

**42nd Annual Liberty Bell Classic Tournament**

**at the University of Pennsylvania**

Dear Coaches and Competitors,

We are excited to invite you to the 42nd Annual Liberty Bell Classic Tournament at the University of Pennsylvania, which will take place on **February 9 – 11th, 2018.**

The Penn Tournament offers a **high quality** and **affordable** experience to all attendees and is an excellent opportunity to visit the beautiful city of Philadelphia and learn about the University of Pennsylvania. The tournament will continue to be held solely on Penn’s campus, meaning we won’t bus you off to a local school when you arrive here. Like all previous years, **all of the profits from the tournament will be used to promote debate programs at public schools in Philadelphia.**

The 2018 Penn Tournament will offer the following events:

* Public Forum Debate (Varsity and JV)
* Lincoln-Douglas Debate (Varsity and JV)
* Congressional Debate
* Policy Debate
* Declamation
* Dramatic Interpretation
* Duo Interpretation
* Extemporaneous Speaking
* Humorous Interpretation
* Oral Interpretation
* Original Oratory

We offer bids to the Tournament of Champions in the following events:

* Public Forum Debate (Varsity) – **Octafinalists**
* Lincoln-Douglas Debate (Varsity) – **Finalists**
* Congressional Debate – **Top Six**
* Dramatic Interpretation – **Finalists\***
* Duo Interpretation – **Finalists\***
* Extemporaneous Speaking – **Finalists\***
* Humorous Interpretation – **Finalists\***
* Oral Interpretation – **Finalists\***
* Original Oratory – **Finalists\***

\*Speech semifinalists will receive bids if the number of entries in the event exceeds 72.

This year, we will be coordinating with faculty at the University of Pennsylvania to secure as many competition rooms as possible in an effort to ensure that all interested competitors are accommodated and that this year’s tournament is the largest and most competitive in its history.

We’re also striving to improve the quality of our judging pool across all events. In addition to traditional methods of recruiting hired judges, we have implemented a referral system. With this system, anyone who recruits a qualified hired judge to the tournament will be compensated $10 per referral. This system will allow us to recruit highly experienced judges from around the nation.

Please continue reading this invitation for more information and review our tournament website for updates at [penn.tabroom.com](http://penn.tabroom.com/). If you have any questions, please send an email to penn.tournament@gmail.com, and we’ll respond to you within 24 to 48 hours.

We wish you all the best in the upcoming months and hope to see you here in February!

Sincerely,

Pranav Reddy and the Penn for Youth Debate Executive Board

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# Timeline

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **November 1st, 2017****9 AM EST** | Online registration begins on [penn.tabroom.com](http://penn.tabroom.com). |
| **February 1st, 2018****11:59 PM EST** | * Congress legislation due.
* Extemporaneous Speaking topic areas released.
 |
| **February 5th, 2018****11:59 PM EST** | * **New entries due in all events.**
* **Registration fees and judge burdens frozen.** If you do not meet your judging obligation after this date, you will be charged for a hired judge and fined $20 per uncovered entry.
* Drops can no longer be made online. They must be emailed to penn.tournament@gmail.com. There will be a $10 fine plus registration fees for each drop made after this time.
* Judge names and information for all events due. Schools that do not enter their VLD judge information on Tabroom by this date will be unable to enter strikes or MJP rankings.
* Congress legislation, dockets, and chambers released on [penn.tabroom.com](http://www.penn.tabroom.com).
 |
| **February 9th, 2018****2 PM – 9 PM EST** | **Mandatory registration in-person or by phone.** You can register and pay fees during this timeframe at Houston Hall (3417 Spruce Street). You may also call (484) 378-2874. Teams with PF and LD entries must register before by 4 PM on Friday. Teams who register via phone must arrive early on Saturday morning to pay their fees. After 4 PM, please call in drops. Schools with unreported drops after 9 PM will be fined $50 per drop. |

# Events

**All debate events will follow NSDA rules.**

Public Forum Debate

There will be two divisions of PF: Varsity and JV.\* The **February National Speech and Debate Association topic** will be used and teams will have two minutes of prep time each. There will be six preliminary rounds and all octafinalists in Varsity PF will receive a bid to the TOC.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate

There will be two divisions of LD: Varsity and JV.\* The **January-February National Speech and Debate Association topic** will be used and debaters will have four minutes of prep time each. There will be an appropriate number of preliminary rounds based on registration numbers and all finalists in Varsity LD will receive a bid to the TOC.

