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**2025 Mound High Swing**

Dear Colleagues:

McKendree University is pleased to invite you to the 19th annual Mound High Swing in person on campus at McKendree University in Lebanon, Illinois, on January 9-12, 2025.

The Mound High Swing will feature 2 complete parliamentary debate tournaments over 4 days. At the first half, we will offer 5 preliminary rounds, break all winning records, utilize random topics, and make available judge strikes - similar to the NPDA Championship. At the second half, we will offer 5 preliminary rounds, break all winning records, utilize pre-released topics, and make use of mutual judging - similar to the NPTE. Both tournaments will feature two minutes of flex-time after the PMC and LOC, as well as one minute of flex time after the MGC and LOR. This time may be used for prep, CX, drinking water, etc. Note that semifinals and finals of BOTH tournaments are scheduled for the final day of competition - January 12.

We hope these tournaments to be some of the most competitive in the nation and hope you will join us for some fantastic competition this January.

Please contact us as frequently as you need or wish, at any time by any means at all.

Best,

Joe Blasdel \* Director of Speech and Debate \* McKendree University

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**Tournament Document + Registration now open**

**Tournament Procedures & Facilitation**

Unless otherwise specified, NPDA tournament guidelines will govern the tournament’s operating procedures. The tournament directors reserve the right to make any decisions necessary to facilitate the timely and accurate completion of the tournament.

We believe it is the responsibility of every judge to render a decision in round. The tournament will assign a winner and loser to every debate. If a judge, for some reason, is incapable of rendering a decision, then tab will flip a coin and determine the winner and loser.

Additionally, this tournament will use tabroom.com, and will set a timer to each ballot. If a judge has not rendered a decision before the allocated time, tab will flip a coin to determine a winner and loser.

A judge that fails to render a decision within the timeframe for more than 3 decisions in a tournament will be dropped from the tournament, and they will be considered an uncovered judge for the purposes of the institution and fees (the swing has two tournaments, so one half of the swing is one full tournament).

**Entries & Eligibility**

Tournaments are open to any regularly enrolled undergraduate in a two year or four year college or university in good standing with the school’s debate team/club. As the tournaments run back-to-back, students may (and are encouraged to) attend both tournaments.

All entries should be submitted via the tabroom website. Please make sure that you enter both halves of the swing, if that is your choice. Entries are due by **January 3rd, 2024** (12:00 pm CST). This early entry deadline is necessary for ordering food, compiling judges, and ensuring the timely distribution of strike forms.

Please Note! We request all judges associated with schools have up-to-date philosophies entered via tabroom by **January 6th, 2024**. This year, schools that have judges absent a paradigm will not receive prefs/strikes for that tournament half. This is new this year. If your judge does not submit a paradigm, you can submit one for them (just shoot an email or text to tab and we’ll get it sorted out). This does not need to be super detailed, just a simple “this is our critic, this is their experience” would be sufficient.

**Parliamentary Debate - BOTH HALVES**

Five preliminary rounds of parliamentary debate will be offered followed by elimination rounds. Competition will be administered according to the NPDA rules of Judging and Debating. Time limits are 7 minutes for the 1st government constructive, 8 minutes for all other constructive speeches, 4 minutes for the leader of opposition rebuttal, and 5 minutes for the prime minister rebuttal.

**FLEX:** Both tournaments will feature two minutes of flex time after the PMC and LOC, as well as one minute of flex time after the MGC, and LOR. This time may be used for prep, CX, drinking water, etc.

**ELIMS:** At the end of the preliminary rounds, we will advance at least all teams with a winning record (3-2 and better) to elimination rounds. Teams advance first based on win/loss record, then adjusted speaker points, then total speaker points, then judge variance. Brackets will be broken in elimination rounds.

**PREP TIME RULE:** Any team that is late to a round will have that time deducted from their team’s first speech (the PMC or LOC). When the full speech time has elapsed (7 or 8 minutes), the team in question will be forfeited. In the event both teams are late, both teams will have time deducted from their first speech. A universal timer will be made available at the time of topic announcement. Time deductions and forfeiture rules will be enforced by the judge assigned to the round.

**CENTRAL TOPIC ANNOUNCE:** Topics, during the tournament, will be released at a centralized announcement site and teams will have 25 minutes before the debates begin. It is imperative that rounds begin on time! Judges should begin their rounds precisely 25 minutes after topic announcement.

