



LD Debate Coaches

From: Jana Riggins
UIL State Director
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Congratulations to you and your debater for qualifying for the 2025 UIL State Meet to be held on the University of Texas campus in Austin! Three debaters from each of the four regions from each conference advance to State, so your debater is one of the top twelve in Texas from your UIL conference. LD Debaters will debate three preliminary rounds and the top four debaters will then advance to a single elimination bracket for semis/finals.

As coach of a debate state qualifier, it will be critical for you to regularly check the Speech State Tournament webpage <https://www.uiltexas.org/speech/info/25-speech-state-tournament>. A tentative program is posted along with campus maps, hotel information, and important procedures and deadlines. LD Debate will take place in person using the tournament management system *SpeechWire*. All qualifying schools must enter their judges on [Speechwire.com](https://www.speechwire.com) so refer to the state tournament webpage for instructions and deadlines.

JUDGES

For the State Meet, the UIL Contest Rules for Lincoln Douglas Debate require that “any school that qualifies for the State Meet must provide an experienced judge for *each* debater who qualifies for the state competition . . .” The *Contest Rules* also indicates that, “schools which advance to elimination rounds shall provide an experienced judge for each advancing debater who shall be available until dismissed by the contest director. Failure to provide a judge could constitute grounds for forfeiture of the round.” See pg. 75-76 of the current LD Handbook.

- Coaches are encouraged to serve as the LD judge for their school so students will have educators as adjudicators.
- The judge(s) you submit should have judged multiple rounds on this year’s UIL LD spring topic and be qualified to judge in elimination rounds. Expertise and maturity of the judging pool (no college freshmen, please!) is critical to the quality of your state meet. Do not submit a judge with zero rounds, as this is state-level competition (the best 12 debaters in the state). We want them to have experienced adjudicators.
- **If you qualify more than one debater**, your school is obligated to provide more than one judge. The number of qualifiers equals the number of judges you are obligated to provide.
- It is your responsibility to provide your judge with a copy of UIL contest rules in advance of the contest.

REQUIRED JUDGING FORMS

- Judging form is online: <https://www.uiltexas.org/form/state-debate-judges/>. All qualifying schools must also enter their judges on [Speechwire.com](https://www.speechwire.com) so refer to the state tournament webpage for instructions.
- Give careful consideration when submitting your philosophy online. Proof it for clarity and correct spelling before submitting. Judges should print the confirmation screen that must contain their name at the top indicating a successful submission.
- **Deadline for submission of all forms: Wednesday, April 30, 2025.**

If you have questions, please direct them to your State Director, Jana Riggins at jriggins@uiltexas.org.

NO-SHOWS

The *Contest Rules* requires that a coach notify the regional and/or State Director if a debater cannot compete or be in violation of the Academic Contest Ethics Code. (See Section 901, (a) 10.) ***You should do this in writing and in a timely manner.***



UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

To: Speech & LD Debate Coaches
From: Jana Riggins, State Director

Congratulations on qualifying students to the 2025 Speech State Tournament. All information regarding the tournament is posted on the UIL website. Make certain you and your students go immediately to:

<https://www.uiltexas.org/speech/info/25-speech-state-tournament>

Links are provided for the Speech State Meet:

- **Tentative schedule**
- ***Speechwire* instructions**
- Austin **hotel/motel** information
- UT **campus map**
- UT **parking restrictions**
- TILF **scholarships**
- Information for **alternates**

Coaches who qualify LD debaters must submit
State Meet LD judging forms
online no later than
Wednesday, April 30, 2025.

www.uiltexas.org/speech/debate

If you have specific questions, e-mail **Jana Riggins**, State Director at:

[*jriggins@uiltexas.org*](mailto:jriggins@uiltexas.org)

Congratulations! See you in Austin May 19-20!