

The University of Houston Cougar Classic

7th Annual, January 15th-17th, 2021

UPDATE: This invite comes from December 6th, and reflects new entry fees from a shift to NSDA campus.

On behalf of the Speech and Debate Program, the Honors College, and the University of Houston, we would like to invite you to the 7th Annual Cougar Classic Speech & Debate Tournament at the University of Houston, which will be held on January 15th through the 17th in an online format. The tournament is a TOC semifinal bid in Lincoln-Douglas and Policy debate, and a finals bid in Public Forum (Silver Bid in Semifinals), and will be a TFA qualifier in all TFA events. We are also a NIETOC qualifying tournament.

NEW FOR 2021:

—**Three Day Schedule** – To account for the effect that COVID has on competition, we will be switching to a less demanding three day schedule.

—**Online Debate** - The tournament will be completely online.

—**Novice Divisions** – The tournament will have Novice divisions in Policy, LD, and PF.

—**Reduced Fees** – We have reduced fees by over a third for most divisions to account for the impact that COVID-19 is having on programs.

All events will be held online using the NSDA Campus. Registration will be done through Tabroom.com, which you can find here: uhcougarclassic.tabroom.com.

We will again offer a full complement of Individual Events, Duo & Duet, and Congressional, Lincoln Douglas, Policy, and Public Forum debate. We are excited to host this tournament to showcase our team and our commitment to a thriving culture of debate both in Texas and across the country.

UDL Participation

The University of Houston is committed to an inclusive vision of debate at all levels, as such we will be offering a series of fee waivers to UDLs that reach out early to request said waivers. Please contact Rob Glass about requesting such a waiver. Waivers will be done through the league and not by individual schools. This waiver will not include reduced judging commitments or waivers of judge fees.

Please let us know if you have any questions, and we look forward to seeing you on campus.

Sincerely,

Rob Glass

Tournament Director

robglassdebate@gmail.com

Richard A. Garner

Director, Speech & Debate

uh.cougar.classic@gmail.com

The Honors College

University of Houston

Twitter: @HoustonDebate

Instagram: @uhdebate

Facebook: facebook.com/HoustonDebate/

Logistics & Rules

Location & Entries

The Cougar Classic will be held entirely online, using the NSDA Campus platform for hosting duties. All registration, including Individual Events and Congress, will be done via Tabroom.com, which you can find here: uhcougarclassic.tabroom.com.

Judging Requirements

Teams are required to provide qualified judging to cover their entry (divisible by entries; see chart below). The tournament will offer hired judging (calculated by the whole judge, rounding up), but the pool of hired judges will be limited.

Due to the increased length of judging commitments and market demands **we have increased the price of tournament hired judging**. Please keep this in mind. As these fees will be directly paid to the judges they **cannot** be waived.

Novice and Varsity will use a collapsed judging pool, meaning all judges must be eligible to judge varsity debates.

Event	Entries per judge	Hired Judge Rate
Policy	2	\$350
Public Forum	4	\$350
Lincoln Douglas	4	\$350
Congress	5	\$150
IEs	5	\$150

Tabroom.com will be used for all entries, pairings, and balloting. All judges and debaters are required to have a tabroom.com account.

Mutual judge preference will be used in CX & LD. Preferences will open on January 7th and will be due at 10 pm on January 13th. Novice will receive the same weighting as Varsity in judge assignment. All judges are committed through the octo-final debate and one round after his/her team's elimination. Any school entered in individual events must provide a judge for every 15 individual event or Duet Acting slots. Schools with students advancing to semi-finals in speech events are required to be available for all final rounds. Judges may **not** count for both Debate and IE requirements.

Fees

Event	Entry Fee UH
Policy	\$60
Public Forum	\$50
Lincoln Douglas	\$40
Congress	\$25
Extemp	\$15
Duet/Duo	\$15
Other IEs	\$10

Drops: All drops after 11:55 pm on the Tuesday before the tournament (January 12th, 2021) will result in the loss of entry fees and hired judge fees until the day of the tournament. Drops after 5:00 pm on the Thursday before the tournament (January 14th) will result in an additional \$75 fee; no shows the day of the tournament will incur an *additional* \$100 fee. Judges dropped after NOON the Wednesday before the tournament (January 13th) will incur the judge fees plus a \$100 drop fee. Judges dropped on the day of the tournament will incur the judge fees plus a \$200 drop fee. Judges who fail to pick up a ballot for an assigned round will incur a \$50 fee for the first instance. A second instance will incur a \$100 nuisance fee, plus judge drop fees, plus calculated judge fees.

