



# SpeechWire

Online Tournaments:  
The Show Goes On

**Ben Stewart**  
**Founder/Owner**



**SpeechWire**

# Can SpeechWire run online forensics tournaments?

- Yes.
- **Asynchronous** meets have already been run on SpeechWire.
- **Synchronous** meets have already been run on SpeechWire using it in combination with Zoom, Yaately and Google Meet
- More platforms will likely work with SpeechWire in the future, too.



# Electronic Ballots

- SpeechWire has offered electronic ballots for some years now
- They power online/virtual competition

Code	Name	Email	Type
1	<input type="text" value="Ben Stewart"/>	<input type="text" value="support@speechwire.com"/>	Unspecified ▼
Notes (optional): <input type="text"/>			

- Judge emails are collected

<u>1</u>	<u>Ben Stewart</u>	<u>SpeechWire Test Team</u>	<u>support@speechwire.com</u>	<b>LINKED</b>
<u>2</u>	<u>A Judge</u>	<u>SpeechWire Test Team</u>	<u>judge@judges.net</u>	<input type="button" value="Link"/>

- Judge accounts can easily be created if needed



# Electronic Ballots

- After scheduling, release the eballots
- Next, blast out alerts to the judges via text/email
- Once rounds begin, you can monitor when the rounds began

## RELEASING E-BALLOTS

Perform release as checked

Grouping	Rd. 1	Rd. 2	Final
After Dinner Speaking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section	C
Started?	11:29 AM
Judge	X3 Ben Stewart
Room	TEST 101
1	ZZ1 Abbi Adkins
2	ZZ5 Laura Poughkeepsie
3	ZZ2 CJ Lowe
4	ZZ6 Zak Vilen
5	ZZ4 Hannah Clarkson
6	ZZ3 Raul Winthrop
7	ZZ7 Xenia Royce

## Blast out judge ballot pickup alerts

Return to posting center Return to home page

What group of judges do you want to blast an alert to? All judges ▼

Do you want to restrict to one grouping only? No, include all groupings ▼

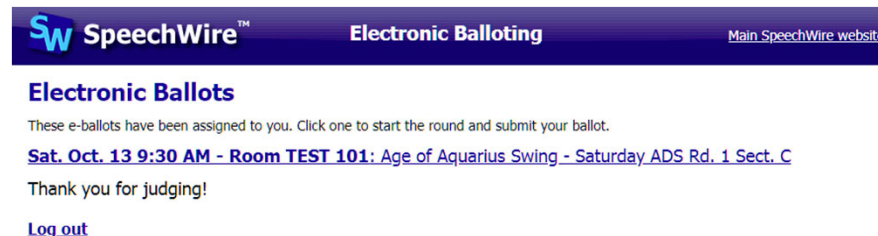
What round are you blasting for? Round 1 ▼ Send blasts now

Return to posting center Return to home page



# Electronic Ballots

- Judges see their ballots in their online balloting accounts



- They then start the round, so tab knows

## Electronic ballot

**Age of Aquarius Swing - Saturday ADS Rd. 1 Sect. C  
Room TEST 101, Sat. Oct. 13 at 9:30 AM**

**[Click here to start the round](#)**

Please click the link above when the round begins so that the tab room knows that you have started the round.

[Return to home page](#)



**SpeechWire**

# Electronic Ballots

- Judges now see their master ballot/cover sheet, which has a spot for rank and points for each entry and a link to edit comments for each

Save ballot
Return to home page

Pos.	Competitor	Comments	Rank	Points
1	ZZ1 Abbi Adkins	<a href="#">Edit comments</a>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2	ZZ5 Laura Poughkeepsie	<a href="#">Edit comments</a>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3	ZZ2 CJ Lowe	<a href="#">Edit comments</a>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4	ZZ6 Zak Vilen	<a href="#">Edit comments</a>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
5	ZZ4 Hannah Clarkson	<a href="#">Edit comments</a>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
6	ZZ3 Raul Winthrop	<a href="#">Edit comments</a>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
7	ZZ7 Xenia Royce	<a href="#">Edit comments</a>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>



# Electronic Ballots

- Comments can be submitted before rank/points are set, and can also be edited after rank/points are set. (Rank/points cannot be changed once submitted.)

