UNLV Debate Team is proud to host the eleventh annual Las Vegas Classic Debate Tournament. This year our tournament will be held on October 20, 21, and 22, 2018 and the tournament hotel will be The Rio Casino and Hotel, located on the north end of the Las Vegas Strip. As always, we promise to provide classic Vegas hospitality and excellent competition. Also, our tournament takes place in LAS VEGAS! Seriously…your school will pay for you to attend a debate tournament in America's ultimate vacation destination. How can you say no?

We are looking forward to seeing all of our friends in Las Vegas this fall!

Sincerely,

Jake Thompson and the UNLV Debate coaching staff and team.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

DATES: Registration for the Tournament will take place on Friday October 19, 2018 and debates will occur on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday October 20-22, 2018. The deadline to enter the tournament is Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. PST.

FEES: Entry fees will be $85 per person attending (debaters, judges, coaches, helpers, scouts, etc). We accept cash, credit card, or check as payment. Checks should be made out to “Board of Regents, UNLV” and paid in person if possible. Credit card payment can be made by filling out and submitting a signed copy of the credit card authorization form, which is the last page of the invitation.

UNLV’s mailing address is
4505 S. Maryland Pkwy
Box 454052
Las Vegas, NV 89154-4052

UNLV’s federal tax ID number is 88-6000024.

SCHEDULE: The tournament will have seven preliminary rounds (JV and Novice may go to 6 prelim rounds, depending on the size of each division and judge availability). Four preliminary rounds will occur on Saturday and the remaining preliminary debates will occur on Sunday. At least one elimination debate in all divisions also will occur on Sunday night. Elimination rounds on Monday will be held on the UNLV campus.

OTHER INFO: We will use the 2018-2019 NDT/CEDA policy debate topic. The time limits will be 9-3-6, with 10 minutes of preparation time per team. The tournament is officially ADA sanctioned. The CEDA statement on Sexual Harassment will be upheld. Tournament participants should adhere to CEDA and NDT rules related to behavior and ethical principles, and all relevant UNLV rules and regulations. The tournament will offer all 3 divisions of debate, and if possible, will not collapse divisions. We will generally adhere to the Council of Tournament Directors (CoTD) guidelines for tournament administration, and the CoTD recommended guidelines to address “card clipping.”

PARKING: We have secured free parking at the tournament hotel. Parking at UNLV on the weekends is free. On campus, you may park for free in any non-metered spot marked “student” or “staff.” If you park in obviously illegal spots (like accessible parking spaces, those labeled “reserved 24 hours per day,” or other such places) you are likely to be ticketed or towed. We will secure parking passes to allow tournament participants to park for free legally on campus on Monday.
HOTEL INFORMATION:

The tournament hotel is The Rio Hotel and Casino, located on the north end of the Las Vegas Strip. Please make your hotel reservations at the tournament hotel. It is important to the viability of our tournament that you do so!!! It also is a bargain during peak tourism season in Las Vegas at only $89.00 per night with NO RESORT FEE—for singles OR doubles with up to FOUR occupants. We also have negotiated free wifi for up to four persons per room. Rates are subject to applicable state taxes, local taxes, and fees.

Make your reservations online in order to avoid a $15 per room “booking fee.” If you encounter a problem with online booking, please contact me and I will put you in touch with the correct person to take your reservation over the phone (and avoid the $15 per room booking fee). To make your reservations online go to: https://book.passkey.com/go/SRUNL8. Please also note, the passkey online reservation system will only let you reserve ONE ROOM AT A TIME. Clearly, this is not an optimal way to spend your time, but unfortunately there isn’t anything that can be done about it right now.

If you prefer to pay more and make reservations by phone you may do so by calling the Reservation Center at 888-746-6955 to secure the bookings, listed under “UNLV Debate” or “SRUNL8.” If you book over the phone, you will be charged $15 per room that you book.

Guests must be at least 21 years of age to check in. Coaches who are paying for the rooms for their teams either need credit card authorization forms filled out, or the card holder would need to be present when all of the rooms are checking in. Hotel check-in time is 4:00pm and check-out time is 11:00am. When requesting early check-in and/or late check-out additional fees may apply.

If you need an Accessible room, please contact me directly, and I will put you in touch with the correct person at the Rio to make that happen.

YOU MUST MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BEFORE THE CUT-OFF-DATE OF THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2018 TO RECEIVE THE GROUP RATE.

ELIGIBLE TEAMS:

ELIGIBILITY RULES: We generally will adhere to the Council of Tournament Directors best practices document to determine eligibility and hybrid team participation. A single person debating “maverick” cannot win a debate (though the debate may still happen for educational purposes). For more information, and to view the document, please visit http://tournamentdirectors.wordpress.com/current-best-practices-document/

TEAMS PER DIVISION RESTRICTION: In order to pair rounds effectively, the number of teams per division (from a single school) may be limited to 5. Ultimately, the number of teams that you enter may never constitute more than 1/3 of the total entries in that particular division. If you have questions or are close to the limit, please let me know and I’ll be happy to discuss this with you.

NUMBER OF TEAMS CLEARING TO ELIM ROUNDS: Given an adequate number of teams, and available judging for the first and second elimination debates, we will clear up to half of the field (although not more than 32 teams) in the varsity division, as long as those teams have (at least) a .500 record.

ELIM FLIP FORFEITURE RULE: When flipping for sides for the elimination debates, at least one member of both teams must be present to flip for sides and declare their decision at least 30 minutes
before the scheduled starting time of an elimination debate. If a representative of a team is not present to flip and declare a side, that team forfeits their right to flip and the team that is present automatically gets to choose their side.

