



USC

Dear Colleagues –

The USC Annenberg Trojan Debate Squad and I are pleased to invite you to attend the 2019 USC Alan Nichols Debate Tournament to be held on Thursday, January 3-Saturday, January 5 in sunny Southern California! Once again we are happy to partner with CSU Fullerton as your California Swing tournament hosts.

As USC's first female director in 138 years, I am excited to host my first collegiate policy debate national tournament! The Trojan Debate Squad and I are determined to make this an amazing experience for all our attendees. We hope you will enjoy the opportunity to have quality competition in a friendly winter climate. Please let us know if you have any questions. We look forward to ringing in the New Year in Southern California.

Divisions and Rounds

The Nichols will be offering 8 debates in all divisions - Open, JV, and Novice.

Hotel Block

We have a block of 110 rooms at the Radisson Hotel directly across the street from campus.

Tab

Chris Palmer will be running our Tab.

Suggestions?

We want to know your thoughts about what you would like from us as hosts and what we can do to make the Nichols a competitive tournament and a great experience for all. Please submit suggestions to: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScTtoFGbxUN7U1kCGcVgmi3AFL87Ebywh0enl_xYY1SzRB-TQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

We look forward to hosting you and your squad in Southern California!

Warmest Regards,

Kiran Dhillon and the USC Annenberg Trojan Debate Squad
Director of Debate & Forensics
kkdhillo@usc.edu

Tournament Information

Registration: All registration will be handled through: <http://www.tabroom.com> All entries must be received by December 20, 2018. We also will need your judging finalized by this time.

Format – Debates will use the 2018-2019 CEDA topic and employ a 9-3-6 time format with 10 minutes of preparation time per team. Eligibility for the divisions is determined by CEDA rules. We will offer six preliminary debates in all divisions. The open division will advance up to the top 32 teams with winning records into an elimination bracket. The JV and Novice divisions will clear teams consistent with CEDA rules. Typically, the JV and Novice division clears to a semi-finals.

Teams – Entries are unlimited per division. Each team must consist of two students formally representing their university. Individual students are not allowed to enter, qualify for, or compete in elimination rounds. Individual debaters can win preliminary debates, but unless the team is intact for more than half of the preliminary rounds that team cannot qualify for the elimination rounds. Hybrid teams are not eligible to participate in elimination rounds, unless the hybrid involves an inactive program and/or the hybrid has already satisfied the NDT hybrid criteria.

Guest conduct at the tournament – We are very excited to have you as our guests in Los Angeles and to our campus. At the same time, it is important that we remind everyone that you are representatives of your university or college when you are at the tournament. All participants debate at the invitation of the University of Southern California according to its tournament rules as well as any rules of their sponsoring institutions. The tournament abides by the rules and norms of the American Forensics Association, the American Debate Association, and the Cross Examination Debate Association.

If our guests engage in destructive, threatening, violent, or harassing behavior we are obligated as university employees to report it to our appropriate campus office, including the Department of Public Safety and the Office of Equity and Diversity. Those offices will provide specific guidance which may include the decision to report specific actions to your college or university. We trust that no such actions will be needed, but we wish to alert you of this requirement.

Pairings – Brackets will not be broken in elimination rounds. Sides for elimination rounds will be determined by reversing the sides from preliminary rounds or allowing the teams to choose sides based on a coin toss. We will be using Gary Larson's SOP algorithm for prelim pairings so we will not have any high- high debates.

We will employ a mutual preference judge system for both divisions using a four category (1, 2, 3, S) system that counts each judge based on the number of rounds they are committed to judge.

Teams will be required to rank minimum 30% of all judging rounds as 1, 20% as 2, and a maximum of 20% as strikes. Conflicts don't count against any of the percentages, they stand outside the system.

Order of placement will be 1-1, 2-2, then 1-2. 3-3 matchups will only be placed if no other placement is possible or if teams have been eliminated from elimination round consideration

In both prelims and elims, we will manually review judge placement to maximize judge diversity within a reasonable range of mutuality/preference.

Judge preferences will be made available via www.tabroom.com on December 21st and due no later than midnight on December 30th. We are thrilled that Chris Palmer will be primarily responsible for the operation of the tab room. As tournament directors, we are ultimately responsible for all tournament decisions.

USC teams may be added to the competition field and are eligible to participate in elimination rounds and win individual awards.

Scouting - Participating teams and schools are expected to contribute to <https://opencaselist.paperlessdebte.com> as a precondition for entry and should provide their most recent affirmative and negative information. This should include an outline of the arguments sufficient for novice comprehension as well as full citations.

