

Dear Colleagues:

The Minnesota Collegiate Forensics Association Executive Committee invites you to attend the annual Minnesota State Intercollegiate Speech and Debate Championship Tournament to be held **February 21-22, 2025** at the University of Minnesota campus in Minneapolis, MN! Please note that this is a **Friday-Saturday** tournament.

This tournament is open to any **Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa, and Wisconsin community college, college, or university**. All eleven of the AFA-NIET events, plus Parliamentary Debate will be offered. This tournament also serves as the Minnesota state qualification tournament for the Interstate Oratorical Contest. The two top Minnesota affiliated finishers in oratory will represent Minnesota at the IOA tournament in April 2025. You will find all the necessary details for the tournament in this invitation. We will also be conducting our Spring 2025 MCFA Business Meeting.

In October 2024, the decision was made by the MCFA voting body to expand the tournament to include neighboring states which do not have a State tournament. There will be Minnesota sweepstakes awards and an overall sweepstakes award which includes all invited participants from the Midwest region.

Your MCFA Executive Committee is working hard to prepare an excellent weekend of competition and cordiality. If you have any questions feel free to contact us at rfroehlichspeech@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing everyone in February!

For questions about the tournament, please contact:

**Fees and Judges**

Entry fees are $10 per IE slot and $25 per Debate Team. One judge covers 6 entries. The cost per uncovered entry is an additional $12 for IEs and Debate Teams. All judges will be eligible to judge speech and debate rounds unless otherwise noted. Judge usability will impact uncovered slot fees. Judges unable to judge 30% or more of preliminary rounds due to conflicts may be assigned to other tournament duties and in worst case scenarios will not cover entries. In the event useful judges are not provided by your school, it may be necessary to “double up” students from your school during preliminary rounds to keep the judging pool clean and productive. All school judges are expected to be available for final rounds. All judges are considered clean for final rounds.

Entries are due via Speechwire 6pm on Monday, February 17th. Fees are assessed at this time. Student Run teams (defined as teams without a faculty member of their school designated as their coach) may apply for a fee waiver by emailing the tournament director ahead of time. Additional fees may occur: A fee of $10.00 is assessed for each drop or add after this time. Teams will be charged $50.00 for every judge dropped from the tournament. The MCFA **will** charge teams for changes. Cash or check is the preferred payment.

**All-State Nominations**should be submitted by email by noon on Wednesday February 19th.

**Covid Policy**

We will supply each team with a “Home Base” room free from competition to use as a space for meals and warmups.

We will follow current COVID-19 policies implemented by UMN. At the moment, there is no masking requirement, but everyone is welcome to wear masks if they choose. <https://hsrm.umn.edu/health-safety-and-risk-management/covid-19-resources/safe-return-work>

**Registration**

All fees are to be paid at registration unless the MCFA is notified beforehand. Failure to pay fees at registration will disqualify teams from competition. Oratory scripts must be turned in at registration. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in the All-State applications not being considered and the Oratory slot to be dropped from the tournament.

**Awards**

Sweepstakes and quadrathon points will be determined from the following formula:

a) Preliminary rounds - points of the competitors in each event will count toward team awards. Each 1 (rank of one) in prelims will earn 3 points. Each 2 (rank of two) in prelims will earn 2 points. Each 3 (rank of three) in prelims will earn 1 point. Each win or bye in parliamentary debate will earn 3 points.

b) Final rounds. 1st place will earn 9 points. 2nd place will earn 8 points. 3rd place (or semifinals in parliamentary debate) will earn 7 points. 4th place will earn 6 points. 5th place (or quarterfinals in parliamentary debate) will earn 5 points. 6th place will earn 4 points.

c) All placings beyond 6th place in the final round (including octafinals in parliamentary debate) will earn 3 points.

d) If an individual event has only one section during preliminary rounds, the points for Sweepstakes and Quadrathon will be determined the same as events with multiple sections.

Team awards will be given for the top three teams in, Debate, Combined Large-Entry (Cindy Larson-Casselton Award), and Combined Small-Entry. The Greg LaPanta Quality Award is given to the school that has the highest number of average points per competitor.

The MCFA will also recognize the top forensic students in the state of Minnesota by naming a Minnesota All-State Forensic Team based on applications. To apply, please see the forms on the MCFA website.

