



Dear Colleagues,

The Mountain View and Los Altos Speech and Debate team cordially invites you to the MVLA Shutdown Showdown which will take place May 23–24 on the Zoom platform.

There will be **four preliminary rounds of novice and open Lincoln-Douglas, Parliamentary, Policy, and Public Forum debate**, starting on Saturday, with elimination rounds scheduled on Sunday as warranted by division size (4–0s and 3–1s will advance). There will be **three preliminary novice and open speech rounds in all CHSSA events except DUO and one final round, all scheduled on Sunday.**

The tournament will utilize **tabroom.com** for entry, pairings, and results of all events at [mvlagoesonline.tabroom.com](http://mvlagoesonline.tabroom.com). We will run “rooms” in Zoom calls run by our coaching staff and team leaders. All Zoom calls will be listed on the tournament’s tabroom.com front page, with information on how to translate room names into specific calls. We will have a warm room available for students and judges on a platform that will be announced closer to the tournament date.

Awards will exist, but they will not be trophies as you know them. Stay tuned!

Middle and high school students are welcome, but students should be registered under the school they attend, or an appropriately named independent (see below). An adult chaperone must be listed and remain on one of the Zoom calls or in the warm room should issues arise. We encourage all debaters to be respectful of their peers and judges, in order to maintain a safe and welcoming debate environment.

Best,

Tournament Director  
Julie Herman

Tab Director  
Mariel Cruz

Student Directors  
Kaavya Butaney, Cedric Chan & Aman Shah



# Events, Divisions, Entries & Judging

## **Entry Fees**

Each LD entry must pay a fee of \$15, and each Public Forum/Parliamentary entry must pay \$30. Each individual speech entry must pay \$10. In the cases of Public Forum and Parliamentary, one team will constitute a single entry. Entry fees should be paid by going to [paypal.me/mvlasdb](https://paypal.me/mvlasdb) or by mailing a check to the following address:

MVLASDB % Julie Herman  
1111 River St Apt 3  
Santa Cruz CA 95060

Checks should be made out to “MVLA Speech & Debate Boosters.”

Title I schools or individuals with financial need should email [julieherman@mvlasdb.org](mailto:julieherman@mvlasdb.org) for information on fee breaks.

There will be a \$10 nuisance fee for entry changes after registration is closed.

## **Independent Entries**

All independent entries must be registered by a responsible adult, who will be required to attend the scheduled coach check-in meetings each morning their students are at the tournament. Independent entries must be registered as “[SCHOOL NAME] Independent” if they attend a school that has a forensics team but no “official” entries, or under the name of an incorporated forensics academy if they attend a school that does not have a forensics program.

## **Double Entries**

Students will be permitted entry in two speech divisions and one debate division.

## **Who is a Novice?**

A novice is any high school student who has competed in their registered event or an event in the same broad category (“speech” vs “debate”) for less than one year, and has broken fewer than two times in that broad category. Alternatively, a novice may also be any person currently attending grade 8 or below with less than two years of experience. We reserve the right to collapse divisions if either or both divisions in an event have fewer than eight teams entered.

## **Parliamentary**

Parliamentary debate will follow the 7 - 8 - 8 - 8 - 4 - 5 format using the CHSSA guidelines. Topics will be announced 20 minutes before the beginning of the round in the tournament info doc and the prep room



Zoom call. There will be no enforced prep restrictions outside of the time limit. Any outside resources used during the round will result in an automatic loss of the round.

### **Lincoln Douglas**

Lincoln Douglas will use the Jan/Feb 2020 topic, and will follow the 6 - 3 - 7 - 3 - 4 - 6 - 3 format. Maximum prep time will be 4 minutes. Notice that the tournament will follow NSDA rules, not CFL rules. Evidence will be held to the highest standard and complete citations are highly encouraged.

### **Public Forum**

Public Forum will use the February 2020 topic, and will follow the 4 - 4 - 3 - 4 - 4 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 2 - 2 format (in accordance with the NSDA pilot rules). Each team will have access to 3 minutes of prep time. Sides and order will be locked to postings.

### **Policy**

Policy will use the 2019-2020 high school topic and follow NSDA standard rules.

### **Speech**

Speech divisions will follow CHSSA rules, but we will not offer DUO, as we do not believe it is possible for students to effectively compete in this event and maintain physical distancing. We reserve the right to collapse interpretation events into a single division, to collapse OA and OO, or to collapse IX and NX should entry numbers warrant.

### **Judging**

One judge will be required per two entries in a given debate division, rounded up. Varsity students with at least 18 months of competition experience may judge novice. One judge will be required per four entries in speech. All judges will be obligated at least through the first elimination round in their division, or until one round after all of a school's entries are eliminated.

