

TOC Digital Speech & Debate Series #2

February 19-21, 2027

Table of Contents

[Tournament Disclaimer](#)

[Contact Information](#)

[Important Updates](#)

[Adult Supervision](#)

[Independent Entry Policy](#)

[Key Dates and Deadlines](#)

[Definition of Team Info](#)

[Events, Divisions, and TOC Bids](#)

[Topics and Formats](#)

[Entry Fees](#)

[Judge Information](#)

[Judge Obligations](#)

[Tournament-Hired Judge Requests](#)

[Participant Conduct](#)

[Awards](#)

Tournament Disclaimer

Prior to registering for the TOC Digital Speech and Debate Series tournament, Tabroom asks registering individuals to approve a disclaimer in lieu of uploading individual honor code and media release forms for each competitor like prior years.

The disclaimer states:

1. I certify that an adult (or adults) over the age of 18 will be available for the duration of the tournament and will be listed as a coach/contact with an accurate phone number and active email address. The adult(s) must be 18 years old or older and a high school graduate (or equivalent).
2. I certify that I have read and understand the requirements in the [Tournament Invite](#) and [Tournament Procedures and Best Practices Document](#).
3. I certify that all competitors, coaches, judges, and stakeholders have read, understand, and will abide by the [tournament's honor code](#).
4. I certify that all competitors, coaches, judges, and stakeholders read, understand, and will abide by the [tournament's education and openness policy](#).
5. By agreeing to this disclaimer, the registering individual certifies that they are authorized to act on behalf of the registrants and grants permission to the University of Kentucky and its affiliates and subsidiaries, including but not limited to the UK Alumni Association, UK Athletics Association, and UK Research Foundation, to interview, photograph, and/or videotape event participants and/or to supervise any others who may conduct such interviews, photography, and/or videotaping and/or to use and/or permit others to use information from the aforementioned interviews and/or the aforementioned images in educational and promotional activities.
6. By agreeing to this disclaimer, I understand that violation of any of the agreements above could result in disqualification of my program's entries with no refund of registration fees.

Contact Information

Official Tournament Website: dsds2.tabroom.com

Any administrative and/or procedural questions should be directed to tournamentofchampions@uky.edu. Please refrain from contacting tournament staff via personal email addresses or other informal means of communication.

We will post the tournament's individual event tab staff helpline email addresses to the front/main page of Tabroom the week of the tournament. These helplines will be the best and quickest method of communication during the tournament.

Important Updates

- All entries will be waitlisted until all judge obligations are met.
- In an effort to streamline the registration process, we have removed the required program permission forms and honor codes for this tournament. Instead, the registration process begins with a disclaimer that must be accepted before registration happens.
- We will offer a limited number of tournament-hired judges. Details later in invitation.
- We are updating division offerings: LD, PF, and CX will each have an Open/TOC Division, JV, Novice, and Middle School division. Worlds will have an Open/TOC Division and a Juniors division.
- International breakout elimination rounds will be offered in the open/varsity divisions of World Schools Debate and Public Forum.
- World Schools Debate judges will have an opportunity for judge training prior to the tournament.

Adult Supervision

- All programs – including school-based, club/academy-based, and independent entries – **must** have an approved adult responsible for the program's entries for the duration of the tournament. The adult(s) must be 18 years old or older, a high school graduate (or equivalent), and have a Tabroom account.
- Adult coaches/chaperones must be readily available and responsive throughout the tournament; if they cannot be contacted after a reasonable attempt, tournament staff reserve the right to make decisions on their behalf. Entries without an available and responsive adult are at risk of being disqualified with no refund of registration fees.
 - Ensure the "coach" on Tabroom is the adult coach/chaperone responsible for this tournament.
- Schools, clubs/academies, and independent entry coaches/chaperone/guardians accept liability for all of their competitors AND judges entered in the tournament.
- Participants should be aware that tournament staff may periodically enter competition rooms, including while competitors are speaking; this should not be a cause for concern, nor delay or stop an ongoing round

