

The National Round Robin

Concordia University Irvine – February 22nd-23rd, 2020

Hello all,

I am very pleased to invite you to send up to two parliamentary debate teams to the fourth National Round Robin, hosted on February 22nd and 23rd, 2020 by Concordia University Irvine in Irvine, California. Our school is a short drive to some of the most famous beaches and attractions in the world, and we hope you will enjoy these during your stay. Concordia's forensics team and our University Services department are working hard to ensure your tournament runs smoothly and efficiently.

The National Round Robin is an innovative and unique format meant to increase the level of competition and engagement by students in the national tournament process. On Saturday, we will hold five rounds of preliminary competition adjudicated by two critics. The ballot count from prelims determines the participants in the "round robin" style elimination rounds, held on Sunday. The team winning the most ballots on Sunday will win the National Round Robin.

NOTE: Breaking with past tournaments, we will use the NPDA Championship Tournament's model of *flex time* rather than running prep and cross examination time.

Because of this unique format and the need to honor judging preferences, as a condition of entry all critics will be committed through Sunday night. Thank you for ensuring that your travel plans do not interfere with your critics' judging commitments.

Concordia University Irvine will be providing three (3) meal tickets per judge/tournament participant for brunch and dinner the first day, and brunch the second day at our newly remodeled cafeteria. If you have any questions, please contact me at amanda.ozaki@cui.edu. We hope to see you in Irvine in February!

Best,

Amanda Ozaki-Laughon
Director of Forensics
Concordia University Irvine

PART ONE: ADMINISTRATION

Tournament Rules – Except as specified in this invitation, NPDA regulations will govern the tournament. Hybrid teams will be allowed to compete. Their entry will count as 1 full entry for both of their respective institutions (ex: a CUI/EI Camino College hybrid would count as 1 entry for CUI and 1 entry for ECC). Three person teams are not allowed to compete. No individual may debate without a partner. Any undergraduate enrolled in a two-year or four-year college or university who is eligible to compete at the NPDA National Tournament is eligible to compete at the National Round Robin. While every effort will be made to solve any problems that arise through consultation with all involved teams, the tournament director has final say in all matters related to the tournament in order to ensure the completion of the tournament.

Tournament Entry – Entries will be accepted at forensicstournament.net. Look for the “National Round Robin” link. Each school may enter a maximum of two debate teams. Entries must be completed by 11:00 pm PDT time on Monday, February 17th, 2020. Any changes to teams must be made by Wednesday February 19th, 2020. Depending on entry size, coaches will confer to establish run-off round procedures that will determine qualifications for the Round Robin portion of the tournament (Sunday).

Times for Debates – Following the announcement of the topic, debaters will have 21 minutes to prepare arguments, go to competition rooms and be present, ready to begin the debate by the time those 21 minutes expire. Each round of competition will utilize the following times:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Prime Minister Constructive: | 7 minutes |
| Flex time: | 2 minutes |
| Leader of Opposition Constructive: | 8 minutes |
| Flex time: | 2 minutes |
| Member of Government Constructive: | 8 minutes |
| Flex time: | 1 minute |
| Member of Opposition Constructive: | 8 minutes |
| Leader of Opposition Rebuttal: | 4 minutes |
| Flex time: | 1 minute |
| Prime Minister Rebuttal: | 5 minutes |

Points of information are allowed during constructive speeches at the discretion of the debater who has the floor.

Disclosure - Please help us keep on schedule. **Ballots must be submitted before disclosure/discussion. Ballots are due 1 hour and 40 minutes** after the announcement of the motion. Following the deadline for submission of ballots, time has been built into the schedule to allow critics to disclose their decisions and give feedback to debaters.

Postings & Results – The pairings and results of the previous round will be made available at <http://www.parlitournament.com>. While every effort will be made to ensure that results postings are timely, keeping the tournament on schedule will supersede results postings.

