**the lexington winter invitational**

**http://biglex.tabroom.com**

Dear Coaches and Debaters,

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to attend Lexington's annual Winter Invitational, to be held **Saturday through Monday**, January 13 through 15, 2018. This is the fourth year of this revised schedule.

**ALL DIVISIONS WILL CONTINUE TO START ON SATURDAY MORNING AND RUN CONCURRENTLY!**

**Public Forum and Lincoln Douglas will conclude Sunday evening; the late elims in Policy will finish on Monday.**

We are a trifecta TOC qualifier at quarterfinals in Policy, Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum debate. Debaters will only be allowed to compete under their own school's name and if accompanied by a responsible adult, as defined by the Massachusetts Speech and Debate League. Home-schooled students may be entered under their town/association name and accompanied by a parent/guardian in accordance with MSDL rules. Entering our tournament accepts these rules and those below.

general tournament info (all divisions)

**Registration** for Big Lex is entirely online. You can register at <http://www.tabroom.com> under the National Circuit or MSDL Circuit. **THIS** invitation contains all of the current information – I am still in the process of updating our stand-alone website. Registration opens November 5th and new entries are due by **Wednesday, January 3rd at 3:00 PM**, although we usually fill before then, so please register early.

**Tournament pairings and email/text updates** will also be available online on the "Pairings" and "Live Updates" tabs at <http://lextab.tabroom.com> during the tournament. **We will use online balloting in ALL divisions**, so please advise all of your judges to bring laptops, tablets or smartphones.

**Fees are fixed and frozen on Friday, January 5th at 11:00 AM.** Drops are allowed after this deadline, but that will NOT affect the fees due at registration; entry fees and judge hires must still be paid for if dropped after January 5th because that is the day we are locked into our dining contract, and our contracts with our hired judges. Students (including student judges) are provided with lunch and dinner on Saturday and lunch on Sunday at no cost to them, and adult coaches and judges are fed for free throughout the weekend. We will also offer free pizza before and during the last elims on Sunday. The names of all of your judges must be entered into Tabroom by **5 PM on Monday January 8th**.

**Onsite registration** can be done online through Tabroom. To do onsite registration, log into Tabroom.com after 5 PM on Friday evening and click "Onsite Registration" next to the tournament name to confirm your entry. We will collect your checks on Saturday morning at either Lexington High School or Clarke Middle School, depending on which is most convenient for you.

A $25 per change **nuisance fees** will be assessed at the registration table for **last minute drops**, so please **TEXT** 845-541-6242 with any last minute changes, once you are no longer able to make them online yourself. Invoices are available on Tabroom.com. PO payment plans are available with prior approval only. You otherwise must have full payment at registration to be allowed to compete.

**Contact us:** Contact the tournament staff by email at biglex@lexdebate.org. We cannot accept email or telephone registrations; you must register on tabroom.com.

**Housing**: We regret to say that we are no longer able to offer housing to our student guests. In order to help our guests find places to stay, we have added two additional hotels to our official list. Please book in our blocks if at all possible, and please be realistic about the number of rooms you book. Last year there were several last minute cancellations, after it was too late for others to take the rooms, which caused us some difficulty when setting up the block at the Marriott this year.

**Hotels:** One of our official hotels will be the **Boston Marriott Burlington in Burlington, MA**, which is about a ten-minute drive from the high school. They have offered us a rate of **110.00 per night for single/double and 120.00 per night for triple/quad**, which includes complimentary Internet access, and **FREE BREAKFAST** for up to four people per room. The last day to book is December 19, 2017. To receive this rate, please contact Amy LaBossiere, Group Sales Coordinator, Boston Marriott Burlington | One Burlington Mall Road | Burlington, MA 01803 at 781-221-6616 or amy.labossiere@marriott.com.

We also have blocks at both the **Element and Aloft** in **Lexington**. The tournament rate at the Aloft is **109.00 per night** and the rate at the Element is **119.00 per night**. The information to reserve rooms at the Element or Aloft is listed below or you can contact **Jessica Benoit**, Director of Sales, Aloft Lexington | Element Lexington, 727 Marrett Road, Lexington, MA 02421 at 781-761-1729.

