



Spartan Ram Fall Classic

Hosted by: Cypress Ridge & Cypress Lakes High Schools

October 21-24, 2020

Tournament Directors:

Cryste Beard, Director of Forensics, CRHS

Hannah McCord, Director of Forensics, CLHS

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Dear Colleagues,

Cy Ridge and Cy Lakes High School are proud to host the Spartan Ram Fall Classic Swing on October 21-24, 2020.

We will offer all traditional TFA events and students have the opportunity to swing in ALL IE events and Congress. Debate events will be offered once for the weekend.

All IEs, except for extemp, will be judged asynchronously through videos for prelims and semis competition (Duo/Duet will be fully asynchronous). Finals in those events will happen synchronously on Saturday afternoon for both sides of the tourney.

All recorded performances need to be submitted no later than October 20th at 5:00 pm CT. Any entry without a video will be dropped after the deadline with entry forfeited.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

We look forward to hosting you in October.

Sincerely,

Cryste Beard and Hannah McCord

Tournament Information

All tournament tabulation and pairings will occur via tabroom.com and as such, all students, coaches, and judges will need to have an updated tabroom.com account. Information on how to create an account can be found on the TFA website (txfa.org). We are committed to allowing all students who qualify for elimination round to compete in those rounds. To accomplish this, it will be necessary to place entry limits on some events.

We will be using Classrooms.cloud. This will require us to utilize Zoom rooms for WSD impromptu prep.

In this document you can find the following information:

- Events Offered
- Independent Entries
- Entry Guidelines and Waitlist Policy
- Drop Deadlines
- Judge Requirements
- Debate Topics and Congress Legislation
- Hospitality
- Awards and Sweepstakes

EVENTS OFFERED

Individual Events:

Synchronous - Domestic Extemp, Foreign Extemp, Novice Extemp

Asynchronous in Prelims and Semis and Synchronous in Finals - Dramatic Interpretation, Informative Speaking, Humorous Interpretation, Original Oratory (there will be a Novice OO finals as well), Program Oral Interpretation, Poetry, Prose, Novice Oral Interpretation

Fully Asynchronous - Duet, Duo

Contestants may enter 1 extemporaneous speaking event.

Students may enter as many of the “Asynchronous in Prelims and Semis” events as they want.

Video submissions for these events will be due at 5:00pm on Monday, October 19th

Debate Events -

Policy Debate, Novice Policy, LD Debate, Novice LD, PF Debate, Novice PF, World Schools Debate, Congressional Debate, Novice Congress

Contestants entered in debate events may not cross-enter with any other live events at the tournament (they may enter in “Asynchronous in Prelims and Semis” events). Non Advancing LD/PF/CX/WSD entries may re-register Friday night for **Ram Extemp**.

INDEPENDENT ENTRIES

The Spartan Ram Fall Classic is a TFA tournament and as such we must abide by TFA rules. The TFA Constitutions says on pg 72 that "Texas students participating at TFA tournaments must be affiliated with and a representative of the schools they are attending." This means that if you are a Texas student, you must participate under your school's name and be affiliated with said team. This rule is non-negotiable, if we break this (or any) TFA rule, our tournament can be sanctioned in future years, regardless of what our personal opinions about the rule are.

- 1 – All competitors must have a school-approved adult representative present at all times during the tournament. As noted in the tournament best practices document, this means they must be either actively judging, in a judge pooling room, or assisting the tournament.**
- 2 – If a school employee is not attending with the student, a school official must email Cryste Beard or Hannah McCord giving permission for the responsible adult to act on behalf of and make all relevant decisions for the student/school.***
- 3 - All teams must register using their school name and their official school tabroom account so that TFA and NSDA points can be accurately attributed.**

We require every team to be chaperoned by an individual who is either a school employee or has written authorization by the school to act and make decisions at the tournament on behalf of the school (this means, but is not limited to: carrying emergency medical information, to make decisions that can impact future attendance by the school - such as paying fines, etc. - anything a school employee would be expected to do). An acceptable alternative is an adult who has been background checked by the school and who has the approval of the school to assume full responsibility for the care of students of that school while at the tournament. Schools will be asked to list who that adult will be as a condition of final registration. **It is the expectation of the tournament that all competitors must have the adult described above with them at registration; STUDENTS MAY NOT REGISTER THEMSELVES.** If the responsible adult is not a school employee, a school official must email Cryste Beard or Hannah McCord to give the authorization to act on the school’s behalf from their **school email address**.

