

# Invitation - Main

Dear Colleague,

The Damien debate team cordially invites you for the annual **Chuck Ballingall Memorial Invitational**. This is an in-person tournament taking place on **Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.

Recognized by the National Debate Coaches Association as the **2021 William B. Tate Tournament of the Year**, our goal is to provide the best experience possible for all.

In a departure from the last two years, all events will happen at the Damien High School campus this year. Our current plan is to offer novice and open divisions of Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, and Public Forum debate. We will offer open divisions of Public Forum, World Schools Debate, Parliamentary Debate, Congressional Debate, and Speech Events (Extemp, Impromptu, and Original Oratory). Events are subject to change depending on registration and space requirements.

To maintain the integrity of the tournament, we ask that all entries be prepared to complete all preliminary rounds, including the second-day rounds even after an entry has been mathematically eliminated from advancing. Additional details and tournament rules follow.

We look forward to seeing you in September. If we can be of any help or answer any questions, please feel free to e-mail.

Sincerely,  
Nethmin Liyanage

Tournament Director  
[nliyanage@damien-hs.edu](mailto:nliyanage@damien-hs.edu)

Chris Paredes

Director of Debate  
[cparedes@damien-hs.edu](mailto:cparedes@damien-hs.edu)

# COVID-19 Prevention

We will comply with all local, state, and federal guidelines regarding best practices regarding COVID-19.

Individuals who immediately fail to comply with verbal instructions will be asked to leave their current space and communicate with the tournament director. Individuals who verbally abuse, are unfriendly towards, or otherwise make our volunteers' lives unpleasant in this area will be asked to communicate with the tournament director. We reserve the right to dismiss any individual who expresses any inclination of disrespect to our volunteers.

Our volunteers **ARE NOT** a COVID-19 compliance reporting service. Their task is to monitor compliance and ensure those out of compliance return to a compliant state. Individuals who wish to report non-compliance outside the purview/presence of our monitors can come to the tab room and speak with the tournament director. The tournament director reserves the right to ask any individual and/or program to remove their presence from the Damien campus given reports of thorough non-compliance.

# Food

There is a **mandatory** \$30 food fee per individual of your entourage (students, coaches, or judge). This fee will cover breakfast and lunch for attendees on both days of the tournament.

The food fee is a concession on Tabroom that must be added on as part of your registration. It is not rolled into the entry fee; this is meant to accommodate double-entered speech students and variable team sizes for Worlds Debate.

The food fee can be paid together with a pre-registration payment, or it can be rendered separately at in-person registration. For those needing to pay in person, our suggestion to directors is to have students turn-in the \$30 cash with their permission slip and/or provide the \$30 cash to their respective director during the morning commute to the Damien campus.

Directors/chaperones will be sent a dietary restrictions form (it will also be posted on the tournament tabroom.com page) for them to complete and turn in prior to the tournament.

Programs needing financial support or those who feel the food fee will pose a financial hardship can reach out to the tournament director for potential accommodations.

All individuals are welcome to bring their own food or have food delivered to the campus; however, the fee is mandatory to ensure we can provide for all attendees, including the schools receiving fee waivers. We will work with team directors on a case-by-case basis if there are issues involved in meeting this expectation.

# Entry Information

## Independent Entries

Given the current trends in participation by students who are not representing their high school, we need to make it clear that, while we will accept independent entries, all students **MUST** have an adult chaperone who is always present on-site. This chaperone will be responsible for any issues related to the debate tournament. A chaperone form **MUST** be filled out by any and all students who are not accompanied by an official school representative from their institution. This form will be posted on [tabroom.com](http://tabroom.com). This form will be due as part of your team's registration packet. We will not allow any student without a chaperone to compete in the tournament.

## Divisions and Eligibility

Varsity/Open: Open to all competitors.

Novice: Open to all competitors who are debating in either their first year of high school debate competition, or students in their second year that have participated in no more than four debate tournaments previously (of any format or division level). For events with a team format, **BOTH** members of the team must meet this qualification.

