state. Travel will usually be by car, charter bus, plane, or subway.

Students will be responsible for registration fees, housing, travel, and material fees. These fees may be substantial if they require travel and lodging. We at Lassiter believe that money, however, should never be an impediment to debating; if assistance is required please speak to one of the coaches privately, and we can discuss what accommodations are needed to cover costs.

For many tournaments, there may be research requirements in order to be eligible to compete. If you are assigned to complete research for the team and that research is not completed on time, you may not be eligible for competition. When a student doesn't meet this obligation, it impacts the entire team.

Students and teachers should be on time to depart and return from tournaments. While we can tentatively establish return times, these times change on a moment to moment basis. **Tournaments run notoriously behind schedule and our departure is often dependent on how successful students are at the tournament. If a Lassiter debater has made it to the finals, we cannot leave before the tournament is over; whereas we could leave early if all Lassiter debaters are eliminated in the quarterfinals.** While coaches make every effort to inform parents in advance, it is **ultimately** the child's responsibility to relay changes back to parents. Phones are always available on campus and a number of students carry cell-phones.

Also, **if a student is not picked up or dropped off in a timely fashion, that student may be temporarily suspended from future competition.** Coaches are required, by state law, to wait with students until a parent or guardian arrives. Excessive tardiness to be picked up is unfair to coaches, who give their time to this activity. All students should be picked up within **15 minutes** of the pre-designated time.

Parents will be notified of the tentative calendar of tournaments at the beginning of the year. Sign up deadlines are available on the calendar. Once the sign-up date has passed, students who have signed up are locked into participation. **If a student must cancel because of minor illness, poor grades, family concerns, too much homework, etc. the student will be responsible for non-refundable fees incurred by the team in securing that slot.** Additional consequences may also occur. Please see the section entitled CONSEQUENCES. Deaths in the family or illnesses warranting doctor intervention are excused from penalties. Because many tournaments limit the number of students we may bring (and sometimes they won't tell us this number until a few days before the tournament), it may be possible that a debater will not be able to attend that specific event; the coaches will attempt to notify students of this situation as early as possible.

The coach's decisions on tournament attendance are final. Students who compete at a tournament separate from the participation of the LHS debate team without the permission from coaches will be **EXPELLED** from the team.

For in-person tournaments, a tournament information sheet given out the week of the tournament listing the tournament specifics. Tournament specifics include: location of tournament, approximate arrival and departure times, costs, transportation information, emergency contact information and lodging specifics (if necessary). While we endeavor to provide contact phone numbers in advance, this is not always feasible.

We encourage all students to carry a cell-phone for such times. Coach's and chaperone's cell phone numbers are always provided and available.

Some tournaments will require that students arrange their own transportation to and from an event. These are usually tournaments occurring in the local area or tournaments only occurring on Saturdays. **No student under the age of 18 is allowed to drive themselves to or from a tournament, under any circumstances.**

REGISTERING FOR TOURNAMENTS ON TABROOM:

IMPORTANT NOTE – Registering for a tournament commits you to a tournament and its fees. If you register for a tournament, you are responsible for it financially whether or not you attend the tournament.

Tournament Cost – See the calendar for final cost. Most tournaments are \$50. The first tournament is included in the cost of your dues. If you have a parent who can judge for the tournament, your fees will be waived.

Follow the directions below to register:

STEP #1: When a tournament is open for registration, it will be on the signup tab on the main page of your tabroom account. To get to the main page, click on your email address found at the top of the tabroom page after you login.

STEP #2: Click on the signup tab next to the tournament that you want to register for. Be careful and make sure you click the correct one. For this demo, I'm going to register for the "Marist Ivy Street Invitational." After clicking, I will be on the page below.

STEP #3: Before registering, recheck the dates and the schedule for that tournament to be sure you can attend. Remember that you should expect to be at the tournament for the ENTIRE duration of the tournament that Lassiter is in attendance. After you have checked the schedule, you can signup by choosing your event from the dropdown and clicking signup.

Note about divisions – only choose “novice” if you are in your first year of competition. Even if this is your first year in a particular event, base it on the number of years you have competed against high schoolers in speech in debate. As one of the coaches if you have a question about this. It will take you to the next page—

Lassiter Student

Location NSDA Campus, GA Sign up By Thu, Sep 1, 2022 at 3:55 AM
 Website <http://marist.tabroom.com> Tournament Start Fri, September 23, 2022
 Tournament Ends Sun, September 25, 2022

Notes from your coach/team admin:
 This is a virtual tournament. Please read the [schedule](#) before signing up for the tournament. You are expected to be available for the entire duration of the tournament unless the coach has excused you.

