



December 3, 4 & 5, 2020

Tournament Site:
NSDA Campus - ONLINE

Alta High School – Silver and Black Invitational 2019

CHANGES TO THE TOURNAMENT HAVE BEEN MADE, PLEASE MAKE SURE TO READ THROUGH THIS INVITE COMPLETELY AS YOU AND YOUR TEAM WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING AND FOLLOWING THE INFORMATION.

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Alta Silver and Black Debate Program, we cordially invite you to attend the 31st annual Silver and Black Invitational Tournament to be held online via NSDA Campus. The tournament will be held on December 3-5, 2020. We are a National Tournament of Champions qualifier at quarterfinals in policy debate, semifinals in LD debate, and quarterfinals in Gold public forum debate and Octofinals for Silver PF for 2020-2021. Among TOC qualifying tournaments, you will find that the Silver and Black Invitational is one of the most affordable in which to participate.

The Alta team promises to continue our tradition of providing a forum for top-notch competition, friendly hospitality, and efficient tournament administration. Contact information: altasilverandblack@gmail.com

Registration

Entry Limits

Because the tournament has reached capacity well before the entry deadline in the past and to provide for more diverse competition, we will be instituting entry limits of four teams in each event per school. Registration will close early if the tournament reaches capacity before the deadline! If there is any additional space after the registration deadline, we will admit applicants from the waitlist, in the order that they were entered, until the tournament reaches capacity, which may allow more teams from schools to compete.

*All TBA entries must be made names by 11/27/20 to avoid being dropped.

**All schools must pay before being entered into the tournament. All students and schools are waitlisted until a check is received and will not be guaranteed as participants. Fees (except for late waitlisted entries) must be paid one week prior to tournament beginning.

***Mail-in payments are required. No online or electronic payments are currently accepted. Checks must be made out to:

Alta High School
11055 S 1000 E
Sandy, Utah 84094

Hybrid Teams

No hybrid teams are allowed to compete at the tournament. Each entry must be comprised of two students from the same school.

Tournament Fees

Our rates are still considerably reasonable compared to other TOC tournaments. *Utah Schools will not be assessed the same fees.

\$30 per Lincoln-Douglas entry

\$45 per policy or public forum team,
\$30.00 school fee.

Drop Fees: \$15/drop after 11/27/20 (Nuisance Fee)

**** No online drops or changes, all obligations frozen on drop deadline. (If you have drops or drop your school after this point you will still be responsible for paying these fees as well as drop fees. Please plan ahead! Schools not having paid their fees from a previous year from this situation will not be registered until payment has been received for both years.)

Schedule

Thursday:

Check in begins at 2:00pm online through NSDA Campus

Round 1: 3:00pm

Round 2: 5:30pm

Friday:

Round 3: 9:00am

Round 4: 12:00pm

Round 5: 3:00pm

Round 6: 7:00pm

Saturday: (Elim rounds will run TBA as quickly as possible, so times are guesstimates on best scenarios)

Doubles: 8am

Octas: 11:30am

Quarters: 2pm

Semis: 4:30pm

*NO FINALS WILL BE HELD - The two teams that make it to finals will be declared "co-champions".

Rounds & Balloting

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER LD AND PF TOPIC TO BE USED THIS YEAR!

* Please make sure that they have logged in and have access to their account prior to the tournament.

**Judges must have their own electronic devices to judge on.

***ALL BALLOTING WILL BE COMPLETED ONLINE. ALL JUDGES ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A TABROOM ACCOUNT. Please make sure that your judges know their log in and password if you or your student create an account for them.

Disclosure of Decisions and Oral Critique Policy

The Tournament of Champions serves as both a competitive and educational forum for the nation's best debaters, coaches, and judges. As such, the Tournament encourages judge-debater interaction by making decision disclosures and giving oral critiques in the policy, PF, and LD debate divisions. Please submit your ballot online or to the ballot table before giving any post-round feedback.

Judging/Judges

Judges owed

Policy: 3 rounds of judging per team entry

LD: 2 Rounds of judging per entry
Public Forum: 2 Rounds of Judging per team entry

***Hired Judging:**

LD: \$40/round
Policy: \$50/round
PF: \$30/round

**Utah schools need to provide their own qualified judges and should hire only in dire circumstances.

***No judge may be entered for more than 6 prelim rounds. If sharing between schools, please notify the tournament directors so that can be sorted out.

Judging Preferences

LD and Policy will be using mutual preferred judging. Entries must be covered by qualified judges. Policy and LD judges are expected to have already completed a judging philosophy and posted it on the judge philosophies wiki or on their tabroom account, no later than November 1, 2020.

**Please request judging hires by contacting Tabroom at silverandblackdebate@gmail.com if you need to arrange for a hired judge or are a judge who wishes to be hired, no later than October 31st.

***Schools with judges who do not show up for rounds will be assessed a \$50 fine per round missed in prelims and \$100 for Elimination rounds. Reminder that your school is responsible to have judges stay one round past your school being eliminated fully from competition even if they have fulfilled their prelim judging earlier in the week you MUST have a judge available for Elimination rounds.

