

*If it's **beginning to look a lot like Christmas,**
It's time for **Silver & Black!**
December 5-7, 2025*



Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Alta Speech and Debate Program, we invite you to attend the 36th annual Silver and Black Invitational Tournament to be held in-person at Alta High School, located at 11055 South, 1000 East, Sandy, Utah. The tournament will be December 5-7, 2025. We are a **Tournament of Champions qualifier at quarterfinals in policy debate, semifinals in LD debate, and quarterfinals in public forum debate.**

Registration

Entry Limits

There are no official entry limits. However, the tournament is committed to preserving competitive equity when pairing rounds, and so we reserve the right to impose entry limits based on the overall size of the tournament. Please do not make travel arrangements until your entries have been admitted off the waitlist.

No independent entries are accepted. All students must be associated with a school. No hybrid teams are allowed to compete at the tournament. Each entry must be comprised of two students from the same school.

*All TBA entries must be made names by November 21, 2025 to avoid being dropped.

****All schools must pay before being entered into the tournament.** All students and schools are waitlisted until payment is received and will not be guaranteed as participants. Fees (except for late waitlisted entries) must be paid two weeks prior to tournament start date (November 21, 2025). A \$50 fee will be charged for schools missing this deadline.

*****Payments may be submitted via check or credit card.**

Credit card payments will be charged an additional 4% to cover credit card fees.

Instructions on how to pay via credit card can be found on [tabroom.com](https://www.tabroom.com).

Checks must be made out to:

Alta High School Debate,

11055 South 1000 East, Sandy, Utah 84094

Tournament Fees (includes meals on schedule)

Out of State Fees:

\$100 per policy or public forum teams

\$75 per Lincoln-Douglas entry

Utah School Fees:

\$75 per policy or public forum teams

\$50 per Lincoln-Douglas entry

Drop Fees: \$25/drop after November 25, 2025 (Nuisance Fee)

****No online drops or changes; all obligations are frozen on drop deadline. (If you have drops or drop your school after this point, you will still be responsible for paying these fees as well as drop fees. Please plan ahead! Schools not having paid their fees from a previous year from this situation will not be registered until payment has been received for both years.)

Schedule

All times are in MST

Policy Schedule

Friday, Dec. 5:

Check in begins at 1:00pm

Round 1: 2:00 pm

Round 2: 4:30 pm

Dinner (catered meal)

Round 3: 7:30 pm

Saturday, Dec. 6:

Round 4: 9:00 am

Lunch (catered meal)

Round 5: 12:30 pm

Round 6: 3:00 pm

Dinner break (not provided)

Octofinals: 6:30 pm

Sunday, Dec. 7:

Elim Rounds will take place at the [Best Western](#) hotel hosted by Rowland Hall

Quarterfinals: 9:00 am

Lunch (provided for remaining judges & teams)

Semi-finals: 12:30 pm

Finals: 3:00 pm

Public Forum/Lincoln Douglas Schedule

Friday, Dec. 5:

Check in begins at 1:30pm

Rounds are Single-Flighted

Round 1: 2:30 PM

Round 2: 4:00 PM

Round 3: 5:30 PM
Dinner (Provided)
Round 4: 7:30 PM

Round 5: 9:00 am
Round 6: 10:30 am
Lunch (provided)
Octofinals: 12:30 pm
Quarterfinals: 2:30 pm
Semifinals: 4:00 pm
Finals: 6:00 pm

Saturday, Dec. 6

Hotels

For teams traveling to Silver & Black, please consider the following hotel. It's the site for Policy Elimination Rounds on Sunday and is offering special rates.

[Best Western Plus CottonTree Inn Sandy - Silver & Black Tournament](#)

Rounds & Balloting

November/December LD and PF topics will be used.

*Judges must have their own electronic devices to judge on.

** ALL BALLOTING will be completed online. ALL JUDGES ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A TABROOM ACCOUNT.

Disclosure of Decision and Oral Critique Policy

The Tournament of Champions serves as both a competitive and educational forum for the nation's best debaters, coaches, and judges. As such, the Tournament encourages judge-debater interaction by making decision disclosures and giving oral critiques in the policy, PF, and LD debate divisions. **Please submit your ballot online before giving any post-round feedback.**

Judge Obligations and Rounds Owed:

All events (CX, LD, and PF) will require the following judge obligations.

(Remember that all events are single-flighted)

1 Entry = 4 Rounds of Judging Provided

2 Entries = 6 Rounds of Judging

3 Entries = 10 Rounds

4 Entries = 12 Rounds

5 Entries = 15 Rounds

***Hired Judging for all events: \$75/round**

****Utah schools need to provide their own qualified judges and should hire only in dire circumstances.**

*****No judge may be entered for more than 6 preliminary rounds.**

Judging Preferences

LD and Policy will be using mutually preferred judging. Entries must be covered by qualified judges. Policy and LD judges are expected to have already completed a judging philosophy and posted it on the judge philosophies wiki or on their tabroom account no later than November 21, 2025.

*Please request judging hires by contacting the tournament host at jacqueline.croswhite@canyonsdistrict.org if you need to arrange for a hired judge or are a judge who wishes to be hired, no later than November 21, 2025.

**Schools with judges who do not show up for rounds will be assessed a \$75 fine per round missed in prelims and \$100 for elimination rounds. This is a reminder that your school is responsible to have judges stay one round past your school being eliminated fully from competition even if they have fulfilled their prelim judging earlier in the week. You MUST have a judge available for elimination rounds.

***Teams missing judges as of November 21 will risk having teams dropped to meet their entered judges.

Judge Conflicts

Please indicate on the tournament entry website all preclusions for all judges. Judges should preclude themselves from any debater who they have previously coached, had a close, personal relationship with, or for any other reason the judges believes they cannot be objective towards them if assigned. This includes any judge who has done any paid or volunteer coaching, even if conducted digitally or otherwise-remotely. Any college debater or coach should preclude themselves from any debater whom they have seriously recruited to attend their school. Judges should preclude themselves from judging their alma mater. Judges should preclude themselves from judging any school which they previously coached in the three years prior to the 2024-25 academic year. It is the judge's obligation to communicate any conflicts to the tournament director prior to the start of the tournament.

Judges are also expected to adhere to event specific rules regarding judge conflicts.

In the event a pairing is distributed, and a judge or team reports a conflict after the fact, resulting in a changing of the pairing, that school will be charged a \$50 fine.

Other Policies and Procedures

INTERNET POLICY will follow the current NSDA policy.

Students should not attempt to use electronic devices to initiate or respond to contact with outside parties during a debate. The penalty for violation of this rule

is loss of the debate in question and zero speaker points assigned to the offending debater.

Forfeit Times

Any team arriving later than 15 minutes after the posted start time will be at the risk of forfeit imposed at the exclusive discretion of the event tab room staff. Any team experiencing what they believe to be a legitimate delay should make every effort to communicate with the tabroom if they are going to be late.

Flipping Policy

Coin flips for PF will be in tabroom for all rounds, including elimination rounds. Policy and LD elimination rounds will flip for sides.

Final Note

With our continued commitment to draw the very best from all across the country, we hope that this year's Silver and Black Invitational proves to be one of the highlights of your TOC schedule.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Croswhite, B.S, M.A., M.Ed
Tournament Director
Alta High School
jacqueline.croswhite@canyonsdistrict.org.