Entry Details
 ADA/Accessible Rooms Required*

Confirm entry for Lincoln Douglas - Novice
 Once you save this entry, all competitors listed, as well as their parents, will be notified by email. Are you sure?
 Save Entry Details

Competitor
 Lassiter Student
 Graduates: 2026
 lhdebatespeech@gmail.com

ADA Rooms
 Please request ADA rooms only in cases of genuine need. Frivolous ADA requests can fill up the most accessible spaces and therefore harm folks who really need them.

Step #4: It will give you the option to note if you require ADA/Accessible Rooms. Only check this mark if this is a need that you have. It's important that people with disability have access to these types of rooms. If you are registering for a partnered event (PF or DUO), it will give you the option to include your partner/teammate. Take that step if necessary. Then, once everything is good to go, click "Save Entry Details." If you are participating in a speech event, please make sure to include the title of your piece if it asks for one.

Step #5: Wait for coach to confirm your entry. Then you will see it in your "Future" tournaments tab. You may see a "fee" noted on your final page, but this is only the fee that we have to pay the tournament for your entry and doesn't include the full cost for your participation, so it may be less than what we are charging. We may have to hire judges to cover your entries, so additional cost may cover this.

Your future tab will look like below—

LASSITER STUDENT Competitor Records

Current Future Signups Results

Future Tournaments

Tournament	Dates	Event	Info	Status
Asynchronous Georgia Speech Scrimmage 1 hosted by Marist Online GA	13 Sep 2022	BRO		No Coach Approval
Asynchronous Georgia Speech Scrimmage 1 hosted by Marist Online GA	13 Sep 2022	DI		No Coach Approval
Marist Ivy Street Invitational NSDA Campus GA	23 Sep 2022	LD-N		No Coach Approval

Judging
 Standing Conflicts Paradigm
 Judge Certifications Offer Hired Judging

Competing
 Entries
 Standing Conflicts
 Parent Notifications

NSDA Campus Test Rooms
 Test Competition Room
 Test Practice/Utility Room

Your Account

Final Notes about tabroom—

VIRTUAL TOURNAMENTS: If you are participating in an online tournament on NSDA Campus, the tournament will be hosted on the tabroom.com platform. You will click on the "Current" tab to gain access to your virtual rooms.

BALLOTS: After the tournament, you will be able to access your ballots in the results tab. Sometimes it takes a few days for these to populate. Usually, they populate within a few hours after the last round of a tournament.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT TOURNAMENTS!!

GENERAL TEAM RULES AND POLICIES:

1. Partners: For partner assignments in policy and public forum debate, student preference will be considered wherever possible. Partner assignments are assigned based on a combination of student preference, work ethic, skill, and personality. Coaches, however, make final partnership decisions. Those decisions are made for the benefit of both individuals and the team.
2. Academic requirements: Students are responsible for completing their school work. Some tournaments require the team to leave before school is out on a Friday. It is the student's responsibility to notify their teachers of absences at least one week prior to that absence. Students generally have a minimum of two weeks' notice of when they are going to a tournament. It is the student's responsibility to do their work and study ahead of time so conflicts do not occur when the tournament arrives. Debate work **SHOULD NEVER** take precedence over school work. If a student's average grade in a class drops to a 74% or below (ie: they are in danger of failing the class), they must notify their coach immediately. No students who are failing a class or do not meet the engagement expectations for the 2020-21 SY are eligible to compete, and any fees a student has paid for registration to a tournament might not be refundable, if the team is fined for their drop from the tournament.
3. Trip absences: No student may miss a class they are failing. If a student has a failing grade in a class, they are not allowed to miss that class until a note sent to one of the coaches from the teacher of that class indicating the student is passing that class. This note must be received by the coaches at the time they register for the tournament. There will be no exceptions.
4. Tournament Attendance: Students must attend at least two tournaments a semester and attend a minimum of three practices a month to be considered a member in good standing. In the fall, students must attend at least one tournament in September or October. **Students must also attend all State and National tournaments for which they are qualified.** Certain tournaments require specific eligibility.
5. Trophies: Trophies earned at GFCA State Tournaments, NSDA Qualifiers, and National Tournaments such as Woodward, NSDA Nationals, NDCA Nationals, or the TOC help bring awareness of our team and its success to the rest of the school and the community. It is the support of the school and the community that is essential to our success. As a result, trophies earned belong to the team and the school. You may take the trophies home from a tournament to show to your family, but on the next school day you must bring your trophy to the main office where it will be displayed for about a week, and then put in our trophy case.
6. Zero-Tolerance: All school and GHSA rules will be enforced. In particular, please note the LHS Debate Team has a zero-tolerance policy toward drug, alcohol, and tobacco use. You will be considered in violation of these rules if you are using one of these substances or with someone who is using them.
7. Professionalism: As part of a competitive activity based on performance, it is important that team members display a certain level of professionalism. As such, Lassiter High School debaters are expected to follow the following dress code during preliminary debate round days at all tournaments: no jeans, no shorts, no athletic pants. In general, a "business casual" wardrobe is expected. This means that ladies wear dress pants and a blouse, or a skirt or dress of an appropriate length. Gentlemen should wear dress slacks and a button down shirt and tie or other formal shirt. Jackets/suits are not required but are encouraged. Further restrictions will be made on a tournament by tournament basis and it is the student's job to make sure they are in accordance with the dress codes.
8. Registration: Students will register for tournaments directly on tabroom. Once students register, students are financially obligated to the tournament. Students should pay for tournaments on my

