

CX State Meet '20 Information is Online

To: CX Debate Coaches
From: Jana Riggins, State Debate Director

Student information packets for CX Debate State Meet qualifiers and alternates are posted on the UIL website. Make certain you and your students go immediately following district competition to:

www.uiltexas.org/speech/debate

- tentative schedule
- hotel information
- campus map
- parking information
- TILF scholarship
- third place team alternates

If you have specific questions not addressed online, email **Jana Riggins**, Debate Director, at:

jriggins@uiltexas.org

Congratulations! See you in Austin in March!



CROSS-EXAMINATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Judges

We encourage coaches to serve as the required judge. However, if you have secured someone other than yourself to fulfill a judging obligation for your school, please see that they complete the required judging forms by the deadline and that they are provided with a tentative schedule and the current UIL rules for CX debate. If the individual covering your school's judging obligation judges on other debate tournament circuits, it is *imperative* that you orient them to specific UIL CX rules which differ from those circuits. Participants and coaches come to UIL State expecting the standards specified in the *Constitution and Contest Rules*. Please take the responsibility of informing your judge of these important particulars. If you have questions concerning judging qualifications or requirements, please call. The expertise and maturity of the judging pool is critical to the quality of your state meet.

Judging Paradigm

Judging a debate is subjective and opinions about how to evaluate a debate are numerous. However, like any public speaker, debaters must analyze and adapt to their audience. For the State Meet, a summary spreadsheet listing each judges' preferences as indicated on their CX Debate Judge Questionnaire will be posted online for state qualifiers to access. Your careful completion of this questionnaire will allow debate teams the opportunity to be aware of and adapt to your judging preferences.

A judging paradigm is a way of examining a debate. The most widely used debate judging paradigms include:

- **Policy making:** the judge acts as a legislator who must vote for the best policy offered in the debate, focusing on the affirmative plan
- **Stock issues:** the judge acts as a juror who evaluates whether or not the affirmative has satisfied the stock issues in the debate
- **Tabula rasa:** the judge acts as a "blank slate" with no preconceived opinions, leaving it to the debaters to demonstrate which is the better voting paradigm

The descriptions listed provide only a brief summary of these leading theories. Most debate textbooks and online resources explore these judging paradigms in greater depth.

The state judging form includes a scale for registering your preferences concerning delivery, quantity of arguments, counterplans, etc. There is also a comment box. We ask that you use this comment space to specifically address your judging paradigm, rather than discussing only presentation style.

Timekeepers

Most rounds will not have assigned timekeepers. Since judges will often also serve as timekeeper in the round, please bring a stopwatch or, if you choose to flow on a computer, you may use timer software. Please do not use a cell phone to time. If you have students who would like to attend the tournament and serve as timekeepers, you are welcome to bring them.

Parking

Parking information will be available online and at registration. The League is not responsible for any parking tickets issued to campus visitors. Please allow plenty of time to park, walk, and still be on time! Do not park on campus streets or surface lots. All campus surface parking requires a UT permit at all times, 24/7/365. Park in the UT garages.

These instructions are given to the UIL State judges. District Contest Directors may wish to provide a copy to district judges to reinforce UIL rules and procedures.



**For Tournament administration purposes,
the Tab Room staff requests the following procedures:**

- Please wear your name tag. This facilitates our ballot distribution.
- Please check to see that all cell phones of audience members are turned off before the round begins. Debaters may use cell phones as timers, if in airplane mode (all wireless connectivity functions disabled).
- Review the *UIL Guidelines for Using Computers*. Judges may use a computer to flow and time, if they wish.
- Starting rounds and returning ballots quickly is essentially to keeping the tournament on schedule. Your help is appreciated.
- Write professional ballots. We will ask that any ballot using inappropriate language be re-written. Speaker points must range from 20-30 points.
- Refrain from leaving the room during the debate round unless it is an absolute emergency.
- *You must fully complete your ballot*. Oral critiques do not substitute for written comments. Well-written ballots are necessary to serve as an educational tool for teams and coaches long after the tournament is over.
- After a round, judges should only ask to see evidence or material presented in the round if a challenge to the evidence makes it necessary.
- Do not discuss the round with any individual or judge prior to completing your ballot with your decision and comments.
- Debaters should not know decisions in rounds until ballot verification. Please do not disclose after the round.
- Do not coach debaters from other schools between rounds — they may be on your next ballot! Avoid actions that give off the perception of bias.
- In elim rounds with multiple judges, we request that judges sit apart from one another.
- All unassigned school judges/coaches in the judging pool (even if not listed standby) are to remain in the ballot pickup area until released by the contest director.

UIL Contest Rules establish:

- Computers may be used according to the *UIL Guidelines for Using Computers in Debate*.
- Audiences are welcome but may not bring computers into the round or take notes. They should sit in front of the judge (s). Only the debaters and judges may flow until the final round.
- Judges are prohibited from sharing notes they have taken until after the tournament is completed.
- UIL Rules do not prohibit spreading by debaters, but rapid-fire delivery is to be penalized if it interferes with effective communication.
- Prompting and open *C-X* are not allowed in UIL debate.



(The following press release is for schools to submit to their local news media. Local school personnel should add information specific to their school. DO NOT send to the UIL State Office)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: UIL State Cross-Examination Debate Meet

Contact:

Date:

DATELINE _____ has qualified _____
(Your school name) (number)

students for the 2019-20 University Interscholastic League State Cross-Examination Debate Meet to be held March 15-21 at The University of Texas at Austin.

Qualifiers include:

(LIST STUDENT AND PLACE WON AT DISTRICT CROSS-EXAMINATION MEET)

The students qualified for the state meet by placing first or second at the UIL Cross-Examination District Meet held _____.
(Site / date)

“UIL debate competition motivates students and provides them with practical application for the skills they are developing,” said Jana Riggins, UIL State Debate Director. “This year’s debate topic prompted students to research and form their own thoughts and opinions on the real-world issue our government is challenged with: Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce Direct Commercial Sales and/or Foreign Military Sales of arms from the United States.”

Through participation at the UIL Cross-Examination State Meet, students who advance to the debate elimination rounds qualify for Texas Interscholastic League Foundation scholarships. Since its inception in 1959, the TILF has provided more than \$32 million to more than 20,000 students. Amounts of scholarships range from \$500 for one year to \$20,000 over four years. This year TILF will disperse more than \$1 million to more than 600 students. The TILF has over \$11 million in endowed funds and receives direct scholarship grants each year of more than \$800,000 from foundations, individuals and corporate sponsors throughout the state.

For more information, contact _____ or the UIL at (512) 471-5883.
(Local School Administrator)

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