

Welcome to the 2023-24 Season!

We hope you had a good summer and are eager to debate! We expect to be back in-person after two years online. Our first event is the Novice Scrimmage on September 23, with the invitation to go out in just two weeks!

There are several issues that need your urgent attention. You may either reply to this email or fill out this [Google form](#).

Please take time to read the entire email carefully and to reply promptly!

CDA Checklist and Survey Questions

1. Attached please find the [CDA Dues Form](#) for this year. It is also available on the CDA website. Dues have been reduced to \$250 per school from \$300, the level for the last 4 years. Payments are made care of the Connecticut Association of Schools. Please read the dues form carefully and follow the instructions so your school's payment is properly credited. We ask you pay no later than December 31, 2023.
2. Every school must acknowledge the [CDA Code of Conduct](#) and agree to abide by it. Please review the Code with your team and acknowledge acceptance on the google form.
3. Attached please find the tentative [CDA Calendar](#). The dates are firm. **We have only two confirmed hosts.** We would like to have two hosts for each tournament date, ideally well-distributed geographically. If you would like to host, please indicate your preferred date. If you would like more information on hosting, please email CDA.
4. CDA is in need of more trained staffers. If you would like to learn how to run tab, teach the judges workshop or serve on the Board, help with training, please so indicate.
5. Last year we permitted students to use electronic devices—laptops and tablets—to prepare cases and take notes during debates, as this had become common during our two years of online debate during COVID. *Students are not permitted to use these devices for research, either through internet access or stored materials.* We recommend this policy be continued, but are asking for Coaches' opinions on the matter.
6. We suggest all schools have Team Captains who can help with the school account on Tabroom, tournament registrations, etc. It has been suggested we hold a meeting of Team Captains to solicit advice and comment on CDA activities. Please indicate your opinion.
7. Some Coaches have asked for an online debate option in parallel with our in-person tournaments. These could be simultaneous but separate, held on other dates, or mixed in-person/online events. Please indicate your opinion.
8. The size of the CDA mailing list has forced us to use "bcc" on emails, hiding coaches' names and email addresses. We can create a directory on the CDA website, or simply circulate the information among the membership. Please indicate your opinion.

Novice Scrimmage

The Novice Scrimmage will be held on September 23 at AITE in Stamford. We will release the packet for the Novice Scrimmage on Monday, September 11, at 8AM. This will allow you to work with your novice debaters for two weeks before the Scrimmage.

Yale Invitational

The Yale Invitational is scheduled for Sep. 29-Oct. 1 (Parli on Sep. 30-Oct. 1) this year. Parliamentary Debate will be held online. This is the premier debate event in Connecticut every year, attracting competitors from across the US and from other countries. You may download a detailed invitation from the tournament page on Tabroom: <http://yaleinvite.tabroom.com/>. The Parliamentary division is a great opportunity for CDA varsity debaters. Space is limited, and you must sign up soon.

New York Parliamentary Debate League

The NYPD is a student-run parliamentary debate league composed primarily of New York City schools, but open to participants from anywhere. This year their schedule includes an in-person and an online tournament each month, on separate dates. Some of these conflict with CDA dates, but many do not. The NYPD uses the same parli format as CDA, but the motions change for each round and prep time is limited to 15 minutes. They do a very good job of running events and selecting topics. It is a great opportunity for debaters want to improve their skills.

See the [NYPD website](#) for information, their schedule, and some useful training material.

Free Debate Textbooks

The [International Debate Education Association website](#) has a Resources page that includes a variety of debate texts, many of which can be downloaded as PDFs at no charge. If you are looking for a debate text for yourself or your students, I recommend the following:

- John Meany and Kate Shuster, ***Art, Argument, and Advocacy***. This is a standard text using the 7-8-8-8-4-5, 2-on-2 parli format.
- Simon Quinn, ***Debating in the World School's Style***. My favorite text because it is written from a debater's point of view. Ignore the material discussing the 3-on-3 World School's parli format and savor the insights into case construction and argumentation.
- Steven L. Johnson, ***Winning Debates***. Aimed at college students engaged in World University debate, which uses the British Parliamentary format with 4 teams of 2 debaters each. Again, ignore the format issues. This text is another step up in sophistication and insight.

If you need information, have any questions, would like to comment, please [contact me](#).

Thanks.

Everett