

## **1.0 General Information**

### **2023 Missouri Invitational General Information**

We invite your team to the Missouri Invitational High School Tournament held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, **February 24th-26th 2023**. The tournament will offer Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Novice divisions of debate, Varsity divisions of speech, and a Varsity division of Congress.

**Registration is through Tabroom.com.** You can find our tournament website here: <http://missouriinvitational.tabroom.com>. Students and coaches should all be familiar with how to find and use this website. All participants must sign up for and subscribe to Live Updates for the relevant entries at the tournament. Please use the Tabroom.com wiki if you have any questions about this, or how to register etc. The tournament will use the National Speech and Debate Associations [Campus](#) program and its integration with tabroom.com

The **2023 Missouri Invitational** is a bid tournament to the prestigious **Tournament of Champions** in Individual Speech Events and Congressional Debate (Top 6), and Lincoln Douglas Debate (Finals). The tournament is also a qualifying tournament for the **National Individual Events Tournament of Champions**.

**LD/CX/PF will be held Fri/Sat/Sun and IE's/Congress will be held Saturday and Sunday. We will adjust as necessary if entries warrant. IE's will be synchronous.**

For additional information, please refer to the full invitation or [Missouri.Invitational@gmail.com](mailto:Missouri.Invitational@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns.

Best regards,  
The Missouri Invitational Committee

Ben Davis & Parker Hopkins, Truman State University

Dr. Eric Morris, Missouri State University

Please contact us with any questions at [Missouri.Invitational@gmail.com](mailto:Missouri.Invitational@gmail.com)

### **1.1 Online Platform**

The Missouri Invitational will use NSDA Campus. This is the site developed and maintained by the NSDA.

[NSDA Campus | National Speech & Debate Association](#)

## 1.2 Online Competition

The 2021 TOC [Best Practices](#) manual offers tips for preparation.

## 1.3 Events and Divisions

**Bold denotes TOC/NIETOC Qualifying Event**

### **Debate Events:**

Policy Debate

**Lincoln Douglas Debate**

Public Forum Debate

**Congressional Debate**

**Extemporaneous Speaking**

**Extemporaneous Speaking**

**Original Oratory**

**Prose**

**Poetry**

**Dramatic Interp**

**Duo Interp**

**Humorous Interp**

**Informative Speaking**

**Program of Oral Interpretation**

## 1.4 Debate Topics

Policy Debate topic: 2021-2023 NSDA Topic concerning Water Resources

Lincoln-Douglas topic: 2023 NSDA January/February LD Topic

Public Forum: 2023 NSDA January PFD Topic

## 1.5 Event Tiebreakers

### **PF/LD/Policy Prelims**

1. Winloss from prelim round(s)
2. Points from prelim round(s), except the 1 best & worst
3. Points from prelim round(s), except the 2 best & worst
4. Points from prelim round(s)
5. Opp seed from prelim round(s)
6. Headtohead from all round(s)
7. Coinflip from all round(s)

### **Debate Speaker Awards**

1. Points from prelim round(s), except the 1 best & worst

2. Points from prelim round(s), except the 2 best & worst
3. Points from prelim round(s)
4. Opp wins from prelim round(s)
5. Judgevar2 from prelim round(s)
6. Coinflip from prelim round(s)

### **Congress Prelims**

1. Ranks from prelim round(s), truncate to 9
2. Judgepref from prelim round(s), truncate to 9
3. Reciprocal ranks from prelim round(s), truncate to 9
4. Ranks from prelim round(s), truncate to 9, except the 1 best & worst
5. Judgepref from prelim round(s), truncate to 9
6. Chair ranks from prelim round(s)

### **Congress Elims**

1. Ranks from previous round(s), truncate to 9
2. Judgepref from previous round(s), truncate to 9
3. Reciprocal ranks from previous round(s), truncate to 9
4. Ranks from previous round(s), truncate to 9, except the 1 best & worst
5. Judgepref from previous round(s), truncate to 9
6. Chair ranks from previous round(s)

