

Tim Averill Invitational Debate Tournament ***ONLINE: Friday-Sunday, October 30-November 1, 2026***

Hello:

Tim Averill has retired after a long career in the debate community. We are excited to announce that we will continue to honor Tim and raise money for his education fund that gives back to new coaches, new programs, and young debaters. Please join us in celebrating Tim's career and retirement at the Tim Averill Invitational Debate Tournament, to take place online using NSDA Campus, from Friday-Sunday, October 30-November 1 for VPF, and on Saturday, October 31 (Halloween debates--scary!!) for NPF, VLD, NLD, CX, WS, and BQ.

We will be working hard to make the tournament enjoyable, affordable, and accessible for all.

The tournament will offer the following events:

	Division	Rounds	Days
Public Forum	Varsity *	6 preliminary rounds (R1 and R2 on Friday), break to doubles, semis and finals on Sunday	Friday-Sunday
	Novice	5 preliminary rounds	Saturday only
Lincoln Douglas	Varsity	5 preliminary rounds	Saturday only
	Novice	5 preliminary rounds	
Policy	Varsity	3 preliminary rounds	Saturday only
	Novice	3 preliminary rounds	
World Schools	Open	4 preliminary rounds	Saturday only
Big Questions	Open	4 preliminary rounds	Saturday only

* Teams advancing to the semi-final round in the Varsity division of Public Forum debate will earn a bid to the University of Kentucky Tournament of Champions.

Important information will be posted on the main page of the website as we get closer to the tournament, including the schedule and full invitation.

We look forward to hosting you!

Janet Novack
Lexington High School

Josh Cohen
Newton South High
School

Sheryl Kaczmarek
Lexington High School

PJ Wexler
Needham High
School

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1. School eligibility

- This tournament is open to high school students (Grades 9 to 12). Middle school students may compete in novice divisions.
- Only accredited public and private schools may enter competitors. These competitors must be registered by a school-sponsored adult.
- Hybrid teams are permitted ONLY in WSD.
- Each school must identify an adult “Person in Charge” for their school. That person must be reachable at all times during the tournament via phone and must be able to reach all participants from their school – including competitors and judges. The tab staff will depend on each school’s “person in charge” to contact competitors or judges from their school when necessary (e.g., when individuals do not enter the online debate they have been assigned to).

2. Debate resolutions

Format	Code	Number of debaters per entry	Resolution
Policy (*)	CX	2 ^(*)	Policy Debate -- 2026-2027 Topic Resolved: The United States federal government should establish national health insurance in the United States. Novice policy arguments will be limited to the NDCA packet.
Lincoln-Douglas (**)	LD	1	September/October 2026 Resolved: Outer space colonization is a moral imperative. NOVICE – 2026 Novice Topic: <i>Resolved: In a democracy, voting ought to be compulsory. NOT the NSDA novice topic.</i>
Public Forum (*) (**)	PF	2 ^(*)	September/October 2026 Resolved: The United States federal government should enact a moratorium on hyperscale data center construction.
World Schools (**)	WS	3-5	<i>Four rounds, two prepared motions.</i> 1) Released 10/7 2) Released 10/7
Big Questions (**)	BQ	1-2	Resolved: Technological progress has surpassed humanity's ability to use it ethically.

The tournament will offer these divisions if there are sufficient entries.

(*) We discourage solo entries in paired debate events – i.e., PF and CX – but recognize that they are sometimes unavoidable. Note that although solo entries in CX or NPF can participate in preliminary rounds, in Varsity PF mavericks MAY NOT compete.

(**) In Novice Lincoln Douglas, Novice Public Forum, World Schools Debate, and Big Questions debate, middle school students may compete. Please see the novice division amendment below.

3. Who qualifies to debate in the novice division

All formats will have two divisions. A student who has competed in a debate event at two high school tournaments during a prior academic year no longer has novice status. Only novices may enter into Novice events.

4 Registering Judges

4.1 Judge qualifications

- Varsity division – All judges must have a high school diploma or the equivalent and be at least 17 years old.
- Novice division – Any judge qualified to judge varsity may also be registered to judge novice. In addition, current high school juniors and seniors with at least 200 NSDA points, or the equivalent, are eligible to judge.
- The tournament will use electronic balloting. ***All judges must have accounts on Tabroom.com with a phone number in their profile.***
- We ask that all judges familiarize themselves with the use of online ballots by reviewing this document ([here](#)).

4.2 Number of judges owed

Schools must provide 1 judge for every 2 entries for each debate event (rounded up).

4.3 How long judges must be available

- Varsity PF: Teams need one full judge available per 2 teams. It is okay to split judges as long as the quota for each day is met. Judges must be available for the full day that they are registered to judge.
 - o Judges are obligated through octafinals or one round past their school's latest competing entry, whichever is later.
- All Saturday-only events: ALL JUDGES must be available for all of Saturday.

4.4 Penalties for missing judges

- Tournaments depend on judges to judge the rounds that they are obligated for. Unfortunately, this means that schools will incur a fine if a judge misses a round or a pushed ballot. In the event that we need to push a ballot, we will call and text within a 5 minute window. Please prepare to answer phone calls from a wide range of area codes!
- This tournament has no hired judges. Coaches should only register the number of students they can cover with their own judges.

