



LA REINA HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL

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October 20, 2023

La Reina High School and Middle School
2023 Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament
Saturday-Sunday, December 9-10, 2023
Online via NSDA Campus

Dear Speech and Debate Community:

The La Reina Speech and Debate program is pleased to invite you and your students to participate in our 8th annual invitational which will be taking place virtually on Saturday and Sunday, December 9th and 10th, 2023 on the NSDA Campus platform.

Last year's tournament welcomed over 650 entries from 10 states and 5 countries, and by request we are scaling up our tournament to offer more debate rounds, including the addition of Worlds Schools Debate. We will be running debate prelims and Congress on Saturday and debate elims will run concurrently with all speech rounds on Sunday.

On Saturday we will be offering 6 preliminary rounds of Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum, Worlds, and Parliamentary Debate along with 3 rounds of middle school and high school Congress plus finals. Debate elimination rounds will run on Sunday concurrently with our usual offering of middle school, high school novice, and high school open/varsity divisions in all CHSSA and SCJFL speech events with three preliminary rounds plus finals. Students are encouraged to double enter in speech events and to compete "up" in debate and congress for the additional challenge. For the purposes of our tournament, we define "novices" as high school students who've attended 5 or fewer tournaments and we encourage experienced middle school competitors to compete in high school divisions with coach permission. We also reserve the right to collapse divisions and merge events as entries warrant but will do so to best preserve the spirit and character of each particular event. Students who compete on speech events on Sunday and are in debate elimination rounds do so at their own risk.

We will be using the 2023-2024 national topic in Policy, the November/December topics in Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum, and an original mix of fact, value, and policy resolutions in Parliamentary Debate. Both Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum will be double-flighted but Parli will be single-flighted with a prep room and topic announce over Zoom. All events will be conducted live on the NSDA Campus platform.

Lastly, due to the size of the La Reina program, we may limit the tournament size prior to the published registration deadline, so early registration is advised.

We are looking forward to hosting all of you and wish you a joyous holiday season!

Sincerely yours,

Matt Conrad
Head Coach

Michelle Gradis, PhD
Assistant Coach

Laura Eletel
Assistant Coach

Alanna Cronk
Coach

Tori Hoge
Coach

Web Registration

Entries will only be accepted online at tabroom.com. If your program has never set up accounts on tabroom.com, please contact us for assistance in setting your program up on that website. Students are not able to compete on the NSDA Campus platform and judges cannot access their ballots without a tabroom.com account that is linked to the school/program account.

Payment

Starting this year, La Reina's administration is requiring that all schools pay their registration fees the week before the tournament. Payment is available at www.lareina.com/lrsd and we accept most major credit cards.

Deadlines – All Times Pacific:

Registration Opens: October 1, 2023 8:00am
Fees Freeze: December 4, 2023 5:00pm
Judging Due: December 4, 2023 5:00pm
Registration Closes: December 4, 2023 5:00pm
Drop Deadline: December 6, 2023 5:00pm
Nuisance Fines Begin: December 4, 2023 5:00pm

Please contact us directly for any changes after the December 4th deadline.

Debate Topics:

Policy Topic: NSDA 2023-2024 Topic (fiscal redistribution)
Lincoln-Douglas Topic: November/December Topic (extraction of fossil fuels)
Public Forum Topic: November/December Topic (federal student debt)
Parliamentary Debate: One new fact, value, or policy topic will be provided each round
Worlds School Debate: A mix of prepared motions announced before the tournament and some impromptu motions
Congress Topics: Bills will be taken from the December NSDA congressional docket and posted on tabroom.com as the tournament approaches

We are happy to add additional divisions of debate topics should there be sufficient interest.

Divisions:

Middle School, High School Novice, and High School Open in all events and Elementary School in selected events. Experienced middle school students are encouraged to compete in the high school novice division with coach approval. We define a “novice” as a high school student who has attended 5 or fewer tournaments.

Patterns:

Speech Pattern A: Extemp, Spar, Dramatic Interp, Original Oratory, Middle School Persuasive, Middle School Prose, Middle School Storytelling, Duo Interp, Original Prose & Poetry
Speech Pattern B: Impromptu, Humorous Interp, Informative, Middle School Poetry, Program Oral Interp, Middle School Storytelling, Declamation, Original Advocacy
Debate: all events in one pattern. Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum will be double flighted.

Judges

Schools are expected to provide at least 50% of their judging obligation. Each judge covers two teams (Parli) or four Public Forum teams or four Lincoln Douglas debaters/duo entries or six speech entries in each pattern. Please contact us if you have questions about your judging requirements. Schools will pay a judging penalty fee per speech slot, Congress entry, Lincoln Douglas/Duo Interp or Policy team not covered by school provided judges.

Experienced high school varsity competitors in their senior year can also judge novice and middle school division students.

All judges are expected to have an electronic device (laptop/desktop computer, iPad/tablet, or at minimum a compatible smartphone) capable of accessing the NSDA Campus platform and we will charge nuisance fees if judge problems cause the tournament to run late. All debate judges are also expected to have a basic judging paradigm available on tabroom.com for students to review before rounds.

Electronic Device Failure Policy

We **strongly** encourage all students and judges to use a wired Internet connection and have a backup device and backup connection (like a hotspot) ready to go in the event of device failure or loss of an Internet connection. In the event of device failure or loss of connection, students and coaches should notify the tournament immediately and will have 10 minutes to restore their connection and return digitally to their round. If the student or judge is unable to return in time, we will make reasonable accommodations to attempt to allow the affected students to finish their round – speech students may have to give their speeches to their judge in a backup competition room or will be judged on the basis of their interrupted performance. Policy, Parli, and Public Forum debaters may have to continue as “mavericks” without their partner and Lincoln-Douglas debaters may have to forfeit their round.

Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy

We are following the guidelines of the NSDA on generative artificial intelligence, as found in the NSDA’s most recent High School Unified Manual:

“In events in which speeches must be the original created work of a competitor ... students are prohibited from quoting or paraphrasing text directly from generative AI sources. Generative AI should not be cited as a source. The exception is that a student delivering a speech about the topic of AI may quote AI to illustrate their points about AI, in accordance with existing quoted word limits. While generative AI may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and sources, the original source of any quoted or paraphrased evidence must be available if requested.

In debate events, generative AI should not be cited as a source; while generative AI may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and sources, the original source of any quoted or paraphrased evidence must be available if requested.

In Interpretation events, students are prohibited from performing material created by generative AI sources. Generative AI should not be used as a source of material; while generative AI may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and material, the original source of any material that is performed must be available if requested.”

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

We believe that the cross-cultural understanding that forensics develops in understanding how different people experience the world differently and understanding different sides of an argument is one of the most important life skills that the activity develops. Thus we are proud to support the ongoing efforts of the NSDA and other forensics organizations to promote understanding. We will be including relevant language on our tournament ballots and will address judge sensitivity during our judge training.

Accessibility Policy

In keeping with our above DEI policy, we encourage coaches to contact us directly regarding any accommodations that the tournament needs to make to create an inclusive environment for all students.

General Rules:

The tournament will consist of six preliminary rounds of debate plus four elimination rounds and three preliminary rounds of speech plus finals. All divisions will receive awards and we reserve the right to combine divisions if the entry warrants. We will also make every effort to accelerate the tournament on Sunday so that East Coast teams will be able to get to bed at a reasonable hour on a school night.

Sweepstakes:

We will offer two sets of sweepstakes awards – 1st through 3rd in speech and 1st through 3rd in debate.

Speech Rules:

We will generally follow CHSSA rules for high school events and SCJFL rules for middle school events, with exceptions considered on a case-by-case basis at the sole discretion of the tournament director. All speeches are expected to be the original work of the student and may not have been used in competition prior to August 2023. Extemp will be combined national and international, with rounds themed around questions of domestic, international, and economic issues. Impromptu topics will relate to the holiday season. Events with small entries will be folded into similar events. We will also use the “sudden death” format to tabulate the placement of students in final rounds rather than “total cume.”

Debate Rules:

We again will generally follow CHSSA rules for high school competition and SCJFL rules for middle school competition, with exceptions considered on a case-by-case basis at the sole discretion of the tournament director. Each program may have one hybrid team with another program but double entries will not be allowed in debate due to the tournament schedule. “Maverick” debaters in Policy, Public Forum, and Parliamentary Debate will only be allowed under extreme circumstances. We also will not break brackets to avoid teams from the same program hitting each other. Computers are allowed in all debate events except Parliamentary Debate, in which case computers may be used in prep but not during actual rounds.

Congress Rules:

Congress will have two divisions, middle school and high school. Please designate the PO's with a 'po' for every FIVE entries. Congress bills will be taken from the December NSDA congressional docket and posted on tabroom.com as the tournament approaches.

2023 LA REINA INVITATIONAL FEE SHEET

Entry Fees

School Fee		\$70
Number of Speech/Congress entries	_____ X \$12 per entry	_____
Number of Duo Interp entries	_____ X \$20 per entry	_____
Number of Parli teams	_____ X \$40 per entry	_____
Number of Public Forum teams	_____ X \$40 per entry	_____
Number of Lincoln-Douglas entries	_____ X \$40 per entry	_____
Number of Policy teams	_____ X \$80 per entry	_____
Entry Fee subtotal		_____

Uncovered Entry Fees

Number of Speech/Congress entries uncovered	_____ X \$25 per entry	_____
Number of Duo Interp entries uncovered	_____ X \$25 per entry	_____
Number of Parli teams uncovered	_____ X \$75 per entry	_____
Number of Public Forum teams uncovered	_____ X \$75 per entry	_____
Number of Lincoln-Douglas entries uncovered	_____ X \$75 per entry	_____
Number of Policy teams uncovered	_____ X \$150 per entry	_____
Uncovered Entry Fee subtotal		_____

Total Fees Due _____

Payments must be made online at www.lareina.com/lrsd. We accept most major credit cards and require the school name, tabroom invoice number, coach name and contact information, and administrator name and contact information.

LA REINA INVITATIONAL SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 9-10, 2023 / ALL TIMES PACIFIC

Saturday, December 9: Debate Prelims and All Congress

7:15-8:00am Registration Online

8:00 am Round 1

10:15am Round 2

Congress Round 1

12:30pm Round 3

Congress Round 2

2:45pm Round 4

Congress Round 3

5:00pm Round 5

Congress Finals

7:15pm Round 6

Sunday, December 10: Debate Elims and All Speech

We will attempt to run finals earlier and accelerate events on Sunday to finish the tournament at a reasonable hour for East Coast teams.

7:15-8:00am Speech Registration

8:00am Round 1A

8:30am Debate Elim #1

9:30am Round 1B

11:00am Debate Elim #2

11:00am Round 2A

12:30pm Round 2B

1:30pm Debate Elim #3

2:00pm Round 3A

3:30pm Round 3B

4:00 Debate Elim #4

5:00pm Pattern A Finals

6:30pm Pattern B Finals

Awards follow ASAP

Pattern A Events:

Extemp, Spar, Dramatic Interp, Original Oratory, Middle School Persuasive, Middle School Prose, Middle School Storytelling, Duo Interp, Original Prose & Poetry

Pattern B Events:

Impromptu, Humorous Interp, Informative, Middle School Poetry, Program Oral Interp, Middle School Storytelling, Declamation, Original Advocacy