

January 19th, 2024

Colleagues,

On behalf of the executive council of the National Christian College Forensics Association, including our president Dr. Michael Ingram (mingram@whitworth.edu) and our host Professor Ryan Greenawalt (ryan.greenawalt@belmont.edu), we would like to officially invite you to the 27th annual National Christian College Forensics Invitational.

This spring, we will be traveling for the second time to the culturally-rich city of Nashville, Tennessee, as we are hosted by Belmont University. The tournament will begin on Thursday, March 7th, 2024, finishing on Saturday, March 9th.

The tournament is open to schools that are members of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities or schools that have a mission statement that is supportive and sympathetic to the mission of Christian higher education. Please contact Dr. Ingram for any questions about qualification. This tournament is a unique opportunity to celebrate our heritage as Christians in the context of forensics. The tournament will offer IPDA, NFA-LD and NPDA debate. We will offer 11 AFA individual events and two unique events, Interpretation of Faith Literature and Homiletics.

Back by popular demand, those who are unable to travel due to budget constraints or health concerns can still participate by entering three asynchronous events. Those are open interpretation, open platform, and homiletics. Those events are open to any student from any participating school. However, outside of special circumstances, students should not be registered for both asynchronous and in-person competition.

We will be using SpeechWire for entries and tournament administration. That means that even if text or e-mail communication isn't functional, the most current schematics (postings) will be available on the speechwire website. Entries will be due by Thursday, February 22nd. Changes must be made by Thursday, February 29th to avoid drop fees. Asynchronous videos will be due by Thursday, February 29th.

Thanks,

Michael Marse
California Baptist University
Tournament Director
mmarse@calbaptist.edu

Key deadlines

Entry Deadline: Thursday, February 22nd, 5:00pm PT

Change deadline: Thursday, February 29th, 5:00pm PT

Asynchronous deadline: Load speeches by Thursday, February 29th, 5:00 PT.

Prelim ballots go out: Friday, March 1st, 5:00 PM

Judge Philosophies: Thursday, February 29th, 5:00 Email Mike Marse. (Put NCCFI Judge Philosophy in subject)

IPDA/NPDA Topics: Thursday, February 29th, 5:00 Email Mike Marse. (Put IPDA/ NPDA Topics in subject)

2024 NCCFI Schedule

Flight A: Communication Analysis, Duo, Faith Interp, Impromptu, Informative, Prose, and NFA Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Flight B: After Dinner Speaking, Extemporaneous, Persuasive, Program Oral Interpretation, Poetry, Dramatic Interpretation, Readers' Theater, Homiletics

Note: Students may triple-enter. Students may compete in NFA-LD and one other event in Flight A, and a student may enter Reader's Theater and one other event in Pattern B. (they should perform the other event first before going to NFA-LD or RT.) As with all things, events may be moved on the schedule, but all efforts will be made to minimize the impact to students. For example, if Reader's Theater has a tiny entry consisting of non-debaters, RT may be moved against debate.

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

7:30-9:00 pm Onsite Registration @ or near Belmont – Details TBA

Day 1: Thursday, March 7

8:00 Onsite registration at Belmont - Location TBA

8:30 Draw for IPDA/NPDA

8:50 NPDA Rd 1

9:00 IPDA Rd 1A

9:30 IPDA Rd 1B

10:15 Draw for IPDA/NPDA

10:35 NPDA Rd 2

10:45 IPDA Rd 2A

11:15 IPDA Rd 2B

11:30 Lunch

12:30 Draw for IPDA/NPDA

12:50 NPDA Rd 3

1:00 IPDA Rd 3A

1:30 IPDA Rd 3B

2:15 Opening Assembly

2:45 Extemp Draw
3:15 Round 1B ADS, DI, Ext, Homiletics, Per, Poe, POI, RT
4:45 Round 1A CA, Duo Faith Lit, Imp, Inf, Pro, Rd 1 NFA-LD
6:15 Round 2A CA, Duo Faith Lit, Imp, Inf, Pro, Rd 2 NFA-LD