PART TWO: PAIRING PROCEDURES

Preliminary Rounds – Each preliminary debate will be adjudicated by two critics. The computer will randomly match round one. Rounds two through five will be power-matched based upon the results of all previous rounds. Power-matching will be high-low in win-loss brackets. When brackets are uneven, teams with the weakest opposition record will be pulled up to the next highest win-loss bracket. The tournament will use Gary Larson’s STA-XL tabulation software.

Preliminary Round Topics – Topics for debate will use six resolutions used in the last preliminary round of the following regular season tournaments—tournaments have been selected for the purposes of regional representation and to ensure that all NRR topics are available by the conclusion of the fall semester:

1. Minnesota Classic -- *The United States Federal Government should substantially expand the Section 8 Housing Voucher Program.*
2. Rice University Classic -- *The misrepresentation of Philosophy in college debate does more harm than good.*
3. King Classic at Morehouse College -- *Social justice movements should adopt interest convergence as their primary organizing principle when developing strategies to promote criminal justice reform.*
4. Steve Hunt Invitational at Lewis & Clark College -- *The human right to water should be guaranteed in the United States Constitution.*
5. Golden Gate Invitational at UC-Berkeley -- *The USFG should impose a term limit of 18 years on Supreme Court Justices.*
6. Fall at the Beach at CSU-Long Beach -- *The USFG should substantially expand its planetary defense program.*

Elimination Rounds - Advancement to and seeding in elimination rounds will be first based upon wins, followed by adjusted speaker points, then total speaker points, next by opposition record, and finally by Z-Score (judge variance). Because the elimination rounds format is round-robin in nature, if two teams from the same school both advance, they will debate each other in the first elimination round. In 2017, this occurred: Teams from the same school were pre-selected to debate in the first RR debate of Sunday.

The top 6 teams will advance to the Round Robin portion of the tournament. The tournament will do its best to avoid leaving teams with similar records out of the Round Robin debates. If a “clean break” at 8-2, 7-3, or 6-4 yields a full round-robin field (6 teams), then no debate-in round will take place. However, if necessary, a sudden death “debate-in” round will be scheduled.

Elimination Sides and Motions – Prior to each elimination debate, after viewing pairings and judging panels and having a chance to review judging philosophies, matched teams will be asked to offer one possible resolution for the debate. Before teams are able to view both resolutions, participants will flip a coin with the winner choosing the right to select (a) the resolution for the debate among the 2 resolution choices offered by the 2 matched teams or (b) the ability to assign the sides for the debate.

After that decision is made, both teams will view the resolutions (2 minutes). At the conclusion of that time period, the team choosing the resolution will do so; then, the team selecting the sides for the debate will do so (1 minute review period). In the event that matched teams submit the exact same resolution, matched teams will flip only for sides.

Submitted resolutions should be debatable and educational as well as non-harassing and non-hostile. Teams are, otherwise, encouraged to be innovative in the construction of their resolutions. The tournament director (host) reserves the right to refuse a submitted resolution due to violation of campus policy (i.e. the resolution language constitutes harassment of an individual participant, protected group, is discriminatory, etc.). In the unlikely situation that must occur, the submitting team will simply be asked to revise or re-submit another resolution.

Final Placing – In the round-robin portion of the tournament, teams will first be ranked by total ballot count, followed by elimination round wins, followed by head-to-head matchups, and if needed Z-Score (judge variance).

Judge Assignment – Using an A-B-C-X methodology, STA-XL will assign critics to debate in a way that ensures as much mutuality as possible, while also attempting to maximize preference.

PART THREE: AWARDS, FINANCES & MISC

Entry Fees - Fees will be assessed at the entry deadline. Cost for attendance will be \$100.00 per team.. This includes the cost of three meal tickets (Saturday brunch/dinner and Sunday brunch) and ensures the tournament does not operate at a loss. **We have gluten-free and vegan options, but please let us know ahead of time if you have dietary restrictions and/or allergies. Email these to amanda.ozaki@cui.edu.**

Payment can be made through credit card, cash or check only. Checks should be made payable to “Concordia University Irvine.” We cannot accept uncovered teams for the Round Robin.