Congressional Debate

There will be a single, open division of Congressional Debate. Chambers will be comprised of no more than 20 competitors. Templates for bills and resolutions can be found on [penn.tabroom.com](http://www.penn.tabroom.com). Please submit legislation via email to penn.tournament@gmail.com by **February 1st, 2018** with the subject “Congress Legislation” and the author’s name and school. Each student may submit only one piece of legislation. We will publish legislation by **February 5th, 2018**. There will be three preliminary sessions and the Top Six competitors will receive a bid to the TOC.

Policy Debate

There will be a single, open division of Policy Debate. The **2017-2018 National Speech and Debate Association topic** will be used and teams will have ten minutes of prep time each. There will be five preliminary rounds and breaks will be determined by the size of the field.

Speech Events

Speech events will follow **NSDA rules** with a few exceptions. The NSDA Manual can be found on [penn.tabroom.com](http://www.penn.tabroom.com). Speech competitors do not need to have copies of their manuscripts, but they are expected to abide by NSDA rules for their content. Declamation will follow NCFL rules. In Extemp, which will be a mix of IX and USX, laptops and cellphones may be used to access stored data, but Internet features must be disabled. Power outlets may be used during prep, although access to them is not guaranteed. The final round of Extemp will feature cross-examination in accordance with NSDA rules. Extemp topic areas will be released by **February 1st, 2018.** **OI** will follow **NCFL rules** ([ncfl.org/oral-interp](http://www.ncfl.org/oral-interp)). Speech tabbing will be cumulative throughout the tournament, dropping the lowest preliminary round rank after the first elimination round. There will be four preliminary rounds in all speech events and TOC bids will depend on field sizes.

***\*****Students in 9th or 10th grade and those in 11th grade with less than two years’ experience may enter in JV or Varsity. Students with more than two years’ experience and those in 12th grade should enter in Varsity. Any student who broke at a national tournament in JV last year should enter VLD. We strongly encourage coaches to choose divisions with the educational purpose of debate in mind. That purpose is hurt if overqualified debaters compete in JV.*

# Fees

**Varsity Public Forum Debate JV Public Forum Debate**

One team $90 One team $70

One team’s worth of hired judging $100 One team’s worth of hired judging $70

**Varsity Lincoln-Douglas Debate JV Lincoln-Douglas Debate**

One entry $55 One entry $40

One entry’s worth of hired judging $80 One entry’s worth of hired judging $60

**Congressional Debate Policy Debate**

One entry $40 One team $60

One entry’s worth of hired judging $30 One team’s worth of hired judging $100

**Speech Events**

One IE entry $30

One Duo entry $35

One entry’s worth of hired judging $25

**We charge for hired judges by the student, not by the whole judge.** If you have seven IE students entered and only one judge covering five of those students, you owe two IE hired judging fees. This system is fairer because it does not require you to hire a whole judge just to cover a fractional obligation. Please check Tabroom to make sure your obligation is filled (the “judging” tab will be red if it’s not) so you don’t show up at registration having made this mistake. We don’t want to fine you, but we need enough judges in order to run the tournament.

**All fees must be paid in full during registration on either Friday night or Saturday morning. All payments must be in the form of a check made payable to Penn for Youth Debate.**

If your school has financial constraints that may prevent it from attending the tournament, email penn.tournament@gmail.com with a brief description of your school, financial situation, and debate program. We will work to accommodate your team the best that we can.

