

Dear Colleagues,

The Governing Board of the Southern Forensics Championships invites you to its eleventh tournament. As with everything this academic year, this tournament will be held virtually, utilizing the ForensicsTournament.net and Yaatly platforms. The Southern Forensics Championship serves as the intercollegiate championships for the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, **but it is open to all who wish to participate**. We will have an asynchronous IE tournament featuring the standard AFA-NIET events, and our usual offerings of NPDA, Team IPDA, and IPDA.



Several things will be different about this tournament, so please read this invitation carefully to comply with all rules. Please pay particular attention to judging requirements. Questions about the tournament can be sent to Anthony McMullen at [AMcMullen@uca.edu](mailto:AMcMullen@uca.edu).

While we wish we could all be together, we still plan to offer a great tournament. We look forward to “seeing” you for a weekend of fun and competition.

Sincerely,  
The SFC Governing Board

Anthony McMullen, University of Central Arkansas, Tournament Director  
Gabe Adkins, Arkansas Tech University  
Molly Brown, Oral Roberts University  
Cheryl Chambers, Mississippi State University  
Amorette Hinderaker, Texas Christian University  
Preston Langley, Bossier Parrish Community College  
Hannah Morris, Northwest Arkansas Community College  
Paul Strait, University of Southern Mississippi  
Brittany Walker, Louisiana State University—Eunice

**Tournament Ethics Statement:** The behavior of all attending the Southern Forensics Championship will be in keeping with the [NCA Policy on Anti-Harassment Code of Conduct](#). We encourage all programs to review these expectations before entering this tournament. The SFC Governing Board expects that behavior between all participants, coaches, judges, and observers be respectful and appropriate at all times. If any participant has concerns over propriety or good sportspersonship, they should discuss the matter with their coaching staff. Any coach or judge should address any concerns with the Tournament Director.

**Registration and Fees:** Registration will be conducted via [ForensicsTournament.net](https://ForensicsTournament.net) (FTN). Individual events will be performed and judged asynchronously, while debate rounds will be through Yaatly. Initial registration is due Monday, January 25 at 5:00 p.m. Changes will be accepted without charge until Wednesday, January 27 at 5:00 p.m. Each change after that period will be \$15.

In addition to entering the tournament via ForensicsTournament.net, coaches should create the appropriate team Yaatly accounts several days before the tournament. (Yaatly accounts are not necessary

for schools who are participating in a debate event.) Yaatly must be accessed through a Chrome browser. You will find instructions for this at <https://www.ipdadebate.info/virtual-debate-resources-html>.

Continuing with the trend at most tournaments this year, we are reducing fees to keep our activity accessible. To this end, IE entries are \$2, IPDA entries are \$15, and NPDA and Team IPDA entries are \$30. There is no tournament fee this year. Please make all checks to the University of Central Arkansas Foundation (Speech and Debate Fund in the memo line).<sup>1</sup>

**Judges:** Normally, there is an option for uncovered entries and a statement that we would rather have your judges rather than your money. Due to the challenges of running an online tournament and the fact that we have no designated host, all entries MUST be covered. One judge may cover six (6) individual event entries, two (2) NPDA teams, two (2) Team IPDA teams, or two (2) IPDA debaters. A single judge may be used to cover multiple events except for NPDA and individual IPDA. In other words, a single judge could cover six (6) individual event entries, two (2) Team IPDA entries, and either two (2) NPDA entries or two (2) IPDA entries. All judges are obligated for the entire tournament.

Judges and Competitors must provide email addresses in FTN to receive ballots. Providing cell phone numbers is STRONGLY encouraged. Coaches should ensure that all emails are verified within FTN.

**Tab Room:** The tab room will be run by the SFC Governing Board. Coaches will have access to the tab room throughout the tournament.

### **Individual Event Information**

1. We will offer the eleven AFA-NIET events. All individual events (except for persuasive speaking) shall following the rules established and followed by the American Forensics Association.
2. Persuasive speaking shall follow the rules of the Interstate Oratorical Contest. These speeches shall have no time limit, but speeches must not exceed 1800 words, with no more than 20% of the total number of words being directly quoted from a source other than the competitor. All quoted material must be documented. Participants and their respective programs are responsible for ensuring that the manuscripts adhere to that tournament's national guidelines.

