



# ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

*Illinois' first public university*

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Illinois State Forensics Union, I cordially invite you to participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Lincoln-Douglas Redbird Debate Tournament, to be held via ForensicsTournament.net and the 8x8 platform November 14-15, 2020. The weekend will be comprised of a 6 round prelim tournament with requisite outrounds by division.

## Divisions

We will offer Varsity, Junior Varsity, Novice, and True Novice divisions. For the purpose of this tournament:

- **Junior Varsity** - any student in their first 2 years of collegiate debate.
- **Novice** - any student in their first 2 semesters of collegiate debate (3 tournaments = 1 semester)
- **True Novice** - any student in their first semester of debate (this includes any form of debate and includes high school experience).

Everything that can be done will be done to preserve True Novice AND Novice divisions. However, if one or both does not make, we will host a breakout final for each if we have enough judges.

## Judge Coverage

**Each program must cover at least 75% of their debate entry** to ensure that the judging pool is diverse and qualified. Due to contractual obligations, we are unable to hire any of the graduate students at the university to help cover judging, BUT you can hire them! We do have a few who have actual debate experience now and if you are needing judges let us know so we can put you in contact with them.

Additionally, in an effort to increase the quality of the LD judging pool we are offering 1 free slot per judge above a team's commitment (maximum of 2 free entries). We recognize that there is a lot of talent in the Midwest who we do not have contact information for and would love to employ those individuals for the weekend. If you assist in securing hires for the pool, we will pay the judge AND offer your team a free entry slot.

## FEES

\$5 school fee (to cover software)

\$35 per covered LD entry (1 judge covers 2 debaters)

\$110 per uncovered LD entry (This is the \$35 entry fee + \$75 uncovered fee)

Judges dropped at check-in will incur a \$75 charge + the uncovered fee for the event.

***If you need entry fee assistance, please reach out as opportunities are available. The sooner you reach out the easier it will be for us to accommodate you.***

## ENTRIES DUE:

**5:00 pm (CST) Tuesday, November 10, 2020. Mark your calendars!**

Any adds after Wednesday, November 11, 2020, will be at the tournament's discretion.

Any no-shows (defined as 10 minutes late with no notice to tab staff) for the tournament will be assessed the following fees:

- A debater no-show is an additional \$30 AND the debater will be dropped from the tournament
- A judge no-show fee is an additional \$50 per round
- The above fees will be strictly enforced, please inform your entire team AND judging staff

The tournament will be utilizing ForensicsTournament.net this year and the 8x8 video platform. All registration will occur through the website.

## Payment

Please make checks payable to: Illinois State University Forensics Union; EIN# 964785.

W9 is available upon request. If sending a check, we ask that you have them sent to us **no later than 2 weeks** after the close of the tournament.

Please mail checks to:

ISU Forensics

Campus Box 4480

Normal, IL 61790-4480

If you would like to pay by credit card, we have the option for you to pay online. [Online Payment Portal](#) Please just follow the prompts and enter the information from your Final Fee Sheet.

**Awards** - We will award the top 5% or top 5 speakers in each field, depending on which is a higher number. If the novice divisions do not make, we will ensure we recognize the Top Novice and the Top True Novice debater. The speaker awards are named after Howard C. Nelson, a member of the Illinois State University debate team in the 1920s. Mr. Nelson was a committed member of the team, and the speaker awards are awarded in his honor and to continue the legacy of competitive debate at Illinois State University. We will also offer awards to all advancing debaters.

**Sweepstakes** - Debate sweeps will be awarded to the top three schools based on prelim and elimination wins.

**Rules and Tiebreaks** - The tournament will be using NFA-LD Rules. The first tie break will be Opponent Wins and the second tie break will be based dropped High/Low speaker points.

**Judge Commitments**- All judges will be committed for the first FULL outround and then 1 round after their last debater's loss. We would appreciate it if you could stay for all the outrounds to allow for diverse panels, especially since we are all virtual this year. If you do need or want to be done after your official commitment, please notify Tab ASAP on Sunday.

**Title IX and Clery Act Information** - Members of the Illinois State coaching staff will complete mandatory Title IX training and our team members will complete mandatory Bystander Training prior to the start of the tournament. In addition, we are working to have a training program for our guest alumni and judges prior to the start of the tournament. For information on ISU's policies and a link to our online reporting system, please visit: <https://titleix.illinoisstate.edu/> To report an incident to campus police please call 309-438-8631 or visit [police.illinoisstate.edu](https://police.illinoisstate.edu)

Please direct any questions to [sjcarl3@ilstu.edu](mailto:sjcarl3@ilstu.edu)

