

Dear Colleagues,

The Governing Board of the Southern Forensics Championships invites you to its 15th tournament. The Southern Forensics Championship serves as the intercollegiate championships for the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, **but it is open to all who wish to participate**. We will be featuring the standard AFA-NIET events plus editorial impromptu and radio, and our usual offerings of Team IPDA, and IPDA. Please note, due to low participation, we will NOT be offering NPDA this year.



Please read this invitation carefully to comply with all rules. Please pay particular attention to the tournament ethics statement, as well as guidelines regarding fees for late entry changes. Questions about the tournament can be sent to Preston Langley (PLangley@bpcc.edu), while questions about campus facilities and local amenities should be directed to Dr. Paul Strait (l.strait@usm.edu). We look forward to seeing you for a weekend of fun and collegial competition.

Sincerely,

The SFC Governing Board

Preston Langley, Bossier Parish Community College, Tournament Director
Anthony McMullen, University of Central Arkansas, Tournament Director (Honorary)
Elaine Eaton, Northwestern State University
Jim Evans, University of Arkansas at Monticello
Brandon Knight, William Carey University
Amorette Hinderaker, Texas Christian University
Hannah Morris, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville
Pat Richey, Middle Tennessee State University
L. Paul Strait, University of Southern Mississippi
Masey Hammonds, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

And

Student Governing Board

Alex Gibson, Louisiana Tech University
Anna McFetridge, William Carey University
Sophie Barrentine, University of Arkansas

Tournament Ethics Statement: The last several years, we have included a statement requiring those participating in our tournament to abide by the [National Communication Association's Anti-Harassment Code of Conduct](#). This move was not novel, as many tournaments have statements requiring participants to abide by this policy. That being said, we are concerned that instances of harassing behavior go unchecked by the community. This could be for many reasons:

- It could be that those subject to harassing behavior do not come forward until long after the harassing behavior has occurred.
- It could be that those subject to harassing behavior do not come forward for fear of reprisal.
- It could be that those subject to harassing behavior did come forward, but those responsible for addressing the matter failed to do so properly.
- It could be that the matter was addressed but not sufficiently enough to change the perpetrator's behavior.

Whatever the reason, the SFC Governing Board reaffirms that no participant should be subject to harassing behavior.

All participants (coaches, judges, competitors, and observers) should review the [NCA Anti-Harassment Code of Conduct](#) before participating in our tournament. The SFC Governing Board expects that behavior between all participants be respectful and appropriate at all times. Procedures will be in place so that participants can report behavior that violates this code. In addition, any participant that has concerns over propriety or good sportsmanship should discuss the matter with their coaching staff. Any coach or judge should address any concerns with the Tournament Director. Serious violations of the policies may result in immediate disqualification from the tournament. As a condition of entry, all participants, coaches, judges, and guests agree that any decision issued by the Tournament Director is binding, and final.

Inclusion Statement: We strive to ensure that speech and debate be an activity that respects competitors of all backgrounds including gender expressions and identities and seek to create a safe space for all competitors to feel comfortable competing at their highest potential. Coaches are encouraged to include their competitors' personal pronouns with their entries; this can be done by accessing your team roster in FTN and editing their last name to include said pronouns. As an example: John Doe (he/him), or Jane Doe (they/them). ***Please note, this is not mandatory by any means; this is simply an opportunity for those who feel comfortable being addressed differently to feel accepted in this activity, regardless of how they identify.***

Tournament Hotel: The following Hotels in the Hattiesburg area are recommended. There are several other hotels in the area; please feel free to contact Paul Strait at l.strait@usm.edu if you need additional hotel listings.

Holiday Inn Express	601-602-5502	209 Thornhill Dr, Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Microtel Inn & Suites	601-450-1592	105 Westover Dr, Hattiesburg, MS 39402
La Quinta Inn & Suites	769-223-6000	109 Lundy Ln, Hattiesburg, MS 39401

Meal Options: Meal Options: USM's Campus Dining Hours and locations:

<https://usm.campusdish.com/LocationsAndMenus/Hattiesburg>. There are several additional restaurants near campus-many in walking distance from campus. These include Ed's Burgers, Crescent City Grill, Raising Cane's, Cookout, Fat Boy's Pizza, Starbucks, McDonald's, Domino's, & Big Trouble.

