

JANUARY 5-7, 2023

**Alief Elsik HS presents the
2023 BLUE SWING**

A TFA IQT event and a NIETOC-bid tournament!

Dear Colleagues,

You are cordially invited to attend the **HYBRID** Alief Elsik BLUE SWING on January 5-7, 2023. We will run a full debate tournament online Thursday, January 5 & 6 then on Saturday, January 7 we will be in person on our campus to host the speech swings and the second half of the debate swing.

All **DEBATE** events will be *virtual* on NSDA Campus on Thursday and Friday. *Please note\ that all debate events begin on Thursday, January 5.* All **INDIVIDUAL EVENTS & the second half of the debate swing** will be *in person* on the Elsik Main Campus on Saturday, January 7.

In addition to our status as a double TFA qualifying weekend, the BLUE SWING tournament will be a qualifier for the National Individual Events Tournament of Champions (NIETOC) on the Columbia side of the speech tournament. We will be offering all TFA events as well as impromptu, prose and poetry. We will also offer a novice division in extemp, PF, and LD if entry numbers warrant. A *novice* for our tournament will be defined as a student in his/her first year of competition in the current academic school year.

All **divisions in debate** will consist of **4 preliminary rounds** leading to an elimination bracket. We reserve the right to adjust the schedule and number of rounds based on entry size. **WE WILL NOT BREAK BRACKETS IN DEBATE.** We will follow TFA rules in all events. Coaches unfamiliar with TFA events and rules can access information on the TFA website at www.txfa.org. All entries must be submitted via the **Tabroom.com** website.

Please note that Elsik students may choose to enter this tournament and they will be eligible for the break. See y'all in January. GO BLUE!

Sincerely,

Heath & the Mob Squad

TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES

1. TFA rules will be followed in all TFA events and in the novice divisions of those events. The current NSDA topics will be used in all debate events. If you are unfamiliar with TFA rules, you can find them at <https://www.txfa.org/resources.asp?t=1>. You can also find rules specific to virtual TFA tournaments at the Resources link on the TFA website at www.txfa.org.
2. Contestants must be accompanied by a **coach** or an **approved** adult sponsor. Elsie High School does not accept unaffiliated or student-generated entries in our tournament.
3. Contestants may not enter both the novice and championship divisions of an event and may enter only one division of extemp.
4. There will be a 30 second grace period in all events other than debate.
5. A **novice** is any student beginning their first year of competition in the current school year.

*** MIDDLE SCHOOL FOLKS PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

- 1) Debate "club" students may NOT enter any event at this tournament. TFA requires students to enter as representatives of the schools they attend and we will honor that rule with very few exceptions.
 - 2) Middle school students who have competed in any HIGH SCHOOL tournaments prior to this school year are NOT eligible for the novice division.
 - 3) Middle School entries **WILL VERY RARELY** be admitted into the tournament. If you want to be the exception to that, please reach out to Heath at 832-646-1800.
6. We will **NOT** break brackets in **DEBATE**.
 7. Students in debate events on Saturday may NOT enter the speech events at all. Students can certainly enter the online debate tournament then decide to enter the speech tournaments on Saturday. Congressional students can enter both congressional debate tournaments but they are limited to only enter Section A of the Columbia side of the swing on Saturday. Please pay close attention to these cross entry issues. **WE WILL NOT HOLD THINGS UP FOR YOUR CROSS ENTRY ISSUES.**

9. **EVERY SCHOOL MUST PROVIDE AT LEAST ONE JUDGE FOR EVERY DAY OF COMPETITION & EVERY ROUND IN WHICH YOUR KIDS COMPETE PLUS ONE ROUND PAST-** no matter how small your entry is. Larger entries may require more school judging so please be aware that we are **NOT NEGOTIATING** this. If you do not want to judge, this may not be the tournament scene for you. Also please note that if you have students entered in both debate events and speech events on Saturday, that you will need to provide at least one judge for each of those pools. One person cannot cover a school with entries in both speech and debate events.

QUESTIONS: You can reach the debate room at 281-988-3150 ext 26865 or Heath at 832-646-1800 (cell) after 6 p.m. The most efficient means of contact, however, is through email. You may email me at: christon.martin@aliefisd.net.

INDEPENDENT ENTRIES: We will **NOT** accept independent entries from any Texas schools. All entries must be official entries of the school attended. We will consider independent entries from out-of-state competitors on a case-by-case basis. Any accepted independent entries must: 1) have a school-approved adult representative present at all times during the tournament, and 2) have a judge in the pool. **All non-TFA affiliated schools or entries will be waitlisted until entry fees are received or until an agreement as been made with Heath .**

CONTRACT JUDGES: Individuals with competitive experience who have graduated from high school and are interested in judging should apply via the Hired Judges link. Enter your information into our database link. All contract judges must complete and return paperwork packet to christon.martin@aliedisd.net.

JUDGING: Coaches may not buy out of all judging obligations. Each school must provide at least 1 qualified judge each day of competition for each pool in which you have students competing. The school judge(s) must be entered on the Tabroom site and will be assigned judging rounds. Failure to meet judging obligations may result in the disqualification of all students from that school. Judges entered on the website in lieu of judging fees are expected to be present for any assigned rounds. Also please note that if

you are in a pool and your school/students make up so much of that event that you cannot judge rounds in that event, WE WILL MOVE YOU TO A JUDGE POOL OF YOUR CHOICE. If you do not want to judge, then you must provide a judge to cover, otherwise the coach will be placed into the judge pool of our choosing. Schools will be billed for no-show judges at \$50 per round. If the coach is not planning to attend the tournament, the school will still be responsible for providing a school judge(s). Please notify the tournament director if the coach is not planning to attend.