**Limited Preparation Prompts**

The limited preparation schema will be as follows:

Impromptu Speaking:

Rd 1: Quotations, Rd 2: Single Panel Comics, Rd 3: Objects

Extemporaneous Speaking:

Rd 1: Domestic Questions, Rd 2: International Questions, Rd 3: Midwest-based Local Issues

**Open Door Policy**

The MCFA has an open-door policy for every round. Competitors and observers may leave the round as needed and shall not be penalized for exiting a round at any time. Please wait to return in between performances. Judges are encouraged to take a brief break as needed in between performances.

**Internet Access**

The MCFA urges everyone to plan for limited access to the internet, as the tournament hosts cannot guarantee a reliable internet connection for all teams. The University of Minnesota is part of the eduroam network and UMN-Guest is available.

**Event Location.**

**Friday**: All events will be on the West Bank of the University of Minnesota campus, held out of Blegen Hall, the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, and the Carlson School of Management. These are connected by tunnels and on the same block, so you should be able to avoid bad weather between your rounds.

Blegen Hall address: 269 S 19th Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55455

A searchable campus map can be round here: <https://campusmaps.umn.edu/>

**Parking**

The 19th Avenue Parking Ramp is likely the closest parking area in walking distance. Note that street parking is not available near the site of the tournament, and parking will require payment. [Learn more here.](https://pts.umn.edu/park-and-drive/general-information/facilities/19th-avenue-ramp)

Please note that certain buildings will require U-card access; we will have staff available to let people in as needed.

**Hotel Information**

The [Graduate Hotel](https://www.graduatehotels.com/minneapolis/) is in the heart of our campus and within walking distance of the tournament. It is also fairly pricey. There is also a Hilton hotel in the Stadium Village neighborhood, which is still walkable, albeit a bit further. Visitors can often find good Expedia et al. deals at downtown business-class hotels. We recommend staying at a hotel in Roseville on I-35, which will give you quick driving access to the campus.

**Restaurants**

There are ample restaurants available on the UMN Campus and in walking distance. Please check this link for restaurants and information: <https://hazmat.umn.edu/pdf/HazMat-Dining.pdf>

On Saturday, we recommend finding off-campus restaurants, as the majority of on-campus dining has limited hours.

• Jimmy Johns is near UMN-West Bank and delivers

• Afro Deli is a local favorite

• Chipotle is a 10-minute walk

If you are able to drive across the river to the East Bank, you will find a multitude of options like Raising Cane’s, Noodles and Company, Sweetgreen, and local restaurants.

**Schedule**

Each school is limited to a maximum of 4 entries per event. Students may enter no more than 3 IE events per flight. Students entered in Parliamentary Debate can only compete in one Flight B IE. We will provide dinner on Friday for debaters.

Flight A: ADS, DUO, Oratory, PER, PRO, EXT

Flight B: CA, DI, IMP, INFO, POE, POI, Parliamentary Debate

* **Tournament schedule**
* **Feb. 21, 2025**
	+ **3:00 PM Registration**
	+ 4:00 PM Round 1, Parli
	+ 5:15 PM Round 2, Parli
	+ **6:30 PM Dinner**
	+ 7:00 PM Round 3, Parli
	+ 8:15 PM Round 4, Parli
* **Feb. 22, 2025**
	+ **7:00 AM Registration**
	+ 8:00 AM Round 1B (CA, DI, IMP, INF, POE, POI)
	+ 9:15 AM Extemp Prep
	+ 9:30 AM Round 1A (ADS, DUO, EXT, Ora, PER, PRO)
	+ 10:45 AM Parli SF
	+ Semifinal round: PARLI
	+ **12:00 PM Lunch/Meeting**
	+ 12:45 PM Round 2B (CA, DI, IMP, INF, POE, POI)
	+ 2:00 PM Extemp Prep
	+ 2:15 PM Round 2A/Parli Finals (ADS, DUO, EXT, Ora, PER, PRO)
	+ 3:30 PM Finals B (CA, DI, IMP, INF, POE, POI)
	+ 4:15 PM EXT Prep Finals
	+ 4:30 PM Finals A (ADS, DUO, EXT, Ora, PER, PRO)
	+ **ASAP Awards**

\*Note: to break to Parli Quarterfinals, there must be at least 12 debate teams entered in the tournament. If there are fewer than 12 debate teams, then we will go straight to Semifinals. If this occurs, the MCFA Executive Committee reserves the right to amend the schedule to make things go more smoothly.

