



## **Big Cat Swing**

**Hosted by: Cy-Fair & Cypress Creek High Schools**

**November 18-19, 2022**

**Tournament Directors:**

Perry Beard, Director of Forensics, CFHS

Dustin Kay, Director of Forensics, CCLHS

**Email:** [vincent.beard@cfisd.net](mailto:vincent.beard@cfisd.net) or [dustin.kay@cfisd.net](mailto:dustin.kay@cfisd.net) or [ryan.hennessey@cfisd.net](mailto:ryan.hennessey@cfisd.net)

**Dear Colleagues,**

Cy-Fair and Cy Creek High School are proud to host the Big Cat Swing on November 18-19, 2022.

The tournament will held at Cypress Creek High School. The address is 9815 Grant Road Houston, TX, 77070.

In order for our schedule to stay on time, please be aware that a student cannot cross-enter in debate and I.E.s.

We will offer all traditional TFA events and students have the opportunity to swing in ALL EVENTS (except CX and WSD).

We can accommodate I.E. and Duet/Duo students who are entered in 2 events per section; however, any more than that is the responsibility of the student and we cannot guarantee they will be able to make all of their events. The times on our schedule are tight and it is always the student's responsibility to be handling their time appropriately.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

We look forward to hosting you in November.

Edited 11/10

Sincerely,

Perry Beard and Dustin Kay

## **Tournament 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 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 the elimination rounds to compete in those rounds. To accomplish this, it will be necessary to place entry limits on some events.

### **In this document you can find the following information:**

- Events Offered
- Independent Entries
- Entry Guidelines and Waitlist Policy
- Drop Deadlines
- Fees
- Judge Requirements
- Topics and Congress Information
- Sweepstakes
- General Information

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## **EVENTS OFFERED**

**Section A: Domestic Extemp, Dramatic Interpretation, Original Oratory, Poetry, and Duet**

**Section B: , Foreign Extemp, Novice Extemp, Humorous Interpretation, Informative Speaking, Program Oral Interpretation, Prose, and Duo**

*Contestants may enter 1 extemporaneous speaking event.*

### **Debate Events -**

**Policy Debate, LD Debate, Novice LD, PF Debate, Novice PF, World Schools Debate, Congressional Debate, Novice Congress**

Contestants entered in debate events may not cross-enter with any other events at the tournament. Non Advancing LD/PF/CX/WSD entries may re-register Friday night for **Bobcat Section A IEs**.

## **INDEPENDENT ENTRIES**

The Big Cat Swing 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.

- 1 – All competitors must have a school-approved adult representative present at all times during the tournament. As noted in the tournament best practices document, this means they must be either actively judging, in a judge pooling room, or assisting the tournament.**
- 2 – If a school employee is not attending with the student, a school official must email Perry Beard or Dustin Kay 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.**

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 Perry Beard or Dustin Kay 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 and #3 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 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](http://www.txfa.org).

The entry deadline is **Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 5PM**. After this date, the website will be closed and any adds/drops/changes 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.

**Registration** link at the top of this page. Schools are allowed to enter the events according to the following guidelines:

No more than 4 CCX entries, with additional entries to be placed on a waiting list.

No more than 6 CLD entries, with additional entries to be placed on a waiting list.

No more than 6 CPFD entries, with additional entries to be placed on a waiting list.

## **DROP DEADLINES**

Entries will be accepted through Tuesday, November 15, 2022.

**ALL FEES WILL LOCK ON Tuesday November 15, 2022 at 5pm**

**The deadline to enter a judge will be Tuesday, November 15, at 5pm, after this point you will be charged a judge fee.**

**This will be strictly enforced this year, after this date all drops will forfeit entry fees.** 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 **Tuesday, November 15th** will be charged the entry fee and incur a \$25 penalty to help mitigate the fact that judging had already been hired for those entries. This is a necessary evil because at this point we will have already hired judges to cover those entries; however, if your school has all the judging for the event covered (i.e. you have two policy teams and 1 judge, one team drops) email us and we can remove the extra drop penalty since we didn't lose any money on judging in this particular instance.