payments plus. No refunds will be issued for students that are removed from the team because of a rule violation, a personal schedule change, or for failing to meet the academic requirements. No late payments for tournaments will be allowed. If payment for tournament is not made and/or contact with coaches haven't been made before the tournament payment deadline, students will be removed from the tournament. Late drops may incur additional penalties.

9. Independent Entries- The Lassiter Speech and Debate team attends a large number of tournaments each school year, often providing multiple opportunities to compete both locally and nationally. Given the number of tournaments already attended and to ensure that students are only attending tournaments where they have school-approved supervision, students are **not allowed** to enter **ANY** tournaments as an independent entry, even if they are registered with a different school name. This rule also applies to student-run tournaments on Tabroom. During the season, students are **not allowed** to attend student-run tournaments. Students must also **forfeit access** to any "Lassiter Independent" or other titled "school" registration accounts on Tabroom. Students found to either register as an independent entry or maintain an independent Tabroom account outside of the school's knowledge will be immediately removed from the team.
10. Private Coaching- In order to help ensure that students engage with only school-approved personnel at a tournament and to comply with entourage rules for judging, the team will be monitoring the use of private coaching. While the team cannot prohibit families from choosing to hire private assistance for their students outside of practices, families who choose to hire a private coach or debate tutor should know that Lassiter prohibits private coaches from coaching students on competition weekends. This limitation includes private coaches watching students in competition rounds or helping students with pre-round preparation. If parents and students still desire to hire outside coaching, **parents** must email both coaches to let them know before the start of the season OR within a week of the hiring. **Any arguments/cards/evidence obtained as part of any private coaching or debate agreements must intentionally be made available and shared to all members of the Lassiter Debate Team.** Failure to comply with this rule will lead to removal from the team. Separately, students who choose to compete with private debate "clubs", including but not limited to Ivy Bridge Academy, will not be allowed to compete with the Lassiter Speech and Debate team.
11. Equipment – Students may also be asked to comply with specific equipment for competing with the team in online speech and debate events. For example, students may be asked to purchase a headset with a microphone in debate events and a ring light for lighting in speech events. If a student has difficulties meeting this requirement, they should directly reach out to the coaches to discuss alternative solutions.
12. Online Accounts – Upon joining the Lassiter Speech and Debate Team, students should register for an account on tabroom using a personal email address. Tabroom is where many online tournaments are hosted as well as the location of pairings for tournaments. Students will also be given windows to register for tournaments on tabroom.com. Students should also have an NSDA account. New students should sign up for an account with the same email as tabroom.com account.
13. Communication – The primary means of communication regarding tournament registration and check-ins will be through Slack. Students are expected to join the team's slack account. They should also check slack at least once a week, but often more. This will be the primary means of the coaches contacting students concerning speech/debate related issues.

