

Invitation: TOC Digital Speech & Debate Series #1
December 1–3, 2023

Contact Information

Official Tournament Website: dsds1.tabroom.com

Any administrative and/or procedural questions should be directed to toc.debate@uky.edu

*Please refrain from contacting tournament staff via personal email addresses
or other informal means of communication!*

Key Dates & Deadlines

Tabroom.com Registration Deadline	Sunday, November 26, 2023
Fees & Obligations Frozen	Sunday, November 26, 2023
Fees & Forms Submission Due	Sunday, November 26, 2023
TOC Digital Speech & Debate Series #1	Friday–Sunday, December 1–3, 2023

All tournament fees are non-refundable

Please ensure your participation before remitting payment!

Important Updates

The TOC Digital Speech & Debate Series is a new initiative from the University of Kentucky aimed at providing equitable access to competition across the world at an affordable price. Please see below for important updates and changes to this year's event.

- All fees are non-refundable
- Registration on Friday, December 1, will be entirely online
- Competition will occur online via the UK Zoom infrastructure
- Bids to the 2023 Tournament of Champions are offered as follows:
 - Congressional Debate: Tier 2 (Up to Top 16)
 - Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Semifinals (Top 4)
 - Policy Debate: Semifinals (Top 4)
 - Public Forum Debate: Semifinals (Top 4)
 - Speech Events: TBD Based on Entries

Entry Fees

All entry fees are non-refundable and must be paid in full by Sunday, November 26, 2023. We suggest that your participation in the TOC Digital Speech & Debate Series be absolutely certain *before* remitting payment.

Type	Amount
Administration Fee	\$50 per Program
Lincoln-Douglas Entry	\$25
Public Forum Entry	\$50
Policy Entry	\$50
World Schools Entry	\$75
Congress Entry	\$25
Duo Entry	\$50
Speech Entry	\$25

Payment Options

For any payment-related questions, please contact our staff at toc.debate@uky.edu. Step-by-step instructions to check your balance on Tabroom are available [here](#).

1. Pay by Credit Card: Please visit ci.uky.edu/ukdebate/pay-fees-online-0 to pay your entry fees by credit card. Click the top link and enter the requisite information, *including .00 after the dollar amount and select **TOC Digital Series #1** as the tournament name.*

2. Pay by Check or Money Order: If you cannot pay by credit card, please make your check or money order payable to **UK Debate Tournaments** and mail it to the address below, *with a printed copy of your Tabroom invoice*. We suggest using Express or Priority Mail to ensure that it reaches the UK Debate Office no later than Monday, November 27. Delayed payments will be given consideration only with proof of intended delivery by November 7. *We cannot accept cash.*

Mailing Address

TOC DSDS #1
C/O Linda Barker
225 Funkhouser Bldg
Lexington, KY 40506

Topics & Formats

All events are governed by the rules in the tournament procedures documents posted on Tabroom. Coaches, judges, and competitors should familiarize themselves with these documents *prior to the start of the tournament*. **Please note that any sources read or cited as evidence in competition must be available upon request.**

Lincoln-Douglas Debate

November–December 2023 NSDA Topic | 6-3-7-3-4-6-3 Speech Times | 4 Minutes of Preparation per Debater

Public Forum Debate

November–December 2023 NSDA Topic | 4-4-3-4-4-3-3-3-2-2 Speech Times | 3 Minutes of Preparation per Team

Policy Debate

2023–2024 NFHS National High-School Topic | 8-3-5 Speech Times | 8 Minutes of Preparation per Team

World Schools Debate

Mix of Impromptu and Prepared Topics | 8-8-8-8-8-4-4 Speech Times | No In-Round Preparation

Congressional Debate

Legislation Posted on Tabroom by Friday, November 11, 2023

Speech Events

Maximum Total of 3 Speech Events per Competitor | Only 2 Speech Events in Any Single Pattern

Speech Patterns

Pattern A	Pattern B
Extemporaneous Speaking	Dramatic Interpretation
Humorous Interpretation	Duo Interpretation
Informative Speaking	Impromptu Speaking
Poetry	Original Oratory
Program Oral Interpretation	Prose

Division Eligibility

Open: All students in grades 6–12 are eligible to compete.

