

**2015 Electric City Debates – December 3-7, 2015**

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## Welcome

Dear Directors and Coaches,

I cordially invite you to the 4th Annual Electric City Debates in Scranton, PA. This year's event will again include a **Round Robin** (December 3-4, 2015) and **Invitational** (December 5-7, 2015). The tournament will consist of competition in Varsity and Novice Policy Debate. We anticipate Novice CX to be finished on Sunday December 6th, with Varsity CX quarterfinals and beyond extending to December 7th.

Scranton, besides being home to one of the most historic Speech and Debate teams in Pennsylvania, is known as the "Electric City" for being the nation's first successful, continuously-operating electrified streetcar (trolley) system. Beyond that, Scranton has situated itself as a pillar of the railroad industry and served as the background for NBC's Emmy Award Winning show "The Office".

This year's tournament will host a number of schools from around the country. Our goal is to provide a top-notch competitive experience while aiming to serve "True Scranton Hospitality" for all our visitors. Our hospitality includes 3 on-site meals for students and judges on Saturday and Sunday, along with coaches' hospitality on Friday and Saturday evenings.

In addition to a great tournament experience, last years event finished runner up in the National Debate Coaches Association "Tournament of the Year" balloting and this year's Varsity Policy Debate division has again received a semi-final round qualifying bid to the Tournament of Champions.

Finally, our Round Robin has grown in popularity and we look forward to having our best field ever. All interested teams should read the details that follow and contact me at the address below if you are interested in applying for an invite.

For more information, along with any questions, please contact the tournament administration by phone or email:

**Email** - [ElectricCity.Invitational@gmail.com](mailto:ElectricCity.Invitational@gmail.com)

**Phone** - (570) 591-1347 – please leave a message when calling and it will be returned.

We encourage you to take advantage of our facilities and Scranton looks forward to hosting you in December.

Sincerely yours,

Brian J. Manuel  
Scranton High School '00  
Tournament Director  
Electric City Debates

## **General Information**

Registration and Tabulation for this year's event will be conducted through Tabroom.com. All announcements, maps, hired judge requests, and other relevant event information will be announced here. We'll also be sending out a number of emails that only those registered through tabroom.com will receive. We encourage registering your programs early to keep current with all information regarding the Electric City Debates.

All programs will be asked to enter the information for the person on-site who will be providing supervision for your students over the weekend. This information will be used only to contact them if there is an issue with one of your students.

**\*\*Important\*\***: This year all preliminary debate rounds for the Electric City Invitational (December 5-6, 2014) will be held at **Northeast Intermediate School (721 Adams Ave, Scranton, PA 18510)**. We needed to switch locations for this year's event because of a number of conflicting events at Scranton and West Scranton High School's (SAT's, Breakfast with Santa, and the Chorus Concert).

Driving Instructions from the Radisson to Northeast Intermediate School can be found here: <https://goo.gl/maps/CRj9ZebyiRU2>

The Radisson Lackawanna Station will continue to be our Tournament Hotel and Round Robin site. More information about hotel accommodations will be listed below.

## **Event Information**

### **Electric City Invitational:**

We will provide competition in Varsity and Novice debate using the NFHS 2015-2016 resolution (Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially its domestic surveillance.)

In Varsity CX we will conduct six (6) preliminary debates with all eligible teams with a 4-2 or better record clearing up to 32 teams. This year's event has again been designated as a Semi-Finals bid to the Tournament of Champions at the University of Kentucky.

In Novice CX we will conduct 5 preliminary debates; clearing up to 8 teams (Quarterfinals). No team with a losing record will be allowed to advance. Awards will also be available to the top speak

*\*\*Definition of a Novice* - A novice will be defined as any debater in their first year of competition. If you have a competitor you feel should qualify for this division because of lack of experience, it will be the decision of the Tournament Director to allow them into that division.

No team with a losing record, in either division, will be allowed to advance. Awards will be available for all elimination round teams and the top speakers in each event.

### **Electric City Round Robin:**

Yet again this year the Electric City Debates will partner with the William Pitt Debating Union at the University of Pittsburgh to co-sponsor an extremely talented field of teams to participate in a Round Robin prior to the Electric City Invitational.

9 extremely talented teams will be invited for an incredible set of round robin debates on the NFHS 2015-2016 resolution (Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially curtail its domestic surveillance.)

We're currently taking applications for the event. Please email [electriccity.invitational@gmail.com](mailto:electriccity.invitational@gmail.com) if your team has interest. In past years, participants of the Electric City Round Robin have been named Top Speaker at the Tournament of Champions, participated in elimination rounds at the TOC, and won national invitationals such as Harvard and Berkeley.

You should apply if you have a strong competitive record and a willingness to engage in all argumentative styles of policy debate.

All rounds will take place at the Radisson Lackawanna Station. Meals and refreshments will be provided for all attendees.

More information will be provided directly to all invited teams in mid to late September.

## **Entry Information**

**IMPORTANT:** *Students competing in the Electric City Debates should be accompanied by an adult acknowledged as a chaperone by the school or school district the student(s) represent. An acceptable alternative is a parent of a debater registered as an independent entry. We will ask for this information during the registration process and without it you will not be allowed to compete at the Electric City Debates.*

In Varsity and Novice CX there is an initial entry limit of **four (4) entries per school**.

We can accommodate entries for roughly 50 competition rooms. Space will be restricted on a first come first serve basis. Once we've hit maximum capacity for the tournament we will close registration and begin a waiting list. The tournament typically fills quickly so we'd suggest registering as early as possible.

