

Welcome Back *

So, this is the part where we would usually say "You are cordially invited to the Georgetown Day School on 25-27 September (Friday-Sunday) for a weekend of intense competition and Hopper hospitality." Obviously, for the 2020 GDS Invitational, that is precisely what we cannot say. Instead, this year, we will welcome you to the Virtual GDS Invitational.

In many ways, we hope that this will reflect the GDS tournament that you all know and love: We will offer one Varsity division on the 2020-21 NSDA policy debate resolution. The format will be 8-3-5 with ten minutes of preparation time. We will not break brackets in the elims. The judging will be excellent and represent a full spectrum of background, perspective, and ideology. We are proud that our tournament functions as a Semifinals bid to the TOC in policy debate and a points qualifier for the NDCA National Championship tournament.

Unfortunately, there are many elements of our regular hospitality that we will not be able to offer: the endless food and supplies, homestays, the chaos of GDS during Sports Saturday. If you know me at all, you know that there is no person in this activity who wants to return to in-person tournaments more than I. If you were at the (fantastic) Online NDCA conference at the end of last semester, you may in fact have heard me belligerently insist that we would not even be hosting an online tournament. After anguished consideration (and a much-needed recollection of the fact that this isn't really about me), the better angels of my judgment prevailed. Next season, however, come Hell or high water, we will be back in person for the GDS-iest GDS Invitational in all of recorded history. And, for any of you that came to the tournament when Jim Gentile was hosting it, you know that is a serious claim to make.

We intend this year's virtual edition to reflect the warp and woof of the tournament that we have hosted over the last decade, but we have made some changes for this year, all of which are described in detail later in this invitation, that reflect the new necessity of the times:

- Modified Schedule, including 6 prelims instead of 7.
- Primary Contact requirement
- Reduced Entry Fee
- Changes to Entry Process and Cap

All inquiries about the tournament should be directed to: GDStournament@gmail.com or you can contact me via phone (text is better than a call) at 205-266-0523.

Looking forward to seeing you all,

jon

jon f. sharp

Director of Debate

Georgetown Day School

4200 Davenport St NW

Washington, DC 20016

202-274-3296 [office]

205-266-0523 [cell/text] - Text is the best way to contact me.

GDStournament@gmail.com

*** Fees and Logistics ***

Tournament Entry

Please read this section closely, as a lot of it has changed from previous iterations.

Registration will take place on [Tabroom.com](https://tabroom.com)

All teams will be waitlisted upon entry. Each school may initially claim entry spots for two (2) teams. On 20 August, we will release the first two teams of all registered schools from the waitlist, up to the 72 team cap, and start authorizing a 3rd spot for each school who has entered three teams, based on tournament space. If there is still space within the cap on 31 August, we will register 4th spots for any team who has entered four teams. If we reach the entry cap for two slots per school before 20 August, we will give priority to those schools who have traditionally attended the in-person tournament (twice in the last three years). If we reach the registration of 3rd spots before we reach the entry cap, but there are more 3rd teams entered than spots remaining within the cap, we will give priority to those schools who have traditionally attended the in-person tournament. If we reach the registration of 3rd spots before we reach the entry cap, but there are more 3rd teams entered than spots remaining within the cap, we will give priority to those schools who have traditionally attended the in-person tournament. Just to be clear: No school will get a 3rd team until all of the schools registered by 20 August have chosen to take one or two of their initial spots; no school will get a 4rd team until all of the schools with three or more teams entered by 31 August have registered their 3rd entry.

Due to the unique circumstances of the current (online) era of debate competition, we cannot accept independent entries for this competition. If this presents a problem for you, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Tournament Director.

Fees and Dates

Team Fee: \$75

Judge Fee: \$150 per uncovered team

Please reach out to me if your school wishes to participate but has trouble with the fees. Discounted fees are available for UDL programs.

Fees will be set on 05 September. Any drops after that date will forfeit the entry fee for that/those entry/entries, and an additional \$25 per dropped team.

Please make out checks to "GDS Debate"

Please Send Checks to:

Georgetown Day School

Attn: jon sharp

4200 Davenport St NW

Washington, DC 20016

Registration Opens: August 13

Initial Waitlist Registered (first two teams): August 20

Release 3rd Teams: August 20

Schedule Release: September 01

Finalize Judging: September 05

Fees Set: September 05

Registration Closes: September 25

Prefs Due: Noon, September 25

Judging

Each program must provide judge coverage for all entries in each event for every day of competition. One qualified judge is required for every two entries, with odd-numbered entries rounded up. For example, if you have three entries in Policy Debate, you must provide two judges on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Though a single obligation may be shared (i.e. each person judges one day), there are no partial daily commitments; judges must be available for the entirety of any given day they are in the pool. Please verify their availability when entering your judges on tabroom.com.

We ask that ALL judges be available for the first elimination round in order to make the best panels possible. In addition, please remember that you are obligated one round past the time your team is eliminated.

All tournament judges are expected to have philosophies posted online and any conflicts entered on the Tabroom.com site.

The tournament will be providing some supplemental judging, but we strongly prefer that you avoid hiring judges through us, if at all possible. If you need to hire a judge, please write me at GDStournament@gmail.com to be put in contact with a judge in the area who wishes to be hired. If this is not possible, for whatever reason, reach out to me and we can work something out.

Points will be on a scale of 30 with tenth of a point increments. Please do not award ties.

There will be one and only one winning team and one and only one losing team in each debate.

Despite my better judgment, we will employ "mutual preference" judging (MPJ) for judge assignment.

In the case of potential card clipping or other in-round ethics challenges, the tournament will defer to the judges in determining the outcome. It is not our intention to review.

We will provide awards for all teams advancing to the elimination debates and for the top 15 speakers.

This tournament functions as a Semifinals TOC bid in policy debate and a points qualifier for the NDCA National Championship tournament.

Primary Contact Requirement

Our expectation is that each school have at least one adult (non-high school student) as a primary contact for oversight and as a contact in case of emergency. By "primary contact," we mean that this person must be available by phone for the duration of your school's participation in the tournament. If you need to have a different person on a different day, we can manage that, but no please do not try to arrange multiple shifts per day or it defeats the purpose of a central contact, which is essential in the age of online debate tournament operation.

Please include this information in your Tabroom.com entry.

Equity Officer/Ombud

We are designating an official Equity Officer/Ombudsperson as a component of the 2020 GDS Invitational to be available to those with equity concerns. This official function will operate through the online platform.

*** Tentative Schedule 2020 ***

Due to the circumstances this year, the schedule for the 2020 invitational is currently the subject of discussion among the tournament staff and GDS administration. We are considering multiple options in order to provide the most productive competitive schedule while respecting the health and safety of the students, judges, coaches, and debate families.

When we have released the first set of entries on 19 August, the tab room will solicit input from coaches who have teams registered with the tournament for feedback and, taking that feedback into account, the Tournament Director will make a final decision and release the schedule. While we value this input, the ultimate schedule will be the final decision of the Tournament Director alone.