June 15, 2017

Dear Colleagues:

You are invited to attend the 2017 Clay Debates hosted by the University of Kentucky. This year’s tournament, our 47th, will be held on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, September 30-October 2, 2017. We will offer debates in open, junior varsity, and novice divisions.

We will continue to offer breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday and a light dinner on Sunday night before round 8. Please make sure your entourage numbers are entered accurately to ensure that we order enough food for everyone.

We hope to see you all in Lexington

Sincerely,

The UK Debate Team

**Format and Administrative policies**

We will host eight preliminary rounds in the Open division, and six preliminary rounds in novice and junior varsity. We will follow the 9-3-6 format.

Students are asked to debate the topic selected for the 2017-18 season by a vote of the Cross Examination Debate Association membership.

We will offer a novice and junior varsity “teach-in” during round 7. Novice and Junior Varsity debaters will have the option of meeting with judges and coaches for a teaching session. These teaching sessions will focus on any number of topics and may involve small or large groups.

The Novice Division will be using the ADA’s restricted evidence set – all evidence presented in such debates should be from the evidence maintained by the ADA Novice Curriculum Committee, and Debaters may not present evidence from outside the evidence set.

Elimination rounds will begin with double-octofinals for Open, assuming entries at or near historical levels. Elimination round levels for novice and junior varsity will be determined by entry levels. All elim debates will be flip for sides unless teams have previously met; no breaking brackets.

We will continue to host the “First-Year Breakout” in elims. This is for students in their first year of college debate, so for example, a student who begins college debate as a junior is also eligible. This elimination bracket will likely start at the quarterfinal level, depending on the number of eligible teams, and run concurrently with the Open octos. A team will clear to one or the other brackets. A frosh-frosh team that clears to the regular Open elimination rounds is not eligible to “jump into” the breakout.

Kentucky teams may compete in the tournament. If so, they are eligible to receive speaker awards and to compete in elimination rounds. No person affiliated with the University of Kentucky will participate in any decision about judge placement for rounds containing Kentucky teams. In the event that Kentucky teams clear to elimination rounds, no Kentucky debaters, coaches, etc. will be involved with pairing that round of debates.

Hybrid teams are permitted to enter the tournament and will be allowed to clear to elimination rounds. For the purposes of ADA tournaments, a debate team is defined as the two-person team that begins the first round of the tournament and who debate together throughout the course of the tournament. If one of the debaters of a team cannot debate in any given round, that round will be forfeited. Speaker points in forfeit situations will be averaged, but the team forfeiting is ineligible to clear to elimination rounds if speaker points are the determining factor for their clearing. The debate may still occur for educational purposes. However, that team will still be eligible for speaker awards and elimination rounds.

All participants debate at the invitation of the University of Kentucky according to its tournament rules and the rules UK holds generally for conduct of guests while on campus. The Tournament will abide by all rules of the ADA and the AFA related to tournament operation.

As a courtesy to all participants, please do not bring contagiously sick debaters, coaches, or judges to the tournament.

All rounds (defined as the speeches and judge critiques) are open to the public. By electing to participate in the University of Kentucky Henry Clay Debates, all debaters and judges agree and consent that all rounds in which they participate may be electronically recorded. The University of Kentucky Debate Team strongly recommends that, upon request, persons recording debates make copies and or links of those electronic recordings available to the debaters and/or judge(s) who were recorded.

**Case list and Scouting**

Participating teams and schools are expected to contribute to <http://opencaselist.paperlessdebate.com/bin/view/Main/> and should provide their most recent affirmative and negative information by the Tuesday before the tournament at latest.

**Tabulation and Judge Placement**

The tab room will be run by Chris Palmer. The tournament is committed to promoting a diverse pool of judges.

The tournament will place judges using categories. There will be two categories. The first category will be “ones” that will make up 75% of the rounds in the tournament. The second category will be “strikes” that will make up the remaining 25% of the rounds in the tournament.

Judges will have the opportunity to mark themselves as diversity enhancing. We plan to release aggregate data about the ranking and placement of judges that mark themselves diversity enhancing. To be clear marking oneself as diversity enhancing DOES NOT increase the amount of judging required or increase the odds of judging any particular debate. This is solely for information gathering purposes given this different system of ranking and placing judges.

Chris Palmer will be running the tournament with a new tabroom feature called “Blind Mode.” This feature allows judges to be placed with no outside interference, automatically by the computer. Given the judging categories, human management of the judge pool to avoid things like burning rounds is less of a concern. Please ask Chris if you have particular questions about the mechanics of this mode.

The tab room will only accept ballots from the judges who have been assigned to judge a debate.

**Constraint Policy**

Judges and students should enter constraints under the following circumstances:

if you are former college or high school debate colleagues,

if there is a former students/coach professional relationship or a non-platonic personal relationship,

if the judge has a substantial fiduciary relationship with the school,

if the student/judge have been parties to a harassment complaint filed with one their respective universities, CEDA, or other entity charged with resolving those and similar grievances.

**Harassment Policy**

All participants should recognize the rights of others and communicate and act with respect for opponents, colleagues, critics, tournament hosts, and audience members. Communication or conduct which engenders ill-will and disrespect for forensics ultimately reduces the utility of forensics for all who participate in it and should, therefore, be avoided.

The tournament follows the University of Kentucky’s policies and procedures concerning harassment and discrimination. A compliance officer with the Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity will be on call for the duration of the tournament. The Tournament Director must first be contacted if an issue involving allegations of harassment or discrimination arises.

All debaters, coaches, judges, staff and all other individuals present at the tournament, or participating in activities associated with the tournament, are expected to know and are required to abide by this Policy. Participants should also adhere to the policies and procedures of their own educational institutions, and abide by all local, state and federal laws, avoiding discrimination or harassment on any basis prohibited or regulated by law or applicable policies.

