

**Connecticut Debate Association
February 16, 2013 Tournament
Joel Barlow High School**

On behalf of Joel Barlow High School and Coach Randy Smith, I would like to invite you to attend our next tournament on Saturday, February 16. 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. We don't need to know how many debaters are coming. We would like to have a preliminary count by Tuesday evening, February 12, so we can have the packets printed and decide how to allocate teams to the two sites.

We only have space for approximately 200 debaters.

February 16 is the Saturday of President's Day Weekend, and the beginning of winter vacation for many. We expect many coaches and students will be unavailable. Students from member schools who are interested in debating may attend without their coach SO LONG AS THE FOLLOWING RULES ARE COMPLIED WITH:

- *their Coach approves and registers them properly through tabroom.com;*
- *they are accompanied by a responsible adult who meets their school's policies for attending this type of event;*
- *the responsible adult has emergency contact information for each student in their charge.*

We believe these requirements are generally consistent with most school's policies.

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 is currently open for registration and will remain open until Friday, February 15 at 6PM.

We have 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.

In addition to Varsity and Novice, we also have a category Observers for students who only want to observe. We will add packets to your school envelope for any Observers you register.

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>

If you have questions, please email me at ejrutan3@ctdebate.org .