

# The 45th Annual Harvard National Forensics Tournament

## Greetings from Harvard Debate!

We are delighted to invite you to attend the Forty-Fifth annual Harvard National Invitational Forensics Tournament, which will be held in Cambridge on Presidents' Day Weekend, Saturday, Sunday, & Monday, **February 16-18, 2019**.

We have several announcements concerning this year's tournament.

First, we are switching to Tabroom.com as the official registration and tournament management site for all events and divisions.

Second, we will continue to provide breakfast and lunch for all tournament participants this year on Saturday and Sunday. The meals for participants will be provided in addition to the traditional coach and judge lounges.

Third, the Harvard Debate Council will no longer run the policy debate tournament. Joe Schatz and the Binghamton Debate Team will be administering the policy tournament. It will be held at Brighton High School in Boston, across the river from Cambridge. For your convenience, registration and fees for the policy tournament will be handled through our site on Tabroom.com.

Fourth, we are adding a new division in the Public Forum Tournament, the Middle School Division, open to students in the sixth through eighth grades. We will continue to have international breakout elimination rounds in the Junior Varsity Public Forum division.

Fifth, we have some exciting announcements for the speech tournament. Since we are moving to the Tabroom.com system, we will offer judges the option of electronic balloting for speech events this year. If you and your judges wish to take advantage of electronic balloting, then you will need to bring a laptop or tablet with you. Additionally, we will pair the elimination rounds in the speech events utilizing seeds to balance the competition.

Lastly, we expect participants in the various tournaments to compete in the elimination rounds. Debaters who choose not to debate rounds for any reason (other than that they are scheduled against another competitor from the same school) will be treated as having forfeited the round. The tournaments will no longer certify "co-champions" in final rounds.

**All entries into the tournament will be managed here at [Harvard.tabroom.com](http://Harvard.tabroom.com).**

**E-registration!** We strongly encourage all schools to participate. This process saves considerable time and headaches upon your arrival in Cambridge. To participate, schools must submit an accurate and complete entry and fully pay fees in advance.

Registration materials will be distributed via tabroom.com. If you have not paid your fees, you **must** register in person. You **must** come to the Harvard Campus -- at the Student Organization Center at Hilles, 59 Shepard Street, Cambridge, on Friday night, February 15, 2019. Schools which have not paid their fees and do not appear for registration on Friday night will be excluded from competition.

**What do you need to do now?** Some of our hotels fill up early, so you may wish to make reservations now. Other than that, watch this web site for future announcements. The site will be ready to take your entries on December 1, 2018.

Sincerely yours,

[Sherry Hall](#) & [Tripp Rebrovick](#)

## **Competition Rules, Procedures, and Eligibility**

**Due to scheduling conflicts, no student may enter more than one of the following five tournaments.**

### **The “Crimson Bearcat” Policy Debate Tournament**

Location: Brighton High School & Boston Green Academy  
25 Warren St, Brighton, MA 02135

The policy tournament will be administered by Joe Leeson-Schatz and the Binghamton Debate team. The venues for the policy tournament will be Brighton High School and Boston Green Academy. There will be two divisions, varsity and junior varsity, of two-person, switch-sides, cross-examination debate, on the national topic. This year we plan to run Varsity and JV debates concurrently. We encourage coaches to enter students in the division that best approximates their skill and experience level, and we leave that judgment up to you. Time limits will be 8-3-5, with eight minutes preparation time per team. In order to maximize opportunities to participate, we must require that all teams have two members: no "mavericks." Ordinarily, students must attend the same school to compete on a team. However, we will accept entries from clubs or other debate organizations provided that the schools represented do not otherwise have a debate team.

**Vital Stats: Prelims-- Varsity: 7, Junior Varsity: 7. Elims--Double Octafinals in both divisions. Entry Limit: 105 teams in each division. The two divisions will have to be balanced in size; if this does not occur “naturally,” we may have to negotiate and will appreciate your flexibility.**

### **The Public Forum Debate Tournament**

Location: Cambridge Rindge and Latin School  
459 Broadway St, Cambridge MA

There will be four divisions of public forum debate – varsity, junior varsity, novice, and middle school – on the February National Speech and Debate Association topic. In the Junior Varsity division, there will be an international schools breakout division in the

elimination rounds. To be eligible to participate in the breakout, students must attend a school located outside of the United States and indicate so when entering the tournament. All divisions will use National Speech & Debate Association time format and rules. We encourage coaches to enter students in the division that best approximates their skill and experience level, and we leave that judgment up to you. The novice division is intended for high school students in their first year of competition. The middle school division is intended for students in the sixth through eighth grade. Ordinarily, students must attend the same school to compete on a team. However, we will accept entries from clubs or other debate organizations provided that the schools represented do not otherwise have a debate team.

