



Winston Churchill Classic January 7-9, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to invite you and your team to the 2021 Winston Churchill Classic hosted on January 7-9, 2021. While the realities of this year have necessitated the shift to an online tournament, we are more committed than ever to hosting the best and most competitive virtual tournament possible and are excited about the possibility for greater competition from around the state and country. As always it is our goal to provide outstanding and highly-preferred judging, a great tabulation staff, and incredible hospitality.

We are proud to have been awarded TOC bids from the University of Kentucky in LD (finals), Gold PF (finals), Silver PF (semifinals), Congress (top 6) and all relevant Speech events. We are also pleased to announce that we are also a NIETOC qualifying tournament in the relevant speech events as well as a TFA qualifying tournament.

In debate events we will feature 6 preliminary debate rounds beginning Thursday afternoon with elimination debates on Saturday. Congressional debate will feature one prelim with semifinal and final rounds to follow. Speech events will be asynchronous and feature two preliminary rounds, and quarters, semis, and finals based on entry numbers. Rounds will be scheduled with respect to both checks on screen-time and time allotted for meals/breaks.

We put a lot of thought into all aspects of tournament hosting and hope that they capture the unique aspects of San Antonio and the Churchill Classic that have allowed us to offer a tournament for over 40 years. We look forward to hosting you in January 2021 and cannot wait to see you all in-person in the future.

Sincerely,

Preston Stolte
Director of Debate

Brandon Forinash
Director of Oral Interp

Kandi King
Director Emeritus

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

- Based on entry numbers, we may need to make minor changes to the tournament schedule. Any changes made will be communicated via email and all changes to the schedule will be made prior to the final deadline to add/drop competitors without penalty.
- Second, please read all the way through this document as it contains lots of important 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 (and linked!) 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 rounds to compete in those rounds. To accomplish this, it will be necessary to place entry limits on some events. We will have waitlists in all events, please enter your students early.
- Based on the recent success of the platform at recent tournaments and the security that it provides, we will be using **NSDA Campus** as the tournament video platform. Please read the section below about NSDA Campus **thoroughly** so that you can ensure that your students do not have any trouble with the platform.

In this document you can find the following information:

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

NSDA Campus

After discussing with other coaches and seeing how programs have fared throughout the first semester, we have made the decision to use NSDA Campus as the tournament video platform. First, it allows us to cut the virtual platform fee per school in half. Second, there have been some recent incidents with zoom-bombing via the classrooms.cloud platform and while I am fully confident that those security issues will be resolved by the classrooms.cloud team, we need to make a decision on a platform now so that coaches have ample time to share this information with their students, check the technology requirements, and discuss any necessary changes with their IT departments if they envision students competing from their high school or using school devices. Third, because of how NSDA Campus is set-up, it makes the most sense for flighted rounds so that competitors don't interrupt the previous flight's debate.

In my experience with tabulating tournaments, most if not all of the problems with students accessing NSDA Campus competition rooms stem from either competing on the school WiFi or using a school issued device (iPad, Chromebook, laptop). This problem can be resolved by talking with your IT department and having them unblock/whitelist the following websites:

meet.jit.si

web-cdn.jitsi.net

meet-east.speechanddebate.org

meet-west.speechanddebate.org

meet.speechanddebate.org

campus.speechanddebate.org

You can also test it by going to <https://campus.speechanddebate.org/>

Additionally, the following ports will need to be opened:

- 80 TCP: HTTP

- 443 TCP: HTTPS
- 10000-20000 UDP: RTP

It should be noted that even after this is done, I would **HIGHLY** encourage you to have your students test out a **competition** room and make sure their microphones/cameras work. I recently found out that while I was able to access NSDA Campus utility rooms (tabroom, squad room, etc.) and have my audio/video work, this was not true if I tried to access a competition room while connected to the school WiFi. There appears to be something different between the two room types and you need to make sure you students can access both spaces.

