



## 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Liberty Bell Classic Tournament at the University of Pennsylvania

Dear Coaches and Competitors,

We are excited to invite you to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Liberty Bell Classic Tournament at the University of Pennsylvania, which will take place on **February 10 – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017**.

The Penn Tournament offers a **high quality** and **affordable** experience to all attendees and is an excellent opportunity to visit the beautiful city of Philadelphia and learn about the University of Pennsylvania. The tournament will continue to be held solely on Penn's campus, meaning we won't bus you off to a local school when you arrive here. Like all previous years, **all of the profits from the tournament will be used to promote debate programs at public schools in Philadelphia.**

The 2017 Penn Tournament will offer the following events:

- Public Forum Debate (Varsity and JV)
- Lincoln-Douglas Debate (Varsity and JV)
- Congressional Debate
- Policy Debate
- Declamation
- Dramatic Interpretation
- Duo Interpretation
- Extemporaneous Speaking
- Humorous Interpretation
- Oral Interpretation
- Original Oratory

We offer bids to the Tournament of Champions in the following events:

- Public Forum Debate (Varsity) – **Quarterfinalists**
- Lincoln-Douglas Debate (Varsity) – **Finalists**
- Congressional Debate – **Top Six**
- Dramatic Interpretation – **Finalists\***
- Duo Interpretation – **Finalists\***
- Extemporaneous Speaking – **Finalists\***
- Humorous Interpretation – **Finalists\***
- Oral Interpretation – **Finalists\***
- Original Oratory – **Finalists\***

\*Speech semifinalists will receive bids if the number of entries in the event exceeds 72.

This year, we will be coordinating with faculty at the University of Pennsylvania to secure as many competition rooms as possible in an effort to ensure that all interested competitors are accommodated and that this year's tournament is the largest and most competitive in its history.

We're also striving to improve the quality of our judging pool across all events. In addition to traditional methods of recruiting hired judges, we have implemented a referral system. With this system, anyone who recruits a qualified hired judge to the tournament will be compensated \$10 per referral. This system will allow us to recruit highly experienced judges from around the nation.

Jim Menick will direct tab this year, along with other tab staff TBD.

Please continue reading this invitation for more information and review our tournament website for updates at [penn.tabroom.com](http://penn.tabroom.com). If you have any questions, please send an email to [penn.tournament@gmail.com](mailto:penn.tournament@gmail.com), and we'll respond to you within 24 to 48 hours.

We wish you all the best in the upcoming months and hope to see you here in February!

Sincerely,

Edward Jing, Pranav Reddy, and the Penn for Youth Debate Executive Board

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## Events

**All debate events will follow NSDA rules.**

### Public Forum Debate

There will be two divisions of PF: Varsity and JV.\* The **February National Speech and Debate Association topic** will be used and teams will have two minutes of prep time each. There will be six preliminary rounds and all quarterfinalists in Varsity PF will receive a bid to the TOC.

### Lincoln-Douglas Debate

There will be two divisions of LD: Varsity and JV.\* The **January-February National Speech and Debate Association topic** will be used and debaters will have four minutes of prep time each. There will be an appropriate number of preliminary rounds based on registration numbers and all finalists in Varsity LD will receive a bid to the TOC.

### Congressional Debate

There will be a single, open division of Congressional Debate. Chambers will be comprised of no more than 20 competitors. Templates for bills and resolutions can be found on [penn.tabroom.com](http://penn.tabroom.com). Please submit legislation via email to [penn.tournament@gmail.com](mailto:penn.tournament@gmail.com) by **February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017** with the subject "Congress Legislation" and the author's name and school. Each student may submit only one piece of legislation. We will publish legislation by **February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. There will be three preliminary sessions and the Top Six competitors will receive a bid to the TOC.

### Policy Debate

There will be a single, open division of Policy Debate. The **2016-2017 National Speech and Debate Association topic** will be used and teams will have ten minutes of prep time each. There will be five preliminary rounds and breaks will be determined by the size of the field.

