



## 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Liberty Bell Classic Tournament at the University of Pennsylvania

Dear Coaches and Competitors,

We are excited to invite you to the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Liberty Bell Classic Tournament at the University of Pennsylvania, which will take place on **February 8 – 10, 2019**.

The Penn Tournament offers a **high quality** and **affordable** experience to all attendees and is an excellent opportunity to visit the beautiful city of Philadelphia and learn about the University of Pennsylvania. The tournament will continue to be held solely on Penn's campus, and like all previous years, **all of the profits from the tournament will be used to promote debate programs at public schools in Philadelphia.**

The 2019 Penn Tournament will offer the following events:

- Public Forum Debate (Varsity and JV)
- Lincoln-Douglas Debate (Varsity and JV)
- Congressional Debate
- Policy Debate
- Declamation
- Dramatic Interpretation
- Duo Interpretation
- Extemporaneous Speaking
- Humorous Interpretation
- Oral Interpretation
- Original Oratory

We offer bids to the Tournament of Champions in the following events:

- Public Forum Debate (Varsity) – **Octofinalists**
- Lincoln-Douglas Debate (Varsity) – **Finalists**
- Congressional Debate – **Top Six**
- Dramatic Interpretation – **Finalists\***
- Duo Interpretation – **Finalists\***
- Extemporaneous Speaking – **Finalists\***
- Humorous Interpretation – **Finalists\***
- Oral Interpretation – **Finalists\***
- Original Oratory – **Finalists\***

\*Speech semifinalists will receive bids if the number of entries in the event exceeds 72.

This year, we are coordinating with faculty and staff at the University of Pennsylvania to secure as many competition rooms as possible in an effort to ensure that all interested competitors can be accommodated to the best of the University's ability. This system will allow us to recruit highly experienced judges from around the nation.

Please refer to the rest of the invitation for further detail about the tournament and review our tournament website for updates at [penn.tabroom.com](http://penn.tabroom.com). If you have any questions, please send an email to [penn.tournament@gmail.com](mailto:penn.tournament@gmail.com), and we will respond to you as soon as possible.

We wish you all the best in the upcoming months and hope to see you here in February!

Sincerely,

Arnav Jagasia and the Penn for Youth Debate Executive Board

## Table of Contents

<b>Timeline.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Events.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Fees.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Tentative Schedule .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Online Registration.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Independent Entries.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Judging.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>2018 University of Pennsylvania Tournament Staff.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>About Penn for Youth Debate .....</b>	<b>11</b>

## Timeline

<b>December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018</b> <b>9 AM EST</b>	Online registration begins on <a href="http://penn.tabroom.com">penn.tabroom.com</a> .
<b>February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019</b> <b>11:59 PM EST</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congress legislation due.</li> <li>• Extemporaneous Speaking topic areas released.</li> </ul>
<b>February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019</b> <b>11:59 PM EST</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>New entries due in all events.</b></li> <li>• <b>Registration fees and judge burdens frozen.</b> If you do not meet your judging obligation after this date, you will be charged for a hired judge and fined \$20 per uncovered entry.</li> <li>• Drops can no longer be made online. They must be emailed to <a href="mailto:penn.tournament@gmail.com">penn.tournament@gmail.com</a>. There will be a \$10 fine plus registration fees for each drop made after this time.</li> <li>• Judge names and information for all events due. Schools that do not enter their VLD judge information on Tabroom by this date will be unable to enter strikes or MJP rankings.</li> <li>• Congress legislation, dockets, and chambers released on <a href="http://penn.tabroom.com">penn.tabroom.com</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019</b> <b>2 PM – 9 PM EST</b>	<p><b>Mandatory registration in-person or by phone.</b> You can register and pay fees during this timeframe at Houston Hall (3417 Spruce Street). You may also call (484) 378-2874. Teams with PF and LD entries must register before by 4 PM on Friday. Teams who register via phone must arrive early on Saturday morning to pay their fees. After 4 PM, please call in drops. <b>Schools with unreported drops after 9 PM will be fined \$50 per drop.</b></p>

## Events

**All debate events will follow NSDA rules.**

### Public Forum Debate

There will be two divisions of PF: Varsity and JV\*. The **February National Speech and Debate Association topic** will be used, and teams will have two minutes of prep time each. There will be six preliminary rounds in VPF and five in JV PF. All octofinalists in Varsity PF will receive a bid to the TOC.