Teams may pay by check. We know that hosting a tournament so close to the winter break necessitates some logistical flexibility; however, due to previous non-payments, purchase orders will only be accepted with 1) prior approval from the tournament and 2) a corresponding email from the business office of your school, with the business officer CC'd so that we know they are aware of the payment and direct communication is possible. Failure to resolve all fees will render students ineligible for competition.

We are working with the University to make it possible to accept payment by Credit Card, and will update participants if that becomes an option.

Make checks payable to the **University of Houston.**

CREDIT CARDS

Teams may also choose to pay by Credit Card. There is an online portal to pay via credit card at this address:
<https://dash.hnet.uh.edu/machform/view.php?id=69388>

If you are going to use this service, please contact Rob and let him know when you have made payment. Teams using credit card payments must pay the entirety of their entry fees, partial payments will not be accepted. The tournament

director reserves the right to enforce this section at their discretion, up to and including removing delinquent schools from the entry pool.

The University's W9 is available on the tabroom page for the tournament.

Our mailing address:

UH Speech & Debate
The Honors College
M.D. Anderson Library
4333 University Dr. Rm 212
Houston, TX 77204-2001

You can contact us at:

Rob Glass
Tournament Director
RobGlassDebate@gmail.com

Richard A. Garner
Director, Speech & Debate
uh.cougar.classic@gmail.com
713.743.5707 (email preferable)

Entries & Cross-Entry

We will freeze entries on Tabroom.com at 11:55 pm on the Monday before the tournament (January 11th, 2021). Any changes after that date must be communicated to the tournament staff directly.

Debate contestants (CX/LD/PF/Worlds/Congress) **may not** cross-enter into other events.

Given the Asynchronous nature of Speech we **will allow** cross-entry between all speech events.

Rules

- TFA rules will be followed in all TFA events (see: <http://www.txfa.org>)

- The current NSDA topics will be used in all debate events.
- Contestants must be accompanied by a coach or an approved adult sponsor.
- If entries from the same school meet in elimination rounds, we will not break brackets.
- Panels will be used in all elimination rounds if possible.

Awards

Physical awards will be mailed to teams. The logistics and threshold for winning a physical award is still being worked out. Three overall sweepstakes places will be awarded.

Congress

We will use direct questioning in finals. Congress legislation can be found in the Congress section on the TFA website. Congress legislation will be debated as follows:

Prelims: Items 1-15

Finals: Items 16-30

IEs/Congress Schedule

Non-Extemp IEs will be done Asynchronously. A link must be provided to speeches by 11:59 PM Wednesday the 13th.

Elims will take place live on Saturday at 2PM. Divisions with over 25 participants will break to semi-finals, divisions with 25 and under will break to Finals.

The extemp schedule will be as follows.

Saturday	Extemp
11:00 AM	Draw for round 1.
11:30 AM	Round 1
2:00 PM	Draw for Round 2
2:30 PM	Round 2
4:30 PM	Draw for Finals
5:00 PM	Finals

Debate Schedule (All Times Central)

Friday	Debate (Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum)
3:30 PM	Round 1 + 2 Pairing Released.
4:15 PM	Round 1 (<i>Preset</i>)
6:45 PM	Round 2 (<i>Preset</i>)
Saturday	
10:00 AM	Round 3 Pairing Released
10:30 AM	Round 3 (<i>High-Low within Brackets</i>)
1:15 PM	Round 4 (<i>High-Low within Brackets</i>)
4:00 PM	Round 5 (<i>High-Low within Brackets</i>)
7:15 PM	First Varsity Elimination Round (LD and PF: Flighted, Varsity-CX Doubles if necessary)