### **Speech Prelims**

1. Ranks from prelim round(s), truncate to smallest section, except the 1 worst
2. Reciprocal ranks from prelim round(s), truncate to smallest section, except the 1 worst
3. Points from prelim round(s), except the 1 worst
4. Ranks from prelim round(s), truncate to smallest section
5. Reciprocal ranks from all round(s), truncate to smallest section
6. Points from all round(s)
7. Coinflip from all round(s)

### **Speech Elims Cumulative**

**\* Each level is additive. Ex: Add all of "1<sup>st</sup>" tiebreaker conditions together**

1. Ranks from elim round(s), truncate to smallest section, except the 1 worst
1. Ranks from prelim round(s), truncate to smallest section, except the 1 worst
1. Ranks from final round(s), truncate to smallest section, except the 1 worst
2. Reciprocal ranks from elim round(s), truncate to smallest section, except the 1 worst
2. Reciprocal ranks from prelim round(s), truncate to smallest section, except the 1 worst
2. Reciprocal ranks from final round(s), truncate to smallest section, except the 1 worst
3. Points from prelim round(s), except the 1 worst
3. Points from elim round(s), except the 1 worst
3. Points from final round(s), except the 1 worst
4. Ranks from previous round(s)

5. Reciprocal ranks from previous round(s)
6. Points from all round(s)
7. Judgepref from previous round(s)

## **1.6 Entry Limits per School**

Initially each school will be allowed to enter 4 entries in any given division of an event. All entries after the 4th will be placed on a waitlist. Our goal is to let in every entry off the waitlist.

## **1.7 Student Entry Limits**

Students may enter either:

Policy Debate ONLY

LD AND/OR PF debate

Congressional Debate

As many speech events as they would like \*

Speech rounds are set on a generous 2 hour schedule. It is a student's affirmative responsibility to compete in the 2 hour time block of a round. Failure to do so, at no fault of the tournament, will not result in any rankings adjustment. In short, enter in as many as you'd like at your own risk.

## **1.8 Judging Requirements**

Policy Debate: 4 rounds of prelim judging are required per team.

Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum Debate: 4 rounds of prelim judging per team. (LD and PF share a judge pool)

CX/LD/PF Judges must be available through at least the first full elimination round, or one round beyond the elimination of their last entry. Whichever comes first.

Congressional Debate: 1 judge may cover 8 entries.

Speech: 1 judge may cover 8 entries.

Speech and Congress judges are obligated through the end of the Speech/Congress tournaments.

If a school does not fulfill their judging burden, including failure of judges to appear in assigned rounds, tab will drop the school's best placed entries until the school has fulfilled their judging obligations.

We will attempt to place those with relevant event experience in that individual event. Please specify event preference when registering judges.

**Congress judges may be moved to other judge categories as needed to avoid school conflicts.**

**ALL** school Judges **MUST** have linked Tabroom.com accounts and be prepared to fill out online ballots. In order to be placed in any of the debate pools, judges must have a completed paradigm on tabroom.com.

Judges should have updated conflicts on tabroom prior to the start of the tournament.

If the tabroom must replace a judge due to either A. failure to disclose conflicts, or B. failure to appear for an assigned round, then the school will be fined \$100 for each occurrence.

## **1.9 Individual Speech Events TOC**

The TOC issues speech bids in the following events: Combined extemporaneous speaking, Original Oratory, Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Oral Interp (Prose and Poetry), Program of Oral Interpretation, and Informative Speaking. Bids are awarded on the following scale:

If 24 or fewer competitors enter, the top 3 receive bids.

If 25 to 72 compete, the top 7 finalists receive bids.

If 73 to 125 or more are in an event, the top 14 semifinalists receive bids.

If 125 or more are in an event, the top 24 quarterfinalists receive bids.

## **1.10 National Individual TOC**

The NIETOC offers competition in Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Duet Acting, Original Oratory, Informative Speaking, Program of Oral Interpretation, and Extemporaneous Speaking. Champions in main events and the overall individual performer will receive scholarships. The Josephine Mamie Dukes Outstanding Teacher Award will be presented to an outstanding coach. Students may double enter in one flight and single enter in the alternate flight, in order to compete in a maximum of three events. The NIETOC is designed to give competitors an amazing competitive experience, with its student-centered schedule, competitive costs and minimal judge requirements.