### **Individual Event Schedule** (all times CST)

- Monday, January 25 at 5:00 p.m.: Entries due via FTN. Extemp and impromptu prompts emailed later that evening.
- Tuesday, January 26 at 5:00 p.m.: Deadline for videos to be uploaded to FTN.
- Wednesday, January 27 at 9:00 a.m.: Preliminary round ballots released.
- Thursday, January 28 at 5:00 p.m.: Deadline for submitting preliminary round ballots.
- Friday, January 29 at 9:00 a.m.: Final postings and ballots released.
- Saturday, January 30 at 5:00 p.m.: Deadline for submitting final round ballots.
- Sunday, January 31 at 10:30 a.m.: Awards

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<sup>1</sup> Normally, the host institution is responsible for all expenses in hosting SFC. Because of that responsibility, the host traditionally keeps the registration fees as well. Though there is no traditional host this year, there are still expenses. Though University of Central Arkansas Debate and Forensics is not officially hosting the event, it is taking on the financial responsibility for the event.

### **Specific Rules for Individual Events**

1. All performances should be created for this tournament only and should not have been entered in a previous asynchronous tournament. Video submission links must be uploaded to YouTube and set to “unlisted” for the duration of the tournament.
2. There shall be no in-person audiences.
3. Duo partners must perform from separate rooms.
4. Tapings shall be single camera with a single microphone.
5. Editing may only be used for the purpose of adding visual aids.
6. For extemporaneous speaking, prep time should not be included in the recording. For impromptu speaking, prep time should be included.

### **Parliamentary Debate**

1. There will be a single division of parliamentary debate.
2. All parliamentary debate rounds shall follow the time limits and rules established under the National Parliamentary Debate Association. We will use flex time, with two minutes after the first proposition speech and first opposition speech and one minute after the second proposition speech and the opposition rebuttal.
3. There will be a common announce within the Yaatly platform. Teams will have twenty minutes after the announcement to get to their rooms.
4. Maverick and three-person teams are not allowed.
5. We plan to offer six (6) preliminary rounds and the appropriate number of elimination rounds, but we reserve the right to reduce the tournament to four (4) preliminary rounds if we receive insufficient entries to hold a six-round tournament.
6. For purposes of elimination round seeding and speaker points, adjusted speaker points (total points minus high-low) will be considered first, then total speaker points. However, if less than six (6) rounds are offered, we will first consider total speaker points, then adjusted points.

### **Team IPDA Debate**

1. There will be a single division of team IPDA.
2. All team IPDA rounds shall follow the times limits and rules established by the International Public Debate Association. For team members who are participating in a socially distanced capacity during debates, they will be allowed to communicate with each other via text and/or chat. Otherwise, the use of electronic devices during the round (beyond accessing the Yaatly platform or ballots) is prohibited.
3. We will offer four (4) preliminary rounds and three (3) elimination rounds. We will not offer a partial elimination round, but if we have more than thirty-one (31) entries, we will add a fourth elimination round, to take place Saturday evening after individual IPDA rounds have concluded.
4. For purposes of elimination round seeding and speaker points, total speaker points will be considered first, then adjusted speaker points.

## IPDA Debate

1. We will offer novice, junior varsity, varsity, and professional divisions. *While any competitor may enter the professional division, only registered undergraduate students will be considered for sweepstakes calculations.*
2. All individual IPDA rounds shall follow the times limit and rules established by the International Public Debate Association. This includes the prohibition against the use of electronic devices beyond accessing the Yaatly platform or ballots.
3. We will offer (6) preliminary rounds and an appropriate number of elimination rounds. At this time, we do not plan to offer partial elimination rounds.
4. For purposes of elimination round seeding and speaker points, adjusted speaker points (total points minus high-low) will be considered first, then total speaker points.

## Protocols for Online Debates:

- When conducting draw in IPDA and Team IPDA, we recommend having a record of the striking process in the chat. Once the strike is complete, the final topic selected should be confirmed in chat. If there is a dispute over what topic is selected and the competitors cannot resolve it among themselves within five minutes of the scheduled start of the round, the round will be recorded as a double forfeit. If this occurs in an elimination round, the tab room will flip a coin to determine who “advances”; however, that competitor will forfeit the round.
- Tab will send ballots soon after topics are posted. Judges should accept their ballots as soon as they receive the email. (Please do not wait until soon before the round starts. It makes the tab room nervous.)
- If a competitor is more than five (5) minutes late to draw, their opponent will choose the topic and put it in chat in the competition room. For the purposes of this policy, the five (5) minutes will begin once the topics are posted in Yaatly.
- If a judge or competitor is missing at the start of the round, contact the tab room immediately. If a competitor is more than five minutes to the start of debate, the missing competitor will forfeit the round.
- Competitors should mute their audio during opponent’s speeches; only during cross-examination or any points of information should both microphones be turned on. Competitors webcams must be on during the entire round. Judges should mute their microphones once the round has started.
- Judges should activate the in-found timer function appropriate for each debate segment, but competitors are expected to be timing themselves as well.
- The following protocol will be followed for judge no-shows (either by failing to pick up a ballot or by picking up a ballot and not going to the round):
  - On the first no-show, the tournament director will inform the school’s coach and give the judge a warning.
  - On the second no-show, the judge will be removed from the tournament. The coach of that school will have to then replace that judge, either by finding a new judge or by pulling a competitor out of the competition.
- If a competitor’s connection drops mid-round, the judge should stop the timer, and the competitor will have five (5) minutes to re-enter the competition room.