**JUDGE DISCLOSURE AND FEEDBACK:** Disclosure of decisions and other oral commentary may be conducted at the discretion of the judge, but please conduct such commentary after the ballot has been submitted through tabroom. We will be attempting to power-match every round without lagging, so a prompt return ensures that the tournament stays on time.

**Parliamentary Debate- 1st Half (NPDA)**

**TOPICS**: Topics will not be pre-released.

**JUDGE STRIKES**: An appropriate number of judge strikes will be available. Judge strikes need to be submitted by **January 8th, 2024** 12:00 PM CST.

**Parliamentary Debate- 2nd Half (NPTE)**

**RESOLUTIONS:** Pre-released resolutions will be posted on the NPDA’s forum, both Facebook groups, and on the Tabroom page for the second half on December 1st, 2024.

**JUDGE PREFS:** The second tournament uses mutually-preferred judging. Judge prefs need to be submitted by **January 10th, 2024 at** 12:00 PM CST.

**General Policy for Both Halves**

**Provision of Food and Nourishment:**

The tournament will provide coffee and snacks throughout the day as well as lunch through the school cafeteria each day of the tournament. Teams with folks who have dietary restrictions should contact [jeblasdel@mckendree.edu](mailto:jeblasdel@mckendree.edu)

***Fee Structure (per half):***

$100 Per Entry Per Tournament. (This amounts to $200/partnership for both tournaments. Judges/spectators/coaches are free).

$200 Per Uncovered Team Per Tournament. (This means one uncovered entry will cost $400 for both halves of the swing). We know this is a high cost for uncovered entries (see note below). But judging is the primary obstacle in hosting this tournament, so we have to compensate our hired judges for time, transport, lodging, meals, and everything else in order to ensure the tournament runs properly.

Checks can be made payable to McKendree University Debate Team. Additionally, our business office can accept credit card payments (details forthcoming).

***A note on uncovered judging:*** One judge covers two entries. It’s cliché, but we would rather have your judges than your money. The tournament directors reserve the right to refuse entry to teams uncovered by a critic. If you have extra judges attending the tournament, please contact the tournament directors, as we may be able to hire them at a stipend.

***Judging Obligation:*** Judges will be expected to judge all preliminary rounds and through the first full elimination round. After that point, judges will be expected to judge one round past the elimination of their teams.

***A Note on Fees/Judges:*** We very much want to encourage your participation at this tournament! If the fees are prohibitive, or you are having a hard time finding judges to cover your commitment, please let us know! The tournament will be able to work something out to aid your participation (especially for our student-run programs, community colleges, or any program facing obstacles related to costs and logistics - just talk to us! We can find a way to make it work).

**Accessibility:**

We strive to make the tournament as accessible as possible - please feel free to contact us so we can ensure provision of all necessary accommodations.

**Tentative Schedule**

Thursday, January 9th

8:00 AM - Registration / Prep Room Setup

8:45 AM - Pairings

9:00 AM - NPDA (Part One) Round 1

10:45 AM - NPDA (Part One) Round 2

12:15 PM - Lunch

1:00 PM - NPDA (Part One) Round 3

3:00 PM - NPDA (Part One) Round 4

5:00 PM - NPDA (Part One) Round 5

Friday, January 10th

8:45 AM - Pairings

9:00 AM - NPTE (Part Two) Round 1

10:45 AM - NPTE (Part Two) Round 2

12:15 PM - Lunch

1:00 PM - NPTE (Part Two) Round 3

3:00 PM - NPTE (Part Two) Round 4

5:00 PM - NPTE (Part Two) Round 5

Saturday, January 11th

8:45 AM - Pairings

9:00 AM - NPDA (Part One) Elimination Round 1

11:00 AM - NPTE (Part Two) Elimination Round 1

12:45 PM - Lunch

1:30 PM - NPDA (Part One) Elimination Round 2

3:30 PM - NPTE (Part Two) Elimination Round 2

Sunday, January 12th

8:45 AM - Pairings

9:00 AM - NPDA (Part One) Elimination Round 3

11:00 AM - NPTE (Part Two) Elimination Round 3

12:45 PM - Lunch

1:30 PM - Awards

2:00 PM - NPDA (Part One) FINALS

4:00 PM - NPTE (Part Two) FINALS