# Tentative Schedule

**Registration: Friday, February 9th, 2018 from 2 PM to 9 PM EST**

Mandatory registration in-person or by phone. You can register and pay fees at Houston Hall (3417 Spruce Street). You may also register over the phone. Teams who register via phone must arrive early on Saturday morning to pay their fees. Teams with PF and LD entries must register prior to rounds at 5 PM on Friday. After 6 PM, you must call in any drops. Schools with unreported drops after 9 PM will be fined $50 per drop plus registration fees.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Varsity Public Forum Debate | Varsity Lincoln-Douglas Debate |
| Friday | **Friday** |
| 5:00 PM | Round 1 | 5:00 PM | Round 1 |
| 8:00 PM | Round 2 | 8:00 PM | Round 2 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Saturday | **Sunday** |
| 8:00 AM | Round 3 | 8:00 AM | Round 3 |
| 12:00 PM | Round 4 | 12:00 PM | Round 4 |
| 4:00 PM | Round 5 | 4:00 PM | Round 5 |
| 8:00 PM | Round 6 | 8:00 PM | Round 6 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Sunday | **Sunday** |
| 8:00 AM | Doubles | 8:00 AM | Doubles |
| 11:00 AM | Octofinals | 11:00 AM | Octofinals |
| 1:00 PM | Quarterfinals | 1:00 PM | Quarterfinals |
| 2:30 PM | Semifinals | 2:30 PM | Semifinals |
| 4:00 PM | Finals | 4:00 PM | Finals |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| JV Public Forum Debate | JV Lincoln-Douglas Debate |
| Friday | **Friday** |
| 5:00 PM | Round 1 | 5:00 PM | Round 1 |
| 8:00 PM | Round 2 | 8:00 PM | Round 2 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Saturday | **Sunday** |
| 10:00 AM | Round 3 | 10:00 AM | Round 3 |
| 2:00 PM | Round 4 | 2:00 PM | Round 4 |
| 6:00 PM | Round 5 | 6:00 PM | Round 5 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Sunday | **Sunday** |
| 8:00 AM | Doubles | 8:00 AM | Doubles |
| 11:00 AM | Octofinals | 11:00 AM | Octofinals |
| 1:00 PM | Quarterfinals | 1:00 PM | Quarterfinals |
| 2:30 PM | Semifinals | 2:30 PM | Semifinals |
| 4:00 PM | Finals | 4:00 PM | Finals |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Policy Debate | Congressional Debate | Speech Events |
| Saturday | **Saturday** | **Saturday** |
| 8:00 AM | Round 1 | 9:00 AM | Session 1 | 9:00 AM | Round 1 |
| 10:00 PM | Round 2 | 1:00 PM | Session 2 | 12:00 PM | Round 2 |
| 1:00 PM | Round 3 | 4:00 PM | Session 3 | 2:30 PM | Round 3 |
| 4:00 PM | Round 4 |  |  | 5:00 PM | Round 4 |
| 7:00 PM | Round 5 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sunday | **Sunday** | **Sunday** |
| 8:00 AM | Quarterfinals | 8:00 AM | Semifinals | 9:00 AM | Quarterfinals |
| 11:00 AM | Semifinals | 12:00 PM | Finals | 10:30 AM | Semifinals |
| 2:00 PM | Finals |  |  | 1:00 PM | Finals |

\*This schedule is subject to change.

\*\*Awards will be held at approximately 3:00 PM EST on Sunday in Irvine Auditorium.

\*\*\*Any scheduling updates will be posted on Tabroom and emailed to all coaches and judges.

# Online Registration

All registration will be conducted on [penn.tabroom.com](http://www.penn.tabroom.com). Registration will open **November 1st, 2017** at 9 AM EST. We recommend registering as early as possible, as spaces fill up quickly and entries will be admitted on a first-come, first-served basis. If you have any questions, send an email to penn.tournament@gmail.com and be sure to include the name of your school.

* Please register your entries in chronological order based on priority for each event. For example, register your first priority PF team before your second priority PF team, etc.
* All of your entries will be waitlisted when you first enter them in on Tabroom. This allows us to ensure that all entries abide by our tournament guidelines and fairly determine how many entries to accept from each school in each event.
* Due to space constraints, each school will initially be limited to 8 entries per event. We will accommodate entries on top of these caps as room availability permits.
* Please do NOT contact us asking if/when your waitlisted entries will be accepted. As soon as spaces open up (due to drops or additional rooms), we will add entries from the waitlist. As the tournament approaches, we’ll provide additional updates.
* Debate and Congress competitors may not enter in multiple events.
* Speech competitors may enter in up to three events.
* TBA entries will be dropped one month before the tournament.

# Independent Entries

All entries must be officially affiliated with a degree-issuing high school in accordance with NSDA membership rules. Please see the NSDA website for more information on membership rules.

# Judging

Judging Obligations

Each school must provide one qualified judge for every:

* 3 teams in Public Forum Debate
* 3 entries in Lincoln-Douglas Debate
* 2 teams in Policy Debate
* 5 entries in Speech
* 1 qualified judge if a school has any entries in Congressional Debate (please specify in the notes section on Tabroom what other event (if any) this judge is willing to judge)

In the case of fractional obligations, judging obligation is rounded up. For example, if your school has 5 teams entered in PF, you will be obligated to provide 2 PF judges.

**You must provide the cell phone numbers for all judges.** Please collect as many as you can and enter these in on Tabroom. Keep in mind that a “qualified judge” must understand the activity, speak English, and be experienced either sitting in rounds with a ballot/flow pad and/or have been carefully trained by the team he/she is accompanying. A qualified judge is one who knows how to fill out a ballot and assign ranks, wins/losses, and speaker points.