SFC Governing Board and Coach of the Year Awards: We will have elections for the SFC student representative from each state, all to serve a one-year term. Students desiring to run for Governing Board should submit their name and a brief candidacy statement along with the tournament entry. If there is a contested election, statements will be distributed at the tournament, and eligible voters (any undergraduate student competing in the SFC from the representative state) will cast their votes at the tournament. **Students will cast their vote by first nominating a candidate to represent their state, and then vote amongst the three candidates by a show of hands. Successful candidates will win by a majority decision amongst SFC students voting (one vote per student; not program); unanimous consent is not required. Votes should be tallied by the three outgoing SFC Student Representatives and should both (1) remain clear at each stage of voting; and (2) remain student-led, to the fullest extent possible.**

Students will also select the SFC Coach of the Year. Each SFC state will be responsible for electing their state Coach of the Year. Each Coach will then be eligible for the SFC Coach of the Year.

Tab Room: The tab room will be closed to all competitors. It will be open to coaches during Team IPDA Round 4 and IPDA Round 6.

Electronic Ballots: During the 2024 SFCT Tournament, the membership nearly unanimously voted in favor of using electronic ballots for this year's tournament. As a result, we will be offering e-ballots for ALL Speech & Debate Events. ADA Accommodations will be made available on an individual needs basis and should be communicated to the SFC Tournament Director in advance of the tournament. Please be sure to set each of your judge's ballot preferences to "electronic," which can be done in FTN through your team roster settings. A personal email address (not a school email) is encouraged, to ensure proper delivery of ballots. Please note, that tab room cannot make these changes for your program. For

TIPDA/IPDA Debate judges: IPDA guidelines expressly prohibits usage of the use of technology in round to flow rounds/research/presentation and should ONLY be used by judges in-rounds to access their electronic ballot.

Individual Event Information

1. We will offer the eleven AFA-NIET events, plus editorial impromptu and radio. All individual events (except for persuasive speaking) shall following the rules established and followed by the American Forensics Association. Entries will be allowed to use the internet for Extemp Preparation.
2. Persuasive speaking shall follow the rules of the Interstate Oratorical Contest. These speeches shall have no time limit, but speeches must not exceed 1800 words, with no more than 20% of the total number of words being directly quoted from a source other than the competitor. All quoted material must be documented. Participants and their respective programs are responsible for ensuring that the manuscripts adhere to that tournament's national guidelines.
3. Students may enter a maximum of three individual events per pattern. Competitors may enter two duos (with different partners), but this will count as two events in Pattern B. Students entered in multiple events will be responsible for making it to their rounds on time and should endeavor to sign in. The tournament directors reserve the right to limit the number of entries from a school, and to balance rounds to accommodate judging obligations from schools with large entries.
4. Individual Events will be flighted as follows:
 - a. Pattern A Events- Extemp, Persuasion, Communication Analysis, Duo, Poetry, & Editorial Impromptu.
 - b. Pattern B Events- Impromptu, Informative, After Dinner Speaking, Programmed Oral Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Radio, and Prose

Team IPDA Debate

1. There will be a single division of team IPDA for all competitors under the Varsity TIPDA Division, following IPDA's rules for eligibility.
2. All team IPDA rounds shall follow the times limits and rules established by the International Public Debate Association. ***This includes the prohibition against the use of electronic devices as timers, in-round flowing devices, or any other electronic device used in rounds.***
3. Students will have thirty minutes of preparation time (this includes time walking to the rounds).
4. We will offer four (4) preliminary rounds and the appropriate number of elimination rounds. If we have more than thirty-one (31) entries, we will add a fourth elimination round to take place Saturday evening after individual IPDA rounds have concluded.
5. For purposes of elimination round seeding and speaker points, total speaker points will be considered first, then adjusted speaker points.
6. **Please note – we will be emphasizing to all judges that everything other than ensuring everyone is “ready” shall be considered “on the clock” (this includes thank you's, roadmaps, arguments, etc.) and judges will be empowered to penalize competitors at their discretion (via speaker points and/or the assigning of the win) for violations of the time limits that are specified in the IPDA bylaws.**