Coaches, program directors, judges, researchers and assistants must ensure their conduct complies with this Policy during the tournament avoiding, mitigating and preventing situations that may generate discriminatory, offensive or harassment actions, including during a judge’s post-round explanation of a reason for decision in a particular round. Coaches and program directors are encouraged to discuss this Policy with all of their school’s participants prior to the tournament, and are expected to take any reasonable and necessary actions to ensure compliance by participants who are affiliated with their respective schools. By participating in the tournament or in activities associated with the tournament, each individual shall be deemed to have agreed to comport themselves in accordance with this Policy.

For more information regarding University policy and procedures on harassment please see

http://www.uky.edu/EVPFA/EEO/pdf/Discrimination-and-Harassment-Procedures.pdf

http://www.uky.edu/EVPFA/EEO/discrimination\_faq.html

**Judging Expectations**

We will require FOUR rounds of judging per team in the Open division. All coaches are expected to make themselves available for at least a two round judging commitment, barring reasonable accommodations.

All judges are obligated through the OCTOFINAL debate on Monday. Additionally, as per convention, all judges are committed to judge one round past the point of their school’s elimination from the tournament.

All judging for hire should be arranged through the hiring system on tabroom.com.

Judges are required to vote for one and only one team and to make their decision from 2:30 from the posted start time of the preset debates, and 2:45 for power-matched prelims and elims. This time limit will be strictly enforced by the tournament.

**Hotel Information**

Tournament hotel where registration and elims will be held: Campbell House

Hotel: The Campbell House Lexington, Curio Collection by Hilton

Group Name: UK Debate Run for Roses & Henry Clay

Phone Number: (859) 255-4281

Booking Online Link: https://www.tabroom.com/index/tourn/index.mhtml?webpage\_id=3244&tourn\_id=7656

**Fees and Amenities**

The fee for the tournament is $80 per person for all Open teams, as well as all judges and scouts. For JV and Novice teams, the fee is $70 per person. Credit card payments can be made here http://ci.uky.edu/UKDebate/pay-fees-online-0. Checks can be made payable to “UK Debate Tournaments”. Unfortunately we cannot accept cash payments.

Fees are due at the time of registration; but we will allow reasonable accommodations given institutional hurdles. If you need to pay after the tournament commences, please contact the tournament director beforehand. We will seek to accommodate schools with financial difficulty; please contact us if your program would like to attend our tournament.

All fees will be calculated on September 22nd, 2017 at 5PM EST. Your school will be responsible for all people listed as of that time. Should you need to drop a participant, please do so no later than 5PM EST on September 22nd. Drops are official ONLY if confirmed at the official tournament web site. Fees will freeze on the September 22nd at 5PM EST.

**Internet and Parking on Campus**

UK’s network allows guest access… you don’t even need to log in with your email anymore. Everyone can access the “ukyedu” network on campus.

There is ample free parking for participants in the surface lot at the bottom of the hill by the Classroom building, accessible off the Avenue of Champions. On weekends, you can park in any spot not marked as restricted, handicapped or otherwise (for police, UK communications vehicles, ect).

**No Smoking Policy**

For the smokers, the UK campus has recently become an entirely smoke-free campus. Smoking is prohibited directly outside of every campus building. Smoking areas are located on the sidewalks by the major streets bordering the campus along Limestone (towards the old Tolly-ho) and Avenue of Champions (towards the Qdoba/Papa Johns). Campus security may give you a $15 citation if they catch you smoking in prohibited areas and there is nothing we can do about it if they do.

**Registration**

There will be no in person registration Friday night. Teams will be able to check in using tabroom or can email lincolngarrett49@gmail.com to confirm all competitors and judges will be present. Everyone must be checked in before we can pair the presets. The deadline to confirm your party will be 4PM EST on Friday September the 29h.

**Tentative Schedule**

Friday, September 29th

 TBA.: Deadline to register your party.

 TBA..: Pairings for the (likely two) preset rounds released

Saturday, September 30th

 8 a.m.: Round 1 (10:30 a.m. decision time)

 11:00 a.m.: Round 2 (1:45 p.m. decision time)

 1:30 p.m.: Lunch served- CB patio

 2:45 p.m.: Round 3 (5:30 p.m. decision time)

 6:15 p.m.: Round 4 (9 p.m. decision time)

Sunday, October 1st

 8 a.m.: Round 5 (10:45 a.m. decision time)

 11:30 a.m.: Round 6 (2:00 p.m. decision time)

 1:30 p.m.: Lunch served- CB patio

 3:00 p.m.: Round 7\* (5:30 p.m. decision time)

5:00 p.m.: dinner in CB lobby

6:30 p.m.: Round 8\* (9 p.m. decision time)

Monday, October 2nd

7 a.m.: Pairings released online and by the meeting rooms

 8 a.m.: Doubles in Open (10:45 decision time)

 11:45 a.m.: Octos in Open, Quarters for First-Year Breakout (tentative)

3:15- Quarters, 6:45- Semis, 10:15 Finals—tentative start times or ASAP

\* Elimination rounds in the JV and Novice divisions may begin during rounds 7 and 8, depending on the size of the division and our judging constraints. If necessary, additional JV or Novice elim rounds will be held on Monday.

**Entry and Contact Information**

You should enter the tournament via tabroom.com

For further information and/or assistance, you may contact:

Lincoln Garrett: lincolngarrett49@gmail.com

Linda Barker: linda.barker@uky.edu

Debate Office: 859-257-6523

We hope you can join us in Lexington!

Sincerely,

The UK Debate Team