2026 I-70 Online Swing

Dear Colleagues:

McKendree University and Kansas City Kansas Community College are pleased to invite you to the I-70 Online Swing, hosted virtually via Discord and Tabroom November 20-22, 2026.

The I-70 Online Swing will feature 2 complete parliamentary debate tournaments over 3 days with novice divisions offered in each tournament. Kansas City Kansas Community College will also host an NFA-LD tournament on Saturday and Sunday of the weekend, which will be posted separately.

At the first half of parliamentary debate, we will offer 5 preliminary rounds, advance up to the top 16 teams with a winning record to elimination rounds, utilize pre-released topics, and make available judge strikes. At the second half, we will offer 5 preliminary rounds, advance up to the top 16 teams with a winning record to elimination rounds, utilize random topics, and make available judge strikes. 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 and 30 minutes of prep time. This time may be used for prep, CX, drinking water, etc. Note that elimination rounds of BOTH tournaments are scheduled for the final day of competition – November 22.

Contact McKendree University Head Debate Coach Brent Nicholson with any questions or concerns about the tournament via his email or phone included below.

Best,

Joe Blasdel * Director of Speech and Debate * McKendree University

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Brent Nicholson * Head Debate Coach * McKendree University

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Darren Elliott * Director of Forensics * Kansas City Kansas Community College

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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 **November 17th, 2026** (12:00 pm CST).

Please Note! We request all judges associated with schools have up-to-date philosophies entered via tabroom by **November 18th, 2026**. Schools that have judges without a paradigm will not receive prefs/strikes for that tournament half. 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).

Divisions

We will offer a novice division. In order to best protect novice debaters, we will avoid collapsing the novice division unless there are fewer than 6 teams.

We will offer breakout rounds in any collapsed division, provided judge availability allows.

Awards

We will recognize top speakers of each half and all advancing teams, but no physical awards will be presented.

This is to keep costs as low as possible for all entries.

I-70 Cup

I-70 Cup points are accrued at recognized NPDA tournaments along the I-70 corridor. Those tournaments include Missouri Valley College, I-70 Online Swing, and the Mound High Swing. Teams receive 1 point for each win at these tournaments, including preliminary rounds and elimination rounds.

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 teams with a winning record up to a full octofinals round (16 teams) 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. There will be 30 minutes of preparation time.

CENTRAL TOPIC ANNOUNCE: Topics, during the tournament, will be released at a centralized announcement site and teams will have 30 minutes before the debates begin. It is imperative that rounds begin on time! Judges should begin their rounds precisely 30 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.

Elimination Round Procedure: In debates in which teams previously debated in the same half of the tournament in preliminary rounds, sides will be pre-set to the opposite of that preliminary round. In debates in which teams have not previously debated in the same half of the tournament in preliminary rounds, the higher seed will be permitted to call the flip. Each call will be made and a single coin will be flipped for each round.

The NPTE half will use this procedure until semifinals, at which point we will use the NPTE's choice process.

Novice Elimination Rounds: We intend to offer as many elimination rounds for Novice as possible at both halves. Those rounds will use the same processes as all other rounds. When possible, we will pair 3 judges to those rounds, but we will prioritize a higher number of elimination rounds over larger judge panels. For instance, if we have 4 winning records, we may choose to have a semifinal with 1 judge in each round to increase the number of rounds novices are having.

JUDGE STRIKES: An appropriate number of judge strikes will be available for each half. Judge strikes need to be submitted by **November 19th, 2026,** 12:00 PM CST.

Parliamentary Debate 1st Half (Lane)

The Lane half of this tournament is named in honor of Dr. Gina Lane, who coached the William Jewell College debate team and served in leadership roles for NPDA and NPTE, and was instrumental in the technical development of NPDA style debate.

RESOLUTIONS: Pre-released resolutions will be posted on the Tabroom page for the second half by November 1st, 2026 and on the Mound High Swing page. Topics for this year's tournament will be exclusively policy topics with an actor and action. If you have ideas for what types of policy topics I-70 Online/Mound High should use, please contact Brent with those – we are actively considering ways to improve the research process in NPDA, so we're happy to hear your feedback.

Mason Remaley will be collaborating with Brent Nicholson to craft topics again this year.

Elimination Round Procedure: We will use the NPTE's choice system for elimination rounds of the NPTE half starting in semifinals.

Parliamentary Debate 2nd Half (Hunsaker)

The Hunsaker half of this tournament is named in honor of Dr. Richard ("Doc") Hunsaker, the founder of McKendree University Speech & Debate, who coached the program from 1996 until 2003. He coached prominent McKendree alumni, including Joe Blasdel, as well as local high school program Belleville Township High School West, where he was instrumental in the adoption of Lincoln-Douglas style debate in the state of Illinois. He continues to support the team and is an important figure in the history of both parliamentary debate in the Midwest and high school debate in Southern Illinois, two areas of emphasis for McKendree Speech & Debate.

TOPICS: Topics will not be pre-released. All topics will be policy topics with an actor and action.

The topic committee will consist of Joe Blasdel, Mason Remaley, and Darren Elliott.

General Policy for Both Halves

Fee Structure and Entry Limits:

Covered entries are free. Schools may enter an unlimited number of covered teams.

Each uncovered entry will cost $500 for each half.

Payment should be made to KCKCC Debate. Contact Darren Elliott with any questions regarding payment.

Schools may only enter two uncovered entries per half. This may be increased as judges become available to us.

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 available for the tournament, please contact the tournament directors, as we may be able to hire them.

Judging Obligation: Judges will be expected to judge all preliminary rounds and through the first full elimination round. This means you cannot enter partial commits. ***If your judges have restrictions on their availability, you must contact us prior to the tournament.*** After the first full elimination round, 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 accommodation.

Tentative Schedule

All 3 days will use this schedule:

Round	PST	MST	CST	EST
1	7:00	8:00	9:00	10:00
2	8:45	9:45	10:45	11:45
3	10:45	11:45	12:45	1:45
4	2:00	3:00	4:00	5:00

5	4:00	5:00	6:00	7:00
6	6:00	7:00	8:00	9:00

Friday – Lane, prelims 1-5 and elim 1

Saturday – Hunsaker, prelims 1-5 and elim 1

Sunday – Alternating elimination rounds. If both final rounds can happen concurrently, we will run both during the R5 slot.

R1 – Lane 2

R2 – Hunsaker 2

R3 – Lane 3

R4 – Hunsaker 3

R5 – Lane 4

R6 – Hunsaker 4