



Digital Speech and Debate Initiative

National Speech & Debate Season Opener Invitation



Table of Contents

1.0 General Information.....	4
1.1 Opening Statement	4
1.2 Online Platform	5
1.3 Online Competition	5
1.4 Events and Divisions	5
1.5 Topics.....	6
1.6 Event Tiebreakers	6
1.7 Event Caps.....	7
1.8 Entry Limits per School	7
1.9 Judging Requirements.....	7
2.0 Eligibility	8
2.1 General	8
2.2 Required Forms Pre-Tournament.....	8
2.3 Rising Stars Eligibility	8
2.4 Maverick Debating Rules	8
2.5 Definition of an Independent Entry.....	8
2.6 Independent, Club, Home School Process and Deadline	9
2.7 Submitting Letters.....	9
2.8 Chaperones.....	9
2.9 Team Name	9
2.10 Declaring Independent/Club/Home School Status.....	9
2.11 Dual Entry	9
2.12 Letters/Permission.....	10
2.13 Parent Letter Template	10
2.14 School Letter Template.....	12
3.0 Event-Specific Information.....	13
3.1 Congressional Legislation Information.....	13
3.2 Speech Event Information	13
4.0 Deadlines.....	14
5.0 Fees and Hired Judging	15
5.1 Entry Fees	15
5.2 Payment Information.....	15

5.3 Hired Judging	16
5.4 Penalties.....	16
6.0 Schedules	17
6.1 Important Notes.....	17
6.2 Awards	17
6.3 Congress Schedule	17
6.4 Policy Schedule	18
6.5 LD Schedule	19
6.6 Public Forum Schedule	21
6.7 Speech Schedule	22

1.0 General Information

1.1 Opening Statement

The University of Kentucky Intercollegiate Debate Program cordially invites you to the National Speech and Debate Season Opener to be held on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, September 12-14, 2020.

This event will be hosted online at Classrooms.Cloud, the same platform used to host the 2020 Tournament of Champions. The University of Kentucky has spent months working to provide the highest quality online speech and debate experience possible.

The tournament offers high quality competition as a Tournament of Champions qualifier in the following:

Octafinals bid in Public Forum
Quarterfinals bid in Policy
Finals bid in Lincoln-Douglas
Top 6 bid in Congress
Speech event bids according to size

Sincerely,

Dave Arnett
Director of Debate
University of Kentucky

1.2 Online Platform

The Season Opener will be using Classrooms.Cloud as its online hosting platform. This is the same site that we used for the TOC to great success. We feel confident its reliability, streamlined features and security protocols will result in a pleasant experience for all competitors.

You can read about it here:

<https://classrooms.cloud/speech-debate/>

Other things, such as trainings and webinars to make sure everyone is familiar with the changes online competition brings will be released closer to the event date.

1.3 Online Competition

To help prepare for your participation in online competition please visit

<http://digitalspeechanddebate.com/>

Specifically, you can find a manual based off the 2020 Tournament of Champions that will help you prepare and learn what to expect if the Season Opener is your first time competing in an online speech and debate tournament:

<http://digitalspeechanddebate.com/bestpractices>

1.4 Events and Divisions

The National Speech and Debate Season Opener will offer the following events:

Congressional Debate

Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Varsity

Rising Stars

Policy Debate

Varsity

Rising Stars

Novice

Public Forum Debate

Varsity

Rising Stars

Middle School

Speech

- Dramatic Interpretation
- Duo Interpretation
- Extemporaneous Speaking
- Humorous Interpretation
- Informative Speaking
- Oral Interpretation
- Original Oratory
- Program Oral Interpretation

1.5 Topics

Lincoln-Douglas Debate will use the 2020-2021 September-October topic.

Policy Debate will use the 2020-2021 NSDA topic.

Public Forum Debate will use the 2020-2021 September-October topic.

