

# Connecticut Debate Association

## Novice Scrimmage

**AITE, September 27, 2025**

On behalf of AITE and Coach Claude Morest, you are invited to the CDA's 16<sup>th</sup> annual Novice Scrimmage in Stamford on Saturday, September 27, 2025.

The day will start with a demonstration debate by two experienced Varsity teams followed by a question-and-answer session. Novice debaters may attend a workshop (we are still working on this) or take additional time to review their cases. Varsity debaters who are judging will attend a judges workshop. After this, there will be two rounds of practice debate for the Novices, once on each side of the motion, judged by Varsity debaters.

All debaters and coaches should be familiar with the [CDA Parli Style Guide](#), as well as other material available on the [CDA website](#).

### The Motion

The motion for debate will be:

***This House, as a Connecticut public school district, would implement year-round schooling.***

The motion packet is available for download or copying in three formats:

- [Microsoft Word file](#).
- [PDF file](#)
- [Google Doc file](#)

***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 two weeks before the event.

At our regular tournaments debaters may only use the packet, a dictionary, an almanac, and a copy of the US Constitution. Debaters should limit their Scrimmage case prep to these materials in order to get a feel for a real tournament.

### The Schedule

The school will be open shortly after 8AM. Everyone should arrive in time to get settled for a 9AM start. A schedule is given at the end of this note, though this may change. We expect to finish by 3:30PM, about two hours earlier than our regular tournaments.

### Registration

Registration opens Monday, September 15, at 8AM. Registration is 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.

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 we have a good count of attendees.
- *Varsity debaters who will judge should be entered in the system as **Judges**.* Judges need Tabroom id's—created using email addresses—to use electronic ballots. The easiest way to add students as judges to the Scrimmage is to cut-and-paste their Tabroom id's/email addresses rather than adding them to your roster as judges.

**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 but not debate should be registered. They will be able to view the demonstration debate, participate in the case preparation with their teammates, and observe the practice rounds.

**Judges:** For the Scrimmage, experienced Varsity debaters may serve as judges. Schools should try to bring at least one judge for every four debaters, plus one extra. Schools new to CDA or without Varsity debaters are not required to bring judges. We should be able to cover you with Varsity debaters from other schools. ***Judges will need a laptop or tablet to use electronic ballots to enter results.***

We hope schools will encourage their Varsity debaters to attend so we have extra judges to cover schools who may lack varsity debaters, either due to turnover, or because they are new to debate. Judging gives debaters a perspective that will help inform and improve their own debating. Student-judges should those be planning to debate at the Varsity level for the upcoming 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.

## Supervision

Each school must be accompanied by a coach, advisor, or approved chaperone per CDA and CAS rules. This person must have emergency contact information for their students. Students cannot attend CDA events by themselves.

## Novice Scrimmage Schedule

8:15-9 AM	Arrival and check-in
9-10:15AM	Demonstration round followed by Q & A
10:15-11AM	Debater workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debate 101</li> <li>• Case building</li> <li>• Interrupting with Impact</li> <li>• Judges workshop for varsity debaters</li> </ul> Time may also be used for debater case prep
11AM-12:30PM	Practice round 1
12:30-1PM	Lunch and discussion
1-1:45PM	Debater workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debate 101</li> <li>• Case building</li> <li>• Interrupting with Impact</li> <li>• Adaptation</li> </ul> Time may also be used for debate review and case prep
1:45-3:15PM	Practice round 2
3:15-3:30PM	Questions, results and closing remarks.

## Workshop Descriptions

**Debate 101:** What are the different speeches? What should you do during each speech? Timing? How do teams work together during the round? Here are the basics of how parliamentary debate works in the CDA.

**Case Building:** How to prepare 2 meaningful cases in 1 hour. We'll delve into what needs to be accomplished, then chunk and prioritize the steps in order to allocate time effectively. Will model a possible organizer for getting started. Note: all these steps take longer until you've practiced them.

**Interrupting with Impact – POIs, POCs, POOs:** What is the right way to question your opponent? How can you best poke holes in their arguments? When can you not ask questions? In this workshop, students will learn the rules and restrictions regarding Points of Information, Clarification, and Order. Some of these points are absolutely critical for attacking your opponents' case and showing the judge how it doesn't work.

**Adaptation:** The heart of debate is clashing with your opponents. You must listen to what they say and adjust your arguments to oppose theirs. Adaptation occurs while the other team is speaking. We will look at ways to do this effectively.

**Judges Workshop:** The art of judging debates and giving useful feedback. For Varsity debaters judging at the Scrimmage, though coaches are also welcome.