LHS Debate Room Blocks (OR copy and paste the following link into a web browser) https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/LHSDebate
To obtain access to real time reporting 24/7, or to enter your own rooming lists & obtain immediate confirmation numbers, simply enter the password **(2296663A)** in "Event Planner Login" link on your personalized website or at:
https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/MPView.go?id=1710240271&mp=true&rep=0 .

**Directions to Lexington High School:**  **Route 128/Interstate 95** is the best approach from any direction. **Exit 30** is the second Lexington exit, regardless of the direction you are coming from; it is marked Route 2A. **Follow Route 2A East** into Lexington. Travel for a little more than a mile until you reach the **first full traffic light**; there is a Dunkin' Donuts on this corner. Then **turn left onto Waltham Street**; and **left again on Worthen Road**. Lexington High School will be on your right, after you make the final turn.

Lexington is twelve miles from Boston's Logan International Airport. You can also fly into Providence (RI) and Manchester (NH) airports -- they are each about 75 minutes' drive from Lexington. We are also 20 minutes' drive from a suburban Amtrak station (Route 128/University Park). Contact us for further details if you need help.

**Fees**

Varsity Policy Teams: $100 each Hired judging: $100/entry (Novice LD and Both Divisions of PF)

Novice Policy Teams: $80 each $150/entry (Novice Policy)

Varsity PF Teams: $80 each $50/round (Varsity LD and Policy)

Novice PF Teams: $60 each School Fee: $25.

LD debater: $60 each (*If your registration check is postmarked by*

 *January 3rd, we will waive the school fee.)*

Entry fees will be reduced by 50% for **Urban Debate League** programs from outside the Greater Boston area. Email us at biglex@tabroom.com to remind us you are entitled to this fee reduction, which does not apply to hired judging or to the school fee.

**We will offer hired judging,** which you may request to fill part, but not all, of your judging obligation. However, hired judges **DO NOT** replace chaperons; each school must send a responsible adult who must remain on one of our campuses whenever the students are present. You may request hired judging on [www.tabroom.com](http://www.tabroom.com). You should not assume your hired judge has been filled until your invoice reflects that judge request has been accepted. If we run out of hired judges, you will need to drop entries not covered by your own judges.

We look forward to hosting you in January!

Sheryl Kaczmarek, Director of Debate, Chris Palmer, Assistant Coach & the Lexington High Debate Team

lincoln douglas debate tournament

We offer Novice and Varsity LD on Saturday and Sunday, January 13-14, 2018. The Varsity division will break to Doubles after six prelims and the Novice division to Octos after six prelims. We will use the NSDA January-February resolution. Depending on our numbers, LD rounds will either be held at Clarke Middle School, 17 Stedman Rd, Lexington, MA 02421, or the LD divisions will swap with PF, and be held at Lexington High School. We will make the final decision on facilities the week before our Winter Break.

**Entry Limits:** All entries will initially go on a waitlist. We will accept the first wave of entries right after Little Lex on Nov. 18 -- ideally a maximum of five per division per school -- and will regularly monitor the waitlist after that, adding new schools first, before giving additional entries to already admitted schools.

**Judges:** Schools should make every effort to cover their entries with qualified judges. Schools must provide one judge for every 1-3 entries in Novice LD, and two rounds of prelim judging for every varsity entry. All judges are obligated in elims as explained in red below. You must cover your entries separately in each division: if you have two varsity kids and one novice, you need two judges, one for each pool. Experienced debaters (third or fourth year) may judge novice, but may not cover varsity entries. Very qualified judges are expected in varsity, since we are using MJP. We cannot accept judging changes after prefs open; judge name changes after that point will be assessed a drop fee.

**Elims:** If the schedule permits, we will attempt to offer a run-off round after Rd 6 in Varsity LD to ensure that all 4-2 individuals have the chance to compete in an elimination round. Should we do that, ALL judges remain obligated to judge in Doubles, and after that, one round beyond their furthest advancing competitor. Judging in a run-off round does not free you from judging in doubles – tournaments offer run-off rounds in recognition that clearing or not clearing based on a tenth of a speaker point over six debates is harsh, but without all potential judges, running doubles debates is not possible.