1.6 Event Tiebreakers

PF/LD/Policy

1. Wins
2. H/L Points
3. Total Points
4. Opp wins for prelim rounds
5. Opp seed for prelim rounds

Congress

1. Ranks
2. Judge pref
3. Reciprocal ranks
4. H/L Ranks
5. H/L reciprocal ranks

Speech

1. Ranks
2. Reciprocal ranks
3. Points

1.7 Event Caps

We will use a two-part cap system for Varsity PF, Varsity Policy and LD. We will set an initial cap at the opening of registration and then re-evaluate in early August to set a final cap.

Caps for events will be initially set at:

Varsity PF	175 teams
Varsity Policy	100 teams
LD	75 teams

Teams past the cap will be placed on a waitlist. Final Caps will be set in August and the waitlist will be cleared by August 8th. We are using a staggered system to help stabilize entries for all TOC bid tournaments that share this weekend. Additionally, we are seeking to provide a humane schedule that also ensures a reasonable number of teams with winning records qualify for elimination rounds.

1.8 Entry Limits per School

Initially each school will be allowed to enter 8 entries in any given division of an event. All entries after the 8th will be put on a waitlist.

1.9 Judging Requirements

In Policy Debate, 3 rounds of judging are required per team.

In Lincoln-Douglas Debate, 3 double-flighted rounds of judging are required per team.

In Public Forum Debate, one judge can cover 2 teams.

In Congressional Debate, one judge can cover 6 entries.

In Speech, one judge can cover 4 entries

2.0 Eligibility

2.1 General

All students who are sanctioned by their principals to compete as a member of their school may compete at the Season Opener.

This **does not** mean that students who compete in clubs or as independents are excluded from participating.

However, those students, aiming to compete as a Club, Independent, or home school entry must fill out the following forms, scan them, and return to Linda Barker at linda.barker@uky.edu. The deadline to submit the forms is September 1, 2020.

2.2 Required Forms Pre-Tournament

Three forms are required to be submitted to complete registration:

1. Season Opener Contact Form---
2. Honor Codes for all participants and judges (uploaded via the contact form)
3. Video Releases for all participants and judges (uploaded via the contact form)

2.3 Rising Stars Eligibility

Students in their first two years of debate are eligible to compete in the Rising Stars division. If you believe your student has a special circumstance that warrants them being able to compete in the Rising Stars division, but they are not in their first two years of debate, you can email lincolngarrett49@gmail.com and seek permission.

2.4 Maverick Debating Rules

Maverick teams are not permitted to enter prior to the tournament. If a team becomes maverick due to an illness of a partner during the tournament, the ill debater may miss no more than 2 debates to be able to return and continue debating. Mavericks may win the debate. Mavericks will not be permitted to clear to elimination rounds.

2.5 Definition of an Independent Entry

An independent entry is an entry, which does not meet either of two important criteria:
1. Official sanctioning by their school. 2. Supervision by a chaperone who is an employee of the school.

2.6 Independent, Club, Home School Process and Deadline

Students wishing to attend the National Speech and Debate Season Opener as an independent entry, club entry or from a home school must accurately complete the process below no later than September 1, 2020. Incomplete documentation will result in denial of entry.

2.7 Submitting Letters

Please scan completed letters to linda.barker@uky.edu. It is the obligation of each Independent "Squad" to clearly label each letter with the "Squad name" and submit all of their documents in a single transmission, whether it be a single PDF email attachment or a single fax transmission. We cannot accept or process piecemeal transmissions of letters, as it is extremely difficult to match up names to entries.

2.8 Chaperones

Even though an entry is "independent," the attending students must still be supervised by a parent or designated ADULT chaperone.

2.9 Team Name

The students must use a variant of the school name if the students attend a "school," but may use the addition "Independent" as a portion of the name. If the entry is of a "home school" nature, the entry should reflect the geography of the entry - example: "Scranton Independent" for a home school independent entry from Scranton, PA.

2.10 Declaring Independent/Club/Home School Status

Students must clearly indicate that they are an independent or home school entry upon signing-up. Entries discovered to be independent or home school during the tournament who did not correctly declare their status on Tabroom.com at point of entry and fully complete the required paperwork in advance of the tournament as specified in this list may be dropped from the tournament without refund.

