



**2015 Texas Tech University/University of Utah
Mile High Swing**

Dear Colleagues:

The forensic programs at Texas Tech University and The University of Utah invite you to the 9th annual Mile High Swing to be held on the campus of The University of Utah, January 9-11, 2015.

The Mile High Swing will feature 2 complete parliamentary debate tournaments. At the first half (TTU), we will offer 5 preliminary rounds with a possibility of partial triple-octofinals, along with some features similar to the NPTE, such as pre-released topics. At the second half (Great Salt Lake), we will offer 5 preliminary rounds with a possibility of partial triple-octofinals, and we will utilize random topics similar to the NPDA Championship tournament. The first half will utilize mutual judging; the second will utilize strikes. Both tournaments will feature one minute of flex time after the PMR, LOR, MGC, and LOR. This time may be used for prep, CX, drinking water, etc.

We are also pleased to announce that Joe Gantt, Director of Forensics at Lewis & Clark College, has agreed to tabulate the tournament.

We expect these tournaments to be some of the most competitive in the nation and we hope you will join us in Salt Lake City this coming January.

SPECIAL NOTE: The University of Utah and California State University Long Beach traditionally host an IE/LD swing alongside this tournament. We anticipate a schedule arranged to allow full-service teams to split their competition between halves (e.g., PARLI/PARLI, IE/PARLI, or IE/IE). The invitation for this tournament will be forthcoming.

Sincerely,

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Swing Tournament Hotel

Tournament hotel information will be forthcoming.

Entries

Any regularly enrolled undergraduate in a two year or four year college or university may attend. As the tournaments run back-to-back, students may (and are encouraged to) attend both tournaments.

All entries should be submitted via the forensicstournament.net website. Please make sure that you ***enter both halves*** of the swing, if that is your choice. **Entries are due by Friday, January 2nd at 5:00 PST.** This early entry deadline is necessary for ordering food, compiling judges, and ensuring the timely distribution of strike forms.

NEW! In addition, all judges must enter a judging philosophy on forensicstournament.net by Friday, January 2nd at 5:00PM PST. Schools that fail to enter their judge's philosophies will forfeit the right to complete preferences/strikes AND/OR BE REQUIRED TO PAY A NUISANCE FEE. We hate to make threats concerning philosophies, but we are concerned by the need for the tournament to scramble and prod schools for philosophies. Please enter philosophies when you enter your judges to ensure that other schools have access to information so that they can make appropriate decisions concerning their preferences.

Campus

We will primarily be running the tournament out of Orson Spencer Hall. Prep rooms will be assigned by size of squad and space needs.

Parliamentary Debate- 1st Half (TTU)

Five preliminary rounds of parliamentary debate will be offered followed by an appropriate number of elimination rounds in one open division. Competition will be administered according to the NPDA rules of Judging and Debating. Time limits are 7 minutes for the 1st government constructive, 8 minutes for all other constructives, 4 minutes for the leader of opposition rebuttal, and 5 minutes for the prime minister rebuttal.

SPECIAL NOTE: Both tournaments will feature one minute of flex time after the PMR, LOR, MGC, and LOR. This time may be used for prep, CX, drinking water, etc.

Topics will be selected from a list of 5 controversy areas released approximately one month before the tournament. We recognize that the vast majority of schools will have either just completed their winter break or may still be on winter break at the

time of the swing; therefore, allowing one month of time to review the topic areas and resolutions will allow for all students to have some opportunity to conduct research.

Topics, during the tournament, will be released at a centralized announcement site in the Orson Spencer Hall Auditorium and teams will have 20 minutes to prepare and walk to their room. We will assign a preparation room for each squad. We are on a very tight schedule, so it is imperative that rounds begin on time! Judges should begin their rounds precisely 20 minutes after topic announcement. **THIS TOURNAMENT WILL USE EMAIL BALLOTING!** Disclosure of decisions and other oral commentary may be conducted at the discretion of the judge, but please conduct such commentary after the ballot has been returned by email. We will be attempting to power-match every round without lagging, so a prompt return ensures that the tournament stays on time. A warm room of results will be provided.

At the end of the preliminary rounds, we will advance all teams with a winning record (3-2 and better) to elimination rounds. Teams advance first based on win/loss record, then adjusted speaker points, then total speaker points, then judge variance. Brackets will be broken in elimination rounds.

At this half of the tournament, we will offer mutual judging. All judge ranking information must be submitted by Thursday, January 8 at 5:00PM PST in order to be guaranteed for the first two rounds of competition.

Parliamentary Debate- 2nd Half (Great Salt Lake)

All tournament guidelines are the same as for the Texas Tech half, with the exception of two things; at the GSL half, there will be no topic areas (though topics from the TTU topic areas may be used). Also, mutual judge assignments will not be in effect for this tournament, but an appropriate number of judge strikes will be available. Once again, judge strikes need to be submitted by Thursday, January 8 at 5:00PM PST in order to be guaranteed for the first two rounds of competition. **WE WILL USE EMAIL BALLOTING!**

SPECIAL NOTE: Both tournaments will feature one minute of flex time after the PMR, LOR, MGC, and LOR. This time may be used for prep, CX, drinking water, etc.

