



48th Winston Churchill Classic **January 6-8, 2023**

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to invite you and your team to the 48th Winston Churchill Classic hosted on January 6-8, 2023. We are excited to be hosting in-person and are committed to maintaining the outstanding tournament experience of previous years. As always it is our goal to provide qualified and highly-preferred judging, a great tabulation staff, and incredible hospitality.

We are proud to have been awarded TOC bids from the University of Kentucky in LD (semifinals), Gold PF (finals), Silver PF (semifinals), Congress (top 6) and all relevant Speech events. We are also pleased to announce that we are also a NIETOC qualifying tournament in the relevant speech events as well as a TFA qualifying tournament.

We put a lot of thought into all aspects of tournament hosting from hospitality food to awards and hope that they capture the unique aspects of San Antonio and the Churchill Classic that have allowed us to offer a tournament for over 40 years. We look forward to hosting you in January 2023 and are excited to welcome you and your students to campus.

Sincerely,

Preston Stolte
Director of Debate

Daniel Moore
Director of Oral Interp

Kandi King
Director Emeritus

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

- The tournament will be hosted fully in person; given the recent trends in declining debate/speech numbers we are excited to be hosting in-person and are committed to doing so. Even though the tournament will be in-person, please stay home if you are ill.
- Based on entry numbers, we may need to make minor changes to the tournament schedule. Any changes made will be communicated via tabroom email and all changes to the schedule will be made prior to the final deadline to add/drop competitors without penalty.
- Second, please read all the way through this document as it contains lots of important 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 (and linked!) 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 elimination rounds to compete in those rounds. To accomplish this, it will be necessary to place entry limits on some events. We will have waitlists in all events, please enter your students early.

In this document you can find the following information:

- Events Offered
- Independent Entries
- Entry Guidelines and Waitlist Policy
- Drop Deadlines
- Judge Requirements
- Debate Topics and Congress Legislation
- Hospitality
- Awards and Sweepstakes

EVENTS OFFERED

Speech

Dramatic Interpretation, Duet Acting, Duo Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Informative Speaking, Original Oratory, Program Oral Interpretation, Poetry, Prose

*All speech events will have two preliminary rounds, breaking to quarterfinals if numbers permit. **Students will be limited to two cross-entries per section.***

Extemp: Domestic Extemp, Foreign Extemp

Contestants may cross-enter one extemp event and Congressional Debate OR speech events from Sections B & C; students in VCX, VLD, and VPF may not cross-enter with extemp, however, we will allow novice debaters to cross-enter with extemp.

Congressional Debate:

Congressional Debate competitors may cross-enter with one extemporaneous speaking event or other Section A event.

Debate: Policy Debate, LD Debate, PF Debate, World Schools Debate

Contestants entered in varsity debate events may not cross-enter with any other events at the tournament. Novice debate contestants may enter extemporaneous speaking.

INDEPENDENT ENTRIES

The Churchill Classic 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. We believe a good model to follow on this is that set up by the Greenhill Tournament, we will follow that model with some slight modifications. If you have any questions about the rationale behind such guidelines, please email Preston Stolte.

1 – All competitors must have a school-approved adult representative available at all times during the tournament.

2 – If a school employee is not attending with the student, a school official must email Preston Stolte 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.

4 — Fees for independent entries must be received before the tournament begins or students will be removed from the tournament. This is an unfortunate necessity but as an independent entry, there is no other way to guarantee entry fees are paid given there is not a school to contact.

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 Preston Stolte at [sstolt@neisd.net](mailto:ssolt@neisd.net) 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, #3, and #4 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/liability 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 see the updated constitution on the TFA website at www.txfa.org.

The entry deadline is **Monday, December 19, 2022 at 5PM**. After this date, the website will be closed and any adds/drops 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.