If you believe your competitor is at a novice level, but exceeds the experience limit of this rule, please contact us to discuss an exception before the tournament. If a participant is found to be in violation of this rule during the tournament, their wins will be voided and they will be moved to varsity for the remaining rounds.

## Event Rules

Policy teams will debate the 2026-2027 resolution (National Health Insurance).

Public Forum teams will debate the September/October resolution

Lincoln-Douglas debaters will debate the September/October resolution

World Schools/Congress: Worlds Motions and Congress Docket will be posted on tabroom.com by TBA. Teams may submit proposed bills via email.

**WSD:**

we'll have prepared topics for Rounds 1/2 and Finals - 1/2 will be the same motion but students will debate both sides.

Rounds 1 and 2 - This House believes that multinational companies are friends of the developing world.

Finals - This House would change the constitution of Japan allowing them to have offensive forces.

Any other rounds will be impromptu.

**Congress Bills** - The tournament will use the September 2026 NSDA Congress docket - specifically the following bills: TBA

A link to the PDF of the docket is posted on the tournament tabroom page.

Speech: We will defer to the NSDA Handbook Rules. Extemp topics will be posted by TBA.

Novice Policy: The novice division in Policy Debate will be restricted to using the NDCA novice packet. Please be mindful that the purpose of packet restrictions is to limit arguments in order to create an environment more conducive for novices learning the broad generalities of debate. Please try to live up to the spirit of the law, rather than merely the letter of the law, by not equipping your novices with arguments that are "technically" legal. If you feel that it is something that would create uneducational outcomes, please avoid giving it to your novice debaters and discourage your student coaches from prepping the novices with such tricks. **Remember, only you can prevent ASPEC dumpster fires.**

## **Entry Limits and Fees**

**Total Entry limits per division:**

|                                |     |           |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----------|
| Novice Lincoln Douglas Debate  | 50  | \$40 each |
| Novice Policy Debate           | 40  | \$50 each |
| Varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate | 50  | \$65 each |
| Varsity Policy Debate          | 40  | \$75 each |
| Public Forum Debate            | 50  | \$75 each |
| World Schools                  | 30  | \$85 each |
| Speech Events                  | 40  | \$25 each |
| Online Speech Events           | n/a | \$20 each |
| Congress                       | 45  | \$25 each |
| Parliamentary                  | 45  | \$25 each |

When we have reached a maximum number of entries for an event, a waitlist will be created and schools will be notified if slots become available.

Entry fees on drops will be refunded for all drops made by 9/05/26.

Entries are generally required to be paid before competition begins. Payment on the morning of registration can be arranged if you contact us and arrange it before the refund deadline. If this is necessary, please contact the tournament director no later than 9/05/26. After this deadline we will open unpaid entry slots to the waitlist.

**Checks should be made out to Damien High School - Debate.** Purchase orders will not be accepted as payment. Please send checks to:

Damien High School  
c/o Chris Paredes  
2280 Damien Avenue  
La Verne, CA, 91750  
E-mail: [cparedes@damien-hs.edu](mailto:cparedes@damien-hs.edu)

**You can pay online via this link. A service fee will be added for electronic payments.**

<https://checkout.square.site/merchant/MLFTEKQYRQ8Z0/checkout/22KMJYBOBPW3C4MDGWJK42DE>

## **NEW THIS YEAR – Online Speech**

This year, we are excited to announce the addition of online asynchronous divisions in the following speech events: Humorous Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Original Oratory, and Program Oral Interpretation.

These events will be run asynchronously. Students will have the ability to submit a video of their performances, with the deadline being the evening before the start of the synchronous portion of the tournament. All videos submitted must include no editing – this means no cuts, no combining multiple takes into one video, and no additional modifications. Please use your best judgment on what is considered an acceptable video - it's okay to leave out the 10 seconds where you're fumbling with the camera while setting it up, but not okay to splice together multiple takes in order to capture the best parts of each attempt.