Day 2: Friday, March 8

8:30 Extemp Draw
9:00 Round 2B ADS, DI, Ext, Homiletics, Per, Poe, POI, RT
10:30 Draw for IPDA/NPDA
10:50 NPDA Rd 4
11:00 IPDA Rd 4A
11:30 IPDA Rd 4B
11:30 Lunch + Business Meeting
Business Meeting starts (bring your ballots and come right to the meeting)
1:00 Extemp Draw
1:30 Round 3B
3:00 Round 3A, Rd 3 NFA-LD
4:45 Draw for IPDA/NPDA
5:05 NPDA Rd 5
5:15 IPDA Rd 5A
5:45 IPDA Rd 5B
6:30 Draw for IPDA/NPDA
6:50 NPDA Rd 6
7:00 IPDA Rd 6A
7:30 IPDA Rd 6B
8:05 Rd 4 NFA-LD (quickly following will be the e-mail announcement of finalists for debate)

Day 3: Saturday, March 9

8:30 Chapel
9:15 In-person announcements of all finalists
9:30 Extemp Draw
10:00 Finals B, IE Semis
11:30 Draw for IPDA/NPDA
11:50 Elim NPDA
12:00 IPDA Quarters
1:00 Lunch
2:00 Finals A, NFA-LD Semis,
3:45 Draw for IPDA/NPDA
4:05 Elim NPDA
4:15 IPDA Semis
5:15 Draw for IPDA/NPDA
5:35 Elim NPDA
5:45 IPDA Finals NFA-LD Finals
6:30 Banquet
7:45 Awards

Hotel Booking Information for NCCFI

The website for hotels close to Belmont is:

<https://www.belmont.edu/about/visit/places-to-stay.html>

Each hotel has a relationship with Belmont University, including a “Belmont rate”, some with shuttles to the school, and other perks.

Information About NCCFI

At the 2004 NCCFI, the assembled schools passed a constitution that created the National Christian College Forensics Association. As the constitution notes, membership is open to all schools who are full members of the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU), with a forensics program that competes at the national tournament during the current or preceding three years. In addition, schools that support the Christian faith are allowed to participate. While not all historic church bodies subscribe to a creedal declaration of faith, the tenets of the Christian faith that schools are asked to support are as detailed by the Nicene creed. For further information on the organization please look to <http://www.nccfa.org>

The National Christian College Forensics Association (NCCFA) is not an attempt to isolate Christian college programs from the regular circuit. Rather, the goal of the NCCFA is to provide Council based programs the opportunity to gather once a year and celebrate our faith while we engage in an activity we all love. We apologize to any individuals or institutions that may feel marginalized by our admittedly inexact effort at defining membership parameters.

Are you wondering whether you or another school can be part of the NCCFA? Contact Dr. Michael Ingram, President of NCCFA after reviewing the organization’s homepage designed to provide helpful information. He can be reached at mingram@whitworth.edu.

We are still looking for hosts for 2025 and beyond. We would encourage your school to consider submitting a bid to host the tournament. Bid forms are on the NCCFA website. Ideal locations have a large enough campus for 40-50 rooms at a time, a location fairly close to a major airport, located in a town with some large hotels with decent rates. Hosts typically spend less than it might take them to fly to a location several hours away. Please contact Michael Ingram if interested. We hope to present proposals at the Business Meeting.

Tournament Fee Information

Entry fees:

- School fee: \$50
- Each Individual Event Slot: \$10.00
- Each NFA LD entry: \$35.00
- Each IPDA entry: \$35.00
- Each NPDA team: \$50.00
- Each RT entry: \$35.00
- Meal fee: \$40 per competitor, judge, and observer

Judging fees:

For each uncovered entry, the following fees will be assessed:

- Synchronous Individual Event slot: \$10.00 (One judge covers 10 slots)
- Asynchronous Individual Event slot: \$10.00 (One judge covers 6 slots)
- NPDA Debate slot: \$100.00 (One judge covers two teams)
- NFA LD Debate slot: \$70.00 (One judge covers two debaters)
- IPDA Debate slot: \$70.00 (One judge covers four debaters – double flighting)
- Reader's Theatre slot: \$70.00 (One judge covers two teams)

The 2024 tournament will require the purchase of a meal plan for each student, coach, observer and judge. Due to Belmont's Cafeteria being closed for spring break, Thursday and Friday lunches will be mass deliveries to the tournament (think Pizza, long sandwiches, etc.). So, we will be less flexible but also less expensive than previous tournaments.

