

Northern California Forensics Association Spring Championship Tournament 2024

February 23-25, 2024 at - Chico/Oroville

Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of the Northern California Forensics Association and our executive board, I am pleased to invite you to our 2024 Spring Championship Tournament.

Chico State in Chico, CA, and Butte College in Oroville, CA, have graciously offered to host this year's tournament. Please stay tuned for future announcements regarding food, lodging, parking, and various campus information that will help make your weekend run smoothly.

NCFA Champs is sanctioned by the governing body of NCFA. The tournament shall be governed by the Constitution and By-Laws of NCFA unless otherwise specified in this invite or determined by the executive board. If there are any issues that cannot be solved, we invite members to petition the executive board for consideration. Issues that arise during the tournament will be referred to the Ombuds. We also encourage everyone to read the NCFA constitution, which outlines the events and tournament rules.

The Spring Championship Tournament will be a full-service tournament, including:

- 11 Individual Events categories
- Lincoln-Douglas Debate,
- Parliamentary Debate, and
- International Public Debate (IPDA),

We will have a novice and open division in all individual events and a novice, junior, and open division will be offered for all forms of debate. This year, we will use Forensic Tournament (forensicstournament.net) for all entries. All coaches, competitors, and judges should create a profile on forensicstournament.net prior to the start of the tournament. We will email detailed instructions on how to do this if you are unfamiliar.

Registration will be available no less than two weeks before the tournament's start date and will remain open until February 22nd. **All entries are due by 11:59 PM on Wednesday, February 21st, 2024.** Drops and name changes may be made up until 10:00 PM, February 22, 2024. Any additional changes should be emailed to the tournament director. You must use the web entry system on forensicstournament.net to enter competitors AND judges. **IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR OPEN DIVISION AND FULL COVERAGE FOR DEBATE, JUDGES MUST SUBMIT A JUDGING PARADIGM!**

The NCFA Spring Business Meeting will take place at the Spring Fling tournament on May 4th at Skyline College.

Please email Jeff Toney at Jeffrey.toney@deltacollege.edu if you have any questions.

Best,
Jeff Toney
Tournament Director

ENTRY DETAILS

Eligibility:

Student Eligibility: Students must be currently enrolled in a class at the college they are representing. No student may compete in the Spring Championship tournament for more than a total of five years and no more than three years for any 2-year program. Any student may enter open division, regardless of experience. If students fail to meet the eligibility requirement but have a compelling justification, a coach or representative from the institution may petition the executive council and tournament staff for consideration to participate.

Division Eligibility:

- Students with four semesters of collegiate experience in an event type must enter the **Open division**.
- Students with less than four semesters of collegiate experience in an event type may enter **Junior divisions**. Junior eligibility is lost when a student places first, second, or third in the Junior and/or Open division at three different tournaments. If a student has been in the final rounds of junior and/or open division of debate at three tournaments, he/she must move to open division.
- **Novice Division** shall be open only to those students meeting the following NCFA Eligibility Requirements. (NOTE: NCFA Novice Eligibility is stricter than national organization rules and will be adhered to.)
 - o High school experience in debate and Individual Events--if a student has competed in high school for two semesters, the student must compete in the Junior division.
 - o College experience in debate--If a student has advanced beyond the first elimination round at two tournaments, or if the student has competed in the final round at three tournaments in any debate format (team or Lincoln-Douglas) then he/she must enter in a higher division.
 - o College experience in Individual Events--A novice competitor must advance to the Junior (or open) division if he/she places (first, second, or third) in an event or like event type (i.e.-interpretation, limited prep, group event, and platform speeches), twice.
 - o Participation in the Novice Division at Spring Fling will not affect a student's eligibility.

Cross Entries Rules and Entry Restrictions:

- Students may compete in either NFA-LD *or* IPDA. (Saturday)
- Students may enter a maximum of three events in each I.E. pattern. (Sunday)
- **IPDA and LD will be allowed a maximum of 2 uncovered entries per school. (Read the highlighted section on Page 7 carefully)**

NOTE: If you are having difficulty registering on forensicstournament.net, please contact the tournament director and CC the executive board members to ensure the fastest response.

EVENTS

Individual Events:

We will offer the following Individual Events:

- Interpretation: Prose, Poetry, Programmed Oral Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation
- Group Events: Dramatic Duo, Readers Theatre.
- Platform Speeches: Informative, Persuasive, After Dinner Speaking, and Communication Analysis.
- Limited Preparation: Impromptu and Extemporaneous.