## Electronic comments

**Age of Aquarius Swing - Saturday ADS Rd. 1 Sect. C**  
**Room TEST 101, Sat. Oct. 13 at 9:30 AM**

**Speaker #1 -- ZZ1 Abbi Adkins**

Save comments

Discard changes and return to ballot

Type your comments here



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# Asynchronous tournaments

- Entries are judged by having judges watch pre-recorded videos of performances
- URLs of videos are often collected during registration of each entry
- Various approaches for collecting videos (save to a Google Drive/folder, unlisted YouTube links, etc.)





# Asynchronous tournaments

- **STRENGTHS**
  - Relatively simpler to administer compared to synchronous/live tournaments
  - Doesn't have to run in one day, can spread rounds over a few days
  - Can allow very flexible judging schedules
  - Allows for some form of forensics participation amid very difficult circumstances



# Asynchronous tournaments

- **CONSIDER**
  - Does not really simulate a tournament experience with no live performances
  - Same performance is adjudicated in every round
  - Videos should probably be shared with as small an audience as is feasible for as short as possible to respect copyright to the utmost while still enabling educational purposes



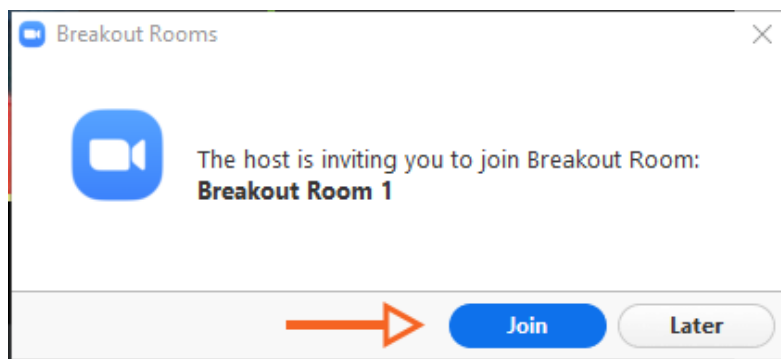
# Asynchronous tournaments

- Several already run on SpeechWire
- Entries varied from fewer than 100 to around 1,000 in a single tournament
- Main manager tasks...
  - Verifying video links/entries (if desired)
  - Scheduling tournament/breaking rounds
  - Ensuring judges actually submit ballots by deadlines



# Synchronous with Zoom

- Students and judges join one (or more) Zoom calls hosted by the manager and/or tab staff and/or proctors
- Breakout rooms are then created in the main call, and students compete in front of judges in breakout rooms



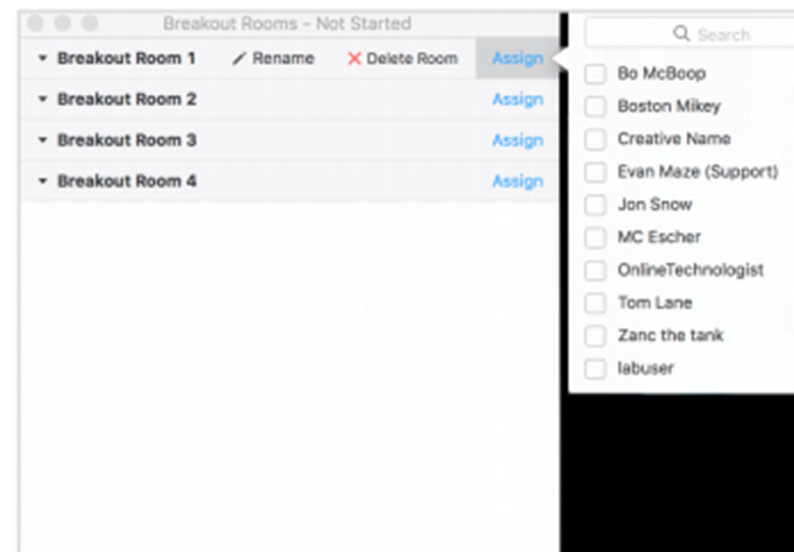
# Synchronous with Zoom

- SpeechWire can export schemas if...
- Email addresses of judges and students are collected in registration
- These should match free Zoom accounts belonging to the students and judges
- Students and judges log into their Zoom account before joining the call