Judging – Schools are required to provide qualified judging. All judges should post their judge philosophy and make sure their conflicts of interest are marked at www.tabroom.com. Each team requires four rounds of judging obligation. We ask that all coaches are expected to be available for at least some judging and will be on the preference sheet. Judges must have either completed their bachelor's degree or rescinded their eligibility. Anyone who judges in the open division at the Nichols will not be allowed to subsequently enter as a competitor in future Nichols tournaments.

All judges are obligated through the octafinals on the morning of the 5th. Judges are asked to support a healthy educational environment in each debate and to provide a judgment on that debate. All debates must be decided with only one win and only one loss. The tournament will provide a judgment if the assigned judge is unwilling to complete this request. All preliminary decisions must be rendered no later than two hours and thirty minutes after the start time of any round. All elimination rounds must be decided within two hours and forty-five minutes of the posted/announced start time of the debate. The tab room will flip a coin to determine the winner when the judge(s) cannot decide in time.

Judges must vote for one and only one team in each debate and must assign speaker points and ranks in prelim rounds.

Fifteen minutes will be allocated to post round discussion of the decision, but we must ask that the post-round cease 15 minutes after the decision deadline so debaters can move on to their next debate with adequate and fair time.

Coaches who communicate with a judge in an attempt to influence the decision before a decision is rendered may be removed from the tournament.

Judge Constraints -

Judges should initiate constraints to remove perspectives of bias. Teams should only initiate constraints when the judge has overlooked one constraints listed below. A judge should constrain themselves from seeing a debater if they:

- Debated on the same squad at the same time as the debater
- Had a coach-debater relationship
- Coached at the school a debater attends within the past 2 years
- Had/have a romantic relationship
- Spent significant time teaching lab together at summer workshops
- Engaged in direct harassment based upon CEDA's definition of harassment.
- Familial/long-term relationship amongst coaches
- Clarification: Judge beliefs about debate pedagogy are not grounds for a constraint.

If large numbers of constraints are used, follow-up is likely on the part of the Tabroom.

Speaker Points – We are utilizing a 30-point scale, accepting points in increment of one-tenth of a point. Speakers should be differentiated in each debate. There cannot be any tie within a single debate. We ask that judges not regularly award the bulk of their points at or below the 'below average' (27) standard or at or above the 'very good' (29) standard. In order for speaker points to have some sense of meaning individual judges must feel comfortable providing evaluations across the range of items.

Hired Judging

Schools may arrange their own hired judging and we cannot guarantee the ability to provide extensive hired judging from the tournament. We will use the judging exchange on Tabroom for any hired judging.

- All payments should be arranged directly between the school hiring and the person being hired.
- USC is not in a position to accept fees for judging or to pay judges.
- The tournament reserves the right to approve a school's hired judge not part of their staff/alumni network. Our aim is to ensure that all hired judges have collegiate CEDA/NDT experience judging and/or debating at the Varsity level.

Awards – We will provide a nice selection of awards for all teams participating in elimination rounds and for the top speakers in each division. We will also be awarding a Coach of the Year Award. Nominations for this award may be submitted at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1_4jhMXOByhsAXFkcSZcCr3O3koIdeAuHb9JYNpAlcFA/prefill

Fees - Fees are \$65.00 per person attending the tournament. These fees include entry, trophies, several meals, and our general hospitality. All checks should be made payable to the USC Annenberg Trojan Debate Squad. USC's Federal Tax ID # is 95-1642394. We will seek to accommodate schools with financial difficulty. Please let us know about the number of vegetarians and vegans in your group so we can accommodate their dietary needs.

Tournament Hotel –We are very happy to be using the Radisson Hotel Los Angeles Midtown at USC (3540 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles California 90007). This property is located at the corner of

campus and will allow you to walk to the tournament each day. We have secured a \$159.00 per night rate for up to four guests per room at this property. This rate includes free wireless and free parking (for cars and vans).

Name of the event is under “**Alan Nichols Debate Tournament.**” Reservations can be made online at <https://www.radisson.com/los-angeles-hotel-ca-90007/cafiguer> by using the personal access code “**ANCDT**” under the “**MORE SERACH OPTIONS**” or through our central reservation by calling 800.333.3333. The last day to make reservations under the groups discounted rate is 12.12.18

Ground Transportation –

Parking at USC - School parking is \$12 per day. If you park on campus, you should enter through the gate at Jefferson and McClintock (Gate #5). If you would like to pre-order parking passes, please let Gordon know.

LA Transportation

The city of Los Angeles has completed a train line that connects USC to the rest of Southern California. This is a relatively new and very helpful option to both get to downtown LA as well as to Fullerton.