0-19 contestants = FIRST PLACE BID  
20-34 contestants = FIRST, SECOND & THIRD PLACE BIDS  
35-50 contestants = FINAL ROUND BIDS  
51-70 contestants = SEMIFINAL ROUND BIDS  
71-99 contestants = QUARTERFINAL ROUND BIDS  
100 + contestants = OCTAFINAL ROUND BIDS

### **1.11 Congressional Debate TOC**

The Missouri Invitational has been designated a Tier 1 Congressional Debate qualifier; the Top 6 Congressional Debaters will earn a bid to the TOC.

### **1.12 Awards**

\*\*\*\*No physical awards, an awards ceremony will recognize all of the below placings.

Awards will be given to TOC bid recipients, top speakers in Policy and LD, and elim round participants in debate events. Sweepstakes awards will be given to the overall top three schools.

Schools' best two entries in EVERY event will be counted for sweepstakes.

#### **IE's, and Congress:**

2 Points for qualifying for octo finals  
2 Points for qualifying for quarter finals  
2 Points for qualifying for semifinals  
4 Points for qualifying for finals  
6 Points for placing 3<sup>rd</sup>  
8 Points for placing 2<sup>nd</sup>  
10 Points for placing 1<sup>st</sup>

#### **Debate: (Policy/LD/PFD)**

5 Points per Win

#### **Individual Sweepstakes:**

The individual sweepstakes award is awarded to the individual student who earned the most total sweepstakes points that also competed in at least one event in each of the following categories: Live Debate (CX, LD, PF, Cong), Limited Prep (Extemp), Platform (OO, Info, Radio), and Interp (HI, DI, Duo, POI, OI, ST).

Local coaches may pick up their awards from Truman HS at their convenience. We will mail all other awards.

## **2.0 Eligibility**

### **2.1 General**

All students who are sanctioned by their principals to compete as a member of their school may compete at the Missouri Invitational.

Students who compete as independents are excluded from participating.

Schools from outside the state of Missouri should try to indicate their desire to attend prior to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. We have to fill out paperwork. Entries from out of state schools after this date will be accepted on a case by case basis assuming we can get the appropriate sanctioning.

All students currently enrolled in grades 9-12 may participate at the 2023 Missouri Invitational.

### **2.2 Maverick Debating Rules**

Maverick teams are not permitted to enter prior to the tournament. If a team becomes maverick due to an illness of a partner during the tournament, the ill debater may miss no more than 2 debates to be able to return and continue debating. Mavericks may win the debate. Mavericks will not be permitted to clear to elimination rounds.

### **2.3 Independent entry and adult chaperones**

The tournament recognizes the value, and sometimes necessity of some students to compete as independents. However, due to liability concerns of our administration, and MSHSAA regulations no independent entries may compete. All students must be registered by an adult employee of the school district of which they are affiliated.

If your school seems to skirt the definition of “independent” consider these tests:

1. For Missouri schools to compete in a tournament, all entries in the tournament must be from teams representing their school that is a member of the relevant state activities association. Because of the process described in #2, we don't ask for a letter from the school like many other national circuit tournaments do.
2. The determining body for that is the MSHSAA. Which requires a one-month notice. A school does not have to have entries finalized, just have clicked register on Tabroom.com. When we submit the list of out-of-state schools, the MSHSAA then contacts the school or state activities association to determine if they are eligible to compete. Most schools meet that threshold, and we never hear anything back.

The easy litmus test here is two parts: 1. Is the school a member of the relevant state activities association? 2. Would the students be entered under the name of the school instead of " \_\_\_\_\_ Independent." If the answer to both is yes, then the school probably passes the

test and is able to compete.



## **3.0 Event-Specific Information**

### **3.1 Overarching rules statement**

The tournament follows NSDA rules in all instances except for instances listed in this document or the tabroom.com website. The tournament committee reserves the right to adjudicate ambiguous rule challenges in a way that seems fair to us. If an entry from a school represented by the tab staff is involved in a rule violation or could otherwise be seen to materially benefit from a tab decision (rule-based, judge placement, or otherwise) then an independent party will be asked to make an adjudication.