We'd appreciate that you have all names entered for your competitors and judges no later than November 28, 2014. We will remove any teams still using placeholder for competitors at this time to allow for additional teams to be entered.

**\*\*Collapsing Divisions/Cancelling Events** - At the decision of our tab staff we will either combine divisions or in some instances might cancel an event due to lack of interest. We will give proper notice to schools participating in these events when these decisions are made. We will provide at least 10 days' notice if we intend to cancel an event. The reason for this to happen is to preserve the competitive equity of the event and save the tab room staffs from having computer and personal meltdowns trying to make 5 rounds of competition possible.

**\*\*Club/Independent/Hybrid Entries:** All students who are sanctioned by their principals to compete as a member of their school, can compete at the Electric City Debates. This DOES NOT mean that students who compete in clubs or as independents are excluded from participating. However, those students, aiming to compete as a Club, Independent, or Hybrid entry must fill out the following forms, scan, and return to [electriccity.invitational@gmail.com](mailto:electriccity.invitational@gmail.com) by December 1, 2015. You will not be removed from the waiting list until your forms are received. The forms are located here: <http://bit.ly/1OFjAwC>

## **Judge Information**

Initially note, each program is responsible for the judges they enter to cover their tournament obligation. If you are unwilling to take responsibility for your judges actions or do not have a professional relationship with the judges you're bringing, **PLEASE REQUEST TO HIRE A JUDGE THROUGH THE TOURNAMENT.**

If a judge is found to be unfit to judge students they will be withdrawn from the judging pool and your program will be fined \$350.00. This action will only be taken after a grievance has been filed against the judge and can only be initiated by the Tournament Director. Please see the "Judge Conduct Guidelines" below to understand what is expected from your judges.

**Round Requirements:** To maintain a quality judging pool, the EC debates require that all judges who accompany their school be obligated for 4 rounds. In Novice CX, student judges, in their 3rd or 4th year of competition, are allowed and must be explicitly designated as a student judge in your registration. Student Judges will eat with the competitors and, even though there is not a charge for them, they still need to be very clearly designated so we can include them in our food service numbers.

**\*\*We'd appreciate if you designate your judge(s) as Varsity or Novice when entering. *No single judge can cover your entries in both Varsity and Novice CX without explicit approval from the Tournament Director.*** This decision was made to uphold the integrity of both judging pools and provide ample support for mutually preferred judging.

**All schools must cover judging for at least 1/2 of their registered entries.** No program will be allowed to hire out their entire commitment. If you can't meet this requirement, please contact the Tournament Director immediately.

**Student judges:** You're able to use senior debaters in their 4<sup>th</sup> year of debate to fulfill your novice judging commitment. Please mark these students as STUDENT JUDGE in the notes section for the judges.

All judges are obligated through the octafinal round of Varsity CX or one round beyond their club/school's elimination. Only with permission from the Tournament Director can your judge(s) be released from the above commitments.

### **Varsity Policy:**

1 Team – 4 Rounds

2 Teams – 6 Rounds

3 Teams – 10 Rounds

4 Teams – 12 Rounds

### **Novice Policy:**

1 Team – 3 rounds

2 Teams – 5 rounds

3 Teams – 8 rounds

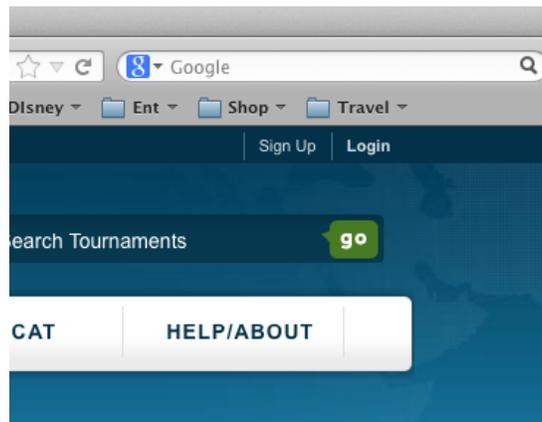
4 Teams – 10 rounds

**Hospitality Lounge(s):** Scranton is well known for their hospitality and the Electric City Debates is no different. Upon arrival, all adults in your party will be provided a first class tournament hospitality experience. On all days and nights of the event there will be an extensive selection of food and drinks provided to all adults both at the tournament site and hotel. If you've attended the EC Debates in previous years the level of hospitality you'll receive is already well known. If it's your first time, I promise you won't be disappointed.

