

46th Annual Liberty Bell Classic Tournament at the University of Pennsylvania

Dear Coaches and Competitors,

We are excited to invite you to the 46th Annual Liberty Bell Classic Tournament at the University of Pennsylvania, which will take place on **February 12 – 14, 2021**.

The Penn Tournament offers a **high-quality, affordable, and now virtual** experience to all attendees. Although the tournament will not be physically held on Penn's campus like previous years, **all of the profits from the tournament will continue to be used to promote debate programs at public schools in Philadelphia.**

The 2021 Penn Tournament will offer the following events:

- Public Forum Debate (Varsity, JV, Novice)
- Lincoln-Douglas Debate (Varsity, JV, Novice)
- Congressional Debate
- Policy Debate (Varsity and Novice)
- Declamation
- Dramatic Interpretation
- Duo Interpretation
- Extemporaneous Speaking
- Humorous Interpretation
- Oral Interpretation
- Original Oratory
- Program Oral Interpretation
- Informative Speaking

We offer bids to the Tournament of Champions in the following events:

- Public Forum Debate (Varsity) – **Octofinalists**
- Lincoln-Douglas Debate (Varsity) – **Finalists**
- Congressional Debate – **Top Six**
- Dramatic Interpretation – **Finalists***
- Duo Interpretation – **Finalists***
- Extemporaneous Speaking – **Finalists***
- Humorous Interpretation – **Finalists***
- Oral Interpretation – **Finalists***
- Original Oratory – **Finalists***

*Speech semifinalists will receive bids if the number of entries in the event exceeds 72.

Please refer to the rest of the invitation for further detail about the tournament and its virtual format, and review our tournament website for updates at penn.tabroom.com. If you have any questions, please send an email to penn.tournament@gmail.com, and we will respond to you as soon as possible.

We wish you all the best in the upcoming months and hope to see you (virtually) in February!

Sincerely,

Akaash Padmanabha and Kevin Xu
LBC Tournament Directors
and the Penn for Youth Debate Executive Board

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Note: The 46th Annual Liberty Bell Classic Tournament ***will differ*** in the following formats from previous years in:

1. Virtual Rules and Best Practices (Page 4)
2. Judging Obligations and Fees (Pages 8,11)
3. Payment Method (Page 9)
4. Registration (Page 10)
5. Offering of five new events:
 - a. JV Public Forum
 - b. JV Lincoln-Douglas Debate
 - c. Novice and JV Policy Debate
 - d. POI (not guaranteed for future years)
 - e. Informative Speaking (not guaranteed for future years)

Virtual Platform

The Penn 2021 Tournament will be hosted on the NSDA Campus Online platform. More information on the usage of this platform and any required/recommended pre-tournament preparation can be found on NSDA's official website [here](#).

Note that participation in this tournament as either a judge or competitor is a certification that your school, competitors, and guardians have all given their respective consent to using this platform.

Diversity and Inclusion

This year, the Liberty Bell Classic would like to emphasize NSDA's core value of equity. We at the University of Pennsylvania believe that our competition should foster a sense of diversity and inclusion in every way possible, and in order to maintain a streamlined message, we would like to relay NSDA's equity statement:

The National Speech & Debate Association is committed to modeling and fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion for all speech and debate communities.

We are continuously transforming our organization to reflect and operationalize the values of equity, integrity, respect, leadership, and service.

We will take responsibility.

We will heed, learn, and evolve.

We will work conscientiously to model and foster an inclusive and equitable speech and debate experience for all.

(UPDATED 1/20) In addition, the Liberty Bell Classic will be having a dedicated ombuds team to ensure that any violations of our core principles of diversity and inclusion are treated appropriately. **We will be monitoring violation complaints by email at penn.tournamentDEI@gmail.com and ask that you provide some essential information: your name, your school, the round in which the incident occurred, and the name/school of the violator.** We also ask that **your coach/primary adult contact be CC'd on the email** for easy access. That being said, **any member of the tournament may fill this out, and our ombuds team will respond promptly.**

As a way to prevent such incidents from occurring, we highly encourage judges to read through the "Cultural Competence Training Handout" and watch the "Cultural Competence Training Video" on NSDA's official website [here](#).

Timeline

December 1st, 2020 9 AM EST	Online registration opens at penn.tabroom.com .
January 22th, 2021 5 PM EST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Congress legislation due (**<i>UPDATED</i>**)
January 29th, 2021 5 PM EST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · New entries due in all events. Registration fees and judge burdens frozen. · Congress legislation, dockets, and chambers released on penn.tabroom.com. (**<i>UPDATED</i>**) · Extemporaneous Speaking topic areas released.
February 8th, 2021 11:55 PM EST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Judge names and information for all events due.
February 12th - 14th, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Debate events run all three days, but speech events and Congress will start Saturday morning. · Please refer to Tabroom for more detailed schedules for each event (subject to change).

Events

All debate events will follow NSDA rules.

