



Coaches Manual

2024-2025



General Resources

Contact List

Dallas Urban Debate Alliance Staff

❖ **Cindi Timmons** | Executive Director o 214-683-3356

o cindi.timmons@dallasurbandebate.org

❖ **Evan Gilbert** | Program Coordinator o 214-334-6033

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❖ **CeCe More** | Administrative Director o 972-533-8822

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❖ **Gabriel Sanchez** | Tournament Director o 214-552-3077

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Student Activities Department

❖ **Michelle Read** | Student Activities Coordinator
o Logistics, Stipends, Policies, and Participation Questions

o 972-749-5724 or 972-256-6433 o mread@dallasisd.org

❖ **Omar Ovalle** | Transportation Coordinator

o 972-925-5162 or 214-364-9880 o oovalle@dallasisd.org

❖ **Leonidas Patterson** | Student Activities Director

o 214-876-2279 o lpatters@dallasisd.org

❖ **Sharla Hudspeth** | Executive Director of DISD Extracurricular & Extended Learning Opportunities

o 972-749-5707 o shudspet@dallasisd.org

Helpful Contacts

❖ National Association for Urban Debate Leagues

<https://urbandebate.org/>

contact@urbandebate.org

Free Resources are accessible on the following website tabs:

Novice Policy Debate

Debate Lesson Library

Coaching Resources

Videos

❖ National Speech & Debate Association

<https://www.speechanddebate.org/>

O: 920-748-6206

info@speechanddebate.org

Resources are accessible on the following tabs:

Membership

Resources

Competition

UIL (University Interscholastic League)

<https://www.uiltexas.org/speech>

TFA (Texas Forensic Association)

<https://www.txfa.org>

Policy Debate

The year-long policy debate topic will cover intellectual property rights.

Resolved: The United States federal government should significantly strengthen its protection of domestic intellectual property rights in copyrights, patents, and/or trademarks.

This year, Middle School students will be able to debate in Beginner Policy or Advanced Policy. High School students will be able to debate in Novice Policy or Varsity Policy. Both the Advanced and Varsity divisions will function as Open divisions and will be for experienced students who can find and use original research. A Scrimmage division will be available at the beginning of the year for debaters who are entering Open policy debate for the first time.

A Starter Packet of entry level files will be provided at the beginning of the season.

World Schools Debate

DUDA will continue to offer WS Debate in the 2024-25 competitive season.

This format is used widely in international communities, and is spreading quickly throughout the United States broadly, and Texas in particular.

A World Schools round follows the parliamentary model of the House proposing or opposing a motion, with each side consisting of a team of three students. Tournaments will announce some of the topics ahead of time (these are called “prepared motions”), but every tournament will also feature “impromptu motions,” where teams will have between 30-60 minutes to prepare to debate a topic. These rounds typically occur at a conversational pace, and each round has a different topic. Given the changing topics, DUDA will not be providing core files for World Schools Debate; there is considerably less emphasis on cited evidence being read in a World Schools speech, and speeches are typically delivered extemporaneously, providing a great opportunity for students to develop their public speaking skills.

Community Action Debate

DUDA is excited to continue our CAD Debate offering for the 2024-25 competitive season.

The year-long Community Action Debate topic will focus on public safety, meaning students will be tasked with crafting the best solution for public safety in the City of Dallas. Students are encouraged to place particular emphasis on challenges facing the community and what we can do collectively to resolve those problems.

There will be a Scrimmage CAD offering at the first tournament along with a general CAD pool. This will allow students who are new to the format to familiarize themselves with it and prepare for tournaments to come. After the first tournament there will be a single CAD division.

A teaching guide will be provided along with some preliminary arguments for both sides of the debate.