Any student found to be in violation of such policy will be removed from the pairings.

*If you are an out of state student, you are welcome to attend with your parent as a chaperone as long as they are **present at the tournament** and you abide by #1 and #3 above. A privately hired assistant coach may fulfill your judging obligations, but they ARE NOT a substitute for your parent/legal guardian unless a principal from your school emails me authorizing them to make medical decisions on your behalf (see above).

ENTRY GUIDELINES AND WAITLIST POLICY

This is a TFA state qualifier for member schools. All Texas Forensic Association rules will be followed. If you need a copy of TFA contest rules, please access their website at www.txfa.org.

The entry deadline is **Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 5PM**. After this date, the website will be closed and any adds/drops/changes will need to be approved by tournament directors via email before being moved off of the waitlist to ensure we have enough rooms and judging.

Registration link at the top of this page. Schools are allowed to enter the events according to the following guidelines:

No more than 4 CCX entries, with additional entries to be placed on a waiting list.

No more than 8 CLD entries, with additional entries to be placed on a waiting list.

No more than 8 CPFD entries, with additional entries to be placed on a waiting list.

DROP DEADLINES

Entries will be accepted through Tuesday, October 20, 2020

ALL FEES WILL LOCK ON Friday October 16, 2020 at 5pm

The deadline to enter a judge will be Friday, October 16, at 5pm, after this point you will be charged a judge fee.

This will be strictly enforced this year, after this date all drops will forfeit entry fees. Given that we will have to wait until we receive school checks to pay judges, it is important that we have an accurate estimate of judge need.

Any drop after **Monday, October 19** will be charged the entry fee and incur a \$25 penalty to help mitigate the fact that judging had already been hired for those entries. This is a necessary evil because at this point we will have already hired judges to cover those entries; however, if your school has all the judging for the event covered (i.e. you have two policy teams and 1 judge, one team drops) email us and we can remove the extra drop penalty since we didn't lose any money on judging in this particular instance.

Fees

Individual Events: \$20

Congressional Debate: \$25

NLD - \$25

NCX - \$30

NPF - \$30

VLD - \$40

VPF - \$40

VCX - \$50

WSD - \$40

JUDGING REQUIREMENTS

WSD – 2 rounds owed per entry. 1 judge can cover 6 rounds/ \$25/missing round

PF – 2 rounds owed per entry. 1 judge can cover 6 rounds/ \$25/missing round (3 entries/1 judge)

LD – 2 rounds owed per entry. 1 judge can cover 6 rounds/ \$25/missing round (3 entries/1 Judge)

CX – 3 rounds owed per entry. 1 judge can cover 6 rounds/ \$25/missing round (2 entries/1 Judge)

IEs - .5 rounds owed per entry. 1 judge can cover 6 rounds/ \$20/missing round (12 entries/1 judge)

Congress - .25 rounds owed per entry. 1 judge can cover 4 rounds/\$25/missing round (12 entries/1judge)

NLD/NPF - .5 rounds owed per entry. 1 judge can cover 6 rounds/\$15/missing round (12 entries/1 judge)

NCX – 1 round owed per entry. 1 judge can cover 4 rounds/\$15/missing round (4 entries/1judge)

Judging Fees will be assessed on **Monday, October 19, 2020 at 5:00pm**. Those schools missing judges will be charged at that time. All judges must have a tabroom.com account and a paradigm on tabroom.com. Missing Round fees will only be used to hire judges. While we understand that this may seem high, we would much rather have your judges than your money. We also believe that during these trying times, we must also pay our judges (many of whom rely on debate tournaments as their primary source of income) fairly for their labor. We also believe that in a virtual world paying judges fairly only helps us to attract the best judges and critics from across the state.