We will offer vegetarian options at the Saturday evening banquet, but students with specific dietary needs for the lunches can be met at local food establishments (several within walking distance of the school), and the tournament staff will work to deliver food to students in need.

Tax/Vendor Information: NCCFA is a designated non-profit organization. Our Tax Identification Number (TIN) is 27-2053626. Make checks payable to NCCFA.

Fee Calculation form

_____ School fee x \$50 = _____
_____ IE slots x \$10 = _____ uncovered IE slots x \$10 = _____
_____ Asynch IE slots x \$10 = _____ uncovered asynch IE slots x \$10 = _____
_____ NFA-LD slots x \$35 = _____ uncovered NFA-LD slots x \$70 = _____
_____ IPDA slots x \$35 = _____ uncovered IPDA slots x \$70 = _____
_____ NPDA team x \$50 = _____ uncovered NPDA slots x \$100 = _____
_____ RT entry x \$35 = _____ uncovered RT slots x \$70 = _____
_____ Food & Banquet x \$40 = _____
Grand total is \$ _____

Judging

Qualification: All judges must have experience judging intercollegiate forensics competitions and be qualified to judge the events assigned to them. All Open competition judges MUST possess a college degree. Non-degree holding judges MAY be used for Novice division competition ONLY if they have intercollegiate forensics experience. Judges without a college degree should be noted with the entry. Undergraduate students without forensics experience are not to serve as judges.

Limitations: Please note all events and/or rounds a judge is NOT qualified or able to judge on the entry form. As always, we prefer your judges to your money!

Obligations: Each school will be required to provide judges as follows:

- One I.E. judge for every 10 IE entries
- One I.E. judge for every 6 asynchronous IE entries
- One RT judge for every 2 Readers' Theaters teams
- One NPDA judge for every 2 NPDA debate teams
- One IPDA judge for every 4 IPDA debaters
- One LD judge for every 2 LD debaters

Mix and matching:

Individual Events judges may also cover judging for NPDA or IPDA (and would cover a full number of NPDA/IPDA slots)

Individual Events judges who want to cover NFA-LD can cover 1 LD slot and 5 IE slots. Debate judges can only cover IPDA or NPDA, but not both.

Please enter your judges on SpeechWire for each category they will judge. **Select from IE, LD, IPDA, NPDA, or Asynchronous IE. This means you will enter some judges multiple times. For example:

If Moses brings NPDA teams only he enters once as NPDA judge

If Mary is bringing 10 IE and 3 IPDA, she enters herself twice, once as an IE Judge and once as an IPDA judge.

If Luke has 10 asynchronous IE slots, 10 synchronous IE slots and 3 LD, he enters himself three times, as an IE, IPDA and asynchronous IE judge.

Judges may serve as an asynchronous judge with no other restrictions.

Please be careful not to overbook your judges. Tournament days can be very long and breaks are rare if judges are committed to covering every possible event. If you are bringing along judges who would like to work beyond your team's commitment, please note their willingness to be hired on the entry form. We will pay them for additional rounds.

Commitment: All debate judges are expected to judge one round beyond the point their students are eliminated from competition. IE schools are expected to judge in all time-blocks of IE semis and finals. Please help the tournament run on a timely basis by fulfilling your commitment.