2024-25 DUDA Schedule of Events

HS High School DUDA Event Calendar

Tournament Date	Event	Registration Deadline	Location
September 7	Student Workshop	August 30	Spruce
October 5	Tournament #1	September 27	Spruce
October 26	Tournament #2	October 18	Spruce
December 7	Winter City Championship	November 29	Spruce
January 11	UIL CX District	December 19	Obama
January 25	Student Workshop	January 18	Spruce
February 8	Tournament #4	February 1	Spruce
March 1	Tournament #5	February 22	Spruce
March 8	TFA State	TBD	TBD
March 22	UIL CX State	Qualification	UT Austin
March 29	UIL District	March 7	Skyline
April 3-6	UDNC	Qualification	Atlanta, GA
April 12	Spring City Championship	April 5	Spruce
April 26	UIL Academic/Speech/LD Regionals	Qualification	Various
May 19-21	UIL Academic/Speech/LD State	Qualification	UT Austin
June 14-21	NSDA Nationals	Qualification	Des Moines, IA

*Note: the qualification process is outlined later in this document – two policy teams at UDNC and two WS teams at NSDA.

2024-25 DUDA Schedule of Events

MS Middle School DUDA Event Calendar

Tournament Date	Event	Registration Deadline	Location
September 14	Student Workshop	September 6	Molina
October 19	Tournament #1	October 11	Molina
November 16	Tournament #2	November 9	Molina
December 14	Winter City Championship	December 6	Molina
January 25	Student Workshop	January 17	Spruce
February 22	Tournament #4	February 14	Molina
March 22	Tournament #5	March 14	Molina
April 26	Spring City Championship	April 18	Molina
May 2-3	MS State Championship	TBD	DISD

Instructional Resources

The Dallas Urban Debate Alliance will deliver resources to coaches through a series of Google Classrooms. Resources will be updated frequently throughout the year based on coach needs.

Currently, coaches can access electronic copies of the Starter Packet, important documents and instructional guides for registration, sample debate class curriculum, topic primers, and sample after-school debate activities.

We will operate five Google Classrooms this year - links will be shared later. These classrooms are NEW for this season and can be accessed via your Dallas ISD emails.

Policy Classroom - yzhuls2

CAD Classroom - 5ntncw6

WSD Classroom - nwhrhsk

UIL Classroom - 25wpupc

Judge Training - 33cnmld

Debate en Español - p57ygg2

If you have questions about improving your capacity to teach or coach debate, please contact us to arrange a **site visit** at your campus.

Other coaching resources can be found on the NAUDL, NSDA, UIL, and TFA websites. That information is provided on the Helpful Contacts page.

As part of a national urban debate initiative to provide more meaningful educational resources for coaches and students, we are actively seeking out **model lessons** from our coaches. If you have a lesson or an activity that you feel is exemplary, please feel free to share. Your resource will be shared in our Google Classrooms and may also be selected for the NAUDL site as well. If you contribute, you will be able to list your contribution on your Distinguished Teacher Review application under Contributions to Profession or Leadership – we will write a letter of recommendation to include on your application.

Professional Development

In addition to the resources DUDA provides through Google Classroom, we will be hosting Coach Training Sessions that will occur on weeknights or weekend mornings. We will offer several **professional development** opportunities per semester, with topics including the various debate formats, using Tabroom.com effectively, and best practices for managing a team/building a healthy team culture. We will provide documentation for these sessions to help you submit for professional development credit.

We also offer opportunities to meet speech and debate experts outside of Dallas ISD in both informal and formal settings.

Additionally, teachers will have the opportunity to join the National Speech & Debate Association, the National Debate Coaches Association, and other organizations to pursue professional development.



The National Speech & Debate Association also provides resources to coaches of member schools. Each high school has a paid NSDA membership. This organization is an honor society, a platform for student and coach recognition, a source of resources, and the host of the largest academic competition in the world. For information on how to best utilize this membership, please contact DUDA Executive Director Cindi Timmons.

Tournament Policies and Procedures

Student Code of Conduct

Guiding Principles

As a partner of the Dallas Independent School District, students participating in debate events organized by the Dallas Urban Debate Alliance are bound by the 2024-25 Student Code of Conduct. Students should follow the five standards of student conduct outlined below.

