



NYPDL Ranking System and League Championship

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Introduction

In May 2021, the New York Parliamentary Debate League will host a Championship Tournament with an Overall division and a Novice division. Unlike other NYPD L tournaments, in which any high school team is encouraged to compete, the NYPD L Championship will be invite-only.

Throughout the year, individuals will accrue points which will allow them to qualify for the end-of-year Championship. “Qualifying points” can be earned by winning preliminary rounds and elimination rounds at NYPD L-sanctioned tournaments. Speaker points at a tournament do not contribute to an individual’s point total. While speaker points are based on individual success, qualifying points are based on team success.

At the end of the year, the top 32 Overall individuals and the top 32 Novice individuals will be invited to compete in their respective division at the NYPD L Championship. The format of this Championship will be different from other NYPD L tournaments. Each division in the Championship will have its own double elimination bracket and there will be no preliminary rounds. A team is out of the tournament once it has lost two rounds. Pairings for rounds will be determined by seeding based on qualifying points — the team with the highest number of points will face the team with the lowest number of points, and so on.

Please read below for more details. Please email any questions to nyparli@gmail.com.

Process of Acquiring Points at an NYPDL-Sanctioned Tournament

All NYPDL-sanctioned tournaments are featured on our [schedule page](#), and the page only features NYPDL-sanctioned tournaments. At these tournaments, teams will have the opportunity to accrue qualifying points. Points can only be earned based upon the team's performance; speaker points and speaker awards do not earn teams any qualifying points.

Teams will accrue points for winning debate rounds. There are two components involved in calculating how many qualifying points a team will accrue at a particular tournament.

Preliminary Rounds

First, points can be earned through winning preliminary rounds. The number of qualifying points accrued will depend on the team's record at the tournament. The following table details the points accumulated based on the record of a team at a tournament:

Record at tournament	Points accrued
0-5	0 points
1-4	1 point
2-3	3 points
3-2	6 points
4-1	10 points
5-0	15 points

Elimination Rounds

Second, points can also be earned by qualifying for, and progressing through, elimination rounds. Qualifying points for winning elimination rounds are not based upon a team's seeding, but rather the size of the division in which the team competes. The number of points a team will earn for reaching a particular elimination round is computed as follows:

# of Teams in Division	Doubles	Octofinalist	Quarterfinalist	Semifinalist	Runner-up	Champions
0-40	n/a	n/a	4	12	20	28
41-60	n/a	n/a	8	16	24	32
61-80	n/a	4	12	20	28	36
81-100	n/a	8	16	24	32	40
101-120	4	12	20	28	36	44
121-140	8	16	24	32	40	48
141+	12	20	28	36	44	52

Note: The points listed above are not additive. For example, a team that finishes as Semifinalists in a division of 45 teams earns 16 points, and not $8 + 16$ points. A runner-up in the same division of 45 teams would earn 24 points, and not $8 + 16 + 24$ points.

Novice Multipliers and “Number of Teams in Division”

Certain multipliers may be applied to Novice teams depending on whether the tournament has split divisions — in that Varsity and Novice teams cannot debate against each other — or if the tournament has one open division — in that Varsity and Novice teams can debate against each other. These multipliers reflect the difference in difficulty of winning elimination rounds between the Novice and Varsity bracket — an average team will find it easier to win the Novice Championship than the Varsity Championship. The two cases are listed below with examples for clarification.

1. Split Divisions: Varsity and Novice teams cannot debate against each other
 - a. A multiplier of 0.75x is applied to Novice teams for their qualifying points accrued in both their preliminary rounds and elimination rounds.
 - i. For example, a Varsity team that has a record of 4-1 (10 points) and finishes as quarterfinalists in a division of 45 Varsity teams (10 points) should expect 20 total points. A Novice team in the same scenario — 4-1, quarterfinalists, 45 Novice teams — would earn $0.75 * 20 = 15$ points.
 - b. To determine the “Number of Teams in Division” to calculate qualifying points accrued from elimination rounds for both Novice and Varsity teams, only the number of teams in their respective division will be considered.
 - i. For example, for a tournament with 35 Varsity teams and 35 Novice teams, if there is one open division, the points accrued will fall under the “61-80” team category. However, if the tournament has split divisions, then teams will earn points through the “40 teams or less” category.

2. Open Division: Varsity and Novice teams can debate against each other
 - a. The Novice multiplier of 0.75x will apply only to points accrued through winning elimination rounds, NOT to the preliminary rounds.
 - i. For example, a Novice team that has a 4-1 record (10 points) and wins the Novice Championship in a pool of 45 Novice teams ($0.75 * 22$ points) will accrue 26.5 points at the tournament.
 - b. The “Number of Teams in Division” to calculate qualifying points accrued from elimination rounds is different for Varsity and Novice teams. To calculate points for Varsity teams, the “Number of Teams in Division” will be equal to the number of teams at the entire tournament — Varsity + Novice. To calculate points for Novice teams, the “Number of Teams in Division” will be equal to the number of Novice teams at the tournament. This is because Novice teams can qualify for the Varsity bracket, but the Novice bracket is exclusive to Novice debaters.

Distribution of Points and Maintenance of Ranking System

At the conclusion of every NYPDL-sanctioned tournament, the NYPDL will compute the qualifying points — a sum of each team's success in preliminary and elimination rounds — accrued by each team. The NYPDL will assign each individual in a team the number of points that their team earned at the tournament. For instance, if Team A consists of Individual 1 and Individual 2, and Team A accrues a total of 23 qualifying points at a NYPDL-sanctioned tournament, each individual will receive 23 qualifying points. If, at a future NYPDL tournament, Individual 1 competes with a different person — Individual 3 — and they accrued 14 qualifying points, then each individual would both receive 14 qualifying points, such that Individual 1 now has 37 qualifying points (not yet accounting for diminishing returns).

