



INTERNATIONAL FORENSICS ASSOCIATION

31st ANNUAL SPEECH & DEBATE TOURNAMENT AND CONFERENCE MARCH 12-14, 2021

Dear Colleague,

Congratulations on your team's impressive performance this past season!

As a program who's achieved a high level of recognition in your country, we cordially invite you to join us Virtually in March 2021 (see schedule for a complete list of dates) to compete globally at the 31st International Forensics Association's Speech & Debate Tournament.

The tournament will be conducted in English and consist of team debates in National Parliamentary Debate Association and British Parliamentary formats; individual debates in International Public Debate Association format; five interpretation of literature events, four platform speaking events, two limited-preparation speaking events, and four experimental events.

All competition rounds will be hosted online through forensicstournament.net using 8X8 live video rooms. Individual events preliminary rounds will be conducted asynchronously with out-rounds being performed synchronously. All debate round will be conducted synchronously. This section contains information to support your transition to online competition. [Danny's How virtual tournaments work on forensicstournament.net](#)

Should you have any questions regarding the registration process, please consult the instructions attached or contact one of our officers directly. We look forward to the prospect of seeing your team online in the Spring for the experience of a lifetime!

Regards,

Nicholas Butler, Ph.D.

President, International Forensics Association

Prof. James Dobson
Vice-President
Las Positas College

Dr. Michael Middleton
Secretary
University of Utah

Prof. JD Smith
Treasurer
Central Texas College

Prof. Wendell King II
International Liaison
Texas Southern University

ENTRIES

1. Entries are due to forensiccstournament.net by Tuesday March 2nd 11:59 pm (PST)
2. A school may enter a maximum of 10 students and/or teams per event.
3. Students may enter a maximum of 2 events per pattern (4 total) PLUS debate: NPDA, BP **or** IPDA. Time does not permit a student to enter both styles of debate.
4. Schools with large entries may have to compete against fellow teammates.

FEES

1. Each school is to pay a \$75 annual membership fee. (For this year, if your institution can not afford this fee, it will be waived.)
2. Each event entry requires a \$12 fee (assessed on March 7, 2021)
3. Any changes made after March 7 will be subject to a \$20 drop/change fee. Please email any changes to jjobson@laspositascollege.edu

JUDGES

1. Judges must be qualified educators and possess a bachelor's degree.
2. ***Schools must provide as many judges as possible.*** One judge covers 5 I.E. events per pattern (10 total) and 2 debate entries (Debate judges should be prepared to judge any and all forms of debate).
3. BP Debate judges are based on entry size. You must provide "n-1 judges" where n equals the number of teams entered, e.g., 3 teams= 2 judges, 4 teams + 3 judges, etc. BP judges are committed through finals. Each school with BP entries must provide a minimum of one BP judge.
4. Hired judge fees for schools without judges are \$12 per speech entry and \$30 per debate entry. No more than 2 uncovered debate entries will be allowed.
5. ***Every school is required to provide at least one judge.***

RULES OF COMPETITION

1. Contestants must be enrolled undergraduates at the school they represent. Exceptions will be made for students who graduate mid-year.
2. Contestants may not have received a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent. Exceptions will be made for students who graduate mid-year.
3. Contestants are limited to four years of international competition. These years need not be consecutive.
4. No speech or program used by the contestant in competition should have been used prior to September 2020.
5. Contestants may not deliver performances in multiple events from the same literary work in the same year.
6. Sweepstakes results will be based on elimination rounds in speech events and team rankings at the conclusion of preliminary rounds in debate events. Scores will be calculated using 6-5-4-3-2-1 points for finals (with .5 points for semifinalists in speech events).
7. Certificates will be presented to the top finalists and semi-finalists in all events.
8. Awards will be presented to the top six overall schools and the top three community colleges.

VIRTUAL COMPETITION

1. Videos must be uploaded by Saturday March 6th 11:59pm PST.
2. Students should record their video, then upload it to their own private (or team) **youtube channel**. Once uploaded, students should adjust the video settings to "unlisted." This will make the video un-searchable, but still viewable to anyone with the link (url). Here is a guide for help.
<https://wiki.umbc.edu/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=31198917>
3. Coaches should view the videos prior to submission to assure the video works and is complete.
4. Limited Prep: We will be releasing the Impromptu and Extemp topics on Friday March 5th 11:59pm PST. Students will then have 24 hours to record and submit the speeches. We will be using the honor system here. For **Impromptu**, please record the preparation time. For **Extemporaneous Speaking**, please DO NOT record the prep time. However, use no more than 30 minutes of preparation time.
5. During synchronous competition, if there are any connection issues, please try to adapt in the round. If need be, call in without video.