2.11 Dual Entry

Any given school cannot have both "regular school sanctioned entry" status and also have students enter from that school as "independent" entries - if a school is attending as a regular school sanctioned entry then ALL students who attend that school must enter as a part of that regular school sanctioned entry or they may not attend. Further, all students from a given school must be entered from the same account. We will not accept multiple independent entries from the same school submitted from multiple "independent" accounts.

2.12 Letters/Permission

To be accepted as an independent entry, the attending group must include complete and correctly executed authorization letter from the school and each set of parents or guardians.

For an independent entry to be accepted, we must have:

- 1) A letter signed by a school administrator (principal or vice-principal) on school letterhead, with the text as in the template below. This letter must list the names of all students competing and must also list the name of the chaperone. THE TEXT OF THE LETTERS CANNOT BE CHANGED OR ADDED TO IN ANY SUBSTANTIVE WAY; FOR EXAMPLE, WE CANNOT AND DO NOT INDEMNIFY SCHOOLS AGAINST LIABILITY - that is an issue between the family of the attending student, their school, and their respective legal counsels; and the National Speech and Debate Season Opener has no jurisdiction, legal or otherwise, to oversee, rule upon, or pass judgment on such assertions or declarations.
- 2) A letter from a parent of each participant, with the text as in the template below, is needed. All entries, including independents, must have an adult chaperone supervising them during the tournament.

THE TEXT OF THE LETTERS SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

2.13 Parent Letter Template

Date

Dave Arnett
Tournament Director
National Speech and Debate Season Opener

This letter is to inform you that we would like our child, _____, to attend the National Speech and Debate Season Opener from September 8-10, 2018 and that she / he does so with our full consent and permission. We have arranged for our child to be fully-chaperoned and for transportation to our satisfaction, and accept full responsibility and liability for our child during the entire course of the event. We understand and agree that the National Speech and Debate Season Opener, their employees, and their agents provide no chaperones for the event, and further agree that the National Speech and Debate Season Opener, their employees, and their agents are hereby relieved of any responsibility or liability of any sort for the supervision of our child.

The following person will be chaperoning our child:

Name: _____

Cell phone: _____

Relationship to our child: _____

By signing this we are certifying that we are in fact the legal guardians of the listed child, and have full legal authority to act on the listed child's behalf.

Name

Sign

Date

Contact info:

Email:

Phone:

2.14 School Letter Template

Date:

Dave Arnett
Tournament Director
National Speech and Debate Season Opener

This letter is to inform you that we have no objection to students from our school attending the National Speech and Debate Season Opener from September 7-9, 2019, as independent entries. We understand that the parents/guardians of the students have arranged for their children to be transported and fully-chaperoned to their satisfaction, and they have agreed to accept full responsibility and liability for their children during the entire course of the event. We further understand and agree the National Speech and Debate Season Opener, their employees, and their agents provide no chaperones for the event, and we have explained this to the parents of the children listed in this letter. These are the names of the students who attend our school, for whom we are certifying that we do not object to their participation in the above described event:

[list of students, with full names, goes here]

By signing this I am certifying that I am an official of the school and that I have full authority to act on the school's behalf in matters of this kind.

Name,
Sign,
Date
Contact info:
Email:
Phone:

3.0 Event-Specific Information

3.1 Congressional Legislation Information

We will accept submitted legislation until Friday August 14, 2020 with the goal of producing a docket no later than the 21st of August.

3.2 Speech Event Information

We will utilize a method of pre-recording for non extemp events similar to the TOC and NSDA nationals. While we think there is promise in holding speech events synchronously, utilizing pre-recording ensures the most access to competition to the greatest number of potential students.

Students are free to enter as many speech events as they would like since being in two places at once is no longer a concern.

Deadlines for submissions will be released at a later date.

4.0 Deadlines

August 8, 2020: Waitlist for relevant events will be cleared.

August 21, 2020: Deadline to Change TBA entries in Tabroom.com to actual names. After this date, TBA entries will be replaced with entries that have names attached to them from the waitlist.

September 1, 2020: Fees Frozen. Drops after this date will still be charged the related entry fees.

