



## 2020 Mile High Swing

### Texas Tech University/University of Texas - Tyler

Dear Colleagues:

The forensic programs at Texas Tech University and The University of Texas - Tyler invite you to the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Mile High Swing to be held on the campus of The University of Texas - Tyler, January 9-12, 2020.

The Mile High Swing will feature 2 complete parliamentary debate tournaments. At the first half, we will offer *6 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. In the second half, we will offer *6 preliminary rounds with a possibility of partial triple-octofinals*, and we will utilize random topics similar to the NPDA Championship tournament. The first half will utilize mutual judging; the second will utilize strikes. 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.

We expect these tournaments to be some of the most competitive in the nation and we hope you will join us in Tyler this coming January.

Sincerely,

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## **Hotels**

The tournament has not secured a hotel block. However, there are a litany of hotels and motels close to campus, at a variety of price points to allow schools the most flexibility in their budgeting and planning.

## **Note to California Programs**

If you are worried about your ability to travel due to state bans on select states, please let us know if we can help. Waivers were granted to academics travelling to the Dallas NCA convention in 2016, so we are more than happy to provide any written justification your program may need if you are seeking a similar waiver. We are also willing to donate a portion of entry fees to an LGBTQ+ organization as justification for your waiver request. We want you here. Let us help if we can.

## **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 Wednesday, January 1st 2020 (11:59 pm CST)**. This early entry deadline is necessary for ordering food, compiling judges, and ensuring the timely distribution of strike forms.

**Please Note!** We request all judges associated with schools have up-to-date philosophies entered on tabroom by January 1st, 2020.

## **Parliamentary Debate- 1<sup>st</sup> Half**

Five preliminary rounds of parliamentary debate will be offered followed by double-octafinals in one open division. Competition will be administered according to the NPDA rules of Judging and Debating. Time limits are 7 minutes for the 1<sup>st</sup> government constructive, 8 minutes for all other constructive speeches, 4 minutes for the leader of opposition rebuttal, and 5 minutes for the prime minister rebuttal.

***SPECIAL NOTE:*** 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.

### **Pre-Released Topic Areas (TTU Half Only)**

Topics will be selected from a list of 4 controversy areas released. Each controversy area will be associated with 3 individual resolutions. Topic wording will remain close to, if not exact, to the language used in their initial release.

### **Advancing to Elimination Rounds**

At the end of the preliminary rounds, we will, consistent with NPTE practices, advance at least all teams with a winning record (4-2 and better) up to a full double-octofinal. Teams advance first based on win/loss record, then adjusted speaker points, then total speaker points, then judge variance. Brackets will be broken in elimination rounds.

***Forfeiture Rule:*** Any team that is late to a round will have that time deducted from their team's first speech (the PMC or LOC). When the full speech time has elapsed (7 or 8 minutes), the team in question will be forfeited. In the event both teams are late, both teams will have time deducted from their first speech. Time deductions and forfeiture rules will be enforced by the judge assigned to the round.

### **Centralized Topic Announcement (BOTH TOURNAMENTS)**

Topics, during the tournament, will be released at a centralized announcement site and teams will have 20 minutes to prepare and walk to their room. We will assign a preparation room for each squad. We are on a very tight schedule, so it is imperative that rounds begin on time! Judges should begin their rounds precisely 20 minutes after topic announcement.

### **Judge Disclosure & Feedback (BOTH TOURNAMENTS)**

Disclosure of decisions and other oral commentary may be conducted at the discretion of the judge, but please conduct such commentary after the ballot have been submitted through tabroom. We will be attempting to power-match every round without lagging, so a prompt return ensures that the tournament stays on time. A warm room of results will be provided.

### **Parliamentary Debate- 2<sup>nd</sup> Half**

All tournament guidelines are the same as for the Texas Tech half, with the exception of two things; at the UT Tyler half, there will be no topic areas and mutuality-based judging will not be utilized.

***SPECIAL NOTE:*** 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.

### **Advancing to Elimination Rounds**

At the end of the preliminary rounds, we will advance at least all teams with a winning record (4-2 and better) to elimination rounds. Teams advance first based on win/loss record, then adjusted speaker points, then total speaker points, then judge variance. Brackets will be broken in elimination rounds.