Independent Entry Policy

This tournament welcomes competitors representing schools, clubs/academies, and independent entries. Competitors may enter independently and should register on Tabroom as "[School Name] Independent." Variations in naming alone will not be considered a violation of tournament rules; tournament staff may request clarification regarding an entry's affiliations. Independent entries must have adult supervision available throughout the tournament. Independent competitors and their adult supervisor are encouraged to verify eligibility under any applicable school, district, state association, or other governing organization rules. Competitors who are part of a school-based team that is attending the tournament must register under their school; failure to do so could result in being paired against their own school based on the bracket and will not be repaired under any circumstances.

Key Dates and Deadlines

Event	Deadline
Tournament-Hired Judge Request Deadline	Friday, January 29, 2027 at 11:59pm EST
Tabroom.com Registration Deadline <i>Includes coach/contact, contestants, and judges.</i>	Monday, February 15, 2027 at 11:59pm EST
Fees and Obligations Frozen	Tuesday, February 16, 2027 at 11:59pm EST
Invoice Balances Due <i>Teams with unpaid balances will not be able to do prefs/strikes or do day-of online registration.</i>	Wednesday, February 17, 2027 at 11:59pm EST <i>Payments are not posted to Tabroom immediately. Plan ahead to avoid any delays or issues as it can take 24 hours.</i>
Nuisance Fines Begin	Wednesday, February 17, 2027 at 9:00am EST
Prefs/Strikes Open for Open LD, CX, PF	Tuesday, February 16, 2027 at 12:00pm/Noon EST
Prefs/Strikes Close for Open LD, CX, PF	Friday, February 19, 2027 at 3:00pm EST
Speech Script and Uploads Due	Friday, February 19, 2027 at 4:00pm EST
Day-Of/Arrival Online Registration <i>(required by all teams, even if Congress and Speech competition schedules don't start until Saturday!)</i>	<i>Opens:</i> Friday, February 19, 2027 at 7:00am EST <i>Closes:</i> Friday, February 19, 2027 at 4:00pm EST
TOC Digital Speech & Debate Series #2	Friday-Sunday, February 19-21, 2027

Definition of Team Info

[This document](#) provides guidance regarding team affiliations, conflict disclosures, and judge conflicts. The Tournament of Champions requires school-based entry; however, conflict determinations often extend beyond a competitor's school affiliation. This document's purpose is intended to promote transparency, consistency, and competitive fairness by establishing a common understanding of how team relationships are evaluated for conflict-of-interest purposes.

Events, Divisions, and TOC Bids

Congressional Debate (CD): One open division is offered. Varsity, Novice, and Middle School entries are invited and allowed to compete, and all entries are in one division.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate (LD): Four divisions are offered: Open (Varsity), Junior Varsity, Novice, and Middle School.

Policy Debate (CX): Four divisions are offered: Open (Varsity), Junior Varsity, Novice, and Middle School.

Public Forum Debate (PF): Four divisions are offered: Open (Varsity), Junior Varsity, Novice, and Middle School.

Speech/Individual Events: One open division is offered with all events being synchronous. Varsity, Novice, and Middle School entries are invited and allowed to compete, and all entries are in one division.

World Schools Debate (WSD): Two divisions are offered: Open (Varsity) and Junior.

Division Eligibility

Open (Varsity): All students in grades 6–12 are eligible to compete.

Junior Varsity (JV): All students in grades 6-12 with less than two years of experience. This division serves as a middle ground for students who are advanced enough to leave the novice division but would like more development before competing at the varsity level.

Novice: Students grades 6–10 are eligible to compete. All competitors entered in this division should have fewer than 2 full years of experience.

Middle School (MS): All students in grades 6-8 are eligible to compete.

World Schools Debate - Juniors Division: All students through and including grade 9. Students in grades 10-12 are not eligible to compete.