### Speech Events

Speech events will follow **NSDA rules** with a few exceptions. The NSDA Manual can be found on [penn.tabroom.com](http://penn.tabroom.com). Speech competitors do not need to have copies of their manuscripts, but they are expected to abide by NSDA rules for their content. Declamation will follow NCFL rules. In Extemp, which will be a mix of IX and USX, laptops and cellphones may be used to access stored data, but Internet features must be disabled. Power outlets may be used during prep, although access to them is not guaranteed. The final round of Extemp will feature cross-examination in accordance with NSDA rules. Extemp topic areas will be released by **February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017**. OI will follow **NCFL rules** ([ncfl.org/oral-interp](http://ncfl.org/oral-interp)). Speech tabbing will be cumulative throughout the tournament, dropping the lowest preliminary round rank after the first elimination round. There will be four preliminary rounds in all speech events and TOC bids will depend on field sizes.

*\*Students in 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade and those in 11<sup>th</sup> grade with less than two years' experience may enter in JV or Varsity. Students with more than two years' experience and those in 12<sup>th</sup> grade should enter in Varsity. Any student who broke at a national tournament in JV last year should enter VLD. We strongly encourage coaches to choose divisions with the educational purpose of debate in mind. That purpose is hurt if overqualified debaters compete in JV.*

## Fees

### Varsity Public Forum Debate

One team	\$80
One team's worth of hired judging	\$90

### Varsity Lincoln-Douglas Debate

One entry	\$60
One entry's worth of hired judging	\$80

### Congressional Debate

One entry	\$30
One entry's worth of hired judging	\$20

### Speech Events

One IE entry	\$20
One Duo entry	\$30
One entry's worth of hired judging	\$20

### JV Public Forum Debate

One team	\$60
One team's worth of hired judging	\$70

### JV Lincoln-Douglas Debate

One entry	\$40
One entry's worth of hired judging	\$60

### Policy Debate

One team	\$50
One team's worth of hired judging	\$90

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**We charge for hired judges by the student, not by the whole judge.** If you have seven IE students entered and only one judge covering five of those students, you owe two IE hired judging fees. This system is fairer because it does not require you to hire a whole judge just to cover a fractional obligation. Please check Tabroom to make sure your obligation is filled (the "judging" tab will be red if it's not) so you don't show up at registration having made this mistake. We don't want to fine you, but we need enough judges in order to run the tournament.

**All fees must be paid in full during registration on either Friday night or Saturday morning. All payments must be in the form of a check made payable to Penn for Youth Debate.**

If your school has financial constraints that may prevent it from attending the tournament, email [penn.tournament@gmail.com](mailto:penn.tournament@gmail.com) with a brief description of your school, financial situation, and debate program. We will work to accommodate your team the best that we can.

## Tentative Schedule

### **Registration: Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 2 PM to 9 PM EST**

Mandatory registration in-person or by phone. You can register and pay fees at Houston Hall (3417 Spruce Street). You may also register over the phone. Teams who register via phone must arrive early on Saturday morning to pay their fees. Teams with PF and LD entries must register prior to rounds at 5 PM on Friday. After 6 PM, you must call in any drops. Schools with unreported drops after 9 PM will be fined \$50 per drop plus registration fees.

<b>Varsity Public Forum Debate</b>		<b>Varsity Lincoln-Douglas Debate</b>	
<b>Friday</b>		<b>Friday</b>	
5:00 PM	Round 1	5:00 PM	Round 1
8:00 PM	Round 2	8:00 PM	Round 2
<b>Saturday</b>		<b>Sunday</b>	
8:00 AM	Round 3	8:00 AM	Round 3
12:00 PM	Round 4	12:00 PM	Round 4
4:00 PM	Round 5	4:00 PM	Round 5
8:00 PM	Round 6	8:00 PM	Round 6
<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Sunday</b>	
8:00 AM	Doubles	8:00 AM	Doubles
11:00 AM	Octofinals	11:00 AM	Octofinals
1:00 PM	Quarterfinals	1:00 PM	Quarterfinals
2:30 PM	Semifinals	2:30 PM	Semifinals
4:00 PM	Finals	4:00 PM	Finals

<b>JV Public Forum Debate</b>		<b>JV Lincoln-Douglas Debate</b>	
<b>Friday</b>		<b>Friday</b>	
5:00 PM	Round 1	5:00 PM	Round 1
8:00 PM	Round 2	8:00 PM	Round 2
<b>Saturday</b>		<b>Sunday</b>	
10:00 AM	Round 3	10:00 AM	Round 3
2:00 PM	Round 4	2:00 PM	Round 4
6:00 PM	Round 5	6:00 PM	Round 5
<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Sunday</b>	
8:00 AM	Doubles	8:00 AM	Doubles
11:00 AM	Octofinals	11:00 AM	Octofinals
1:00 PM	Quarterfinals	1:00 PM	Quarterfinals
2:30 PM	Semifinals	2:30 PM	Semifinals
4:00 PM	Finals	4:00 PM	Finals

