



CROSS-EXAMINATION DEBATE WINNER'S INFORMATION

To: CX Debate Coaches

From: Jana Riggins, State Speech & Debate Director
512-471-5883
jriggins@uiltexas.org

Congratulations to you and your debaters for qualifying for UIL's 115th 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 13, 2025.

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 13 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 '25

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:

<https://www.uiltexas.org/speech/debate/2025-cx-state-tournament>

- tentative schedule
- contest procedures and required forms
- 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 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 submitting ballots efficiently is essentially 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 electronic 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 official ballot verification time. 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 judges 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. Audience member cell phones should be turned off and put away. 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.



Rule Reminders

CROSS-EXAMINATION PERIOD. During the questioning period, both opponents stand and face the judge. Each debater shall question one opponent and only that one opponent may respond. A debater may waive the cross-examination privilege but will lose the time waived. The questioner shall control the use of time during the period and may only ask questions and may not comment on the answers or make any statement of his/her own views. Rudeness, sarcasm, and condescension shall not be tolerated during the cross-examination period, and the judge may choose to assign speaker points accordingly.

PROMPTING.

Coaching During a Debate. In all contests, the debaters shall be separated from the audience and shall receive no coaching while the debate is in progress. *Viva voce* or other prompting either by the speaker's colleague or by any other person while the debater has the floor is prohibited. Debaters may, however, refer to their notes and materials and may consult with their teammates while they do not have the floor. Time signals are not considered prompting.

SCOUTING.

Debates Shall Be Public. Debate, by its very nature, is public. Therefore, all debates in League district and state competition shall be open to the public, with the exception of debate teams competing in that tournament. Competing debaters shall not observe preliminary rounds of district or state competition in which they are not debating.

Sharing of Notes. During a tournament, participants or judges may not give or accept notes taken during that tournament. For example, a judge or a debater participating in the district contest is neither allowed to give nor accept notes regarding any rounds in that tournament from anyone else during that tournament.

RAPID DELIVERY. Debaters whose use of rapid delivery interferes with their communication with the audience and debate colleagues have forgotten that debate is a form of public speaking. To help restore the fundamental purpose of training debaters to communicate with their audience, all UIL guidebooks and ballots will carry the instructions that rapid delivery which interferes with effective communication is to be severely penalized.

EVIDENCE.

Availability of Materials. Speakers may use notes if they wish. If charts, maps, books, or other materials are used by any debater, they shall be left before the audience and shall be available for use by the opposing debaters in refutation. Debaters may use laptop computers in the round in accordance with the rules published in the *UIL Cross-Examination Debate Handbook* and other official UIL publications available through the League office, and on the UIL website. Coaches are responsible for reviewing these rules in advance of the contest.

Availability in Writing on Demand. All participants submitting evidence in competition shall do so orally and possess and present promptly upon demand of debater such evidence in printed form or digital storage, easily accessible and readable by opponent.

Thanks for Judging!



(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 2024-25 University Interscholastic League State Cross-Examination Debate Meet to be held March 17-22 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 significantly strengthen its protection of domestic intellectual property rights in copyrights, patents, and/or trademarks.”

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 \$39 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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