

Invitation updated on 10/30/2021 -- Updates in red

Highland Community College Forensics invites you to join us for the Highland Cougar Classic Tournament on Friday-Saturday, November 12-13, 2021!

Tournament Homepage: <https://forensicstournament.net/highlandcougarclassic/21>

Dear Forensics Friends and Colleagues,

The Highland Community College Forensics Team is excited to invite you to attend the **Highland Cougar Classic Tournament on Friday and Saturday, November 12-13, 2021**. At the time of this invitation*, we plan to offer both IPDA (Friday) and Individual Event (Saturday) competition in a **synchronous online format (using 8x8 and ForensicsTournament.net)** that ensures student safety amid surging delta variant rates. While we would have loved to host in person this year, our commitments to health and safety outweigh all other concerns. We plan to use the lessons learned from online competition throughout the past year toward ensuring a fun and competitive experience!

We are thrilled to welcome returning students back and to cheer new students along as they begin their forensics experiences this season. In light of Phi Rho Pi's decision to open eligibility to any student in their first three years of competition, we will allow any student in their **first three years of competition** to enter the Individual Events portion of the tournament (while planning to recognize the top first-year competitor in each event to shine a spotlight on those who are just beginning their forensics journeys). **IPDA competition will be open to any student in their first four years of competition**, and a separate community college final round will be offered for the top community college debaters who do not advance to open out-rounds. **If entries permit, we will separate IPDA into open and novice divisions with the goal of offering semi's and finals in both divisions.**

Entries are due on forensicstournament.net no later than Tuesday, November 9 at 5:00 PM **CST**. Information on rules, fees, registration, schedule, etc. can be found below. **All rounds will be held on Central Standard Time.**

We look forward to hosting you and your team in November! Please do not hesitate to contact me (Harry) with any questions!

Sincerely,

Harry Bodell (Director of Forensics) (Email: harry.bodell@highland.edu; Cell: 630-743-1973)

Kevyn Sutter (Assistant Forensics Coach)

Norah Flaherty (Assistant Forensics Coach)

Highland Community College

2998 W Pearl City Rd

Freeport, IL. 61032

GENERAL INFORMATION

Event Groupings:

Debate – IPDA (Friday)

Flight A – PER, DUO, IMP, CA, POI, DI

Flight B – EXT, PRO, STE/ADS, INFO, POE

Event Rules:

Phi Rho Pi rules will be followed for all events. Rules are posted on the Phi Rho Pi website www.phirhopi.org.

Students are limited to single camera setup for online performance, and duo partners may perform in separate rooms but will not be required to do so.

In IPDA, topic strike will take place in a common 8x8 draw room with Negative striking first (followed by Affirmative, then Negative, etc. until one topic remains). 30 minute prep time begins as soon as topics are released (not after strike is completed!). Strike should begin on time – if one debater does not appear at the scheduled time, a 5 minute grace period will begin. At the end of the grace period, the debater who is present will choose the topic to debate and prep will begin. The absent debater will only have the prep time remaining and will forfeit the round if they do not arrive to the round.

Debaters **may NOT consult any other person during prep time**, but may consult paper and/or electronic resources which may be quoted or paraphrased from notes during the round.

Entries & Registration:

Entries are due on Tuesday, November 9 at 5:00 PM **CST** on forensicstournament.net. Each school may enter up to 8 students per event, and each student may enter up to 3 events per flight pattern (for a total of 6 maximum events). Students may compete in both IPDA and the maximum number of individual events (3 per flight) if interested in a busy weekend.

Friday and Saturday registration will both take place in the 8x8 registration room.

Tournament Fees:

Please make checks payable to ***Highland Community College***

Mailing Address:

Highland Community College
Marvin-Burt Humanities Building
Office M206 (Attn. Harry Bodell)
2998 W Pearl City Rd.
Freeport, IL
61032

Entry Fee: \$8 per slot (both IE and IPDA)

Judge Coverage: IPDA – 1 judge covers 2 entries

IE – 1 judge covers 6 entries

Uncovered Judge Fee: \$10 per slot

Drops/Changes: No fee by 5:00 PM on Wednesday (11/10). Drops after Wednesday at 5:00 PM will incur a \$10 penalty per slot. Drops after Thursday at 5:00 PM will incur a \$15 penalty per slot. Drops the day of competition will incur a \$30 penalty per slot and \$50 per dropped judge!

Please contact Harry (630-743-1973) as soon as possible with any last-minute drops!

Additional Entry Information: Please provide student, judge and coach contact information (email, phone number) on forensicstournament.net with your registration! This information will only be used to send ballots, room links, contact missing judges/students, etc.

E-Ballots: E-Ballot instructions are available on forensicstournament.net. You may fill out a sample e-ballot here: <https://forensicstournament.net/sampleeballot>

Schematic Postings and Dance Cards: All schematics (prelims and finals) will be posted online on the tournament forensictournament.net page (under “Postings”). **We will do our best to send out judging dance cards before the tournament begins.**

Additional Entry/Competition Notes:

Highland Forensics students may be entered in competition on both Friday and Saturday to get practice at this early stage of the season. **Highland students will be allowed to advance to finals, but we plan only to enter novices.**

Students from the same team may be entered in the same section if deemed necessary to make best use of judges, but this will be avoided whenever possible.

Ranks & Awards:

In IPDA, the top four (4) debaters by win/loss record (and speaker rank/rate as a tie-breaker) will advance to a semifinal round (as long as entry size permits the use of semifinals – any schedule changes based on entry size will be announced as early as possible), with the winners of each semifinal advancing to a final round. A separate community college final round will be held with the top two community college competitors who did not advance to the open semifinal rounds **(or, if entry size permits, divisions will be split into open and novice with each division holding semifinals and finals)**. Speaker awards will also be given to the top five (5) debaters based on speaker ranks and points in preliminary rounds. IPDA awards will be held separately on Friday evening, and recipients will be recognized again during the Saturday awards ceremony!