# Synchronous with Zoom

- Students and judges that did not log into Zoom before joining or that did not enter the correct email address in registration can be manually assigned to rooms
- This might just be necessary due to cross entry.
- Strategies (renaming)



# Synchronous with Zoom

- STRENGTHS:
  - Zoom is already widely used
  - Many people will be familiar with it
  - Some institutions may already have professional Zoom accounts
  - Platform is widely used and seems stable
  - If you have students and judges rename themselves with room first before you send to breakout rooms, it's much faster



# Synchronous with Zoom

- **CONSIDER:**
  - Manually assigning students/judges to breakout rooms takes at least a few minutes
  - Zoom isn't free, but the cost is likely low-ish
  - Security concerns have surfaced (Zoom-bombing, Zoom's privacy practices)
  - Export to CSV feature probably won't work great with cross-entries





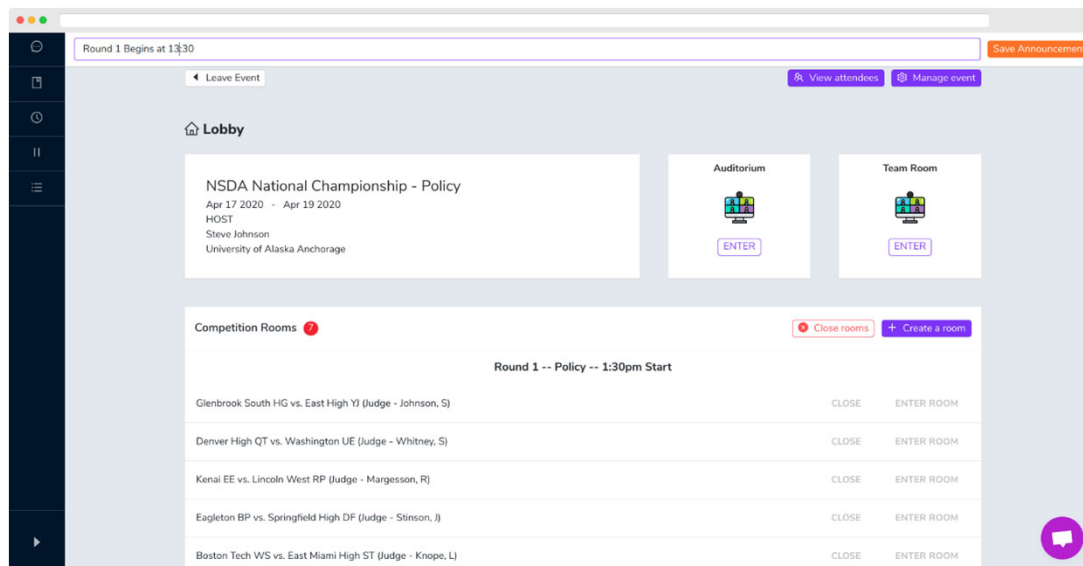
# Synchronous with Yaatly

- Yaatly is a video competition platform designed specifically for forensics
- I have had discussions with its creator and an advocate for the platform
- I will relate as best I am able what I know of the platform but I don't run it!
- A tournament did use it and SpeechWire