DEADLINE: Initial school entries are due no later than Tuesday, January 3; however, our facilities usually fill well before that date.

ENTRY LIMITATIONS: Debate entries are limited to 6 per division in all debate events. Additional entries may be waitlisted and will be accepted as space allows.

TOPICS: The Jan/Feb NSDA topics will be used in all debate events.

CONGRESS: Presiding officers will be elected. Please indicate students who wish to run for PO on the entry. **WE WILL USE DIRECT QUESTIONING IN ALL ROUNDS.** Congress legislation can be found in the Congress section on the TFA website at www.txfa.org. Congress legislation will be debated as follows:

ONLINE TBA:

Prelims: 1-5

Finals: 6-10

IN PERSON TBA:

Prelims: 6-10

Finals: 1-5

WORLD SCHOOLS DEBATE MOTIONS ONLINE (Th/Fri):

Round 1: This House supports mandatory voting in national elections.

Round 2: FLIP SIDE from Rd 1

Round 3: IMPROMPTU MOTION

Round 4: This House would ban lethal autonomous weapons.

Quarters (if needed): IMPROMPTU

Semis: (Semis will be IMPROMPTU if quarters doesn't happen)

Finals: This House regrets the rise in popularity of the True Crime genre (e.g. Netflix's Monster: The Jeffery Dahmer Story, the My Favorite Murder podcast).

WORLD SCHOOLS DEBATE MOTIONS IN PERSON (Sat.):

Round 1: This House believes that rehabilitation should be prioritized over retribution in criminal sentencing.

Round 2: FLIP SIDE from Rd 1

Round 3: IMPROMPTU MOTION

Round 4: This House would remove veto power from permanent members on the UN Security Council.

Quarters (if needed): IMPROMPTU

Semis: (Semis will be IMPROMPTU if quarters doesn't happen)

Finals: In art and popular culture, This House believes that creating new lead characters for minorities (e.g. Black Panther, Shang-Chi, and Gamora in the Marvel Cinematic Universe) is preferable to recasting them in existing roles already played by other actors/communities (e.g. Ghostbusters, The Little Mermaid).

FEES:

Entry Fees:

Individual Events	\$20
Congress	\$25
Novice Debate	\$30
VLD/VPF	\$40
Varsity Policy	\$50
World Schools Debate	\$40

Judging Requirements:

IEs 0.5 round for every 2 entries, or portion thereof; each judge covers 6 rounds

Congress 0.5 round for every 2 entries, or portion thereof – each judge covers 2 rounds in Congress

LD/PF 3 rounds per event entry; each judge covers 8 rounds if entered in both sides or 4 per side

CX/WSD 2 rounds for every entry; each judge covers 8 rounds if entered in both sides or 4 per side

All uncovered judge slots will be charged \$50 per round.

Checks for entries fees should be made to:

Alief Elsik High School
Attn: Heath Martin
Alief Elsik Speech & Debate
12607 High Start
Houston, TX 77077

PLEASE NOTE:

1. 1 judge may cover up to 6 total rounds total in speech and 8 preliminary rounds in debate if the school is entered in both sides of the swing. Rounds required may exceed these totals if your students advance into elimination rounds.
2. **Schools may NOT buy out of all judging obligations.** At least one school judge must be in the pool for each day of competition and on Saturday one judge per pool for all events the school is entered which means any school with speech and debate entries must have at least 2 judges for Saturday as 1 judge cannot cover both pools.
3. All judges entered in the pool should expect to be **ASSIGNED** the number of rounds signed up to cover plus any additional elimination rounds. If we assign any ballots above that then we will credit your school and reduce fees by the number of extra rounds judged.
4. School judges must be available in the judging pool as long as their students are competing in the tournament and up to one round past their best student's performance, even if the judge(s) has completed his/her initial judging obligation.
5. Judging fees will be assessed on Tuesday, January 3 at 6 PM.
6. All judges must have an active Tabroom account to fulfill judging responsibilities.
7. ***All non-TFA affiliated schools will be waitlisted until payment is received.***

DROP FEES:

All drops after 2 PM on Wednesday, January 4 will result in the loss of entry fees.

JUDGE NO-SHOWS WILL BE BILLED @ \$50 PER ROUND. Multiple no-shows may result in the disqualification of students from that school with a total forfeiture of fees.

DEADLINE: Entries are due no later than Wednesday, January 4 at 2pm.

Please understand that I have a very small team with limited resources including access to judges. We need your judges more than we need your money. As many of you know, I have a long history of running tournaments on time and plan to do so again this year. But as you might also know, the hired judge pool in Houston has shrunk and we cannot continue to expect schools to be able to hire all of their judging needs. I have NO ISSUE with charging ZERO judge fees, but that means we need everyone to help. BRING YOUR JUDGES! If you bring none, then I will enter the coach(es) of that school or we can just drop the school's entry. I do not want to do that and I certainly WILL NOT run a tournament out of control because we do not have the necessary judges.

I am asking you to try to get your entry in to Tabroom before you leave for Winter Breaks. I know many of you can't get it exactly right and that's okay. I just need an idea of what we are looking at before the break so I can plan accordingly. Thanks for considering the ELSIK BLUE for your first tournament experience of the second semester. We will see y'all in January.

Heath & the Mob Squad