Public Forum Debate

There will be three divisions of PF: Varsity, JV[†], and Novice*. The **February National Speech and Debate Association topic** will be used, and we will be following the NSDA pilot rules for this season. There will be an appropriate number of preliminary rounds in non-bid events capped at 6 rounds, and all octofinalists in Varsity PF will receive a bid to the TOC.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate

There will be three divisions of LD: Varsity, JV[†], and Novice*. The **January-February National Speech and Debate Association topic will be used**, and debaters will have four minutes of prep time each. All finalists in Varsity LD will receive a bid to the TOC.

Congressional Debate

There will be one division of Congressional Debate. Chambers will comprise no more than 12 competitors. Templates for bills and resolutions can be found on penn.tabroom.com. **Please submit legislation via email to penn.tournament@gmail.com by January 22nd, 2021** with the subject "Congress Legislation" and the author's name and school. Each student may submit only one piece of legislation. We will publish legislation a few days after submissions are due. There will be three preliminary sessions and the top six competitors will receive a bid to the TOC.

Policy Debate

There will be three divisions of Policy Debate: Varsity, JV[†], and Novice*. The **2020-2021 National Speech and Debate Association topic will be used** and teams will have ten minutes of prep time each. Breaks will be determined by the size of the field.

† JV divisions are limited to students not past their second year of debate competition at any level.

** Novice is defined as a student in their first season (2020-21) of debate competition at any level. Coaches may contact the tournament directors if they wish to request exceptions.*

Speech Events

General: All Speech events will be held live and synchronously. Speech events will follow **NSDA rules with a few exceptions** (the NSDA Manual can be found on penn.tabroom.com). Speech competitors do not need to have copies of their manuscripts, but they are expected to abide by NSDA rules for their content. Declamation will follow NCFL rules. Extemp will be a mix of IX and USX. **Extemp topic areas will be released on or around February 7th, 2021.** OI will follow NCFL rules (ncfl.org/oral-interp). Speech tabbing will be cumulative throughout the tournament, dropping the lowest preliminary round rank. There will be five preliminary rounds in all speech events and TOC bids will depend on field sizes. Double Entry will be allowed, except for those competing in extemporaneous speaking.

Speech events will break to quarters, if the numbers warrant it.

Duo Interpretation:

- As part of our commitment to equity, it is strongly suggested that DUO competitors be on separate cameras and in separate locations. If that is not possible, then proper social distancing must be maintained, even if the performers are related.
- Students and judges should go to the DUO room indicated by tabroom at their designated time slot.
- Each Duo Team will receive a specific 15 minute time slot during which they must perform. Each team only has to report for that time slot. This is to accommodate students who are double entered.
- Duo Teams should enter the room with the person on the judge's left entering first and the person on the judge's right entering second (the teams should coordinate with each other).
- The team and judges should confirm that students are correctly situated and the team should give final confirmation by virtually pointing at each other. (If necessary, the team can leave and reenter the room to get correct placement)
- When the team has completed performing, they should leave the room so the next team can speak.

Note on Mavericks: Students in team debate events (PF or Policy) may NOT be registered as mavericks. In any non-bid division, if a student's partner has health or tech issues that prevent them from debating during one or more rounds, the remaining partner may continue to compete, at their discretion, with no additional prep time provided. In a bid division, both partners must participate in each debate or they will forfeit the round. After 2 such forfeits, the entry will be removed from the tournament.

Entry Fees

Varsity Public Forum Debate

One team \$65

Novice Public Forum Debate

One team \$50

JV Public Forum Debate

One team \$50

Varsity Lincoln-Douglas Debate

One entry \$50

Novice Lincoln-Douglas Debate

One entry \$35

JV Lincoln-Douglas Debate

One team \$35

Congressional Debate

One entry \$30

Varsity Policy Debate

One team \$45

JV Policy Debate

One team \$35

Novice Policy Debate

One team \$35

Speech Events

One IE entry \$15

One Duo entry \$20

Important Notes:

- 1) All entries must be officially affiliated with a degree-issuing high school in accordance with NSDA membership rules. Please see the NSDA website for more information on membership rules.
- 2) **This year, we will be requiring all schools to fulfill the entirety of their judging obligations (see judging requirements on page 11).**
- 3) **Please check Tabroom to make sure your obligation is filled** (the “judging” tab will be red if it’s not), so you do not show up at registration having made this mistake. We do not want to fine you, but we need enough judges in order to run the tournament.

Payment Structure

This year, we will be offering two methods of payment: online via credit card, and mail via check. Schools should pay the amount listed on Tabroom that they owe.

Check

Information for how to pay via check can be found at: <https://forms.gle/S53Ef8ZSXQFYsZE36>. Please fill out the google form, so we can keep track of mail-in payments.

Credit Card

We are providing an option this year to pay fees via credit card. Credit card charges will be the same as listed in the "Entry Fees."

The payment link will be at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/46th-university-of-pennsylvania-tournament-tickets-131726771319>

If you have any issues with payments, **please send an email to** penn.tournament@gmail.com with the following subject line: "<SCHOOL NAME> Payment Inquiry".