### Lincoln-Douglas Debate

There will be two divisions of LD: Varsity and JV\*. The **January-February National Speech and Debate Association topic** will be used, and debaters will have four minutes of prep time each. There will be an appropriate number of preliminary rounds based on registration numbers and all finalists in Varsity LD will receive a bid to the TOC.

### Congressional Debate

There will be a single, open division of Congressional Debate. Chambers will comprise no more than 20 competitors. Templates for bills and resolutions can be found on [penn.tabroom.com](http://penn.tabroom.com). Please submit legislation via email to [penn.tournament@gmail.com](mailto:penn.tournament@gmail.com) by **February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019** with the subject "Congress Legislation" and the author's name and school. Each student may submit only one piece of legislation. We will publish legislation by **February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019**. There will be three preliminary sessions and the Top Six competitors will receive a bid to the TOC.

### Policy Debate

There will be a single, open division of Policy Debate. The **2018-2019 National Speech and Debate Association topic** will be used and teams will have ten minutes of prep time each. There will be five preliminary rounds and breaks will be determined by the size of the field.

### Speech Events

Speech events will follow **NSDA rules** with a few exceptions. The NSDA Manual can be found on [penn.tabroom.com](http://penn.tabroom.com). Speech competitors do not need to have copies of their manuscripts, but they are expected to abide by NSDA rules for their content. Declamation will follow NCFL rules. In Extemp, which will be a mix of IX and USX, laptops and cellphones may be used to access stored data, but Internet features must be disabled. Power outlets may be used during prep, although access to them is not guaranteed. The final round of Extemp will feature cross-examination in accordance with NSDA rules. Extemp topic areas will be released by **February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019**. OI will follow **NCFL rules** ([ncfl.org/oral-interp](http://ncfl.org/oral-interp)). Speech tabbing will be cumulative throughout the tournament, dropping the lowest preliminary round rank after the first elimination round. There will be four preliminary rounds in all speech events and TOC bids will depend on field sizes.

*\*Limited to students in 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade.*

## Fees

### Varsity Public Forum Debate

One team	\$90
One team's worth of hired judging	\$100

### Varsity Lincoln-Douglas Debate

One entry	\$70
One entry's worth of hired judging	\$80

### Congressional Debate

One entry	\$40
One entry's worth of hired judging	\$30

### Speech Events

One IE entry	\$20
One Duo entry	\$30
One entry's worth of hired judging	\$25

### JV Public Forum Debate

One team	\$70
One team's worth of hired judging	\$80

### JV Lincoln-Douglas Debate

One entry	\$50
One entry's worth of hired judging	\$60

### Policy Debate

One team	\$60
One team's worth of hired judging	\$100

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**We charge for hired judges by the student, not by the whole judge.** If you have seven IE students entered and only one judge covering five of those students, you owe two IE hired judging fees. This system is fairer because it does not require you to hire a whole judge just to cover a fractional obligation. **Please check Tabroom to make sure your obligation is filled** (the "judging" tab will be red if it's not), so you do not show up at registration having made this mistake. We do not want to fine you, but we need enough judges in order to run the tournament.

**All fees must be paid in full during registration on either Friday night or Saturday morning. All payments must be in the form of a check made payable to "Penn for Youth Debate".**

If your school has financial constraints that may prevent it from attending the tournament, email [penn.tournament@gmail.com](mailto:penn.tournament@gmail.com) with a brief description of your school, financial situation, and debate program. We will work to accommodate your team to the best that we can.

## Tentative Schedule

### **Registration: Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 2 PM to 9 PM EST**

Mandatory registration in-person or by phone. You can register and pay fees at Houston Hall (3417 Spruce Street). You may also register over the phone. Teams who register via phone must arrive early on Saturday morning to pay their fees. Teams with PF and LD entries must register prior to rounds at 5 PM on Friday. After 6 PM, you must call in any drops. Schools with unreported drops after 9 PM will be fined \$50 per drop plus registration fees.

