



Minnesota Gopher Thaw Scrimmage Invite

March 3, 2019

Hello!

The University of Minnesota Parliamentary Debate Team would like to invite you to attend the Minnesota Gopher Thaw Scrimmage, held Saturday, April 13 on the University of Minnesota's West Bank. We will offer 4 preliminary rounds of parliamentary debate and will break the field to semifinals. Competition should end no later than 7 pm.

Please either register online at gopherthaw.tabroom.com or send entries to bryce.piotrowski@gmail.com no later than 4/6/2019 at 5:00 pm. Your entry must be finalized, with all judges entered, by 4/10/2019 at 5:00 pm. If you have changes after that point, please contact the tournament directly.

As our campus is in an urban area, free parking on our campus is virtually non-existent. We recommend parking and navigating to Lot 94 as the cheapest on-campus parking option for the day: it is located a 5-minute walk from Blegen Hall, and parking is \$5 for the day. Generally, there are spots free early Saturday morning. Should this lot be occupied for whatever reason, or should you want covered parking, the 19th and 21st Avenue Garages are located a short distance away as well: but cost significantly more.

For every 2 entries, you must bring 1 judge. **So long as you cover your entries, there will be no charge to attend the tournament. Every hired judge will cost your team \$100 to compensate those judges we hire. If you need to hire judges, please let us know right away** so that we can make arrangements well in advance. Arriving to the tournament without an adequate number of judges will result in uncovered entries being dropped.

We understand that many teams attending this tournament are student run. Therefore, while we would strongly prefer judges that have graduated from college, we will – in limited circumstances – allow individuals that are current undergraduates to judge. Please email bryce.piotrowski@gmail.com if you would like to discuss this arrangement.

Parliamentary debate will largely follow MCFA rules at this tournament. See the [2019 MCFA Invite](#) for specifics. The highlights of the rules for this tournament that mirror MCFA:

- 1) There will be a different resolution for each round of competition. This resolution will be announced by the judge in the competition room in the presence of both teams.
- 2) Upon announcement of the resolution, the judge, opposition team, and spectators will vacate the room and begin a 15-minute preparation time period. Each team will be expected to be in the room and prepared to debate no later than 16 minutes after the announcement of the resolution.
- 3) There will be no internet access permitted during preparation time or the debate itself, except to look up the definition of a word or term of art. Dictionaries and a copy of the “NPDA Rules of Debating and Judging” are the only permitted external resources.

The debate format will also follow MCFA:

Prime Minister Constructive:	7 minutes
Leader of Opposition Constructive:	8 minutes
Member of Government Constructive:	8 minutes
Member of Opposition Constructive:	8 minutes
Leader of Opposition Rebuttal:	4 minutes
Prime Minister Rebuttal:	5 minutes

Debaters are encouraged, though not required, to accept at least one point of information during each speech. See the above MCFA rules on points of information, points of order, and points of personal privilege.

To ensure the tournament runs on time: teams who arrive for a round more than 10 minutes after its posted start time will forfeit the round. This decision will be enforced by the tab room, not the judge, and is not reversible.

We encourage, though do not mandate, disclosure from the judge after each debate. Our team strongly believes that hearing oral comments from the adjudicator of the debate provides immediate feedback to debaters that they can use to improve for later rounds, and often, that feedback is better articulated orally than on the ballot. Of course, please ensure that your comments are brief to ensure that the tournament runs on time – but there is time built into the schedule for disclosure to occur. We will not tolerate – nor do we anticipate – any sort of verbal abuse of either judges or competitors.

Here is the tournament schedule. All rounds will be held in Blegen Hall. When possible, we will accelerate the schedule.

8:00 am	Registration in Blegen Hall
8:30 am	Round 1 (pre-paired)

10:00 am Round 2 (power-matched)

11:45 am Round 3 (power-matched)

Lunch on your own sometime between Round 3 and Round 4

2:00 pm Round 4 (power-matched)

3:30 pm Semifinals

5:00 pm Awards (to keep costs low, we will not be purchasing trophies – however, we will recognize at least the top 5 speakers and all breaking teams)

ASAP Finals

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let us know. We are looking forward to seeing you all in April!

Best,

Bryce Piotrowski

Acting Team President

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