September 1, 2020: Registering new entries deadline. You will not be able to make new additions to your Tabroom entry after this date. You will need to email the tournament and things will be worked out on a case by case basis. Please email lincolngarrett49@gmail.com.

5.0 Fees and Hired Judging

5.1 Entry Fees

Entry fees will be used to cover logistical expenses related to the tournament including online classroom platform, trophies and shipping, fees associated with the use of Tabroom.com, tournament staffing, and hired judging. Any revenue generated beyond covering above expenses will be directed toward the University of Kentucky Digital Speech and Debate Initiative. The DSDI is dedicated to the use of digital resources for the promotion of speech and debate at all levels of education. For more information please visit <http://www.digitalspeechanddebate.com/>.

The tournament provides financial aid in the form of fee reductions. For those who would like to request financial aid please fill out this form by August 24th date: <https://forms.gle/sSyN88dzsKnrb2tE7>

We will respond to submissions on a rolling basis.

School/Administrative fee	\$50 per school
Per Varsity Policy entry	\$125
Per Novice Policy entry	\$90
Per Varsity Lincoln-Douglas	\$90
Per Congressional Debate entry	\$50
Per Varsity Public Forum entry	\$110
Per Rising Stars/Middle School PF entry	\$90
Per Duo Speech entry	\$80
Per Speech entry	\$40

5.2 Payment Information

Two methods of payment:

1. Credit card online. The link to pay by credit card is here: <http://ci.uky.edu/UKDebate/onlinecreditcards>

2. Mail a check. The check should be made payable to "UK Debate Tournaments," and mailed to:

Season Opener
c/o Linda Barker
225 Funkhouser Bldg.
Lexington, KY 40506-0054

5.3 Hired Judging

The tournament will have limited hired judging available. The rates are \$200 to cover one Policy/PF/LD entry and \$400 to cover two. The cost to cover a Congress or Speech entry is \$60 per entry. Hired judging fees are not refundable.

All judging requests need to be communicated to lincolngarrett49@gmail.com. You will receive an email either confirming your request or letting you know if we cannot accommodate it. Requests should be communicated prior to September 1, 2020.

5.4 Penalties

The penalty for a judge failing to report to a preliminary debate is \$50 a round missed. For an elimination round this penalty is a \$100. This includes when a judge is obligated to the tournament for judging and fails to report a scheduled round even if a replacement judge is secured.

These penalties have to be paid before a team is allowed to advance to the next stage of elimination debates (i.e. if a preliminary fine is incurred, the team will not be able to clear unless the fine is paid).

6.0 Schedules

6.1 Important Notes

This is a tentative schedule. The exact composition of the schedule will depend on the number of entries. We will know the exact number of entries by August 8th.

After that point we can finalize the schedule. The schedule posted below accommodates many entries. That means if we were to deviate from that schedule it would likely be due to having fewer entries and the schedule requiring less rounds.

For Policy, LD, and PF the tournament will take place over 3 days (Sat/Sun/Mon). Congress and Speech will take place on Saturday and Sunday. Exact prelim and elim numbers will depend on the total number of teams in a division.

6.2 Awards

We will host virtual award ceremonies where we announce final places and speaker awards for the events. The exact timing is TBD because the exact schedule depends on number of entries. Right now we expect to announce Congress and Speech awards on Sunday when those events conclude and do LD/PF/Policy awards on Monday.

6.3 Congress Schedule

Saturday, all times are Eastern

10:15AM	Opening Judge Meeting
10:30AM-1:00PM	Session 1
1:00PM-1:45PM	Break
1:45PM-4:15PM	Session 2
4:15PM-4:45PM	Break
4:45PM-7:15PM	Session 3

Sunday, all times are Eastern

10:30AM-1:00PM	Semifinals
1:00PM-1:45PM	Break
1:45PM-4:15PM	Finals

6.4 Policy Schedule

Saturday (All Times EST)

