

AUGUST 17th NSA ZOOM AGENDA

Initial Orientation meeting with 2025-26 NSA Personnel

Unlisted VIDEO of this meeting is located on YouTube linked below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnVYy3CT38o>

Allen: **Welcome & Acknowledgement of the service of NSA Personnel at 00.0**

Alisa: **Importance of UNIFORMITY at 4.22**

1. Fairness and equity in advancing to nationals. Students arriving in National Preliminaries with violations in regulations do not understand when not allowed at nationals. Please try to follow the NSA Regulations. NO rules for rules sake just trying to keep a level starting point for equability among all student entries.
2. Uniformity comes though the nats.org NSA Resource Center and using the pdf downloads or links to the NSA Resource Center in your auditions.
3. Link to [NSA Resource Center](#)
4. PDFs there are made for your use. Check date found on left bottom of page of documents to be certain you are using files dated August 1, 2025, or after. Link your membership to NSA page
5. [NSA Full REGULATIONS](#): page 5: Audition Chair's Chronological List of Duties with live links to post an NSA event on NATS.org calendar, to the portal for event insurance, etc. PLEASE read and use as a checklist.
6. Use [branding logos](#), etc. also a link in Regulations on p5

Dan: **INEVITABLE QUESTIONS at 11.25**

1. Questions should go to the local auditions chair of the chapter, district, or region
2. NSA Team is available throughout the cycle to help auditions chairs answer questions

Allen: **NSA EVENT OPTIONS at 15.08**

1. NATS Discretionary Funds Grants up to \$600 to support NSA event needs (*not for student prizes*)
2. ASAP put your NSA events on the NATS.org national calendar, link on page 5 in Regulations
3. Event Insurance—when you need it. Link to NATS Insurance Form in Regulations page 5.
4. Addition Insurance needs? Responsibility or Venue or chapter, district, or region? Background checks, etc.?

Mark: **NSA Calendar at 22.43**

1. Region NSA events must be scheduled between Sept 1 and completed by March 30th
2. REGIONS MUST REPORT 1st-5th place in national categories with **preliminary scores eligible to advance** TO MARK by March 30th
3. Report national qualifiers in National Categories, only HS categories are subdivided.
4. Adult Categories and Advanced Musical Theatre are the only categories that **do not advance to NATIONALS**.
5. Advanced Musical Theatre Students should enter the National Musical Theatre Competition for ages 22-30 yrs old
6. **2nd Friday in April** will always be deadline for National YouTube Preliminary Entries
7. National Live Semifinals and Finals in conjunction with NATS National Conference: Announce San Antonio and dates: July 3-7, 2026, **CORRECTION: Travel day to NSA will be July 2, the first day of NSA begins early Friday morning on July 3, 2026.**

Alisa: **Minors & NSA Ages at 28.27**

1. Age on Sept 1st establishes age of students entered for the entire NSA cycle. No aging out of a category mid-NSA cycle.
2. Minor Chaperone Form for LIVE events only in Regulations Appendix but download the one-page fillable and signable pdf on NSA Resource Center.

Ellie: **VIDEO AUDITIONS at 30.20**

1. Video audition guidelines on NSA Resource Page and in new Regulations' Appendix, download from resource center to use as an independent pdf.
2. Accompaniment Tracks are approved for all categories when submitting video auditions. Piano only tracks for CL, MT, and HJ this year. Instrumental tracks with NO backing vocals human or synthesized in CM.
3. CM only one microphone on camera—direct mic feed into camera OR camera picks up sound from speaker. The microphone must be actively amplifying the vocals in the video.
4. NO identifying images on screen
5. No videos recorded before Sept 1, 2024; all auditions performed in this NSA cycle
6. NSA team **will not contact students after the submission deadline April 10th** to correct invalid videos due to the volume of 3, 784 national preliminary videos received last cycle.
7. Teachers are copied on all emails to national qualifying students in early April, teachers need to supervise their national qualifying students' entries.

Mark: **NSA EMAIL ISSUES at 36.33**

1. Importance of **accurate email addresses in teachers' region NSA entries** both teacher and student's email addresses MUST be correct at the region-level entry to receive national-level audition information.
2. Have **participants SAVE the email they choose to use at region NSA entries**
3. Explain the problems with using different emails for the same student from year to year AND issues requiring unique emails for siblings.
4. If your students repopulate in AuditionWare, please correct that information!

Alisa: **AuditionWare & DEFAULT CATEGORIES at 40.40**

1. AuditionWare will be the online platform used for NSA this cycle.
2. On NSA Resource Center, 1-page pdf **"For NSA Audition Coordinators ONLY: Setup your NSA Event"**—all instructions needed in this pdf
3. You will see on that pdf hours of available support, which will indicate that you probably do not want to close your NSA event registration on a Saturday or Sunday.
4. PROCESS for gaining Admin Access to AuditionWare:
 - A. Report changes or additions in NSA personnel to your region's governor to update the google spreadsheet of NSA personnel.
 - B. Email Mark@nats.org or vpauditions@nats.org to add administrative access needed for chapter, district or region
5. Both the USERS and the ADMINISTRATIVE Manuals are in the FAQ/Help link at the bottom of your setup steps list.
6. Default NSA Categories, which cannot be altered. Any additional may not be altered versions of these categories.
7. Available subdivisions whenever even a remote possibility—so that the category can be subdivided by age. DO not offer both combined and subdivisions of the same NSA category.