❖ **Exercise Self-Control**

- Use courteous language
- Resolve conflict in a mature manner
- Be appropriately dressed and groomed

❖ **Demonstrate a Positive Attitude**

- Take a leadership role
- Be polite
- Be cooperative

❖ **Respect the Rights and Feelings of Others**

- Behave in a manner that does not disrupt others
- Treat others with courtesy and respect and choose your words accordingly

❖ **Take Responsibility for School Property**

- Respect the building, grounds, and property
- Return all rooms to their original setting before they were used
- Keep the campus free from trash and graffiti

❖ **Support the Learning Process**

- Be prepared for competitions
- Listen carefully to instructions
- Participate in competitions as directed

❖ **Adhere to any and all Dallas ISD Student Code of Conduct and health and safety guidelines**

Dallas Urban Debate Alliance Guidelines

❖ **Be Where You Are Supposed to Be:** Students should stay in the assigned area unless participating in a DUDA debate. *Pay attention to start times so you can make sure to get where you should be for the beginning of a debate round.*

❖ **Judges' Decisions Are Final.** Post round discussions are for educational purposes and are not subject to challenges.

❖ **Tournaments/Workshops Are for Debate.** Activities not related to debate should be limited in scope and confined to downtime in-between rounds/workshop sessions. Activities that disrupt the proper functioning of a DUDA event are prohibited.

❖ **Round Pairings/Room Assignments/Awards Are Final.** Students should follow the tournament procedures as created or assigned by DUDA Staff. Pairings/Room Assignments may be found on the respective tournament page on Tabroom.com.

❖ **Where Should You Be?**

- No one should be in a room without a judge present
- Students should not be in the library unless they are in impromptu prep
- Students should be in the cafeteria, in rounds, or on the way back and forth - there should be no one in the halls while rounds are in progress
- Students should be on competition floors only (when we are not using all floors)

Complaints & Dispute Resolution

While the Dallas Urban Debate Alliance strives to provide a quality tournament experience, there may be points over the course of the competitive season when disputes arise between competitors, judges, coaches, and or tournament staff. DUDA will adhere to the following guidelines:

General Tournament Rules

- ❖ Tournament Directors will be working diligently to ensure the tournament runs smoothly. Please be sure to approach Tournament Staff with concerns of utmost importance.
- ❖ **All judge decisions are final.**
- ❖ **All pairings/judge placements are final, except for mistakes** by the tab room staff, or circumstances in which judge/competitor availability necessitates modifying the pairing.
- ❖ **DUDA coaches are expected to judge** debates that they are assigned. While the tab room will do its best to ensure a surplus of judges are available, tournament attendees should make themselves available for every debate.

I Have an Immediate Problem----Who Should I Talk To?

- ❖ **Document everything** relevant to your concern. We can rarely act on an individual's word-of-mouth alone – ask the judge or other team to come with you to verify your statement during the interview.
- ❖ Food, transportation & stipend-related concerns should be referred to the Student Activities staff.
- ❖ Health emergencies should be referred to the Student Activities staff and the on-site nurse.
- ❖ Physical safety concerns should be referred to the Student Activities staff and on-site security.
- ❖ Tournament & programming concerns should be referred to the DUDA Tab staff.

I Have A Concern, But It Can Wait----- What Should I Do?

If you have any complaints regarding a DUDA event, please contact the Executive Director (cindi.timmons@dallasurbandebate.org). In your email, please include the following:

- ❖ Your Name
- ❖ Your School
- ❖ A Brief Summary of the Problem ❖ Your View of the Best Solution

Judging

DUDA tournaments are offered at no cost to Dallas ISD schools. This requires relying heavily on **volunteer judges** – individuals who may have a limited background in debate – to adjudicate rounds. As these individuals are volunteering their time, it is imperative that coaches and students show respect to them and their decisions.