IPDA Debate

1. We will offer novice, junior varsity, varsity, and professional divisions. *While any competitor may enter the professional division, only registered undergraduate students will be considered for sweepstakes calculations.*
2. All individual IPDA rounds shall follow the times limit and rules established by the International Public Debate Association. ***This includes the prohibition against the use of electronic devices as timers, in-round flowing devices, or any other electronic device used in rounds.***
3. We will offer (6) preliminary rounds and an appropriate number of elimination rounds. Should the need for additional outrounds arise, proper communication will be sent out prior to the tournament, along with any necessary adjustments to the schedule.

4. For purposes of elimination round seeding and speaker points, adjusted speaker points (total points minus high-low) will be considered first, then total speaker points.
5. **Please note – we will be emphasizing to all judges that everything other than ensuring everyone is “ready” shall be considered “on the clock” (this includes thank you’s, roadmaps, arguments, etc.) and judges will be empowered to penalize competitors at their discretion (via speaker points and/or the assigning of the win) for violations of the time limits that are specified in the IPDA bylaws.**

Sweepstakes Formula: In each event, a school’s top four entries will count toward sweepstakes totals (except for individual IPDA, where the top three *undergraduate* entries per division will count).

Awards and Sweepstakes: Awards will be presented to all individual event finalists, to all debate elimination round participants, to the top speakers in each debate division, the top five quadrathon, and the top three individual and team sweepstakes winners. No minimum number of entries is required for schools to count toward debate or individual events sweepstakes awards, but schools must be entered in both debate and individual events to be eligible for the overall sweepstakes competition. Please note, for Sweepstakes awards, IE and Debate points will be normalized, to ensure both categories of competition have equal weight for sweepstakes awards.

The top four entries in each individual event, the top two team IPDA teams, and the top three *undergraduate* entries per division of IPDA debate will count toward sweepstakes. **Please send your undergraduate entries (and Top Novices, for IE entries) to the Tournament Director by email, in advance of the tournament.**

Individual events will be scored as follows:

Preliminary rounds:

3 points for 1st place
2 points for 2nd place
1 point for 3rd place

Final rounds:

6 points for 1st place
5 points for 2nd place
4 points for 3rd place
3 points for 4th place
2 points for 5th place
1 point for 6th place and below
0.5 points for non-advancing semifinalists

Debate will be scored as follows:

Team IPDA

6 points for each prelim round win
6 points for breaking

Individual IPDA

3 points for each prelim round win
3 points for breaking

Speakers (for all events)

6 points for 1st speaker
5 points for 2nd speaker
4 points for 3rd speaker
3 points for 4th speaker
2 points for 5th speaker

Individual Event Sweepstakes (Quadrathon): To be eligible, students must compete in at least four events and in at least two of the three categories: limited preparation (extemp, impromptu, editorial impromptu), public address (after dinner speaking, persuasive, informative, communication analysis), and interpretation (dramatic, program, prose, poetry, duo). Multiple duos shall count as only one event for the purposes of this minimum. Only four events will be counted toward a student’s total, with at least one event from two of the three categories being included in those four events. Only one duo will be counted among the four. Points shall be calculated using the sweepstakes formula outlined herein.

Individual Overall Sweepstakes: To be eligible, students must compete in at least one individual event and one form of debate. All of a student's events will count toward this total. Points shall be calculated using the sweepstakes formula outlined herein.

Team Overall Sweepstakes: To be eligible for team overall sweepstakes and for the state championship, a school must have at least one individual event entry and one debate entry. (There will also be team sweepstakes in individual events and debate.)

