2021-2022 Regular Season Tournaments Invitation

(Invite last updated 10/15/21)

Dear Forensics Community,

We are excited to welcome you to our 2021-2022 Regular Season online tournaments. These four tournaments are a great way to prepare your students for Nationals & afford extra rounds to students on your team. A condensed three preliminary and one final round schedule ensures students get the practice they need without the hassle of waiting around all day for rounds. Save money with $0 travel costs. Run by experienced tournament directors, these tournaments are sure to be some of the best online tournaments your students attend all year.

The tournament will offer competition at all levels, from kindergarten to college, in a wide range of events. We have the very best qualified tournament staff assembled to ensure a smooth day of fun competition. Our schedule will include three prelims and a final (using Bronze/Silver/Gold award system) with each competition level taking only half the day (see schedule below). Winners will receive bronze/silver/gold medals.

Tournament Dates:

Quarterly Tournament #1 October 16, 2021	Quarterly Tournament #2 December 18, 2021	Quarterly Tournament #3 February 12, 2022	Quarterly Tournament #4 April 16, 2022
Register	Register	Register	Register

Key Points:

- Registration is due by 6pm Pacific the Wednesday before each tournament on ForensicsTournament.net
- Students will need to compete with the authorization and support of their school or program's coaching staff. No independent student entries will be accepted.
- Each school is required to provide one judge for every 5 IE entries per pattern/2 debate teams. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, uncovered entries may be allowed but penalty fees will apply. Since all events are scheduled at the same time, please be aware of your school's judging commitment.
- **NOTE**: Students may both compete and judge divisions (if eligible) during the tournament. For example, college students who compete in the morning may judge high school and elementary rounds in the afternoon. Contact us if you are interested in being hired as a judge.
- The tournament will use synchronous video conferencing on the 8x8 platform. Please see the *Best Practices* section of this invite for tips on how to effectively prepare for competing online.
- There will be a single division for all events.
- All NOF individual and debate events will be offered.
- Most high school and college final rounds will be live-streamed through YouTube.

- The complete list of NOF rules can be found here.

We hope you and your team can join us throughout the season for a day of summer forensics fun. If you have any questions please feel free to email us at info@nationalonlineforensics.org

Sincerely,
Danny Cantrell, Robert Cannon, and Mike Kyle
National Online Forensics

2021-2022 Schedule

(all times Pacific)

College (Morning Rounds)	Middle School (Morning Rounds)	Elementary School (Afternoon Rounds)	High School (Afternoon Rounds)
8:00am Round 1 (all events)	**8:00am** Round 1 (all events)	**1:30pm** Round 1 (all events)	**1:30pm** Round 1 (all events)
9:15am Round 2 (all events)	**9:15am** Round 2 (all events)	**2:45pm** Round 2 (all events)	**2:45pm** Round 2 (all events)
10:30am Round 3 (all events)	**10:30am** Round 3 (all events)	**4:00pm** Round 3 (all events)	**4:00pm** Round 3 (all events)
Noon Finals (all events)	**Noon** Finals (all events)	**5:30pm** Finals (all events)	**5:30pm** Finals (all events)
7:30pm Awards	**7:30pm** Awards	**7:30pm** Awards	**7:30pm** Awards
College Events Info, Persuasive, STE, CA, Drama, Poetry, Prose, POI, Duo, Extemp, Impromptu, NFA-LD, IPDA, NPDA	**Middle School Events:** Info, Persuasive, STE, Declamation, Original Interp, Poetry, Prose, POI, Duo, DI, HI, Extemp, Impromptu, LD, PF, Storytelling, SPAR, Congress	**Elementary Events:** Info, Persuasive, Declamation, Poetry, Duo, Storytelling, Impromptu, SPAR, PF, Congress	**High School Events:** Info, Persuasive, STE, Declamation, Original Interp, Poetry, Prose, POI, Duo, DI, HI, Extemp, Impromptu, SPAR, LD, PF, Congress

- Students may double enter in IE events (single entry only for Extemp)
- Students may single enter in Debate events
- In the event of small entry sizes, we may need to collapse events within their event category (so interp events collapse to an "interp" event).
- Congress will have three prelims only scheduled at 8:00am, 9:30am, and 11:00am for the morning sessions; afternoon will be scheduled at 1:30pm, 3:00pm, and 4:30pm. Placings will be based on preliminary scores.