DEBATE EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC DEBATE ASSOCIATION (Individual)

Contestants will debate 4 preliminary rounds, two each as affirmative and negative. Topics will be decided in the round and 30 minutes of prep time will be allotted. Time limits Affirmative constructive=5, Negative cross ex=2, Negative constructive=6, Affirmative cross ex=2, Affirmative Rebuttal=3, Negative Rebuttal & Summary=5, Affirmative Summary=3 (5-2-6-2-3-5-3).

NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ASSOCIATION (Team)

Two-person teams (mavericks not allowed) will debate four rounds, two each as government and opposition. Fifteen minutes of preparation time will be allotted once the topic has been announced in the round. Time limits are 7-8-8-8-4-5.

BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE (Team)

Two-person teams will debate four rounds, two each as government and opposition. Fifteen minutes of preparation times will be allotted once the topics have been announced. WUDC rules regarding prep restrictions (no internet, no coaching during prep, etc.) will be observed. Each speech will be 7 minutes in length.

TABULATION CRITERIA (NPDA & IPDA)

Preliminary round pairings and teams advancing to elimination debates will be determined based on the following criteria:

1. Win/Lose (Low Point Wins Allowed)
2. Z-Score
3. Adjusted Speaker Points
4. Total Speaker Points
5. Random Number

TABULATION CRITERIA (BP)

1. Points
2. Ranks
3. Speaker Points
4. Adjusted Speaker Points
5. Random Number

DEBATE OUTROUNDS (NPDA & IPDA FORMS)

The number of teams that will advance to elimination rounds will be based on the following parameters:

- 1-7 Entries- 2 Entries Advance
- 8-15 Entries- 4 Entries Advance
- 16-31 Entries- 8 Entries Advance
- 32+ Entries- 16 Entries Advance

DEBATE OUTROUNDS (BP)

The following parameters will be utilized:

- 1-16 entries – 4 entries advance
- 17-32 entries – 8 entries advance
- 32+ entries – 16 entries advance

ELIMINATION ROUND PROCEDURES FOR DEBATE COMPETITION (NPDA & IPDA)

Please note: Brackets WILL NOT be broken in elimination rounds. In the event opponents from the same school meet, the tab room will advance the higher seed unless otherwise instructed by the head coach of the competitors.

1. In the event that 4 or less teams advance, a traditional semi and final round will be utilized.
2. In the event 8 teams advance, 4 debates will be scheduled with one judge per round. Teams who lose will be awarded Bronze. Advancing teams will compete in a second and Final set of elimination rounds where; 1) the bottom two seeds (based on the elimination bracket) will compete for 3rd & 4th place finishes while 2) the top two seeds (based on the elimination bracket) will compete for 1st & 2nd (The Grand Championship Round).
3. In the event 16 teams advance, 8 debates will be scheduled with 1 judge per round. Those who lose will be awarded Bronze. Advancing teams will then debate in a second elimination debate with 4 debates scheduled and 1 judge per round. Those who lose will be awarded Silver. Advancing teams will then debate in a third elimination debate where; 1) the bottom two seeds (based on the elimination bracket) will compete for 3rd & 4th place finishes while 2) the top two seeds (based on the elimination bracket) will compete for 1st & 2nd (The Grand Championship Round).

SPEECH EVENTS

There will be 2 preliminary rounds of asynchronous competition followed by a final round in each of the following patterns (semis in events which warrant, typically 37+ entries):

Pattern A: Duo, Prose, Informative, Impromptu, Rhetorical Criticism

Pattern B: Poetry, Drama, Persuasion, After Dinner, POI, Extemporaneous

DRAMATIC DUO

A cutting from a play, humorous or serious, involving the portrayal of two or more characters presented by two individuals. This is not an acting event. Thus, costumes, props, etc. are not permitted. Presentation must be from manuscript and focus should be off stage. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

PROSE INTERPRETATION

Each contestant will present a 10-minute maximum program of prose literature including original introductory and transitional remarks. Program may consist of

single or multiple selections. Plays are not eligible. Use of manuscript is required.

INFORMATIVE SPEAKING

The contestant will deliver an original factual speech on a realistic subject to fulfill a general information need of the audience. Visual aids that supplement/reinforce the message are permitted. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

IMPROMPTU SPEAKING

Contestants will receive German quotations and have seven minutes to divide between preparation and speaking. All contestants in the same section will speak on the same topic.