Collapsing Divisions: Every effort will be made to protect novice competitors; however, if a division in an individual event has fewer than 5 entrants, the lower division may be collapsed into the higher division. If this occurs, the top non-advancing novices will be recognized at the awards ceremony. Additionally, in order to best utilize judges, when the total of all three divisions of an event is 12 or fewer contestants, with no division having 6 or more contestants, the divisions could be mixed in the same room with the same judge, and the contestants ranked separately.

Forfeiture Rule: Competitors not fulfilling their obligation to comply with the tournament schedule will be subject to forfeiture. Individual events competitors, regardless of the amount of entries they have in a pattern, must arrive at rounds within 45 minutes of a round's scheduled start time or risk forfeiture. This means they must be in the room ready to give their speech or performance.

Criteria for Elimination Rounds: Any event with less than seven entries will not have a final round. Events with thirty-four entries should have a semi-final round, if possible.

Advancement to Elimination Rounds: No more than half of the field will be advanced to finals. Students will be rank-ordered first by lowest cumulative rankings, finally by the highest reciprocal score (a.k.a. decimal conversion), and finally by the highest cumulative ratings.

Placement/Advancement in Elimination Rounds: Students will be rank-ordered by lowest cumulative rankings, then by judge's preference, then by the highest cumulative ratings, and finally by the highest reciprocal score (a.k.a. decimal conversion).

Pattern A: Extemp, CA, Info, Poe, Pro\

Pattern B: Impromptu, ADS, Pers, DI, POI, Duo

Debate Events

Use of laptops or any other internet connectable devices

The use of laptops in debate:

NFA LD: Allows reading of evidence and flowing in LD

NPDA: Allowed for flowing, prep, and partner communication, you cannot use information that was not typed or written during the prep round by you or your partner

IPDA: Can use during prep but not in round.

We will offer the following debate events:

- NPDA
- NFA-LD.
- IPDA

NPDA: A different resolution for each round will be presented to the debaters at a specified time prior to the beginning of each debate. The topic of each round will be about current affairs or philosophy. The resolutions will be general enough that a well-educated college student can debate them. They may be phrased in literal or metaphorical language.

Any published information, electronic or otherwise, may be consulted before the debate. Except for notes that the debaters themselves have prepared during the preparation time for that debate 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.

Preparation and transit time for the 2024 NCFA Spring Championship will be 25 minutes. Each team is responsible for familiarizing themselves with their method of getting to the room on time. Prep time will be adjusted if logistics necessitate it, and the tournament will be notified by the Tournament Director of any changes prior to the topic announcement.

At the expiration of preparation time, the judge will begin a timer. The team(s) are expected to make contact with the judge or tournament if experiencing technical difficulties within the first 7 minutes of the IAC. If the late team(s) is/are not present by the expiration of their first speech's total time, they will receive a forfeit with zero speaker points. If neither team is present by 8:00 after prep time has expired, both shall be forfeited, and both teams shall receive 0 speaker points. Refusal by a judge to do this will result in the removal of the judge from the judging pool, and an uncovered judge fee will be assessed to the team whom the judge is representing.

NOTE: The judge does NOT have discretion about whether to enforce this rule, and the Tournament Director may overturn their decision if they refuse to enforce it. If a judge refuses to enforce this rule, the affected team should contact the tab room immediately. Furthermore, judges are also bound by the prep clock and must arrive at their debates on time. This means that judges must also prepare their technological setup during prep time and ensure they can be in the round at the established time. Debaters shall be afforded the opportunity to inform the tab room of judges who are late to their rounds. The Tournament Director shall have the discretion of imposing penalties equivalent to those imposed for a missed round for lateness.

Finally, judges will have the discretion to allow teams who have arrived BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF PREP TIME to use the bathroom as needed. Students should do their best to fill water bottles, use the restroom, etc., before the round begins. Judges should only afford this opportunity to students who have arrived before the expiration of prep time and should not allow such discretion to interrupt the tournament egregiously.

Speaking times are as follows:

- First Proposition Constructive: 7 Min
- Opposition Flex Time: 2 Min
- First Opposition Constructive: 8 Min
- Proposition Flex Time: 2 Min
- Second Proposition Constructive: 8 Min
- Opposition Flex Time: 1 Min

- Second Opposition Constructive: 8 Min
Opposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 4 Min
Proposition Flex Time: 1 Min
Proposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 5 Min

Flex Time: Flex time may be used by the controlling team to prepare arguments, drink water, set up stands, ask questions of their opponents, etc. Flex time may not be used as additional speech time.

