

# Connecticut Debate Association

## Novice Scrimmage

September 24, 2022

The CDA's 13<sup>th</sup> annual Novice Scrimmage will likely be held online on September 24, 2022. (If we receive an offer to host before Friday, September 16 this could change.) We are changing our format to Parliamentary Debate this year. To ease the transition, the Scrimmage will run a bit differently.

- The motion and packet will be distributed and posted online on Monday, September 19 at 8AM.
  - ***All Novice debaters are expected to have read the packet and prepared their cases before the tournament.***
  - Coaches and Varsity debaters are welcome to work with Novices during the week before the event. We do ask all parties to refrain from additional research.
  - *There is no difference in how one constructs a case or makes a good argument from past CDA practice.*
  - All debaters and coaches should be familiar with the CDA Parli Style Guide, available on the CDA website.
- The day will start with a demonstration debate between two experienced CDA Varsity teams, followed by a question-and-answer session.
- Novice debaters will then have 30 minutes to revise their cases, while Varsity debaters who are judging attend a brief workshop on judging debate.
- Novices will then have two rounds of debate, with lunch in between, judged by Varsity debaters. Each team will debate once on Government (in favor of the motion) and once on Opposition (against the motion).

The detailed schedule is at the end of this note. We expect to finish by 3:30PM.

Registration opens Monday, September 12, at Noon. Registrations is done through tabroom.com ([www.tabroom.com](http://www.tabroom.com)) as with our regular tournaments. If you are unfamiliar with Tabroom, email us for instructions.

General sessions and the demonstration debate will be held using a Zoom meeting. All participants will be required to pre-register for the Zoom meeting in order to prevent unauthorized access. Novice practice debates will be held using Tabroom Campus or Zoom, depending on numbers.

### Registration Procedure

We have set up two events:

- **Novice** for novices who will debate. These should be two-person teams. See eligibility requirements below.
- **Observer** for students who will simply observe the demonstration round. You must register observers so that we can manage admission to the main Zoom call..
- Varsity debaters who will judge should be entered in the system as **Judges**.

**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. Our online events will be no different.

Tabroom will require you to enter that person’s name and cell phone number (cell phone numbers will not be used other than in an emergency on the tournament day). The coach/adult must have emergency contact information for all students on the team, including students judging or observing.

**Debaters and Judges:** all debaters and judges must have tabroom.com accounts that are linked to their Novice Scrimmage registrations. This is the only way they can get into the “rooms” NSDA Campus creates for debates. Here ( [http://docs.tabroom.com/Sign\\_Up](http://docs.tabroom.com/Sign_Up) ) is the link to signing up for a tabroom account. More detailed documentation for our online tournaments should be available next Monday.

**Novice Eligibility:** The Novice division is primarily for students starting debate in the CDA this year, though Sophomores who will be Novices may also debate. Juniors may only debate if they have never debated before. Seniors, even if they are new to debate, are not eligible to debate in the Novice Scrimmage, though they may attend as observers.

**Observers:** Students wishing to observe should be registered. They will be able to view the demonstration debate and participate in the case preparation with their teammates. They most likely will not be able to observe the Novice debates later in the day.

**Judges:** Schools must bring one judge for every four debaters, plus one extra. ***For this scrimmage, experienced Varsity debaters may serve as judges!*** Student-judges should those be planning to debate at the Varsity level for the upcoming 2022-23 season, Juniors and Seniors preferred. Since we expect all judges will be students, the Judges Workshop will be oriented toward teaching the Varsity debaters about judging.

Schools new to CDA without Varsity debaters are not required to bring judges. We should be able to cover you with Varsity debaters from other schools.

**Awards:** None! We will be scoring the debates and returning ballots with comments, but we will not be awarding trophies.

**Novice Scrimmage Schedule:**

8:15-9 AM	Check-in
9-11AM	Demonstration round followed by Q & A
11-11:30AM	Debater case prep, judge workshop
11:30AM-1PM	Debate round 1
1-1:30PM	Lunch and discussion
1:30-3PM	Debate round 2
3-3:30PM	Questions, results and closing remarks.