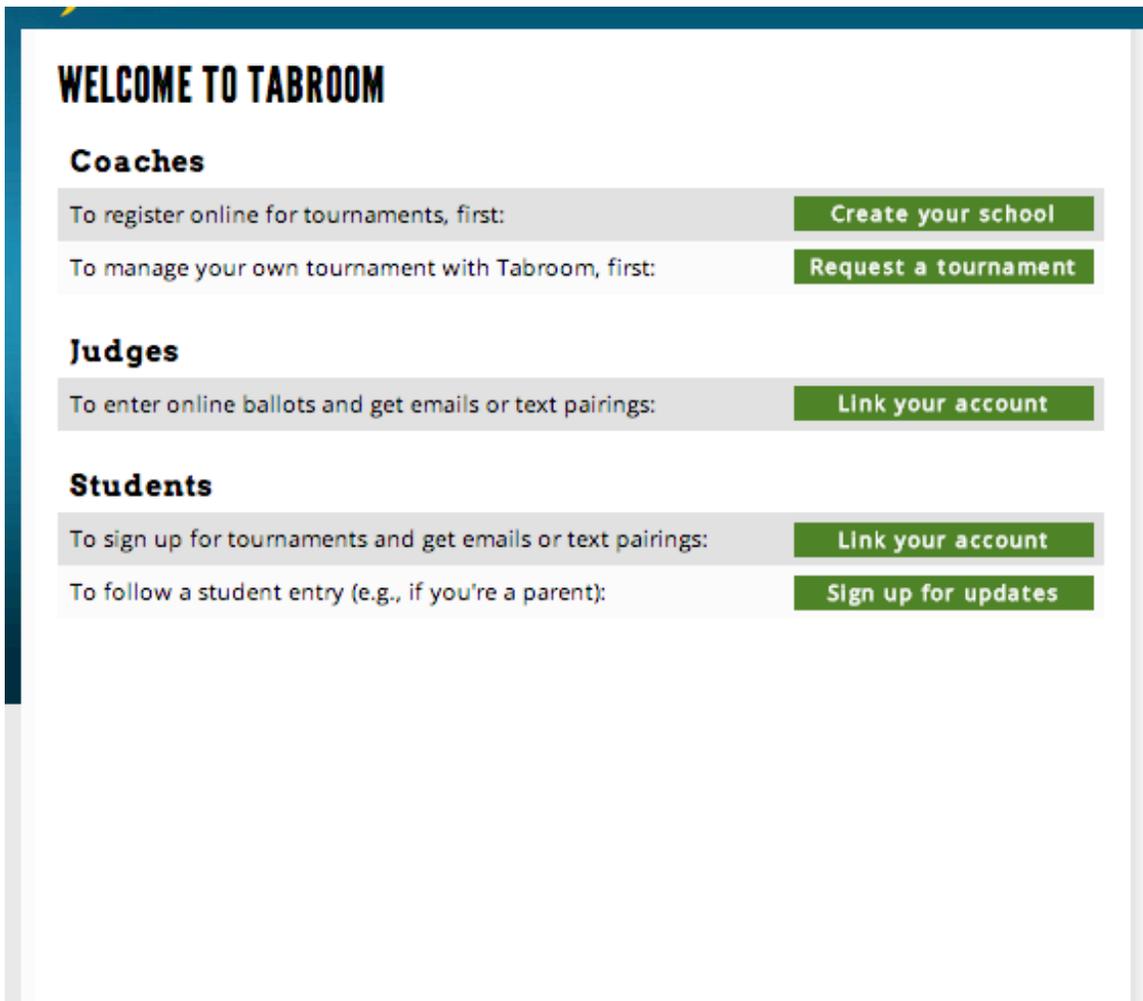
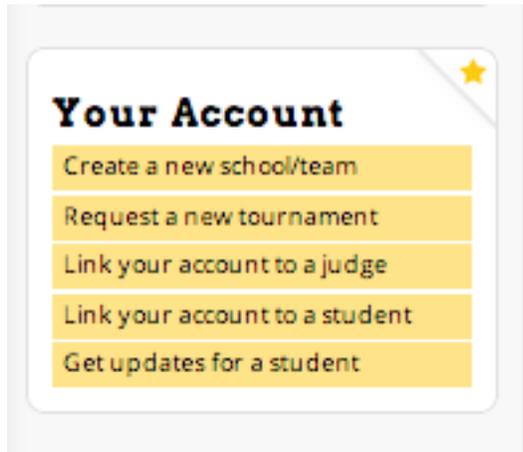
**Philosophies:** All judges are encouraged to have a judging philosophy sheet available on <http://judgephilosophies.wikispaces.com/> or through [tabroom.com](http://tabroom.com). In varsity Policy Debate, due to MPJ constraints, a judge philosophy is absolutely necessary for the system to work effectively. In the past I've made this a requirement. However, due to the increasing demands of the event on my end I can no longer oversee this process and therefore can't make it a requirement. Instead, I strongly encourage you to have your judges comply with this request and if I am informed I will do my best to enforce compliance.

**Judge Accounts & E-Ballots:** The Electric City Debates intend to use electronic ballots (e-ballots) for all events. [Tabroom.com](http://tabroom.com) is set up to require each judge to have his or her own individual account. If your judge already has a [tabroom.com](http://tabroom.com) account, please enter their information on the judge entry screen when you're registering for the tournament. Below are instructions to send to your judges if they don't have a [tabroom.com](http://tabroom.com) account.

1. Go to **Tabroom.com**
2. Click **Sign Up** in the top right corner to create an account.

A screenshot of the "CREATE YOUR TABROOM ACCOUNT" form. The form includes the following fields: "Email Address:" (required), "First Name:" (required), "Last Name:" (required), "Phone Number:", "Cell Provider:" (dropdown menu with "AT&T" selected), "Time Zone:" (dropdown menu with "New\_York" selected), "State (if applicable):" (dropdown menu), "Country:" (dropdown menu with "United States" selected), "Password:" (required), and "Repeat the Password:" (required). A green "Create Account" button is located at the bottom right of the form. A note at the bottom left states: "\* These fields are required." On the right side of the form, there is a vertical sidebar with the text "AI" and "We pro text out you 'Lai to \$ Sigr acc acc Tab to i you eve You at e Tab Acc selk turf not adm T&P".

