



Willow Invitational Tournament Invitation

(Invite last updated 1/09/23)

Dear Forensics Community,

We are excited to welcome you to our 2023 Willow Invitational Tournament. This tournament is 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.

The tournament will offer competition at all levels, from kindergarten to college. 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.

Willow Invitational Tournament Date:

Saturday, January 21, 2023

Additional Tournament Dates:

Quarterly Tournament #1 October 15, 2022 Register	Quarterly Tournament #2 December 17, 2022 Register	Quarterly Tournament #3 February 18, 2023 Register	Quarterly Tournament #4 April 22, 2023 Register
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Key Points:

- Registration is due by 6pm Pacific the Tuesday before the tournament on ForensicsTournament.net
- 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.
- 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. For a complete list of NOF rules can be found [here](#).

We hope you and your team can join us throughout the season. If you have any questions please feel free to email us at info@nationalonlineforensics.org

Sincerely,

Danny Cantrell, Robert Cannon, & Taylor Stickle

National Online Forensics

Schedule

(all times PST)

Elementary School	Middle School	High School	College
10:00am Round 1 (all events)	10:00am Round 1 (all events)	10:00am Round 1 (all events)	10:00am Round 1 (all events)
11:30am Round 2 (all events)	11:30am Round 2 (all events)	11:30am Round 2 (all events)	11:30am Round 2 (all events)
1:15pm Round 3 (all events)	1:15pm Round 3 (all events)	1:15pm Round 3 (all events)	1:15pm Round 3 (all events)
3:00pm Finals (all events)	3:00pm Finals (all events)	3:00pm Finals (all events)	3:00pm Finals (all events)
5:30pm (or ASAP) Awards	5:30pm (or ASAP) Awards	5:30pm (or ASAP) Awards	5:30pm (or ASAP) Awards
Elementary Events: Impromptu, SPAR	Middle School Events: Extemp, Impromptu, SPAR	High School Events: Extemp, Impromptu, SPAR	College Events Extemp, Impromptu, IPDA

*****NOTE: All rounds for all age groups will be held at the same time**

- Students may double-enter in IE events, with the exception of Extemp (single-entry only for Extemp)
- Students may only single-enter in Debate events
- In the event of small entry sizes, we may need to collapse events within their event category (so limited prep events collapse to an “limited prep” event).

Individual Events

- Three prelims will be held; one final round will be held.
 - Events that have only 1 room of competitors will not go to a final round
- 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/# of 1st in Event/Rank in Elim/Decimal in Elim/Judge Pref in Elim
- Speaker Points will not be used.
- Students will be recognized with *Gold*, *Silver*, and *Bronze* awards. Roughly 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

- 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.
- 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 70-100.
- Prelim Ranking: Wins/Total Points/HL Points/Z Score/Opp Wins.
- 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: Top schools will be recognized at each division (college, high school, middle, and elementary school).
- Students winning Gold, Silver, or Bronze will receive awards that will be shipped to coaches following the tournament.

Fees

- School Fee: \$30
- Individual Event Entries: \$20/entry
- One person Debate (IPDA) Entries: \$50/entry
- Missed Ballot(s)
 - First Offense: \$25
 - Second Offense: \$50
 - Third Offense: \$75
 - Fourth Offense: \$100
 - Etc.
- Uncovered IE Slot (with Tournament Director Approval): \$30/slot
- Uncovered Debate Slot (with Tournament Director Approval): \$125/slot
- Changes after entry deadline: \$25 per change (subject to tournament director approval)
- Judge drops within 24 hours of the tournament will be charged a \$150 judge no-show fee.
- Judges who submit incomplete eBallots (with little to no substantive feedback) may be charged a judge no-show fee for failing to complete their judge assignment which includes both ranking the speakers along with giving sufficient comments.
- Delay of tournament fees may be assessed from \$20-\$100 based on the severity of the delay.
- Competitor no-shows (coaches did not notify the tournament prior to the missed round): \$35

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 must 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?** If you need hired judges, please contact the Tournament Director ASAP for approval.
- **Where is the Extemp Prep/Parli 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 NOF Parli?** Each school has access to practice rooms through ForensicsTournament.net. Please use those rooms.
- **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.