9:15AM	Verify all your participants are assembled (on the digital bus)
9:30AM	Pairings for Round 1 and Round 2
9:40AM	Deadline for Room Check-In
10:00AM	Round 1 Start Time
12:00PM	Round 1 Decision Time
12:10PM	Deadline for Room Check-In
12:30PM	Round 2 Start Time
2:30PM	Round 2 Decision Time
3:15PM	Round 3 Pairings
3:25PM	Deadline for Room Check-In
3:45PM	Round 3 Start Time
5:45PM	Round 3 Decision Time
6:30PM	Round 4 Pairings
7:00PM	Round 4 Start Time
7:10PM	Deadline for Room Check-In
9:00PM	Round 4 Decision Time

Sunday (All Times EST)

9:15AM	Verify all your participants are assembled (on the digital bus)
9:30AM	Pairings for Round 5
9:40AM	Deadline for Room Check-In
10:00AM	Round 5 Start Time
12:00PM	Round 5 Decision Time
12:45PM	Round 6 Pairings
12:55PM	Deadline for Room Check-In
1:15PM	Round 6 Start Time
3:15PM	Round 6 Decision Time
3:45PM	Triple Octafinal Pairings
3:55PM	Deadline for Room Check-In
4:15PM	Triple Octafinal Start Time
6:15PM	Triple Octafinal Decision Time
6:45PM	Double Octafinal Pairings
6:55PM	Deadline for Room Check-In
7:15PM	Double Octafinal Start Time
9:15PM	Double Octafinal Decision Time

Monday (All Times EST)

9:15AM	Verify all your participants are assembled (on the digital bus)
9:30AM	Octafinals Pairing
9:40AM	Deadline for Room Check-In
10:00AM	Octafinals Start Time
12:00PM	Octafinals Decision Time
12:30PM	Quarters Pairing
12:40PM	Deadline for Room Check-In
1:00PM	Quarters Start Time
3:00PM	Quarters Decision Time
3:30PM	Semis Pairing
3:40PM	Deadline for Room Check-In
4:00PM	Semis Start Time
6:00PM	Semis Decision Time
6:30PM	Finals Pairing
6:40PM	Deadline for Room Check-In
7:00PM	Finals Start Time
9:00PM	Finals Decision Time

6.5 LD Schedule

Saturday (All Times EST)

9:15AM	Verify all your participants are assembled (on the digital bus)
9:30AM	Round 1 Pairing
9:40AM	Deadline for Room Check-In – Flight A
10:00AM	Round 1 Start Time
11:00AM	Deadline for Room Check-In – Flight B
11:10AM	Round 1 Start Time – Flight B
12:30PM	Round 2 Pairings
12:45PM	Deadline for Room Check-In – Flight A
1:00PM	Round 2 Start Time
2:00PM	Deadline for Room Check-In – Flight B
2:10PM	Round 2 Start Time – Flight B
3:30PM	Round 3 Pairings
3:40PM	Deadline for Room Check-In – Flight A
4:00PM	Round 3 Start Time – Flight A
5:00PM	Deadline for Room Check-In – Flight B
5:10PM	Round 3 Start Time – Flight B
6:30PM	Round 4 Pairings
6:40PM	Deadline for Room Check-In – Flight A
7:00PM	Round 4 Start Time – Flight A
8:00PM	Deadline for Room Check-In – Flight B

8:10PM Round 4 Start Time – Flight B

Sunday (All Times EST)

9:15AM	Verify all your participants are assembled (on the digital bus)
9:30AM	Round 5 Pairing
9:40AM	Deadline for Room Check-In – Flight A
10:00AM	Round 5 Start Time
11:00AM	Deadline for Room Check-In – Flight B
11:10AM	Round 5 Start Time – Flight B
12:30PM	Round 6 Pairings
12:45PM	Deadline for Room Check-In – Flight A
1:00PM	Round 6 Start Time
2:00PM	Deadline for Room Check-In – Flight B
2:10PM	Round 6 Start Time – Flight B
3:30PM	Double Octafinals Pairings
3:40PM	Deadline for Room Check-In Double Octafinals
4:00PM	Double Octafinals Start Time
5:30PM	Octafinals Pairing
5:40PM	Deadline for Room Check-In Octafinals
6:00PM	Octafinals Start Time

Monday (All Times EST)