Judging Commitment – Please read this carefully!

- **One judge is required for every team entered into the tournament.** No exceptions.
- **All judges are obligated through Sunday night. Thank you for ensuring your travel plans do not interfere with this commitment.**
- In order to have panels for the round robin portion of the tournament, **judges are committed through the entirety of the tournament, even if their teams do not advance to the second day of competition.**

Awards – The Top Speaker and Tournament Champion will both receive high quality awards. Teams advancing to the Round Robin portion of the tournament will receive high-quality awards. Speaker awards will be determined first by adjusted points, then by total points, followed by double adjusted points and finally by judge variance (Z-score).

Recording of Rounds—Affirmative consent is required from all tournament participants and critics that you wish to record via audio or video. Without affirmative consent you may not record.

Debate Prep Room— Please respect your prep room. Damage to prep rooms will result in immediate removal of a school’s teams from the tournament and your home institution will be billed for damage. Please respect the people who will be competing and judging in your room. You **MUST** move items to the back of the room at the end of prep. You are responsible for all personal items in your prep room.

Smoking on Campus— There is none. Concordia University Irvine is a smoke-free campus.

Lodging— There are several affordable hotel options near John Wayne Airport (about a 10 minute drive from campus).

Parking—All non-reserved parking on Concordia University Irvine’s campus is free. Please tell the guard gate you are here for the “2020 National Round Robin,” and they will write you a 2-day parking pass.

2020 National Round Robin

Schedule of Events

SATURDAY, February 22nd

8:30 -- Round 1 Pairings Released
8:40 -- Round 1 Topic Announced
9:01-9:55 -- Preliminary Round 1
10:20 -- Ballots due to Tabroom

10:35 -- Round 2 Pairings Released
10:45 -- Round 2 Topic Announced
11:06-12:00 -- Preliminary Round 2
12:25 -- Ballots due to Tabroom

12:30-1:15 -- LUNCH BREAK

1:15 -- Round 3 Pairing Released
1:25 -- Round 3 Topic Announced
1:46-2:40 -- Preliminary Round 3
3:05 -- Ballots due to Tabroom

3:20 -- Round 4 Pairings Released
3:30 -- Round 4 Topic Announced
3:51-4:55 -- Preliminary Round 4
5:15 -- Ballots due to Tabroom

5:15-6:00 -- DINNER BREAK

6:00 -- Round 5 Pairings Released
6:10 -- Round 5 Topic Announced
6:31-7:25 -- Preliminary Round 5
7:50 -- Ballots due to Tabroom

ASAP -- Debate-In Round (if needed)

SUNDAY, February 23rd

8:30 -- Elim 1 Pairings Released
8:40-8:45 -- Elim 1 Topic Selection
9:06-10:00 -- Round Robin Debate #1
10:25 -- Ballots due to Tabroom

10:40 -- Elim 2 Pairings Released
10:50-10:55 -- Elim 2 Topic Selection
11:16-12:10 -- Round Robin Debate #2
12:35 -- Ballots due to Tabroom

12:40-1:20 -- LUNCH BREAK

1:20 -- Elim 3 Pairing Released
1:30-1:35 -- Elim 3 Topic Selection
1:56-2:50 -- Round Robin Debate #3
3:15 -- Ballots due to Tabroom

3:30 -- Elim 4 Pairings Released
3:40-3:45 -- Elim 4 Topic Selection
4:06-5:00 -- Round Robin Debate #4
5:25 -- Ballots due to Tabroom

5:40 -- Elim 5 Pairings Released
5:50-5:55 -- Elim 5 Topic Selection
6:16-7:10 -- Round Robin Debate #5
7:30 -- Ballots due to Tabroom

Ice cream social immediately following the 5th debate!

7:30 P.M. -- AWARDS CEREMONY