

Connecticut Debate Association
State Finals Tournament Invitation
Bethel High School, March 28, 2026

On behalf of Bethel High School and the CDA, qualifying debaters are invited to compete in our State Finals tournament for the 2025-26 season on Saturday, March 28, 2026. This will be an in-person tournament using our Parliamentary format.

Each Coach has been sent a list of debaters who have qualified based on their performance on one of our six regular tournament dates. Teams must consist of debaters who have qualified. However, a school which has an odd number of qualifying debaters attending in either Varsity and/or Novice may add one non-qualifying debater in that division to complete a team.

Observers are welcome but must register so we know how many packets to print. Observers from schools that do not have any teams in the tournament must be accompanied by a school-approved coach or chaperone.

Please read the following carefully:

1. **Timeline:** Please respect the timeline for signing up for this tournament:
 - a. Emails have gone out to coaches with the names of their debaters who have qualified. If you did not receive an email but believe you have qualifying debaters, please email me.
 - b. Monday, March 16, 2026—invitation goes out to all Coaches and is posted on the CDA website. Registration opens on Tabroom. Note: all entries will be wait-listed.
 - c. **March 25, 2026 at 6PM (Wednesday)—teams should be registered in Tabroom.** That evening, entries will be reviewed for eligibility and accepted from the wait list.
 - d. March 28, 9AM—tournament begins!
2. **Numbers:** We expect to have space for all eligible debaters.
3. **Judges:** You must have one qualified judge for every two teams or part thereof.
 - a. ***Experienced judges only!*** We will not train new judges at State Finals. All judges are expected to have previously judged at a CDA or similar tournament and to be experienced with Tabroom online ballots.
 - b. Extra judges are always welcome.
4. **Registration:** You must register your teams and judges through [Tabroom.com](https://www.tabroom.com). Instructions for using Tabroom.com for CDA can be found here: [CDA Brief Tabroom Instructions](#). We will be using Tabroom.com for registration for all tournaments.
 - a. There will be three events: Varsity, Novice and Observer.
 - b. For Judges there will be two categories, Varsity and Novice. *All judges at State Finals are expected to have judged before at a CDA or similar tournament, and to be familiar with Tabroom online ballots.*
5. **Novices:** Please abide by the rules for Novice eligibility:
 - a. 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. (However, Novices who move up temporarily to fill a vacancy in Varsity are not considered to have moved up to Varsity.) Coaches are encouraged to move Sophomores up to Varsity if they have been successful as a Freshman but are not required to do so.

b. Juniors and Seniors may not participate as Novices at State Finals. They may only debate in the Varsity division.

c. If you have any questions about which division a debater should compete in, please email me.

6. **Coaches:** Debaters cannot attend individually. *We expect each team to be accompanied by a Coach or responsible adult approved by your school* who will follow and manage the team’s activities and be available for discussion if required. The Coach may also serve as a judge.

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

Tournament Day Schedule

Time	Activity	Comment
8-9AM	Arrival and registration	Register, buy lunch tickets, gather in the cafeteria
9-10AM	Case Preparation	Packet distributed; teams prepare for debate Judges workshop for new judges
10-11:15AM	Round 1	Classrooms or online
11:15AM-12:30PM	Round 2	Classrooms or online
12:30-1:15PM	Lunch	Cafeteria
1:15-2:30PM	Round 3	Classrooms or online
2:30-3:45PM	Round 4	Classrooms or online
4-5PM	Final Round	Auditorium
5-5:30PM	Awards	Trophies, ballots and departure

Round Format

Prime Minister Constructive (PMC)	7 minutes	Provides an interpretation of the resolution and lays out the Government’s case
Leader of Opposition Constructive (LOC)	8 minutes	Lays out the Opposition case and replies to the Government case.
Member of Government Constructive (MGC)	8 minutes	Responds to previous arguments, and may introduce new points while doing so
Member of Opposition Constructive (MOC)	8 minutes	
Leader of Opposition Rebuttal (LOR)	4 minutes	Summarizes the debate from the Opposition perspective, while responding to arguments.
Prime Minister Rebuttal (PMR)	5 minutes	Summarizes the debate from the Government perspective, while responding to arguments.