Our goal is to provide speech programs, especially for those who cannot travel to our tournament, an opportunity for students to try out their pieces and receive some early-season feedback on their work. We encourage students to enter as many online speech events as they'd like.

We ask that students whose teams are attending the tournament in person please enroll in the in-person division of their speech events. Students with extenuating circumstances may have their coach reach out to the tournament director for an exception.

All asynchronous speech events will have real awards mailed out after the tournament finishes! Entry fees will go towards supporting qualified hired judging for asynchronous speech divisions, as well as toward the cost of purchasing and mailing awards.

## **Adult supervision and judges**

Each school must be accompanied by a qualified adult supervisor. No unaffiliated or unaccompanied entries will be permitted. If you have entries at both campuses on Saturday, you do not need an official school chaperone on both campuses. However, you should have adults on both campuses (out of judging obligation if nothing else. Additionally, we believe it to be a wise policy that your students be able to go to one adult on the same campus, and this person can in turn reach out to you.

**1 judge must be provided for every 2 debate entries or fraction thereof. 1 judge must be provided for every 6 speech/Congress participants.** Judges must be qualified to judge the division which they are covering. Judges may not be double entered to cover both debate and speech. Varsity debaters in their 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year may judge in novice divisions subject to approval.

A limited number of hired judges will be available at \$300 per missing judge (or fraction thereof). NO judges will be available for hire after the entry deadline date. Schools making a commitment to hire

judges as of the entry deadline will be committed to paying for those judges regardless of changes in their entry before the tournament. **We would rather prefer to have your judges rather than your cash! Please bring judges to cover your entries.**

Each judge is committed to judge **one round beyond the last elimination of the school in the event** the judge is entered. This means that **all judges are expected to be available for the first elimination round regardless of whether any team from their school advances**. Missing judges will be fined at \$200 per round missed, including the first elimination round.

## **Entry deadlines**

Requests for hired judges must be received by 9/02/25. Hired judge requests after that deadline will be admitted or approved only if feasible. Drops in hired judges after 9/07/26 will not be refunded.

Entries will be open until 9/11/26 at 5:00 PM unless the tournament reaches capacity before then. Entry drops are due by 9/11/26 at 5:00 PM, but refunds for entry drops will not be issued past 9/04/26 at 8:00 AM.

Entries should be made through the online entry system at [www.tabroom.com](http://www.tabroom.com).

## **Double Entry Rules**

Students may double enter in speech events and single division debate (Parli/Congress/Worlds), but may not double enter in debates (LD/CX/PF) due to scheduling logistics. Judges may not be double entered to cover events happening on different campuses.

We will endeavor to offer Big Questions at Damien as a Consolation event on the Damien campus on Sunday for students not advancing in speech.

## **Equity and Protests**

Chris Paredes will serve as tournament ombudsperson and equity officer. Chris has worked in the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Atlanta Office's legal unit, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Los Angeles Office's enforcement unit, the Housing and Urban Development's Atlanta Office

legal unit, and at the California Department of Civil Rights' regulatory and legal units. Protests should be communicated to tab as soon as possible for referral. Please use your best judgment on deciding whether to submit a protest.

## **Double Entry Rules**

Students may double enter in speech events and single division debate (Parli/Congress/Worlds), but may not double enter in double division debates (LD/CX/PF) due to scheduling logistics. Judges may not be double entered to cover events happening on different campuses.

We will endeavor to offer Big Questions at Damien as a Consolation event on Damien campus on Sunday for students not advancing in speech.