3. Once an account is created, click **Link your account to a judge** under the **Your Account** header.



4. Search for your judge record within the tournament you're attending to connect your account.

## **Hired Judge Information**

A very limited amount of hired judging will be available (\$70/round). Due to the location of the tournament, large reserves of former coaches or debaters with experience in the activity are severely limited. Normally we're able to secure a number of qualified judges in policy debate but even that is a struggle in some years. To overcome these issues, all hired judging requests must be made directly through Tabroom.com. Only after explicit approval by the Tournament Director will you be allowed to hire judges. In addition, because all of our judges need to be housed and fed over the weekend, our hired judge costs are higher than other regional tournaments.

***Please do not request to hire judging if you will be present at the tournament but not in the judging pool yourself.***

**All hired judge requests must be made no later than November 20, 2015 on Tabroom.com.** After this date we cannot guarantee any hired judging requests and you will need to email electriccity.invitational@gmail.com directly and make the request. Do not consider your judging request approved until you receive an email back from the Tournament Director.

If your program is struggling financially I'll also try and put you directly in touch with judges who are looking to be hired. This will allow you to work out reasonable terms with the judge directly. You are still responsible for housing and feeding the judges I put you in contact with. However, if you want us to hire the judge and take care of all accommodations for you, it will cost you more.

The tournament would love to hire out any additional rounds your program may have available. Please email the tournament director for more information.

**\*\*Finally, if you hire a judge but later your entry falls below the necessary number of entries to need that judge, you will still be charged for that judge. It is too much of a financial risk for the tournament to not hold you accountable for these hired judges. We must plan well in advance to hire judges and just because your entries change at the last minute, doesn't solve the fact the tournament has already made a significant expenditure on your part to provide competitive opportunities to your students. \*\***

## **Hotel Information**

### **Radisson Lackawanna Station - Tournament Hotel**

**The Radisson Lackawanna Station** will yet again be our tournament hotel. We've been able to secure a group rate of \$95/night plus 13% occupancy tax. There are currently 55 rooms in the block with a majority of them being double/doubles. Cots are available, for king rooms, at an additional charge. If we fill our block I can usually arrange for additional rooms at the tournament rate. Please email [electriccity.invitational@gmail.com](mailto:electriccity.invitational@gmail.com) if you're having any issues with the hotel.

To book your reservations online, please use Group Code ***ELECT1***

To phone in your reservations, please call (570) 342-8300 – Group Code is ***ELECT1***

The Radisson is one of the nicest properties in Scranton and also the closest hotel property to the competition space. We highly encourage staying here because it's where the round robin, registration, policy elimination rounds, and nightly hospitality will all take place.

**Car and Van Parking:** There is a \$5/per night parking charge for all attendees driving their own vehicles.

**Bus Parking:** The hotel will provide complimentary parking for all busses. Please contact the front desk to make arrangements.

**Tournament Hotel Fee:** We will assess a \$100/per school hotel fee added to each registration. This fee is to encourage programs to stay at the tournament hotel. Please notify me if you've made your reservations at the tournament hotel and I'll remove your fee. If the block at the tournament hotel fills the fee will be waived for all programs registered for the tournament (regardless if you're staying at the tournament hotel or not). The rationale for this fee is to protect programs financially from fines and penalties that can be assessed by attrition rates imposed on them by hotels. However, every year I've hosted the tournament we've been able to fill the tournament hotel block. Therefore, I don't believe I'll need to enforce this policy but it needs to be in place to protect the Electric City Debates.

We strongly encourage you to book quickly. The Scranton/Wilkes-Barre area has recently increased its hotel congestion with many of the Marcellus shale natural gas projects coming to our area. This has driven the cost of a hotel night in the surrounding area to an average of \$139/weekend night. If there is additional hotel space needed, I will look to secure overflow rooms at a nearby property, but this can't occur until the block at the Radisson is filled.

## **Fees/Date/Payment Information**

**All contestant and judge entries must be entered no later than Friday November 28, 2014. At that time fees will be locked and you will be charged for every drop after this.**

This year I am experimenting with a fee for each person in attendance. In previous years I've struggled to break even on the event. To manager the rising costs of ingredients and food service staffing, I'll be implementing a per head charge for ALL persons attending the tournament. This means that every participant, judge, coach, chaperone, bus driver, and/or observer will be charged rather than me creating one fee per team which covers the food for all of the above.

**Per Person Participant Fee:** \$35/per participant. Participants are defined as any student, judge, coach, chaperone, bus driver, parent, and/or observer that attends the event. This fee includes lunch and dinner on Saturday and lunch on Sunday. In addition, awards will be provided to elimination round competitors and top speakers in each division. We try to maintain our costs each year but due to the rising cost of food and supply costs our prices need to be adjusted accordingly.

**Team Fee:** \$25 per team entered; this covers administrative and logistical costs of running the tournament.

**Drop Fees:** This year we have all but eliminated the nuisance and drop fee schedule we've adopted in past years. Since registration closes one week prior to the tournament this year, any drops made after November 27, 2015 will still be charged all fees. Drop fees are due at registration. No fees are charged for name changes.

**Hired Judging Fees:** \$70 per uncovered round.

**Tournament Hotel Fee:** We will assess a \$100/per school hotel fee added to each registration. This fee is to encourage programs to stay at the tournament hotel. Please notify me if you've made your reservations at the tournament hotel and I'll remove your fee. If the block at the tournament hotel fills the fee will be waived for all programs registered for the tournament (regardless if you're staying at the tournament hotel or not). The rationale for this fee is to protect programs financially from fines and penalties that can be assessed by attrition rates imposed by hotels.