We will respond promptly.

Important Information

All fees must be paid in full during the registration window specified below.

If your school has financial constraints that may prevent it from attending the tournament, email penn.tournament@gmail.com with subject title "<SCHOOL NAME> Financial Accommodation Request" and in the body include a brief description of your school, financial situation, and debate program. We will work to accommodate your team to the best that we can.

Online Registration

All registration will be conducted on penn.tabroom.com. Registration will open **December 1st, 2020** at 9 AM EST. We recommend registering as early as possible, as spaces fill up quickly. If you have any questions, send an email to penn.tournament@gmail.com and be sure to include the name of your school.

Important Notes:

- 1) The tournament is open only to 9th - 12th graders officially representing the schools they attend. Teams must comprise entries from the same school. **No independent or student-created entries or anonymous team accounts will be considered.** The listed contact must be an adult (i.e. over 21 years of age). Registrations will be carefully vetted for compliance.
- 2) Extemp, Debate, and Congress competitors may NOT enter in multiple events.
- 3) Speech competitors may enter in up to two events.
- 4) Please do NOT contact us asking if/when your waitlisted entries will be accepted. If spaces open up, we will add entries from the waitlist and provide additional updates as necessary.

Judging

Judging Obligations

Each school must provide 1 qualified judge for every:

- 2 teams in Public Forum Debate
- 2 entries in Lincoln-Douglas Debate
- 2 teams in Policy Debate
- 5 entries in Speech
- plus 1 additional judge if a school has any entries in Congressional Debate

(please specify in the notes section on Tabroom what other event (if any) this judge is willing to judge)

All judges, with the exception of the novice events, must be at least high school graduates. HS juniors and seniors with 200+ NSDA debate points in an event are acceptable in the novice divisions of those events.

In the case of fractional obligations, judging obligation is rounded up. For example, if your school has 5 teams entered in JVPF, you will be obligated to provide 3 JVPF judges. Judges in debate events can only cover one division (i.e. Varsity judges do not cover JV or Novice entries).

Speech and Congress judges are obligated for the entire tournament. Judges in debate events are obligated to remain available 1 round past their school's last elimination round. Schools that have judges who fail to appear for an assigned round will be fined \$50 per missed prelim round and \$100 per missed elimination round. Schools with unpaid fines will not be given ballots or awards.

Any judges dropped after registration is frozen on February 8th, 2021 at 11:59 PM EST – even if you drop students to compensate – will incur a \$200 fine.

Strikes and Prefs

We offer mutually preferred judging in Varsity Lincoln-Douglas Debate and a reasonable number of strikes in VPF, depending on field size. Strikes in other divisions will be determined at a later date.

Paradigms

Judges in PF, VLD and Policy must have paradigms on Tabroom.com. Judges should also be willing to indicate to competitors before the round a general sense of their vision of debate (if any) and/or their experience to aid competitors in choosing how best to make their arguments. Teams whose judges do not have paradigms will not have access to prefs/strikes.

2021 University of Pennsylvania Tournament Staff

Tournament Directors: Akaash Padmanabha and Kevin Xu

Junior Tournament Directors: Kelly Shen and Nikolaos Tapanlis

PFYD Presidents: Michelle Zhou and Aris Saxena

PFYD Vice President: Nick Yang

PFYD Executive Board: Michelle Zhou, Aris Saxena, Nick Yang, Francine Dong, Kevin Xu, Akaash Padmanabha, Jun Park, Amber Wang, Ria Jain, Kelly Shen, Rachel Pang, Nikolaos Tapanlis

About Penn for Youth Debate

What is Penn for Youth Debate (PFYD)?

PFYD is a non-profit student organization at the University of Pennsylvania that aims to promote debate in Philadelphia by providing volunteers to coach Public Forum at public high schools and middle schools and organizing free debate tournaments for Philadelphia students. PFYD partners with the After-School Activities Partnerships (ASAP) to run a Philadelphia-wide debate league and engage in community outreach events. PFYD currently partners with 20 schools and hosts three tournaments each year, all free of charge. In recent years, PFYD students have consistently advanced to elimination rounds at national circuit tournaments and qualified to NCFL Nationals for two years in a row. Finally, PFYD awards \$1500 in college scholarships each year to encourage high school students to pursue higher education. Through its activities, PFYD has introduced debate to hundreds of students who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to participate in this incredibly engaging and educational activity.

Why does this matter?

Penn for Youth Debate is comprised of former debaters who are dedicated to seeing debate programs in Philadelphia flourish, meaning our tournament is managed by qualified individuals. Many high school speech and debate alumni assist the tournament in judging rounds, collecting ballots, and speaking to students interested in attending the University of Pennsylvania. Additionally, all of the profits from this tournament go directly toward PFYD's free tournaments and volunteering activities with Philadelphia public schools.

Read more online at pennforyouthdebate.org.