

The Noel Memorial Tournament of Champions, September 10 -11, 2021

The Louisiana State University Shreveport Debate Team and the James Smith Noel Foundation are pleased to announce the first annual Noel Memorial Tournament of Champions (TOC) to be held September 10-11, 2021. This event will be held at the campus of Louisiana State University in Shreveport. The Noel TOC will feature a unique format of debate which incorporates aspects of IPDA, Parliamentary Debate, and Long Table style debate. The tournament will offer two separate tournaments, one on Friday and one on Saturday. The tournament on Friday will be for any students that do not meet the qualifications listed in this invite. It will offer them a chance to qualify for the Saturday Scholarship tournament. The tournament on Saturday will consist of students who have reached semifinals or better in any tournament held during the 2020-2021 debate calendar year or current year. The Noel TOC invites competitors who have not achieved an undergraduate degree from any institution and who have advanced to the semifinals or better in any sanctioned tournament of any style. Due to the crazy covid year, we will allow this year only, students that graduated in the fall of 2020 or the spring or summer of 2021 and are enrolled in Graduate schools to compete.

Along with a unique debate format LSUS and the Noel Foundation are excited to award scholarship prize money to advancing competitors and their squads. A breakdown of all awards can be found below. Coaches should be aware that this tournament will impact debater eligibility for Novice and JV competitors.

LSUS and the NOEL TOC will strictly follow all State of Louisiana and CDC guidelines as pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic. LSUS currently has a mandatory mask mandate for all persons on campus. As the tournament nears we will send further guidance on the steps we are taking to protect all participants and visitor's health.

In addition to scholarship awards received competitors can win trophies for their individual performances and the first-place squad will receive the Robert C. Leitz Championship Trophy. The Leitz Cup will have the winning program and competitors name engraved on the trophy and will travel with that institution to be displayed and returned the following year. An additional duplicate trophy will be housed and displayed in the Noel Memorial Library in the headquarters of the Noel Foundation.

Finally, a banquet for all competitors, coaches, and guest will be hosted by the Noel Foundation before the commencement of the final round in the presentation room on the third

floor of the Noel Memorial Library. The final round will be filmed and placed on appropriate media platforms.

The competition field for the Noel TOC will be limited in the number of competitors who have advanced to the semifinals or better in any sanctioned tournament in any style of debate. The competition on Saturday's field will consist of 36 total competitors competing in 4 rounds of debate. The format of these debates is discussed below. Each program should put forth a maximum of 3 competitors for the Saturday tournament. Another 3 competitors can be put forth for the Friday play in tournament. The first competitor is guaranteed for each program. After that the second and third competitors will be evaluated on a first come first serve basis depending on the availability of competition spots. 34 competitors will receive automatic slots into Saturday's event, with the remaining 2 spots being left open for the first and second place winners of the Friday tournament. We hope to accommodate as many programs as possible with a diverse field of debate styles and programs. We are happy to make any ADA accommodations that are necessary to ensure a positive experience but do ask that those requests be limited to students that are truly in need of such accommodations so that we can ensure that all needs are met.

Sincerely,

A.J. Edwards

LSUS Director of Debate

AJ.Edwards@lsus.edu

318-751-8350

Tournament Information

Entry Procedure and Deadline: There is no entry fee for the Noel TOC, but entries are limited for each program as described previously. All entries should be emailed to A.J. Edwards at AJ.Edwards@lsus.edu. Entries will open on August 27th 2021 at 8 AM and will close on Sept 3, 2021 at 5:00 PM. Competitors should be listed with full name and an entry preference rank of 1st 2nd or 3rd and according to which tournament day. Additionally, we ask that at least one qualifying tournament of meeting the minimum semifinal requirement be listed as well as the debate association that sanctioned the tournament. This is done to ensure the qualification of competition are met and can be verified. While there is a limit to the number of entries any

program can make, there will be no limits on the number of competitors that can advance to and through the elimination rounds. Programs can be awarded multiple scholarship prizes.

Judges: Schools are not required to bring their own judges, however, any extra students that you bring and that wish to judge may be used in an attempt to allow for diverse panels of adjudication. Judging for this tournament will follow basic IPDA guidelines for judges and will include students, faculty, community judges, and coaches. Any judge training will be minimal, limited to basic procedures and ballot protocol. We will not use eliminated competitors in elimination rounds.

Tournament Schedule:

Friday, Sept 10

10:00 am	Registration
11:00 am	Round 1 Draw
12:30 am	Round 2 Draw
2:00 pm	Lunch (Not Provided)
3:15 pm	Round 4 Draw
5:00 pm	Coaches Check
6:00 pm	Final Round

Tournament Schedule:

Saturday, Sept 11

8:00 am	Registration
8:30 am	Round 1 Draw
10:00 am	Round 2 Draw
11:30 am	Round 3 Draw
1:00pm	Lunch (not provided)
2:15 pm	Round 4 Draw
3:45 pm	Coaches Check
4:30 pm	Semis
6:00 pm	Coaches Check (move over to the Noel) reception and banquet
7:00 pm	Final Round
8:45 pm	Awards