NFA L-D: The 2023-24 topic will be used. *Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce the number and/or role of its nuclear weapons.*

The times for NFA L-D are as follows:

IAC	EX	INC	EX	IAR	INR	2AR
6min	3min	7min	3min	6min	6min	3min

IPDA:

- Students will be provided with 5 topics at the beginning of the round. Students will rotate striking one topic from the list, beginning with the opposition speaker.
- IPDA prep will begin at the posted schedule start time or when the draw is announce. As soon as prep is over, IPDA debaters will IMMEDIATELY begin their debate.

The times for IPDA are as follows:

1 AC	EX	INC	EX	IAR	INR	IAS
Smin	2min	6min	2min	3min	Smin	3min

Novice Eligibility: Students cannot compete in Novice Debate Events if they... 1) advanced beyond the first elimination round at two tournaments in one debate format. 2) Competed in the final round at three tournaments in any debate format (parli, policy, or LD). 3) Competed in a high school debate event for one year in varsity/open division.

Collapsing Division: Three divisions will be offered (novice, junior, and open). If there are less than eighteen entries in a division of debate, the lower division may be collapsed into the higher division.

Preliminary Rounds: There will be four preliminary rounds of NFA-LD, IPDA, and NPDA. Rounds 1 & 2 of all debate formats will be preset rounds and all subsequent rounds will be power-matched (high-low) in brackets. We will make every effort to prevent situations that involve pull-ups but may choose to lag power matches if time constraints become an issue. Moreover, we will prioritize matching students in contention to break against each other when making decisions about pull-ups.

Criteria for Elimination Rounds: For debate formats, the tournament will attempt to advance half the field, schedule permitting. If advancing all winning records results in less than 50% of the field advancing, the tournament will pull up as many teams as it takes to reach the 50% mark. No team with a losing record should be advanced to elim rounds. All winning records will break. We will hold full elimination rounds for all Open debate events, and if judges and time permit, we will provide full elimination rounds for Junior and Novice debate events. IPDA will Open Division, and any subsequent lower division, will be broken based on the criteria below.

Criteria for IPDA Specifically: The number of qualifying outrounds will be determined by the size of the field in the division. If a tournament qualifies for sanctioning based on its total field, each of the divisions will automatically qualify for points. Sanctioned outround points for each division will be based on the following:

Field Size: Qualifying Outrounds:

Below 4 entrants	0 elimination rounds
4-6 entrants	1 elimination round
7-14 entrants	2 elimination rounds
15-30 entrants	3 elimination rounds
31-62 entrants	4 elimination rounds
63-126 entrants	5 elimination rounds
127+ entrants	6 elimination rounds

At least half of the qualifying field must come from schools other than the host institution. If, for example, a division had 37 entries but only 12 came from other than the host school, the qualifying field size would be 24 (2 x 12). It would be up to the Tournament Director's discretion whether to break to quarterfinals or to octofinals, but only the final 3 outrounds in that division would qualify for cumulative sweepstakes points.

Advancement to Elimination Rounds: No more than half of the field will be advanced to elimination rounds. The tournament will break brackets in accordance with national guidelines for each debate event. Seeding in elimination rounds will be determined by the following sequence of preferences:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Number of wins | 4. Opposition record |
| 2. Adjusted speaker points | 5. Judge variance (z-score) |
| 3. Total speaker points | |

Disclosure: NCFCA Bylaws require that judges be afforded time to disclose, but please help keep the tournament on time by returning the ballot no more than 1 hour and 15 minutes from the start of the round. Remember you can submit the ballot, then go back in a leave comments.

Hybrid & Three-Person Teams: Each school may enter one hybrid team OR one 3-person team in each debate event (all divisions); schools should enter as many 2-person teams with partners from the same school as mathematically possible -even if this means novice competitors move up to compete in the open division. A school is permitted one hybrid CEDA team AND one hybrid parliamentary team. No one-person teams are permitted. We will allow three-person teams to break into elimination rounds. Any sweepstakes-eligible points earned by a hybrid team will be divided in half between the two schools. Hybrid teams will be protected from member schools in the out-round brackets if possible. However, in order to limit the number of pull-ups and encourage more debates, the tournament director and debate staff may require hybrid teams to debate against one or both member schools.

JUDGING

The tournament wants to manage the judge pool to minimize the expense of hired judging. It is imperative that we have accurate information about your judges. When you enter your judges online, please indicate if judges will be unavailable at any time, ineligible to judge open division rounds, or conflicted by prior association that prevents them from hearing competitors from other schools. Judges can also feel free to submit conflicts directly to the tournament director [the email listed above].