EVENTS OFFERED

-Asynchronous-

Dramatic Interpretation, Duet Acting, Duo Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Informative Speaking, Original Oratory, Program Oral Interpretation, Poetry, Prose

Contestants may enter as many asynchronous events as they would like. All speech events will have two preliminary rounds, breaking to quarterfinals if numbers permit. Video submissions for these events will be due at 11:59pm on Tuesday, January 5.

-Synchronous-

Extemp: Domestic Extemp, Foreign Extemp

Contestants may cross-enter one extemp event, Congressional Debate, and asynchronous events; cross-entry with other debate events will not be possible in a virtual world.

Congressional Debate:

Congressional Debate competitors may cross-enter with one extemporaneous speaking event and as many asynchronous events as they wish.

Debate: Policy Debate, LD Debate, PF Debate, World Schools Debate *Contestants entered in debate events may not cross-enter with any other events at the tournament.*

INDEPENDENT ENTRIES

The Churchill 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. We believe a good model to follow on this is that set up by the Greenhill Tournament, we will follow that model with some slight modifications. If you have any questions about the rationale behind such guidelines, please email Preston Stolte.

1 – All competitors must have a school-approved adult representative available at all times during the tournament.

2 – If a school employee is not attending with the student, a school official must email Preston Stolte 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.

4 — Fees for independent entries must be received before the tournament begins or students will be removed from the tournament. This is an unfortunate necessity but as an independent entry, there is no other way to guarantee entry fees are paid given there is not a school to contact.

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 Preston Stolte at [sstolt@neisd.net](mailto:ssolt@neisd.net) 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, #3, and #4 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/liability 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 **Monday, December 21, 2020 at 5PM**. After this date, the website will be closed and any adds/drops 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.

ALL entries will begin on the waitlist and waitlisted entries will be notified upon removal. Please enter as early as possible, as the following restrictions will be lifted on December 7. Schools are allowed to enter the events according to the following guidelines:

- No more than 12 CCX entries, with additional entries to be placed on a waiting list.
- No more than 12 CLD entries, with additional entries to be placed on a waiting list.
- No more than 12 CPFD entries, with additional entries to be placed on a waiting list.

DROP DEADLINES

Entries will be accepted through Monday, December 21, 2020 **any entry accepted after December 21 must be accompanied by a qualified judge.**

ALL FEES WILL LOCK ON Friday December 18, 2020 at 5pm, please have judges finalized by this time. Any entry after this date will be responsible for entry fees.

The deadline to enter a judge will be Friday, December 18 at 5pm, after this point you will be charged a judge fee.

This will be strictly enforced this year, after December 18 all drops will forfeit entry fees and associated judge fees. Due to the tournament occurring so early after winter break, having an accurate entry count makes finding the necessary judges possible. 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, December 21** will be charged the entry fee and judge fees that have been calculated. This is a necessary evil because at this point we will have already hired judges to cover those entries.

Any entry dropped after January 5th at 5 PM will also incur an additional \$50 drop fee.

JUDGING REQUIREMENTS

Cross-Examination Debate	Every 2 entries (or portion thereof) = 1 judge	\$175
Lincoln-Douglas Debate/Public Forum	Every 4 entries (or portion thereof) = 1 judge	\$175
Congress	Every 8 entries (or portion thereof) = 1 judge	\$150
Speech Judges	Every 8 entries (or portion thereof) = 1 judge	\$150

Judging Fees will be assessed on **Friday, December 11, 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. The fee for each missing judges will **only** be used to hire judges. We would much rather have your qualified judges than your money.

Schools who enter judges in Congressional Debate may have those judges used in

We also believe that during these 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. For debate events this means all judges will be obligated for at least Saturday morning.

To ensure top-notch judging for all participants, we ask that schools provide qualified judging to cover their judging obligations. All debate judges provided must have a paradigm entered on tabroom.com. The tournament reserves the right to deny an entry due to insufficient qualified judging.