Policy Debate		Congressional Debate		Speech Events	
Saturday		Saturday		Saturday	
8:00 AM	Round 1	9:00 AM	Session 1	9:00 AM	Round 1
10:00 PM	Round 2	1:00 PM	Session 2	12:00 PM	Round 2
1:00 PM	Round 3	4:00 PM	Session 3	2:30 PM	Round 3
4:00 PM	Round 4			5:00 PM	Round 4
7:00 PM	Round 5				
Sunday		Sunday		Sunday	
8:00 AM	Quarterfinals	8:00 AM	Semifinals	9:00 AM	Quarterfinals
11:00 AM	Semifinals	12:00 PM	Finals	10:30 AM	Semifinals
2:00 PM	Finals			1:00 PM	Finals

\*This schedule is subject to change.

\*\*Awards will be held at approximately 3:00 PM EST on Sunday in Irvine Auditorium.

\*\*\*Any scheduling updates will be posted on Tabroom and emailed to all coaches and judges.

## Online Registration

All registration will be conducted on [penn.tabroom.com](http://penn.tabroom.com). Registration will open **November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016** at 9 AM EST. We recommend registering as early as possible, as spaces fill up quickly and entries will be admitted on a first-come, first-served basis. If you have any questions, send an email to [penn.tournament@gmail.com](mailto:penn.tournament@gmail.com) and be sure to include the name of your school.

- Please register your entries in chronological order based on priority for each event. For example, register your first priority PF team before your second priority PF team, etc.
- All of your entries will be waitlisted when you first enter them in on Tabroom. This allows us to ensure that all entries abide by our tournament guidelines and fairly determine how many entries to accept from each school in each event.
- Due to space constraints, each school will initially be limited to 8 entries per event. We will accommodate entries on top of these caps as room availability permits.
- Please do NOT contact us asking if/when your waitlisted entries will be accepted. As soon as spaces open up (due to drops or additional rooms), we will add entries from the waitlist. As the tournament approaches, we'll provide additional updates.
- Debate and Congress competitors may not enter in multiple events.
- Speech competitors may enter in up to three events.
- TBA entries will be dropped one month before the tournament.

## Independent Entries

All entries must be officially affiliated with a degree-issuing high school in accordance with NSDA membership rules. Please see the NSDA website for more information on membership rules.



## Judging

### Judging Obligations

Each school must provide one qualified judge for every:

- 3 teams in Public Forum Debate
- 3 entries in Lincoln-Douglas Debate
- 2 teams in Policy Debate
- 5 entries in Speech
- 1 qualified judge if a school has any entries in Congressional Debate (please specify in the notes section on Tabroom what other event (if any) this judge is willing to judge)

In the case of fractional obligations, judging obligation is rounded up. For example, if your school has 5 teams entered in PF, you will be obligated to provide 2 PF judges.

**You must provide the cell phone numbers for all judges.** Please collect as many as you can and enter these in on Tabroom. Keep in mind that a “qualified judge” must understand the activity, speak English, and be experienced either sitting in rounds with a ballot/flow pad and/or have been carefully trained by the team he/she is accompanying. A qualified judge is one who knows how to fill out a ballot and assign ranks, wins/losses, and speaker points.

**Judges in all events are obligated to stay and judge one round past the one that their competitors have been eliminated in.** For example, if you have a PF team that advances to quarterfinals but loses, you must have a judge available to judge semifinals. **Schools that have judges who fail to appear for an assigned round will be fined \$25 per missed prelim round and \$50 per missed elimination round. Schools with unpaid fines will not be given ballots or awards.** Fines may be excused if the school provides judges for rounds beyond their assignment. We would much prefer to have judges ready and present in every round than to administer fines. Leaving as soon as all of your entries drop without asking the tournament staff severely impedes the flow of the tournament for everyone still competing and undermines our ability to run the tournament. You may ask us if we still need your judges to stay, but you must have our approval before leaving.

**Any judges dropped after registration is frozen on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 11:59 PM EST – even if you drop students to compensate – will incur a \$50 fine.**

### Hired Judges

We're committed to hiring a high quality judging pool across all divisions. To aid us in that effort, the registration system will ask you to explicitly request hired judges. We only hire highly-qualified judges. This means that there will be a limited number of judge hires available, so request early. Every entry must be covered by a judge, either brought by your team or through an approved hire request. If Tabroom says you are missing a judge by the February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 deadline for entering judges, you will be forced to drop entries to compensate.