Looking forward to seeing you in November,

Shanna Carlson  
Director of  
Debate

Zach Thornhill  
Graduate Assistant,  
Debate

Megan Koch  
Director of  
Forensics

Spencer Coile  
Assistant Director of  
Individual Events

## Schedule

**Saturday, November 14, 2020, all times are Central Standard Time**

Round 0 -	9:30a
Round 1 -	10:00-11:30a
Round 2 -	11:45-12:15p
LUNCH -	12:15 - 1:15p
Round 3 -	1:30-3:00p
Round 4 -	3:15-4:45p
Round 5 -	5:00-6:30p

**Sunday, November 15, 2020**

Round 6 -	10:00-11:30a
Outround 1 -	11:45-12:15p
LUNCH -	12:15-1:15p
Outround 2 -	1:30-3:00p
Outround 3 -	3:15-4:45p
Outround 4 -	5:00-6:30p

**AWARDS - Will be hosted live ASAP, a link will be sent out prior**

## Using the 8x8 Platform

The tournament will use 8x8 video conferencing so that a synchronous, on-line tournament, competition/administrative experience can be had by all. The 8x8 platform works seamlessly with the forensicstournament.net registration website. Danny Cantrell of San Antonio College has done a remarkable job of creating a synchronous platform site that sits atop the existing tournament registration website. He has assembled a very helpful collection of resources here:

<https://forensicstournament.net/online>

We encourage you to watch the resource videos for judges and students that he has created.

To access the coaches' video, go here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKH1sOKgOV08&list=PLgA6ZKvXfAxNRTIfbd0oYNSwVku0Q QYEP&index2>

This video details how to enter students' and judges' contact information into the system when you register for the tournament. Essentially, this video describes the process you use to enter the emails and or phone numbers of your competitors in your forensicstournament.net roster tool so that they can receive email or text notifications from the tournament. This does not make this information visible to the tournament administrators.

Participation in this sort of tournament requires several resources. Judges, coaches, and participants should plan to have:

- A reliable laptop or desktop that can accommodate the **Google Chrome** browser.

- A reliable internet connection of at least 6 MBPS (megabytes per second) download/upload speed.

- Access to a space where they can (hopefully) perform without interruption.

- You may also wish to have headphones.

The tournament will create a series of virtual rooms in which the rounds will occur. Competitors scheduled to compete in that round will get a text or email (coaches will indicate what the competitor's preference is when they add the individual and their contact information to their team roster) with a link to get into the virtual room. You are not required to get an 8x8 account or download any software in order to participate. Once you are in a virtual room, it will look and feel very much like a Zoom meeting. We recommend that you look at the handy infographic below to acquaint yourself with the different features of the 8x8 competition rooms. This graphic is also available in a PDF at the <https://forensicstournament.net/online> link embedded here and above.

# Understanding 8x8

2882-Competitor Guidelines - OFRED (PDF).pdf - Adobe Acrobat Reader DC

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## UNDERSTANDING 8x8

8x8

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#	NOTES
1	Raise/Lower Your Hand
2	Open/Close Chat <i>(Part of the double entry process, Covered in "During the Round.")</i>
3	Turn On/Turn Off Audio <i>(Student's mic will be off when they are not speaking.)</i>
4	Leave/Cancel Call
5	Turn On/Turn Off Video <i>(Turning this off may improve the bandwidth of the video room - only use when necessary)</i>
6	Toggle Tile View <i>(Recommend for DEBATE/DUO viewing, Covered in "During the Round.")</i>
7	Share Link/Dial-in Information
8	More Actions...

Type here to search

3:02 PM 8/27/2020

### **Some best practices for judges...**

- We request that judges avoid penalizing directly or indirectly a student for video quality issues. These issues are rarely the student's fault. Please focus on the performance and not the video itself.
- Students may decide to sit to perform. Again, we believe that should be up to the student to determine what works best for them in their situation.
- A student may need to perform their selection from a tight space in an office, classroom, dorm, or even from their home. Please be understanding of this even if you believe that the background isn't sufficiently "professional."
- Judges please mute your email or applications you may be using while judging. This can be distracting for the performers. Please also mute your microphone whenever you are not speaking.
- You may find it useful to have some paper with you to make a few notes about performances.
- On your e-ballots, please do your very best to provide constructive feedback for the debaters. We highly recommend that you work on filling out your ballot during CX and prep time to ensure you are providing meaningful feedback. As best you are able, please also provide a rationale for your decisions.

### **Some best practices for competitors...**

- ▫ Please have a reliable laptop or other device at the ready and make sure it is near a reliable power source.
- Try to be in a place where you can have at least 6 MBPS internet speed.
- You may wish to use headphones or a microphone.
- As best you can, try to set up in a distraction-free environment for each of your rounds.
- You should receive an email (or text) from the tournament with your e-postings. This should happen about 10 minutes prior to the round. You may need to monitor your junk or spam email folder as some email programs might not recognize it initially.
- Please keep your microphone muted when you are not speaking.

**We plan to have a "help" room set up. We will tell you what the specific link is for that as the tournament approaches. Feel free to reach out to us there if you have questions.**