

UIL Congress State Meet 2021 La Vernia ISD

Jana Riggins, State Tournament Director

Schedule

PRE-TOURNAMENT DEADLINES

All Parliamentarians, Scorers and Clerks are required to complete virtual training in advance of the tournament. Refer to the State Congress tournament webpage for information. Registration in SpeechWire Tournament Services is required. Schools will be notified when registration is open.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Virtual Check-in confirmation completed online by 2:00 pm

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

8:00 am	Assembly Announcements Roll call (all contestants must be present for roll call) Chamber assignments Oath of Office
8:00 am	Scorers, Clerks & Parliamentarians report to assigned rooms
8:30 am- Noon	Preliminary Congress Session I for all conferences
1:30- 5:00 pm	Preliminary Congress Session II for all conferences
7:00 pm	Verification

FEBRUARY 15 MONDAY

8:30 am	Schools, Clerks, Scorers & Parliamentarians Check-In
9 am-12:30 pm	Super Congress Session I
2 pm- 5:30 pm	Super Congress Session II

Awards

An awards presentation will be held as soon as ballots of the Super Congress are tabulated. Championship pictures will be taken at this time, so please remain in congressional attire.

Congress sessions are not open to the public this year
due to safety protocols.

Welcome to State!

• Judging Requirements

Each school must provide one judge (scorer) who completes the required online training session pre-tournament and is in attendance both days of the Congress State Meet, unless otherwise assigned by the State Director. Failure to do so constitutes grounds for forfeiture. To support safety protocols, we prefer that the coach serve as the school judge.

E-ballots will be used at State. Therefore, all judges will be required to register with an accurate email in the tournament management system, SpeechWire at *SpeechWire.com*. In advance of the meet, judges should become familiar with the online ballot system and judging process. Training videos are located on SpeechWire. Watch for additional information from UIL to be posted on the Congress State Tournament webpage.

• Safety Protocols

Strict adherence to prescribed safety protocols will be required. Review these thoroughly in advance of the meet.

• Parking

Proper separation in the parking lot should be maintained by skipping parking spaces.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Judges/Clerks: Each school qualifying a legislator shall provide one (1) individual qualified to serve as a scorer/clerk for the duration of the State competition.
- Where do I register?
Registration for State Congress for all conferences will be virtual. Check in online Saturday, Feb. 13. Schools are expected to complete check-in no later than Saturday at 2:00 pm.
- What if I cannot compete at State Meet?
Notify your Region Clerk and Jana Riggins, State Director immediately if you are unable to attend State Meet. Alternates will need sufficient time to make arrangements for competing, so do this in a timely manner.

Business attire is appropriate. State champions will be photographed so remain dressed appropriately in tournament attire to have your picture taken.
- What if my name is misspelled on the state tournament webpage?
Qualifiers are posted online at <https://www.uiltexas.org/speech/oral-interp/congress-state-qualifiers>
Coaches should check names and contact the state office immediately with corrections so the state program and speaker placards will be correct. We will be unable to reprint last-minute corrections so check well in advance of the meet. Last day to make corrections is Feb. 1.

For further information, email
jriggins@uiltexas.org
or call the League office at
(512) 471-5883.

Safety Protocols

On-Site:

- Day 1 – No host site faculty or staff on campus. Only those engaged with the UIL competition.
- Day 2 – Final rounds; no one on campus except those engaged with the UIL competition.
- Proper separation in the parking lot should be maintained by skipping parking spaces.
- Competition rooms spread out through 5 separate buildings on campus.
- Virtual registration check-in.
- Tournament training sessions for scorers, parliamentarians, clerks held virtually pre-tournament through pre-recorded sessions available on the UIL website.
- All qualifying schools limited to one coach onsite to reduce the # of attendees.
- No outside observers allowed on campus.

Safety Protocol:

- Schools required to follow directional signs and enter/exit specific doors based on conference designation. Contestants enter one at a time, social distanced a minimum of six feet apart outside the entrance. Spacing will be marked.
- Temperature checks are required before entering building. Temperature check stations at entry doors.
- General Assembly and awards will be divided into two locations, auditorium and gymnasium.
- Doors open to large foyer with auditorium located immediately to the right and gym to the left, where general assembly will be split by conferences. Seating capacity is just under 1,000 in each location, allowing for social distancing with less than 25% capacity. Contestants should sit with members from their school only and leave three seats or one row minimum between other groups.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be located at every entrance to buildings and inside each competition room.
- Multiple handwashing stations will be available.
- Auditorium/gymnasium and each competition room will be disinfected following each use with EPA registered broad-spectrum disinfectant.
- Most chamber competition rooms have windows that can be opened to promote air flow, weather permitting. Doors may remain open for ventilation.
- Non-medical grade disposable face masks or cloth face coverings over the nose and mouth are required upon entering the building, while indoors and in the chamber during debate. This includes competitors, coaches and tournament officials. Facial shields are allowed but must also be worn with a mask.
- No hospitality rooms for coaches or judges or concession stands will be available.
- Lunch Break: A plan for entering, exiting and transition procedures will include the clerk releasing chamber competitors a row at a time when dismissing for lunch and at the conclusion of the afternoon assembly, in order to stagger exiting.
- Competitors will report immediately to the parking lot where they can eat outdoors, weather permitting, or in school vehicles, or local restaurants.
- Students, coaches and officials will be required to go through a repeat temperature check and use hand sanitizer upon re-entering the building.
- Extra disposable masks will be accessible.
- Use of online ballots will be utilized.
- Verification/advancement – divided general assembly or digital posting w/time limit for coach to confirm.
- Awards Assembly will be a brief recognition ceremony. No draping of medals. No handshakes. Medals will be arranged on tables by place so student can pick up his/her own medal. No spectators. Only participants, coaches and tournament officials will be allowed in the awards or

assembly areas. Attendees will be released in an orderly fashion following the ceremony and should immediately vacate the building.

- Schools should use a coach as their judge to limit the number of people in attendance, rather than hiring a separate judge. Schools will not be allowed to bring an outside adjudicator without a waiver from the State Director.
- Restrooms, common areas and high-touch surfaces will be serviced and disinfected frequently.
- All safety procedures will be posted to the UIL website. Emails will be sent to all qualifying schools and judges prior to the meet informing them of the safety protocols, requiring an acknowledgement form to be returned agreeing to honor the protocols.
- Signage onsite and safety protocol reminder announcements will be made during the tournament. UIL and the host site will post visible signs and/or messaging stating any individuals who are confirmed to have, suspected of having, are experiencing symptoms of, or have been in close contact with an individual who has been confirmed to have COVID-19 should not enter the facility.

All UIL COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Guidelines at the link below will be followed:

<https://www.uil-texas.org/policy/covid-19/2020-2021-uil-covid-19-risk-mitigation-guidelines>