

Connecticut Debate Association
Debate Tournament Invitation
February 6, 2021

On behalf of the CDA, you are invited to our fifth regular tournament of the 2021-21 season on Saturday, February 6, 2021. We will follow our standard tournament format of one hour for case preparation, three rounds of debate in Varsity and Novice divisions, and a final round between the top two Varsity teams. *This will be an online tournament using Zoom and NSDA Tabroom/Campus.*

Registration opens at 8AM on Monday, January 25 on tabroom.com . The last time for guaranteed entries is Noon on Wednesday, February 3.

Please read the following carefully:

1. **Online Procedures:** Be sure you have reviewed the CDA Online Procedures Guide (<http://ctdebate.org/PDFs/CDA%20Online%20Procedures.pdf>) with your team.
All participants—debaters, judges, observers—must:
 - a. Have the Zoom application installed and have a Zoom id.
 - b. Have a Tabroom id, and that id linked to their entry in the tournament.
 - c. Have the Chrome browser installed on whatever device they will be using.The Procedures Guide has further details for various contingencies.
2. **Timeline:** Please respect the timeline for signing up for this tournament:
 - a. January 24—invitation goes out to all Coaches and is posted on the CDA website.
 - b. January 25, 8AM—tournament opens for registration on Tabroom
 - c. ***February 3 at 12 Noon—teams must be entered in Tabroom. Entries after this time may not be accepted.***
 - d. February 4 at 8AM—Zoom meeting registration email goes out to coaches, who should pass it on to their debaters, observers and judges.
 - e. February 5 by 6PM—coaches, debaters, observers and judges should have registered for the Zoom meeting by this time so they can be checked against Tabroom registrations.
 - f. February 6, 8:30AM—Zoom meetings open for general assembly, case prep and judges workshop.
 - g. February 6, 9AM—tournament begins!
3. **Numbers:** There is no limit on the number of debaters who may attend, *provided you can find judges to cover them.* You must have one qualified judge for every two teams or part thereof. Since the event is online, we suggest that in addition to using parent volunteers, you reach out to your recent debate graduates in college and see if they would be willing to contribute their Saturday to judging for you.
4. **Registration:** You must register your teams and judges through [Tabroom.com](http://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.
 - a. There will be three events: Varsity, Novice and Observer.
 - b. For Judges there will be two categories, Varsity and Novice.
5. **Divisions:** We will break the Varsity and Novice entries into groups of approximately 40 teams each:

- a. Each “Varsity+Novice” group of approximately 80 teams will mirror our “real world” practice of holding multiple tournaments at separate host schools.
 - b. Each group, Varsity or Novice, will be eligible for trophies and qualify for State Finals, top 3 or top 5 depending on total numbers on the day. To qualify for State Finals a debater will be required to trophy at a tournament or go undefeated at two separate tournaments, the same as in previous years.
 - c. Every school that enters the tournament will have all its teams in only one of these divisions, equivalent to attending to the same “host school.”
 - d. We will decide centrally how to divide attending schools into different divisions, first to balance their size, and second to diversify the opponents each school meets during the year.
6. **Novices:** Please abide by the rules for Novice eligibility (unchanged from last year):
- a. 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.
 - b. 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.
 - c. Seniors may not participate as Novices in any CDA tournament.
7. **Coaches:** Debaters cannot attend individually. As at an in-person tournament, *we expect each team to be accompanied virtually by a Coach or responsible adult* who will follow and manage the team’s activities and be available for discussion if required. The Coach may also serve as a judge.
- a. Tabroom will require you to enter the coach/responsible adult’s name and cell phone number at registration. The coach/adult must have the ability to contact all attendees from the school—debaters, observers, judges—and emergency contact information for all students.

If you have any questions or comments, please email me at ejrutan3@ctdebate.org .

Tournament Day Schedule

Time	Activity	Location
8-9AM	Registration and coffee	Online—Zoom Meeting
9AM	Resolution and packet distributed	Online—Zoom Meeting
9-10AM	Preparation for debaters Workshop for judges	Online—Zoom Meeting
10AM-12 Noon	Round 1 (random pairings)	Tabroom Campus online rooms
12 Noon-2PM	Round 2 (power matched)	Tabroom Campus online rooms
2-4PM	Round 3 (power matched, flip for side)	Tabroom Campus online rooms
4-5:15PM	Varsity Final Round	Online—Zoom Meeting
5:15-5:30PM	Awards	Online—Zoom Meeting
5:30PM	Departure	