### **3.2 Congressional Legislation Information**

Each school may choose to submit as many pieces of legislation as they would like. After registering a congressional debate entry a new legislation tab will appear. Please submit a piece of legislation (Bill, Resolution, or Constitutional Amendment) that follows the provided NSDA bill templates. (<https://www.speechanddebate.org/legislation-templates/>)

Legislation is due two weeks out from the competition. All submitted legislation will be compiled and sent out to competing schools.

A piece of legislation must be tied to one of the following categories:

- Commerce (business, banking, finance)
- Defense
- Education and Health Care
- Elections and Government Reform
- Energy, Environment, and Scientific Development
- Foreign Relations and Aid
- Immigration and Border Protection
- Justice (including policing, firearms, and drugs)

Tournament staff reserves the right to remove a piece of legislation from debate, and/or alter it as we see fit to maximize debatability.

### **3.3 Speech Event Information**

All speech events are synchronous, and will occur in NSDA campus rooms.

### **3.4 Debate Event Information**

Each team is allowed **10 cumulative minutes of “tech time”, counted separately from prep time** for competitors to resolve technical malfunctions. **If tech issues cannot be resolved during a side’s allocated tech time (and subsequent prep time), that side will forfeit that round.** For example, if a competitor’s computer crashes and they cannot join the round within 10 minutes of tech time and whatever is remaining of their prep, they will forfeit that round.

Policy debate prep time will be 8 minutes.

PFD prep time will be 4 minutes

LD prep time will be 5 minutes

Internet use for evidence retrieval, dissemination, and partner communication is allowable in all synchronous events. Extempers and congresspersons may NOT consult with others outside of round.

### **3.5 Extemporaneous Speaking Procedures**

**This is TBD - the below are the procedures used at last year's tournament. We will make a more clear determination on extemp procedures closer to the tournament.**

1. Students will go to the appropriate draw room based on their speaker order. That means all speaker 1's go to the speaker 1 draw room, etc. This is the same procedure used at previous area tournaments. It is your responsibility to go to the appropriate draw room based on your speaker order. This is imperative to ensure no topics are duplicated and that the round runs smoothly.
2. Students should be in the appropriate draw room at least 10 minutes before the start of draw, regardless of what speaker they are, to ensure a timely draw. Failure to do so will lead to forfeiting the round.
3. Unlike previous MO tournaments, no one will be taking role call in the draw rooms. It is the competitor's responsibility to double check the schedule and be in the correct draw room.
4. A member of tab will come into the room and paste 3 questions for the room into the chat. You will then respond in the chat which question you are taking. All of that room will choose from the same three questions. That is ok because they will all be in different sections.
5. A member of tab will give out questions every 5-7 minutes, just like you would do in a live tournament.
6. After you type in the chat which question you take; you are to leave the draw room and go directly to the room you are performing in. You will then prep in that room with the camera off and your mic muted. You are required to prep in that room. You cannot go elsewhere. The judges will be informed that you are there and that the round will start 30 minutes after draw.
7. 30 minutes after the start of draw the first speaker will speak. If there is not a judge at the scheduled start time the first speaker needs to email the help desk to let us know there is not a judge.
8. Speakers are required to go in the order of draw.
9. It is your responsibility to speak at your assigned time. Technology issues must be resolved ahead of time. If you are not prepared to speak you will be ranked last and the judge will move on.

10. You also need to have the sound on (very low volume is fine) so you can hear if the judge or a member of tab is trying to speak with you.

### **3.6 Preference Judging/ Judge Ratings**

In CX/LD/PF schools are able to rate judges using Mutual Preference Judging Ordinals, or MPJ. CX has its own judge category; LD and PFD share one.

Speech will use the A, B, C, D judge quality rating for speech vs interp events. The tournament will do its best to place highly qualified judges in those rounds.

A brief description of what MPJ Ordinals:

Ordinal pref sheets are used most often in the US policy community. The user inputs a rank ordering of every judge in the jpool. The judges are then weighted according to percentiles based on their rounds of commitment so that all prefs are on a 100-point scale. A judge who is in for 6 rounds at the top of one entry's pref sheet will be equal in percentage terms to 3 judges each in for 2 rounds at the top of another's pref sheet (assuming a 6-round tournament).