#### Mutual Judge Preferences (Varsity Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Policy Debate)

We offer mutually preferred judging in Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Policy Debate. A complete judge list will be posted as soon as possible after the closing of registration. All debaters in LD and Policy may then rank each judge according to the scale provided, with 1 being the highest rating and with a limited number of judges being rated a 2 or below. We will attempt to keep all judge assignments as mutually preferred as possible; however, since debaters with more than two losses will not break, judge preferences may have to give way in those brackets. Any LDer or Policy team who has made strikes but whose own judges fail to show up at the tournament will forfeit their preferences, including strikes. Please email us separately at [penn.tournament@gmail.com](mailto:penn.tournament@gmail.com) with conflicts (former affiliation with the team, special relationships, etc.).

**The judges you bring need to be the judges you registered online by February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017.** Since LD and Policy Debate judges have been rated by competitors, it is very difficult to replace judges on short notice. Schools that change their judges after this deadline will lose their ratings and strikes.

#### Paradigms (Varsity Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Policy Debate)

Judges in VLD and Policy should have paradigms on [judgephilosophies.wikispaces.com](http://judgephilosophies.wikispaces.com). Having a published paradigm is especially important since competitors are competing for a TOC bid. Judges should also be willing to indicate to competitors before the round a general sense of their vision of debate (if any) and/or their experience to aid competitors in choosing how best to make their arguments. If you're considering not writing a paradigm, please note that judges who do will likely be rated higher and see better rounds than those who don't.

#### Spectating and Disclosure Policy

All rounds are open to both competitors and spectators. Post-round oral critiques and disclosures are encouraged in all of the debate events. To keep the tournament running on time, please keep your oral critiques as short as possible (less than 5 minutes).

## Hotel

University City Sheraton  
(215) 387-8000 | [philadelphiasheraton.com](http://philadelphiasheraton.com)  
3549 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104

The University City Sheraton is conveniently located within 15 minutes walking distance from all competition rooms. Double bed rooms are \$145 per night and can accommodate 1-4 people. We have reserved 150 rooms for the nights of Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. These rooms will be reserved until January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. There is parking available at the hotel for \$20 per day, including unlimited in and out privileges. Rooms will fill up quickly, so please book them as soon as possible. The rates below do not include taxes. Book your rooms at the following website: <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/libertybell2017>

## Directions

### Plane

The closest airport to the University of Pennsylvania is the Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), which is serviced by almost all of the major airlines and is a hub for US Airways.

Note that United Airlines offers service into Philadelphia's 30th Street Train Station – whereby you fly into Newark on United (many non-stops into Newark) and are then given a ticket to hop onto the Amtrak train (right at Newark Airport) to Philadelphia. This leaves you just a few blocks from campus and reduces cab fares or the need for a rental car, ultimately saving time. Furthermore, these fares are often much cheaper than fares to Philadelphia's main airport. To search for airfares to the train station, the “airport code” is ZFV on United's website.

### Train

The University of Pennsylvania is located just a few blocks away from 30th Street Station, which is serviced by Amtrak and numerous local train lines that connect Philly with Delaware, New Jersey, and the rest of Pennsylvania. If you're coming from NYC, Amtrak is not your only option. You can also take a New Jersey transit train from Penn Station-New York to Trenton Transit Center and then catch a SEPTA train in Trenton to 30th Street Station.

### Driving

<https://goo.gl/maps/5n5PaYYLccR2>

## Parking

If you are staying at one of our near-campus hotel partners, we encourage you to use their parking facilities. As with any urban campus, parking is particularly difficult around Penn. If you choose to stay at the Sonesta or another hotel option we suggest that you visit this link (<http://cms.business-services.upenn.edu/parking/where-to-park/visitors-and-vendors.html>) to find a location to park on campus for a fee. Unmetered parking is available between 40th and 44th and it is best to remain between Spruce and Walnut. If staying in Center City, Philadelphia's public transportation system, SEPTA is an easy option for travel to and from campus.

## Other Important Information

### Saturday Lunch

We will be selling individual box lunches on Saturday between 11 AM and 3 PM in Houston Hall.