Debate Philosophies: Please make sure that there is a judging philosophy for all debate judges. The philosophies should be uploaded to forensicstournament.net by **Wednesday, February 21st at 11:59 PM**. If a judge does not submit a philosophy by the deadline they will be exempt from judging in the open division until a philosophy has been submitted. No guarantees in terms of rounds or coverage will be guaranteed if philosophies are entered after the deadline.

We will be using electronic ballots for all events. This means that all judges will need to have two things:

1. a linked forensicstournament.net account and
2. a device that can access forensicstournament.net

Guidelines for all Judge entries

1. Please make all attempts to cover your entry. If you cannot, please encourage people you know from the community to volunteer or sign up as a hired critic. Helping us find qualified judges is a great service to the community.
2. Novice only judges will NOT cover your Open competitor entries. They will ONLY cover the novice

level entries.

3. Enter all constraints that you have knowledge of at the time of registration. If any conflicts or constraints come up after registration, please contact the tournament director as soon as possible.
4. Judges must remain one elimination round past when their competitors are eliminated. This applies to both IE and Debate judges.
5. Judges must fill out ballot with notes before turning in.

The Director of each program shall vouch that each of their judges are qualified.

Judging Commitment

Individual Events: Each school owes one judge for every six entries or fraction thereof per pattern. All judges are committed through final rounds even if your competitors do not advance. Each school's judging commitment is 1 round for each 2 individual event slots entered per pattern. If the tournament has only 2 preliminary rounds of individual events, then each school is obligated to provide one round of judging for each three individual events slots per pattern.

Debate: Each school owes one judge for every two entries in Parliamentary, NFA-LD, and IPDA, or a fraction thereof. All debate judges are committed through the second elimination round of the respective debate type. Each school's judging commitment is three rounds of debate judging for each team or LD or IPDA entered (6 rounds for 2 entries).

In order to best utilize judges, when the total of all three divisions of an event is 12 or fewer contestants, with no division having 6 or more contestants, the divisions could be mixed in the same room with the same judge, and the contestants ranked separately.

Judges will not be required to judge beyond their school's commitment unless they are (a) asked first and (b) paid for each round beyond their school's commitment at the prevailing rate for hired judges.

NFA-LD and IPDA: Schools should do everything within their power to cover their judging commitment. Last year we struggled to get judges due to schools not bringing enough judges to cover their commitment. This year **we will allow up to two uncovered slots per school in NFA-LD and IPDA**. Even if you think you've provided enough judges, uncovered slots can occur within the division that you have entered. **For example, if your school has 6 Open LD or IPDA students, but you only provide 1 Open level judge along with 2 novice level judges, this does not cover your Open entry commitment.** 6 open level competitors require 3 open level judges to cover your entry.

****** If a school has competitors participating in both IPDA and NFA LD events, then the judges from that school can be used to judge both events. For instance, suppose a school has students competing in both NFA LD and IPDA, and they have two judges entered to judge IPDA and one to judge NFA LD. In that case, all three of those judges can be used to judge either NFA LD or IPDA.

Competent Judge Standards: Each college entered shall fulfill the judging requirement outlined or pay the requisite judging fee. Only a competent judge may be used to fulfill this requirement. Competent judges shall be defined as one of the following:

1. A college Forensics coach.
2. A former college forensics coach.
3. College instructors of Speech communication or allied disciplines.
4. A high school forensics coach or former forensics coach, teacher of speech, or allied discipline.

5. A college graduate who competed in college two or more years
6. A student who has not completed a BA degree but who:
 - a. has retired from competition and has exhausted her/his competitive eligibility.
 - b. is at least two years removed from Novice competition.
 - c. had a distinguished record in Open Division the type of event he/she is judging.Such a person may judge Novice Division rounds at their first tournament, and Open Division rounds thereafter.

PLEASE bring judges and be open to judging past your commitment. If you are qualified to judge Debate, please **submit a judging philosophy regardless of intent in case the tournament needs you**. If you can judge an IE round despite being in the debate pool, please consider taking a ballot if we are short. Tournaments need judges. The tournament staff will do their best to provide downtime and off-rounds if possible, but we need your support to make this tournament happen for our students.

