

NCFCA Tournament Invitation
September 19-20, 2020

August 28, 2020

Dear colleagues, competitors, and friends of NCFCA,

From all of the leadership at NCFCA, we are very excited to welcome you to the 2020-21 competitive season! We hope everyone has been safe and healthy during COVID. We know that this year is going to be different for a lot of reasons out of our control, but our new goal is to create a safe, inclusive virtual learning environment for everyone to continue or start their forensics journey. We hope that you can join us!

This first tournament will be combined with our annual NCFCA Novice Camp for debate and IE's.

We will be posting videos and documents to welcome everyone and help them acclimate to the tournament.

Key tournament staff to know:

- Tournament director: Steve Farias
- Debate Events Tab: Raman Deol
- Individual Events Tab: Sue Petereson
- Tournament host/Digital ballot table: Alexis Litzky
- Tech support: Ryan Guy & Shannan Troxel-Andreas

We are very excited to virtually host you in September. Please contact us with any questions or concerns!

Steve Farias, UOP
Tournament Director

Alexis Litzky, CCSF
Tournament Host

I. Virtual format

We are making relevant changes to ensure our tournament offers an inclusive educational environment and maintains safety for everyone. This tournament will be 100% online and all competition will occur virtually through forensicstournament.net using 8x8 live video rooms. This section contains information to support your transition to online competition. [Danny's How virtual tournaments work on forensicstournament.net](#).

Hospitality Hub- A key feature of the tournament will be a live video room available throughout the tournament. There will be a digital ballot table where you can go to get help with questions about tournament participation and technical support. This will be the same room where NPDA topics will be announced.

Best practices guide for students [NOFF's competitor info video](#)

Virtual judging guide [NOFF's Judge video](#)

Policy for technology failure?

- If internet fails, can student repeat performance/speech?
 - Can it be done by audio only? How does this impact judging?
 - If the problem is slow internet the best option is to have the student leave their camera on, but mute the microphone on their computer. Then call in via a phone and use the phone audio. The speech is coherent, and typically the video works well enough to evaluate basic style and delivery. In NPDA and NFA-LD just switching to phone audio alone may be suitable.
 - If they are not able to maintain video they can switch to audio only. Judges should attempt to be as fair in evaluation as possible.
 - [How to Dial in to an 8x8 Room](#)
 - How many times should students attempt? How to adapt?
 - We will do our best to provide as much time as possible but realistically, 2-3 tries for reconnection will take up much of the breathing room in the schedule.
 - We will instruct judges in IE rounds, if the connection drops to pause and allow the student to call in. If the connect drops

before the start of the speech, we will instruct judges to move to the next competitor.

- In debate, STUDENTS should plan to record themselves on their phone or other device so that way if there is a connection error, the recording could be played starting from the time the connection was lost. JUDGES should stop the time, and if no recording can be made available, students should be instructed to pick-up where the debate left off.

II. Entry information

A. www.forensicstournament.net will be the online platform for the tournament. All entries, postings, and competition will be posted there.

B. Important dates:

1. Tournament entries due: Tues. Sept. 15, 2020 by midnight
2. Fees assessed: Thur., Sept. 17, 2020 at 12 P.M. (Noon)

C. General eligibility

1. Students must be currently enrolled in a class at the college they are representing. If students fail to meet the eligibility requirement but have a compelling justification, a coach or representative from the institution may petition the executive council and tournament staff for consideration to participate.
2. Each college participating at an NCEA sponsored or sanctioned event must be represented by a coach. The coach need not be from the same school as the contestants, but must be officially recognized as their faculty representative by their institution. Students will not be allowed to compete without a faculty representative at the tournament. Exceptions can be made for student-run teams, as determined by the Executive Committee in consultation with the host.

D. Division eligibility

1. Any student may enter open division, regardless of experience. Students with four semesters of collegiate experience in an event type MUST enter open division.
2. Students with less than four semesters of collegiate experience in an event type may enter junior divisions. Junior eligibility is lost when a student places first, second, or third in Junior and/or Open division at three different tournaments. If a student has been in final rounds of junior and/or open division of debate at three tournaments he/she must move to open division.

3. Novice Division shall be open only to those students meeting the following NCFA Eligibility Requirements:
 - a) High school experience in debate and Individual Events--if a student has competed in high school for two semesters, the student must compete in junior division.
 - b) College experience in debate--If a student has advanced beyond the first elimination round at two tournaments, or if the student has competed in the final round at three tournaments in any debate format (team or Lincoln-Douglas) then he/she must enter in a higher division.
 - c) College experience in Individual Events--A novice competitor must advance to junior (or open) division if he/she places (first, second, third) in an event, or like event type (i.e.-interpretation, limited prep, group event, and platform speeches), twice.

