

**THE WESTERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION FORENSICS
TOURNAMENT**

February 14-16, 2025

Hosted by

The University of New Mexico



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Western States Communication Association and University of New Mexico, we invite you to Albuquerque, New Mexico for the WSCA Forensics Swing. The tournament will be held on February 14-16, 2025. This year, we plan to offer in-person competition opportunities in individual events, IPDA, NPDA, and NFA-LD.

As the only remaining tournament sponsored in conjunction with a regional communication conference, we also encourage attendees to participate in the WSCA Conference. On Friday, February 14, 2025, undergraduate students will have the opportunity to present their original research at the Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference (please see www.westcomm.org for submission deadlines and details). Additionally, the Western Forensics and Argumentation interest group will sponsor a showcase of IE events during the WSCA convention.

We looking forward to seeing you in New Mexico!

Averie Vockel
WSCA Speech Activities Coordinator
University of Utah

Dr. Shinsuke Eguchi
WSCA President
University of New Mexico

Dr. Jeannie Hunt
Tournament Director
University of Utah

EVENTS

NPDA: Junior and Open Divisions (with sufficient entries).
NPDA format (7-8-8-8-4-5). Prep time 20 minutes, 2-2-1-1 Flex times.
No ‘maverick’ (partner-less) entries will be permitted.
NPDA eligibility guidelines will be followed.

Forfeiture Rule: Any team that is late to a round will have that time deducted from their team’s first speech (the PMC or LOC). When the full speech time has elapsed (7 or 8 minutes), the team in question will be forfeited. In the event both teams are late, both teams will have time deducted from their first speech. A universal timer will be made available at the time of topic announcement. Time deductions and forfeiture rules will be enforced by the judge assigned to the round.

IPDA: Junior and Open Divisions (with sufficient entries)
IPDA format (5-2-6-2-3-5-3). Prep time 30 minutes. Forfeit at 5 minutes.
IPDA rules and guidelines will be followed.

NFA LD: (6-3-7-3-6-6-3; 4 minutes prep) Forfeit at 5 minutes.
One open division (with sufficient entries)

2024-2025 resolution is: *“The United States federal government should substantially increase prohibitions on the development and/or use of artificial intelligence in one or more of the following areas: law enforcement, automation, and/or privacy”*

Individual Events: Junior and Open Divisions (with sufficient entries). Competitors may enter a maximum of three events per pattern on Friday and Saturday. Students may participate in the IE tournament on Friday but will not be able to cross-enter IEs and debate on Saturday. Students with multiple entries in a pattern are responsible for getting to their competition rooms on time. Events with more than 30 participants will have a semifinal round. AFA competition rules and eligibility guidelines will be followed. In all IEs, a minimum of two rounds will be held.

Pattern A: Extemp, Informative, ADS, Prose, Duo, Poetry

Pattern B: Impromptu, Persuasive, CA, DI, POI

ELIGIBILITY

School/Team Eligibility

To compete at the tournament, students must be enrolled in a collegiate debate organization recognized by and in good standing with their home university.

Contestant Eligibility

The eligibility guidelines of the respective sanctioning organizations for each competitive event will determine the eligibility of individual competitors to take part in the WSCA tournament. No contestant may enter the tournament unless officially representing a school/team.

ENTRY LIMITATIONS

Students may enter no more than three individual events per pattern. ***A student may not enter both debate and IEs on Saturday.*** Students are responsible for making it to all rounds on time; if a student does not perform by the end of the scheduled round, they may be dropped from the event.

JUDGING REQUIREMENTS

1. Each institution must provide adequate judging to cover their entries. **If you cannot cover your entry, you will be asked to reduce your entry size.** Obligations are as follows:
 - a. One judge covers two NPDA or IPDA debate teams. One judge covers 6 IE slots per pattern OR two LD entries.
 - b. All NPDA & NFA-LD judges are committed through the first full elimination debate and/or one round past their school's elimination from the tournament. All IE judges are obligated through finals. All IPDA judges are obligated through finals.
 - c. We will try to keep judging pools separate, but may require judges to cover events outside their designated pool due to logistical constraints.
 - d. Failure of a school to meet its judging obligation may result in the withdrawal of that institution's students and/or the assignment of judging fees.
2. We will gladly hire you if you can judge beyond your commitment. If you know of qualified individuals who would like to be hired, please have them contact the Speech Activities Coordinator.
3. Disclosure: **Ballots must be submitted before disclosure.** Disclosure is at the discretion of the judge in debate rounds and critics may disclose as much or as little information as they see fit so long as it *does not interfere with the tournament schedule*. Delays caused by coaches/judges may, at the tournament director's discretion, result in penalties to that school's teams including removal from the tournament. We don't want to do it, so don't put us in a position where we would need to do it. NOTE TO JUDGES: All debate rounds must have one winner and one loser.

Practices and Standards

The WSCA Tournament subscribes to and will abide by the NPDA, NFA, and IPDA rules and bylaws for debate, and the AFA rules and bylaws for individual events.