- If the competitor fails to return within (5) minutes or if the competition returns but loses connection a second time, the round will be forfeited.
- If the round is a forfeit, but the judge has heard enough of the speech to assign speaker points, the judge may do so. Otherwise, the round will be scored as if the non-forfeited competitor received a bye. In either event, the judge come inform the tab room to report the forfeit immediately.
- If a competitor forfeits three rounds due to connectivity issues, that competitor will be removed from the tournament.

**Debate Schedule** (Times indicate start of draw or topic announce; all times CST)

<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
8:30 a.m. - Announcements	8:30 a.m. - Team IPDA Elim. Rd. 3	8:30 a.m. – Elim. Rd. 1
9:00 a.m. - Team IPDA Rd. 1	10:00 a.m. – Announcements	10:30: a.m. – Awards
11:00 a.m. – Team IPDA Rd. 2	10:15 a.m. – IPDA/Parli Rd. 1	11:15 a.m. – Elim. Rd. 2
1:00 p.m. – Lunch Break	11:45 a.m. – IPDA/Parli Rd. 2	12:45 p.m. – Elim. Rd. 3
1:30 p.m. – Team IPDA Rd. 3	1:15 p.m. – IPDA/Parli Rd. 3	2:15 p.m. – Elim. Rd. 4
3:30 p.m. – Team IPDA Rd. 4	2:45 p.m. – Lunch Break	
6:00 p.m. – Elim. Rd. 1	3:30 p.m. – IPDA/Parli Rd. 4	4:00 p.m. – Coaches’ Meeting
8:00 p.m. – Elim. Rd. 2	5:00 p.m. – IPDA/Parli Rd. 5	
	6:30 p.m. – IPDA/Parli Rd. 6	

**Awards and Sweepstakes:** Certificates will be presented (via email) to all individual event finalists, to all debate elimination round participants, to the top speakers in each debate division, and the top three individual and team sweepstakes winners.

The top four entries in each individual event, the top two parliamentary teams and team IPDA teams, and the top three *undergraduate* entries per division of IPDA debate will count toward sweepstakes.

Individual events will be scored as follows:

Preliminary rounds:

- 3 points for 1<sup>st</sup> place
- 2 points for 2<sup>nd</sup> place
- 1 point for 3<sup>rd</sup> place

Final rounds:

- 6 points for 1<sup>st</sup> place
- 5 points for 2<sup>nd</sup> place
- 4 points for 3<sup>rd</sup> place
- 3 points for 4<sup>th</sup> place
- 2 points for 5<sup>th</sup> place
- 1 point for 6<sup>th</sup> place and below
- 0.5 points for non-advancing semifinalists

Debate will be scored as follows:

Team IPDA and Parliamentary Debate

- 6 points for each prelim round win
- 6 points for breaking

Individual IPDA

- 3 points for each prelim round win
- 3 points for breaking

Speakers (for all events)

- 6 points for 1<sup>st</sup> speaker
- 5 points for 2<sup>nd</sup> speaker
- 4 points for 3<sup>rd</sup> speaker
- 3 points for 4<sup>th</sup> speaker
- 2 points for 5<sup>th</sup> speaker

**Individual Event Sweepstakes (Quadrathon):** To be eligible, students must compete in at least four events and in at least two of the three categories: limited preparation, public address, and interpretation. Multiple duos shall count as only one event for the purposes of this minimum. Only four events will be counted toward a student's total, with at least one event from two of the three categories being included in those four events. Only one duo will be counted among the four.

**Individual Overall Sweepstakes:** To be eligible, students must compete in at least one individual event and one form of debate. All of a student's events will count toward this total.

**Team Overall Sweepstakes:** To be eligible for team overall sweepstakes and for the state championship, a school must have at least one individual event entry and one debate entry. (There will also be team sweepstakes in individual events and debate.)

**State Championships (SFC schools only):** The top entry in each event from each SFC state will be recognized as that state's champion, and the top school in each category (debate, individual events, and overall) will be recognized as the state champion. In debate events, the top entry will be competitor(s) who go the farthest in the competition. If a state's final competitors are eliminated in the same round, the higher seed will be recognized as the champion.

**SFC Governance:** There will be students' and coaches' meetings on Sunday at 4:00 p.m. At the coaches' meeting, there will be a vote on revisions to the SFC Constitution. Those revisions will be posted on FTN.