Ordinal percentile tolerances depend on the size of your judging jpool. In larger tournaments with 100+ judges, the expectation is to place no judges above 50 percentile and try to keep the range below 25-point spreads. Smaller judge j pools will mean larger spreads between individual judges and thus will have to adjust accordingly.

If you are curious about how preffed judges are placed. This is a basic overview of events by Dr. Eric Morris.

1. Teams are power matched
2. Judges are placed, starting in the lowest bracket where clearing is still possible. Round 6 will start judge placement with the 3-2 bracket
3. After the top power-matched round has a judge, the software goes teams who can't clear and places remaining judges. People who are 1-4 could easily get a judge outside the top 50% if the tournament needs to place them somewhere.
4. The software will seek a judge who is reasonably preferred (top 50%, higher if possible) but also reasonably mutual (team A and team B are less than 20% apart in their opinion of the judge)
5. Judges who are obligated for most rounds are placed - those who have very few rounds committed might be held back unless necessary
6. Judges who are hard to place (mostly unpreferred) are placed against of similarly judges who place in many rounds
7. If the software cannot find a judge based on the settings (usually top 50%, 20% pref difference), it will leave the round blank or put the judge name in red so the tab staff can fix it

8. Tab staff might fix by hand placing a judge whose commitment is nearly up, or by doing a double or triple swap
9. Tab staff can set the software, so they don't see the names of the teams affected when they do this, and they do it very quickly
10. The pairing is released
11. If a judge needs replaced, the replacement judge might be far worse on mutuality or preference, simply because fewer are available.
12. Because of these, a pref sheet might not always want to have judges in your exact order of preference.
13. If a judge is highly preferred by you but also widely preferred, putting them really high is your best chance to get them
14. If you have a good read on a specific judge who is not widely preferred, you probably see them more often if placed in the 20-40% band. It's less about how the field ranks a specific judge than how your opponent does.
15. If two teams hit and had nearly inverse prefs, the judge would be one of a handful of people fairly close to the 50% mark

**In order to be able to enter prefs, all school judges must have a paradigm posted on Tabroom.com.**

## **4.0 Deadlines**

Registration is open now

**February 1<sup>st</sup>** – Deadline for Out of State (MO) Schools to register. We will accept non-MO schools after this time. Just make sure we see that you have registered so we can add your schools' name to our list of attendees we turn into the state association. This deadline is softer than it used to be. When in doubt, enter the tournament and we will contact you ASAP if there is a concern.

**February 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Registering new entries and judge obligations deadline due by 8am. Coaches will not be able to make additions to Tabroom entries after this date. Email the tournament directors for assistance. Please email [kansascityinvitational@gmail.com](mailto:kansascityinvitational@gmail.com). Fees freeze, drops after this date will still be charged the related entry fees.

**February 23<sup>th</sup>** – Judges due for all categories by 8am. Please meet this deadline so everyone has enough time to rate judges in the debates.

**February 24<sup>th</sup>** – Drops and name changes are available online until 2pm. Please don't email us changes before this time. A nuisance fine of \$10 applies to every entry dropped after 2pm.

## **5.0 Fees**

### **5.1 Entry Fees**

Per Policy entry \$20  
Per Lincoln-Douglas \$15  
Per Congressional Debate entry \$15  
Per Public Forum entry \$15  
Per Speech entry \$10

We will make every possible attempt to make entry fees as low as possible. Starting with making the tournament free (or as close to free as possible) for Missouri schools to attend. The only way that happens is with a sufficient volume of attendees. Please enter early to help us make this tournament a reality.

### **5.2 Payment Information**

Make Checks out to Truman State University

Attn: Ben Davis

Barnett Hall, S Franklin St, Kirksville, MO 63501, United States

Pay online here:

[https://advancement.truman.edu/portal/give\\_online?form\\_fund\\_name=310173%20-%20Forensics%20Fund](https://advancement.truman.edu/portal/give_online?form_fund_name=310173%20-%20Forensics%20Fund)

Then email receipts to missouriinvitational@gmail.com

### **5.3 Hired Judging**

The Tabroom.com hired judge exchange is live now. We will accept judges on the exchange as often as we can. We suggest that schools use it first, before attempting to hire judges from the tournament.