Brackets will be broken in the pairing of elimination rounds of NPDA and NFA-LD. As per the IPDA bylaws, brackets will not be broken in IPDA.

AWARDS

Competitor Awards

At minimum, the WSCA tournament will recognize and provide awards for the finalists in each division of debate, the top three IE competitors in each IE event, and the top junior competitor in each IE event.

Tournament Sweepstakes

At minimum, sweepstakes awards will be awarded to the top two four-year and the top 2 two-year institutions competing in the WSCA tournament.

Sweepstakes awards will be based on the following point system:

IEs

1st Place IE: 10 points

2nd Place IE: 8 points

3rd Place: 6 points

IE Finalists: 4 points

IE Semi-Finalist: 2 points

Debate

Debate sweepstakes will be awarded 5 points for each preliminary win for the top four teams/entries from any one school in each division.

“Best in the West” Traveling Trophy

Each year, the WSCA Tournament will award one “Best in the West” award, a traveling trophy determined by the most cumulative points from past WSCA tournaments, beginning with the 2019 tournament. Schools will total their overall sweepstakes points from each WSCA tournament, accruing a cumulative total throughout their years of participation. Each year, the school with the highest total will win this award and have their points converted to “0” entering the next year of the tournament.

“The Forensics Service Wizard” Award

In 2024 the WSCA tournament introduced commitment to forensics award named after our 2024 host institution’s mascot, Wizard the Lizard. Even though the host institution, Truckee Meadows Community College does not have a forensics team, they were gracious enough to accept to host us for WSCA 2024. The generosity of the TMCC Liberal Arts Department exemplifies a commitment to students and forensics. As such, as a part of official tournament awards, the WSCA accepts nominations for this student service award.

Schools may nominate up to two students, but only one student may attend the nominating institution. Nominations should be for students who have demonstrated excellence in forensics and service to the activity. A nomination must include a letter from the nominating coach detailing why the student best reflects the spirit of the award.

A winner will be selected based on number of nominations and evaluation by a committee of coaches that will be selected at the WSCA tournament.

Nomination letters must be emailed to Averie (avockel@gmail.com) by February 14th, 2025.

TOURNAMENT FEES

School Fee	\$50.00 per school
NPDA Debate	\$50.00 per team
IE's	\$8.00 per slot/\$16 for Duo
NFA-LD & IPDA	\$20.00 per debater
Hired Judges	\$75.00 per uncovered debate team
	\$25.00 per uncovered IE slot
	\$40.00 per uncovered LD debater
Nuisance fee	\$10.00 per change post deadline

Fees will be assessed as of 10:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2025.

ALL fees must be paid through forensicstournament.net or with cash by the end of the tournament. If you need an alternative payment method, you must contact Averie (avockel@gmail.com) by Wednesday February 12, 2025. If your institution MUST pay by check, that check must be brought to the tournament and made out to Western States Forensics Association.

ENTRY DEADLINE

Entries must be received by 10:00 p.m. MST on Tuesday, February 11, 2025. Changes will be allowed on ForensicsTournament.net until 12:00pm MST Thursday, February 13, 2025.

Any changes after Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 12:00 pm MST should be e-mailed to Averie Vockel at: avockel@gmail.com. Please note that changes after the deadline of Thursday, February 13, 2025 will incur a nuisance fee of \$10 per change for the school. No exceptions. This is due to the extreme judging constraints that exist as the tournament runs with the conference. Changes create extreme difficulty with tabbing and room assignments. Please triple check all entries!

Entries will be facilitated through *ForensicsTournament.net*

Forensics Showcase

The Western Forensics and Argumentation interest group will sponsor a showcase of IE events during the WSCA convention. If you have students that will be able to participate in this event, please let us know at registration Friday afternoon.

Food

Details will be made available on Forensics Tournament as the event gets closer.

Lodging

There is not a 'tournament hotel' for the 2025 WSCA tournament, if they wish attendees may stay at the WSCA conference hotel (Doubletree by Hilton, Albuquerque, NM) Information about conference rates can be found at: <https://www.westcomm.org/page/HotelandTransportation>.

2025 WSCA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Friday, February 14th

9:30AM: Registration

10AM: Round 1 A

11:30AM: Round 1 B

1:00 PM: Lunch Break

2:00 PM: Round 2 A

3:30 PM: Round 2 B

5:00 PM: Finals A

6:30 PM: Finals B

Awards ASAP

Saturday, February 15th

7:00AM: Registration

8:00AM: EXT Draw, Round 1 Debate

8:30AM: Pattern A round 1

10:00AM: Pattern B round 1, Round 2 Debate

11:30 AM EXT Draw

11:45AM: Pattern A round 2, Round 3 Debate

1:30PM-2:30PM: Lunch Break

2:30 PM: Pattern B round 2, Round 4 Debate

4:15PM: Round 5 NPDA, IPDA/LD Elim 1

6PM: Elim 1 NPDA, IPDA/LD Elim 2, Finals A

7:15PM: Elim 2 NPDA, IPDA/LD Finals, Finals B

Awards ASAP

Sunday, February 16th

8AM: Debate Elims as needed

***Schedule subject to change based on entries.