Individual Events

- Three prelims will be held; one final round will be held.
- Students may enter a maximum of two IE events except students in Extemp who may only single enter.
- 1 Judge is required for every 5 entries
- Prelim Ranking: Ranks/Decimal/Drop High Rank
- Elim Ranking: Total Rank/Decimal in Elim/Ranks in Elim
- Speaker Points will not be used.
- Students will be recognized with *Gold*, *Silver,* and *Bronze* awards. The top 5% of students in each event will be recognized with a Gold award, the top 10% Silver, and top 20% with Bronze. For example, if an event has 50 entries there will be roughly 3 Gold awards, 2 Silver, and 5 Bronze depending on tiebreakers and breaks. All students in elimination rounds will receive recognition.
- See the NOF Bylaws for more information about NOF events.

Debate

- The current NSDA topic will be used for LD and Public Forum.
- Standard pairing will be used with 2 random rounds followed by 1 HL round. In Elims, brackets will be broken to facilitate debating.
- One final round will be held Phi Rho Pi Style. Teams winning the elimination round will be awarded a gold medal; teams losing the elimination round will be awarded a silver medal. The top non-advancing teams will be recognized with a bronze medal.
- Students may only enter one format of debate and no individual events.
- 1 Judge is required for every 2 debate entries.
- Speaker Point Scale will be 100-70.
- Prelim Ranking: Wins/Total Points/HL Points/Opp Wins/Z Score.
- Speakers Ranking: Total Points/HL Points/Ranks/Z Score.
- A 5 minute forfeit rule will be put in place for all debate rounds.
- See the NOF Bylaws for more information about NOF events.

Awards

- School sweepstakes: The top 3 schools will be recognized at each division (college, high school, middle, and elementary).
- Students winning Gold, Silver, or Bronze will receive medals that will be shipped to coaches following the tournament.

Fees

- School Fee: $25
- Individual Event Entries: $15/entry
- DUO Event Entries: $30/entry
- One person Debate (LD, IPDA, NFA-LD) Entries: $40/entry
- Two person Debate (NPDA, PF) Entries: $50/entry
- Judges: First Missed Ballot - $20 / Subsequent Missed Ballots - $50
- Uncovered IE Slot (with Tournament Director Approval): $30/slot
- Uncovered Debate Team (with Tournament Director Approval): $125/team
- Changes after entry deadline - $20 per change (subject to tournament director approval)

Any schools seeking to buy out of their judging requirements must have approval by the Tournament Director. Please contact the tournament early to request uncovered entries.

The tournament reserves the right to assign ballots to judges which are scheduled:
Due to the complex nature of the schedule, judges may be asked to accept ballots in events they did not initially register. For example, if a judge is signed up to accept debate ballots, but the tournament needs more Impromptu judges, then that judge would be expected to take the Impromptu ballot. We will do our best to accommodate event requests, but may not be able to do so.

To ensure timely pickup of ballots, all judges should wait in the Standby Judge Room (https://8x8.vc/NOFStandby) until dismissed or they have picked up a ballot via e-mail. This will ensure judges are not missing ballots pushed to them during the tournament.