Contact us if you need help finding judges to cover your commitment. We may have some judges available for hire.

### **5.4 Penalties**

The penalty for a school judge failing to report to a preliminary debate/speech round is \$100 a round missed.

For an elimination round this penalty is \$100. This includes when a judge is obligated to the tournament for judging and fails to report a scheduled round even if a replacement judge is secured.

Reminder that school speech/congress judges are obligated through the entirety of the tournament.

Policy/LD/PFD judges are obligated through the first full elimination round, and 1 round beyond a school's elimination from the tournament.

Judge time limitations should be communicated through the notes section when signing up judges.

### **5.5 Judge Hiring Exchange**

The Judge Hiring Exchange is a Tabroom feature that allows judges to advertise their willingness to judge at a tournament. Our preference is that schools use the Hiring Exchange rather than ask to pay the tournament for judge coverage.

There is no standard or recommended rate of pay. This is determined by the programs and judges and arrangements should be made between the two. The Hiring Exchange is made available through Tabroom, not Truman High School.

There are five speech rounds scheduled and up to eleven rounds of debate; please note that we are not determining judge coverage based on a round commitment, however. We are using a time commitment, so remember to share or ask about this information.

Instructions for Judges using the Hiring Exchange:

1. Make sure you have a Tabroom.com account. If you are already attending the tournament and are obligated for rounds for your school, make sure your account is also linked to your school's judge record for the tournament so you do not double book yourself.
2. Go to your home page (where you land when you first log in; click your email at top right if you're not there already). Click "Offer Hired Judging Rounds" under Judging at right.
3. Find the Independence Winter Classic and click "Offer" at right. Then enter the number of rounds you have on offer to hire at right. There are roughly 11 rounds of debate and 7 rounds of speech, but this is not strictly relevant. Please communicate with your hiring coaches, because your availability for rounds is of more importance- you cover an amount of time at this tournament, not an amount of rounds. The tournament must approve rounds before they appear on the hired judge list.
4. Coaches should contact you and arrange details and payment rates. Once they have, they may accept your hired rounds requests. You will get emails when a coach accepts your hired rounds. If someone doesn't read instructions and just tries to take your rounds without making arrangements to pay you, this email will give you directions to disavow the hire and re-offer the rounds. Feel free to contact the coach in question and ask them for it.

Instructions for coaches wishing to hire using the Hiring Exchange:

1. Go into your registration for the tournament. Click the Judges tab. Select a judge group.
2. If there are hired judges on offer, a link will appear under "Hired Judge Exchange" on the bottom of the page. Click Add Hires.
3. Email the judges who have rounds on offer to work out payment; their contact information will be on the page. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT AND WORK ARRANGEMENTS WITH JUDGES. THERE IS NO STANDARD RATE AND THIS TOURNAMENT DOESN'T MANAGE YOUR PAYMENTS. Please get their availability and enter that into Tabroom at the appropriate time. Your school may be fined for missed rounds, so please work this out ahead of time.
4. If you claim a judge's hired rounds without working it out with them first, they should reject the hired rounds and you will not have judge coverage.
5. Once you've reached agreement with a judge, go back to this screen and put how many rounds you're claiming from the judge. It will notify the judge by email when you've done so, and those rounds will now count towards your judging obligation.



## **6.0 Schedules**

### **6.1 Important Notes**

The following schedules reflect the maximum number of rounds possible. As the season progresses and entries are received, the schedule will be finalized.

The tournament may take place over 3 days (Fri/Sat/Sun).

Exact prelim and elim numbers will depend on the total number of teams in a division.

All times are CST

**See the notes column in the schedule document for more information.**

Schedules for all events are viewable here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AvxcD8fRhX-nluNzyXg-Z8okRcX-0Bkl/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=114421488805484997221&rtpof=true&sd=true>