International programs who do not use the traditional American grade system (MS = grades 6-8, HS = grades 9-12) should reach out to tournamentofchampions@uky.edu to confirm division.

We will not merge Middle School, Novice, and/or JV divisions due to low numbers; we will cancel divisions with low entry numbers. However, coaches can independently choose to re-enter their competitors in a different division as long as the competitor still meets the division eligibility.

Tournament Bid Levels for the 2027 TOC

Only the varsity/open divisions are eligible for bids.

- Congressional Debate: Tier 2
- Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Quarterfinals
- Policy Debate: Quarterfinals
- Public Forum Gold Debate: Quarterfinals (Public Forum Silver Debate: Octofinals)
- Speech Events: TBD based on entries using [qualification requirements](#).
- World Schools Debate: Semifinals, if all [qualification requirements](#) are met.

Topics and Formats

All events are governed by the rules in the [tournament procedures documents](#) posted on Tabroom. Coaches, judges, and competitors should familiarize themselves with these documents prior to the start of the tournament. Please note that any sources read or cited as evidence in competition must be available upon request.

Cross Entry/Double Entry Policy: No cross entry with any events. Speech competitors can do up to 3 speech events (no more than 2 in one pattern).

Congressional Debate

Legislation posted on Tabroom by Friday, January 29, 2027

Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Jan/Feb 2027 NSDA Topic | 6-3-7-3-4-6-3 Speech Times | 4 Minutes of Preparation/Debater

Policy Debate

2026-2027 NFHS National High-School Topic | 8-3-5 Speech Times | 8 Minutes of Preparation/Team

Public Forum Debate

February 2027 NSDA Topic | 4-4-3-4-4-3-3-3-2-2 Speech Times | 3 Minutes of Preparation/Team

Speech Events

Speech Pattern A: Extemp Speaking, Humorous Interp, Informative Speaking, Poetry, Program Oral Interp

Speech Pattern B: Dramatic Interp, Duo Interp, Impromptu, Original Oratory, Prose

Maximum Total of 3 Speech Events per Competitor | Only 2 Speech Events in Any Single Pattern

Extemp and Impromptu details posted on Tabroom by Friday, January 29, 2027

World Schools Debate - Open/Varsity

Mix of Impromptu and Prepared Topics | 8-8-8-8-8-8-4-4 Speech Times | No In-Round Preparation

Motions Posted on Tabroom by Friday, January 29, 2027

World Schools Debate - Junior

Created to provide an introduction to the WSD format that is approachable and accessible to younger students. Speech times are halved: Substantive speeches are 4 minutes; Reply speeches are 2 minutes.

Will use the same motions as Open/Varsity (special attention will be given to creating motions to ensure they are accessible to younger students).

Entry Fees

All entry fees are non-refundable and must be paid in full by Wednesday, February 17, 2027 at 11:59pm EST. We suggest that your participation in the TOC Digital Speech and Debate Series Tournament be absolutely certain before remitting payment.

Fee Type	Amount
Administration Fee	\$65 per program/team/school
Congressional Debate Entry	\$40
Lincoln-Douglas Debate Entry	\$40
Policy Debate Entry	\$75
Public Forum Debate Entry	\$75
Speech Entry	\$40
World Schools Debate Entry	\$100

Payment Options

To check your balance, log into your Tabroom account. Look for the specific tournament under **Existing Tournaments** and click the blue grid-like icon. Then, click on the **Fees** tab. Remaining balances will be listed. To print an invoice, find the green **Print Full Invoice** button on the right hand side. For any additional payment-related questions, please contact our staff at tournamentofchampions@uky.edu.

