

**WASHBURN RURAL HIGH SCHOOL
INVITATIONAL DEBATE TOURNAMENT
September 15-16, 2017**

Dear Colleagues:

We cordially invite you to attend the 2017 Washburn Rural Invitational Debate Tournament, to be held on September 15-16, 2017. The tournament will feature 3 divisions: Varsity, Open, and Novice.

Varsity division will feature a mixture of judges, the majority of whom will have experience judging debate or with debating, many of whom would be considered flow judges. We will make every attempt to balance judges so that each team sees a variety of judging preferences and experience levels. We hope to again make round two an all-coaches round for judging, although the size of this division may preclude our being able to provide a coach in every single room. There will be six preliminary rounds of debate in this division, and it will break to quarterfinals, with semifinals and finals to follow. Medals and trophies will be awarded to the top 8 teams and top 10 speakers in this division. Varsity is a designated DCI division. The top 16 teams will receive bid points toward qualifying for the Debate Coaches' Invitational in January.

Open division is meant for those students who are less experienced and/or enjoy less technical debate than the varsity division. Fourth year debaters should probably not be debating in this division, but there are some whose skill levels might appropriately place them here. Please don't load up this division with kids who belong in varsity division. We trust that coaches will fairly evaluate the abilities and talents of their debaters. Open division will feature six preliminary rounds, and will then break to quarterfinals, semifinals and finals. In this division, trophies will be awarded to the top four teams of open, and the top eight teams and the top 10 speakers will receive medals.

Novice division will take place on **Saturday only** and will be limited to those students who have not participated in debate prior to this season. It will feature five rounds. The top three teams will receive trophies; the top eight teams and the top eight speakers will receive medals. **The Washburn Rural Novice division will adhere to the Kansas Debate Coaches Novice Case List. All novice teams entered must run an affirmative that addresses a topic area chosen by coaches. A list of the allowed affirmative topic areas can be found on the next page. In the event that teams do not read one of these affirmatives, judges will be instructed to continue watching the round, but award a win to the negative, regardless of outcome.**

All divisions will be power-matched, with two pre-set rounds. Sweepstakes will be based on the school with the best four team record, with at least two entries in varsity division. **Each school will be allowed four entries total, in any combination.** We tend to fill quickly, so please send your entries as soon as possible. We are limited to a total of 160 teams. Entry fees are \$6.00 per team – or whatever your tournament charges. If you pay us \$6 per team, expect to receive from us \$6 per team if Washburn Rural attends your tournament. If you charge more for your invitational and expect us to pay the increased price, we would ask that you reciprocate. Hosting is a reciprocal service.

Enclosed is a copy of our tournament guidelines. Please take a moment to look over them. There are some important changes in this year's tournament. If you would like to enter our tournament, please complete registration on **Tabroom.com**. Registration on Tabroom.com will open on **Monday, August 14th**, at 5:00 PM. Please note that ALL ENTRIES WILL INITIALLY BE WAIT LISTED and we will process and accept entries in a timely manner. If we should receive entries beyond our capacity, entries will be allowed in time-stamped order. The entry deadline is **Friday, September 8th**. **Drops on or after 5:00 pm, September 11th, will be non-refundable.**

We are looking forward to seeing you as the season begins.

Sincerely,
Cindy Burgett and Tim Ellis
WRHS Coaches

Brenda Alvarez
Jake Berry
Tournament Directors

Email: burgecin@usd437.net Email: ellistim@usd437.net
School phone [WaRu Debate Room]: (785) 339-4234

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY

1. The resolution to be debated is ***Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its funding and/or regulation of elementary and/or secondary education in the United States.***
2. The tournament will be cross-examination style with 8-3-5 time limits. Prep time will be 5 minutes. **Our tournament will NOT follow KSHSAA guidelines concerning wireless access. You MAY use email chains to send evidence to one another to expedite the flashing process.** If you choose not to, and you struggle with flashing, electronic issues, etc., you will not be given extra prep.
3. Rounds 1 and 2 in all divisions will be pre-set. We will probably delay power match in subsequent rounds, but there's some chance that we will computerize and straight match some of this if the schedule and numbers allow.
4. Entry fees will be \$6.00 per team or whatever you charge at your tournament. Registration deadline is Friday, September 8th. Cancellations after 5:00 pm, Monday, September 11th, will be non-refundable.
5. AWARDS:
 - A. The top 8 teams in all divisions will receive medals. In Varsity and Open divisions, trophies will be awarded to quarterfinalists and beyond and medals will be awarded to the top 10 speakers.
 - B. In Novice division, trophies will be awarded to the top three teams and the top eight teams and speakers will also be awarded medals.
 - C. The traveling sweepstakes trophy will be awarded to the school with the best four-team record, with at least two teams in Varsity division.