Miscellaneous information

1. When you enter on Speechwire, please remember to enter pronunciations for student names. If you've not entered the student before, the pronunciation box is right below the name box. If you've used Speechwire and the student before, go back and edit the student in your roster to add the pronunciation. It will make our lives much easier!
2. If you have a student or judge who needs special room accommodations, please let both Mike Marse and Ryan Greenawalt know.
3. Please enter RT the following way: enter the RT cast members first on the main entry screen. Then go to "Piece Registration" and enter the name of the RT there.
4. Please remember that a student in NFA L/D or RT should only have a maximum of one other event in that round.
5. Belmont University's campus map is available at <https://www.belmont.edu/about/visit/files/campus-maps/campusmap.pdf>
6. Parking information will be sent out via e-mail before the tournament.
7. The tournament will accept credit cards to pay fees. Please contact NCCFA Treasurer Dr. Julie Welker at jwelker@hputx.edu with questions.

Novice/Open Definitions

The tournament staff has become aware of cases in which schools have had differing opinions regarding the division between Open and Novice. If students are found to be entered in the wrong division prior to the tournament, their coach will be asked to decide between moving the student up or dropping the student. If the student is discovered during the tournament, the student will be allowed to continue for the sake of education and tournament consistency, but the student will not advance and cannot receive sweepstakes points. All opposing students will automatically be ranked above the competitor (e.g., an automatic bye in debate, or a leapfrog in IEs). In short, put your students in the correct divisions. When in doubt, either contact the tournament administration for a ruling or move the student into the higher division.

Novice I.E. competitors

A novice I.E. competitor is any student in her/his first year of college competition. We use the AFA guidelines; one semester of competition is 3 or more tournaments of competition. A student who has attended a previous NCCFI or other national tournament is not a novice and must enter the open division. Students in Dramatic Duo must move up to the Open Division if either competitor would be required to move up based on these requirements.

Debate Competitors

For NPDA and NFA-LD debate, the tournament uses NPDA division guidelines. For IPDA debate, the tournament uses IPDA guidelines. Note that students who would otherwise qualify for the novice sweeps award (they are in their first year of college competition) but are not in novice debate (because they won and moved up) will have to be identified to the director as qualifying for the novice award at some point before the final day of the tournament. Without special notification, the student's individual event division will be used to determine eligibility.

Individual Events

There will be open and novice divisions in each event. We will only collapse divisions with less than six students. There is no limit on the number of students a school may enter in a given event. However, we cannot guarantee that team members will not compete against one another in preliminary rounds. No material used at NCCFI should have been used in competition prior to September 2023.

Students double-entered in two different Duo Interpretations will be protected in Flight B; students need to adhere to their assigned schedule to help guarantee that those rounds get off on time. For example: if Duo A is in the 2nd slot and Duo B is in the 5th slot, go to those rounds in that order.

Students are responsible for getting to rounds on time. Students will have 90 minutes to get to all of their rounds, depending on the specific round; we strongly encourage students to move promptly from round to round, and it helps us greatly when you have teammates check you in to your waiting rounds. Judges will be instructed to mark speakers as forfeits if they cannot meet this deadline.

Wellness is a vital element of making this experience a positive one for our students. Be sure to plan ahead in order to guarantee that your students will have adequate rest as well as opportunities to eat healthy and stay hydrated!

Event Definitions

All events will follow AFA guidelines, with the following exceptions:

1. Impromptu Speaking: An impromptu speech, serious in nature, with topic selections varied by round. In the spirit of the tournament, however, the topic committee will develop quotations which may consist of Psalms or Proverbs, quotations from famous religious figures (e.g., Martin Luther, Mother Theresa, Billy Graham, etc.), or regular quotations. Speakers will have a total of 7 minutes for both preparation and speaking. Timing commences with the acceptance of the topics sheet. Limited notes are permitted.
2. Extemporaneous: Questions will be mixed with least one round being value, religious, or moral oriented questions. The topic committee will generate questions from a variety of sources. Internet access and electronic data retrieval are allowed during preparation time, but both NFA and AFA guidelines explicitly forbid collaboration in Extemporaneous

Speaking – the speech should be the original work of the student, and students should not confer with anyone during preparation time. Limited notes are permitted.