Competitor Logistics / Best Practices

- All competitors must have a verified text number or email saved on ForensicsTournament.net **Email is preferred.**
- Coaches can save and verify competitor contact details from the Student Roster page.
- Competitors will receive a text/email with their ePostings information. Postings will be sent approximately 10 minutes prior to each round.
- The ePostings will have a link to a Live Video Room where they will perform. Click that link to go to your round. No logins or passwords are required. Judges will be in the same Live Video Room to listen and rank the round. The tournament will be using [8x8 video conference room software](#).
- If double-entered, students should go to each room before competing and type in the chat window that they are double-entered so judges are aware. Request to compete early and leave promptly to join the next event.
- Please do not immediately start to talk when entering a Live Video Room. Another student may be performing. Please wait to be recognized by the judge(s).
- Students should remain in the Live Video Room as audience members and have video on, as much as possible.
- Students can, if it fits their particular setup, sit while performing. Judges are instructed *not* to penalize students for sitting while speaking since the particular tech setup may work better while sitting.
- Students are also encouraged to use a mic/headphones since audio quality is much better than with an external mic. Judges are instructed *not* to penalize students for having mics/headphones on.
- We recognize technological limitations create some challenges for certain events. But we trust in the ingenuity of the forensics community to adapt to the online environment. Some students may have better quality video, lighting, sound, etc… We will all try our best.
- **If a student's internet connection drops or audio quality is poor,** they will be **required** to call into the video conference room and give their speech with audio only. While not ideal, it will ensure all student's speeches are listened to by a judge. You can get the dial-in information from the info icon in the bottom right of the screen.
- Request help by going to the help room https://8x8.vc/NOFHelp and communicate promptly if any issues arise.

Judge Logistics / Best Practices

- All judges must have a verified phone or email saved on ForensicsTournament.net
- Coaches can save and verify contact details from the Judge Roster Page
- Judges will receive a text/email with their eBallot link. Judges should click on that link within 5 minutes of receiving it to indicate that they have "picked up" their ballot.
- On your eBallot you will have all of the competitors listed in that round along with a link to a live video room. Click that link to go to your video conference room. Competitors who are double entered, will have that listed adjacent to their name. Please be flexible in accommodating double entered competitors.
- Your eBallot has fields where you can add your feedback to the student. Feedback can be added while they are performing and added throughout the competition until the awards ceremony. The eBallot also has a timer to make it easy to time each speaker.
- If a judge's keyboard is loud they are encouraged to mute audio during performances but please leave the video feed on so competitors can receive your visual feedback.
- Judges are instructed *not* to penalize students for sitting while speaking since the student's particular tech setup may work better while sitting.
- Judges are also instructed *not* to penalize students for having mics/headphones on since audio quality is usually much better using a mic/headset.
- Judges are also instructed *not* to penalize students for lighting, video/audio quality, video background to the extent possible.
- **If a judge's internet connection drops or audio quality is poor,** they will be **required** to call into the video conference room and listen to speeches with audio only. While not ideal, it will ensure all student's speeches are listened to by a judge. You can get the dial-in information from the info icon in the bottom right of the screen.
- For Impromptu/Extemp/IPDA/NPDA, the eBallot will have the quotations/questions listed on it under prompts - or in the case of extemp, the prompts will be provided by the tournament prior to the start of the round and competitors will arrive after their designated prep period.

FAQ

(will be updated as more questions are sent our way)

- **How can I register?** Coaches will need to register their teams on ForensicsTournament.net
- **Can I have 2 uncovered IE entries/just 1 uncovered debate team?**Ideally no. If you need hired judges, please contact the Tournament Director ASAP for approval.
- **Where is the Extemp Prep/NPDA Topic announce Room?** Video room links will be sent out to competitors on the day of the tournament for these events with instructions.
- **How will I get my impromptu prompt/quotation?** The judge will have the impromptu prompts/quotations on their eBallot. When it's your turn to speak your judge will copy/paste the prompts into the chat window in the Live Video Room.
- **How will we strike IPDA topics?** The judge will have all five IPDA topics on their eBallot. At the start of the round go to your Live Video Room. The judge will copy/paste the resolutions into the chat window. Each team will strike as normal. Turn off your audio/visual feeds in the room during prep. 30 minutes later the round will commence.
- **Where will we prep for NPDA?** Each school has access to practice rooms through ForensicsTournament.net. Please use those rooms.
- **What type of awards will be given out?** Awards will be sent out to each school following the tournament.
- **What about poor internet connections?** In order for the video conference to work, Internet connections should be at least 6 Mbps. Check internet speed [here](#). In the event of a poor Internet connection, each Live Video Room has an option to "call in" via phone. While there will be no visual, competitors can still present the audio portion of their speech.