**Lebanon Trail TFA Qualifier**
**Keep this page bookmarked, it will be updated often!**

## Schedule

A link to the schedule can be found here.

Our intention is to single-flight LD and PF based on judge availability.

## Wifi Information

Login: Frisco ISD Guest
Password: Not needed just agree to terms

## Cross Entry

Section A: HI, POE, DUO, OO, USX, IX
Section B: DI, DUET, PRO, INFO, IMP, POI

Students in LD, CX, PF, and WSD may not enter any other event.

Students in speech events may compete in up to three events per pattern with the following exceptions:

- Students may only enter one division of extemp (USX or IX)
- Students competing in Congress may not enter any other section B events

## Event Rules

All TFA qualifying events (HI, DI, DUO, DUET, USX, IX, OO, INFO, POI, LD, PF, CX, WSD, Congress) will follow TFA rules and tabulation procedures.

Prose and Poetry selections must conform to either TFA rules or either of the two UIL categories for 2026/2027. The time limit is seven minutes with 30 seconds grace.

Impromptu will follow NSDA rules: seven minutes combined prep/speak with 30 seconds grade. Competitors will choose from three options at random.

Our intention is to panel elimination rounds in all TFA qualifying events. We will panel Prose, Poetry, and Impromptu if our judge supply permits.

## Novice Divisions

The tournament will offer novice divisions in LD, PF, Congress, and CX Debate.

A novice is defined as:

- Any student in the 6th, 7th, or 8th grade.
- Any student in the 9th or 10th grade who is in their first year competing in the event in question at any level of competition.

Some additional notes:

- Please pay attention to the definition of 'novice'- students found to be entered in this division who do not meet this definition will be disqualified.
- Novice LD, Novice PF, Novice CX, and Novice Congress will use the same topics as varsity.
- Both partners in PF and CX must be novice to qualify.
- Judges entered must be high school graduates. Judges entered in LD, PF, CX, or Speech/Congress may be asked to judge novice divisions, as appropriate.
- Novice divisions with less than 10 entries by the registration deadline will be collapsed into varsity.
- The novice policy division competitors must use the NDCA Novice Packet, following the rollout schedule. Only authorized NDCA files will be allowed in our novice policy division.No changes to the files [including tags or evidence] will be allowed. Debaters are encouraged to make their own non-carded arguments, as analytical arguments and extensions, including overviews and explanations of arguments. The region 2 files organized by phases in the schedule located here and in folders by time frame located here. The full NDCA novice packet and other curriculum is located here.

## Breaks

Speech events with 24 or fewer competitors that compete in round 1 will have 2 prelims advancing to a final. Events with 25 or more will have 2 prelims advancing to a semifinal.

Debate events will break to the points based on the number of competitors in round 1.

This means that all 2-1s may not clear. TFA tiebreakers will be used. Brackets will not be broken in debate.

## Topics

**LD**- Resolved: Outer space colonization is a moral imperative.

**PF**- Resolved: The United States federal government should enact a moratorium on hyperscale data center construction.

**CX**- Resolved: The United States federal government should establish national health insurance in the United States.

**WSD**:

Rounds 1 and 2: This House regrets the use of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as the primary metric of a nation's success. (Teams debate both sides)

Round 3: Impromptu

Elim 1: Impromptu

Elim 2: This House welcomes climate pessimism.

**Congress**: As a reminder, TFA rules require these items to be debated in order.

Prelims: 3, 6, 12, 7, 9

Finals: 24, 13, 17, 25, 10

## Judging Expectations/Fees

Entry deadline is **Monday, September 14th 25th, at 5pm CST**. Please see Tabroom for drop fees and other deadlines.

Speech/Congress- 1 judge/8 entries or portion thereof

LD Debate- 1 judge/2 entries or portion thereof

PF Debate- 1 judge/2 entries or portion thereof

CX Debate- 1 judge/2 entries or portion thereof

World Schools Debate- 1 judge/2 entries or portion thereof

A judge may only cover one category. Hired judges are available at a rate of $200/judge. We would rather have your judges than your money!

Schools **must** cover their first obligation in each category or their students will be removed from that event.

Judges in Speech/Congress are obligated through the entirety of the tournament. Judges in debate are obligated one round past the last student's elimination.

Judges dropped between the entry deadline and 5pm on September 16 will incur the original judge fee plus a $100 nuisance fee. A judge who misses a ballot will incur a $50 fine. Judges who miss a second ballot or who no show completely will incur the original judge fee plus a $200 nuisance fee. If a school fails to have a judge on-site for a given category, students in that category will be dropped and/or rendered ineligible for elimination rounds.

## Hired Judges

The tournament will hire a limited number of judges at a rate of $250/day. Round by round rates may be available based on need. Interested judges should fill out the link
Click here and fill out this form.

## Homeschool Advantage

Lebanon Trail reserves the right to enter its students in any and all events, and those students will be eligible for elimination rounds.

## Sweepstakes

Points will be allocated as follows:

Speech/Congress:
1st Place- 15
2nd Place- 12
3rd Place- 10
4th Place- 8
5th Place- 6
6th Place- 4
Finalists 7th and beyond- 2

Debate:
1st Place- 15
2nd Place- 12
Non Advancing Semis- 10
Non Advancing Quarters- 6

September 17 Email

We are excited to host you on the Lebanon Trail campus on Saturday! 372 students representing 25 schools are joining us! We know it is early in the season and we are so excited to host you.

