# University of Georgia Bulldog Debates for High Schools

## General Welcome

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The Georgia Debate Union cordially invites you to virtually attend its annual Bulldog Debates for High Schools on February 19-21, 2012 (Fri-Sun). We aim to offer an outstanding academic competition and overall pleasant tournament experience. For over 30 years, our tournament has drawn a number of teams from around the country and we look for that to continue this year.

We are moving online due to COVID-19. We have spent a lot of time figuring out the best schedule for attendees that balances screen time for all as well as a field with attendees from different time zones. To that end, we will follow a 3-3-4 round schedule (more details below). We will also use the Classrooms.cloud platform that has successfully been used by many high school and college debate tournaments since April of 2020.

The University of Georgia debate tournament is once again designated as a TOC Qualifier in policy debate at the Semi-Final level.

**Please read the invitation carefully as it contains important and new information that will affect all those attending the tournament.**

While we cannot gather in person, we look forward to virtually hosting you and your students in the new year!

Sincerely,

Shuntá Jordan and the Georgia Debate Union

Head Debate Coach

Tournament Director

404-580-3692

email: [jordanshun@gmail.com](mailto:jordanshun@gmail.com)

<https://comm.uga.edu/uga-debate>

## Electronic Consent Waiver

Every school will be required to submit an electronic consent waiver for all student participating in the tournament. This form can be found on the main page of the tournament’s Tabroom page. Please download the form for each student, complete it and upload it back into Tabroom. Each participant must have a formed completed and uploaded by February 12th.

## Tournament Details

### Registration

Registration for the Bulldog Debate Tournament will be handled through the Tabroom website. All entries and fees will be managed through the website as well. Final registration fees will be assessed as of Monday, Feb. 15, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

We will aim to offer “Onsite Confirmation” via the Tabroom website. That process will need to be completed by 11pm EST on Thursday, February 18th.

CHANGES

Because alterations to teams’ original entries have the habit of occurring, we request that you record changes to entries on the Tabroom websitepromptly. If the registration period has ended, please notify Shuntá Jordan of your changes **as soon as possible**. An email to [jordanshun@gmail.com](mailto:jordanshun@gmail.com) is preferable, but Shuntá may also be reached at 404-580-3692 if late changes are necessary. *Please do not contact the tournament director unless the registration period on the Tabroom website has expired.*

### Entry and Fee Information

ENTRIES

In the tradition of the Bulldog Debates, entries will be accepted in two divisions: Novice and Open policy. In an effort to host with an acceptable schedule that crosses all of the time zones, and to limit the number of 4-2 entries not clearing, we will be limiting each division to 60 Entries. Initially, entries will be capped at 3 per school in each division. A waitlist will be maintained and revaluated on Jan 11th. Please register early if you are concerned about getting a spot in the tournament.

Both divisions will consist of six (6) preliminary debates. Rounds 1-2 will be preset. Rounds 3-6 will be matched High Low within brackets. (These are subject to change due to technology consultation). Up to 16 teams/debaters in each division with winning records will advance to elimination rounds.

The Novice policy division will NOT utilize the Georgia or NDCA novice evidence packet. High School students will be allowed to judge the Novice Division. There will be a limited preference system used in assigning judges in the Open division.

INDEPENDENT ENTRIES

We will not accept independent entries. All competitors must represent a school and be registered by a coach from that school.

TOPIC

The resolution to be debated 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.**

FEES

Entry fees will be $60.00 per team. We expect to have little to very small pool of hired judges available. Many of our students will be competing in their own college tournament and their judging will be limited.

There are No extra Late, Drop, Hotel or School fees or Nuisance Fines added on.

Fees will be locked in on Monday, February 15th.

Please make checks payable to: **Georgia Debate Union**

Mail to:

Attn: Shuntá Jordan

Georgia Debate Union

617 Caldwell Hall

The University of Georgia

Athens, GA 30602

### Judge Requirements

Please read carefully

* Entry Requirement:
  + Judge philosophies, as a precondition of entry, must be posted to judges’ Tabroom.com accounts no later than February 12th.
  + Judges are expected to have significant prior experience with policy debate. If a judge does not have significant prior experience with policy debate, they are not eligible to judge without advanced permission from the tournament.
* Obligations:
  + Each school must provide 3 rounds of prelim judging per team.
  + Each judge should be entered for a minimum obligation of 2 preliminary rounds. We also very much appreciate additional contributions, particularly if you have judges with significant team or time constraints (particularly Friday).
  + If a judge cannot be placed above the strike line for the number of debates for which they are committed, the tab room reserves the discretion to increase the commitment(s) of other judges from that school.
  + Each judge is obligated through two elimination rounds. Judges with teams still competing are obligated a round beyond their team’s elimination. **If you are hiring judging, it is expected that your hired judges are part of your fulfillment of this obligation.**
* Responsibilities:
  + Judges are expected to judge debates assigned to them by the tournament tab room.
  + Judges are expected to adhere to Check-in and Report times. Failure to do so may result in penalties, including adjusting the school’s commitment.
  + Judges must vote for one and only one team in each debate.

### Equity Officer/Ombudsperson/Conduct

We are excited to announce that we will have an official Equity Offer/Ombudsperson as a component of the Bulldog Debates to be available to those with equity concerns.

**Behavioral Expectations:**

**Please share this information with your students, judges, and any other members of your entourage.**

We believe that tournaments should be exciting, fun and positive experiences for everyone. Because of this, we expect everyone to act appropriately at all times. Students, judges, and coaches who do not act in a manner that is appropriate for an educational setting involving high school students will be asked to leave the virtual tournament and not return. Some examples of behaviors that we view as detrimental to the tournament environment include, but are not limited to:

            Sexual/Gender Harassment

            Sexual/Gender Discrimination

            Bullying

            Yelling or overly confrontational behavior towards others

            Religious Harassment or Discrimination

            Ethnic/Racial Harassment or Discrimination

If you see or experience behavior that you believe to be harassing or discriminatory please contact Shuntá Jordan or a member of the tab room.

## Intended Schedule

**Change for this year:**

While we have traditionally began our tournament on Friday evening, that will change this year. We will begin on Friday midday this year to allow us to get in 3 debates that day.

You can see the intended schedule here – https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zXgvQmoKgu17EdslJOzl5BwSrJsahG5r-FPk2OmeCwo/edit?usp=sharing– it will be updated as needed if changes occur.