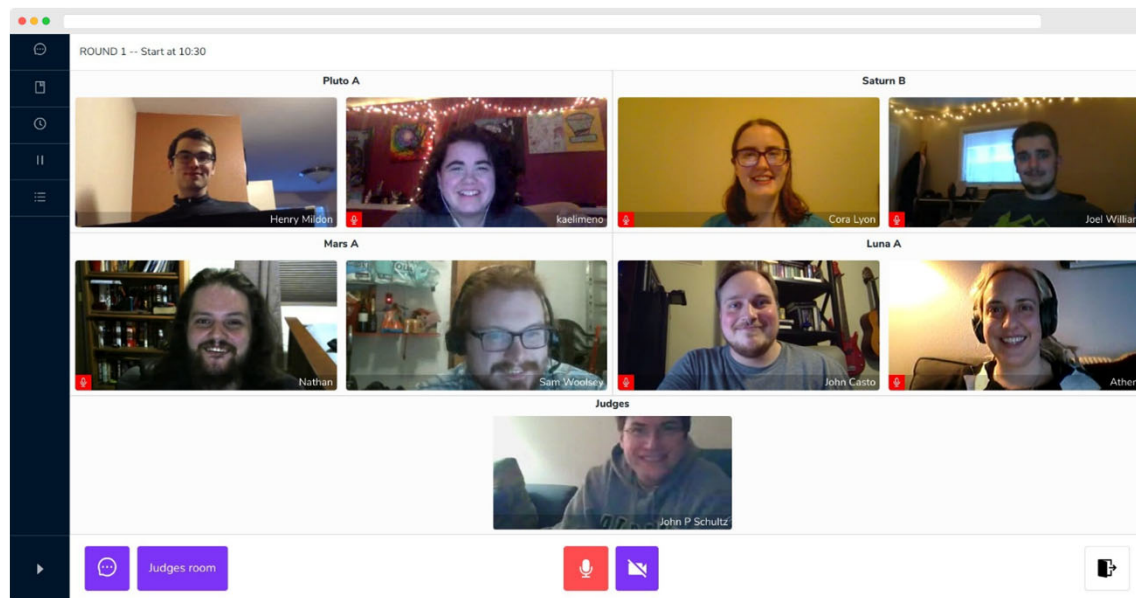
# Synchronous with Yaatly

- After rounds are scheduled, you export a schematic from SpeechWire into Yaatly
- This creates competition rooms which students and judges join after logging into Yaatly
- Special purpose rooms are an option



# Synchronous with Yaatly

- Rooms (at least for debate) are laid out in a way simulating a real competition room
- I am in discussions with Yaatly about how that might work best for speech as well



# Synchronous with Yaatly

- **STRENGTHS:**

- A video platform designed specifically to serve forensics competitions with live video rounds
- No need to manually move students and judges into breakout rooms; they just join
- Export schematics directly from tab service into Yaatly, which automatically creates rooms
- This means likely less need for administrative work (and staff?) than Zoom/Google Meet



# Synchronous with Yaatly

- CONSIDER:
  - Speech has clearly been run on Yaatly, but I believe the final speech system is under work
  - I am part of the conversation with regard to speech and it sounds like it'll be a specific speech solution, and you will be able to upload schematics from SpeechWire
  - Not a free service – but specifically forensics live video solutions seem unlikely to be free



# Synchronous with Google

- Live video tournaments have run on SpeechWire in combination with Google Hangouts/Google Meet this spring
- Email addresses (Gmail hopefully) are collected during registration
- Manager/tab creates meetings (Calendar) and invites students/judges



# Synchronous with Google

- Invitations are sent via Gsuite/Calendar to appropriate students and judges so they can get into their rooms
- This process creates significant overhead for the manager/staff to have to do
- For prelims, since meets usually schedule 1-2 days out, this could be done right after running the initial schematics



# Synchronous with Google

- Possible that creation of meetings might be able to be integrated with the eballot
  - Eballot could link to the Gmeet home page
  - Judge creates the meeting, copies the meeting URL and pastes it into the eballot
  - The eballot blasts an email/text to just the students in the round with the URL to join
  - Manager/tab can support any students who contact tab saying they did not get the text/email





# Synchronous with Google

- STRENGTHS:
  - Google is incredibly widely used
  - Most students/judges may already have Gmail
  - Free (for now... see next slide)
  - There's a possibility that the creation of the meetings \*might\* be able to be offloaded to the judges instead of the manager, reducing overhead compared to Zoom



# Synchronous with Google

- **CONSIDER:**
  - When Meet launched, Google said it would only be free and unlimited til September 30
  - After September 30, the limit on free calls would be 60 minutes (at that point anyway)
  - If you create all the meetings as manager, it will take a good deal of time, even with SpeechWire helping you see which email addresses to paste for each round



# Thanks for your time!

- Ben Stewart, Founder, SpeechWire
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  - [www.speechwire.com](http://www.speechwire.com)