If a school fails to provide a sufficient number of judges, that school will pay \$200 per missing debate judge and \$100 per missing speech judge. Judges who are called for ballots but fail to appear will be fined \$100 per round missed.

We encourage parents to volunteer even if this is their first time judging. We will provide a judge training on the Friday prior to the tournament. Half-day commitments are not permitted. Tabroom.com accounts are mandatory for all judges in order to access online ballots for rounds.



# Platform Use & Communication

## Using Zoom

All participants must have a Zoom account and have the app installed prior to the tournament start date. Zoom has many educational resources available, which you should peruse prior to the event. Ensure you have used the platform at least once prior to the tournament and are familiar with its basic functions, especially with accepting invitations to join breakout rooms. We will send additional use instructions out prior to the event.

Zoom Help Center: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>

## Help Line

Email: [tournament@mvlasdb.org](mailto:tournament@mvlasdb.org)

Text (no voice): 612-444-5480

## Tournament Logistics

All competitors and judges should be in their Zoom call at the time noted on the schedule or report technical issues to the help line. The forfeit time (enforced once breakout rooms are open) for teams or individuals who have not reported technical issues is 10 minutes.

Each event division will be divided into a number of Zoom calls to minimize lag and gaps between rounds. All Zoom rooms will be publicly listed. Tabroom will inform the competitors and judges as to which Zoom call to enter prior to the round.

When all competitors for the round and the judge are there, start round, regardless of whether it is before the allotted time. For example, if everyone is there by 9:05 and rounds start at 9:20, you may start at 9:05.

## Behavioral Norms

In the large Zoom calls, all debaters and judges must stay on mute at all times and use the helpline to contact tournament officials if necessary. Use of the chat function on Zoom should be limited as to prevent an overload of messages towards tournament officials. In all Zoom calls, including breakout rooms for rounds, if not speaking, debaters/judges should stay on mute and spectators should always stay on mute. Competitors and judges should keep their video on for the duration of the round.

We anticipate flighting rounds at this time. Flight 2 debaters will be assigned to the breakout rooms before Flight 1 and **should be present during the Flight 1 round.**

Calls should be made on laptop or desktop computers, as opposed to cell phones. Debaters and judges should all use headphones or headsets. Students with financial need who cannot access these resources should contact us as soon as possible.



We will have a “warm room” available for inter-student interaction and questions. Norms on there will be the same as in a normal tournament. Anyone who engages in unprofessional behavior will be banned from the “warm room” or face similar consequences.

There is no recording of rounds allowed. If someone is caught recording rounds, they will be removed from the tournament and the infraction will be reported to their institution. Recording children without their parents’ permission is illegal, and the tournament is not collecting permission forms for recording.



# Tentative Schedule

We will push the schedule up where possible.

## Friday

5:00 p.m. Judge Training

## Saturday

8:00 a.m. Coaches Check-in  
8:30 a.m. Debate Round 1 (Enter Zoom Call, Parli Prep begins)  
8:50 a.m. Debate Round 1 Begins  
11:10 a.m. Debate Round 2 (Enter Zoom call, Parli Prep begins)  
11:30 a.m. Debate Round 2 Begins  
1:00 p.m. Lunch  
2:00 p.m. Debate Round 3 (Enter Zoom call, Parli prep begins)  
2:20 p.m. Debate Round 3 Begins  
4:30 p.m. Debate Round 4 (Enter Zoom call, Parli prep begins)  
4:50 p.m. Debate Round 4 Begins  
7:00 p.m. Debate Elim 1 (Enter Zoom call, Parli prep begins)  
7:20 p.m. Debate Elim 1 Begins

## Sunday

8:30 a.m. Coaches Check-in  
9:00 a.m. Speech Round 1 (Enter Zoom Call, Extemp Prep begins)  
9:20 a.m. Speech Round 1 Begins  
9:40 a.m. Debate Elim 2 if needed (Enter Zoom Call)  
10:00 a.m. Debate Elim 2 if needed Begins  
11:00 a.m. Speech Round 2 (Enter Zoom Call, Extemp Prep begins)  
11:20 a.m. Speech Round 2 Begins  
11:40 a.m. Debate Elim 3 if needed (Enter Zoom Call)/Speech Lunch Concurrent  
12:00 p.m. Debate Elim 3 if needed Begins  
1:00 p.m. Speech Round 3 (Enter Zoom Call, Extemp Prep begins)/Debate Lunch Concurrent  
1:20 p.m. Speech Round 3 Begins  
1:40 p.m. Debate Elim 4 if needed (Enter Zoom Call)  
2:00 p.m. Debate Elim 4 if needed Begins  
3:00 p.m. Speech Elim (Enter Zoom Call, Extemp Prep begins)  
3:20 p.m. Speech Elim Begins  
5:00 p.m. Awards