FEES

Uncovered Judging Commitment

Uncovered NPDA = \$100 X #of Uncovered

Uncovered IE= \$30 X #of Uncovered

Uncovered NFA-LD and IPDA = \$95 X #of Uncovered

Fee Calculation Details

FEE	Cost Per	Number	Total
NCFA Dues	\$50		
NPDA Team	\$80		
LD Entry	\$30		
IPDA Entry	\$30		
IE Entry	\$12		
Duo Entry	\$12		
Uncovered LD/IPDA	\$95		
Uncovered NPDA Entry	\$100		
Uncovered IE	\$30		
School Fee	\$50	1	\$50
Total			

Checks should be made payable to the Northern California Forensics Association.

AWARDS

Student Fellowship Award: NCFA will recognize, based on the votes of peers, the students who embody the finest qualities of intercollegiate forensics. Ballots will be distributed to coaches at registration and should be deposited in the ballot box near postings by no later than Saturday at 5PM.

NPDA District Student Representative: Since NCFA schools and students comprise a majority of District 1, and since not all of these schools and students are able to attend NPDA, NCFA has decided that students should vote for their district representative at NCFA Spring Champs. Please alert all your students who compete in NPDA debate that we will be holding an assembly for them to run for office and vote for their district representative.

Interstate Oratory Representative: The student from a Northern California school (determined to be a current or former dues paying member of NCFA), who places highest in the open division of Persuasive Speaking, will be designated the Northern California representative to the Interstate Oratory Contest. If that student cannot go, the next highest placing student from a Northern California school will be designated the representative. The designation will be passed down until a student is found who will attend the contest. NCFA will partially fund the representative's trip.

Sweepstakes: All sweepstakes categories will be based on the number of entries at the entry deadline, not on the day of competition. Sweepstakes awards will be given to the top three schools in each of the following divisions:

1. Open University Division
2. Limited Entry University Division (Seven or fewer contestants from a school)
3. Open Community College Division
4. Limited Entry Community College Division (Seven or fewer contestants from a school)

Calculation for Sweepstakes:

Individual Events Points

- 10 points for each first place
- 7.5 points for each second place
- 5 points for each third place
- 2.5 points for each finalist

NFA-LD points

- 10 points for first place
- 7.5 points for second place
- 5 points for semi-finalist
- 2.5 points for quarter and octo-finalists

NPDA, Reader's Theatre, Policy Debate Points

- 20 points for first place
- 15 points for second place
- 10 points for semi-finalist
- 5 points for quarter-finalist
- 2.5 points for octo-finalist

IPDA Points

- 10 points for first place
- 7.5 points for second place
- 5 points for semi-finalist
- 2.5 points for quarter and octo-finalists

*Note on IPDA points: Since IPDA will be broken to festival finals, there may be more gold medals awarded than there are first places for any number of events. This could tip the sweepstakes calculations in a way we might not expect, depending on the size of the entry. To reflect this, the points assigned will not be equal to those of other Individual/Single Competitor debate events.

NCFA Schedule 2- Parli Day 1, LO v. IPDA Day 2, IEs Day 3

Friday- PARLI

9:30 AM- Topic Announce 1 & 2

10:10 AM- Round 1

11:15 AM- Round 2

LUNCH 12:10-1:00 PM **[Provided]**

1:00 PM- Topic Announce Round 3

1:20 PM- Round 3

2:30 PM- Topic Announce Round 4

2:50 PM- Round 4

4:00 PM- Topic Announce Elim 1

4:20 PM- Elim 1

5:30 PM- Topic Announce Elim 2

5:50 PM- Elim 2

7:00 PM- Topic Announce Elim 3

7:20 PM- Elim 3

Saturday- LD v. IPDA

8:00 AM- Round 1 IPDA/LD

9:15 AM- Round 2 IPDA/LD

11:20 AM- Round 3 IPDA/LD

LUNCH- 12:40-1:40 PM

1:40 PM- Round 4 IPDA/LD

3:00 PM- Elim 1 IPDA/LD

4:20 PM- Elim 2 IPDA/LD

5:40 PM- Elim 3 IPDA/LD

Sunday- IEs

7:45 AM Extemp Prep

8:15 AM Round 1 Pattern A

9:30 AM Round 1 Pattern B

10:45 AM Extemp Prep

11:15 AM Round 2 Pattern A

Lunch 12:15-1:00 PM

1:00 PM Round 2 Pattern B

2:15 PM Extemp Prep

2:45 PM Pattern A Finals and B Semis

4:00 PM Pattern B Finals

Awards ASAP

Pattern A: Extemp, CA, Info, Poe, Pro,

Pattern B: Impromptu, ADS, Pers, DI, POI,

Duo