### Awards and Ballots

This year, we will be introducing customized Liberty Bell trophies for all champions. Competitors reaching elimination rounds will receive a medal (early out-rounds) or a plaque (late out-rounds). Please pick up awards during the awards ceremony or arrange to have someone else do so on your behalf. **Awards will not be mailed.** Non-clearing teams can pick up their ballots on Sunday morning. If you anticipate leaving early, please bring an addressed, fully-stamped envelope, label it with your school name, and deliver it to tab. We mail your team's ballots after the tournament.

### Safety

Our policy concerning the consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors, illegal use of controlled substances, vandalism, and other illegal or disorderly behavior will be to: (1) disqualify involved contestants from further competition, (2) communicate the offending incident to the contestants on-site guardians and/or parents, (3) insist on the contestant's immediate transportation home, (4) require financial reimbursement for all damages and/or liabilities caused directly or indirectly by the incident, and (5) notify the appropriate legal authorities. The tournament directors, staff, and anyone associated with the event are not legally responsible and may not be held liable for the actions of any student, coach, or judge involved in the tournament.

## Timeline

<b>November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 9 AM EST</b>	Online registration begins on <a href="http://penn.tabroom.com">penn.tabroom.com</a> .
<b>February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 11:59 PM EST</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congress legislation due.</li> <li>• Extemporaneous Speaking topic areas released.</li> </ul>
<b>February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 11:59 PM EST</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>New entries due in all events.</b></li> <li>• <b>Registration fees and judge burdens frozen.</b> If you do not meet your judging obligation after this date, you will be charged for a hired judge and fined \$20 per uncovered entry.</li> <li>• Drops can no longer be made online. They must be emailed to <a href="mailto:penn.tournament@gmail.com">penn.tournament@gmail.com</a>. There will be a \$10 fine plus registration fees for each drop made after this time.</li> <li>• Judge names and information for all events due. Schools that do not enter their VLD judge information on Tabroom by this date will be unable to enter strikes or MJP rankings.</li> <li>• Congress legislation, dockets, and chambers released on <a href="http://penn.tabroom.com">penn.tabroom.com</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 2 PM – 9 PM EST</b>	<p><b>Mandatory registration in-person or by phone.</b> You can register and pay fees during this timeframe at Houston Hall (3417 Spruce Street). You may also call (484) 378-2874. Teams with PF and LD entries must register before the start of rounds at 5 PM on Friday. Teams who register via phone must arrive early on Saturday morning to pay their fees. After 4 PM, please call in drops. <b>Schools with unreported drops after 9 PM will be fined \$50 per drop.</b></p>

## 2017 University of Pennsylvania Tournament Staff

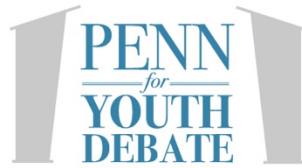
**Tournament Director:** Edward Jing

**Junior Tournament Director:** Pranav Reddy

**PFYD President:** Allyson Bell

**PFYD Vice Presidents:** Rajan Sheth, Alice Yu

**PFYD Executive Board:** Heba Arshad, Rebecca Gelfer, Dakota Jones, Sophie Kruger, Hope Merens, Caroline Wallace, Andrew Wang



### About Penn for Youth Debate

#### What is Penn for Youth Debate (PFYD)?

PFYD is a non-profit student organization at the University of Pennsylvania that aims to promote debate in Philadelphia by providing volunteers to coach Public Forum at public high schools and middle schools, organizing free debate tournaments for Philadelphia students, partnering with the After School Activities Partnerships (ASAP) to run a Philadelphia-wide debate league and engage in community outreach events, and providing scholarships to high-achieving high school students. PFYD currently partners with 20 schools and hosts three tournaments each year, all free of charge. In recent years, PFYD students have consistently advanced to elimination rounds at national circuit tournaments and qualified to NCFL Nationals for two years in a row. Finally, PFYD awards \$1500 in college scholarships each year to encourage high school students to pursue higher education. Through its activities, PFYD has introduced debate to hundreds of students who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to participate in this incredibly engaging and educational activity.

#### Why does this matter?

First, Penn for Youth Debate is comprised of former debaters who are dedicated to seeing debate programs in Philadelphia flourish, meaning our tournament is managed by qualified individuals. Many high school speech and debate alumni assist the tournament in judging rounds, collecting ballots, and speaking to students interested in attending the University of Pennsylvania. Second, all of the profits from the tournament go directly to PFYD's aforementioned activities.

Read more online at [pennforyouthdebate.org](http://pennforyouthdebate.org).