In Individual Events, the top six (6) competitors in each event will advance to the final round. Ties will be broken using the following procedure: 1) Speaker Points; 2) Judges’ Preference; 3) Number of 1’s. We will not break any individual events to semifinals unless entry size deems it logical to do so. The top first year competitor in each event will be recognized as “Top Novice” (please let Harry know which students are in their first year of competition via email or as a note with your online registration).

The top three (3) teams in IPDA, top five (5) teams in Individual Events, and top three (3) teams in Combined Sweeps will receive team sweepstakes awards. Final round points will be awarded as follows:

6 th Place	-	2 points	
5 th Place	-	4 points	
4 th Place	-	6 points	
3 rd Place/IPDA Semifinalist	-	8 points	
2 nd Place	-	10 points	
1 st Place	-	12 points	

Online Competition Guidelines:

Please comply with best practices/guidelines for online competition listed at the end of this invitation, and don't hesitate to reach out to Harry if you have any questions regarding accommodations, etc.

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

(*Subject to change if necessary based on entry and judging pool size*)

Friday – November 12 (Online Synchronous)

10:00-10:30am	-	Registration (Go to 8x8 Registration Room)
10:30am	-	Round 1 Draw
11:00am	-	Round 1 Speak
12:00pm	-	Round 2 Draw
12:30pm	-	Round 2 Speak
1:15pm	-	Round 3 Draw
1:45pm	-	Round 3 Speak
2:30pm	-	Round 4 Draw
3:00pm	-	Round 4 Speak
4:00pm	-	Semifinal Draw
4:30pm	-	Semifinal Speak
5:15pm	-	Final Draw
5:45pm	-	Final Speak
ASAP	-	IPDA Awards (Format TBD – Either YouTube livestream or Zoom)

Saturday – November 13 (Online Synchronous)

8:15-8:45am	-	Registration (Go to 8x8 Registration Room)
9:00am	-	Round 1A
10:15am	-	Round 2A
11:15-12:00pm	-	Lunch
12:00pm	-	Extemp Draw, Round 1B
12:30pm	-	Round 1B
1:30pm	-	Extemp Draw, Round 2B
2:00pm	-	Round 2B
3:30pm	-	Finals, Flight A
4:45pm	-	Extemp Draw, Finals
5:00pm	-	Finals, Flight B (Extemp @ 5:15)
ASAP	-	Awards (Format TBD – Either YouTube livestream or Zoom)

BEST PRACTICES FOR ONLINE COMPETITION

(Provided by the RAFL Tournament Staff)

The shift to online competition necessitates a change in norms. Here are suggested Best Practices to help as we establish new norms together:

FLEXIBILITY- This is a new adventure for all of us. Both judges and competitors are encouraged to be flexible, reasonable, and open-minded.

AUDIENCE CAMERA- Individual observers in each round are encouraged to turn on their camera so their feedback to the speaker can be seen. However, this is not a requirement.

EQUIPMENT CHECK- Before the tournament, have each of your team members test their equipment. Check the WiFi connection. Make sure computers are charged and ready to go. Test the audio and video connections. Closeout other tabs and applications on computers to assure the best connection available. Check your webcam or laptop camera.

DE/TE- If students are DE or TE, they will receive separate emails for each event. They can sign in (chat) in one room and move on to the other just like a F2F tournament. Students should be aware that when joining the second room that they may be entering during a performance. Make sure mics are muted to avoid disturbing that performance.

ENVIRONMENT- Check the environment. Do you have enough room to move? Will you have a quiet, uninterrupted space? Do you have everything you need (flow pad, pens, IMP card, script book, VAs)? Do you have good lighting?

FRAMING- This is new to the virtual environment. You want to make the choice whether you want to be framed on screen in full body and lose some facial expressions or be shot from the waist up and lose some movement and gestures. See “Flexibility” above.

Extemp- For extemp, there will be a prep/draw room. Students will be required to prep with their cameras on. The coach running prep will post questions for speaker number one in the chat. Seven minutes later speaker number two will be posted. And so on...

IMP- Go to your Competition room. Prompts will be posted in the chat (by the judge)

IPDA- Go to The IPDA prep room for strike

AUDIO- Please set your mic to mute when not speaking so it does not pick up your speaker and create an echo.

SIGNING IN- You may sign in to your Competition Rooms just like at a face-to-face tournament in the room’s Chat. Please pre-sign in if you are DE or TE!

DROPOUTS & GLITCHES- There may be connectivity challenges where folks with weaker signals may vanish momentarily. This is a challenge in any online environment and should not be counted against the participant. What do we do? The simple answer is to stop until the problem is fixed by the participant and resume once resolved. Judges should stop time if connectivity challenges arise. Give a reasonable moment for the participant to reconnect and resume. Contact the Help Room.

ETHICS- Any competitive event presents opportunities for those determined to cheat. Remember even in traditional tournaments competitors can text, chat and share documents with coaches or others who should not be assisting during a round. Certainly, online tournaments present a temptation. It is our expectation that participants make honorable and ethical choices. If you would not do it in a face-to-face tournament, do not do it in a virtual environment.

SCREEN RECORDING- Screen recording is not permitted.

SECURITY- This tournament only collects information needed for virtual communication (names, cell, email, and school information). Information will not be shared with outside parties beyond the reporting of results. Upholding copyright laws, no competition events will be publicly broadcast.