****Teams missing judges as of November 1st will risk having teams dropped to meet their entered judges.

Judge Conflicts

Please indicate on the tournament entry website all preclusions for all judges. Judges should preclude themselves from any debater who they have previously coached, had a close, personal relationship with, or for any other reason the judge believes they cannot be objective towards them if assigned. This includes any judge who has done any paid or volunteer coaching, even if conducted digitally or otherwise-remotely. Any college debater or coach should preclude herself or himself from any debater whom they have seriously recruited to attend their school. Judges should preclude themselves from judging their alma mater. Judges should preclude themselves from judging any school which they previously coached in the three-years prior to the 2020-2021 academic year. It is the judge's obligation to communicate any conflicts to the tournament director prior to the start of the tournament.

Judges are also expected to adhere to Event-Specific Rules regarding Judge Conflicts.

In the event a pairing is distributed, and a judge, or team, reports a conflict after the fact, resulting in a changing of the pairing, that school will be charged a \$50 fine.

Other Policies and Procedures

INTERNET POLICY---INFORM YOUR JUDGES!!!!

For Policy, Public Forum and Lincoln Douglas Debate, use of laptop computers, tablet computers, smart phones and other electronic devices able to access the internet are permitted during events. The use of computers during debates is

permitted for both flowing and research purposes including retrieval of evidence stored on hard drives and accessing resources via the internet. **Students should not attempt to use electronic devices to initiate or respond to contact with outside parties during a debate.** The penalty for violation of this rule is loss of the debate in question and zero speaker points assigned to the offending debater. Teams who are competing in different locations are allowed to have contact with their partner on an outside device, though no other individual (coach included) should be in contact with the competitor during round.

Forfeit Times

Any team arriving later than 15 minutes after the posted start time will be at the risk of forfeit imposed at the exclusive discretion of the event tab room staff. Any team experiencing what they believe to be a legitimate delay should make every attempt to communicate with the tabroom if they are going to be late.

Clipping Policy

This tournament will follow the same clipping policy as NSDA. All evidence should have paragraph before and after included, and not have any ellipses or deletions of any content within the context of the evidence. Violation procedures will follow the Evidence and Ethics Challenge protocol outlined below.

Flipping Policy

Side Assignment

In elimination rounds, all rounds will be flip for sides, unless teams have previously met, in which case the teams will switch sides from the previous debate.

Coin Flip

Teams should be present in their competition room no later than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time for the debate in order to flip for sides. If one team is not present at the scheduled time for conducting the flip for sides, then the team which is present will be allowed to choose their preferred side. If both teams are not present at the scheduled time for conducting the flip, then the tab room will assign sides for the debate.

Evidence and Ethics Challenges

If a team believes an opponent committed an evidence or other ethics violation, the accusing team should stop the debate and ask the judge to adjudicate the challenge. This type of challenge includes the following situations:

- a team reads evidence is that fabricated
- a team reads evidence that is meaningfully altered to change the author's original meaning
- a team misrepresents how much evidence they have read in a debate, such as improperly highlighting their evidence, "clipping cards" (the team says they read more than they actually did by clipping a card short of the indicated end), or "cross reading" (the team skips words or sentences in the middle of the text, but indicates that they read all the highlighted words)
- a team receives argument assistance or reads or responds to communications from a coach or other person after the debate has commenced, whether verbal or electronic, including the transfer of evidence after the round starts.

The accusing team will explain to the judge what alleged violation is being asserted. The judge will evaluate the violation based on the evidence available to the judge. Prior to evaluating the challenge, the judge should inform both teams whether the round will continue after the challenge if the accusation is found to be false or if the judge cannot determine the challenge based upon the evidence available to the judge. After the judge informs both teams of the consequences of

a failure to sustain the objection or challenge, the accusing team will be given an opportunity to withdraw the challenge. If the accusing team decides to pursue the objection or challenge, then the consequences announced by the judge for a failed or indeterminable objection or challenge will be binding on the teams.

If the judge finds that an ethics or evidence violation was committed, the offending team will be assigned a loss. If a single team member committed the violation, that debater will receive zero speaker points. The judge may assign speaker points to the non-offending debater. If the violation occurs prior to the non-offending team member delivering a speech, the judge may award points based upon the cross-examination, if applicable. If the non-offending team member has not delivered a speech or participated in a cross-ex, then the tab room will assign the average of the non-offending debater's speaker points from prior debates.

Any decision to challenge evidence violations or unethical behavior must be made during the round in which the infraction occurred before the judge submits a decision to the tab room. No challenge can be made to conduct committed in any round after the ballot has been submitted to tab room. The judge assigned to the round will decide the challenge made in the round based solely on the evidence submitted by the teams in the round. No appeal, modification or reversal of the judge's decision regarding the challenge or the consequences resulting from the challenge is permitted.

Final Note

The Silver and Black Invitational draws many competitive teams from all over the Pacific Coast, Mountain region, Southwest, and several large teams from the Midwest and East Coast. Last year, over 500 debaters from over 17 states attended, with 75+ schools represented, and with our continued commitment to draw the very best from all across the country, we hope that this year's Silver and Black Invitational proves to be one of the highlights of your TOC travel schedule.

The tournament staff looks forward to hosting a well-run tournament, which will draw many competitive teams from around the nation.

Sincerely,

Sydney Schoepf, tournament director