**Payment Information:** All registration fees are due no later than registration on Friday December 4, 2015. We encourage all programs to pay in advance. This helps streamline your registration process and also helps the tournament lighten the financial burden of hosting such an event. No program will be allowed to compete at the event if your registration + drop fees are not paid in full.

If you'd like to pay in advance, please make checks payable to - **Brian Manuel – Scranton Debate.** Checks made out to any other name will not be accepted. If your school check is made out incorrectly, you will need to provide a personal check for us to hold until your school can send us another check.

***Please mail checks to the following address:***

Brian Manuel  
416 Bates St  
Scranton, PA 18509

*\*If you need a W-9 for your school please email [electricity.invitational@gmail.com](mailto:electricity.invitational@gmail.com) and it will be provided to you. \**

***\*\* DO NOT SEND CHECKS DIRECTLY TO NORTHEAST INTERMEDIATE, SCRANTON HIGH SCHOOL, WEST SCRANTON HIGH SCHOOL, or the SCRANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT! These checks will get lost and there is very little we'll be able to do for you. \*\****

## **Schedule of Events**

In the hope of providing you a healthier competition day we've constructed a schedule that hopes to allow for 30 mins of prep time and at least 30 mins of decision time per round. This time frame should allow for a complete evaluation of each round + a small amount of time to speak to competitors following it.

*\*All times are approximate, and can change at the Tournament Director/Tab Room's discretion\**

*\*\*All prelim debates are to be decided no later than 120 minutes/2hr after the posted start time. All elimination debates are to be decided 135 minutes/2hr 15m after the posted start time. If we don't receive your ballot at this point, the tab room will flip a coin to decide the winner. The tab room would like to give at least 30 minutes of preparation time prior to each debate. However, will not do so at the cost of delaying the rest of the schedule for the day. \*\**

*\*\*\*All rounds may be accelerated on their own schedules due to flights, closeouts, etc. This schedule is only an approximation for when each round will begin. The tab room will determine the exact timing of each round. Please do not leave campus while attending the event. There are no excuses for not making it to your round on time. \*\*\**

*\*\*\*\*We will fine each judge \$25/per prelim round missed & \$50/per elimination round missed. In addition to the fine, your programs director will be emailed and your team will be responsible for payment. \*\*\*\**

*\*\*\*\*\* All coaches should cease coaching at least 5 mins prior to the rounds scheduled start time. \*\*\*\*\**

### **Friday December 5, 2014** - [Radisson Lackawanna Station]

8:00PM – 10:00PM – Registration

9:30PM – Coaches Hospitality

### **Saturday December 6, 2014** – [Northeast Intermediate School - <https://goo.gl/maps/CRj9ZebyiRU2>]

6:00AM – Cash & Go Breakfast available – Starbucks - Radisson Lackawanna Station

7:00AM - R1 Pairing Released on Tabroom.com

8:00AM - R1 Start Time

9:00AM - R2 Pairing Release

10:00AM - R1 Decision Time

10:15AM - R2 Start Time

12:00PM – Lunch – Northeast Intermediate Cafeteria (Basement)

12:15PM - R2 Decision Time

1:00PM - R3 Pairing Release

1:30PM - R3 Start Time

3:30PM - R3 Decision Time

4:00PM - R4 Pairing Release

4:30PM - R4 Start Time

6:15PM – Dinner – West Scranton Cafeteria (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

6:30PM - R4 Decision Time

7:30PM – All Participants Must Exit the Building

9:00PM – Coaches Hospitality – Radisson Lackawanna Station

**Sunday December 7, 2014** – [Northeast Intermediate School - <https://goo.gl/maps/CRj9ZebyiRU2>]

6:00AM – Cash & Go Breakfast available – Starbucks - Radisson Lackawanna Station

7:00AM - R5 Pairing Released on Tabroom.com

8:00AM - R5 Start Time

10:15AM - R5 Decision Time

10:45AM - R6/NCX Elim 1 Pairing Release

11:15AM - R6/NCX Elim 1 Start Time

1:00PM – Lunch – Northeast Intermediate Cafeteria (Basement)

1:30PM - R6/NCX Elim 1 Decision Time

1:45PM - Awards

2:15PM - VCX Elim 1/NCX Elim 2 Pairing Release

2:45PM - VCX Elim 1/NCX Elim 2 Start Time

5:00PM - VCX Elim 1/NCX Elim 2 Decision Time

5:15PM - VCX Elim 2/NCX Elim 3 Pairing Release

5:45PM - VCX Elim 2/NCX Elim 3 Start Time

8:00PM - VCX Elim 2/NCX Elim 3 Decision Time

8:30PM - All Participants Must Exit the Building

9:00PM – Elim Debates w/Judge List will be posted on Tabroom.com

(\*\*All teams are on their own for dinner, Scranton has a number of restaurants and delivery places in close vicinity to the hotel)

**Monday December 8, 2014** – [Radisson Lackawanna Station]

7:00AM - Cash & Go Breakfast available – Starbucks - Radisson Lackawanna Station

7:00AM – VCX Elim 3 Pairing Released on Tabroom.com

7:15AM – Coin Flips [If only one team is present at this time they'll call their side]

8:00AM - VCX Elim 3 Start Time

10:15AM - VCX Elim 3 Decision Time

10:30AM - VCX Elim 4 Pairing Release

11:00AM - VCX Elim 4 Start Time

1:15PM - VCX Elim 4 Decision Time

1:30PM - VCX Elim 5 Pairing Release

2:00PM - VCX Elim 5 Start Time

4:15PM - VCX Elim 5 Decision Time

**\*\*\*SAT Testing/Site Information**

One issue that arises every year is SAT Test conflicts with the tournament. We have one solution for those teams with competitors interested in competing but don't want to sacrifice their test taking availability.