Please enter as early as possible, as the following restrictions will be lifted on December 12. Schools are allowed to enter the events according to the following guidelines:

- No more than 8 CCX entries, with additional entries to be placed on a waiting list.
- No more than 8 CLD entries, with additional entries to be placed on a waiting list.
- No more than 8 CPFD entries, with additional entries to be placed on a waiting list.

DROP DEADLINES

Entries will be accepted through Monday, December 19, 2022. **Any entry accepted after December 19 must be accompanied by a qualified judge.**

ALL FEES WILL LOCK ON Monday, December 19 at 5pm, please have judges finalized by this time. Any entry after this date will be responsible for entry fees.

The deadline to enter a judge will be Monday, December 19 at 5pm, after this point you will be charged a judge fee.

This will be strictly enforced this year, after December 19 all drops will forfeit entry fees and associated judge fees. Due to the tournament occurring so early after winter break, having an accurate entry count makes finding the necessary judges possible. 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 **Monday, December 19** will be charged the entry fee and judge fees that have been calculated. This is a necessary evil because at this point we will have already hired judges to cover those entries; in years past drops have resulted in losing over \$2000 because of judges we hired for those schools.

Any entry dropped after January 4th at 5 PM will also incur an additional \$25 drop fee.

JUDGING REQUIREMENTS

Cross-Examination Debate	Every 2 entries (or portion thereof) = 1 judge	\$250
Lincoln-Douglas Debate/Public Forum	Every 4 entries (or portion thereof) = 1 judge	\$250
Congress	Every 8 entries (or portion thereof) = 1 judge	\$200
Speech Judges	Every 8 entries (or portion thereof) = 1 judge	\$200

Judging Fees will be assessed on **Monday, December 19, 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.**

We recognize that the judge fees may seem higher than they have been in the past, but one of our biggest hesitations of hosting in-person is the ability to get judges to come to San Antonio and judge. We have reduced our judge fees by \$50/event from last year with the hope that given the increase of in-person tournaments, there will be a larger pool of available judges willing to travel to San Antonio. **We would much rather have your qualified judges than your money.** The fee for each missing judges will **only** be used to hire judges and secure lodging for those judges we hire that are traveling to San Antonio.

We also believe that during these times, we must also pay our judges fairly for their labor. We believe that paying judges fairly helps us to attract the best possible judges and critics from across the state so that your students get the quality tournament experience they expect.

To ensure top-notch judging for all participants, we ask that schools provide **qualified** judging to cover their judging obligations. All debate judges provided must have a paradigm entered on tabroom.com. The tournament reserves the right to deny an entry or charge a judge fee due to insufficient qualified judging.

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. For debate events this means all judges will be obligated for at least Saturday morning.

Like other registration platforms, Tabroom.com will still add a fee to your invoice for any missing judges, however, one thing that tabroom.com offers which helps tournaments greatly is the option to request hired judging from the tournament. We would like to ask that if you know for sure that you will not be able to provide any judges, please request hired judging as soon as possible as this lets the tournament hosts know to hire additional judging and prevents us from trying to guess whether or not a school will fulfill a judging obligation at the last minute. This is the same process used by TFA State.

Due to multiple school judges not picking up debate ballots in the past, we will be fining schools \$50 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 so late to their round and thus must be subbed out will count also count a "no show". It is up to each coach to ensure their judges are awake, aware, and ready to judge.

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 online ballots and pairings, 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 in case we need to call missing judges and to check pairings and ensure that their judges are prepared to judge.

ENTRY FEES

School Fee: \$10

This year we are adding a school fee to all registered schools to help pay our outstanding and hard-working facilities staff and extra bonus for the tournament. The money raised from this (relatively small compared to other tournaments) school fee will exclusively be given to our facilities staff on top of what we, the host school, charge for their services. This year, Churchill High School has 8 full time custodians for a campus that is supposed to have 20; they are excellent, but given that they are already stretched thin with regular campus duties, their willingness help out with the tournament (for what amounts to an incredibly long weekend) cannot be understated.

