



**2019 Texas Two Step**  
**Texas Tech University/University of North Texas**

Dear Colleagues:

The forensic programs at The University of North Texas and Texas Tech University invite you to the first ever Texas Two Step Parliamentary Debate Tournament to be held on the campus of The University of North Texas, January 4-7, 2019. This tournament will take the place of the Mile High Swing, but will be keeping with all the great traditions and practices of the Mile High tournament. We are also pleased to announce that Kathryn Starkey has agreed to tabulate the tournament. **PLEASE NOTE: This year, the tournament will run over 4, not 3, days.**

The Texas Two Step will feature 2 parliamentary debate tournaments. At the first half (TTU), we will offer 5 preliminary rounds with a double-octofinal break consistent with the NPTE, along with some other features similar to the NPTE, such as pre-released topic areas. At the second half (William R. DeMougeot Debates), we will offer 6 preliminary rounds clearing to double-octofinals, and we will utilize random topics similar to the NPDA Championship tournament. Both tournaments will utilize mutual judging. Both tournaments will feature two minutes of flex-time after the PMC and LOC, as well as one minute of flex time after the MGC and LOR. This time may be used for prep, CX, drinking water, etc.

**NEW IN 2019:** UNT and Texas Tech will recognize the team with the best preliminary record at the two tournaments. The award will be known as the "Texas Two-Step Award".

We assure warm hospitality, quality awards, and efficient scheduling. We expect these tournaments to be some of the most competitive in the nation and we hope you will join us in Texas this coming January. Should you have any questions regarding tournament logistics, please contact, Louis Petit.

Thank you for joining us, and please let us know if there is anything we can do to make your experience more enjoyable.

Sincerely,

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## **Hotel Information**

### **SpringHill Suites Denton**

The tournament hotel is the Springhill Suites located at 1434 Centre Place Drive, Denton, Texas 76205. It is a quick drive between the hotel and the UNT campus. Every room in the hotel is a suite. The rooms are quite large and can sleep 4 people. The block rate is \$89. This rate includes internet access, parking, and FREE BREAKFAST every morning. Overall this is an exceptional value for such an amazing facility. The deadline to book rooms is – December 14 2018

The group is listed as “UNT Winter Swings” and has rooms available from January 3rd thru January 8th. Please make sure to use the group name if booking over the phone – UNT Winter Swings.

The group cutoff date for reservations is Friday, December 14, 2018. While rooms may be available at the last minute, the hotel will only guarantee the block of rooms and the tournament rate for those reservations made before December 14, 2018. We suggest that you reserve your rooms as soon as possible.

Here is the reservation link for online booking:

**Book your group rate UNT Winter Swings**

[https://www.marriott.com/meeting-event-hotels/group-corporate-travel/groupCorp.mi?resLinkData=UNT%20Winter%20Swings%5Edfwsd%60UWSUWSA%7CUWSUWSB%6089%60USD%60false%605%601/3/19%601/8/19%6012/15/18&app=resvlink&stop\\_mobi=yes](https://www.marriott.com/meeting-event-hotels/group-corporate-travel/groupCorp.mi?resLinkData=UNT%20Winter%20Swings%5Edfwsd%60UWSUWSA%7CUWSUWSB%6089%60USD%60false%605%601/3/19%601/8/19%6012/15/18&app=resvlink&stop_mobi=yes)

## **Tournament Information**

### **Tournament Procedures & Facilitation**

Unless otherwise specified, NPDA tournament guidelines will govern the tournament's operating procedures. The tournament directors reserve the right to make any decisions necessary to facilitate the timely and accurate completion of the tournament.

### **Entries & Eligibility**

Tournaments are open to any regularly enrolled undergraduate in a two year or four year college or university in good standing with the school's debate team/club. As the tournaments run back-to-back, students may (and are encouraged to) attend both tournaments.

All entries should be submitted via the tabroom website. Please make sure that you enter both halves of the swing, if that is your choice. Entries are due by Thursday, December 28th at 11:59 PM (PST). This early entry deadline is necessary for ordering food, compiling judges, and ensuring the timely distribution of strike forms.

**Please Note!** In addition, all judges must enter a judging philosophy on tabroom by Thursday, December 28th at 11:59PM (PST). Schools that fail to enter their judge's philosophies will forfeit the right to complete preferences/strikes AND/OR BE REQUIRED TO PAY A NUISANCE FEE. We hate to make threats concerning philosophies, but we are concerned by the need for the tournament to scramble and prod schools for philosophies. Please enter philosophies when you enter your judges to ensure that other schools have access to information so that they can make appropriate decisions concerning their preferences.