III. Competitive events

A. Individual events and Debate shall be scheduled opposite of one another with event restrictions described below.

1. Pattern A: After Dinner Speaking, Duo , Impromptu, Informative, & Lincoln Douglas
2. Pattern B: Communication Analysis, Programmed Oral Interpretation, Prose, IPDA, & NPDA
3. Pattern C: Dramatic Interpretation, Extemporaneous Speaking, Poetry, Persuasion, & Lincoln Douglas Debate

B. Pattern/Division Rules

1. Collapsing divisions -
 - a) Every effort will be made to preserve the Novice division. If we collapse events due to low entries we will recognize the top Novice competitive in each event.
 - (1) If a division in an individual event has fewer than 8 entrants, the lower division will be collapsed into the higher division.
 - (2) Any contestants entered in a lower division who qualify for the higher division final round must compete in the higher division final. Such students are to be recognized for that achievement at the awards presentations, but they will only receive awards in the higher division.

- b) Whenever an Open or Junior division of debate has fewer than 8 entries OR insufficient entries to pair discrete preliminary rounds (no repeat matches or matches between teams from the same school), the two divisions should be collapsed into a single Open Division.
 - (1) All teams will be eligible for an Open Division elimination bracket, which will begin at a level consistent with CEDA sweepstakes rules. The results of the Open Division eliminations will be reported to CEDA.
 - (2) Teams originally entered in a lower Division who do not qualify for the higher Division elimination bracket will be eligible for a lower Division elimination bracket.
 - c) In order to best utilize judges, when the total of all three divisions of an event is 12 or fewer contestants, with no division having 6 or more contestants, the divisions could be mixed in the same room with the same judge, and the contestants ranked separately.
2. Cross-entries -
- a) Students may enter UP TO 2 events per pattern.
 - b) If students are competing in NPDA debate, they may not enter another event in that Pattern.
 - c) Students competing in multiple events are responsible for signing in to their events before competing.
 - d) Students competing in Individual Events and Lincoln Douglas debate should do their speech event first.
3. Forfeits - Competitors who do not promptly (within 30 minutes of the start time) attend rounds will be subject to forfeitures
4. Elimination rounds - Any event with less than seven entries will not have a final round.

C. Events

1. Limited Prep Events
- a) Impromptu topics will be provided to each student in the Live Video Room chat box. Judges will need to copy/paste the topics (provided on the eBallots) in the chat window for the students. Each student will receive a different set of impromptu topics.

- b) Extemp questions will be provided for all speakers in a separate Extemp Prep Live Video Room. Students do not need to stay in that room after receiving the questions. The extemp proctor will copy/paste the questions into the chat window at the specified time.
2. Platform Events:
- a) While students are allowed to still use Visual Aids, they are encouraged to have them printed on 8.5x11 pages to show to the audience while presenting.
 - b) Screen sharing to show a PowerPoint or image is not permitted due to various technology issues. Since not all students may be able to access the screen sharing function, we feel it's best to not allow that option.
3. Interp Events:
- a) Students may, if they desire, stand up while performing to showcase blocking, but the technology works better sitting in front of the camera.
 - b) Duo partners are encouraged NOT to be in the same room to respect social distancing recommendations.
 - c) Partners, if in the same physical room, should share one live stream. Having multiple live video rooms open on the same WiFi causes poor connections.
 - d) Students are encouraged to try out various methods of performance ahead of time and innovate!

D. Judging

1. One critic covers 5 slots per pattern. Please ensure all of your judges are available for the entire tournament or let the tab staff know any updates about their availability. It is the only way we can keep the tournament running on time.
2. We will not be able to support entries without adequate judging. Hiredjudge.com is offering judges you can hire directly or through the tournament. Please contact the tournament director with any questions about your judging commitment.