TRAVEL RULES:

1. **Room Checks:** When staying in a hotel, students may not leave their room after they have been checked in for the night. The penalty for violating this rule will be a **SUSPENSION OF AT LEAST TWO TOURNAMENTS**. If the coaching staff is unable to determine which student left a particular room, all people in the room will be held responsible.
2. **Pairs:** It is impossible for Lassiter High School debate coaches and chaperones to visually supervise all students at all times. For example, when students are at tournaments, they are often scheduled in up to 30 different rooms of the host school. It is therefore imperative that at all times when we are away from Lassiter and not in competitive rounds, a student must always be in the presence of another Lassiter debater. This includes at tournaments, in a hotel, at the airport, etc.
3. **Room Assignments:** No student from Lassiter is allowed to be in the hotel room of someone of the opposite sex.
4. **Other Schools:** Lassiter students **are not allowed** to go into rooms of debaters from other schools and students from other schools are not allowed into Lassiter rooms. Socializing must take place in public areas.
5. **Behavior:** While students are at debate tournaments, they must behave as if they are at Lassiter. All rules that cover a student's behavior while at Lassiter, such as rules regarding drinking, smoking, etc. will be strictly enforced. If a student is found violating these rules, they will be sent home. It will be the parents' responsibility to make and pay for said arrangements. Students will also face discipline from the school in addition to severe consequences from the team. A second offense involving alcohol or tobacco by a student will result in immediate expulsion from the team. Any offense involving illicit drugs will result in immediate expulsion from the team.
6. **Eligibility:** Any debater in good standing (see general team rules and policies for definition of "good standing") is eligible to travel at the local and state level. National travel is available to members in good standing after students competing in four local/state tournaments. Exceptions in the case of partner debate may be made at the discretion of the coach.

CONSEQUENCES FOR RULE/POLICY INFRACTIONS:

Failure to perform tasks or meet responsibilities is a serious concern. When a student fails to complete an arranged research task or drops from a tournament at the last minute, their behavior affects everyone else on the team, and in some cases, other schools and debate teams. Due to the severity of an infraction or its repeated nature, consequences may be assigned to students. The consequence should be commensurate to the infraction. Consequences may include but are not limited to:

- Loss of non-refundable fees
- Compulsory judging obligations
- Suspension from 1 or more tournaments
- Suspension from the team for one semester
- Permanent expulsion from the team
- Coaches discretion

ONLINE CODE OF ETHICS:

After the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual tournaments were utilized with more frequency. As a result, the team has created a list of behavioral expectations and a code of ethics that all Lassiter students must adhere to while participating in digital practices and online tournaments. A student found to be in violation of this code of ethics will be considered for immediate removal from the team.

All:

- Regardless of the change in format, all students attending practices or tournaments with the Lassiter HS Speech and Debate Team are expected to behave in accordance with Lassiter and GFCA rules and guidelines for behavior outlined in the earlier portions of this handbook. This expectation does not change given the change in format. Students suspected of harassment or bullying will be subject to a zero-tolerance policy that may result in their removal from the team if they are found in violation of these rules and expectations.

During competitions:

- Students should not use the Internet or other electronic means to contact members of the coaching or judging staff, any debate friends from other schools, or members of the team that are not actively participating in the round before the round has officially ended. This rule includes: chatting or messaging, adding others to email chains or requesting assistance in any manner.
- Students should not enter a room alone with either a competitor or a judge prior to the round beginning. This rule is intended to keep team members safe from potential harassment or unsafe conditions. In the event that a student must enter a room alone to satisfy the requirements of a tournament's check-in requirements, the student should notify a coach and stay on a team meeting while entering their room so that a coach can choose to enter a room with the student.
- Students are expected to complete their own work absent any electronic assistance in the course of the round. This expectation prohibits students typing speeches on Google Docs while their partner is speaking, the use of a teleprompter in speech events, etc.
- Students will be expected to consistently fill out round reports after every debate in order to keep their teammates and the coaching staff updated on decisions and new arguments that are read in round. Given the non-traditional, online format for debates and the way this may limit direct communication with coaches at times during a tournament this is a **non-negotiable** expectation.

Practice:

- Practices will consist of both synchronous team meetings where students will practice and learn live on call with their peers and asynchronous drills or speeches where students will be expected to practice the skills learned covered in synchronous meetings. Students will be expected to consistently attend both practice models in a timely fashion. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of synchronous meetings and participation in asynchronous practices will be considered in attendance taking for those practices where that model is used exclusively.
- Practices may include the use of breakout sessions where students work in small groups guided by student mentors without a coach present for the entirety of a session. Coaches will frequently check in on these sessions and students are expected to hold themselves to the same behavioral expectations they would have been held to at in-person practices.