5 Fees and Payment

5.1 Entry fee amounts

- LD: \$15 per entry.
- CX, Novice PF: \$20 per entry.
- Varsity PF: \$40 per entry.
- Big Questions: \$10 per Entry
- WSD: \$20 per entry

5.2 How to pay registration fees:

- Make checks payable to – **Tim Averill Debate Education Fund.**

Mail to:

Averill Debate Fund
c/o Timothy Averill
4604 Deerfield Circle
Peabody, MA 01960-4756

- If you have questions regarding payments, please contact: timaverill@comcast.net
- The Averill Debate Fund is a 501(c)3 organization affiliated with the Manchester Essex Education Fund. The EIN is 23-7432493. If you need a W9 to process payment, please email debatejn@gmail.com.
- One payment per school, please!
- Do NOT mail cash!
- Unfortunately, we cannot accept electronic payments at this time - please ensure that your school is identified on your check (e.g., in the memo field).

6 Tournament schedule

- ***Please check in your entries on Friday afternoon for VPF. For all other events, please check in your entries on Saturday morning.*** There will be an “On-site registration” tab. On that tab, there will be a check box to confirm your team is set and ready to participate.
 - o Friday registration is open _____
 - o Saturday morning registration is open _____
 - o If you can no longer make a late drop on Tabroom yourself during On-Site Check-in, please email debatejn@gmail.com directly with your changes. Be sure to specify your name and school.
- ***Awards***
 - o We will send certificates to all entries with a winning record.
 - o We will also be mailing some medals after the tournament concludes!
- ***Detailed information on round times***
 - o As the tournament progresses, we will post anticipated times for rounds on the SCHEDULE page and on the tournament’s live doc, which will be published during the week prior to the tournament. Go to the tournament on Tabroom.com and click on the yellow SCHEDULE button on the right.

Varsity PF

Friday, October 30

	Pairings Released (judges press acknowledge)	Mandatory In-Room Time	Start Time (should be underway!)
Round 1	5:30 pm	5:50 pm	6:00 pm
Round 2	7:00 pm	7:20 pm	7:30 pm

Saturday, October 31

	Pairings Released (judges press acknowledge)	Mandatory In-Room Time	Start Time (should be underway!)
Round 3	9:00 am	9:20 am	9:30 am
Round 4	10:45 am	11:05 am	11:15 am
Round 5	12:30 pm	12:50 pm	1:00 pm
Round 6	2:15 pm	2:35 pm	2:45 pm
Doubles	4:00 pm	4:20 pm	4:30 pm
Octas	5:45 pm	6:05 pm	6:15 pm
Quarters	7:30 pm	7:50 pm	8:00 pm

Sunday, November 1

	Pairings Released (judges press acknowledge)	Mandatory In-Room Time	Start Time (should be underway!)
Semis	10:30 am	10:50 am	11:00 am
Finals	12:00 pm	12:20 pm	12:30 pm

All LD, Novice PF, BQ

Saturday, October 31

	Pairings Released (judges press acknowledge)	Mandatory In-Room Time	Start Time (should be underway!)
Round 1	8:30 am	8:50 am	9:00 am
Round 2	10:00 am	10:20 am	10:30 am
Round 3	12:00 pm	12:20 pm	12:30 pm
Round 4	1:30 pm	1:50 pm	2:00 pm
Round 5	3:00 pm	3:20 pm	3:30 pm

World Schools

Saturday, October 31

	Pairings Released (judges press acknowledge)	Mandatory In-Room Time	Start Time (should be underway!)
Round 1	9:00 am	9:20 am	9:30 am
Round 2	10:45 am	11:05 am	11:15 am
Round 3	12:30 pm	12:50 pm	1:00 pm
Round 4	2:15 pm	2:35 pm	2:45 pm

Policy

Saturday, October 31

	Pairings Released (judges press acknowledge)	Mandatory In-Room Time	Start Time (should be underway!)
Round 1	8:30 am	8:50 am	9:00 am
Round 2	10:45 pm	11:05 am	11:15 am
Round 3	1:30 pm	1:50 pm	2:00 pm

7 Tech Time

- Each team can use 10 cumulative minutes during a round to resolve technical issues interfering with a competitor's participation in the round. After that time has elapsed, participation must continue. If one member of a two-person entry cannot participate due to technical problems, his or her teammate may continue to debate solo, subject to conditions specified in Section 2 of this invitation.
- If a judge is experiencing a technical issue, they should come to the judges' lounge and/or contact the tournament staff by email - lextourneyhelp@gmail.com. If you are a debater in a room where a judge is having a technical issue, you should alert the tabroom immediately using the tabroom email function in your NSDA Campus room.

8 Resources

- <https://sites.google.com/view/msdlonline> has several judge resources available.
 - o Judge videos [here](#)
- SherylKaz.com also has judge training resources available.
- Getting help during the tournament:
 - o In-round help by submitting a request from within the NSDA Campus platform – i.e., without having to leave your in-round video session.
 - o Between-round help will be available in the virtual judges lounge.

9 Guidelines for conduct during the tournament

- The Massachusetts Speech and Debate League fosters a culture of diversity and inclusion. We expect all members of our community to treat one another with respect. Should you have any issues, please report them to the tabroom.
- We expect all participants to act professionally and be respectful of all competitors, judges, and tournament staff.