



CROSS-EXAMINATION DEBATE WINNER'S INFORMATION

To: CX Debate Coaches

From: Jana Riggins, State Speech & Debate Director
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Congratulations to you and your debaters for qualifying for UIL's 114th state debate meet. We look forward to seeing you in Austin and wish you the best! The CX State Tournament Information webpage should answer your questions. Official programs will be online only and should be downloaded prior to your arrival.

Required Certification Form

In districts with only one school entered in the district meet, first place advances to State only if the high school principal certifies that the team has competed in a minimum of eight competitive interschool debate rounds prior to the certification deadline. In districts with eight teams or more competing, the second place team advances automatically. In districts with fewer than a total of eight teams competing, the second place team advances to state competition only if the high school principal certifies that the team has competed in a minimum of eight competitive interschool CX debate rounds prior to the certification deadline. The remaining teams placing at the district meet will serve as alternates. Consult the CX State Tournament webpage for additional information concerning qualifier requirements. The certification form **must be filled out online through the UIL website: www.uiltexas.org/speech/debate** no later than February 15, 2024.

Required Judges

For the CX Debate State Meet, the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules* requires that each school participating provide an experienced judge for each team that qualifies. Failure to meet these judging requirements can result in disqualification. If you qualify 2 teams, you should contact Jana Riggins immediately following district competition.

Required Judging Forms

Judging Forms must be filled out online through the UIL website: www.uiltexas.org/speech/debate. Online registration is efficient and allows us to accurately track each form when it is submitted. The *Qualifiers Required Judging and Philosophy Information* form indicates the judge(s) you will provide for State Meet, including contact information. We prefer trained educators in state meet rounds. We encourage you as the coach to serve as judge. Do not submit a judge who has not judged this year.

The information from the Philosophy Section of the form is made available to debaters so they have an opportunity to adapt to individual judges. We include the judge philosophy section exactly as you submit it so think carefully what you write! **Submit the online form within 10 calendar days following your district meet. Schools with 2 judges should submit paperwork on both judges within this deadline. February 15 is the final deadline to avoid being subject to a \$100 late fee or disqualification.** Thank you for your attention to this deadline. It helps guarantee qualified judges for all the State Meet debaters. Call if you have questions.

Alternates and Penalties for No-Shows

The *Contest Rules* requires that a coach notify the state contest director if a team cannot compete. **Notify both your district director and Jana Riggins at UIL** as soon as possible. An academic coach who fails to notify the state contest director that a team will not compete is in violation of the Academic Contest Ethics Code and the school shall be disqualified from team debate for the current academic competition and such violations may be grounds for suspension from team debate for the following year. (See *Contest Rules*)

If you have questions, please call or email me.

CX State Meet '24

Information is Online

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

Information 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
- contest procedures and required forms
- registration in *Tabroom.com*
- hotel information
- campus map
- parking information
- TILF scholarships
- 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. **Do not submit an inexperienced judge.** State qualifiers deserve seasoned critics. **Individuals with zero rounds on this year's topic should not be submitted.** 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 at UIL State expect 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.

Timekeeping

Judges should come prepared to time their own rounds.

Parking

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. The League is not responsible for any parking tickets issued to campus visitors. Please allow plenty of time to park, walk to the tournament headquarters, and still be on time!



**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.
- Review the *UIL Guidelines: Electronic Retrieval Devices in CX Debate* in its entirety. Judges may use a computer to flow and time if they wish.
- Starting rounds and returning ballots quickly is essential 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 judge room until released by the contest director.

UIL Contest Rules establish:

- Computers may be used according to the *UIL Guidelines: Electronic Retrieval Devices in CX Debate*. Rules have changed that debaters and judges may access the internet during the round to retrieve files, research arguments, and exchange evidence and/or arguments with the opposing team and judge. Be knowledgeable on restrictions placed on electronic retrieval devices.
- 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 2023-24 University Interscholastic League State Cross-Examination Debate Meet to be held March 11-16 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 increase fiscal redistribution in the United States by adopting a federal jobs guarantee, expanding Social Security, and/or providing a basic income.”

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 \$38 million to more than 22,000 students. Amounts of scholarships range from \$500 for one year to \$24,000 over four years. This year TILF will disburse 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 _____
(Local School Administrator)

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