**Judges in all events are obligated to stay and judge one round past the one that their competitors have been eliminated in.** For example, if you have a have a PF team that advances to quarterfinals but loses, you must have a judge available to judge semifinals. **Schools that have judges who fail to appear for an assigned round will be fined $25 per missed prelim round and $50 per missed elimination round.** **Schools with unpaid fines will not be given ballots or awards.** Fines may be excused if the school provides judges for rounds beyond their assignment. We would much prefer to have judges ready and present in every round than to administer fines. Leaving as soon as all of your entries drop without asking the tournament staff severely impedes the flow of the tournament for everyone still competing and undermines our ability to run the tournament. You may ask us if we still need your judges to stay, but you must have our approval before leaving.

**Any judges dropped after registration is frozen on February 5th, 2018 at 11:59 PM EST – even if you drop students to compensate – will incur a $50 fine.**

Hired Judges

We’re committed to hiring a high quality judging pool across all divisions. To aid us in that effort, the registration system will ask you to explicitly request hired judges. We only hire highly-qualified judges. This means that there will be a limited number of judge hires available, so request early. Every entry must be covered by a judge, either brought by your team or through an approved hire request. If Tabroom says you are missing a judge by the February 5th, 2016 deadline for entering judges, you will be forced to drop entries to compensate.

Mutual Judge Preferences (Varsity Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Policy Debate)

We offer mutually preferred judging in Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Policy Debate. A complete judge list will be posted as soon as possible after the closing of registration. All debaters in LD and Policy may then rank each judge according to the scale provided, with 1 being the highest rating and with a limited number of judges being rated a 2 or below. We will attempt to keep all judge assignments as mutually preferred as possible; however, since debaters with more than two losses will not break, judge preferences may have to give way in those brackets. Any LDer or Policy team who has made strikes but whose own judges fail to show up at the tournament will forfeit their preferences, including strikes. Please email us separately at penn.tournament@gmail.com with conflicts (former affiliation with the team, special relationships, etc.).

**The judges you bring need to be the judges you registered online by February 5th, 2018.** Since LD and Policy Debate judges have been rated by competitors, it is very difficult to replace judges on short notice. Schools that change their judges after this deadline will lose their ratings and strikes.

Paradigms (Varsity Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Policy Debate)

Judges in VLD and Policy should have paradigms on [judgephilosophies.wikispaces.com](http://www.judgephilosophies.wikispaces.com). Having a published paradigm is especially important since competitors are competing for a TOC bid. Judges should also be willing to indicate to competitors before the round a general sense of their vision of debate (if any) and/or their experience to aid competitors in choosing how best to make their arguments. If you’re considering not writing a paradigm, please note that judges who do will likely be rated higher and see better rounds than those who don’t.

Spectating and Disclosure Policy

All rounds are open to both competitors and spectators. Post-round oral critiques and disclosures are encouraged in all of the debate events. To keep the tournament running on time, please keep your oral critiques as short as possible (less than 5 minutes).

# 2018 University of Pennsylvania Tournament Staff

**Tournament Director:** Pranav Reddy

**Junior Tournament Director:** Saleel Huprikar, Arnav Jagasia

**PFYD Presidents:** Pranav Reddy, Rebecca Gelfer

**PFYD Vice President:** Gabe Koo

**PFYD Executive Board:** Justin Iannaconen, Nick Yang, Dakota Jones,
Hope Merens, Emily Augustine, Arix Saxena, Hayley Boote,
Leora Korn, Nathan Jiang, Stephen Li, Michelle Zhou, Francine Dong



# About Penn for Youth Debate

What is Penn for Youth Debate (PFYD)?

PFYD is a non-profit student organization at the University of Pennsylvania that aims to promote debate in Philadelphia by providing volunteers to coach Public Forum at public high schools and middle schools, organizing free debate tournaments for Philadelphia students, partnering with the After School Activities Partnerships (ASAP) to run a Philadelphia-wide debate league and engage in community outreach events, and providing scholarships to high-achieving high school students. PFYD currently partners with 20 schools and hosts three tournaments each year, all free of charge. In recent years, PFYD students have consistently advanced to elimination rounds at national circuit tournaments and qualified to NCFL Nationals for two years in a row. Finally, PFYD awards $1500 in college scholarships each year to encourage high school students to pursue higher education. Through its activities, PFYD has introduced debate to hundreds of students who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to participate in this incredibly engaging and educational activity.

Why does this matter?

First, Penn for Youth Debate is comprised of former debaters who are dedicated to seeing debate programs in Philadelphia flourish, meaning our tournament is managed by qualified individuals. Many high school speech and debate alumni assist the tournament in judging rounds, collecting ballots, and speaking to students interested in attending the University of Pennsylvania. Second, all of the profits from the tournament go directly to PFYD’s aforementioned activities.

Read more online at [pennforyouthdebate.org](http://www.pfyd.org).