The detailed schedule will be published on [tabroom.com](http://tabroom.com) as soon as the rooms have been acquired and final determination made on the size of the debate divisions. Tentatively, the VPF and VLD will begin at 5:00 on Friday. JVPF and JVLD may also begin Friday night, but could be moved to start Saturday morning.

Policy, Speech and Congress rounds begin Saturday morning at 8:00, 9:00 and 9:00 respectively.

Awards for Speech and Congress will be held at approximately 3:00 PM EST on Sunday in Houston Hall. Awards for LD and PF will be distributed in the rounds.

## Online Registration

All registration will be conducted on [penn.tabroom.com](http://penn.tabroom.com). Registration will open **December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019** at 9 AM EST. We recommend registering as early as possible, as spaces fill up quickly and entries will be admitted on a first-come, first-served basis. If you have any questions, send an email to [penn.tournament@gmail.com](mailto:penn.tournament@gmail.com) and be sure to include the name of your school.

- Please register your entries in chronological order based on priority for each event. For example, register your first priority PF team before your second priority PF team, etc.
- All of your entries will be waitlisted when you first enter them in on Tabroom. This allows us to ensure that all entries abide by our tournament guidelines and fairly determine how many entries to accept from each school in each event.
- Due to space constraints, each school will initially be limited to 8 entries per event. We will accommodate entries on top of these caps as room availability permits.
- Please do NOT contact us asking if/when your waitlisted entries will be accepted. As soon as spaces open up (due to drops or additional rooms), we will add entries from the waitlist. As the tournament approaches, we'll provide additional updates.
- Debate and Congress competitors may not enter in multiple events.
- Speech competitors may enter in up to three events.
- TBA entries will be dropped one month before the tournament.

## Independent Entries

All entries must be officially affiliated with a degree-issuing high school in accordance with NSDA membership rules. Please see the NSDA website for more information on membership rules.

## Judging

### Judging Obligations

Each school must provide one qualified judge for every:

- 3 teams in Public Forum Debate
- 3 entries in Lincoln-Douglas Debate
- 2 teams in Policy Debate
- 5 entries in Speech
- 1 qualified judge if a school has any entries in Congressional Debate (please specify in the notes section on Tabroom what other event (if any) this judge is willing to judge)

In the case of fractional obligations, judging obligation is rounded up. For example, if your school has 5 teams entered in PF, you will be obligated to provide 2 PF judges.

**You must provide the cell phone numbers for all judges.** Please collect as many as you can and enter these in on Tabroom. Keep in mind that a “qualified judge” must understand the activity, speak English, and be experienced either sitting in rounds with a ballot/flow pad and/or have been carefully trained by the team he/she is accompanying. A qualified judge is one who knows how to fill out a ballot and assign ranks, wins/losses, and speaker points.

**Judges in all events are obligated to stay and judge one round past the one that their competitors have been eliminated in.** For example, if you have a PF team that advances to quarterfinals but loses, you must have a judge available to judge semifinals. **Schools that have judges who fail to appear for an assigned round will be fined \$25 per missed prelim round and \$50 per missed elimination round. Schools with unpaid fines will not be given ballots or awards.** Fines may be excused if the school provides judges for rounds beyond their assignment. We would much prefer to have judges ready and present in every round than to administer fines. Leaving as soon as all of your entries drop without asking the tournament staff severely impedes the flow of the tournament for everyone still competing and undermines our ability to run the tournament. You may ask us if we still need your judges to stay, but you must have our approval before leaving.

**Any judges dropped after registration is frozen on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 11:59 PM EST – even if you drop students to compensate – will incur a \$50 fine.**

### Hired Judges

We're committed to hiring a high-quality judging pool across all divisions. To aid us in that effort, the registration system will ask you to explicitly request hired judges. We only hire highly-qualified judges. This means that there will be a limited number of judge hires available, so please submit requests early. Every entry must be covered by a judge, either brought by your team or through an approved hire request. If Tabroom says you are missing a judge by the February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 deadline for entering judges, you will be forced to drop entries to compensate.

