Dear Colleagues,

The Cypress Woods HS Speech and Debate Booster club are proud to host the Wildcat Classic at Cypress Woods HS this September 15-16, 2023.

For all Speech events, the tournament will take place on Friday, September 15th, 2023 in-person at Cypress Woods HS.

For all Debate events, the tournament will take place on Saturday, September 16th, 2023 in-person at Cypress Woods HS.

We will offer all TFA Individual Qualifying Events, as well as Prose, Poetry, and Impromptu. All IEs will feature a preliminary round of competition, a semifinal round if there are more than 25 entries or a second preliminary round if less than 25, and a final round. Debate events will be double flighted on Saturday (though we will attempt to single-flight if possible). Cypress Woods HS reserves the right to enter their own students.

We hope to see you at our tournament! Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jacob and RH
**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
- Judge Requirements
- Debate Topics and Congress Legislation
- Hospitality
- Awards and Sweepstakes

**EVENTS OFFERED**

**Individual Events:**

*Section A:* Duo Interpretation, Domestic Extemp, Foreign Extemp, Novice Extemp, Humorous Interpretation, Original Oratory, Program of Oral Interpretation,

*Section B:* Duet Acting, Dramatic Interpretation, Impromptu Speaking, Informative Speaking, Novice Prose/Poetry, Poetry, Prose

*Contestants may enter 1 extemporaneous speaking event.*

*Students may cross enter in both IE patterns at their own risk.*

**Debate Events -**

INDEPENDENT ENTRIES

The tournament is a TFA sanctioned 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 penalized in future years, regardless of what our personal opinions about the rule are. We will extend this rule to anyone interested in attending our tournament- NO INDEPENDENT ENTRIES.

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 Jacob Koshak or Ryan Hennessey 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.

Any student found to be in violation of such policy will be removed from the pairings and will forfeit all entry fees.

*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.

The entry deadline is **Monday, September 11 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 VCX entries, with additional entries to be placed on a waiting list.
- No more than 5 VLD entries, with additional entries to be placed on a waiting list.
- No more than 5 VPFD entries, with additional entries to be placed on a waiting list.

**DROP DEADLINES**

Entries will be accepted through Monday, September 11, 2023.

**ALL FEES WILL LOCK ON Monday, September 11 at 5pm.**

The deadline to enter a judge will be **Monday, September 11, 2023 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 needs.

Any drop after **September 11, 2023 at 5pm** 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.
**Fees**

Individual Events: $20

Varsity Congressional Debate - $25

Novice Congressional Debate - $20

NLD - $25

NCX - $25

NPF - $30

VLD - $40

VPF – $40

VCX - $50

WSD - $40

**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 6 rounds/ $25/missing round (12 entries/1 judge)

**Congress** - .25 rounds owed per entry. 1 judge can cover 2 rounds/$25/missing round (8 entries/1 judge)

Judging Fees will be assessed on **September 11, 2023 at 5pm.** 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.

**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. THIS IN NON-NEGOTIABLE!**
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 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 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.

**DEBATE TOPICS AND CONGRESS INFORMATION**

The topic for CX Debate is: **Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase fiscal redistribution in the United States by adopting a federal jobs guarantee, expanding Social Security, and/or providing a basic income.**

The topic for LD Debate will be the Sept/Oct 2023 topic. **Resolved: The United States ought to guarantee the right to housing.**

The topic for PF Debate will be the Sept/Oct 2023 topic. **Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its military presence in the Arctic.**

Prep time for CX is 8 minutes. Prep time for LD is 4 minutes. Prep time for PF is 3 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 Fall Legislation. Specific items are listed below. The items must be debated in the order that is listed here. 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: 13, 12, 14, 15, 11

Finals: 17, 16, 18, 20, 19

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

Round 1: This House would ban targeted political advertising.

Round 2: This House would ban targeted political advertising.

Round 3: Impromptu

Round 4: This House supports the increased use of nuclear power to combat climate change.

Quarters (if necessary): This House regrets the commodification of art.

Semis: Impromptu

Finals: This House supports the rise in unionization.

Extemp Topic Areas -

FX
Prelims - Europe
Semis - Latin America
Finals - Africa

DX
Prelims - Politics
Semis - Economy
Finals – Foreign Policy

NX - This will be a combination of FX and DX topics from each round
SWEEPSTAKES

All events:

1st = 20 points

2nd = 15 points

3rd = 10 points

All non-placing finalists/non-advancing debate elim participants receive three points.

GENERAL RULES

We will break to Semifinals in all Individual Events unless entry levels warrant a break straight to finals.

All ballots for Debate, IEs and Duo/Duet Acting will be made available as soon as possible after the completion of each round. 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.