

**Connecticut Debate Association
December 15, 2012 Tournament
Joel Barlow High School and Westhill High School**

On behalf of Joel Barlow High School and Coach Randy Smith, and Westhill High School and Coach Aaron Hoffman, I would like to invite you to attend our third tournament of the 2012-13 season on Saturday, December 15. We will follow our standard tournament format.

Please read the following items carefully:

1. If you plan to attend, please reply to this email or to cda_debate@mindspring.com AS SOON AS POSSIBLE with an estimate of the number of Novice and Varsity you plan to bring. Send this immediately, even if it is only a guess. We would like to have a preliminary count by Tuesday evening, December 11, so we can have the packets printed and decide how to allocate teams to the two sites.

We will try to assign you to the tournament closest to you.

We have space for over 400 debaters and do not expect to have to limit attendance.

2. You must register your teams and judges through tabroom.com. Instructions for using tabroom.com for CDA can be found here: <http://ctdebate.org/PDFs/Using%20Tabroom.pdf>. We will be using tabroom.com for registration for all tournaments this year. The tournament will be open for registration on Tuesday, December 4 at 8AM, and you may enter and edit teams and judges until Friday, December 14 at 6PM.

Note we have added two groups for judges, Varsity and Novice. Please assign your experienced judges to Varsity, and your inexperienced judges to Novice. We will make adjustments to these assignments as necessary.

3. We will be using the new rules for Novice eligibility agreed at the Coaches Meeting:

The Novice division will be open to Freshman and Sophomores, regardless of experience or record. They may qualify and participate as Novices in State Finals both years. However, they may move up to Varsity at any time if they or their coach choose, and once having moved up, may not return to Novice. Coaches are encouraged to move a Novice up to Varsity as a Sophomore if they have been successful as a Freshman, but are not required to do so.

Juniors who have not debated before may participate as Novices in their first regular CDA tournament. Otherwise they may only debate in Varsity. They may not participate in State Finals except in Varsity. They may only qualify for State Finals while debating in Varsity.

Seniors may not participate as Novices in any CDA tournament.

4. We have changed the rules for State Finals in order to reduce the number of teams that

qualify. This year, to qualify for State Finals, a debater must win a trophy at a regular tournament, or go 3-0 at two regular tournaments. In other words, simply going 3-0 at one tournament without winning a trophy will no longer qualify.

5. You can find directions to the two schools on their web sites:

Joel Barlow High School
100 Black Rock Turnpike, Redding, CT 06896
<http://www.joelbarlowps.org/pages/jbhs>

Westhill High School
125 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT 06902
<http://www.westhillweb.com/>

If you have questions, please email me at ejrutan3@ctdebate.org . I look forward to seeing you there.