## George Mason Debate Tournament

### Host Letter

September 1, 2024

Dear Colleague,

You are cordially invited to participate in the Fall 2023 regional opening tournament at George Mason University, September 15th through September 17, 2023. Our goal is to host a well-run tournament with exceptional hospitality while offering strong competition in all three divisions of debate.

We will provide six preliminary rounds in the junior varsity and varsity divisions; **five preliminary debates with a round three novice meet and greet + teach-in in the novice division**; and clear half the field in each division up to doubles for elimination rounds . You can manage your tournament entries through tabroom.com until **September 10 @ 5pm**. Drops after that date are subject to the participant fee.

Debates will occur at the main Fairfax campus, centrally located around Horizon Hall, where the debate team office resides.

Fees are $50.00 per person (debater, coach, judge, or observer). The tournament will provide dinner on Friday, breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday, as well as a fully stocked snack room. Additionally, schools that can’t afford entry fees are welcomed. We will gladly waive your entry fees.

We are pleased to be offering a tournament that is sanctioned by CEDA. September is a beautiful time in Northern Virginia and we look forward to seeing you at this year’s tournament. If you have any questions, please email Dr. Jackie Poapst at jpoapst@gmu.edu

We hope to see you at George Mason University.

Sincerely,

Jackie Poapst, Director of Debate, George Mason University

Ian Lowery, Assistant Director of Debate, George Mason University

## Registration Information

**George Mason Debate Tournament**

**September 15 – September 17, 2023**

**George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia**

#### Format:

**Topic:**

We will be debating the 2024-2025 Clean Energy Policy topic. The formal resolution will be available on cedadebate.org in middle July.

**Sanctioning:** The tournament will be sanctioned by CEDA and will be run in accordance with their rules.

**Preliminary rounds:** There will be six preliminary rounds. Rounds one and two will be pre-set. Rounds three through six will be power matched. Three divisions of debate will be offered: novice, junior varsity, and open. We will be hosting a five-round schedule for the novice division. During round 3, we will hold a novice community meet and greet for the first hour and then a teach-in for the second hour.

**Elimination rounds:** An appropriate number of elimination rounds will be offered based on the size of the tournament. We anticipate breaking ½ of each division with the possibility of double-octos if justified by entries.

#### Entries:

**Eligibility:** Eligibility for participation in each division is governed by CEDA rules.

Novice teams are not restricted to the use of evidence in the ADA limited evidence set.

**Hybrids:** Hybrid teams may participate in preliminary rounds and are eligible to clear.

**Deadline:** Please enter the tournament by September 10, 2024 using tabroom.com.After that date e-mail entry changes directly toJackie Poapst (jpoapst@gmu.edu)

**Drops:** Teams dropped after the September 10 deadline will be responsible for all participant fees.

**Tournament Registration:** Please email [jpoapst@gmu.edu](mailto:jpoapst@gmu.edu) when you start your travel to Fairfax to confirm that there are no changes to your tabroom entry. We anticipate being able to accept credit card payments. Information will be emailed closer to the tournament date. If you are paying with cash or check, you can stop by the tabroom during the tournament. Checks should be made out to “George Mason University”

#### Judging:

**Commitment:** Each school must provide 3 rounds of qualified judging for each team entered in the tournament. All judges will be required to judge through the second elimination round or one round after your last team is eliminated whichever occurs later.

**Hired Judging:** Please use tabroom to coordinate your hired judging. If you need to hire judges, please enter early.

**Judge Placement:** Judges will be placed using mutual preference in all divisions in a manner consistent with CEDA rules.

**Speaker Points:** We will use a 30 point scale with .1 increments. No ties are allowed.

**Decision Time:** Judges are expected to render a decision within 2:15 of the announced start time. If the judge is unable to make a decision within that time, the tab room will randomly decide a winner by coin flip.

#### Fees and Awards:

**Awards:** Awards will be provided to the top sixteen teams and the top ten speakers in each division.

**Fees:** Entry fees are $50 per participant (debater, coach, judge, or observer). Pay by credit card on https://secure.touchnet.com/C20788\_ustores/web/product\_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=2644&SINGLESTORE=true

#### Hotel Accommodations:

We will not have a “tournament hotel” for this weekend, as all local hotels were not offering a discounted rates for block reservations (in most cases they were quoting higher for a block rate than their current rate for that weekend).

There are a wide variety of hotels in the Fairfax area, please contact Jackie for suggestions if needed.

Mason also has an affiliate rate with all local Marriott hotels. Enter the promo code “G57” on the Marriott booking website to use.

#### Transportation:

Mason’s Fairfax Campus is located near IAD-Dulles International Airport, DCA-Reagan International Airport, and BWI-Baltimore Washington International Airport. The closest is Dulles, closely followed by DCA. For those looking for cheaper flights with a bit more driving distance, BWI can often be significantly more reasonable, particularly for those coming from the Midwest. However, traffic can make the commute to the hotel from the airport a bit long.

More transportation information can be found here: <https://transportation.gmu.edu/airport-transportation/>

#### Parking

The closest parking location to on campus debates is the Mason Pond Parking Deck, located at 4471 Aquia Creek Ln, Fairfax, VA 22030. Use this address, which takes you to the top floor entrance. If you input “Mason Pond Parking Deck” into maps it will take you to the bottom entrance of the parking deck. The best place to park is closest to the 3rd floor exit – which is closest to tournament buildings. If you have a bigger vehicle, parking on weekends in the lots is free if you use park mobile. The closest lot is Lot K. You can also park in the Rappahanock parking deck visitors section if you need higher clearance (make sure to pay at the pay stations when you arrive or use park mobile).

#### Campus Map

https://transportation.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/ParkingMapFX.pdf

#### Internet

Step 1

On your device, connect to the MASON Wi-Fi network.

Step 2

Open your web browser. You will be redirected to the Guest captive portal.

Step 3

Follow the link to Create an Account.

Step 4

Enter the required information and Register.

#### Environmental Sustainability

Mason is committed to reducing the use of plastics as much as possible during tournament hosting. Please bring reusable water bottles to fill up in our water fountains on campus (they are all over the Horizon building). We will not be providing disposable plastic water bottles at the tournament.

During the tournament, please be cognizant of disposing trash in the proper waste cans. In the Horizon Building, we have recycling and composting options in all the hallways. Avoid throwing out food trash in the small cans in the classrooms.

Mason cleaning staff are underpaid and undervalued, please be a responsible tournament participant while on campus so we can ease the cleaning load for our janitorial staff as much as possible. THANK YOU!

### TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Digital form available here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1QcKE1s2HwNoNPUmClve78S2rGq7999\_yp1ahwVJNFMk/edit?gid=0#gid=0