Dear friends,

On behalf of the Penn State Speech & Debate Society, we would like to invite you to the Rhetorical Spell debate tournament on February 25-26. **We will be hosting online.** The tournament will be held via tabroom and zoom. This tournament will offer six preliminary rounds and appropriate elimination rounds in NFA Lincoln-Douglas debate and IPDA debate. We intend to offer open, JV and novice divisions for LD and IPDA.

You can register for the tournament on Tabroom.com. Entries are due on February 20 at 5 PM EST. Changes can be made until February 23 at 5 PM EST. Drops after that time will be assessed a drop fee of $25.

We are excited to see you there!

Best,

Penn State Speech and Debate Society.

(Amay Anand is the contact person for this tournament. He can be reached at [afa6113@psu.edu](mailto:afa6113@psu.edu) or [amayanand03@gmail.com](mailto:amayanand03@gmail.com). The Tournament Director is Vidya Vardhini, who is unaccessible by email at this time but will be available at the tournament.)

**Schedule**

\*All times in EST`

Saturday, February 25

10:00 Check-in

10:30 Round One – LD&IPDA

12:30 Round Two – LD&IPDA

1:30 Lunch

3:30 Round Three – LD&IPDA

5:30 Round Four – LD&IPDA

7:30 Round Five – LD&IPDA

Sunday, February 26

10:30 Round Six – LD&IPDA

12:30 Elim One – LD&IPDA

2:00 Lunch

2:30 Awards

3:15 Elim Two – LD&IPDA

5:15 Elim Three – LD&IPDA

**Tabulation Procedure**

In LD and IPDA, for the first two rounds, debaters will be matched randomly. After that, rounds will be power-matched. No speaker points will be assigned due to evidence that speaker points propagate structural inequities in debate. All debaters with 4:2 records or above will advance to elimination rounds. Elim seeding will be dictated first by wins and second by opp wins. Brackets will not be broken in elims.

While Penn State students will be eligible to compete and advance into elims, no student who is involved in any way with the administration of the tournament will be competing.

**How remote works**

All speakers/debaters and the judge will be assigned a Zoom breakout room and the tournament will go on as normal.

**Fees**

LD entry = $30

IPDA entry = $30

Undercovered LD entry = $75

Undercovered IPDA entry = $50

Drop Fees = $25

Fees will be used to pay for awards. If you’re having trouble paying, let us know and we’ll work something out. Fees will be waived for new and student-run teams.

Each judge covers two debaters. Please make an effort to cover your entries, as hired judging will be extremely limited. **Schools are required to cover at least 50% of their entry.**

The drop deadline is Wednesday February 22 at 5 PM EST (that’s 2 PM PST). Entries dropped after the deadline will be assessed a $25 drop fee. We’ll waive the drop fee if something genuinely unavoidable happened (e.g. the debater got coronavirus, their parent died), just let us know.

**Judging**

We request that anyone judging LD at this tournament have a paradigm on Tabroom.com. For IPDA, we’re fine with student judges. If you can provide judges beyond your commitment, we may be able to reduce entry fees for your debaters.

We currently do not plan to offer judge strikes, but if anyone (student or coach) feels uncomfortable with a judge, even if it’s just a gut feeling, reach out and we’ll make sure they don’t judge you/your students.

**Bias Statement**

Penn State Speech and Debate Society does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender identity/expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status. We are committed to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for all tournament participants. If you witness any form of bias, please come to us. Note that we EXPLICITLY have no dress code for this tournament and judges should not be making decisions on the basis of dress or “professionalism.”

Any competitor who makes blatantly bigoted comments or intentionally misgenders someone will be disqualified from the tournament. Any judge who makes blatantly bigoted comments or intentionally misgenders someone will be removed from the pool and their school will be charged undercovered judging fees. We have a zero-tolerance policy for this.

**Accommodations**

We are happy to provide disability accommodations including but not limited to extended prep time or speech time, earlier or later speech times, etc. Just let us know what you need and we’ll do our best to make it work.

**Novice Eligibility**

Novice entries for debate will be considered to be in their first two semesters of any style of debate, including high school debate. We ask that coaches use discretion in determining whether their debaters skill level is suitable for a novice division.

If a full novice division doesn’t make, novice entries will be entered in open and there will be a novice breakout final.

**Online Competition**

We request that judges and competitors keep their cameras on unless there is a compelling reason to do otherwise. Some students may be debating from places in which they have poor internet quality, in which case they may need to keep their video off. Judges should not evaluate competitors based on their audio or video quality, but solely on the quality of their debating.

Fifteen minutes of “tech time” will be built into each round. If a serious issue happens in round (e.g. an entire speech is lost, starting over, etc.) that will cause a delay of more than fifteen minutes, please alert tab.

This tournament follows a two-party consent rule for recording a round. Anyone who wishes to record a round should get consent from everybody in that round. A person can withdraw consent from being recorded at any time. Any competitor who records a round without consent will be disqualified from the tournament. Any judge who records a round without consent will be removed from the pool, and their school will be charged undercovered judging fees.

Please don’t name yourself inappropriate things or Zoom-bomb, if you do that, you’ll get kicked off the Zoom. Observers are welcome and should label themselves as observers.

**Awards**

All elimination round participants will be recognized. Online Awards will be emailed after the end of the tournament so we can get the names of students on the awards.

**Rules**

This tournament will follow NFA rules for LD. We will use the 2022-23 LD topic.

Due to the sensitive nature of many arguments on this topic, we strongly encourage competitors to provide content warnings for any argumentation that relates to potentially triggering content. Effective content warnings verbally establish that a speech contains mentions of the triggering content and in speech allow competitors to leave the room if needed and in debate obtain consent from everyone in the debate to hear that content.