



**Columbia World Schools Debating Championships**  
Invitation Letter

## Letter from the Convenors

Debaters, Judges, and Coaches,

Columbia Debate Society is the debating society associated with Columbia University in the City of New York. We are a parliamentary society, and compete in American and British Parliamentary debating, and have been an established presence at major international tournaments including the World Universities Debating Championships, the North American Universities Debating Championships, and the United States Universities Debating Championships.

Columbia Debate Society is pleased to invite you to the inaugural edition of Columbia WSDC, to be held online from the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May to the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2025. Since our return to international debating, we have distinguished ourselves as a formidable competitive force and are eager to foreground the creation of competitive opportunities in our work. Our hope is that Columbia WSDC will be a premier WSDC-preparation tournament, while allowing exposure of high school students to WSDC debating. While this tournament is a fundraiser for the society, we will put quality and accessibility at the forefront of our organization, including generous fee waivers and a sizable IA budget.

Attached to this letter is the tournament information, schedule, and registration forms. For further questions, please feel free to contact us via email or the social media prompts detailed below.

Sincerely,

Ale Avilla  
Mukudzeiishe Madzivire  
Zoran Jeffrey Curgus  
**Tournament Directors**

## Tournament Information

Dates	3-4 May 2024
Timezone	UTC-1
Adjudication	TBA
Tabulation	TBA
Eligibility	Debaters must not have commenced post-secondary education and must be under the age of 20
Format	World Schools Debating Championships <sup>1</sup>
Structure	5 preliminary rounds, open break to octofinals and novice break to semifinals
Registration Fees	USD100 per team if registered by 1 April 2024, and USD120 per team after 1 April 2024.
Judging Requirement	N=1, USD75 missing judge fee

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<sup>1</sup> 8-minute speeches, 1 hour of preparation time with Rounds 1 and the Open Octofinal/Novice Semifinal as prepared rounds.

## Payments Policy

Columbia WSDC is a fundraiser tournament for the Columbia University Debate Society and will be a **pay-to-play** tournament. All payments are due on **Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of April 2024**; Teams will only receive the tab registration form once payments have been secured.

We accept payments in 2 ways: SecurePay and cheques. Please email proof of payment to [columbiadebate.tournaments@gmail.com](mailto:columbiadebate.tournaments@gmail.com).

### Secure Pay

Secure Pay is the institutional payment platform employed by Columbia University, and is our preferred payment option. It allows credit and debit card payments. Please add payment packages to the total of your invoiced amount, and email proof of payment to [columbiadebate.tournaments@gmail.com](mailto:columbiadebate.tournaments@gmail.com).

Secure Pay Link [SecurePay: \[2024-2025\] Columbia Debate Society - Outstanding Payments](#)

### Cheques

Please address all cheques as follows:

Trustees of Columbia University  
Memo: "Attn: USL Office - Hameer Deo, Columbia Debate Society"  
Admin & Planning  
2920 Broadway  
515M Lerner Hall MC 2601  
New York 10027

### PayPal

We will accept a limited number of PayPal payments for institutions that are unable to use SecurePay or pay by cheque. Please contact [mm6431@columbia.edu](mailto:mm6431@columbia.edu) for information about PayPal payments.

## Fee Waiver Policy

Columbia Debate Society recognizes the difficulties many teams may encounter accessing international competitive opportunities. We seek to balance, as far as possible, our commitment to providing an accessible tournament with our desire to ensure a high-quality competition.

Columbia WSDC will offer 3 types of fee waivers:

Waiver Type	Description	Subsidy Amount
Underrepresented Regions	Teams from historically underrepresented regions in international debating will receive a 50% fee waiver for each team they register.	Up to 50%
N+ Judge	Teams providing a major breaking judge in addition to their n=1 required judge will receive a 50% fee waiver for every additional judge they register.	Up to 50%
Bonus Registration	Institutions registering multiple teams will receive a 50% waiver on the third team they register, and a 100% waiver on the sixth team they register.	Up to 100%

## Tournament Schedule

All times are listed in GMT-1

### 3 May 2025

0700	Check-in
0730	Round 1 (Prepared)
0915	Round 2
1200	Break
1300	Round 3
1545	Round 4
1830	End of Day 1

### 4 May 2025

0700	Check-in
0730	Round 5
1015	Break Announcement
1030	Open Octofinals (Prepared)
1200	Lunch
1300	Open Quarterfinals + Novice Semifinals
1515	Open Semifinals + Novice Finals
1730	Open Grand Finals
2000	Closing Ceremony

## Tournament Forms

Team Slot Reservation Link	<a href="https://forms.gle/cvf2mpff9wfwqaad6">https://forms.gle/cvf2mpff9wfwqaad6</a>
Fee Waiver Request Link	<a href="https://forms.gle/cvf2mpff9wfwqaad6">https://forms.gle/cvf2mpff9wfwqaad6</a>
Institutional Judge Registration Link	<a href="https://forms.gle/f3YbMhi6sQ8qWDVv8">https://forms.gle/f3YbMhi6sQ8qWDVv8</a>
Independent Adjudicator Application Form	<a href="https://forms.gle/fmnvGdYhqc4HiLXd9">https://forms.gle/fmnvGdYhqc4HiLXd9</a>