Rising Star: Students grades 6–10 are eligible to compete. All competitors entered in this division should have fewer than 2 full years of experience.

Judge Obligations

Competitors at the 2023 TOC Digital Speech & Debate Series deserve the highest quality of judging throughout the tournament. Consequently, judges must be available to fulfill their commitment during all scheduled rounds on the day(s) they are obligated. **Tournament staff will *not* honor specific requests for time off during competition; please do *not* ask or make judge notes to this effect. Specific penalties for missing a round when obligated are outlined below.**

Furthermore, you must provide sufficient judging to cover your program's obligation in each event and division. **Judges may *not* be entered in more than one event. Judges who wish to volunteer for rounds *beyond* their commitment may contact tournament staff at toc.debate@uky.edu.**

For the Rising Star division, very experienced competitors in Grades 11–12 are eligible to serve as judges. If so, they should be marked as such on Tabroom, and “Student Judge” should be put in the judge notes for the tournament.

Finally, hired judging will be available at the 2023 TOC Digital Speech & Debate Series. We will contract additional rounds from existing judging pools, as needed, to increase diversity and inclusion at the online tournament.

Online Hired Judging Fees	
Event	Fee
Varsity Lincoln-Douglas Debate	\$75 per Round
Rising Star Lincoln-Douglas Debate	\$250 per Entry
Public Forum Debate	\$250 per Entry
Varsity Policy Debate	\$75 per Round
Rising Star Policy Debate	\$250 per Entry
World Schools Debate	\$250 per Entry
Congressional Debate	\$50 per Entry
Speech Events	\$50 per Entry

Preliminary Rounds

LD, PF, Policy, & Worlds: The number that appears on your Tabroom account, in association with your judging obligation (i.e. number of rounds owed), represents *preliminary rounds only*—this number does *not* count toward your judging commitment in elimination rounds.

Judges who are obligated but fail to appear on time for an assigned preliminary round will be assessed a \$100 fine per round.

Competition Event	Judge Obligation
Congressional Debate (ALL)	1 Judge per 6 Entries (or Fraction Thereof)
Lincoln-Douglas Debate (Varsity)	3 Rounds per Entry (Rounded Up)
Lincoln-Douglas Debate (Rising Star)	1 Judge per 2 Entries (or Fraction Thereof)
Policy Debate (Varsity)	3 Rounds per Entry (Rounded Up)
Policy Debate (Rising Star)	1 Judge per 2 Entries (or Fraction Thereof)
Public Forum Debate (ALL)	1 Judge per 2 Entries (or Fraction Thereof)
Speech Events (ALL)	1 Judge per 4 Entries (or Fraction Thereof)
World Schools Debate (ALL)	1 Judge per 2 Entries (or Fraction Thereof)

Elimination Rounds

LD, PF, Policy, & Worlds: *All judges are obligated through at least the first elimination round on Sunday, December 3, then one round beyond the elimination of your program's last entry.*

For example, if your last entry is eliminated in Quarterfinals, your judges are obligated through Semifinals. Even if none of your entries advance, your judges are *still* obligated through the first elimination round scheduled on Sunday, December 3.

Congress & Speech: *All judges are obligated through the final round on Sunday, December 3.*

Judges who are obligated but fail to appear on time for an assigned elimination round will be assessed a \$150 fine *per round*, and the associated program will face potential sanctions at future UK Debate events.

