

**Connecticut Debate Association
State Finals Tournament
March 27, 2021
Online Tournament**

On behalf of Connecticut Debate Association, we would like to invite you and your qualifying debaters to attend our State Finals tournament on Saturday, March 27. We will follow our standard tournament format.

Each Coach with qualifying debaters should receive an email listing those qualifiers and their division. Please read the following carefully. It should answer most questions about qualifying for State Finals and forming teams to compete. If you have more, please email us.

Qualifying

Debaters can qualify for State Finals at our regular monthly tournaments three ways:

1. Win a speaker trophy, in which case only the trophy winner qualifies;
2. Win a team trophy with their partner, who also qualifies;
3. Go undefeated (3-0) at two tournaments. This need not be with the same partner.

Debaters qualify as individuals. This is obvious in (1) above, but it is also true in (2), the only difference is that in (2) a team winning a trophy means two individuals have qualified. In (3) if a debater has the same partner on both occasions, then two qualify, but if the debater has a different partner each time, only the debater who went 3-0 on both occasions qualifies.

If a debater came as a singleton and was paired with a debater from another school, then in (1) that debater alone qualifies, and in (2) each debater qualifies to come to State Finals as a representative of their own schools. In (3), since it is unlikely a singleton is paired with the same partner from the same school a second time, the debater who goes 3-0 twice alone qualifies (unless, of course, the other debater also went 3-0 with another partner another time).

Forming Teams

After the final monthly tournament, each Coach will receive an email with their list of qualifiers. This list will indicate whether each student qualified to compete in the Varsity or Novice division. The Coach should review this list and reply if they find any errors (*and usually there a few every year, so please check*).

Each Coach should form teams out of their students who are qualifiers. In order to make a full team, the Coach may add no more than one non-qualifying debater in each division. As a rule, we do not match singletons at State Finals, so schools must bring complete two person teams. These examples should cover most situations:

- Four debaters qualify to compete in Varsity. They should form two teams, with no added non-qualifying debaters. This holds even if they qualified by winning speaker trophies and do not usually debate as regular partners. You may not form more than two teams by pairing debaters with their regular partners who did not qualify.

- Three debaters qualify to compete in Varsity. The coach may add one non-qualifying Varsity debater to make up a full team. As we do not pair singletons at the tournament, the Coach should find another Varsity debater on the team to compete with the three qualifiers.
- Four debaters qualify to compete in Varsity. The Coach registers two teams. The night before the tournament one debater calls in sick. The Coach may add a non-qualifying debater to replace the one who dropped out. As we do not match singletons at State Finals, we suggest each Coach have a “first alternate” on call in case of a debater dropping out at the last minute. (Note that if two debaters drop out, the remaining two must be paired to form a team, and no non-qualifying debater may be added. The same logic applies if debaters know beforehand that they cannot or choose not to attend.)
- Three debaters qualify to compete in Varsity and five debaters qualify to compete in Novice. The Coach may add one debater to complete the Varsity teams AND one debater to complete the Novice teams. You do not have to pair the odd debaters across divisions.
- You have a debater who is a Junior and qualified as a Novice in their first tournament (as CDA rules permit a Junior who has never debated before to compete in Novice at their first tournament). This debater **MUST** move up to Varsity for State Finals. To emphasize: *Juniors and Seniors must debate as Varsity at State Finals regardless of experience or how they qualified.*
- A Freshman or Sophomore debater who qualified as a Novice but was then moved up to Varsity and debated in Varsity for two or more tournaments should move up to Varsity for State Finals. If the Freshman or Sophomore only moved up to accommodate an odd number of Varsity debaters, they may stay in Novice for State Finals.

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

Tournament Day Schedule

Time	Activity	Location
8-9AM	Registration and coffee	Online—Zoom Meeting
9AM	Resolution and packet distributed	Online—Zoom Meeting
9-10AM	Preparation for debaters Workshop for judges	Online—Zoom Meeting
10AM-12 Noon	Round 1 (random pairings)	Tabroom Campus online rooms
12 Noon-2PM	Round 2 (power matched)	Tabroom Campus online rooms
2-4PM	Round 3 (power matched, flip for side)	Tabroom Campus online rooms
4-5:15PM	Varsity Final Round	Online—Zoom Meeting
5:15-5:30PM	Awards	Online—Zoom Meeting
5:30PM	Departure	

Statistics

Here are the statistics on the qualifiers:

Number of qualifying events (trophies or 3-0 record): 346

Number of individuals earning a trophy or going 3-0: 195

(There were 151 cases where an individual trophied or went 3-0 more than once.)

Number of debaters who went 3-0 but did not qualify: 9

(These debaters went 3-0 at one tournament but did not do so a second time or win a trophy.)

Number of qualifiers: 186

(Of which 90 were Novices and 96 Varsity)

Number of schools with qualifying debaters: 31

(Out of 36 schools participating in CDA this year)