

**Connecticut Debate Association
October 10, 2015 Tournament
Joel Barlow and Westhill High School**

On behalf of Joel Barlow and Coach Randy Smith and Westhill High School and Coach Aaron Hoffman, I would like to invite you to attend our first tournament of the 2015-16 season on Saturday, October 10. We will follow our standard tournament format.

Please read the following items carefully:

1. If you plan to attend, please reply to this email AS SOON AS POSSIBLE with an estimate of the number of debaters you plan to bring. This estimate need not be accurate. We would like to have a preliminary count by Thursday evening, October 1, so we can have the packets printed.
2. You must register your teams and judges through tabroom.com . Instructions for using tabroom.com for CDA can be found here: <http://ctdebate.org/PDFs/Using%20Tabroom.pdf> . We will be using tabroom.com for registration for all tournaments.

The tournament entry on tabroom.com has six events, Varsity, Novice and Observer for each of Joel Barlow and Westhill. You may choose the tournament you would like to attend by registering your debaters in the events for one high school or the other. We may ask teams that are nearly equidistant from the two hosts to switch if registrations are unbalanced.

The tournament will be open for registration on Monday, September 28 at 8AM, and your entries must be in by Friday, October 9 at 6PM.

3. With two hosts, we have space for 440 debaters or 220 team. As we have almost 50 members, this means that you are guaranteed only 5 teams. We will allocate any additional space on Thursday morning, October 8, to schools with more than 5 entries in tabroom.com. This policy has two important implications:

- a. **If you do not have your teams entered into tabroom.com by Wednesday evening, October 7, your slots may be given away to other teams.**
- b. **If you have more than 5 teams that want to attend, you must enter them all in tabroom.com . We will use the available entries to allocate space on Thursday morning.**

4. Please abide by the rules for Novice eligibility (unchanged from last year):

The Novice division will be open to Freshman and Sophomores, regardless of experience or record. They may qualify and participate as Novices in State Finals both years. However, they may move up to Varsity at any time if they or their coach choose, and once having moved up, may not return to Novice. Coaches are encouraged to move Sophomores up to Varsity if they have been successful as a Freshman, but are not required to do so.

Juniors who have never debated before in CDA may participate as Novices in their first regular CDA tournament. Otherwise they may only debate in Varsity. They may not participate in State Finals except in Varsity. They may only qualify for State Finals while debating in Varsity.

Seniors may not participate as Novices in any CDA tournament.

5. To qualify for State Finals, a debater must win a trophy at a regular tournament, or go 3-0 at two regular tournaments. In other words, simply going 3-0 at one tournament without winning a trophy will not qualify.

5. You can find directions to the schools at their web sites:

Joel Barlow High School
100 Black Rock Turnpike, Redding, CT 06896
<http://www.joelbarlowps.org/pages/jbhs>

Westhill High School
125 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT 06902
<http://www.westhillweb.com/>

If you have questions, please email me at ejrutan3@ctdebate.org . I look forward to seeing you there.