Outside of DUDA, teams are expected to bring one judge for every two teams that are competing. While DUDA does **not** currently require schools to meet this judge commitment, we **strongly encourage** schools to meet the community norm of “**one judge per two teams.**” We are available to distribute judge training resources to engage your campus’ parents, coworkers, and other communities as the tournament season approaches.

Judge training is an essential aspect of providing meaningful feedback to students after debates. DUDA will host a judge training session at the workshops to review judge expectations for each event.

If your campus is providing judges at a DUDA event, please instruct your volunteers to arrive on time for the tournament judge training. We also have an online training option and we can arrange on-site training for schools that plan to bring a large group of volunteer judges.

ALL JUDGES will be required to attend a training session before judging during the year.

Judging Expectations

- ❖ **Coaches are expected to judge as assigned.** All judges need an electronic device to access Tabroom ballots.
- ❖ Judges **must register a Tabroom account** (see Tournament Registration). Ce’Ce More (cece@dallasurbandedebate.org) can help with this process.
- ❖ Judges are encouraged to give positive and constructive feedback after each round. They may reveal round results in addition to tips about how to be more effective in subsequent rounds. Judges are encouraged but NOT mandated to disclose results.
- ❖ Judges should **NOT be engaged in distracting activity** (ex. phone, social media, talking to a friend, etc.) during students’ speech time.
- ❖ Judges should **exhibit propriety** in all interactions with students (ex. no cursing, no one-on-one interactions in private settings, etc.).
- ❖ Judges **should prioritize timeliness**. Tournaments most often run late as a result of a judge arriving late to a round, starting a round late, or giving extended feedback. Judges should limit feedback to no more than five minutes and any feedback must be given AFTER THE BALLOT IS SUBMITTED. Ballots must be submitted no later than fifteen minutes after a round finishes
- ❖ Judges are asked to enforce these behavior guidelines during rounds:
 - No one should sit at a teacher desk
 - No one should write on any boards - Tabroom ballots have the names on them
 - Teams with byes should stay in the cafeteria unless observing a round with their coach
 - Participants should be respectful to each other and to the debate activity
- ❖ If you have a **judge complaint**, please follow the Complaint and Dispute Resolution Procedures described above. **The Tournament Director’s decision on a course of action in these matters will be final.**
- ❖ **Judges and Coaches are expected to adhere to all Dallas ISD Policies**

Disclosure Policy:

Divisions With Original Research

Dallas Urban Debate honors a nationally-recognized and research-backed consensus that **argument disclosure** (revealing the contents of your argument) **increases the quality of debate** by promoting clash, facilitating targeted research, and democratizing the process of intelligence gathering.

Disclosure Policy: All teams in Open divisions of Policy Debate should disclose an outline of their affirmative (1AC) and 1NC (off-case positions) after reading them for the first time. Original research should also be disclosed according to the following guidelines.

Disclosure FAQ

Where Should My Team Disclose?

The National Debate Coaches Association High School Policy Wiki (opencaselist.com). Students will need their own Tabroom.com account in order to be able to access the wiki.

When/What Should My Team Disclose?

Your team should disclose an outline of 1AC and 1NC positions. This outline should include, **AT MINIMUM**, the plan text as well as the tag, cite, and first three/last three words of all pieces of evidence. Disclosure should occur as soon as they have been read in a debate (a.k.a. 'broken'). In order to allow teams time to prepare, the NDCA Wiki should reflect arguments read at previous tournaments **NO LATER THAN** a week before the next competition.

What Should My Team Do Before A Debate?

As a courtesy, once pairings are released, teams competing in the Open division should find their opponents, and conduct pre-round disclosure. If your team is Affirmative, they should disclose what 1AC will be read in the debate. If your team is Negative, they should disclose the 1NC positions they have previously read.

Help! What Should I Do If a Team Does Not Disclose?