1. **Credit Card:** [BlueFin Credit Card Payment Link](#) Completed transactions may not appear on your school's Tabroom invoice immediately; please plan ahead and wait at least 24 hours before emailing to inquire about the status of a recent credit card payment.
 - a. Make sure you add the decimal point to your dollar amount (\$400.00 instead of \$400).
2. **Check:** If you cannot pay by credit card, please mail a check payable to UK Debate Tournaments to the address below, with a printed copy of your Tabroom invoice. Please email us ASAP so we know to expect a check. Delayed payments will be given consideration only with proof of intended delivery by February 17. We cannot accept cash. **We have a new mailing address! Please update your records.**

UK Debate Tournaments
Attn: Kathy Pickett
160 Patterson Drive
310A Lucille Caudill Little Library
Lexington, KY 40506

Judge Information

Competitors at UK Debate/TOC-hosted tournaments deserve the highest quality judging throughout the tournament. Consequently, judges must be available to fulfill their commitment during all scheduled rounds on the day(s) they are obligated.

Furthermore, programs must provide sufficient judging to cover the program's obligation in each event and division. Judges may not be entered in more than one event.

Judge Eligibility

- All open/varsity and novice division judges must be 18 or older and be a high school graduate (or equivalent).
 - High school students in grades 11 and 12 with at least two years of experience are eligible to serve as judges in the Middle School divisions of Lincoln-Douglas, Policy, Public Forum, as well as the World Schools Debate - Juniors division.
- Open, JV, and Novice Lincoln-Douglas and Open, JV, and Novice Policy judges must have prior experience in the event. Prior experience can be as a competitor and/or coach or judge.
- Public Forum Debate judges must complete the [Level 2: Judging Public Forum Debate course](#) offered through the National Speech and Debate Association. The course is ~15 minutes. Judges must also attend the pre-tournament judge meeting if one is scheduled on the tournament schedule.
- Congressional Debate judges must complete [Level 1: Judging Congress course](#) and [Level 2: Judging Congressional Debate course](#) offered through the National Speech and Debate Association. Each course is ~15 minutes. They also must complete the [Parliamentarian course](#) (about 30 minutes). Judges must also attend the pre-tournament judge meeting if one is scheduled on the tournament schedule.
- Judges may not be entered in more than one competition event. Judges cannot enter themselves to judge at a different tournament during this tournament without the express written permission of the Tournament Directors of both tournaments.
- LD, CX, PF, and WSD judges must post a paradigm on Tabroom before judge preferences/strikes open.
- Judges must have functioning technology to judge online tournaments: cameras on during rounds, ability to use Tabroom.com and NSDA Campus infrastructure, etc. Tournament staff will cycle through rooms throughout rounds to check camera-on compliance; non-compliance may result in fines and removal from the tournament.
- Tournament staff have the right to dismiss any ineligible and/or unqualified judge, unless the judge is the program director or coach of record officially employed by that school or academy.

Judge Conflicts

Non-disclosure of judge conflicts, or preclusions, is an ethical concern. Non-disclosure creates competitive imbalances and is taken very seriously by the TOC Digital Speech and Debate Series Tournament.

Please indicate all conflicts, for all judges, on Tabroom. Judges should preclude themselves from judging any competitors whom they have previously coached, whether online or in person, paid or unpaid; with whom they have had a close, friendly, and/or personal relationship; and/or toward whom they feel that they cannot be objective for any reason. Judges affiliated with any college or other institution should preclude themselves from judging competitors whom they have seriously recruited, and judges should preclude themselves from judging entries from programs they attended or coached within the last 5 seasons. For additional guidance on what constitutes a judge conflict in a given event, please refer to the [tournament procedures documents](#) available on Tabroom.

In the case that a judge and/or competitor reports a conflict after a pairing is distributed, resulting in a change to the pairing—the associated program will be assessed a \$500 fine and risks losing judge preferences/strikes for the remainder of the tournament.

