

# The University of Houston Cougar Classic

8th Annual, January 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**THIS IS A REVISED INVITATION ACCOUNTING FOR US TRANSITIONING TO AN ONLINE ONLY EVENT**

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE ORIGINAL INVITE:

- A move to NSDA campus.
- Lower tournament fees.

On behalf of the Speech and Debate Program, the Honors College, and the University of Houston, we would like to invite you to the 8th Annual Cougar Classic Speech & Debate Tournament at the University of Houston, which will be held on January 14<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Summary Info:

—**Three Day Debate Schedule** – The tournament will run on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday schedule with debate prelims on Friday and Saturday, elims beginning on Saturday and working through Sunday. **IEs will run one day, Saturday.**

—**Online Format** - The tournament will run with a online format for all events.

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

—**One Day JV Division** – The tournament will have a single day JV division in the debate events on Saturday.

—**Online asynchronous MS Speech tournament** – We will offer an asynchronous online speech event, with live final rounds Saturday. This will only be open to Middle School competitors.

All events will be held online via NSDA Campus. Registration will be done through Tabroom.com, which you can find here: **[uhcougarclassic.tabroom.com](http://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.

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](http://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.

The tournament considers a judge who can confidently understand a round, render an oral decision for debaters, and answer questions about their decision to be qualified.

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
Worlds	2	\$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.

Judges in debate events are required to have a tabroom paradigm no later than January 6<sup>th</sup>. Any judge without a paradigm will not account toward their school's judging obligation.

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, and will receive three judge panels in eliminations like varsity teams. 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

FEES HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO ACCOUNT FOR ONLINE PARTICIPATION.

Event	Entry Fee UH
Policy	\$100
Public Forum	\$65
Lincoln Douglas	\$50
Congress	\$40
Extemp	\$15
Duet/Duo	\$15
Other IEs	\$15

**Drops:** All drops after 11:55 pm on the Tuesday before the tournament (January 11th, 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 13th) 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 12th) 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 or credit card. Credit Card payment information will be distributed via tabroom e-mail blasts.

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.

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

The University's W9 is available here: <https://uh.edu/office-of-finance/tax-information/official-tax-documents/2021-w-9-tax-office-signed.pdf>

A copy will also be uploaded to the tabroom tournament page.

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  
uh.cougar.classic@gmail.com  
607-699-1042 (email preferable)

### Entries & Cross-Entry

We will freeze entries on Tabroom.com at 11:55 pm on the Monday before the tournament (January 10th, 2021). Any changes after that date must be communicated to the tournament staff directly.

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

Individual Events patterns will be as follows:

<b>Pattern A</b>	FX, DX, Duet, Prose, Impromptu, Oratory, POI	Students may enter 3 events
<b>Pattern B</b>	Poetry, HI, DI, Informative, Duo	Students may enter 2 events

Contestants should make an effort to notify their judges when they are cross-entered. Tardiness to rounds may result in disqualification unless excused by the tabroom or tournament director.

### 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, including novice rounds.

## **Awards**

Awards will be given to all contestants in elimination rounds. Debate speaker awards will be given to the top ten speakers in each division. 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.

**We will use the TFA scaffolding.** Congress legislation will be debated as follows:

Prelims: Items 1-15

Finals: Items 16-30

## IEs Schedule

**ALL IE EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY  
IE WILL BE RUN ONLINE AND SYNCHRONOUSLY**

*Note: This schedule may be adjusted depending on final room scheduling arrangements. Please check back prior to the tournament for the finalized schedule.*

Saturday	Individual Events
8:30 AM	Registration
9:30 AM	Round 1, Pattern A
11:15 AM	Round 1, Pattern B
12:45 PM	Round 2, A
2:15 PM	Round 2, B
3:45 PM	Semi-Finals, A
5:15 PM	Semi-Finals, B
6:30 PM	Finals, A
7:30 PM	Finals, B

## Congress Schedule

Friday	Congress
3:30 PM	Schematics Released
4:00 PM	Prelims
7:30 PM	Finals

## Debate Schedule (All Times Central)

Friday	Debate (Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum)
3:00 PM	Round 1 + 2 Pairing Released.
3:45 PM	Round 1 ( <i>Preset</i> )



6:15 PM	Round 2 ( <i>Preset</i> )
<b>Saturday</b>	
9:00 AM	Round 3 Pairing Released
9:30 AM	Round 3 ( <i>High-Low within Brackets</i> )
11:45 AM	Lunch Break
12:15 PM	Pairings for Round 4 Released
12:45 PM	Round 4 ( <i>High-Low within Brackets</i> )
3:00 PM	Pairings for Round 5 Released
3:30 PM	Round 5 ( <i>High-Low within Brackets</i> )
5:45 PM	Elim Pairings Released
6:15 PM	First Varsity Elimination Round (LD and PF: Flighted, Varsity-CX Doubles if necessary)
<b>Sunday</b>	(Subject to change based on final numbers; times will be accelerated where possible)
9:00 AM	Pairings Released
10:00 AM	ALL: Second Elimination Round/First Novice Elimination (LD and PF: Flighted)
1:00 PM	ALL: Third elimination round (LD and PF flighting cease here)
	Rounds continuing as quickly as possible until the end of the day.

# Middle School Asynchronous Speech

We are pleased to offer a Middle School asynchronous speech tournament.

Entry fees and judging requirements will be the same as the High School speech entries. We will offer all divisions *except* Foreign and Domestic Extemp.

Enrollment is restricted to anyone in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade and below.

Recordings of speeches must be submitted no later than 11:00 PM CT on Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of January. The rounds will be judged asynchronously, competitors advancing will be informed Friday Evening, and elim rounds will be held starting at the same time as HS Speech IE Semis (Saturday 3:45 PM), and continuing as long as needed.