We will have concessions available in the building, but they are cash only.

Please read this email carefully as it has many, many details you should be aware of before we begin competition.

# Registration:

Registration will be from 730-800am in the foyer of the building. Buses should ideally not arrive before 730am and kids should be dropped off at the cafeteria entrance.

You (as in the coach or adult in charge) will need to check in live with the Lebanon Trail staff: if you have no changes to make, excellent! You still need to check in.

If you need to change entries or judges (don't drop judges… more on that later), they will send you to speak with Jason. You need to complete this process no later than 8:00 am so that we know all your competitors and judges are accounted for. It is your responsibility to ensure that everyone is in the building. We strongly recommend you conduct your own check-in process with your students and judges prior to registration.

We are also asking for all judges to check in as well to confirm they are on site. Judges who don't check in will assume to not be at the tournament and you don't want that… Judges should report to the library to await first round ballots.

If you have last minute changes you know of the morning of, say, when you get on the bus, don't wait until registration! Email (thejasonwarren@gmail.com) or text (214-868-9236). All changes, issues, and whatnot should be communicated by the designated adult in the building, not a student.

# Wifi Info:

Please see the Tournament Live Doc.

# Schedule:

There have been slight adjustments to the schedule. Please check out the latest version here.

# Extemp Draw:

- Extemp draw will be located in the Lecture Hall (room A200).
- We ask that all extempers report to draw 15 minutes before the beginning of draw, regardless of what order they draw in or if they are double entered.
- The monitor will release students from draw when it is time to go to their round.
- We will adjust speaker order for double entries in IEs- tell your students to go to extemp first for check in! Extemp finalists who are also in Congress will speak late in the final. When in doubt, go to draw first!
- Draw will begin on time. Late students will lose prep.

# Debate Coin Flips:

PF will use online coinflips. Those flips will go out 5 minutes after the pairing publishes, and the deadline will be 5 minutes after that. Remember, all rounds will be flip in PF.

For LD and CX, online coinflips will be used for elimination rounds using the same procedure, unless the competitors met in prelims (in which case, they are side locked).

For Worlds, the flip will occur in the prep room for the final.

# Some notes for your judges:

- All judges need a device they can type on (please not a cellphone…) and a charger.
- Ballots will be distributed via email on Tabroom. If you don't have a ballot, consider yourself on standby. Be sure to check your email throughout the tournament for ballots and we will announce in the judge's lounge when each round is all clear.
- You will have the entire day to write ballots and modify feedback. **What we need from you as soon as possible once the round ends are your ranks and decisions.**
- All debate judges should first submit their decision and then disclose who won (e.g. I voted for Northwestern on the Neg). **That same statement should be the first sentence on the RFD: I vote Aff/Neg/Pro/Con/Prop/Opp from High School.** Brief oral comments are welcome but not required. Please be mindful of the one day schedule.
- All Speech/Congress judges are obligated through the entirety of the tournament. Do not disclose results to students, and no oral critiques.
- All Debate judges (LD/PF/CX/WSD) are obligated through prelims and one round past your last student in each division.
- **SUPER IMPORTANT:** When you get your ballot, hit the 'On My Way!' button. That's how we know that you know that you have a ballot. If you don't hit the button, we assume you're going to no show on us and that's when replacing (and fining) start happening, so hit your button right away (DO NOT WAIT FOR THE START TIME OF THE ROUND).
- **EVEN MORE SUPER IMPORTANT**: The judge pool is extremely tight. If you drop a judge the day of or if one of your entered judges is not really in the building, we reserve the right to remove the students from the competition that judge was covering. Do not make us use this option. Example: If Judge Smith from Bishop Arts HS is judging LD and

is not in the building, we will ask the coach from Bishop Arts who from the school is taking that ballot, and if the answer is no one, we will drop two LDers from Bishop Arts. Once again, don't make us use this option.

# Speech Notes:

- USX and OO will have 2 rounds to semis, assuming they stay above 24 entries.
- OO, INFO, Impromptu, and OI will have 2 rounds to finals.

# Congress Specifics:

- Minimum floor time in each round is two and a half hours (exclusive of recesses). Please… please don't abuse the recess process. Take in-house recesses when possible as opposed to stopping the round.
- Students should bring their own placards.
- No, they cannot change the docket order. Did you forget the docket order? It's on the live doc.
- No, we are not using preset precedence.

# Ack! Help! I have a drop/My computer exploded/My kid turned into a clown fish/There's a no show/I have a problem.

- It's OK. Breathe. It's just a tournament, not a crisis. Please reach out to:
    - Entries, Registration, Rules, and Tabulation: Jason Warren at thejasonwarren@gmail.com
    - General Tournament Questions: Eric Mueller and Caryn Loveless ( muellerer@friscoisd.org , lovelessc@friscoisd.org )
    - Please CC Eric/Caryn on all correspondence.
    - There will be runners posted throughout the building to help communicate problems.

That's all we have (for now…). Keep an eye on your email and we will see you on Saturday!

Jason Warren
Tournament Director