RHETORICAL CRITICISM

Contestants will deliver an original critical analysis of any significant rhetorical artifact. The speaker should limit the quotation of, paraphrasing of, or summary of, the analyzed artifact to a minimum. Any legitimate critical methodology is permissible as long as it serves to open up the artifact for the audience. Visual aids that supplement/reinforce the message are permitted. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

POETRY INTERPRETATION

The contestant will present a program of poetic literature. Original introductory comments and transitional remarks are permitted. Programs may consist of single or multiple selections. Use of manuscripts is required. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION

The contestant will perform dramatic literature, humorous or serious, that represents one or more characters from material of literary merit. This material may be drawn from stage, screen, or radio. Programs may consist of single or multiple selections. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

PERSUASIVE SPEAKING

A speech to convince, to move to action, or to inspire on a significant issue, delivered from memory. Visual aids that supplement/reinforce the message are permitted. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

AFTER DINNER SPEAKING

Each contestant will present an original speech whose purpose is to make a serious point through the use of humor. The speech should reflect the development of a humorous comedic effort, not a standup comedy routine. Visual aids that supplement/reinforce the message are permitted. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

PROGRAM ORAL INTERPRETATION

Contestants will deliver a program of thematically-linked selections of literary merit, chosen from two or three recognized genres of competitive interpretation (prose/poetry/drama). A primary focus of this event should be on the development of the theme through the use of narrative/story, language, and/or characterization. A substantial portion of the total time must be devoted to each of the genres used in the program. Different genre means the material must appear in separate pieces of literature (e.g., A poem included in a short story that appears only in that short story does not constitute a poetry genre.) Only one selection may be original. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

EXPERIMENTAL EVENTS

NOTE: These are non-sweepstakes event and is open to all IFA participants: coaches, judges, family members, and students. 3 entries per school are allowed.

ACADEMIC LECTURE (1)

This event is designed for graduate students and faculty members but is open to anyone who has earned a bachelor's degree. Subject and structure of the lecture are determined by the competitor. Props are allowed, but without the help of assistants. A video of the performance must be recorded in one take without editing for prelim rounds. Maximum time is 15 minutes. Out-rounds will be performed live online.

VISUAL COMMUNICATION (2)

This event is designed for undergraduate students with an interest in using visual media to communicate a message. Subject and structure of the message are determined by the competitor. The writing, direction, and editing of the message are restricted to the competitor. Submissions must be uploaded and viewable within YouTube for prelim rounds. Maximum time is 6 minutes. Out-rounds will be broadcast live online.

AUDIO NARRATION (3)

This event is designed for undergraduate students with an interest in using audio recordings to share a narrative story. Subject and structure of the message are determined by the competitor. The writing, editing, and delivery of the message are restricted to the competitor. Submissions must be uploaded with a blank background to hear within YouTube for prelim rounds. Maximum time is 6 minutes. Out-rounds will be broadcast live online.

INTERNATIONAL TOURISM (4)

This event is designed for undergraduate students with an interest in using delivery of a platform speech to promote International Tourism. Subjects must focus on a single nation (except the United States). Structure of the message is determined by the competitor. Props are allowed, but without the help of assistants. A video of the performance must be recorded in one take without editing for prelim rounds. Maximum time in 10 minutes. Out-rounds will be performed live online.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE (All times PST)

Friday March 5th 11:59pm PST:
Limited Prep (Extemp and Impromptu) Prompts released.

Saturday March 6th 11:59pm PST: All IE video must be submitted.

Monday March 8th - Friday March 12, 12:00 noon PST-All Asynchronous IE rounds judged.

Saturday, March 13, 2021 (Times Subject to change)

8:00 Welcome and Check in
8:30-10:30 Round 1 Debate
10:30-12:30 Round 2 Debate
12:30-1:00 Break
1:00-3:00 Round 3 Debate
3:00-5:00 Round 4 Debate
5:30-7:00 Elim 1 Debate

Sunday, March 14, 2021 (Times Subject to change)

8:00 Extemporaneous Preparation
8:30-9:45 Elim 1, Speech Pattern B
(Poe, DI, Per, ADS, POI, EXT)
10:00-11:15 Elim 2, Speech Pattern A
(PRO, IMP, CA, INF, DUO)
11:30-1:00 Elim 2 Debate
Experimental Events 1 & 2
1:00-1:30 Break
1:30-3:00 Elim 3 Debate (if needed)
Experimental Events 3 & 4
3:00/ASAP Awards

FEE CALCULATIONS

Fees will be collected in the form of check or PayPal/Venmo transfer at registration

Membership Fee	\$ 75.00
Individual Events entries ____ x \$12.00	\$ _____
Uncovered slots of IE A Pattern ____ x \$12.00	\$ _____
Uncovered slots of IE B Pattern ____ x \$12.00	\$ _____
Nuance Event entries ____ x \$12.00	\$ _____
Parli Team entries ____ x \$12.00	\$ _____
Uncovered Parli Team ____ x \$30.00	\$ _____
IPDA entry ____ x \$12.00	\$ _____
Uncovered IPDA entry ____ x \$30.00	\$ _____
BP entry ____ x \$12.00	\$ _____
Uncovered BP entry ____ x 30.00	\$ _____
Drops/changes after March 7 th ____ x \$20.00	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____