# TOURNAMENT SCHEDULES (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

We will do our best to follow this schedule. Please keep track of [tabroom.com](http://tabroom.com) for any changes

## **CX/LD/PF Schedule**

### **Saturday, September 12**

|            |                                                   |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 07:00 A.M. | Registration                                      |
| 08:00 A.M. | Round One Pairings                                |
| 08:30 A.M. | Round One Start Time (LD will be double flighted) |
| 11:00 A.M. | Round Two Pairings                                |
| 11:30 A.M. | Round Two Start Time                              |
| 01:00 P.M. | Lunch Break                                       |
| 02:00 P.M. | Round Three Pairings [Power Matched]              |
| 02:30 P.M. | Round Three Start Time                            |
| 04:00 P.M. | Round Four Pairings [Power Matched]               |
| 04:30 P.M. | Round Four Start Time                             |

### **Sunday, September 13**

*Elimination Rounds Will Be Accelerated When Possible*

|            |                                                |
|------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 08:00 A.M. | Varsity Round Five and Novice Octos Pairings   |
| 08:30 A.M. | Varsity Round Five and Novice Octos Start Time |
| 10:30 A.M. | Awards Ceremony; pairings released after.      |

|                    |                                                                                    |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:30 A.M.         | Varsity Octos and Novice Quars Start Time (LD will be single flighted if possible) |
| 01:00 P.M.         | Lunch Break                                                                        |
| 01:45 P.M.         | Varsity Quars and Novice Semis Pairings                                            |
| 02:15 PM (or ASAP) | Varsity Quars and Novice Semis Start Time                                          |
| 04:00 P.M.         | Varsity Semis and Novice Finals Pairings                                           |
| 04:30 P.M.         | Varsity Semis and Novice Finals Start Time                                         |
| 05:45 P.M.         | Varsity Finals Pairings                                                            |
| 06:15 P.M.         | Varsity Finals Start Time                                                          |

## Worlds Schedule

### Saturday, September 12

|            |                                             |
|------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 07:30 A.M. | Registration                                |
| 09:00 A.M. | Round One                                   |
| 10:30 A.M. | Round Two Prep                              |
| 11:30 A.M. | Round Two                                   |
| 01:00 P.M. | Lunch Break                                 |
| 02:30 P.M. | Round Three Prep                            |
| 03:30 P.M. | Round Three                                 |
| 05:00 P.M. | Round Four Prep                             |
| 06:00 P.M. | Round Four (estimated conclusion by 7 P.M.) |

*List of entries advancing to elims will be published, but pairings will be released on the morning of Day 2.*

## **Sunday, September 13**

*Elimination Rounds Will Be Accelerated When Possible*

|                      |                                          |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 08:00 A.M.           | Semis Prep                               |
| 09:00 A.M.           | Semis                                    |
| 10:30 A.M.           | Awards Ceremony; pairings released after |
| 11:00 A.M. (or ASAP) | Finals                                   |
| 01:00 P.M.           | Lunch Break                              |

## **Congress and Speech Schedule**

### **Saturday, September 12**

|            |                                                                   |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 07:30 A.M. | Registration                                                      |
| 08:30 A.M. | Round One (Extemp draw will start as close to 8:00 as possible)   |
| 11:30 A.M. | Round Two (Extemp draw will start as close to 11:00 as possible)  |
| 11:00 P.M. | Lunch Break                                                       |
| 02:30 P.M. | Round Three (extemp draw will start as close to 2:00 as possible) |

# Independent Entry Letter

(template – copy/paste the text and fill in the blanks as appropriate):

Date:

Dear Damien High School,

This letter is to inform you that we would like our student, \_\_\_\_\_, to attend The Chuck Ballingall Memorial Invitational from XXXX and that they do so with our full consent and permission. We have arranged for our child to be fully chaperoned and for transportation to our satisfaction, and accept full responsibility and liability for our child during the entire course of the event. We understand and agree that Damien High School, its employees, and its agents provide no chaperones for the event, and further agree that Damien High School, its employees, and its agents are hereby relieved of any responsibility or liability of any sort for the supervision of our child.

The following person will be chaperoning our child:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this we are certifying that we are in fact the legal guardians of the listed child, and have full legal authority to act on the listed child's behalf.

|                      |                           |       |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-------|
| _____                | _____                     | _____ |
| Parent/Guardian Name | Parent/Guardian Signature | Date  |

Parent/Guardian contact information:

|            |       |
|------------|-------|
| _____      | _____ |
| Cell phone | Email |