TAKE IT IN SCRANTON!!

Scranton HS serves as a testing site for the SAT I/II tests and you can complete them on Saturday morning then join the tournament after you complete them, still in time for Round 3!!

Test Location Info:

SCRANTON HIGH SCHOOL

63 MIKE MUNCHAK WAY

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18508

Once you've completed the SAT it's an extremely quick 1-mile ride to Northeast Intermediate School.

For all participants who are taking their exams that morning we'll allow you to start the tournament with a 1-1 record or your partner can debate the first two rounds maverick and you can join them following the exam. Please let the Tournament Director know if you have students who wish to take the exam in Scranton and we'll try and accommodate that request the best we can.

### **\*\*\* Judge Conduct Guidelines**

As an adult member of the debate community you must act as professionally as possible when attending and judging at a tournament. The Electric City Debates require that all tournament judges observe the highest standards of professional ethics. One of the goals of the Electric City Debates is to have a fair competition conducted by the individuals judging.

In fulfilling the role of a debate judge, the individual judge assumes a role that requires the performance of many difficult tasks not all of which can be foreseen. It is the purpose of this section to provide the fundamental ethical principles which are always present to guide the judges so as to insure, as best it can be insured, that the judge's conduct will be such as will be responsible and promote respect for the dignity not only of the judge but also for the tournament of which she/he is a part. This section is intended to provide standards by which to judge one charged with being a transgressor of the intent of this section and to provide the procedures whereby the judge may be dealt with in a fair and just manner. The fulfillment of the role of a debate judge requires an understanding by the individual judge of her/his relationship with and function in a well ordered and justly administered system of judging debate events and it is this which creates and give rise to the consequent or resultant obligation on the part of the individual judge to maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct and personal and professional integrity at all times.

Ethical conduct is not a passive process, but requires you to make conscious choices and decisions. A few basic guidelines to keep in mind:

- Always act honestly, consistently, and impartially when carrying out your duties.
- Avoid outside activities that could reasonably be perceived as a conflict of interest
- Always treat others in a courteous and professional manner regardless of their gender, ability, or cultural background.

To meet the above professional and ethical standards the Electric City Debates believe the following things should be required of all judges:

- All judges, not hired by the tournament, should have a legal relationship to the debater, school, and/or program attending the tournament. A legal relationship is defined as being a parent, employee of the school, or independent contractor paid by the school/program.
- All judges should be fully aware and free of impairment upon their arrival at the tournament site and conduct themselves free of alcohol and drugs while at the tournament site and interacting with students. The tournament site includes the school campus, classrooms, boardrooms, conference space, and public areas of hotels.
- All judges, if you are an employee of the school, should complete all necessary background checks and security clearances for that school. All judges, if an independent contractor, should be made aware of all rules and regulations of a program as they deal with their interactions with students. Judges who can't suitably meet either of these guidelines should not be hired for the EC Debates and instead you should hire out your judging through the tournament.
- All judges should be well qualified in CX debate, know the rules, and be thoroughly prepared for each judging assignment. Each team, contestant and/or participant, as well

as the spectators, are entitled to the judges best efforts to administer the rules of the activity.

- All judges should avoid even the appearance of professional impropriety.
- All judges should exercise good judgment when using social networking media (Facebook, Twitter, blogs, texting, e-mail, etc.) i.e. avoid communicating with coaches or debaters during a competition; or refrain from making inappropriate statements about fellow judges, coaches, debaters, and teams.

### **\*\*\*Case List Disclosure**

The Electric City Debates value different pedagogical perspectives but are unwavering in their perspective on the value of openness. Openness promotes comprehension and preparation, which are critical components for effective clash and better debates. I appreciate that competitive drives can run into conflict with openness. Finding the appropriate balance between the learning environment and the competitive environment deserves continued consideration. I have decided that a willingness to take part in a collective case list – in both spirit and in practice – is an essential characteristic to accepting the invitation to my event. Case lists enhance the pedagogical and competitive goals of openness by allowing students to better understand their opponents' arguments which is an essential component to quality clash and better debates.

***\*If you cannot agree with the stipulation above, I will respectfully ask that you explore other competitive opportunities on this weekend. Those that DO attend; yet attempt to evade/ignore our requests will be asked to leave. Participation in the EC Debates and its benefits, like mutual preference judging, is a privilege, not a right. \****

It is also our belief that teams/debaters have an affirmative obligation to update the wiki as new arguments are run throughout the tournament. To clarify, this is a requirement/expectation to compete in our tournament.

The EC Debates require all competitors to submit information to a case list available to all coaches and students in Policy Debate.

It is the duty of coaches to inform students of the expectation of disclosure/the case list.

Links to a Drop box are not acceptable. All information must be placed directly into the wiki.

#### **You may ask – “Why are you doing this”?**

The EC Debates is of the belief that a culture of openness in the sharing of academic information through a case list is one vehicle to maximize that objective.

A case list that is required of all participants helps to “democratize” the collection of information for all schools in attendance. Without an official case list, schools with plenty of resources, coaches etc. and are in the “inner circle” acquire a disproportionate amount of information relative to others.