E. Debate

1. Events offered-
 - a) Pattern A/C- NFA-LD debate
 - b) Pattern B- NPDA Debate

2. Rules

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- a) Each format of debate shall consist of 4 preliminary rounds and the appropriate number of elimination rounds. Each debate format shall follow the bylaws of its national organization unless otherwise specified in this invite.
- b) For NPDA,
 - (1) All winning records shall advance to elimination rounds
 - (2) We will advance no more than half the number of teams competing in preliminary rounds in each division, unless the number of teams with a winning record exceeds half of the entries in a division.
 - (3) All teams advancing must have at least 50% win-loss records including byes.
 - (4) All attempts will be made to prevent hybrid teams from meeting either of the two schools in prelims or elimination rounds, except in the instance of partial elimination rounds or if both teams have been eliminated from contention.
- c) For NFA-LD
 - (1) All winning records shall advance to elimination rounds.
 - (2) We will advance no more than half the number of teams competing in preliminary rounds in each division, unless the number of teams with a winning record exceeds half of the entries in a division.
 - (3) All teams advancing must have at least 50% win-loss records including byes.
- d) Criteria for advancing to elimination rounds
 - (1) Number of Preliminary Wins
 - (2) Opposition Wins
 - (3) Total Speaker Points
 - (4) Adjusted Speaker Points 1: Drop Low
 - (5) Adjusted Speaker Points 2: Drop High
 - (6) Adjusted Speaker Points 3: Drop High & Low
 - (7) Random
- e) In the event that judge availability is limited, the tournament and tabulation staff reserve the right to limit advancing teams/students to best utilize judges.

3. Judging

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- a) One critic covers 2 debate entries per debate event. Each judge is obligated through the first elimination round or one round beyond the elimination of their team.
- b) We will not be able to support entries without adequate judging. Hiredjudge.com is offering judges you can hire directly or through the tournament. Please contact the tournament director with any questions about your judging commitment.

IV. Tournament rules and protest procedures

A. In the case of protests over rules or ethical questions, the following procedure will be utilized.

1. Protests must be initiated by a coach or tournament official.
2. The first ruling shall be made by the Ombuds--- after consultation with all parties involved in the complaint.
3. Appeals of this ruling shall be directed to the Executive Committee of the NCEA.
4. After the committee reviews all available information, the ruling of the committee shall be final.

B. The Ombuds shall be appointed

V. Awards

A. Digital awards will be provided for all students that advance to elimination rounds in any event.

B. Digital Team Sweepstakes awards will be provided for the top 3 institutions in 2 categories: 2-year and 4-year schools.

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VII. Fees

- A. At the beginning of the tournament you will confirm your entries but any fees will be assessed at the end of the tournament.
- B. You are encouraged to pay electronically via Square, **paper checks** will need to be made payable to NCFE and mailed to Ryan Guy, NCFE Treasurer, at **PO Box 474 Ceres, CA 95307**.
- C. Any school can apply for a fee waiver or reduction. **Complete form attached to the tournament website** to submit your fee waiver.

Fee structure	
School fee	\$25.00
Individual event slot	\$5.00
Uncovered individual event slot	\$10.00
IPDA/NFA-LD Debate slot	\$10.00
Uncovered IPDA/NFA-LD slot	\$30.00
NPDA Debate team	\$35.00
Uncovered NPDA team	\$100.00

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VIII. Schedule

- A. FRIDAY, Sept. 18, 2020- Welcome Video provided by Tournament Staff at the end of camp. Instructions for competing, judging, and using software will be made available.
- B. SATURDAY/SUNDAY Event Schedule below

TIME	Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020	TIME	Sunday, Sept. 20, 2020
8:00-9:30	A1 (LD 1, ADS, DUO, IMP, INFO)	7:45-9:15	C1 (LD4, DI, EXT, POE, PER)
9:30-11:00	A2 (LD2, ADS, DUO, IMP, INFO)	9:15-10:45	C2 (LD E1, DI, EXT, POE, PER)
11:00-12:30	A3 (LD3, ADS, DUO, IMP, INFO)	10:45-12:15	C3 (LD E2, DI, EXT, POE, PER)
12:30-1:15	BREAK	12:15-1:00	BREAK
1:15-3:00	B1 (PAR 1, IPDA 1, CA, POI, PRO)	1:00-2:45	PAR E1, Pattern A Elim, IPDA Bronze
3:00-4:45	B2 (PAR 2, IPDA 2, CA, POI, PRO)	2:45-4:30	PAR E2, Pattern B Elim, IPDA Gold
4:45-6:30	B3 (PAR 3, IPDA 3, CA, POI, PRO)	4:30-6:30	PAR E3, Pattern C Elim, LD E3
6:30-8:15	PAR 4	6:30-8:30	AWARDS ASAP (PAR E4, LD E4 shall happen as necessary during this time)