Greetings,

We invite you to the first-ever Novice Scrimmage Tournament hosted by Ithaca College on September 19-20, 2020. This tournament will be hosted via Zoom. The goal of the tournament is to provide novices with a comfortable introduction to NFA-LD debate. With that goal in mind, a couple changes will be made in the format of this tournament as compared to a “normal” tournament:

-The only division offered will be a novice division, which will require use of the NTDC Novice Evidence Packet

-Experienced students will be used as judges

-Novices will have an opportunity to attend three instructional modules throughout the tournament as well as a demonstration debate by experienced students using the novice packet

-The tournament will offer no physical awards, will not host outrounds, and will not be an NFA qualifier

If you have any questions feel free to contact:

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We look forward to seeing you!

**Schedule**

\*All times EST

Saturday, September 19

9:45 Opening assembly

10:15 Module One: Flowing a Debate/student judging clinic

11:00 Round one

12:15 Lunch break

1:15 Round two

2:45 Round three

4:15 Round four

5:30 Module Two: Topicality

Sunday, September 20

10:00 Round five

11:30 Module Three: Stock Issues and Parts of an Argument

12:15 Lunch break

1:15 Demo Debate

3:00 Round six

4:30 Closing assembly

**Registration/Fees**

This tournament will be hosted via Zoom. **There will be no entry fees for covered entries.** The tournament cannot guarantee that uncovered entries will be accommodated. A limited number of hired judges will be available at a rate of $75 per uncovered debater (this fee will be reduced if possible).

We ask that teams alert us of dropped entries as soon as possible. A nuisance fee will be assessed for any entry dropped after 5 PM on September 17.

Entries should be made on Tabroom by September 12, 2020. A pre-tournament “registration” will be conducted on September 19 from 8:30 to 9:30, where teams will be asked to confirm that all entries and judges are present.

**Entry Caps and Novice Rules**

No entry cap will exist for this tournament. Depending on the size of the field and each school’s entry, students from the same school may debate one another, though this possibility will be prevented if at all possible.

The only division offered at this tournament will be a novice division. Only students in their first or second semester of debate will be counted as novice and permitted to debate in a novice division. One year of high school or college debate counts towards your eligibility for this division. You may petition the tournament director for exceptions to the novice eligibility rule.

All entries will be expected to use the Northern Tier Novice Evidence Set. Use of evidence outside of the evidence set will be strictly prohibited. This tournament will use the 2020-2021 NFA-LD resolution and follow the NFA-LD rules.

**Elimination Rounds and Awards**

This tournament is designed to center the educational experience, rather than the competitive one. As such, **no elimination debates will take place**. To minimize entry fees, no physical awards will be handed out. All students who end the tournament with a positive record (4:2 or better) will be recognized. Due to the use of student judging and to reduce stress, **this tournament will not be an NFA qualifier.**

**Judging**

Undergraduate students will be eligible to judge at this tournament, provided that each student judge has had at least two full semesters of NFA-LD experience competing in an open division. Novice experience does not count towards this requirement. All student judges will be required to attend the student judging clinic at the beginning of the tournament. We ask that coaches use discretion in determining which of their students would be capable critics.

There are three primary justifications for use of student judges. First, student judging will allow coaches to focus on working with their students up to the start time of the round, without the stress of judging. Second, use of student judges will increase the number of covered entries programs will be able to field, making the tournament accessible to any student who wants to try out debate. Third, student judging will be less intimidating for novices and serve as an educational experience for the student judges.

To ensure a diverse judging pool, we ask that available coaches and GAs as well as any interested students be entered into the judging pool. However, we plan to use student judges first.

**Disclosure**

We ask that all judges disclose their decisions to debaters. Decision disclosure has an educational value and allows debaters to make adjustments to their speeches mid-tournament. Twenty minutes have been allotted after each debate to allow for detailed judge feedback. Since this is an introductory tournament for novices, judges are reminded to make an effort to be particularly kind in their feedback. Judges should submit their ballots before giving oral feedback.

**Technology**

This tournament will be hosted via Zoom. Participants (debaters and judges) will receive a link to a Zoom room through Tabroom for each pairing. Once in the Zoom room, a Zoom Room Manager will direct people to breakout rooms for each debate.

Tournament participants will need a webcam and microphone. During the round, everyone except the speaker should be muted. Judges are asked to keep their camera on throughout the debate so debaters can use nonverbal feedback.

Online balloting will be used on Tabroom.com. Every judge is **required** to have a Tabroom account. Due to the remote nature of the tournament, there will be no way to provide paper ballots. Debaters are asked to create Tabroom accounts as well to access their ballots.

Debaters and judges will need a stable internet connection to participate in this tournament.