ENTRIES:

- A. Each school may enter a TOTAL of 4 teams in the tournament. Schools registering in a timely manner, will be guaranteed 4 teams across all 3 divisions until we reach our entry cap of 160 total teams.
- B. We will **ONLY** accept 4 teams in the DCI Division. If you believe your school is worthy of additional considerations above 4 in the DCI division, contact us for special circumstances.
- C. Schools may request up to 6 total teams, BUT NO MORE THAN 4 IN ANY ONE DIVISION.
- D. Acceptance of the 5th and/or 6th team will be based on the following criteria.
 - Flint Hills District Schools will be given extra teams first.
 - Schools that host tournaments that Washburn Rural traditionally attends will receive consideration in that the school will guarantee Washburn Rural the same additional allotment in its tournament.

7. NOVICE 2017 AFFIRMATIVE CASE LIMITATIONS

In accordance with survey results and decisions made by Kansas debate coaches, **ALL TEAMS ENTERED IN THE SATURDAY NOVICE DIVISION** must run an affirmative case in one of the following areas:

- A. Increasing STEM funding
- B. Increasing funding for vouchers
- C. Increasing CTE funding
- D. Increasing Title I funding
- E. Desegregation
- F. Establishing a federal right to education

8. Coaches and sponsors will be used to judge if necessary. If you are sending a sponsor, please send one capable of judging. Any school that does not/ will not fulfill a judging request will have the judge removed from a room in which one of its teams is debating and will forfeit that round with a 3-4 loss.

NOTE: If you request additional DCI entries (above 4 teams), you will be asked to provide a suitable DCI quality judge that will be available to judge 6 preliminary rounds and 1 elimination round.

Traditionally, a number of attending schools provide volunteer judges for the tournament, although not required. If you wish to provide additional judges, PLEASE remember to add them when you register on Tabroom.com. ***Volunteered judges will most often be used in the DCI division.***

10. Any team more than 10 minutes late to a round through no fault of the tournament will be forfeited with a 3-4 loss.
11. Brackets will be broken in elimination rounds to accommodate schools that do or have done the same for us. Those who do not break brackets will not be afforded the same consideration.
12. Judges will be considered clean at the beginning of elimination rounds and may see a team a second time in elimination rounds.
13. The use of laptops computers will be allowed, along with email exchange of speech documents. Any student found to be communicating with others through text messaging or a wireless network will be disqualified from the tournament, not just given a loss in the round. It's cheating. We hate cheaters.
14. Tournament management reserves the right to handle difficulties in a way that seems fair to us.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE (Projected / Tentative)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

(Varsity and Junior Varsity)
Registration 3:00 pm
(in the school's front lobby)
Round 1 3:30 pm
Round 2 5:15 pm
Round 3 7:15 pm

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

(All divisions)
Registration for novices 7:30 am
(in the Media Center)
Round 4 (exp) 8:00 am
Round 1 (nov) 8:15 am
Round 5 (exp) 9:45 am
Round 2 (nov) 9:45 am
Round 6 (exp) 12:00 pm
Round 3 (nov) 12:00 pm
Round 4 (nov) 1:30 pm
Experienced Assembly 2:15 pm
Quarterfinals (V/O) 3:00 pm
Round 5 (nov) 3:00 pm
Sems (V/O) 4:45 pm
Novice Assembly 5:00 pm
Finals (V/O) 6:45 pm

[If you have questions, the debate room number is (785) 339-4234. The best time to call is from 9:45-1:00 and after 3:00, any day of the week. You can leave a voicemail message anytime of the day or night.]