Judge Conflicts

Non-disclosure of judge conflicts, or preclusions, is an ethical concern. *Non-disclosure creates competitive imbalances and is taken very seriously by the TOC Digital Speech & Debate Series.*

Please indicate *all* conflicts, for *all* judges, on Tabroom. Judges should preclude themselves from judging any competitors whom they have previously coached, whether online or in person, paid or unpaid; with whom they have had a close, friendly, and/or personal relationship; and/or toward whom they feel that they cannot be objective for any reason. Judges affiliated with any college or other institution should preclude themselves from judging competitors whom they have seriously recruited, and judges should preclude themselves from judging entries from their alma mater. *For additional guidance on what constitutes a judge conflict in a given event, please refer to the TOC Digital Speech & Debate Series procedures documents available on Tabroom.*

In the case that a judge and/or competitor reports a conflict *after* a pairing is distributed, resulting in a change to the pairing—the associated program will be assessed a \$500 fine and risks losing judge preferences/strikes for the remainder of the tournament.

Judge Eligibility

- All judges must submit the 2023 TOC Digital Speech & Debate Honor Code and Video Release via Tabroom *in advance* (instructions [here](#))
- Judges may *not* be entered in more than one competition event
- Debate judges must post a paradigm on Tabroom *before* judge preferences/strikes open
- High-school students in grades 11–12 with extensive debate experience are eligible to serve as judges in the Rising Star divisions.
- Tournament staff have the right to dismiss any ineligible and/or unqualified judge, unless the judge is the program director or coach of record officially employed by that school
- **Any violation of the tournament judge policies will result in a \$500 fine to your program, loss of judge preferences/strikes, and potential sanctions at future UK Debate events**

Participant Conduct

All participants, observers, and other guests attend the 2023 TOC Digital Speech & Debate Series at the invitation of the University of Kentucky, and must abide by all applicable rules in the tournament invitation and procedures, as well as those set by the University of Kentucky.

Participants—including coaches, competitors, and judges—certify that all entries, forms, and other materials submitted for the TOC Digital Speech & Debate Series are accurate and complete.

Submission of any TOC Digital Speech & Debate Series-related materials grants permission to distribute and verify the information contained therein among TOC Digital Speech & Debate Series administrators, tournament staff, and/or UK Debate staff.

Honor Code

All participants—including competitors, judges, coaches, and observers—must submit a signed PDF of the [TOC Digital Speech & Debate Series Honor Code](#) via Tabroom *in advance*. (Note: For digital completion and signature, all linked forms must be downloaded and opened in Adobe, as opposed to a web browser.) Only the .pdf file format is accepted. **Step-by-step instructions are available [here](#) for judges and [here](#) for all other participants.**

Every individual must also review and abide by the tournament invitation and procedures documents posted on Tabroom, along with the honor code and relevant policies of your own school or program.

The TOC Digital Speech & Debate Series Honor Code conveys the significance and importance of competitive integrity to all members of our community, in the interest of maintaining the highest standards of conduct. Participants must act with dignity and respect, and refrain from undermining the integrity of speech and debate as an institution. Participants should neither seek, nor encourage others to seek unfair assistance or advantage in competition. All participants, including observers, are expected to act in good faith and preserve the competitive integrity of the TOC Digital Speech & Debate Series.

Pledge

As a participant in the TOC Digital Speech & Debate Series, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal or otherwise undermine the fairness of the tournament. I understand that competitive integrity and fairness is important to all tournament participants, and I promise to uphold the highest standards of honesty and integrity in competition.

Video Release

All participants must submit a signed PDF of the [TOC Digital Speech & Debate Series Video Release](#) via Tabroom *in advance*. (Note: For digital completion and signature, all linked forms must be downloaded and opened in Adobe, as opposed to a web browser.) Only the .pdf file format is accepted. Step-by-step instructions are available [here](#) for judges and [here](#) for all other participants.

This grants permission to live stream competition events, post recordings on third-party platforms (e.g. YouTube), and incorporate footage into future educational materials. If a participant is under 18 years of age, then a parent or legal guardian must also sign the form.