Fines and Penalties

- Any violation of the tournament judge policies (i.e. eligibility and/or conflicts) will result in a \$500 fine to the program, loss of judge preferences/strikes, and potential sanctions at future UK Debate/TOC-hosted tournaments.
- Judges who are obligated but fail to appear on time for a prelim round will be assessed a \$100 fine per missed round.
- Judges who are obligated but fail to appear on time for an elim round will be assessed a \$150 fine per missed round.
- Individual event tab staff may require judges who were not assigned a round to report to an online judge room or judge lounge (often utilizing Zoom) prior to the round's start time. Failure to report can result in being fined (as per above) as if they missed the round. Details regarding this are shared via tabroom email blasts leading up to the tournament. *Not all events utilize online judge rooms/lounges.*
- The fines are levied when a judge is obligated to the tournament for judging and fails to report to a scheduled round **even if a replacement judge is secured**. The associated program may also face potential sanctions at future UK Debate/TOC-hosted tournaments.
- Judges who fail to have operating cameras and/or fail to keep the camera on throughout a round or the tournament may be replaced, assessed a fine, and/or removed from the tournament.
- Judges in all events/divisions who fail to submit ranks and/or provide constructive feedback comments in a timely manner (~2 hours post round) will be assessed a \$75 fine per round lacking ballot feedback.
 - Congressional Debate judges will also be assessed a \$75 fine if they leave the contest room before receiving confirmation from tournament tab staff that their ranks have been received.
- All penalties must be paid before a team is allowed to advance to the next stage of elimination debates (e.g., if a prelim fine is incurred, the team will not be able to clear unless the fine is paid).

Judge Obligations

Preliminary Rounds

LD, PF, CX, and WSD: The number that appears on your Tabroom account, in association with your judging obligation (i.e. number of rounds owed), represents **preliminary rounds only**—this number does not count toward your judging commitment in elimination rounds. Judges are allowed to split obligations, but programs are required to have the requisite number of judges every round. One judge can cover a maximum of 6 rounds of obligation since there are 6 prelim rounds scheduled.

Congressional Debate and Speech: All judges are obligated for all preliminary and elimination rounds. Judges are allowed to split obligations, but programs are required to have the requisite number of judges each day. If the program needs two speech judges, two judges could serve on Saturday and two different judges could serve Sunday.

All requests for rounds or days off must be made prior to the judge deadline date (Monday, February 15 at 11:59pm EST). Speech and all Public Forum divisions can utilize the judge time shifts option on Tabroom that appears when entering judges. All other events will request days/rounds off using the Tabroom Judge notes on the registration page.

Any round or day requests after this time must be sent to the appropriate event tab room helpline email and will be determined by that tab room. The tab room's ability to accommodate a round off request depends on how many rounds that judge owes, how many rounds are left in prelim rounds, the rankings that judges have received, and the timeliness of the request. A round off request cannot cause a judge to be entered for fewer active rounds than their obligation.

Competition Event	Judge Obligation
Congressional Debate	1 judge per 6 entries (or fraction thereof)
Lincoln-Douglas Debate	1 entry = 4 rounds; 2 entries = 6 rounds; 3 entries = 10 rounds; 4 entries = 12 rounds; 5 entries = 16 rounds; etc.
Policy Debate	1 entry = 4 rounds; 2 entries = 6 rounds; 3 entries = 10 rounds; 4 entries = 12 rounds; 5 entries = 16 rounds; etc.
Public Forum Debate	1 entry = 4 rounds; 2 entries = 6 rounds; 3 entries = 10 rounds; 4 entries = 12 rounds; 5 entries = 16 rounds; etc.
Speech/Individual Events	1 judge per 4 entries (or fraction thereof)
World Schools Debate	1 entry = 4 rounds; 2 entries = 6 rounds; 3 entries = 10 rounds; 4 entries = 12 rounds; 5 rounds = 16 rounds; etc.

Elimination Rounds

All of a program's judges are obligated to these minimum obligations in the event they are registered to judge. This means parents are not obligated **just** to their child (or their child's CX, PF, or Duo partnership or WSD team).