9:30AM	Verify all your participants are assembled (on the digital bus)
10:00AM	Pairings for Quarterfinals
10:10AM	Deadline for Room Check-In Quarterfinals
10:30AM	Quarterfinals Start Time
12:00PM	Pairings for Semifinals
12:10PM	Deadline for Room Check-In Semifinals
12:30PM	Semifinals Start Time
2:00PM	Pairings for Finals
2:10PM	Deadline for Room Check-In Finals
2:30PM	Finals Start Time

6.6 Public Forum Schedule

Saturday (All Times EST)

9:30AM	Verify all your participants are assembled (on the digital bus)
10:00AM	Round 1 Pairing
10:10AM	Deadline for Room Check-In – Flight A
10:20AM	Round 1 Start Time
11:20AM	Deadline for Room Check-In – Flight B
12:45PM	Round 2 Pairings
12:55PM	Deadline for Room Check-In – Flight A
1:05PM	Round 2 Start Time
2:05PM	Deadline for Room Check-In – Flight B
3:30PM	Round 3 Pairings
3:40PM	Deadline for Room Check-In – Flight A
3:50PM	Round 3 Start Time
4:50PM	Deadline for Room Check-In – Flight B
6:00PM	Round 4 Pairings
6:10PM	Deadline for Room Check-In – Flight A
6:20PM	Round 4 Start Time
7:20PM	Deadline for Room Check-In – Flight B

Sunday (All Times EST)

9:30AM	Verify all your participants are assembled (on the digital bus)
10:00AM	Round 5 Pairing
10:10AM	Deadline for Room Check-In – Flight A
10:20AM	Round 5 Start Time
11:20AM	Deadline for Room Check-In – Flight B
12:45PM	Round 6 Pairings
12:55PM	Deadline for Room Check-In – Flight A
1:05PM	Round 6 Start Time
2:05PM	Deadline for Room Check-In – Flight B
3:30PM	Pairings for Triple Octafinals (Single Flighted)
3:40PM	Deadline for Room Check-In Triple Octafinals
3:50PM	Triple Octafinals Start Time
5:20PM	Pairings for Double Octafinal (Single Flighted)
5:30PM	Deadline for Room Check-In Double Octafinals
5:40PM	Double Octafinal Start Time
7:00PM	Pairings for Octafinal
7:10PM	Deadline for Room Check-In Octafinals
7:20PM	Octafinals Start Time

Monday (All Times EST)

9:30AM	Verify all your participants are assembled (on the digital bus)
10:00AM	Pairings for Quarterfinals
10:10AM	Deadline for Room Check-In Quarterfinals
10:20AM	Quarterfinals Start Time
11:40AM	Pairings for Semifinals
11:50AM	Deadline for Room Check-In Semifinals
12:00PM	Semifinals Start Time
1:20PM	Pairings for Finals
1:30PM	Deadline for Room Check-In Finals
1:40PM	Finals Start Time

6.7 Speech Schedule

Flight A

Extemporaneous Speaking
Humorous Interpretation
Informative Speaking
Program Oral Interpretation

Flight B

Original Oratory
Oral Interpretation
Duo Interpretation
Dramatic Interpretation

Saturday (All Times EST)

10:00AM	Draw for Round 1, Flight A Extemporaneous Speaking
10:30AM	Round 1, Flight A
12:00PM	Round 1, Flight B
1:30PM	Draw for Round 2, Flight A Extemporaneous Speaking
2:00PM	Round 2, Flight A
3:30PM	Round 2, Flight B
5:00PM	Draw for Round 3, Flight A Extemporaneous Speaking
5:30PM	Round 3, Flight A
7:00PM	Round 3, Flight B

Sunday (All Times EST)

10:00AM	Draw for Round 4, Flight A Extemporaneous Speaking
10:30AM	Round 4, Flight A
12:00PM	Round 4, Flight B
1:30 PM	Draw for Quarterfinals Extemporaneous Speaking
2:00 PM	Round 5 flight A and Quarterfinals
3:30 PM	Round 5, Flight B and Quarterfinals
5:30 PM	Semifinals Extemp Draw
6:00 PM	Semifinals all events
7:30 PM	Finals in all events