

State Finals 2018

Please read the following carefully. It should answer most questions about qualifying for State Finals and forming teams to compete.

Qualifying

Debaters can qualify for State Finals at our regular monthly tournaments three ways:

1. Win a speaker trophy, in which case only the trophy winner qualifies;
2. Win a team trophy with their partner, who also qualifies;
3. Go undefeated (3-0) at two tournaments. This need not be with the same partner.

Debaters qualify as individuals. This is obvious in (1) above, but it is also true in (2), the only difference is that in (2) a team winning a trophy means two individuals have qualified. In (3) if a debater has the same partner on both occasions, then two qualify, but if the debater has a different partner each time, only the debater who went 3-0 on both occasions qualifies.

If a debater came as a singleton and was paired with a debater from another school, then in (1) that debater alone qualifies, and in (2) each debater qualifies to come to State Finals as a representative of their own schools. In (3), since it is unlikely a singleton is paired with the same partner from the same school a second time, the debater who goes 3-0 twice alone qualifies (unless, of course, the other debater also went 3-0 with another partner another time).

Forming Teams

After the final monthly tournament, each Coach receives an email with the list of qualifiers. This list will indicate whether each student qualified to compete in the Varsity or Novice division. The Coach should review this list and reply if they find any errors (*and usually there a few every year, so please check*).

Each Coach should form teams out of their students who are qualifiers. In order to make a full team, the Coach may add no more than one non-qualifying debater in each division. As a rule we do not match singletons at State Finals, so schools must bring complete two person teams. These examples should cover most situations:

- Four debaters qualify to compete in Varsity. They should form two teams, with no added non-qualifying debaters. This holds even if they qualified by winning speaker trophies and do not usually debate as regular partners. You may not form more than two teams by pairing debaters with their regular partners who did not qualify.
- Four debaters qualify to compete in Varsity. The Coach registers two teams. The night before the tournament one debater calls in sick. The Coach may add a non-qualifying debater to replace the one who dropped out. As we do not match singletons at State Finals, we suggest each Coach have a “first alternate” on call in case of a debater dropping out at the last minute. (Note that if two debaters drop out, the remaining two must be paired to form a team, and no non-qualifying debater may be added.)
- Three debaters qualify to compete in Varsity and five debaters qualify to compete in Novice. The Coach may add one debater to complete the Varsity teams AND one debater to complete the Novice teams. You do not have to pair the odd debaters across divisions.

- You have a debater who is a Junior and qualified as a Novice in their first tournament (as CDA rules permit a Junior who has never debated before to compete in Novice at their first tournament). This debater **MUST** move up to Varsity for State Finals. To emphasize this: all Juniors and Seniors must debate as Varsity in State Finals regardless of experience or how they qualified.
- A Freshman or Sophomore debater who qualified as a Novice but was then moved up to Varsity and debated in Varsity for two or more tournaments should move up to Varsity for State Finals.

If you have any questions, you should email me.

Why Were Trophies Awarded Only to the Top Three on March 3?

I received an email asking why we only awarded trophies to the top 3 finishers on March 3. As a general rule we have always awarded trophies to the top 5 finishers when we have had two or fewer hosts, and to the top 3 finishers when we have had 3 or more hosts. This rule is based on the expectation that we will have 350-450 debaters in total, and means we give out approximately the same number of trophies per students attending (very roughly).

March is usually heavily attended, but due to the weather and other factors was not this year. With only 247 debaters total, it did not justify more than 3 trophies per location. Here are the numbers:

Month	# tournaments	# debaters
October	2	360
November	2	480
January	1	220
February	2	390
February Makeup	1	203
March	2	247

Statistics

Here are the statistics on the qualifiers:

Number of qualifying events (trophies or 3-0 record): 380

Number of individuals earning a trophy or going 3-0: 230

(There were 150 cases where an individual trophied or went 3-0 more than once.)

Number of debaters who went 3-0 and did not qualify: 62

(These debaters went 3-0 at one tournament but did not do so a second time or win a trophy.)

Number of qualifiers: 168

(Of which 90 were Novices and 78 Varsity)

Number of schools with qualifying debaters: 31

(Out of 43 schools participating in CDA this year)