3. Interpretation of Faith Literature: 8-10 minute time limit. A selection or selections of interpretation material emphasizing faith issues. Content could reflect a variety of faith perspectives. This may be a single selection or may be developed from more than one source in any genre. Solo performances only, no Duos permitted. Presentation should follow traditional guidelines for an interpretation presentation including an introduction which establishes the theme and tone of the piece. The use of a manuscript is required.
4. Homiletic Speaking: 8-10 minute time limit. Students will deliver an original speech that is designed either as a sermon or a devotional. Students may utilize visual aids. Students should not perform a sermon already written by another preacher. The speaker may choose any desired audience and should make mention of that audience in the introduction (for example, a devotion for a group of athletes). This event counts as a platform event.

Asynchronous Events

The NCCFI will also offer the following events in an asynchronous format. Coaches will submit videos on a form e-mailed out a few days before the deadline. Please note we need one judge per six asynchronous entries. Students may enter up to three events in this panel of asynchronous.

1. Platform: 8-10 minute time limit. Students will deliver an ADS, CA, informative or persuasive, adhering to the relevant AFA guidelines. *Coaches must indicate the likely category. After the entry deadline, the tournament will attempt to group the speeches by type for judges to evaluate.
2. Interpretation: 8-10 minute time limit. Students will deliver a DI, poetry, POI or prose, adhering to the relevant AFA guidelines. *Coaches must indicate the likely category. After the entry deadline, the tournament will attempt to group the speeches by type for judges to evaluate. Solo performances only. No duos permitted.
3. Homiletic Speaking: 8-10 minute time limit. Students will deliver an original speech that is designed either as a sermon or a devotional. Students may utilize visual aids. Students should not perform a sermon already written by another preacher. The speaker may choose any desired audience and should make mention of that audience in the introduction (for example, a devotion for a group of athletes).

Judges will receive a link with up to six speeches per round to evaluate and rank by the deadline. We plan to run three preliminary rounds and finals. Please note that this judging can happen at any time of day, but will occur in the week leading up to the tournament. This is a great opportunity to make use of coaches or alumni who will not be able to join us in Nashville.

Individual Events Outround Procedures

If there are more than 12 students in the event, all finalists shall be advanced. If there are 35 students in an event, there will be semifinals, tournament resources permitting. Semifinalists shall be seeded into two patterns. If a novice division has less than 12 students in an event, and the open division has 12 or more students, then the entries will be collapsed into a single division. A novice champion shall still be named. If an open division has less than 12 students, and the novice division has 12 or more, then the divisions will not be collapsed, and the open division will advance 50% into finals. If both divisions have less than 12 students, then the divisions will be collapsed and a novice champion will still be named. Breaks to, and placement in, elimination rounds will be conducted as follows:

1. Total ranks
2. Speaker points (In a tie including more than 3 competitors, if speaker points break part of the tie, it shall be used first)
3. Judges' preference (In a three-way tie, if judges' preference breaks the tie, it shall be used first.)

Debate Events

The following are links to the rules for NPDA, IPDA and NFA-LD debate:

NPDA:

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/npda/documents/files/000/000/002/original/npda-rules-2018.pdf?1540935310>

IPDA: <http://www.ipdadebate.info/constitution--bylaws.html>

NFA L/D: (see page 6 & 7 of this document)

<https://nationalforensicassociation.files.wordpress.com/2023/01/nfa-bylaws-january-2023-1.pdf>

Event-Specifics

For IPDA and NPDA, please be prompt. Preparation time includes the time required to walk to the furthest room. There is a five-minute forfeit rule which will be strictly enforced. Arrival after that 5-minute grace is necessarily an automatic forfeit.

NFA-LD guidelines allow digital media. However, note that opponents must be allowed the option to review evidence exactly as they would if the material were printed. It is strongly recommended that debaters carry copies of their most commonly presented positions for this purpose.