**Vital Stats: Varsity and Junior Varsity: 6 Preliminary Rounds, Clear to Triple Octafinals. Novice and Middle School 5 preliminary rounds, clear to Octafinals. No Entry Limits. JV International Schools – Breakout to Quarterfinals**

### **The Lincoln-Douglas Debate Tournament**

Location: King/Putnam School  
102 Putnam Ave, Cambridge MA

There will be two divisions, varsity and junior-varsity. Both will use the January-February National Speech and Debate Association topic and time limits. We will utilize a mutual preference judging system. All judges must post a paradigm on Tabroom.com and must have a high school diploma in order to be qualified to judge in either division.

**Vital Stats: Prelims: 6. Elims: Triple-octas in both divisions (top 64). No Entry Limit.**

### **The Congressional Debate Tournament**

Location: Lesley University, University Hall

National Speech and Debate Association rules and procedures determine advancement and placing based upon cumulative ranking by judges. Two special rules pilots also will be conducted to limit debate on each item of legislation to 1 hour, as well as a brief special final appeal speech for the author/sponsor, first negative speaker, and the presiding officer (more details to be released Dec. 1). Additional special procedures will be described when the legislation packet is released. The deadline for entry and legislation submission is **Tuesday, January 15, 2019**. Fees are set at this time -- no refunds for drops after this date. After that point, please [use this form to report changes](#) of contestants and/or judges.

Legislation must be submitted online by head coaches, through Tabroom.com, only using provided templates, with a limit of **one per student, and up to three per school**. Coaches should review to ensure quality submissions, suitable for substantive debate. ***Legislation must be categorized in one of the following eight areas:***

- Commerce (business, banking, finance)
- Defense
- Education and Health Care
- Elections and Government Reform
- Energy, Environment, and Scientific Development
- Foreign Relations and Aid

- Immigration and Border Protection
- Justice (including guns and drugs)

Chamber assignments and legislation will be available on the Harvard Tabroom page by 10pm EST, Friday, February 1. [Click here to contact us with questions.](#)

**Vital Stats: Prelims: 3 three-hour sessions. Quarterfinals (TOC bid level; about 1/3 of the field); and a reasonable number will break to semifinals and finals based on overall field size. Entry limit: Schools limited to 20 entries.**

### The Speech Tournament

Location: Harvard Yard and Science Buildings

The tournament will feature competition in seven events:

- extemporaneous speaking (no foreign/domestic split),
- original oratory,
- dramatic interpretation,
- humorous interpretation,
- duo interpretation,
- program oral interpretation,
- informative speaking.

The schedule should allow responsible students to enter two of these events, and it is not unheard of to enter three. However, one person may not compete on two different duo-interpretation teams. National Speech and Debate Association rules will govern all competitions. We allow computers in the extemp prep room. We make no guarantees about access to electrical outlets in the room. We will be offering judges the option of electronic balloting. We will provide more information on how to sign up for e-ballots and what is necessary to make it work later. Elimination rounds will be sectioned by preliminary round seeds to balance out the competition.

**Vital Stats: Prelims: 4. Elims: Octafinals (top 56 contestants), Double-Octafinals (top 98 contestants) for events with more than 300 entries.**

### General Tournament Rules

Without objection from school officials, unaffiliated entries are welcome in all tournaments. However, unaffiliated entries can only be from schools who are not attending the tournament. Students from schools which are attending are ineligible unaffiliated status. However, debate and duo team members may not attend different schools. Unaffiliated entries must create an account and must provide contact information. The preferred name for creating an account is to use the school name followed by the word "unaffiliated." You may also use the student's last name followed by the word "independent." **Furthermore, unaffiliated entrants must submit full payment by mail on or before Wednesday, February 13, 2019.**

All judges provided by schools must be qualified, which at a minimum means a high school diploma. Any complaints about judge qualifications must be addressed to the tournament director prior to or immediately after the competition involved. All

tournament directors have been authorized to impose penalties against schools whose judges do not appear for the rounds to which they have been assigned.

The individual events tournament director will be prepared to enforce National Speech & Debate Association rules if objections are brought to her attention in a timely manner.

The tournament adheres to the NSDA anti-harassment and anti-discrimination policy, reproduced here: Harassment and Discrimination Policy: The National Speech & Debate Association is committed to providing its participants, judges, coaches, and staff the opportunity to pursue excellence in their endeavors. This opportunity can exist only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. The NSDA is committed to maintaining an environment that is free from all forms of harassment and discrimination. Accordingly, all forms of harassment and discrimination are prohibited whether committed by participants, judges, coaches, or observers. The NSDA is committed to the enforcement of this policy. Individuals who are found to have violated this policy will be subject to the full range of sanctions, up to and including removal from the tournament premises and prosecution by authorities.

