

Welcome Overview: Team/CX Debate

We are very excited to be hosting the “Crimson Bearcat” policy division at the Harvard debate tournament this year. Since the policy division will be happening at a different location than the other events on Saturday and Sunday there is some information that is important for you to know.

There are three options for parking. The easiest and best place for parking is in the lot in front of Brighton High School since that’s where the main entrance to the building is. If that fills up, you can park in the lot behind Brighton High School. You can also park in the lot behind Boston Green Academy. The entrance to that lot is on Cambridge Street. There is a small driveway in front of BGA where you are **not allowed** to park. The two schools are across the street from each other so no matter where you park or where you’re competing it’ll be easy to get to your rounds.

All food will be served out of Brighton High School’s cafeteria. You are welcome to hang out and eat in BGA’s cafeteria but food will not be served there. Please plan accordingly so you and your students can get fed with enough time to get to rounds.

For Monday rounds will be held at the Student Organization Center at Hilles (SOCH). The actual street address is 59 Shepard Street, Cambridge MA 02138 (NB: Make sure you put Cambridge, since there is also a 59 Shepard St in Boston). Since it is a holiday, people can park on the street. The closest streets to park are Shepard Street, Garden Street or Linnaean Street.

Lastly, **any judge found vaping or smoking in competition rooms or buildings will be expelled from the tournament.** If the judge is hired they will not be paid. If the judge is covering for a school, the school will be responsible for the hired judge fee. This is sadly a growing problem. Please make sure you do not contribute to it and that all the judges on your team are aware of the policy. We will be walking the halls to monitor rooms and will be asking students to let us know if any judge engages in such behavior. If you need to smoke or vape you must leave the buildings and be away from the high school students.

Please note that we will **not** be allowing co-champions. If you win your semifinals debate you are **required to debate in finals** barring some emergency situation in which case you will forfeit the round. If you know that you will be unable or unwilling to debate in finals we will advance your semifinals opponent to compete in finals.

Again we look forward to hosting you and can’t wait to make your experience a great one. If anyone has questions specific to the policy division please reach out to Dr. Joe Leeson-Schatz at debate@binghamton.edu who will be more than happy to answer any of your questions or concerns.

Judge Instructions: Team/CX Debate

The following instructions apply without exception to team debate judges. By agreeing to judge at the tournament you have agreed to become familiar with these policies and procedures and to follow them:

1. **Rounds must begin on time**, meaning at the start time listed on the pairings. Pairings will be released at least 30 minutes prior to those start times. Your cooperation in staying on schedule is vital. Arriving at the assigned room ready to debate at the specified time is part of the game. Teams not present on time will be forfeited.

2. All judges are expected to use E-ballots. You should check-in by selecting the “start round” button on tabroom.com to judge any assigned debate at least **10 minutes before** the start time for the round. At that point we will be forced to substitute another judge to ensure that the round begins on time. To avoid this classification please pick up your ballots promptly upon release of the pairings and watch as the ballot table personnel mark that you have done so. **IF WE NEED TO REPLACE YOU AS A JUDGE YOUR SCHOOL WILL BE FINED \$50 TO COVER THAT EXPENSE. All policy judges are obligated through double-octos or one round beyond the elimination of your last team. Even if you are not on the pairings, all committed judges are on standby until each debate starts.**

3. Preparation time is 8 minutes.

4. Low point wins are permitted but should be clearly indicated on the ballot.

5. **Ballots must be returned on time.** Ballots are due to be entered on tabroom.com 2 hours and 30 minutes after the scheduled start time for each round. Late-returns will be treated just as severely as if you failed to show in the first place.

6. You are absolutely required to vacate rooms immediately upon completion of the debate itself. You may examine evidence, deliberate and explain your decision in the hallway.

8. Please follow and ensure that students follow the building policies: no smoking (including vaping) anywhere inside the classroom or on high school property.

9. Any questions before or during the tournament concerning the policy divisions can be directed to Joe Leeson-Schatz at debate@binghamton.edu.

10. In policy we use a 25-30 point speaker scale. A “30” should only be awarded for the “perfect” speech. A “25” is for one of the worst speeches you have heard or expect to hear *in this tournament*. Anything below a “25” requires something unacceptable to have happened and should be clearly explained on the comments section of your ballot. **We accept tenths of a point (27.8, 28.2, 29.3, etc.) and ask that you not give any ties on points in the round.**

11. Once the ballot has been entered, we will not change the decision for any reason. It is your responsibility to be sure that the decision is accurate when you enter it.

12. All judges and coaches are invited to visit our hospitality room. Coffee, light breakfast, lunch and snacks will be available on Saturday and Sunday.

13. No one -- judge or debater -- is to unplug anything in any competition rooms. Please make sure that the debaters do not unplug anything. If anyone is caught unplugging they will be ejected from the tournament.