All schools participating in IPDA and NPDA debate should submit ten potential motions for debate by the deadline. Coaches may encourage students to participate in the topic submission process. The more topics submitted, the higher the quality of the topics at the tournament. To remain consistent with the theme of the tournament, the debate propositions will vary in content. Some propositions may reflect a value, moral, religious, or ethical intent wherein

students may feel free to integrate their faith into their arguments. Invoking a particular theological belief or a particular interpretation of a verse is only persuasive if your audience already shares those views. Given the fact that we have a wide variety of denominational backgrounds and theological preferences represented in the NCCFA, the tournament desires to be inclusive of a wide variety of Christian faith traditions. We encourage judges and students to respect other viewpoints - even if they are not their own - and to encourage that respect within the rounds and on the ballots. We also encourage judges if they have definitive theological biases that they cannot set aside to contact the tournament staff as soon as possible, certainly prior to the beginning of the debate round.

Debate Outround Procedures

The tournament resources (e.g., rooms, judges, and time) will outweigh outround calculation. Resources permitting, the number of competitors in each event will determine the number of teams advancing to elimination rounds. The tournament will attempt to use partial elimination rounds if available. If not, the tournament will use the following guidelines:

- up to 7 entrants = finals
- 8-14 entrants = semifinals
- 15-28 entrants = quarterfinals
- 29-57 entrants = octofinals

As specified in the bylaws, brackets will be broken. The criteria used to establish breaks in NPDA and IPDA debate will be

1. Number of Wins
2. Adjusted Speaker Points
3. Total Speaker Points
4. Opposition Record

The criteria used to establish breaks in NFA LD debate will be:

1. Number of Wins
2. Total Speaker Points
3. Adjusted Speaker Points
4. Opposition Record

Speechwire Information

We will use the live coverage functionality in SpeechWire. During the tournament, you can go to <http://www.speechwire.com/live>. There will also be a link to the tournament on Speechwire's home page as well. From those links, you'll be able to link to schematics and debate postings.

You and your students may choose to subscribe to SMS/email subscriptions. We'll announce when this will be available - it'll be shortly before the tournament. Students will know where they'll be performing before each round. Judges will receive alerts when ballots are being handed out. NOTE: The alert for judges will not tell you whether you have a ballot or not; it simply indicates when ballots are ready. For debate in particular, if you don't have a ballot in a round, you should be expected to be on standby and be able to pick up a ballot if needed.

Here's how it works; Click on the "live!" link at the top of the SpeechWire site. Then you will see an option that allows you to subscribe to NCCFI. Click that link. You'll get to a screen that says the following: "Subscribe to a competitor". Here you can sign up for email or SMS alerts. Judges and coaches have even more options.

As always, you should always be aware of the location of tournament postings at the local tournament site in case of technology problems with email/SMS text or late updates to the tournament schedule after the delivery of email/SMS text messages. Standard messaging and data fees may apply. Check with your carrier for details on specific fees and charges. The SMS text feature is contingent on the delivery of SpeechWire's messages by the message recipient's cellular/mobile carrier, and SpeechWire Tournament Services is not responsible for messages blocked or not delivered for any reason (spam filtering, outages, etc.) by cellular/mobile carriers. SpeechWire Tournament Services may be reached by email at support@speechwire.com.

Sweepstakes Scoring - Team and Individual

Sweepstakes points will be accrued by both novice and open speakers in IEs and novice, junior and senior speakers in debate in the following manner:

IPDA and NFA L/D Debate

- 3 points will be earned for every preliminary round win for each debate team. Byes will be counted as wins for purposes of points.
- Preliminary round points may be earned for up to 4 teams per division, per school.
- Elimination round points may be earned for all teams from a school in each division.
- Elimination round points will be earned on the following basis:
 - First Place - 20 Points
 - Second Place – 15 Points
 - Semifinalists – 9 Points
 - Quarterfinalists - 6 Points

- Octofinalists - 3 Points

NPDA Debate

- 3 points will be earned for every preliminary round win for each individual, 6 points for each team. Byes will be counted as wins for purposes of points.
- Preliminary round points may be earned for up to 4 teams per division, per school.
- Elimination round points may be earned for all teams from a school in each division.
- Elimination round points will be earned on the following basis:
 - First Place - 20 Points to each individual, 40 Points to the team
 - Second Place – 15 Points to each individual, 30 Points to the team
 - Semifinalists – 9 Points to each individual, 18 Points to the team
 - Quarterfinalists - 6 Points to each individual, 12 Points to the team
 - Octofinalists - 3 Points to each individual, 6 Points to the team