Dan: **BIENINAL SPIRITUAL CATEGORIES at 47.46**

1. Hall Johnson Competition this cycle
2. Only spirituals confirmed through research to be settings by Hall Johnson
3. Option to offer AS categories every year, only HJ advances to National levels of NSA this cycle.

Allen: **SPONSORED PRIZES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL OF NSA at 49.32**

1. Canadian Art Song Prize
2. NEW Ginsburg Prize, best performance of a Ginsburg **English Language Art Song**
 - a. entered in a Classical: Lower, Upper, or Advanced category
 - b. at Nationals the prize is \$1,000
 - c. Ginsburg sheet music available gratis on NATS.org
3. Same rep from region must be performed at national levels of NSA —requiring teachers to plan ahead to be considered

Alisa: **CATEGORIES OF ENTRY DOCUMENT at 54.15**

1. IMPORTANCE of genre-specific regulations. READ all categories and genre specific category regulations before entering students
2. Changes in repertoire requirements **contrasting by composer, tempo, and text**....an adjudicator decision reflected in scoring if insufficient contrast—now updated on AuditionWare.
3. Multiple selections by the same composer ineligible to advance—with a noted exception for the stated number of self-composed songs are allowed by the same composer.
4. **CM audition may have multiple CM styles in a single auditions style(s)**

Dan: **NO DISQUALIFICATIONS at 56.15**

1. Importance of NSA regulations for as much fairness as possible
2. Disqualification means a student is not entitled to adjudicator comments or to retain their title in NSA—reserved for extreme circumstances
3. An infraction of the NSA Regulations no matter whether accidental or intentional will result in ITA Ineligible to advance. See Regulations page 2.
4. Adjudicators do not have the authority to disqualify or make a student ineligible to advance
5. Whether discovered or reported, an infraction of the regulations is researched, and if confirmed, results in a student's becoming ineligible to advance
6. ITA students receive adjudicator comments and retain any title awarded before the point when is reported/discovered in NSA.
7. Students may only become ITA when an infringement of a regulations happens **in an NSA entry or in an NSA adjudicated audition.**

Ellie: **VETTING NSA ENTRIES at 59.47**

Vetting REPERTOIRE Entered or assigning vetting of repertoire entered

All rep must meet repertoire requirements for each category entered, some reminders:

1. **CL:** Art Song in English (English must be original language), Arie antiche (for younger students only more open and more restrictive for older students)
2. **HJ:** must be a classical setting of a spiritual verified to be by Hall Johnson to be eligible. A list of approved spirituals is available on p 8 in the Categories of Entry document in Appendix A in the Regulations
3. **MT:** ONLY One operetta or song literature. Meaning of terms used are in the Musical
4. **CM:** do not vet titles of rep entered, instead vet:

- A. Not exceeding number of original songs in rep requirements per category by seeing singer's name listed as composer
- B. Not exceeding number of self-accompanied selections in rep requirements per category, accompaniment choices may vary per song entered, but will be indicated on CM entries.

If a Virtual or Hybrid NSA EVENT—at 1.06

Vetting VIDEOS Entered or assigning vetting of videos entered

ALL VIDEOS ENTERED:

1. No private setting or removed by user or studio setting
2. Videos match song titles entered
3. No identifying info on video other than student's name in the video's title, check background of video (give examples, if time permits)
4. No identifying info on YouTube channel
5. No camera panning or zooming
6. Uploaded date must be on or after Sept 1
7. Students should introduce/slate before singing on video for adjudicators to hear their speaking voice
8. **CL, MT, AS:** videos must have only piano on accompaniment track
9. **CM:** videos must have only ONE acoustic instrument accompanying, a keyboard is accepted instead of a piano AND videos must have a microphone handheld or on a mic stand amplifying vocals.
10. **Your chapter or region** may choose to contact teachers and/or students to correct any invalid entries based on vetting OR strictly adhere to the NSA regulations, not advancing any invalid videos. Invalid videos are clearly delineated on NSA Video Submissions Guidelines pdf in NSA Resource Center. **Nationals will NOT be contacting students to correct invalid entries.**

Allen: ADJUDICATION ISSUES at 1.11

1. Crucial use of [Genre-specific adjudicator training videos](#) in NSA Resource Center, which walk adjudicators through applying the standards of performance on the NSA Rubric, writing comments, and scoring for PRELIMINARY/first level of auditions. Scoring options are listed in the NSA Regulations.
2. Problems with adjudicator comments at the national level of NSA would have been practically none, if adjudicators had followed the adjudicator guidelines provided in the genre-specific videos.
3. From what to expect in a preliminary audition to the end of the video is nearly the same on all adjudicator training videos.
4. In video auditions, you may use expert adjudicators outside of your geographic NATS boundaries—any non-NATS members must **also** be trained before adjudicating.
5. **Adjudicators are a second tier of vetters**, reporting any discrepancy with NSA Regulations to the Auditions Chair, never questioning the student or interrupting the audition process.

Mark: NSA NATIONAL SEMIFINALS & FINALS at 1.17

VIDEO INFORMATION HERE IS INCORRECT: Travel day to NSA will be July 2, the first day of NSA begins early Friday morning on July 3, 2026.

Allen: ENCOURAGE FALL REGION-QUALIFIERS TO ENTER NATIONALS IN THE SPRING at 1.19

Q&A at 1.20