**Accommodation Requests**

Teams may make a special request to the MCFA to accommodate speakers at the state tournament. The nature of the request and accommodation shall be sent to the Executive Secretary 3 weeks before the opening of the state tournament. The request will include a justification for the request, the impact of the request on the host school, and any other information needed to understand the request. The request should address potential concerns that other coaches and competitors might raise regarding the request;for example, how the request would not provide the competitor some additional advantage. The Executive Committee will then discuss and provide a response 1 week before the opening of the state tournament. The earlier a request is made, the more likely the MCFA and host school will be able to make reasonable accommodations.

**Individual Event Descriptions**

After Dinner Speaking: An original, humorous speech by the student, designed to exhibit sound speech composition, thematic, coherence, direct communicative public speaking skills, and good taste. The speech should not resemble a night club act, an impersonation, or comic dialogue. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforced the message. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Communication Analysis: An original speech by the student designed to offer an explanation and/or evaluation of a communication event such as a speech, speaker, movement, poem, poster, film, campaign, etc. through the use of rhetorical principles. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Manuscripts are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Drama Interpretation: A cutting that represents one or more characters from a play or plays of literary merit. The focus of this event is on the development of characterization. This material may be drawn from stage, screen, or radio. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Impromptu Speaking: An impromptu speech, substantive in nature, with topic selections varied by round, section by section. Prompts will consist of quotations (round 1 and finals), cartoons (round 2), and objects (round 3). Speakers will have a total of 7 minutes for both preparation and speaking. Timing will commence 15 seconds after speakers receive the prompt. Limited notes are permitted. In each round, enough topics will be provided so that all contestants may observe.

Poetry Interpretation: A selection or selections of poetry of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. A primary focus of this event should be on the development of language. Play cuttings and prose works are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Improvisational Duo: Students will draw three scenarios and choose one to perform. Students have a total of 7 minutes for both preparation and performing. Timing commences with the draw of the last scenario. The performance should adhere to the prompt and showcase quality storytelling, character creation, and performer interaction. No props are allowed. Creativity is encouraged. Limited notes are permitted.

Extemporaneous Speaking: Contestants will be given three topics in the general area of current event, choose one, and have 30 minutes to prepare a speech that is the original work of the student. Maximum time limit for the speech is 7 minutes. . The third round of questions will be questions pertaining to Minnesota. Limited notes are permitted. Student will speak in listed order. Postings of topics will be staggered.

Dramatic Duo: A cutting from one or more texts of literary merit, humorous or serious, involving the portrayal of two or more characters presented by two individuals. The material may be drawn from any genre of literature. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc, are to be used. Presentation is from the manuscript and the focus should be off-stage and not to each other. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Informative Speaking: An original, factual speech by the student on a realist subject to fulfill the general aim to inform the audience. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

Oratory: The oration must be delivered without the aid of notes or manuscript. No oration may contain over 1800 words. Although no minimum word limit is established, a 1500 word limit is suggested. Orations will not be timed. For the purpose of definition, quoted words are those written or spoken by a person other than the orator. Such quoted material shall be limited to 20% of the total number of words in the oration. All quoted material shall be documented. A copy of each oration shall be submitted at registration.

Program Oral Interpretation: 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 limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Prose Interpretation: An original or selections of prose material of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. Focus of this event is on the development of the narrative/story. Play cuttings and poetry are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time is 10 minutes including introduction.

**Parliamentary Debate Rules**

\*Please note, these differ slightly from NPDA\*

**1. Resolutions**

A. A different resolution for each round will be presented to the debaters in their room at the start of each round.

B. The resolutions will be general enough that a well-educated college student can debate them. They may be phrased in literal or metaphorical language. Participants can expect resolutions of value, policy, and fact throughout the tournament. Round 1 will be a Minnesota-based resolution. All other resolutions will be created by the executive committee.

**2. Objective of the debate**

The proposition team must affirm the resolution by presenting and defending a sufficient case for that resolution. The opposition team must oppose the resolution and/or the proposition team's case. If, at the end of the debate, the judge believes that the proposition team has supported and successfully defended the resolution, they will be declared the winner, otherwise the opposition will be declared the winner.

**3. Before the debate**

The proposition team, if they wish, may use the room assigned for debate for their preparation. If the proposition team uses the debating room for preparation, both the judge and the opposition must vacate the room until the time for the debate to begin. No warm room will be provided.