**Tentative Schedule**

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| **Friday** Starting at… 5:00 pm Online registration\* **Saturday** 8:00 am Onsite Registration\* 9:00 am Round 1 11:30 am Round 2  1 pm Lunch 2:15 pm Round 3 5:00 pm Round 4 | **Sunday**8:00 am Round 510:30 am Round 612:30 pm Lunch1:00 pm Varsity Doubles / Novice Octos2:15 pm Novice Quarters3:30 pm Varsity Octos / Novice Semis5:00 pm Varsity Quarters / Novice Finals6:15 pm Varsity Semis7:30 pm Varsity Finals |

 *\* Only one of these is necessary; those who register online may pay during Round 1 in either building.*

public forum debate tournament

One of the big changes for this year is that we are adding a Novice division of Public Forum on Saturday and Sunday, January 13-14, 2018. We will use the NFL January resolution, to be announced December 1 by the NSDA. PF rounds will be at the high school, unless the numbers dictate that PF switches with LD. If that happens, both divisions of PF will be at Clarke Middle School, 17 Stedman Rd, Lexington, MA 02421. We will make that decision the week before we leave for Winter Break in December.

**Entry Limits:** All entries will initially go on a waitlist. We will accept the first wave of entries right after Little Lex on Nov. 18 -- ideally a maximum of five in varsity and three in novice per school. We will monitor the waitlist after that, adding new schools first, before giving additional entries to already admitted schools.

**Judges:** Schools should make every effort to cover their entries with trained judges. Schools must provide one judge per 1-3 entries, in either division. You may not cover Varsity PF entries with novice judges, or with judges from other divisions. We will offer a judge training at 8:30 AM at the tournament on Saturday and will offer **FIVE** judge strikes in Varsity PF; we cannot accept judge name changes after the strike sheet has opened for the varsity division, so please make sure your registration is accurate before then.

**Elims:** If the schedule permits, we will attempt to offer a run-off round after Rd 6 in Varsity PF to ensure that at 4-2 teams have the chance to compete in an elimination round. Should we do that, ALL judges remain obligated to judge in Doubles, and after that one round beyond their furthest advancing competitor. Judging in a run-off round does not free you from judging in doubles – tournaments offer run-off rounds in recognition that clearing or not clearing based on a tenth of a speaker point over six debates is harsh, but without all potential judges, running doubles debates is impossible. Novice PF will break to Octos after Round 6.

The PF tournament will start out following this schedule, but may accelerate, especially during the elimination rounds.

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 *\* Only one of these is necessary; those who register online may pay during Round 1 in either building*

policy debate tournament

We will offer Novice and Varsity Policy Saturday through Monday, January 13-15. We will run six preliminary rounds in Varsity and five preliminary rounds in Novice. The Varsity division will break to Double Octafinals and the Novice division to Octafinals. Policy rounds will be at the high school.

**Entry Limits:** All entries will initially go on a waitlist. We will accept the first wave of entries right after Little Lex on Nov. 18 -- ideally a maximum of six in varsity and four in novice per school. We will monitor the waitlist after that, adding new schools first, before giving additional entries to already admitted schools.

**Judges:** Schools should make every effort to cover their entries with qualified judges. Schools must provide one judge per 1-2 teams in Novice and three prelim rounds per team in Varsity – this means you need to cover your varsity entry separately from your novice teams. For example, if you have one varsity team and one novice team in policy, you need two judges, one for each pool. Advanced, experienced debaters (third or fourth year) may judge in the novice division but may not cover varsity entries. Very qualified judges are expected in the varsity division. We will use MJP in Varsity. We cannot accept judging changes after prefs open; judge name changes after that point will be assessed a drop fee.

**Elims:** All judges are obligated for the first elim round, are then obligated for one round beyond their team’s elimination. Please do not assume that if you have one team competing that only one judge is obligated, and please do not duck out of your obligation because that really hurts the elim prefs.

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 *\* Only one of these is necessary; those who register online may pay during Round 1 in either building.*