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## **FEES**

Individual Events: \$20

Congressional Debate: \$25

NLD - \$25

NPF - \$30

VLD - \$40

VPF - \$40

WSD - \$50

VCX - \$50

## **JUDGING REQUIREMENTS**

**WSD** – 2 rounds owed per entry. 1 judge can cover 6 rounds/ \$25/missing round

**PF** – 2 rounds owed per entry. 1 judge can cover 6 rounds/ \$25/missing round (3 entries/1 judge)

**LD** – 2 rounds owed per entry. 1 judge can cover 6 rounds/ \$25/missing round (3 entries/1 Judge)

**CX** – 3 rounds owed per entry. 1 judge can cover 6 rounds/ \$25/missing round (2 entries/1 Judge)

**IEs** - .5 rounds owed per entry. 1 judge can cover 8 rounds/ \$15/missing round (12 entries/1 judge)

**Congress** - .25 rounds owed per entry. 1 judge can cover 4 rounds/\$25/missing round (12 entries/1judge)

**NLD/NPF** - .5 rounds owed per entry. 1 judge can cover 6 rounds/\$15/missing round (12 entries/1 judge)

Judging Fees will be assessed on **Tuesday, November 15, 2022 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. Missing Round fees will only be used to hire judges. While we understand that this may seem high, we would much rather have your judges than your money. We also believe that during these trying 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.**

Due to multiple school judges not picking up debate ballots in the past, we will be fining schools \$25 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 late to their round and require a replacement will count as a "no show".

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.

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## **TOPICS AND CONGRESS INFORMATION**

The topic for CX Debate is: **Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its security cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in one or more of the following areas: artificial intelligence, biotechnology, cybersecurity.**

The topic for LD Debate will be the November/December 2022 topic.

The topic for PF Debate will be the November/December 2022 topic.

Prep time for CX is 8 minutes. Prep time for LD is 4 minutes. Prep time for PF is 3 minutes.

**Brackets will not be broken in debate.**

**CONGRESS NOTES:** We will use the TFA 2022 Fall 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](http://txfa.org). Procedures for advancing and tie-breakers can be found in the TFA constitution.

### **Cougar**

Prelims: 26-30

Finals: 1-5

### **Bobcat**

Prelims: 1-5

Finals: 26-30

(If semis are necessary based on number, we will use 6-10); Students will run for P.O. in all sessions of congress.



## **WSD Motions**

Round 1: This House supports a cashless economy.

Round 2: This House supports a cashless economy.

Round 3: Impromptu

Round 4: This House believes that the environmental rights of future generations supersede the economic interests of current generations.

Quarters (if necessary): Impromptu

Semis: This House believes that states should construct data-based profiles of their citizens (e.g. the social credit system in China).

Finals: Impromptu

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## **Extemp Topic Areas**

### **Cougar:**

DX

Prelims: Politics

Semis: Health/Science/Technology

Finals: The Economy

FX

Prelims: Asia

Semis: Africa

Finals: Europe

NX will be a combination of DX and FX

### **Bobcat:**

DX

Prelims: Social Issues

Semis: Education/Energy/Environment

Finals: US Foreign Policy

FX

Prelims: The Middle East

Semis: South America

Finals: International Conflicts

NX will be a combination of DX and FX

Edited 11/10

## **SWEEPSTAKES**

Individual Events, Congressional Debate, Duet Acting, Duo Interpretation, and Novice Debate (LD / PF) points will be award accordingly:

1<sup>st</sup> = 15 points

2<sup>nd</sup> = 10 points

3<sup>rd</sup> = 5 points

All non-placing finalists or NLD or NPF elim round participant in the round prior to semifinals will receive three points. If there are no elim rounds prior to semifinals, no other points will be awarded.

LD, CX, WSD, and PF Sweepstakes will be awarded accordingly:

1st = 20 points

2nd = 15 points

3rd = 10 points

All elim round participants in the round prior to semifinals will receive 5 points. If there are no elim rounds prior to semifinals, no other points will be awarded.

## **GENERAL RULES**

We will break to Semifinals in all Individual Events unless entry levels warrant a break straight to finals. If entry numbers in an event are low, we will move to 2 prelim rounds and breaks directly to finals.

All ballots for Debate, IEs and Duet Acting will be made available as soon as possible after the completion of each round on tabroom.com. 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: removing 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.