**JUDGING:**

**JUDGING REQUIREMENTS:** One team requires four rounds of judging commitment, and two teams require 7 rounds of judging commitment. Each school is expected to provide qualified judges to accompany their teams. **Our version of the Lupo rule is in effect:** **EVERY person in attendance at the tournament is committed for a minimum of 3 preliminary rounds.** If you require an exception to this expectation for medical or other appropriate reasons, please email me. If a judge representing your team cannot be placed in the number of rounds that they are obligated to judge, we reserve the right to increase the commitment of your more highly preferred judges. Judges who are not eligible to judge in the Varsity Division **WILL** judge in Junior Varsity and Novice. Every judge entered must have a judging philosophy posted on tabroom.com. All hired judging should occur through the tabroom.com judge hiring function.

**All judges are committed through the first elimination debate on Monday,** or one round beyond which their team is eliminated. Judges should be able to cover a school's commitment despite potential constraints.

**JUDGE PREFERENCE:** We will use ordinal judge preferences for preliminary and elimination debate rounds. Preferences will be available on Tabroom.com between Wednesday October 17 and Friday October 19, 2018. **Preferences will be due no later than 6:00 p.m. (PST) on Friday October 19, 2018.**

Novice and Junior Varsity preferences will be honored, but we expect that Novice and Junior Varsity teams will NOT strike non-Varsity eligible judges. In previous years the tournament lost approximately 30-40 rounds of available judging because Novice and Junior Varsity teams struck all of the Novice and Junior Varsity-only eligible judges, in order to ensure that does not happen again we ask that Novice and Junior Varsity teams appropriately rank members of the Novice and Junior Varsity-only eligible judging pool.

**JUDGE DECISION REQUIREMENTS:** All judges at the tournament are expected to render a decision within 2 hours and 30 minutes of the scheduled start time for preliminary debates and within 2 hours and 45 minutes of the scheduled start time for an elimination debate. Failure to abide by the time limit will result in the tab room flipping a coin to decide the winner the round. All judges must render a decision where they indicate one, and only one, team that won the round (did the better job of debating). Judges' ballots not adhering to this rule will be corrected by the tab room, flipping a coin to determine the winner.

**TOURNAMENT TABULATION:**

Adam Symonds will be running the tab room again this year, and he will be using tabroom.com to tabulate the tournament. Round matching will occur as follows using the SOP power matching system (which is used at almost every tournament).

**Round matching:** Rounds 1 and 2 will be pre-set
Rounds 3, 4, and 5 will be power matched (high-low)
Round 6 will be lag power matched off rounds 1 through 4 (high-low)
Round 7 will be power matched (high-low)
Side assignments for round 7 will be determined by a “coin flip” BY THE TABULATION SYSTEM.
Elimination rounds: Given an adequate number of teams, and available judging for the first and second elimination debates, we will clear up to half of the field (although not more than 32 teams) in the varsity division, as long as those teams have (at least) a .500 record. We will not break brackets in elimination rounds.

Awards: Our awards are awesome! They include a large poker chip sets for the finalists and champions in all three divisions; Title Boxing belts for the top speakers in each division, and other awards that reflect the unique culture of Las Vegas.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE:

Friday, October 19, 2018
Online or phone registration and tournament check-in. Enjoy your Friday evening in Vegas!

Saturday, October 20, 2018
8:00 a.m. Pairings Released, Rounds 1 & 2
8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast, UNLV Campus
9:00 a.m. Round 1 Required Starting Time
11:45 a.m. Round 2 Required Starting Time
2:00 p.m. Lunch
3:15 p.m. Round 3 Required Starting Time
6:45 p.m. Round 4 Required Starting Time

Sunday, October 21, 2018
8:00 a.m. Pairings Released, Round 5
8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast, UNLV Campus
9:00 a.m. Round 5 Required Starting time
11:00 a.m. a bevy of delicious snacks will be available—lunch following round 6
12:00 Round 6 Required Starting time
2:00 p.m. Lunch
3:30 p.m. Round 7 Required Starting Time (possibly first elim for Novice or JV divisions)
6:30 p.m. Awards Assembly
7:30 p.m. 1st Elimination Round Required Starting Time

Monday, October 22, 2018—Elimination Rounds at UNLV Student Union.
8:00 a.m. Pairings Released
8:30 a.m. Elimination round flip forfeiture rule in effect
9:00 a.m. Second Elimination Round Required Starting Time
The remainder of the elimination round schedule will proceed as quickly as possible.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL IN LAS VEGAS!!!
2018 Las Vegas Classic Debate Tournament @ UNLV
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Credit Card Authorization Form
Fax # (702) 895-4805

Your Name: _______________________________________
Billing Address:____________________________________
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School’s name:_____________________________________
Credit Card Type (circle one)
Visa / Master Card / Discover / American Express / Diners Club

Card Number: ________________________________
Expiration Date: ________________________________
Name (as printed on card): ________________________________
Card Holder’s Address: ________________________________

Phone Number: ________________________________

I authorize payment by the amount listed to be charges to my credit card and to be paid to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. By Signing below, I agree that I am the cardholder and that I am responsible for this payment in accordance with the issuing bank cardholder agreement. I further understand that I am responsible for any penalty fees that may be incurred if the credit card company denies my credit card payment. A facsimile or photocopy of this form with my signature is considered the same as the original.

PAYMENT AMOUNT $ ________________________________

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