Like other registration platforms, Tabroom.com will still add a fee to your invoice for any missing judges, however, one thing that tabroom.com offers which helps tournaments greatly is the option to request hired judging from the tournament. We would like to ask that if you know for sure that you will not be able to provide any judges that you please request hired judging as soon as possible as this lets the tournament hosts know to hire additional judging and prevents us from trying to guess whether or not a school will fulfill a judging obligation at the last minute. Once your

judge hire request has been accepted by the tournament host, you will receive an email confirming the hire and your fee invoice will be updated to reflect this change. Instead of a line item for a 'missing judge' you will have a line item for a 'hired judge'. Hired judging requests cannot be cancelled once the tournament accepts them; I will only accept a hired judge request once a judge has actually been hired to fulfill said request. **In order to hopefully provide an incentive for people to request judging if they know they will need it, which will help the tournament secure adequate judging well in advance we will set the "hired judge fee" at \$175 for all hired debate judge requests made prior to December 1.**

Due to multiple school judges not picking up debate ballots in the past, we will be fining schools \$50 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 so late to their round and thus must be subbed out will count also count a "no show". It is up to each coach to ensure their judges are awake, aware, and ready to judge.

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.

FEES and VIRTUAL PLATFORM

Speech Events: \$20

Novice PF/CX: \$35

Congressional Debate: \$30

Varsity LD: \$45

Novice LD: \$25

Varsity PF/CX/WSD: \$65

*****NEW IN 2021—LATE FEES*****

Any school with outstanding fees on **February 16, 2021** will be charged a **\$200 late fee** and reported to TFA Region Reps which may affect your ability to compete at TFA State. Any school with outstanding fees by April 2 will be charged and **additional \$100 late fee** and their bookkeeper will be contacted.

This policy will be strictly enforced this year; however, we **DO NOT** want to charge you late fees. This new stance is an unfortunate reality of schools not paying their entry fees in years past, especially this past year where we were left holding the bill for numerous schools who owed over \$500/school. This problem is magnified by the fact that in a virtual debate world, there is no in-person registration to receive checks, POs, or promises and thus this is the only way to guarantee that schools pay for their entries/drops/etc.

PLATFORM

While we have not yet made a firm decision on whether to use classrooms.cloud or NSDA Campus, we are leaning towards the former based off of feedback we are getting from coaches and competitors. In order to afford the additional expense of classrooms.cloud without having to drastically hike entry fees we will be charging each school a one-time, this-year-only \$40 ‘virtual hosting’ fee to hopefully help somewhat offset this cost. We have never charged a ‘hospitality’ or ‘school’ fee before, and we don’t plan on doing so in the future; however, this year presents us with a unique challenge that necessitates implementing such a fee. We will also be closely monitoring tournaments that use NSDA Campus over the next few weeks and if we choose to switch to that platform, this \$40 fee will be removed from all schools. A firm decision about which virtual hosting platform will be used will be made and emailed out to participating schools **no later than Nov. 20.**

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 Jan/Feb 2021 topic.
- The topic for PF Debate will be the January 2021 topic.
- Prep time for CX is 8 minutes. Prep time for LD is 4 minutes. Prep time for PF is 2 minutes.
- We will use the NSDA pilot rules for PF.
- **Brackets will not be broken in debate.**

CONGRESS NOTES: We will use the TFA 2021 Spring 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.

CONGRESS LEGISLATION

Prelims (Domestic Policy): 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 18

Semis (International Relations): 3, 4, 15, 19, 21, 27

Finals (Economy, Energy, Environment): 10, 14, 16, 17, 20, 23

Students will run for P.O. in all sessions of congress.

WSD Prepared Motions

Will be posted when November-Feb topics are announced.

AWARDS

Even though this tournament is online, we believe that students should be recognized for their achievements. As such, awards will be presented to all debate quarterfinalists and speech finalists. Sweepstakes awards will also be given to the top 5 schools. We have taken a lot of pride and care in choosing awards that uniquely represent the Churchill Classic and San Antonio well and we are committed to ensuring that process continues. Trophies will be shipped to each school and sent to the address provided for refund information. If extreme circumstance requires us to ship trophies directly to students, we will look into the price of doing so and try to work with the schools to figure that out.

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 2 points 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 quarterfinals. If entry numbers in an event are low, we will move to 2 prelim rounds and breaks directly to finals.
- All W/L or rank results for Debate, Congress, and IEs 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 remove 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.