### **Judge Strikes**

An appropriate number of judge strikes will be available. Judge strikes need to be submitted by Friday, January 8th at 5:00PM CPST

**Forfeiture Rule:** Any team that is late to a round will have that time deducted from their team's first speech (the PMC or LOC). When the full speech time has elapsed (7 or 8 minutes), the team in question will be forfeited. In the event both teams are late, both teams will have time deducted from their first speech. A universal timer will be made available at the time of topic announcement. Time deductions and forfeiture rules will be enforced by the judge assigned to the round.

### **Centralized Topic Announcement (BOTH TOURNAMENTS)**

Topics, during the tournament, will be released at a centralized announcement site and teams will have 20 minutes to prepare and walk to their room. We will assign a preparation room for each squad. We are on a very tight schedule, so it is imperative that rounds begin on time! Judges should begin their rounds precisely 20 minutes after topic announcement.

### **Judge Disclosure & Feedback (BOTH TOURNAMENTS)**

Disclosure of decisions and other oral commentary may be conducted at the discretion of the judge, but please conduct such commentary after the ballot has been returned by tabroom. We will be attempting to power-match every round without lagging, so a prompt return ensures that the tournament stays on time. A warm room of results will be provided.

### **Awards**

Individual awards will be presented to the top 10 speakers in each tournament. Because we value meaningful awards for top performances, quality awards (one per team) will be presented to all teams who advance to the quarterfinal round and beyond. Additionally, we will present a swing sweepstakes award to the top three schools at the combined two tournaments. Swing sweepstakes will be determined by awarding 1 point for every preliminary round win for a school's top four teams at each tournament. Ties will be broken in favor of the school whose team advanced farthest in the first half of the swing. We will also have a special award for the top speaker at both halves combined.

**Thursday, January 9**

7:00 AM - Debate Registration (College of Arts and Sciences)

8:00 AM - Round 1 Topic Announce

9:30 AM - Round 2 Topic Announce

11:00 AM - Round 3 Topic Announce

12:30 PM – Lunch

1:30 PM - Round 4 Topic Announce

3:30 PM - Round 5 Topic Announce

5:00 PM - Round 6 Topic Announce

\*\*\* dinner on your own\*\*\*

**Friday, January 10**

9:00 AM - Double Octofinal Topic Announce

11:00 AM – Octs Topic Announce

12:30 PM -Lunch (for remaining competitors and judges)

1:30 PM – Quarters Topic Announce

3:30 PM – Semis Topic Announce

5:30 PM – Finals Announce

\*\*\* dinner on your own\*\*\*

**Saturday, January 11**

8:00 AM - Round 1 Topic Announce

9:30 AM - Round 2 Topic Announce

11:00 AM - Round 3 Topic Announce

12:30 PM – Lunch

1:30 PM - Round 4 Topic Announce

3:30 PM - Round 5 Topic Announce

5:00 PM - Round 6 Topic Announce

\*\*\* dinner on your own\*\*\*

**Sunday, January 12**

8:30 AM –Double Octofinal Topic Announce

10:30 AM - Awards for both halves

11:00 AM - Octofinal Topic Announce

12:30 PM – Lunch (for remaining competitors and judges)

1:30 – Quarters Topic Announce

3:30 - Semis Topic Announce

5:30 - Finals Topic Announce

\*\*\* It's over!\*\*\*

## **Fees**

We absolutely do not want these fees to be a barrier to your participation in the Mile High Swing. If your school finds these to be cost prohibitive, please reach out to one or both of the directors. We value your participation more than your money, and will do everything within our power to ensure your participation at the tournament.

For the 2020 tournament, fees structures will remain identical at both halves of the tournament. These fees include meals as indicated in the schedule, as well as light snacks and coffee throughout the tournament.

\*\*Fees will be assessed as of 11:59 PM CST, Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> and schools will be expected to pay fees as indicated by their entry at that time regardless of subsequent deletions.

### ***Fee Structure (per half):***

\$50 Per Person Attending the Tournament (competitors, judges, observers, etc. This amounts to \$100/person for both tournaments).

\$ 150 Per Uncovered Team

### ***A note on uncovered judging:***

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.

### ***Judging Obligation***

Judges will be expected to judge all preliminary rounds and thru the double-octofinal round. After that point, judges will be expected to judge one round past the elimination of their teams.

## **Accessibility:**

We strive to make the tournament as accessible as possible - please feel free to contact us so we can ensure provision of all necessary accommodations.