### **Fees**

For the 2019 tournament, we are adjusting fees to better reflect the costs of the tournament and their variation depending on the size of judging/coaching staff that attends with teams. We are accomplishing this by eliminating the "team fee" and moving to a "Per Person fee". We are also including a price discount if you attend both tournaments. The new price structure is a modest savings from years past.

**Additionally, if the fees are cost prohibitive for your team please contact Adam or Louie and we can work something out.** Fees include 5 meals provided to all tournament participants/coaches, 2 meals for late elim participants/coaches/judges, trophies, morning coffee, and light snacks throughout the tournament.

\*\*\*Fees will be assessed as of 11:59 PM PST, Thursday, December 28th and schools will be expected to pay fees as indicated by their entry at that time regardless of subsequent deletions.

Fee Structure - attending both halves:

\$140.00 Per Person Fee (required for every competitor, judge, observer, or coach)

Fee Structure – one tournament

\$95.00 Per Person Fee (required for every competitor, judge, observer, or coach)

## Community College Fee Reduction

The University of North Texas and Texas Tech University support the involvement of community colleges in competitive forensics both through our recruitment efforts and our outreach. Consistent with those efforts, all community college teams that cover their judging commitment will receive a fee reduction from their total fees (excluding uncovered judging fees).

Community College Fee Structure - attending both halves:

\$100.00 Per Person Fee (required for every competitor, judge, observer, or coach)

Community College Fee Structure – one tournament

\$60.00 Per Person Fee (required for every competitor, judge, observer, or coach)

## Tab Staff

We are pleased to announce that Kathryn Starkey has agreed to be on site and tabulate both tournaments. We are very excited to have Kathryn's tabbing genius and institutional knowledge.

## Hospitality

We want to make everyone's experience enjoyable, so we will do our best to provide quality hospitality.

- Breakfast will be provided daily at the hotel
- Morning Coffee at tournament
- 3 lunch
- 2 dinner
- Awards
- Coaches Lounge during registration

## Judging Commitment / Obligations

The judging commitment is three (3) preliminary rounds for each parliamentary team entered. Each team seeking to enter should provide a judge who will be available to judge at least three (3) preliminary rounds. EVERY judge will be committed thru double octofinals debates and one elimination round beyond their teams participation in the tournament.

There is a **\$150 Per Uncovered Team fee** that will be assessed to schools that fail to meet their judging commitment.

For example –

1 team – 3 judging rounds

2 teams – 6 judging rounds

3 teams – 9 judging rounds

We will **make an exception** for programs that have entered 2 teams and have 1 judge. Their total judging commitment will be 5 rounds.

It's cliché, but we would rather have your judges than your money. The tournament directors reserve the right to refuse entry to teams uncovered by a critic. If you have extra judges attending the

tournament, please contact the tournament directors, as we may be able to hire them at a healthy stipend.

### **Structural Ableism**

Please notify us directly and not just on Tabroom if you have an attendee who needs limited room movement.

Moreover, do not hesitate to let us know what else the tournament can do to make the experience better for debaters and coaches.

And, we will post information about the location of a quiet room and availability of gender neutral restrooms as the tournament approaches.

## **Schedule**

### **Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

9:00 AM - Round 1 Topic Announce

10:30 AM - Round 2 Topic Announce

12:00 PM – Lunch (Provided - entire tournament)

1:00 PM - Round 3 Topic Announce

3:00 PM - Round 4 Topic Announce

5:00 PM - Round 5 Topic Announce

6:30 PM – Dinner & Awards (Provided - entire tournament)

7:30 PM – Double Octafinal Topic Announce

### **Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

9:00 AM - Octafinal Topic Announce

11:00 AM – Quarterfinal Topic Announce

12:30 PM - Lunch (All remaining Participants & Judges)

1:30 PM – Semifinals Topic Announce

3:30 PM – Finals Topic Announce

5:30 PM – Round 1 Topic Announce

7:00 PM – Dinner (Provided – entire tournament)

7:30 PM – Round 2 Topic Announce

### **Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

9:00 AM – Round 3 Topic Announce

10:30 AM – Round 4 Topic Announce

12:00 PM – Lunch (Provided - entire tournament)

1:00 PM – Round 5 Topic Announce

2:30 PM – Round 6 Announce

4:30 PM – Double Octafinal Announce

6:00 PM – Dinner & Awards (Provided - entire tournament)

7:00 PM – Octafinal Topic Announce

### **Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

9:00 AM – Quarterfinals Topic Announce

11:00 AM – Semifinals Topic Announce

12:30 PM – Lunch (Finals Participants & Judges)

1:30 PM – Finals Topic Announce