Programs are required to secure sufficient judges to meet their maximum potential elimination-round obligation based on their entry count. For LD, CX, PF, and WSD, judge obligations are calculated at a ratio of one judge for every two entries (or fraction thereof). For example, a program entering three Public Forum teams must have two judges available for elimination rounds.

Congressional Debate: All judges are obligated for all preliminary and elimination rounds.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate: All judges are obligated through **the first full elimination on Sunday** round and then one round beyond the elimination of the program's last entry. For example, if the program's last LD student is eliminated in quarterfinals, the program's LD judges must be available to judge the LD semifinal round.

Policy Debate: All judges are obligated through **the first two elimination rounds** and then one round beyond the elimination of the program's last entry. For example, if the program's last CX team is eliminated in quarterfinals, the program's CX judges must be available to judge the CX semifinal round.

Public Forum Debate: All judges are obligated **through the first full elimination round on Sunday** and then one round beyond the elimination of the program's last entry. For example, if the program's last PF team is eliminated in quarterfinals, the program's PF judges must be available to judge the PF semifinal round.

Speech: All judges are obligated for all preliminary and elimination rounds.

World Schools Debate: All judges are obligated through **the final round**.

All Events: Any judges willing to volunteer for late elimination rounds should email the proper event tab staff helpline email indicating their interest.

Tournament-Hired Judge Requests

- Hired judges must be requested from the tournament on Tabroom by Friday, January 29, 2027 at 11:59pm EST. We will not be opening Tabroom's hiring exchange.
 - If a judge hire request is not submitted by this date, entries are required to provide qualified judges for all uncovered events.
- Judges will cost \$75.00 per uncovered round in debate events (LD, CX, PF, WSD) and \$75.00 per uncovered entry in Congressional Debate and Speech.
- Once a hired judge request is approved, it is final and non-refundable. You will be responsible for the full fee even if your team later drops, does not compete, or provides a judge.
- We can't guarantee fulfillment of hired judge requests as it is entirely dependent on which judges sign up and are available. Judge requests will be honored in the order they are received and any programs with unfilled requests will be notified approximately two weeks prior to the tournament.

All programs are expected to provide at least one qualified judge in each event category and division in which they have entries to ensure coverage for elimination rounds.

Participant Conduct

All participants, observers, judges, coaches, and other guests attend the TOC Digital Speech and Debate Series Tournament at the invitation of the University of Kentucky, and must abide by all applicable rules in the tournament invitation and procedures, as well as those set by the University of Kentucky. Furthermore, coaches should review any honor codes and school or program policies with all participants prior to the tournament.

Participants—including coaches, competitors, and judges—certify that all entries, forms, disclaimers, and other materials submitted for the TOC Digital Speech and Debate Series Tournament are accurate and complete. Submission of any TOC Digital Speech and Debate Series Tournament-related materials grants permission to distribute and verify the information contained therein among TOC Digital Speech and Debate Series Tournament administrators, tournament staff, and/or UK Debate staff.

Honor Code

The TOC Digital Speech and Debate Series Tournament Honor Code conveys the significance and importance of competitive integrity to all members of our community, in the interest of maintaining the highest standards of conduct. Participants must act with dignity and respect, and refrain from undermining the integrity of speech and debate as an institution. Participants should neither seek, nor encourage others to seek unfair assistance or advantage in competition. All participants, including observers, are expected to act in good faith and preserve the competitive integrity of the TOC Digital Speech and Debate Series Tournament.

Pledge

As a participant in the TOC Digital Speech and Debate Series Tournament, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal or otherwise undermine the fairness of the tournament. I understand that competitive integrity and fairness is important to all tournament participants, and I promise to uphold the highest standards of honesty and integrity in competition.

Awards

We will provide certificates for all elimination rounds in all events. A link to the certificates will be shared in a Tabroom Blast email post-tournament.

Additionally, we aim to post Top Speakers in CX, LD, and PF and late elim round breaks on social media.