Tournament Format

The Noel TOC will consist of 36 total individual competitors. If we do not fill all 36 spots we will limit the field to a lower number. This will be an individual debate competition. Members from the same program may and likely will face one another in the elimination rounds if multiple members advance. All efforts will be made to keep members of the same program from competing against one another in the preliminary rounds, but this cannot be guaranteed. Both the affirmative and negative sides will consist of 3 individual debaters. While debaters are competing for individual ranks and points, team win, and losses will play into the decision calculus for advancing to the elimination rounds. Advancing to the elimination rounds will be based on three criteria: first, the debaters cumulative rank awarded by the judges in the preliminary rounds, second, on the total speaker points awarded in the preliminary rounds, third based on win loss records in the preliminary rounds. In the event of a tie we will drop the high and low speaker points awarded for the competitors in the tournament. If there is still a tie we will use ranks of mutual competitors faced. 12 competitors will advance to two semifinal rounds, with the top three from each round advancing to the final round. The elimination rounds will consist of 5 judges in each round. Speaker position in the elimination rounds will be selected by the advancing competitors. The highest-ranking competitor will be allowed to select their position in the panel that they have been assigned to. This will continue until all slots have been filled. The final round will be decided on the same calculus with ranks resetting and according to the semifinal rankings.

Speech positions and times. Each competitor will have a total of 7 minutes of speaking time. The first and last minute of each speech will be protected from interruption. After the first minute and before the last, competitors from the opposing team will be allowed to rise for points of information. The speaker can choose to recognize those points but is not obligation to do so. There will be no designated time for cross-examination. Each side will consist of 3 speakers the 1st 2nd and 3rd affirmative and negative speakers. In preliminary rounds speaker position and sides will be based on random selection with all competitors receiving at least one round on each side. We will do our best to ensure an even balance of affirmative and negative rounds for each competitor but cannot guarantee that this will be the case. In elimination rounds debaters will be

allowed to pick their side and position. This will take place by seeding going into each round. For example, in the Semifinal round the debater who is seeded 1st will get to pick their side and any of the 6 positions in the first semifinal round. The debater who is ranked 2nd will do the same in the second semifinal round. The debater who is ranked 3rd will get to pick their side in the second semifinal round from those positions that remain and so on till all positions have been filled.

Topic Draw and Preparation: Topic Draw will follow the IPDA format for topic selection. Preparation time will begin at the time that draw is called. At the time of draw all competitors will be handed a single topic sheet for each individual round. The sheet will consist of five individual topics per panel. The negative team will have the first opportunity to eliminate a topic. All three debaters should deliberate on the topics on the strike sheet and attempt to come to a consensus on which topic to eliminate. If a consensus cannot be reached, the first negative speaker position has the right to eliminate the topic of their choosing, regardless of the wishes of the other competitors. The affirmative will have the second choice of topic elimination and the same rules apply to the affirmative as to the negative. This will continue until one topic remains and that topic will be the chosen resolution for the round. ALL COMPETITORS SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE TOPIC THEY BELIEVE TO BE CHOSEN IS THE CORRECT TOPIC AND AGREED ON AS THE CORRECT TOPIC BY ALL COMPETITORS. There will be no addition prep time and no round will be rerun based on confusion of the topic chosen. Prep time will be limited to 30 minutes. This includes the time needed to strike resolutions and walk to the designated room for the round. Debaters may choose to prepare for the round with the other debaters on their side or to do so alone. Computers, laptops, and electronic devices used to connect to the internet can be used during preparation time. However, these devices are not to be used in the debate rounds, this includes their use for time keeping, note taking, or any other function.

Evidence in Round: The citing and use of evidence in round will follow IPDA guidelines as laid out in the IPDA constitution. Evidence may be cited and paraphrased in rounds, but the use of prepared briefs or printed evidence is prohibited in round nor should any printed materials be presented to the judging panel in round. Handwritten notes are permissible but should be used in

support of persuasive rhetoric and argumentation. Judges for the round will not be trained and there is no guarantee that they will be familiar with debate, debate theory, or general argumentation. Any use of printed materials will be subject to disqualification from the round. Multiple violations will subject the debater to disqualification from the tournament. Ethical presentation and representation of support materials is always expected.

Speaker Duties: The first and second speeches of each round by each side should be viewed as constructive speeches. The final speech on each side will be dedicated as rebuttal speeches. Speakers can choose to follow the same ideas of the debaters before them in the constructive but may choose a different line of argumentation from the previous speaker if they so choose to.

Etiquette: Debaters, judges, school representatives, and audience members are expected to maintain the highest level of professionalism at the Noel TOC and in competition rounds. While the Noel TOC encourages the use of Parliamentary style engagement in rounds, including points of information, cheers and shames from the audience and participating debaters, we do ask that decor, respect, and professionalism always be the default attitude of all persons watching, judging, and competing in rounds. This includes not speaking unless recognized for a speech, or a point of information, refraining from the use of vulgar language, comments or actions towards any competitor, debaters, judge, or audience member, or any action that could, by normal professional standards, be deemed disrespectful. Continued violations of conduct will be subject to penalties to the competitor and squad. All decisions made by the judging panel, tab room, or tournament host are final.

NOEL MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS PRIZES

Individual Competitor Scholarship Prizes

Place Finished	Prize Scholarship Awarded
1 st	\$2,000
2 nd	\$1,500
3 rd	\$1,000
4 th	\$500
5 th	\$500
6 th	\$500
7-12 th	\$250 each

Total Scholarships Awarded \$7,500

Program Scholarship Prizes

Place Finished	Prize Scholarship Awarded
1 st	\$2,500
2 nd	\$2,000
3 rd	\$1,500
4 th	\$1,000
5 th	\$1,000
6 th	\$1,000
7-12	\$500 each

Total Program Scholarship Awarded \$12,000