**2019 Minnesota Classic ∙ September 13 – 15, 2019**

**University of Minnesota-Twin Cities ∙ Minneapolis, MN**

June 7, 2019

Friends,

On behalf of University of Minnesota Parliamentary Debate, I’d like to welcome everyone to the second annual Minnesota Classic hosted at the University of Minnesota, held September 13 through September 15, 2019.

**Much of the information in this invite is subject to tournament interest and the number of attendees. Please notify me with an approximate number of teams/individuals attending the tournament as soon as possible so that I can provide a finalized cost estimate for all attending.**

We will hold 7 preliminary rounds of NPDA debate and break all winning records to an appropriate number of elimination rounds. The tournament will utilize random topics, like the process used for the NPDA Championship tournament, with 20 minutes of preparation time per round. As has become standard, we will have two minutes of flex time after the PMC and LOC, and 1 minute of flex time after the MGC and LOR. Unless we specify elsewhere, we will use NPDA tournament guidelines to determine how the tournament runs.

We will use Tabroom for tournament registration and posting results. The tournament can be found at: mnclassic.tabroom.com.

Our squad will do our best to offer a great tournament experience as we host a tournament for the second year. To meet that goal, we welcome recommendations and suggestions from the community to have the tournament run as smoothly as we possibly can.

We are very excited to host this September!

Best,

Bryce Piotrowski

Team President

bryce.piotrowski@gmail.com

608-957-4343

**Tournament Schedule**

Friday, September 6: New entry deadline. Entries may not be added after 5 pm on Tabroom.

Tuesday, September 10: Registration closes. Please finalize all entries and judges on Tabroom by this point. Fees will be calculated based on your entry at 5 pm.

Friday, September 13:

3:00 pm: Registration

4:00 pm: Opening Meeting

4:30 pm: Round 1 Topic

6:15 pm: Round 2 Topic

Dinner on your own

Saturday, September 14:

8:15 am: Breakfast available

9:00 am: Round 3 Topic

10:45 am: Round 4 Topic

12:15 pm: Lunch provided

1:15 pm: Round 5 Topic

3:00 pm: Round 6 Topic

4:45 pm: Round 7 Topic

Dinner on your own

Sunday, September 15:

8:15 am: Breakfast available

9:00 am: Elim 1 Topic

11:00 am: Elim 2 Topic

12:15 pm: Lunch provided

1:00 pm: Awards

1:45 pm: Elim 3 Topic

Additional elims follow

**Tournament Information**

We will utilize NPDA tournament guidelines unless otherwise specified. The tournament directors will be empowered with the discretion to make decisions conducive to the tournament’s efficient and correct completion. The tournament will have 20 minutes of preparation time, with a 5-minute forfeit rule. Any team not in their room and ready to debate by 25 minutes after the topic is announced will forfeit the round.

**Entry Information**

The tournament is open to any regularly enrolled undergraduate in a two- or four-year college or university who has their school’s permission to compete and is in good standing with their school’s debate organization. As we wish to encourage as much debate as possible, we will accept maverick entries and hybrid entries. We request that teams limit maverick entries to one per school (that is to say, if there’s someone a competitor can debate with, we strongly encourage them to debate with a partner).

All entries must be submitted via Tabroom. New entries are due by September 6. Entry changes are permitted until the 10th, but no new entries may be considered at that time. Please email Bryce Piotrowski directly if you wish to register as a hybrid.

**Judging Information**

One judge will cover two teams. We request that all judges enter a judging philosophy on Tabroom no later than Tuesday, September 10 at 5 pm. All judges will be obligated through the second elimination round on Sunday to ensure adequate judging numbers to make out rounds happen. Each school’s judges will be obligated one full elimination round past their team’s participation in the tournament.

Please constrain yourself from those that you have previously coached, debated alongside, or had some other close intimate relationship with.

A note on hiring judges: We are not geographically near many schools that participate in NPDA. Moreover, we do not have an extensive pool of alumni to hire for the tournament. To that end, it is quite difficult for us to hire high-quality judging for our tournament. If you can bring additional judges beyond your obligation, we would be happy to hire them for the full tournament. Additionally, if there are judges that would like to judge beyond their commitment, we are willing to pay $25 per round. If you can donate your time to judge for us, we would greatly appreciate it. Please email Bryce if any of these arrangements are possible.

To that end: please cover your entries. We will do our best to hire judges but cannot guarantee that many will be available. Each uncovered team that we can cover with hired judging will be assessed a $150 fee. If you have uncovered entries, please email Bryce as soon as possible so that we can make arrangements for them.

**Fees**

To simplify cost calculations associated with the tournament, we will utilize a per-person fee structure. Teams will be charged $70 per person to attend (this may be subject to change based on entry levels). This fee includes any competitors, judges, observers, and coaches who attend the tournament, and allows us to cover the provided meals and snacks during the tournament and awards.

As mentioned above, we will assess a $150 fee for each uncovered team at the tournament that we are able to hire judges for.

We’re student run ourselves, so we understand that fees are prohibitive for some teams that would like to attend the tournament. Please email Bryce if this is the case for your squad and we can figure something out.

**Hotel Information**

For now, there is none. We will gauge interest over the coming couple of weeks and determine if a hotel block is necessary. If we determine that a hotel block is necessary, we will disburse that information once we have it.

**Other Information**

**Internet**

The University of Minnesota has a solid guest Wi-Fi network and additionally uses eduroam. The network is called UofM-Guest, and it will prompt you to accept terms and conditions upon connection. No account creation is necessary.

**Smoking & Alcohol**

Minnesota’s campus is drug and alcohol-free. This means that, should anyone affiliated with the tournament be caught using drugs or alcohol on University property, our team may face consequences. The buildings we will (likely) be in are right on the edge of campus: should you need to, please briefly leave campus to do whatever you need to do. Anyone not compliant with this policy may be asked to vacate the campus by University security: in that event, we would be forced to withdraw that individual from participation in the tournament.

From the University of Minnesota website:

“All students, staff, faculty, and visitors are prohibited from smoking and using, selling, free distributing, and advertising tobacco products and electronic cigarettes in all facilities and on all University property…Visitors who refuse to comply with this policy may be asked to vacate campus property.”