Please contact the Director of Programming and we will resolve the issue on a case-by-case basis. Debate tournaments are intended to be educational settings and we want the best experience for everyone.

Division Guidelines

Middle School Debate

Middle School debate formats will include Community Action Debate (CAD), Policy Debate (Beginner and Advanced), and World Schools Debate.

Middle School Community Action Debate will follow the 5/2/3 model, with 6 minutes of preparation time.

Middle School Policy Debate will follow a 5/2/3 model with 6 minutes of preparation time. Students who competed in Policy in previous years must compete in the Advanced division.

Middle School World Schools Debate will follow the 5/3 model. There is no additional “prep time” in WS Debate. Separate divisions based on experience may be created as the need arises. Any student with experience in a prior year must compete in the Advanced division if one is offered.

High School

High School tournaments will include Community Action Debate (CAD), Policy Debate (Novice and Varsity), and World Schools Debate. UIL speech and debate events MAY also be offered in spring tournaments.

High School Community Action Debate will follow the 8/3/5 model, with 8 minutes of preparation time.

High School Policy Debate will follow the 8/3/5 model, with 8 minutes of preparation time. Students who competed in Policy debate in previous years must compete in the Varsity division.

High School World Schools Debate will follow the 8/4 model. There is no “prep time” in WS Debate. Separate divisions based on experience may be created as the need arises.

Registration: Policies

Effective tournament planning requires an accurate representation of how many schools and teams will be competing. Outside of Dallas Urban Debate, tournaments ask for accurate registration weeks in advance of an event and fine schools that make last-minute changes, which can impact room availability, meal expenses, and judge recruitment.

DUDA will continue to adhere to its mission to provide debate at no cost to students of Dallas ISD; one of the ways we accomplish this is by having schools adhere to registration guidelines.

Registration Deadlines

Campuses should register their teams on Tabroom.com by **5pm on the Thursday of the week preceding an event** in order to compete. For example, if a high school wishes to compete in the November 6th tournament, they should register their teams by October 28th. We will send reminders when possible, but it is the responsibility of coaches to manage these deadlines. Tabroom tracks the timestamps of any changes to registration. We maintain these records in case of disputes.

Day of Tournament

On the day of the tournament, you must check in at the registration table by the stated time. Tabroom will be open to allow you to make any changes to your teams digitally. All changes must be completed by the scheduled deadline that morning. If you fail to do so, your teams will not be scheduled in the first round and/or will receive a loss. Please take proactive measures (such as taking roll on the bus) to ensure we receive accurate registration as early as possible.

Registration: Tabroom.com

As we have done in the past, all events will be run through Tabroom.com - an online platform sponsored by the National Speech & Debate Association.

Why Use Tabroom?

Tabroom has been the preferred platform for Speech & Debate across the country for years. Tabroom offers the following to improve efficiency and reduce tournament downtime:

- ❖ Online Ballots
- ❖ Publishing of Results
- ❖ Technical Support
- ❖ Text/ Email Alerts for Pairings ❖ User-Friendly Interface

What Do I Need To Do?

Prior to the beginning of the competitive debate season, the Head Coach of each program will need to make sure the following steps are completed:

- ❖ Create a Tabroom.com Account
- ❖ Create Your Institution (On Tabroom) **ONLY IF IT DOES NOT ALREADY EXIST** ❖ Fill Out Your Roster of Students
- ❖ Link Judges to Tabroom Accounts (prerequisite to online ballots)
- ❖ Enable Data Reporting (Allows DUDA to track student metrics)

MOST DALLAS ISD SCHOOLS COMPETING AT DUDA EVENTS WILL ALREADY HAVE A TABROOM ACCOUNT - DO NOT CREATE A NEW SCHOOL ACCOUNT WITHOUT CAREFULLY CHECKING TO SEE IF THE SCHOOL ALREADY EXISTS. YOU SHOULD ASK DUDA STAFF FOR ASSISTANCE IF YOU CAN'T FIND YOUR SCHOOL.

