

Dear Coaches, Students, and Colleagues,

The Hart House Debates Committee is pleased to extend to you an invitation to the University of Toronto's annual Hart House High Schools Debating Tournament, held February 15-16, 2019. The tournament's aim will be to create an enjoyable, educational, and competitive event that will capture the experience of university-style debating.

Rounds: There will be five preliminary rounds (two on Friday, three on Saturday) in which all teams will participate. Hidden quarterfinals, which all teams are eligible for, will be held in the fifth round. Preliminary rounds will be followed by a Semi Final, Junior Final, and Grand Final. The tournament's first three rounds will have open adjudication, meaning debaters will be informed of the outcome of the debate and given constructive feedback from their judge. The remaining rounds will be closed adjudication.

Format: Debates will be held in British Parliamentary (BP) format. All motions will be impromptu. The resolutions will be accessible to all high school debaters with a general knowledge of contentious issues. Squirrelling will not be permitted. A briefing on the format will be provided by an experienced Hart House debater before the first round.

Junior Category: The tournament will be open to all students from grades 7-12. There will be a "junior" designation assigned to students from grades 7-9. The top four junior teams will compete in front of an audience in the Junior Final, held at the same time as the Semi Final. Both members of a team must have the "junior" designation to compete in the Junior Final. Awards will be given to the top junior teams and speakers, who are also eligible for overall tournament awards.

Food: Light dinner will be provided on Friday night, as well as lunch on Saturday. Hot drinks will be provided on Saturday morning. Any dietary concerns (including severe allergies, kosher, halal, vegan, etc.) should be indicated on the registration form so that we can properly accommodate your needs.

Accommodations: If your club needs help finding accommodations in Toronto, please contact us at harthousehs2019@gmail.com and we will gladly help you.

Registration/Deadlines: The cap for this tournament is 124 teams (248 participants), with a team cap of 5 teams per school. This will ensure that all rooms can receive high-quality judging from university-level debaters. Coaches will not be asked to judge. In order to streamline the registration process this year, registration will be completed through the following three steps.

- 1) Please reserve team spots using this form: <https://goo.gl/forms/ztQio1fZGQi19bkK2>. We advise coaches to register their teams as quickly as possible to secure spots, as they will be allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis. There will be a waiting list for schools that are not allocated spots or want to send additional teams. The form will be closed for submissions at the end of **January 18th, 2019**.
- 2) All schools that successfully reserve team spots will receive an email confirmation containing a separate form to fill out participant/dietary restriction information. The deadline for submitting participant information is **January 25th, 2019**. Institutions that neglect to confirm information for their teams by this date may have their spots reallocated to a school on the waitlist. Coaches will be notified of additional openings on the waitlist by January 28th, 2019.
- 3) Schools with confirmed spots will also receive detailed payment instructions by email. The tournament cost is \$160 per team. Unless specified otherwise with the tournament directors, schools will be required to send a full payment encompassing all registered teams by the deadline of **February 1st, 2019**. Please complete this step promptly, as teams are not considered fully registered until a payment is received. For schools that receive spots from the waitlist, we will provide a later payment deadline in February, in advance of the tournament date. If your club requires accommodations with regards to payment deadlines, please contact us and we will make alternative arrangements.

Please note that the cancellation deadline for any team is February 8th, 2019. Refunds will not be given past this date. We will charge a \$15 cancellation fee for every team.

Style Guide/Additional Information: The Hart House Debates Committee will release an online package in mid-January. The package will contain a brief guide on note-taking, case construction, and role-fulfillment; as well as a schedule, map, and information about Hart House.

Tournament Schedule

Out of respect for your fellow competitors, we ask that teams arrive on time. We reserve the right to drop teams that unnecessarily delay the tournament or fail to register on time. Registration will close sharp at 3:35 PM as we begin introductions and briefings.

Friday, February 15th, 2019

GA: Great Hall

1:00 – 3:30 PM Registration (Teams dropped at 3:35)

3:30 – 4:15 PM Introductions and Briefings

4:15 – 6:30 PM Round #1 (Open Adjudication)

6:30 – 7:30 PM Dinner

7:30 - 9:45 PM Round #2 (Open Adjudication)

Saturday, February 16th, 2019

GA: HH Debates Room/Music Room

8:30 – 9:00 AM Registration (Teams dropped at 9:00)

9:00 – 11:15 AM Round #3 (Open Adjudication)

11:15 – 1:15 PM Round #4 (Closed Adjudication)

1:15 – 2:00 PM Lunch

2:00 – 4:00 PM Round #5 (Hidden Quarters)

4:00 – 5:30 PM Semi Finals and Junior Final

5:30 – 7:00 PM Grand Final

7:00 – 7:30 PM Awards Ceremony

Debaters are expected to remain in the designed GA rooms after their current round has finished– we will move forward with the tournament as soon as we are able to complete the next

draw.

For all general inquiries, please contact us at harthousehs2019@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you at Hart House,

Minyi Wang and Eric Zhao

Tournament Directors, Hart House High Schools Debating Tournament 2019