

TJ Congressional Debate Winter In-House 2021

January 23rd, 2021

Introduction

Welcome to the Winter In-House by TJ Congressional Debate! This tournament was designed to help members of the team get practice in a national-style chamber. **This tournament will be used to help make decisions for future national tournaments and leadership positions for the 2021-22 school year.** Any TJHSST student is welcome to attend regardless of skill level. **However, please note that this tournament is only open for TJ students.** For anyone seeking advice, the manuals are available at activities.tjhsst.edu/tjcongress under Resources → Congress 101.

Sign-Ups

Tournament sign-ups will open on Saturday, December 12th and will be open until Saturday, January 16th at 11:59pm. The drop deadline will be Wednesday, January 20th, so barring any emergency, all competitors should expect to compete unless they drop by that time. To indicate a drop, either email tjcongressdebate@gmail.com or PM Esha Karlekar, Jay Siva, Vivikta Rao, or Hasita Nalluri.

Tournament registration here (due by Jan 16, 2021): <https://tinyurl.com/TJWinterInHouseSignUp>

Legislation Submissions

Everyone is encouraged to submit a bill, which will be due by Sunday, December 27th at 11:59pm. Please upload your legislation according to the NSDA templates found here:

<https://www.speechanddebate.org/legislation-templates/>

All legislation should be submitted in **BOTH** PDF and Word format. Link for submission is found below.

Legislation submissions here (due Dec 27, 2020): <https://tinyurl.com/TJWinterInHouseLegislation>

ALL COMPETITORS MUST SIGN UP FOR A TABROOM ACCOUNT.

Please sign up at tabroom.com using your personal email.

Schedule (Please sign into each session using the links on Tabroom)

8:00 AM	Chambers Posted/Judge Check-In
8:15 AM	Team Check-In (ALL competitors must report on time)
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Prelims Session 1
1:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Prelims Session 2
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Finals Session
8:45 PM	Awards Ceremony

Tournament Rules

1. In addition to rules provided herein, we default to National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) rules, which cannot be altered or suspended. Where these rules are silent, Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 11th edition shall prevail.

2. Online Platform: TJ Winter In-House will be utilizing the Google Meet Platform. All links to sessions, awards, and check-in will be posted on the Tabroom page. In the event of technical difficulties, please alert the parliamentarian and PO in your chamber. Procedure on what to do if there is a disconnection will be up to the discretion of the PO.

3. Technology: NSDA 2020-2021 pilot rules allow for internet access (www.speechanddebate.org/pilot-internet-rules/). Judges will monitor students and may elect to penalize students using laptops for non-Congress related business in chambers by deducting points. Use of any device is subject to judge evaluation; infractions will be reported to the tabroom. Under no circumstances is video recording by any person allowed — penalty: disqualification!

4. Presiding Officer (PO): POs may serve one session and will be chosen by elections held at the start of the round.

5. Legislation: The organizing staff will select 6 pieces of legislation of all those submitted to be debated during the preliminary round, all of which will be posted by January 3rd, 2021. The 3 pieces of finals legislation will be written by the directors of the tournament and released on January 3rd, 2021. The chamber shall be responsible for choosing the order of legislation to be debated. Session times are hard stops, and all chambers must begin and end at the posted times..

6. Debate Structure: Precedence and recency do not carry forward between sessions. We will be utilizing a system of preset recency, which will be released in the beginning of each session. The PO must follow the preset recency and this will be verified by the parliamentarian. The prelims chambers can choose to end the session early if everyone has participated in 2 hours of exclusive debate, excluding recesses. In addition, there will be a 90-second final appeal speech, given by the author or sponsor of a bill after the chamber has moved to previous question.

7. Questioning: All rounds use direct questioning blocks of 30 seconds each. There shall be 2 minutes of mandatory questioning following only sponsorship and first negation speeches. All other speeches will have a 1 minute of mandatory questioning.

8. Decorum: All preliminary round chambers are designated as a House; members are "Representatives." The final round chamber shall be designated as a Senate; members are "Senators." "Open chambers" are prohibited. All contestants are required to wear Western Business Attire (eg. suits or dresses).

10. Breaks/Awards: A rank system will be used for tabulation, with competitors who have the lowest rank sum placing higher. In the event that two people have the same cumulative rank total, the tie will be broken in favor of whoever has the lower parliamentary rank. For example, a parliamentary rank of 3 will result in a higher placing than a rank of 5 in the event of a tie. These will be used to determine breaks as well as the final places.

The top 12-16 competitors from the tournament as a whole will break to the finals round. In individual chambers, the break will be determined by the number of total sign-ups and will be announced by Thursday, January 21. Breaks will be announced as soon as possible after tabulation from the prelims round has concluded.

The top 6 competitors from the finals chamber will receive an online badge and will be recognized during the awards ceremony at 8:45 PM. All places from finals will be announced during the same awards ceremony.

12. Contact: If you have any questions about the tournament, either email tjcongressdebate@gmail.com, or message Esha Karlekar, Jay Siva, Hasita Nalluri, or Vivikta Rao.