Tournaments are only as good as those who help them run efficiently and our facilities team is at the school to unlock the doors before us and stays long after everyone is gone Saturday night to clean up as well.

Speech Events: \$20

Novice PF/CX: \$40

Congressional Debate: \$30

Varsity LD: \$50

Novice LD: \$25

Varsity PF/CX/WSD: \$75

*****Contd. from 2022—LATE FEES*****

We had SEVERAL schools that did not pay their tournament fees until nearly June this past year. We will be strictly enforcing late fees on payments and reporting delinquent schools to TFA Region Reps which may hinder participation at TFA State. We regret that we have to do this, but we cannot continue to have schools dodge fees and emails and we truly do not like having to email school principals/administration.

Any school with outstanding fees on **February 20, 2023** will be charged a **\$200 late fee** and reported to TFA Region Reps which may affect your ability to compete at TFA State. Any school with outstanding fees by April 2 will be charged and

additional \$100 late fee and their bookkeeper/principal will be contacted.

This policy will be strictly enforced this year; however, we **DO NOT** want to charge you late fees. This new stance is an unfortunate reality of schools not paying their entry fees in years past, especially this past year where we were left holding the bill for numerous schools who owed over \$500/school. Unfortunately, we have received too many unpaid POs, or promises of payment that have never come and thus this is the only way to guarantee that schools pay for their entries/drops/etc.

DEBATE TOPICS AND CONGRESS INFORMATION

- The topic for CX Debate is:
- The topic for LD Debate will be the Jan/Feb 2023 topic.
- The topic for PF Debate will be the January 2023 topic.
- Prep time for CX is 8 minutes. Prep time for LD is 4 minutes. Prep time for PF is 2 minutes.
- We will use the NSDA pilot rules for PF.
- **Brackets will not be broken in debate.**

CONGRESS NOTES: We will use the TFA 2023 Spring 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. Procedures for advancing and tie-breakers can be found in the TFA constitution.

Prelims: Items

Semis: Items

Finals: Items

Students will run for P.O. in all sessions of congress.

WSD Prepared Motions

Will be posted when November-Feb topics are announced.

HOSPITALITY

We are yet again excited to provide exceptional hospitality and a variety of food options to coaches, competitors, and judges alike. Concessions and hospitality will include options for vegetarian/vegan diets. We will try our best to update this page with the variety of food options that we will offer during the tournament to help with meal planning.

AWARDS

Sweepstakes awards will also be given to the top 5 schools. We have taken a lot of pride and care in choosing awards that uniquely represent the Churchill Classic and San Antonio well and we are committed to ensuring that process continues. Last year we began a new tradition of ordering Fiesta Medals for our tournament's trophies. We feel like these awards offer a unique and collectible aspect of San Antonio culture and we are excited to be designing a new medal again this year.

We will continue the tradition of giving each and every school that enters the tournament one Fiesta Medal for the coach(es) to collect each year just like San Antonians collect their own medals year-to-year. Depending on entry numbers, we may also have spare medals available for purchase for teams with multiple coaches who would each like a medal.

SWEEPSTAKES

Individual Events, Congressional Debate, Duet Acting, Duo Interpretation

1st = 14 points
2nd = 12 points
3rd = 10 points
4th = 8 points
5th = 6 points
6th = 2 points

Debate

Sweepstakes points will be calculated based off of prelim performance in debate events. Students will earn 4 points per prelim win and 2 points per prelim loss, only a school's top 2 students per debate event will be counted.

GENERAL RULES

- Any vandalism/theft will be reported to and investigated by the NEISD Police Department. Those found guilty will not only be removed from the tournament, but their school will be liable for any damage to the campus and criminal charges will be filed.
- All drug, alcohol, and tobacco products are explicitly forbidden on NEISD campuses. Offending individuals will be asked to leave the tournament immediately.
- 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 remove 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.