Individual Events

Preliminary round points will be earned on the following scale:

- 1st place in a round earns 3 points
- 2nd place in a round earns 2 points
- 3rd place in a round earns 1 point.
- Preliminary round points may be earned for up to 4 students per school, per division.
- Elimination round points may be earned for all students per school per division.
- Elimination round points will be earned on the following basis:
 - First Place - 12 points
 - Second Place - 10 points
 - Third Place - 8 points
 - Fourth Place - 6 points
 - Fifth Place - 5 points
 - Sixth Place - 4 points
 - Seventh Place or Higher in a Final – 3 points
 - Non-advancing Semifinalists - 2 points

Readers' Theater

- 3 points will be earned for each preliminary round win. Byes will be counted as wins for purposes of points. (If there are two judges per preliminary round, then each preliminary round win shall earn 1.5 points.)
- Preliminary round points may be earned for as many as 4 Readers Theaters per school.
- Elimination round points may be earned for all Theaters from a school.
- Elimination round points will be earned on the following basis:
 - First Place - 24 Points
 - Second Place - 20 Points
 - Third Place (or Semifinalist) - 16 Points

Awards

Individual Tournament Sweepstakes

We will offer awards for the top overall competitor at the tournament in Open and Novice divisions. Recipients of the Open top competitor must be entered in at least 4 events. The student must be entered in more than one event type (platform, limited prep, interpretation) to be eligible. Readers' Theater counts as an interpretation event with elim points halved. LD, IPDA, and NPDA debate count as limited preparation events. Homiletics counts as a platform. The requirements for the novice overall competitor is identical, except that they are only required to enter 3 events.

Debate Team Sweepstakes

The tournament will offer three team trophies in each of two divisions of debate: large entry and small entry. The breakdown between divisions shall be such that a minimum of 40% of the entries fall into each division, unless a "natural break" occurs that would modify the 40% rule. The breakdown will be based on the number of entries at the time registration closes or the time the tournament starts, whichever is higher. The guiding principle behind this rule is that a team that brings a few debaters that do both LD and parliamentary debate will likely be a small entry; as paraphrased, "If your teams fit in a minivan, they are likely in the small entry division." For purposes of entries, IPDA, NFA LD, and NPDA each count as 1 entry.

Individual Events Team Sweepstakes

The tournament will offer three team trophies in each of three divisions of individual events: large entry, medium-size entry, and small entry. The breakdown between divisions shall be guided by "natural breaks." The intent is to have approximately 1/3 of the teams in each division. The breakdown is based on the number of entries at the time registration closes or the time the tournament starts, whichever is higher. For purposes of entries, Readers Theater will count toward Individual Events sweepstakes at the rate of 1 Readers Theater = 2 Individual Events entries.

Team Quality Awards Sweepstakes

The tournament will offer one quality award trophy. This trophy is designed to award the team that has the greatest success per entry. The quality award will be calculated by adding all points that the school's entries earn, and dividing by the number of entries. Readers Theater will count as 2 entries for purposes of quality awards.

Overall Team Sweepstakes

The tournament will offer three trophies to the top overall schools. In order to be eligible, a school must enter individual events and debate. RT is considered an individual event. The overall team award shall be determined as follows:

1. Calculate the percentage of all possible points a team earns in IE
2. Calculate the percentage of all possible points a team earns in Debate
3. Add the two percentages together (to two significant digits).

Example: Assume there are 1000 possible IE points, and 800 debate points. A school earns 100 IE sweeps points, and 96 debate sweeps points. Their score would be 10% ($100/1000$) + 12% ($96/800$) = 22%.

If there is a tie, the tie will be broken as follows: Total combined place ranking in IE and debate (e.g., 2 + 2); Total number of breaks in all events; Number of 1's in all events; Coin flip