The NYPDL will maintain a ranking system in a spreadsheet available to the public that will display the qualifying points of the top 50 debaters in the Overall division and the top 40 debaters in the Novice division.

Please view the public rankings spreadsheet [here](#).

Diminishing Returns

In order to avoid punishing teams that are unable to attend all tournaments, we will be implementing a system of diminishing returns in calculating the total points accrued in a year.

Placement of tournament	% of points counted from that tournament in an individual's total points for the year: (Decreasing by 10%)
Highest point-scoring tournament	100%
Second highest	90.0%
Third highest	81.0%
Fourth highest	72.9%
Fifth highest	65.6%
Sixth highest	59.0%
Seventh highest	53.1%
Eighth highest	47.8%
Ninth highest	43.0%
Tenth highest	38.7%
Eleventh highest	34.8%
Twelfth highest	31.3%
Thirteenth highest	28.2%

For example, for a team that accrues 40, 20, 6, and 1 points, respectively, at the four tournaments they attend, their final point total would be calculated as follows:

$40(1.00) + 20(0.90) + 6(0.81) + 1(0.729) = 63.59$ points accrued for the year.

Tiebreakers

In the unique case of two individuals having accrued the same number of qualifying points during the season, then the tiebreaker will be calculated accordingly:

- Head to Head Record
 - Example: if Individual 1 and 2 have the equal qualifying points, but Individual 1 has won three out of the five rounds in which they have competed – both preliminary and elimination rounds – then Individual 1 will be ranked higher.
- Yearlong Strength of Schedule
 - The Yearlong Strength of Schedule (Y-SOS) is an average of a debater's per-tournament strength of schedules (T-SOS). T-SOS is the average of the number of wins that their opponent finished with at each tournament.
 - For example, in a tournament where I debated against five teams who finished with 1, 1, 2, 3, and 3 wins respectively, my T-SOS is 2. If I compete in only one more tournament for the entire year, and have a T-SOS of 3 at that tournament, then my Y-SOS is 2.5.
- Best Individual Tournament Performance
 - If Individual 1's highest qualifying point total at a tournament is 32 points, and Individual 2's is 30 points, then Individual 1 is ranked higher.
- Coin Toss
 - In the extremely unlikely scenario that none of the first three tiebreakers work, rankings will be determined by coin toss.

Selection, Formation and Placement of Championship Teams

After the completion of the final NYPDL Invitational (currently scheduled for April 17 and 18), the top 32 debaters overall and the top 32 novice debaters qualify and will be invited to compete at the end-of-year NYPDL Championship Tournament.

Formation of Teams

Schools will either have an even or odd number of individuals qualify for each division of the Championship. Qualification for the Championship and the formation of teams are as follows:

- If a school has an even number of individuals in a specific division who qualify for the Championship, then they will pair off as they wish.
 - If School X has four top-32 Overall debaters, they will form two Varsity teams.
 - If School X has six top-32 Novice debaters, they will form three Novice teams.
- If a school has an odd number of individuals in a specific division who qualify for the Championship, then they can invite the next-best debater from their school from that division, and then pair off as they wish.
 - If School X has three top-32 Novice debaters, and the other two Novice debaters on their team are ranked #40 and #51, respectively, the Novice debater ranked #40 will qualify for the Championship.

Placement of Novice Teams

Varsity debaters may only qualify for the Overall division of the Championship. Novice debaters may qualify for either the Novice or the Overall division of the Championship. Novices will compete in either the Novice or Overall bracket of the Championship based on the following:

- If both Novice individuals on a team are top 32 Overall, they must compete in Overall.
- If one Novice individual on a team is top 32 Overall, but their partner is top 32 Novice — and not top 32 Overall — then the team has the choice of competing in either the Novice or Overall bracket.
- If both Novice individuals on a team are top 32 Novice, but not top 32 Overall, they must compete in the Novice bracket.

Additional Notes on the Selection Process and Team Formation

1. No hybrid entries will be allowed at the NYPDL Championship.¹
2. “Ironman” or “maverick” entries will not be allowed at the NYPDL Championship.²
3. After the team formation process outlined above, in the event that there is an odd number of teams within a division, the NYPDL will invite the next-best individual to compete. For example, if debaters ranked #1 through #35 are attending the tournament, then the debater ranked #36 will be invited. This individual must debate with the next-best debater from their school.

¹ With the exception of last-minute emergencies, which the NYPDL board will deal with on a case-by-case basis.

² See footnote 1.

Seeding and Format of Annual Championship

The championship will follow a double-elimination format. Seeding is determined by the average rank of the two debaters. For example, a team consisting of debaters ranked #3 and #5 would be seeded higher than a team of debaters ranked #4 and #10. Seeding ties will be broken by the highest rank of each team.

The initial winner's bracket of the tournament will be determined by seeding, with the highest-seeding team facing the lowest, and so on. If a team wins their first round, they will remain in the winner's bracket. If a team loses a round, they will be placed in the loser's bracket. If a team in the loser's bracket loses again, they are eliminated from the tournament.

The Championship Finals will be between the winner of the winner's bracket (W-W) and the winner of the loser's bracket (W-L). W-L must defeat W-W twice to win the Championship, whereas W-W only needs to win once.

Conclusion

The League is incredibly excited to host its inaugural end-of-year Championship! We would be happy to clarify any details about any information covered in this document; please email nyparli@gmail.com.