January 17th, 2025

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 Dr. Julie Welker (jwelker@hputx.edu), we would like to officially invite you to the 28th annual National Christian College Forensics Invitational.

This March, we will be traveling for the very first time to God’s country (Julie’s words, though I suspect they are accurate), Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas**. The tournament will begin on Friday, March 7th, 2025, and finish on Sunday, 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 along with Reader’s Theater. We will offer 11 AFA individual events and two unique events, Interpretation of Faith Literature and Homiletics.

Given that only 2-3 schools have taken advantage of the online version of the competition the last couple of years, we will suspend that portion of the competition unless we get requests from at least a handful of institutions for their return. Please let me know if you would have an online entry, so I can keep track of the viability of re-opening that option.

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 20th. Changes must be made by Thursday, February 27th to avoid drop fees. On behalf of the NCCFA Executive Council, we look forward to seeing you in Texas in the spring!

 Thanks,

 Michael Marse

 California Baptist University

 Tournament Director

 mmarse@calbaptist.edu

**Key deadlines**

Entry Deadline: Thursday, February 20th, 5:00pm PT

Change deadline: Thursday, February 27th, 5:00pm PT

NFA LD and NPDA Judge Philosophies: Thursday, February 27th, 5:00 Email Mike Marse. (Put NCCFI Judge Philosophy in subject)

IPDA/NPDA Topics: Thursday, February 27th, 5:00 Email Mike Marse. (Put IPDA/ NPDA

Topics in subject)

**2025 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. In general students should perform the other event first before going to NFA-LD or RT. Students scheduled as the second RT to perform in their round should perform their other event first, with judges hopefully giving them priority over other double and triple-entered competitors. 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.

**Thursday, March 6th**

Possible pre-registration activities and meet-ups for teams arriving early. Stay tuned to e-mails for more information.

**Day 1: Friday, March 7**

8:00 Onsite registration at Howard Payne - 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: Saturday, 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 speech 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

**Travel Information for NCCFI**

(For full effect, please read the following in a charming Texas accent. Much of this comes from Julie, so reach our to her for details and clarifications.)

Howard Payne University was founded in 1889, and is the third oldest Baptist institution in Texas. HPU is located in the heart of Central Texas, in the local hub of Brownwood.

The address is 1000 Fisk Street, Brownwood, Texas, 76801.

Airports

We generally prefer, in this order—AUS, DFW, ABI (Abilene is by far the closest, but flights may be a bit higher)

* AUS Austin-Bergstrom Intl. Airport—146 miles (2.5 hours); They are keeping Austin weird there. Our fav.
* DFW Intl. Airport—174 miles (3 hours, count on it); The granddaddy of Texas airports
* ABI Abilene Regional Airport—75 miles (1 hour 15 mins); Just two gates and free coffee.

Lodging

You’ll find plenty of nice hotels, cheap ones, AirBnBs and other accommodations here. Thankfully, our cost of living is low here, and so are the hotel prices.

<https://visitbrownwood.com/lodging/>

<https://www.earlytx.net/288/Hotels>

Food

We’re on the Lone Star diet here: BBQ, Tex-Mex, Whataburger, repeat

Tournament snacks—we will have lots of tournament goodies to share. Bring your own reusable water bottle, we don’t like plastic and we don’t like wasting water here!

Tournament meals—we will have a package meal plan available for you to eat on campus during designated times. Info TBD.

Off-Campus Food

Texas food? Yes, please. All diets are off, though!

Pioneer Tap House (best pizza and root beer {yes, we are Baptist})

Common Grounds (best coffee, burritos and sandwiches)

Grazed and Confused (best sandwiches & lunch charcuterie boxes)

The Train (All-American cuisine in a train car)

La Botana (best Mexican food)

Jolene’s (best Thai food)

Up in Smoke & The Sticks (best local bbq)

Underwoods (bbq your granddad would like & you might find him eating there)

Over the Rainbow (homemade ice cream joint)

All the regular fast-food joints (Chick-Fil-A, Taco Bell, McAlisters, Fuzzy’s Tacos, Wing Stop, Whataburger, Chicken Express, Taco Casa, McDonalds, Sonic, DQ, BK, Subway, Schlotzky’s)

Weather

The Battle of the Alamo happened during the same time of the year you’ll be here. It could be rainy, sleeting, 90 degrees or 60 degrees. Last year we had snow in March in Texas. We like to leave you guessing…that’s Texas weather. Look it up, it’s a thing.

Navigating the Campus

Campus size: Everything is bigger in Texas!

Except our campus. But you will have to walk, so keep that in mind. Average walking distance to the furthest building from headquarters is 4 minutes.

Nearby Activities

This ain’t our first rodeo, but it might be yours…

Lake Brownwood State Park—Take a picnic and go for a hike in the beautiful Hill Country

The Train Museum & Brown County Museum of History—both interesting and quirky museums

Intermission Book Shop (it went viral)—built in an old theatre with a cool story

Riverside Park and Town Center Park—another great place for a picnic and outdoor activities

**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](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 2026 and beyond. We would encourage your school to

consider submitting a bid to host the tournament. Contact Dr. Ingram for the details. 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: Either $85 per competitor, judge, and observer (3 lunches, 2 dinners, and dinner banquet) or $55 per competitor, judge, and observer (3 lunches and banquet only)

Judging fees:

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

Synchronous Individual Event slot: $10.00 (One judge covers 10 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 2025 tournament will require the purchase of a meal plan for each student, coach, observer and judge. (Howard Payne specific information needed here.)

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 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 $85 or $55 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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. This tournament will not use defeated competitors as judges in elimination rounds.

**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 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, or NPDA. 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 IE slots and 3 LD slots, he enters

himself twice, as an IE judge and as an LD judge.

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 Julie Welker 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. Howard Payne’s campus map is available at <https://www.hputx.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/HPU-Campus-Map-Nov-2022.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, depending on entry size. 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 2024.

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. Speeches should not be longer than 7 minutes.
3. Reader’s Theater - A group performance of literature, involving more than two performers with a single or compiled program on a discernible theme or concept. Scripts must be perceived but not necessarily referenced at all times. Props, set pieces, music, singing, and other theatrical accouterments must be perceived as enhancing rather than substituting for the performance options. 25 minute time limit includes set up and take down of set and audience reaction.
4. 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.
5. 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.

**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. Preliminary points will not count toward individual sweepstakes, but elimination round results will. Coaches will be asked to identify their first-year competitors via e-mail to avoid confusion with a novice competitor being paired with a more experienced teammate in events like Duo or NPDA. This will also help in the case an event has collapsed to open to identify the novice competitors transparently.

**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. Similar to the individual sweeps explained above, to qualify for the team quality award the entry must include more than one event type (platform, limited prep, interpretation) to be eligible. Again Homiletics counts as a platform, any format of Debate counts as limited prep, and Reader’s Theater count as interpretation.

**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