A case list that is required of all participants, and clarifies the expectations for submission, helps to avoid “freeloading” by those that access the information, yet don't contribute the same level (or any amount) of information.

#### **You may ask – “What are you requiring us to do”?**

The community norm that has developed (and seems to be working) in policy debate is that no one should have to disclose a position that they haven't run yet. The EC Debates are not asking you to disclose information BEFORE you run it. Specifically, if this is your first event of the year you do not have to disclose your positions until you run them. For example, if you run a case round one, only then does it become public information.

The expectation is that all debaters are required to disclose positions (affirmative and negative) and full citations (including page numbers of the evidence), and a few words from the beginning and end of the card, that are read in any debate on the National Debate Coaches Association wiki.

The URL for the case list is - <http://wiki.debatecoaches.org/> - An example of the format follows.

We ask that each team/debater submit information to the wiki in a timely manner. The community norm in policy is to put things online within a round or so of it being run. If you run a new position in elimination rounds, you should post it immediately after the decision. The school has sufficient wireless connections and for those with laptops, submission directly to the wiki should be easy. For those without laptops we will allow you to use computers in the tab room to input the information. After the last round of the evening, we ask that once you arrive at your hotel, or place of residence, that you submit arguments broken before retiring for the evening.

If your advocacy is such that you read a case that doesn't have a traditional structure, please include enough of a description to allow a delineated thesis of the position. A good rule of thumb is this: include any and all information that you would want your own debater to have to better understand and prepare to debate the case in question.

If major arguments are not dependent on evidence, those arguments should be summarized on the wiki along with complete citations.

Cases disclosed should specify both school and team/debater. A debater saying, "See X persons wiki we run the same cases", doesn't meet the spirit, or letter of our expectations.

**You may ask - "I don't like disclosure/case lists but want to come anyway because the tournament is really good. What are you going to do if I don't participate/attempt to fly under the radar"?**

The point has been made that by accepting the invitation to attend our tournament you understand that you are guests, and agree to participate fully with the guidelines outlined in the invitation. As such, attempts to circumvent the intent of the case list will be dealt with in a direct manner given the clarity in which the expectations have been made. The tournament director reserves the right to either remove mutual preference judging or ask competitors to leave if the feeling is that there was an effort to subvert our request. The EC Debate tournament director will make the final judgment of potential violations. "Lawyering" regarding what was expected will not be engaged or tolerated. Two examples illustrate unacceptable behavior we have observed over the years:

- Attempts to overload your wiki with information in order to conceal your arguments will result in disqualification.
- Coaches were overheard asking students to report incomplete and perhaps more egregiously, telling students to LIE about their position.

These behaviors are unquestionably unethical from my perspective and will result in disqualification.

Our point in attempting to clarify expectations is to avoid ANY conversations regarding potential disregard, or violation of our requests at the tournament. Again, with all due respect,

no one has a right to either attend, or continue competition, in our tournament if requests are ignored. If you have questions prior to arriving at our tournament please email or call.

**You may ask - "What if our genuine attempts to comply are considered insufficient? Will we be punished?"**

I evaluate sincere versus insincere efforts from my peers every day so I am very comfortable making these judgment calls. I am not interested in a role as the Disclosure Police. However, enforcement is an essential part of any successful endeavor. The EC Debates want compliance that best benefits all of our guests rather than issuing any punitive actions. If there is a concern, prompt and courteous compliance will go a long way. We are comfortable in being able to tell the difference. Here is a good rule of thumb for those sincerely interested in positive compliance with this community expectation: include any and all information that you would want your own student to have if they were in this debate.

With all due respect to divergent positions on these issues, The EC Debates is committed to a culture of openness and a sharing of information at the tournament. Please understand that belief as you make a decision to attend the EC Debates.

To provide clarification about the expectation of the timeliness of disclosure, we ask that the information be placed online after you have debated on both sides of the resolution. At worst, all information should be online, with sufficient detail and correct formatting by the end of round four.

***Example of a Policy disclosure from the wiki in past seasons:***

**Plan text:** The United States federal government should provide just compensation to property owners in the Klamath Basin who lost their water irrigation rights.

**Advantage One – ESA Credibility:**

**In 2001, the government used the Endangered Species Act to curtail farmers irrigation rights in the Klamath Basin in order to protect two endangered species – this over-reach of the ESA has created mass amounts of controversy and will jettison ESA credibility**

**Fein**, Reviewing Doremus and Tarlock, **9** (Ian, JD Candidate @ Berkeley Law, "Book Review: Salmon, Science, and Subsidies: A Book Review by Ian Fein\* of Water War in the Klamath Basin: Macho Law, Combat Biology, and Dirty Politics by Holly Doremus and A. Dan Tarlock (Island Press 2008).", 36 Ecology L.Q. 775, @Lexis//greenhill-ak) Tension between competing ...may prove instructive. n141

**The backlash is due to the regulatory focus of the ESA – compensation is vital to balance competing interests**

**Stern 6** (Stephanie, Prof of Law @ Loyola, "ARTICLE: Encouraging Conservation on Private Lands: A Behavioral Analysis of Financial Incentives", 48 Ariz. L. Rev. 541, @Lexis//greenhill-ak) The traditional model of command ... to particular conservation issues.