All school provided judges are required to be available one round past the elimination of their most successful competitor in the event that they are covering.

Due to multiple school judges not picking up debate ballots in the past, we will be fining schools \$25 per round for any judge who either doesn't pick up a ballot, or who is so late in picking up a ballot that we need to reassign it to another judge. After two no-shows, the judge will be dropped from the tournament and the school will be charged the full judge fee. Judges who are late to their round and require a replacement will count as a "no show".

If a school's judge no-show results in the tournament being short judges we will ask the school's coach to either fill in or we will have to drop entries in order to have enough judging.

In a world of virtual debate and online ballots, it is important that your judges' tabroom information (email and phone number) are up to date and that they are frequently checking their phone/email to ensure they do not miss a ballot. It is the obligation of coaches to ensure this info is up to date and to check pairings and ensure that their judges are prepared to judge.

DEBATE TOPICS AND CONGRESS INFORMATION

The topic for CX Debate is: **Resolved: The United States federal government should enact substantial criminal justice reform in the United States in one or more of the following: forensic science, policing, sentencing.**

The topic for LD Debate will be the September/October 2020 topic.

The topic for PF Debate will be the September/October 2020 topic.

Prep time for CX is 8 minutes. Prep time for LD is 4 minutes. Prep time for PF is 3 minutes.

We will use the NSDA pilot rules for PF.

Brackets will not be broken in debate.

CONGRESS NOTES: We will use the TFA 2020 Fall Legislation. Student Congress legislation to be debated in each session is listed below. The items may be reordered as established by each chamber. Copies of the legislation can be found on the TFA website at txfa.org. Procedures for advancing and tie-breakers can be found in the TFA constitution.

Spartan

Prelims: 25-30

Finals: 1-5

Ram

Prelims: 1-5

Finals: 25-30

(If semis are necessary based on number, we will use 6-10) ; Students will run for P.O. in all sessions of congress.

WSD Prepared Motions

Round 1: Impromptu

Round 2: This house opposes the use of military personnel to respond to civil unrest

Round 3: This house would provide a Universal Basic Income

Quarters (if necessary): Impromptu

Semis: This house would replace human judgement with computer algorithms in criminal sentencing decisions

Finals: Impromptu

Extemp Topic Areas - TBD

Spartan:

DX

Prelims:

Semis:

Finals

FX

Prelims:

Semis:

Finals:

NX will be a combination of DX and FX

Ram:

DX

Prelims:

Semis:

Finals

FX

Prelims:

Semis:

Finals:

NX will be a combination of DX and FX

AWARDS TBD

SWEEPSTAKES

Individual Events, Congressional Debate, Duet Acting, Duo Interpretation

1st = 15 points

2nd = 10 points

3rd = 5 points

All non-placing finalists receive three points.

Debate Sweepstakes points will be calculated based off of prelim performance in debate events. Students will earn 5 points per prelim win and 1 point per prelim loss, only a school's top 2 students per debate event will be counted.

GENERAL RULES

We will break to Semifinals in all Individual Events unless entry levels warrant a break straight to finals. If entry numbers in an event are low, we will move to 2 prelim rounds and breaks directly to finals.

All ballots for Debate, IEs and Duet Acting will be made available as soon as possible after the completion of each round. Problems or questions should be directed to the tabroom as soon as possible.

An adult supervisor for each school must be immediately available to perform necessary tournament duties if called upon. Failure to do so may result in the tournament making necessary decisions such as: removing a competitor, walk-over an entry, or adjudicating a protest. Frequent inability to make contact with a coach for tournament related matters may result in that school's students being removed from the tournament.