

Connecticut Debate Association

Debate Tournament Invitation

October 18, 2025

On behalf of Fitch High School in Groton, Joel Barlow High School in Redding, and the CDA, you are invited to our first regular tournament of the 2025-26 season on Saturday, October 18, 2025. We will follow our regular format: one hour for case preparation, four rounds of debate in Varsity and Novice divisions, and a final round between the top two Varsity teams.

With two hosts we do not expect to have to limit entries. However, we may ask some schools to consider changing their choice of location as we expect more schools will wish to go to Joel Barlow than to Fitch. Please fill out this google [Attendance Form](#) by the end of day on **Friday, October 10**, so we can gauge numbers.

Please read the following carefully:

1. **Timeline:** Please respect the timeline for signing up for this tournament:
 - a. October 6—invitation goes out to all Coaches and is posted on the CDA website.
 - b. October 6, 8AM—tournament opens for registration on Tabroom
 - c. October 10—Coaches should have completed the Google form.
 - d. Wednesday, October 15—teams must be entered in Tabroom.**
 - e. October 18, 9AM—tournament begins!
2. **Judges:** You must have one qualified judge for every two teams or part thereof (in total, not by Novice and Varsity individually). Judges should bring a laptop or tablet to use an electronic ballot.
3. **Registration:** You must register your teams and judges through tabroom.com. We have written brief [Instructions for using Tabroom for CDA](#) can be found here: .
 - a. There will be four debate events: Fitch Novice, Fitch Varsity, Barlow Novice and Barlow Varsity. *Please be sure you enter debaters in the event corresponding to the location you plan to attend.* Observers should be entered in the Fitch or Barlow Observer event so we have a count for packets.
 - b. There will be four judge categories—Fitch Novice, Fitch Varsity, Barlow Novice, Barlow Varsity—corresponding to the debate events. *Please be sure you enter judges into the event corresponding to the location you plan to attend.*
 - i. Varsity judges should either have judged at a debate tournament before or be former debaters.
 - ii. Someone who has never judged before should be entered as a Novice judge.**
 - iii. Tabroom counts judge coverage by event. Don't worry about Tabroom complaining you are not covered in either Varsity or Novice if you are covered in total.
 - iv. We move judges between Varsity and Novice if necessary to manage the tournament.
4. **Novices:** Please abide by the rules for Novice eligibility:
 - a. The Novice division will be open to Freshman and Sophomores, regardless of experience or record. They may qualify and participate as Novices in State Finals both years. However, they may move up to Varsity at any time if they or their coach choose, and once having chosen to

move up, may not return to Novice. Coaches are encouraged to move a Sophomore up to Varsity if they have been successful as a Freshman but are not required to do so.

- b. A Novice who moves up to Varsity for one tournament to complete a team pairing may return to Novice at their next tournament.
 - c. Juniors who have never debated before in CDA may participate as Novices in their first regular CDA tournament. Otherwise they may only debate in Varsity. They may not participate in State Finals except in Varsity. They may only qualify for State Finals while debating in Varsity.
 - d. Seniors may not participate as Novices in any CDA tournament.
5. **Coaches:** Debaters cannot attend individually. *We expect each team to be accompanied by a Coach or responsible adult approved by your school* who will follow and manage the team’s activities and be available for discussion if required. This is a CAS rule, not simply CDA practice. The Coach or chaperone may also serve as a judge.

If you have any questions or comments, please email me at ejrutan3@ctdebate.org .

Tournament Day Schedule

Time	Activity	Comment
8-9AM	Arrival and registration	Register, buy lunch tickets, gather in the cafeteria
9-10AM	Case Preparation	Packet distributed; teams prepare for debate Judges workshop for new judges
10-11:15AM	Round 1	Classrooms or online
11:15AM-12:30PM	Round 2	Classrooms or online
12:30-1:15PM	Lunch	Cafeteria
1:15-2:30PM	Round 3	Classrooms or online
2:30-3:45PM	Round 4	Classrooms or online
4-5PM	Final Round	Auditorium
5-5:30PM	Awards	Trophies, ballots and departure

Round Format

Prime Minister Constructive (PMC)	7 minutes	Provides an interpretation of the resolution and lays out the Government’s case
Leader of Opposition Constructive (LOC)	8 minutes	Lays out the Opposition case and replies to the Government case.
Member of Government Constructive (MGC)	8 minutes	Responds to previous arguments, and may introduce new points while doing so
Member of Opposition Constructive (MOC)	8 minutes	
Leader of Opposition Rebuttal (LOR)	4 minutes	Summarizes the debate from the Opposition perspective, while responding to arguments.
Prime Minister Rebuttal (PMR)	5 minutes	Summarizes the debate from the Government perspective, while responding to arguments.