## **Registration, Judging, and Fees**

### **Entry Procedures**

You must enter via this website, [Harvard.tabroom.com](http://Harvard.tabroom.com). The web site will begin accepting your entries on December 1, 2018. You are responsible for entering your school and student information, and also for getting the spelling and event information correct. If you are entering as an independent or unaffiliated entry, you must create an account and provide appropriate contact information. **After you have entered the information, you should verify your entry and print out a copy of your invoice.**

The deadline for Policy, Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum, and Individual Events entries is February 13, 2019. **The deadline for entry for Congressional Debate is Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 6 p.m. EST, earlier than the rest of the tournament.** We may reach capacity prior to entry deadlines, but will run waiting lists. *You may wish to confirm waiting list status before making travel arrangements.* The fees for your entry will be set by midnight February 14, 2018 except for Congress entries where the fees are set as of Tuesday, January 15, 2019. You will be responsible for paying the full entry fee for any entries dropped after that date.

We require that you provide a cell phone number for each of your judges when you enter them. We ask that you cooperate with this requirement to allow us to track down missing ballots. Additionally, it is extremely important that you provide a working email address where we can contact you with updated information about the tournaments, such as where you should report on Saturday morning, and any changes in entry limits, schedules or venues.

### **Paying Fees and Completing Registration**

Our e-registration system makes it possible for schools that have provided accurate entry information and paid their fees in advance to receive their registration materials by email. *We strongly encourage all schools to take advantage of e-registration.*

For those schools that must pay their fees in person, we will conduct a live registration at the Student Organization Center @ Hilles, 59 Shepard Street, Cambridge, 02138, from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm on Friday, February 15, 2019. (Please note that Hilles is not on the main Harvard campus near Harvard square, but it is in the Radcliffe Quadrangle.) It can be difficult to find at night and there is no easy parking.

**STUDENTS FROM SCHOOLS WHICH DO NOT COMPLETE REGISTRATION, WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE.** Each school must register either through e-registration or in person. It is important that the persons registering be prepared to confirm all details of their school's entry, judging, local contacts, etc., and be prepared to pay the tournament fees. We reserve the right to exclude contestants from competition if their school fails to register. This means that if you do not participate in e-registration, you must come to Hilles for registration by 10:00 pm or we will drop your contestants from the tournament. If your travel to Cambridge is unavoidably delayed, please call Dallas Perkins at 617-306-4514. (This is not a number for general problems during the tournament. Problems during the tournament should be reported to the information desks and/or building monitors for the respective tournaments.)

**It is best to pay your fees by mail.** You may obtain an invoice by downloading it from the web site. Checks should be made payable to "Harvard Debate." They should be sent to: Harvard Debate, 490 Adams Mail Facility, Cambridge, MA 02138. We are unable to accept credit card payments.

**Entry fees are:**

- Varsity Policy Debate Teams – \$180.00
- Junior Varsity Policy Debate Teams – \$170.00
- Public Forum Debate Teams (Junior Varsity and Varsity) -- \$150.00
- Public Forum Debate Teams (Novice and Middle School) – \$130.00
- Lincoln-Douglas Entries – \$135.00
- Individual Speech Events – \$65.00
- Duo Interpretation Teams – \$80.00
- Student Congress Entries– \$85.00
- School Account Management fee – \$75.00

### **Judging**

Schools must either provide judges to cover their entries or pay a fee so that the tournament can hire judges.

The required number of judges for each tournament are:

- Policy Debate: 1 judge for every 2 teams
- Public Forum Debate: 1 judge for every 3 teams
- Lincoln Douglas Debate: 1 judge for every 3 contestants
- Speech Events: 1 judge for every 6 contestants

- Congressional Debate: 1 judge for every 6 contestants.

All judges must be available for all preliminary rounds, the first elimination round, and for one round beyond elimination of the last contestant from the school that the judge represents in the tournament. In Congress, judges must be available for the entire tournament, including through the final round. All judges must be qualified, which at a minimum means a high school diploma. All schools providing judges for the three debate tournaments with divisions should be flexible as to which division judges are assigned. Schools entering students in junior varsity divisions should expect that some of their judges will be needed to cover junior varsity rounds. First year judges will generally be assigned to the junior varsity division.

If you do not have enough judges to cover your obligation, you will be assessed a fee to cover the cost of hiring the necessary judges. The hired judge fee is calculated per entry or team that is not covered. While one person can cover two policy debate teams, if you have two teams without a judge, you will be assessed \$200.00 per team not covered or \$400.00. The hired judge fees are:

- **Policy Debate Teams – \$200.00 per team not covered**
- **Public Forum Debate Teams – \$150.00 per team not covered**
- **Lincoln Douglas Debate Entries – \$100.00 per entrant not covered**
- **Speech Entries – \$35.00 per entry not covered**
- **Congressional Debate – \$35.00 per entry not covered**