#### Mutual Judge Preferences (Varsity Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Policy Debate)

We offer mutually preferred judging in Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Policy Debate. A complete judge list will be posted as soon as possible after the closing of registration. All debaters in LD and Policy may then rank each judge according to the scale provided, with 1 being the highest rating and with a limited number of judges being rated a 2 or below. We will attempt to keep all judge assignments as mutually preferred as possible; however, since debaters with more than two losses will not break, judge preferences may have to give way in those brackets. Any LDer or Policy team who has made strikes but whose own judges fail to show up at the tournament will forfeit their preferences, including strikes. Please email us separately at [penn.tournament@gmail.com](mailto:penn.tournament@gmail.com) with conflicts (former affiliation with the team, special relationships, etc.).

**The judges you bring need to be the judges you registered online by February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019.** Since LD and Policy Debate judges have been rated by competitors, it is very difficult to replace judges on short notice. Schools that change their judges after this deadline will lose their ratings and strikes.

#### Paradigms (Varsity Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Policy Debate)

Judges in VLD and Policy should have paradigms on [judgephilosophies.wikispaces.com](http://judgephilosophies.wikispaces.com). Having a published paradigm is especially important since competitors are competing for a TOC bid. Judges should also be willing to indicate to competitors before the round a general sense of their vision of debate (if any) and/or their experience to aid competitors in choosing how best to make their arguments. If you're considering not writing a paradigm, please note that judges who do will likely be rated higher and see better rounds than those who don't.

#### Spectating and Disclosure Policy

All rounds are open to both competitors and spectators. Post-round oral critiques and disclosures are encouraged in all of the debate events. To keep the tournament running on time, please keep your oral critiques as short as possible (less than 5 minutes).

## 2019 University of Pennsylvania Tournament Staff

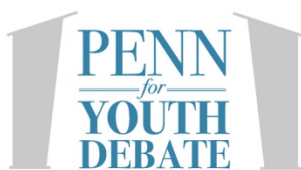
**Tournament Director:** Arnav Jagasia

**Junior Tournament Directors:** Aris Saxena and Nick Yang

**PFYD Presidents:** Pranav Reddy, Rebecca Gelfer

**PFYD Vice President:** Gabe Koo

**PFYD Executive Board:** Justin Iannacone, Nick Yang, Dakota Jones, Emily Augustine, Aris Saxena, Hayley Boote, Leora Korn, Nathan Jiang, Saleel Huprikar, Stephen Li, Michelle Zhou, Francine Dong



### About Penn for Youth Debate

#### What is Penn for Youth Debate (PFYD)?

PFYD is a non-profit student organization at the University of Pennsylvania that aims to promote debate in Philadelphia by providing volunteers to coach Public Forum at public high schools and middle schools and organizing free debate tournaments for Philadelphia students. PFYD partners with the After-School Activities Partnerships (ASAP) to run a Philadelphia-wide debate league and engage in community outreach events. PFYD currently partners with 20 schools and hosts three tournaments each year, all free of charge. In recent years, PFYD students have consistently advanced to elimination rounds at national circuit tournaments and qualified to NCFL Nationals for two years in a row. Finally, PFYD awards \$1500 in college scholarships each year to encourage high school students to pursue higher education. Through its activities, PFYD has introduced debate to hundreds of students who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to participate in this incredibly engaging and educational activity.

#### Why does this matter?

Penn for Youth Debate is comprised of former debaters who are dedicated to seeing debate programs in Philadelphia flourish, meaning our tournament is managed by qualified individuals. Many high school speech and debate alumni assist the tournament in judging rounds, collecting ballots, and speaking to students interested in attending the University of Pennsylvania. Additionally, all of the profits from this tournament go directly toward PFYD's free tournaments and volunteering activities with Philadelphia public schools.

Read more online at [pennforyouthdebate.org](http://pennforyouthdebate.org).