**B) Property Rights**

**Compensation is vital to patent protection – lack of property rights creates a market disincentive**

**Taub 6** (Bradley, JD Candidate @ John Marshall Law, "ARTICLE: Why Bother Calling Patents Property? The Government's Path To License Any Patent And Maybe Pay For It", 6 J. Marshall Rev. Intell. Prop. L. 151, @Lexis//greenhill-ak) To remedy Kelo's virtual elimination ... behind their backs. n242

### **A strong patent system is key to the economy – it is the only way to restore the manufacturing industry**

**Maghame 9** (CQ Congressional Testimony, 3/10, "Patent Law Overhaul"; Senate Judiciary Committee; Taraneh Maghame, Vice President Of Patent Policy And Government Relations Counsel At Tessaera, Inc., A Company That Leads In Semiconductor Packaging) The Innovation Ecosystem The US ... by large firms.

### **Economic collapse guarantees nuclear war**

**Mead 9** (Henry A. Kissinger Senior Fellow in U.S. Foreign Policy at the Council on Foreign Relations, Walter Russell, "Only Makes You Stronger," The New Republic, 2/4/09, <http://www.tnr.com/politics/story.html?id=571cbbb9-2887-4d81-8542-92e83915f5f8&p=2>)

### **Also, other countries model lax US patent protection – this undermines international enforcement**

**Jacobs 6** (Irwin, Chairperson of the Board of Directors for Qualcomm, "Promoting Competition and Protecting Incentives for Innovation," Progress on Point, Release 13.22, September, [http://www.pff.org/issues-pubs/pops/pop13.22\\_jacobs\\_speech.pdf](http://www.pff.org/issues-pubs/pops/pop13.22_jacobs_speech.pdf)) We in the United States ... greatly diminished.

### **Patent protection is key to restoring US-Sino trade relations**

**Reuters 8** (Sourced from the Reuters InterActive Carbon Markets Community, REWP provides scientific information and discussion necessary for engineers, energy professionals and policy makers, "U.S. says lax china ipr hampers clean tech trade", <http://renewenergy.wordpress.com/2008/01/10/us-says-lax-china-ipr-hampers-clean-tech-trade>) China's lax ... for the health of the planet."

### **This prevents war over Taiwan**

**Eland 5** (Ivan Eland, Cato Institute, "Avoid Threatening China Over Its Currency," May 31, 2005, [www.cato.org](http://www.cato.org))

### **That conflict will escalate and cause nuclear war**

**Johnson**, Journalist, 5-14-1 (Chalmers, "Time to Bring the Troops Home," The Nation, Volume 272, Number 19)

### **Also – US–Sino cooperation prevents extinction - it solves every impact**

**Wenzhong**, PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2-7-4 (Zhou, "Vigorously Pushing Forward the Constructive and Cooperative Relationship Between China and the United States," <http://china-japan21.org/eng/zxxx/t64286.htm>)

## **\*\*\*Card Clipping Guidelines**

### **Definition**

“A judge should find clipping has occurred when a debater represents they have read five words or more that they did not read in any speech.”

### **Penalties**

If the judge finds that clipping has occurred the penalty is a loss for the team and zero speaker points for the debater who "clipped." If a team makes a false accusation of clipping the penalty is a loss and zero speaker points for both debaters on the team who made the false accusation.

### **The following are the suggested guidelines for judges in resolving “card clipping” accusations:**

- 1.** At whatever point the accusation happens, the judge should immediately pause the debate.
- 2.** The judge should then read the definition that the tournament provides for what constitutes “card clipping.”
- 3.** Next, the judge should inform both teams that either the accused team will be found guilty of clipping and will receive a loss and the offending student will be given zero speaker points, or the accused team will be found innocent of clipping and the accusing team will receive the loss and both receive zero speaking points.
- 4.** The accusing team can then decide to continue with or cease in their accusation of clipping. In the event that they decide not to level the accusation, the debate proceeds as normal. If the accusing team decides they will indeed make a clipping accusation the debate ceases and the round is decided entirely on whether or not clipping has occurred.
- 5.** The accusing team then presents their evidence of clipping to the judge(s) (a recording, differences in marked evidence documents, etc.)
- 6.** The judge(s) reviews the evidence and makes a decision on whether or not the definition of clipping has been violated or not.

Technical malfunction isn't an excuse for clipping. Debaters have an obligation to accurately represent the material they have read. If a judge finds that students represented read material that they did not read then it's clipping and penalties should be imposed even if the judge doesn't think there was ill intent.

The enforcement is left solely to the discretion of the judge(s) and cannot be appealed to the tab room or the tournament director.

In the event that the judge feels that insufficient evidence exists, and the judge has no firsthand knowledge the clipping occurred, the win should go to the team being accused.

- 7.** Judges are encouraged to use this as a teaching moment in the decision process. The goal is to provide respectful and helpful instructions to both sides while rendering their decision based on the result of the accusation.

**8.** When filling out the ballot, make sure to write the basis and explanation for decision so that coaches can be made aware of the context of the situation.

**9.** Please also alert the tab room so they can note that a challenge has been made.

**\*All discussion while adjudicating the decision should happen in front of both teams. The judge should refrain from any private conversations with only one team or debater, so as to maintain complete transparency.**

**\*\*None of this precludes a judge, based on his or her own judgment, from deciding clipping has occurred. As has been traditional practice, judges are empowered based on their own flow, following speech documents, recordings and/or other information that clipping has occurred and to level appropriate penalties**

**\*\*\*These guidelines only apply to the varsity division. JV and novice divisions should be dealt with based on best estimation of intent and judges should use the situation as a teaching moment instead of purely a punitive measure.**