Helpful Links

Tabroom.com has a substantial **Help Center** (docs.tabroom.com/Main_Page), as well as an **Online Support Forum** (support.tabroom.com) where users may receive technical assistance. Students may also create their own account to receive real-time updates, including pairings. In addition, the following links may prove helpful for first-time users of the platform:

- ❖ How To Sign-Up (docs.tabroom.com/Sign_Up)
- ❖ How To Administer A School (docs.tabroom.com/School_Administration) ❖ How To Register (docs.tabroom.com/Registration)
- ❖ How To Use The Online Calendar (docs.tabroom.com/Calendars)
- ❖ General Tournament Info (docs.tabroom.com/Tournament_Info)

- ❖ How To Use Online Ballots (docs.tabroom.com/Judging#Online_Ballots) ❖ How To View Results (docs.tabroom.com/Viewing_Results)

Is the Help Center/Support Forum Not Solving Your Problem?

Email our Administrative Director (cece@dallasurbandebate.org)



NAUDL Championship

The Dallas Urban Debate Alliance will again participate in the National Association for Urban Debate Leagues National Tournament, to be held in early April at Emory University. Two high school varsity teams will qualify.

Qualification Process

The top two DUDA teams with a record of success in the Varsity (Open) HS division over the course of the year will qualify to participate in the National Association for Urban Debate Leagues National Tournament.

Teams must compete in at least three Varsity tournaments hosted by DUDA (ONE of the three may be a DUDA/TFA event; the two others MUST be DUDA tournaments) to be considered. Only one team per school can participate at the Championship.

The top two qualifying teams will be determined using a weighted metric system, which will assign points based on:

- preliminary round win/loss record,
- speaker points, and
- strength of opponents.

The top two ranked teams (from different schools and in good standing) will be announced after HS Tournament #5. If a team cannot attend, we will move to the next ranked team.

National Speech & Debate Association National Tournament



Complementing our WS Debate offering, the Dallas Urban Debate Alliance will again participate in the National Speech and Debate Association National Tournament, which will be hosted from June 14-June 21 (inclusive of travel days) in Des Moines, Iowa. Two High School WS teams will qualify, one from each of the two Dallas-area NSDA Districts. For questions about the NSDA National Tournament, please communicate with our Executive Director (cindi.timmons@dallasurbandebate.org).

Qualification Process

Our two DUDA WS teams (three to five students per team) will be chosen from successful WS debaters who have competed in a minimum of THREE DUDA WS events (ONE of these events may be a DUDA/TFA tournament). As this event is during the summer, students will have to demonstrate the ability to participate in intensive practice sessions beginning in May and continuing once school is out. **Selected students must be accompanied by a school coach or principal-designated staff member. DUDA staff will facilitate national tournament preparation.

Other DUDA Events

The Dallas Urban Debate Alliance will continue to work with community leaders, stakeholders, and other professional organizations to provide valuable opportunities for Dallas ISD students. As those events are finalized, coaches will receive more information.

Here is the current list of special events and selection procedures:

***Dallas Cup** (formerly titled Mayor's Cup) – tentatively scheduled for 2025– this debate will feature six-eight students from various high schools (both comprehensive and magnet) and will feature the WS or CAD format, although policy debaters may participate. Interested students will be invited to apply; both a written application and a video submission will be required. Selected students will be required to participate in intensive preparation with DUDA staff prior to the event.

***7th Annual Parrish Debate Invitational** – tentatively scheduled for mid-May 2025 – this debate will feature six-eight students from various high schools (both comprehensive and magnet) and will feature the WS or CAD format, although policy debaters may participate. Interested students will be invited to apply; both a written application and a video submission will be required. Selected students will be required to participate in intensive preparation with DUDA staff prior to the event.

***Summer Residential Debate Camp Scholarships** – a limited number of scholarships will be available for summer residential debate camps held on college campuses. An application process will be utilized.