TEAM LEADERSHIP:

Team members in good standing will be able to apply for leadership positions after the State Championships. Deadlines will be announced when the application is made available. There is no hierarchy on the leadership team. All leaders work under the direction of the coaches for the good of the team. Potential leaders will not apply for specific roles, but rather to be part of the leadership team. Coaches will identify skills and offer applicants roles. The skills required in competition and the skills required in leadership/teaching are quite different. The captain is not the designation of the “best” competitor in the field.

Recruitment & Retention Coordinators: Two people will fill in this role. They should be some of the most active members of the team. They are responsible for maintaining attendance or coordinating with the other team members to regulate this. They should support all other leadership roles. They will be the key point person during the tournament hosted by the team. They will be the first check on students who fail to attend meetings or complete research assignments.

Social Media Coordinator: The Social Media Coordinator oversees the team’s photographic record team and maintains the team’s social media. They must ensure that pictures are taken at each debate tournament as well as during important social gatherings (e.g. Pizza & Prep, Lassiter’s Tourney, etc.).

Lincoln Douglas Captain: The Lincoln Douglas Captain is required to be at both weekly meetings. In the rare case that this leader must miss a meeting, they should coordinate with another leadership member to substitute. They should provide the substitute with detailed instructions for the meeting via email 24 hours BEFORE the meeting is set to begin. The captain designates research topics for each team member. These research topic assignments should be reasonable, and the captains should report students that are not attending meetings or completing research assignments to the coaches.

Public Forum Captain: The Public Forum Captain is required to be at both weekly meetings. In the rare case that this leader must miss a meeting, they should coordinate with another leadership member to substitute. They should provide the substitute with detailed instructions for the meeting via email 24 hours BEFORE the meeting is set to begin. The captain designates research topics for each team member. These research topic assignments should be reasonable. The captain should maintain records concerning attendance and research assignments.

Speech Captain: The Speech Captain is required to be at both weekly meetings. In the rare case that this leader must miss a meeting, they should coordinate with another leadership member to substitute. They should provide the substitute with detailed instructions for the meeting via email 24 hours BEFORE the meeting is set to begin. The captain should maintain records concerning attendance and research assignments.









Records Coordinator: The Records Coordinator should organize a full archive of Lassiter Speech & Debate results (all levels). They will also assist the coaches by maintaining NSDA Membership Certificates and assist the coaches in creating the program for the Speech and Debanquet held at the end of the year.

Middle School Coordinator: This person will lead our efforts to work with our feeder middle schools. They will coordinate teaching and activities involved with working with those students in order to feed a pipeline of debaters to the high school team. This person will lead our efforts to work with our feeder middle schools. They will coordinate teaching and activities involved with working with those students in order to feed a pipeline of debaters to the high school team.

HONORS AND RECOGNITION:

NSDA:

The Lassiter Speech and Debate Team is a charter member of the National Speech and Debate Honor Society. This status is a recognition of the accomplishments of the team's membership over time. As new team members compete in tournaments, they can earn points that will entitle them to the rights and privileges of the NSDA. Accumulation of points equates to varying levels of degrees.

Students & Coaches Degree	Points	Seal or Badge
Member	Less than 25 points	None
Merit	25	
Honor	75	
Excellence	150	
Distinction	250	
Special Distinction	500	
Superior Distinction	750	
Outstanding Distinction	1,000	
Premier Distinction	1,500	

Academic All Americans:

The Academic All American award recognizes high school students who have earned the degree of Superior Distinction (750 points); completed at least 5 semesters of high school; demonstrated outstanding character and leadership; and earned a GPA of 3.7 on a 4.0 scale (or its equivalent). NOTE: If the GPA is between 3.5 and 3.7 on a 4.0 scale (or its equivalent), students also must have received an ACT score of 27 or higher, or a New SAT score of 1300 or higher. Students may apply through August 1 in the year they graduate. For example, if a student graduates in May 2020, they have until August 1, 2020 to apply for the AAA Award.

Honor Cords:

To receive an honor cord (worn at graduation), a student must remain an active member of the team through his or her senior year, attend 80% of practices, compete in at least 20 tournaments cumulative, contribute to the majority of our fundraisers, and earn 450 points.