Awards

Individual awards will be presented to the top 10 speakers in each tournament. Because we value meaningful awards for top performances, quality awards will be presented to all teams who advance to the quarterfinal round and beyond. Additionally, we will present a swing sweepstakes award to the top three schools at the combined two tournaments. Swing sweepstakes will be determined by the awarding of 1 point for every preliminary round win for a school's top four teams at each tournament. Ties will be broken in favor of the school whose team advanced

farthest at the first half of the swing. We will also have a special award for the top speaker at both halves combined.

The award for top speaker and top team at the GSL half honor two of Utah's emeriti faculty in argumentation & debate. First, the Malcolm O. Sillars Tournament Champion Award will be given to the team that wins the Open division of NPDA at the GSL. Second, the Richard Rieke Outstanding Debater award will be given to the top ranked speaker in the Open division of the GSL.

Tournament Facilitation

The tournament directors reserve the right to make any decisions necessary to facilitate the timely and accurate completion of the tournament.

Sexual discrimination/harassment

Please note that University of Utah takes a firm stance against sexual harassment and discrimination. As such, we will use the guidelines set forth by the University of Utah to address any sexual harassment or discrimination complaints.

Tournament Schedule

Thursday, January 8

7:00-9:00PM Registration, Red Lion

Friday, January 9

7:30 AM MANDATORY JUDGES MEETING

8:00 AM Round 1 Topic Announce- TTU

10:00 AM Round 2 Topic Announce- TTU

11:45 AM Lunch

12:30 PM Round 3 Topic Announce- TTU

2:30 PM Round 4 Topic Announce- TTU

4:30 PM Round 5 Topic Announce- TTU

6:00 PM Dinner

6:45 PM Triple Octofinals- TTU

8:30 PM Double Octofinals- TTU

Saturday, January 10

8:00 AM Octofinals- TTU

10:00 AM Quarterfinals- TTU

11:45 AM Lunch

12:30 PM Semifinals- TTU

2:30 PM Finals- TTU

4:00 PM Awards- TTU

4:30 PM Round 1- GSL

6:30 PM Round 2- GSL

8:00 PM Dinner

8:45 PM Round 3- GSL

Sunday, January 11

8:00 AM Round 4- GSL

10:00 AM Round 5- GSL

11:45 AM Lunch

12:30 PM Triple Octofinals- GSL

2:30 PM Double Octofinals- GSL

4:30 PM Octofinals- GSL

6:30 PM Quarterfinals- GSL

Dinner for Semifinalist & Finalist

8:30 PM Semifinals- GSL

10:00 PM Finals- GSL

Fees

Fees for each half of the tournament will be \$90.00 per debate team, or \$180.00 total for teams attending both halves. These fees include breakfast, lunch, and dinner for the first two days. We will also provide breakfast and lunch on the third day, but dinner to only those still competing and judging in the GSL half of the swing.

Each judge covers 2 debate entries. Uncovered judging fees will also be \$150.00 for each half of the tournament, or \$300.00 total for team attending both halves in addition to entry fees. It's cliché, but we would rather have your judges than your money. The tournament directors reserve the right to refuse entry to teams uncovered by a critic. If you have extra judges attending the tournament, please contact the tournament directors, as we may be able to hire them at a healthy stipend.

Judges will be expected to judge all preliminary rounds and thru the double-octofinal round. After that point, judges will be expected to judge one round past the elimination of their teams.

Fees will be assessed as of 5:00 PST, Monday, January 5 and schools will be expected to pay fees as indicated by their entry at that time regardless of subsequent deletions.

Driving Directions

From the Airport: Out of airport, follow signs toward Park City/Cheyenne. You will pass through downtown on the freeway as it curves right and then left. When you arrive at 1300E, exit the freeway and turn left onto 1300E. Go north until you reach 100S and turn right at the northwest corner of campus. Follow this street onto the U of Utah campus. The street winds around the north side of campus (it changes as it winds, ending up as North Campus Drive). Take a right following signs to Olpin Union or OSH (Orson Spencer Hall, the Tournament HQ), the Street is Central Campus Drive. Park in the pay lot (\$2/hour; \$20/day).

From the Hotel: From the Red Lion, turn right out of the parking lot onto 600 South. Follow 600 South and turn left onto State Street. Continue forward until you reach 400 South and turn right. Continue on 400 South, noting that it will curve to the right and then to the left as you head up the hill. When you reach the top, turn left onto 1300 East. Take 1300 East until you reach 100 South; turn right onto 100 South. . Follow this street onto the U of Utah campus. The street winds around the north side of campus (it changes as it winds, ending up as North Campus Drive). Take a right following signs to Olpin Union or OSH (Orson Spencer Hall, the Tournament HQ), the Street is Central Campus Drive. Park in the pay lot (\$2/hour; \$20/day).

From Airport to Hotel: Exit the airport and head on I-80 east toward downtown/Park City/Cheyenne. You will curve through downtown reaching an exit for 600 South. Exit

here. Immediately upon exit you will see the Red Lion to your right as you head east on 600 South.