**4. During the debate**

A. Any published information (dictionaries, magazines, etc.), which may have been consulted before the debate, cannot be brought into the debating chambers for use during the debate. Except for notes that the debaters themselves have prepared during preparation time and a copy of the NPDA "Rules of Debating and Judging," no published materials, prepared arguments, or resources for the debaters' use in the debate may be brought into the debating chambers. No additional research or coaching may be conducted at any point once the resolution has been announced. No internet access is allowed. No warm room will be provided.

B. Debaters may refer to any information that is within the realm of knowledge of liberally educated and informed citizens. If they believe some cited information to be too specific, debaters may request that their opponent explain specific information with which they are unfamiliar. In the event further explanation of specific information is requested, the debater should provide details sufficient to allow the debater to understand the connection between the information and the claim. Judges will disallow specific information only in the event that no reasonable person could have access to the information: e.g., information that is from the debater's personal family history.

C. Format of the debate

First Proposition Constructive Speaker: 7 minutes

First Opposition Constructive Speaker: 8 minutes

Second Proposition Constructive Speaker: 8 minutes

Second Opposition Constructive Speaker: 8 minutes

Opposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 4 minutes

Proposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 5 minutes

D. Constructive and Rebuttal Speeches

Introduction of new arguments is appropriate during all constructive speeches. However, debaters may not introduce new arguments in rebuttal speeches. New examples, analysis, analogies, etc. that support previously introduced arguments are permitted in rebuttal speeches.

E. Points of Information

A debater may request a point of information at any time after the first minute and before the last minute of any constructive speech. The debater holding the floor has the discretion to accept or refuse points of information. If accepted, the debater requesting the point of information has a maximum of fifteen seconds to make a statement or ask a question. The speaking time of the debater with the floor continues during the point of information.

F. Points of Order

If at any time during the debate, a debater believes that their opponent has violated a rule, they may address the Speaker of the House with a point of order. Once recognized by the Speaker of the House, the debater must state, but may not argue for, the point of order. At the discretion of the Speaker of the House, the accused may briefly respond to the point of order. The Speaker of the House will then rule immediately on the point of order in one of three ways: point well taken, point not well taken, or point taken under consideration. The time used to state and address a point of order will not be deducted from the speaking time of the debater with the floor. A point of order is a serious charge and should not be raised for minor violations.

G. Points of Personal Privilege

At any time during the debate, a debater may rise to a point of personal privilege when they believe that an opponent has personally insulted one of the debaters, has made an offensive or tasteless comment, or has grievously misconstrued another's words or arguments. The Speaker will then rule on whether or not the comments were acceptable. The time used to state and address a point of personal privilege will not be deducted from the speaking time of the debater with the floor. Like a point of order, a point of personal privilege is a serious charge and should not be raised for minor transgressions.

H. Debaters have 1 minute from the end of one speech to start the next speech, although they may start earlier. This is to be used to finalize notes and consult with their partner. No outside research or coaching is permitted during this time. Further, no questions are allowed at this time. This time may not be used as additional speech time.

**5. After the debate**

A. After the final rebuttal, the Speaker of the House will dismiss the teams, complete the ballot and return it to the ballot staff. The judge should not give oral comments before the ballot is completed and returned to the ballot staff.

B. Debaters or coaches will refrain from arguing with judges' decisions or comments. Debaters or coaches who harass judges may be withdrawn from the tournament.

**6. Scheduling**

A. Preliminary Rounds 1 and 2 will be randomly assigned at the start of the tournament. Round 3 will Power Matched (HIGH-HIGH) and Round 4 will be Power-Protected (HIGH-LOW). Preliminary round seeding will be determined by record. Tiebreakers will be the win-loss record of the teams they opposed, followed by total team Speaker Points.

B. The first set of out-rounds will be Quarterfinals. There must be at least 12 debate teams entered in the tournament to break to Quarterfinals. If there are fewer than 12 debate teams, then we will go straight to Semifinals.

C. Quarterfinalist teams will be determined by seeding, with the top 8 teams advancing. Outround seeding will be determined by record. Tiebreakers will be by total team Speaker Points, followed by the win-loss record of the teams they opposed.

D. For all out-round competitions, the siding of the debate will be determined by a coin flip, unless the two opposing teams had debated one another earlier in the tournament, in which case the teams will debate the opposite sides as before.

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