State Championships (SFC schools only): The top entry in each event from each SFC state will be recognized as that state's champion, and the top school in each category (debate, individual events, and overall) will be recognized as the state champion. In debate events, the top entry will be competitor(s) who go the farthest in the competition. If a state's final competitors are eliminated in the same round, the higher seed will be recognized as the champion.

IE Schedule

Friday

10:30 am - Registration
11:30 pm - Rd. 1 EXT Draw
12:00 pm - Rd. 1 Pattern A
1:15 pm - Rd. 1 Pattern B
2:30 pm – Rd 2 EXT Draw
3:00 pm – Rd. 2 Pattern A
4:15 pm – Rd. 2 Pattern B
5:30 pm – Dinner Break
6:30 pm – Finals EXT Draw
7:00 pm – Finals A & Semis
8:15 pm – Remaining Finals

Saturday

***2:30 p.m. – Lunch Break/
Coaches and Student Meetings***

* Lunch provided

IPDA/TIPDA Schedule (Times indicate start of draw or topic announce)

Friday

10:00 am - Registration
10:45 am - Team IPDA Rd. 1
12:30 pm – Team IPDA Rd. 2
2:15 pm – Team IPDA Rd. 3
4:00 pm – Team IPDA Rd. 4
6:00 pm - Dinner Break
7:00 pm – TIPDA Elim. Rd. 1
8:45 pm - TIPDA Elim. Rd. 2

Saturday

8:00 am – TIPDA Elim. Rd. 3
9:45 am – TIPDA Elim. Rd. 4
10am to 11am – Registration
11:30 am – IPDA Rd. 1
1:00 pm – IPDA Rd. 2
***2:30 pm – Lunch Break/
Coaches and Student Meetings***
3:30 pm – IPDA Rd. 3
5:00 pm – IPDA Rd. 4
6:30 pm – IPDA Rd. 5
8:00 pm – IPDA Rd. 6

*Lunch provided

Sunday

8:30 am – Elim. Rd. 1
10:30 am – Awards
11:15 am – Elim. Rd. 2
12:45 pm – Elim. Rd. 3
2:15 pm – Elim. Rd. 4
3:45 pm – Elim Rd. 5

Judges: Normally, there is an option for uncovered entries and a statement that we would rather have your judges rather than your money. Due to the challenges of running a comprehensive tournament, we strongly encourage all entries to be covered. In the event they are not, we will be enforcing uncovered entry fees. To be clear: **WE WANT YOUR JUDGES MORE THAN WE WANT YOUR FEES.** One judge may cover six (6) individual event entries, two (2) Team IPDA teams, or four (4) IPDA debaters. A single judge may be used to cover multiple events except for individual IPDA. In other words, a single judge could cover six (6) individual event entries, two (2) Team IPDA entries, and four (4) IPDA entries. Programs are

committed to one round past their highest advancing eliminated competitor. Every effort will be made to allow programs with extended drives to be released sooner, but this cannot be guaranteed.

Because of the tight schedule, it is essential that judges return ballots in a timely manner. To aid in this effort, all ballots for both IE and Debate events will be electronic. Therefore, we ask that judges do not provide oral critiques at the end of the round. (We particularly request this for IPDA judges, as IPDA guidelines strongly discourage oral critiques), and ask all judges to accept their ballot via their email within 5 minutes of receiving the email notification that their ballot is ready.

Entries: Entries should be submitted via FTN no later than Monday, January 27th at 5:00 p.m. ***Please take this time to identify your novice competitors, if they are not already marked as such in your FTN entry.*** Changes will be accepted without charge until Wednesday, January 29th at noon. Each change after that will be charged \$15.00.

Uncovered Entries: IE entries are \$10, IPDA entries are \$25, and Team IPDA entries are \$35. Uncovered IE entries are an additional \$10 each, uncovered TIPDA entries are an additional \$25 each, and uncovered IPDA entries are an additional \$15 each.

Check Payment: Please make all check payable to "The University of Southern Mississippi."