

Connecticut Debate Association

Novice Scrimmage

September 26, 2020

The CDA's eleventh annual Novice Scrimmage will be held online on September 26, 2020. It will consist of:

- a demonstration debate between two experienced CDA Varsity teams,
- a preparation period split around the demonstration debate so novices can first familiarize themselves with the topic before the round and then prepare cases after the round, and
- two rounds of debate so each team will have a chance to argue both sides of the issue, once as Affirmative and once as Negative.

Judging will be done primarily by Varsity debaters who we hope will attend with their Novices. The detailed schedule is at the end of this note. We expect to finish by 3:30PM, about two hours earlier than a regular tournament.

Registrations is done through tabroom.com (www.tabroom.com) as with our regular tournaments. Tabroom is pretty easy to use, but we provide some instructions to guide you through the process (<http://ctdebate.org/PDFs/Using%20Tabroom.pdf>). If you have problems, you should email us for help.

Registration opens Tuesday, September 15 at 8AM.

We will most likely be using the NSDA Campus system to run the debate rounds. Campus room reservations must be made on the Wednesday before the tournament, so your registrations must be in by end of day on Tuesday, September 22. You can change your entries afterwards, but we need a good count that day.

Registration Procedure

We have set up two events:

- **Novice** for novices who will debate. These should be two-person teams. See eligibility requirements below.
- **Observer** for students who will simply observe the demonstration round. You must register observers if you want them to get a copy of the resolution packet.

Varsity debaters who will judge should be entered in the system as judges.

Coaches: Debaters cannot attend individually. As at an in-person tournament, we expect each team to be accompanied virtually by a Coach or responsible adult who will follow and manage the team's activities. Our online events will be no different.

Tabroom will require you to enter that person's name and cell phone number (cell phone numbers will not be used other than in an emergency on the tournament day). The coach/adult must have emergency contact information for all students on the team, including students judging or observing.

Debaters and Judges: all debaters and judges must have tabroom.com accounts that are linked to their Novice Scrimmage registrations. This is the only way they can get into the “rooms” NSDA Campus creates for debates. Here ([http://docs.tabroom.com/Sign Up](http://docs.tabroom.com/Sign_Up)) is the link to signing up for a tabroom account. More detailed documentation for our online tournaments should be available next Monday.

Novice Eligibility: The Novice division is primarily for students starting debate in the CDA this year, though Sophomores who will be Novices may also debate. Juniors may only debate if they have never debated before. Seniors, even if they are new to debate, are not eligible to debate in the Novice Scrimmage, though they may attend as observers.

Observers: Students wishing to observe should be registered. They will be able to view the demonstration debate and participate in the case preparation with their teammates. They most likely will not be able to observe the Novice debates later in the day, though we are still looking at that issue.

Judges: Schools must bring one judge for every four debaters, plus one extra. ***For this scrimmage, experienced Varsity debaters may serve as judges!*** Student-judges should those be planning to debate at the Varsity level for the upcoming 2019-20 season, Juniors and Seniors preferred. Since we expect all judges will be students, the Judges Workshop will be oriented toward teaching the Varsity debaters about judging.

Schools new to CDA without Varsity debaters are not required to bring judges. We should be able to cover you with Varsity debaters from other schools.

Awards: None! We will be scoring the debates and returning ballots with comments, but we will not be awarding trophies.

Breaks: There will be a break after the demonstration debate for everyone to stretch their legs. There will be a longer break for lunch between the two rounds of debate .

Novice Scrimmage Schedule:

8:15-9 AM	Check-in
9-9:20 AM	Preparation I Distribution of resolution and packet. Reading and discussion
9:20-10:50AM	Demonstration round by varsity debaters
10:50-11:05AM	Break
11:05-11:45AM	Preparation II / Judges Workshop Finalize cases
11:45AM-1:15PM	Debate round 1
1:15-1:45PM	Lunch and discussion
1:45-3:15PM	Debate round 2
3:15-3:30PM	Results and closing remarks.