The Expo line train has a station both on the Exposition side of USC’s campus (walking away from VKC and toward the LA Coliseum) as well another station directly behind the Galen Center on Figueroa. The USC/Galen Center station is also on Figueroa and just a short walk from the Radisson. You can plan trips here http://socaltransport.org/tm_pub_start.php

Trains to Fullerton

Traveling to Fullerton involves taking the Expo Line to Union Station and then transferring to the Metrolink (commuter trains). The trip from USC to Union Station is a short trip and \$3.00 per passenger.

The specific connection information is:

Expo Line to 7TH STREET METRO CENTER STATION

Connect to the Red/ or Purple Line to

From: 7TH STREET/METRO CENTER STATION To: UNION STATION

The LA Union Station to Fullerton Metrolink Station is an \$8.00 one way fare and the metrolink train will take approximately 34-37 minutes. You can plan your own trip here, <http://www.metrolinktrains.com/>

Shuttles to Fullerton

We have traditionally offered vendor options if you need a shuttle service to the second half of the swing at California State University at Fullerton, but we don’t usually have any takers. If you need to arrange ground transportation on the 6th please let us know.

Internet – USC has an open guest wireless network for public use. This network is available on campus and at the Radisson.

Structural Ableism -

- 1 – Please notify us directly and not just on Tabroom if you have an attendee who needs limited room movement.
- 2 – Do not hesitate to let us know what else we can do to make the experience better for any of the debaters involved. We are not perfect, but we are actively listening in order to improve.
- 3 – We will post information about the location of our quiet room and gender neutral restrooms as the tournament approaches.

Audio and Video Recording: All rounds (defined as the speeches of the participants) are open to registered tournament participants and may be electronically recorded for private educational use by tournament participants (registered coaches, debaters and helpers, and USC tournament staff) only. Public distribution of such recordings is expressly prohibited unless prior written consent of all people on the recording is obtained and unless prior written consent of USC is obtained. Private sharing for educational use is permitted.

Questions – We are very interested in making your trip enjoyable and a great competitive experience. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. If you have any tournament related questions, please contact Kiran Dhillon at kkdhillo@usc.edu.

2019 Tentative Nichols Tournament Schedule

January 2nd – Registration in two phases.

- 1) **Travel check-in** - At the beginning of their travel, schools should check in via email (kkdhillo@usc.edu) and confirm that their entire party is in transit. We want to know early if there are any dropped teams or judges.
- 2) **Payment and final check-in** – From 6-8 pm in the Radisson lobby we will formally hold registration. Pairings will be released online no later than 9 pm.

Thursday, January 3rd – All rounds at USC **(The central tournament hub will be at the ASC)**

8:00 AM Round 1 Start

10:30 AM Round 1 decision deadline

10:45 AM Lunch Served in the lobby of ASC 330. Boxed lunches will be provided by the tournament.

11:15 AM Round 2 Start

1:45 PM Round 2 decision deadline

3:00 PM Round 3 Start

5:30 PM Round 3 decision deadline

5:45 PM Dinner in the lobby of ASC 330 provided by the tournament.

7:00 PM Round 4 Start

9:30 PM Round 4 decision deadline

Friday, January 4th - All Rounds at USC
(The central tournament hub will be at ASC)

7:00 AM Round 5 Pairings

7:45 AM Round 5 Start

10:15 AM Round 5 decision deadline

10:30 AM Round 6 Pairing

11:15 PM Round 6 Start

1:30 PM Lunch Served in the lobby of ASC 330. Boxed lunches will be provided by the tournament.

1:45 PM Round 6 decision deadline

2:00 PM Round 7 Pairing

2:45 PM Round 7 Start

5:15 PM Round 7 decision deadline

5:15 PM Dinner in the lobby of ASC 330 provided by the tournament.

5:45 PM Round 8 pairing

6:30 PM Round 8 Start

9:00 PM Round 8 decision deadline

9:30 PM Speaker Awards and Coach of the Year Award Announced in ASC Lobby in the basement of ASC

ASAP Tab releases full bracket and pairing for Varsity Doubles as well as JV and Novice elimination debates

Saturday, January 5th – All Rounds at USC

7:00 AM Tabroom Flips Coin for Side Equalization

8:00 AM Open Doubles Start

10:45 AM Open Doubles Decision deadline

11:00 AM Open Doubles Postround ends

11:45 AM Open Octas Start

2:15 PM Open Octas Decision deadline

2:30 PM Octas Decision Deadline Elims will proceed with a 2:45 decision deadline, 15 min maximum decision explanation time, and 30 min prep time from the end of decision time to the beginning of the next elim round.