



Department of Communication
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September 6, 2026

Dear Forensic Colleagues,

On behalf of the University of Central Missouri's Department of Communication, the "Talking Mules" Speech & Debate Team, and our coaching staff, I am thrilled to extend this invitation to attend the 2026 Missouri Mule/Carnegie Swing Speech & Debate Tournament, hosted on the campus of University of Central Missouri in beautiful Warrensburg, MO on **October 9-11, 2026**.

For the Missouri Mule portion of the swing tournament, on Friday, we will offer 5 preliminary rounds, and an appropriate number of elimination rounds, of IPDA (V, JV, N, and Professional). Saturday offers completion of IPDA rounds, if necessary, 4 preliminary rounds of Team IPDA (TIPDA) (Open), with an appropriate number of outrounds, 4 preliminary rounds for LD (O, JV, N), with an appropriate number of elimination rounds, and all 11 AFA-NIET individual events. We're also bringing back Interviewing. We will also bring back Broadcast Journalism as an asynchronous event. Entries for the Missouri Mule portion can be received at <https://forensicstournament.net/MOMule/26>

For the Dale Carnegie portion of the swing tournament, on Sunday, we will offer 4 preliminary rounds, and an appropriate number of elimination rounds, of LD (O, JV, N) and all 11 AFA-NIET individual events and Interviewing. Entries for the Dale Carnegie portion can be received at <https://forensicstournament.net/Carnegie/26>

If you have students with special circumstances or needs, we will do everything in our power to make appropriate accommodations. Coaches, please email us your requests prior to 5:00 PM (CST), Monday, October 5. Our goal is to create a safe and supportive environment for all competitors and judges.

As always, we are committed to providing a quality, on-time, competitive experience. To accomplish this, we have asked Nikki Freeman to direct the tab room.

A cautionary note on hotels: We are a small-ish town with several activities occurring in neighboring communities. It's also Burg Fest again.

Comfort Inn 660-429-4848

Fairfield Inn & Suites 660-422-3540

Holiday Inn Express 660-656-2020

Quality Inn 660-262-3522

Super 8 660-262-3522

Day's Inn 660-429-2400

America's Best Value Inn, (9 miles down HWY 50 in Knob Noster) 660-563-3000

There are other options in neighboring communities (Sedalia, Clinton, and Lee's Summit, in that order) but you're looking at a 25-ish minute drive. Feel free to reach out if you need additional recommendations.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to jordancompton@ucmo.edu.

Additionally, if you have interpers who will be at the tournament on Friday but won't be participating in IPDA, please see the Forensics Research Participant opportunity at the end of this document.

We look forward to hosting you,

Dr. Jordan Compton
Director of Forensics
Tournament Host

Sydney Crank
Assistant Director of Forensics
Tournament Co-Host

CJ Miller
Graduate Assistant

Paige Showen
Graduate Assistant

Autumn Zimmerman
Graduate Assistant

2026 Missouri Mule/Carnegie Swing Tournament Regulations:

General Tournament Policies:

Statement of Support for the Ethical Treatment of Others:

The Talking Mules Speech & Debate Team is committed to ensuring equal opportunity to all persons, regardless of race, color, religious creed, national origin, physical ability status, age, economic status, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. As such, our tournament is opposed to all forms of discrimination and seeks to establish a tolerant atmosphere in which every individual is accorded respect. While we respect the importance of First Amendment freedoms, we respectfully remind tournament participants that with rights come responsibilities. Please refrain from disrespectful or derogatory speech. Our tournament practices a policy of zero tolerance for violations of Title IX. If you wish to register a complaint, please begin with the Tournament Director, Jordan Compton, jordancompton@ucmo.edu, 660-543-4658 or if he cannot be reached, Sydney Crank, scrank@ucmo.edu, 660-281-8187. All complaints will maintain the confidentiality of all persons involved to the maximum extent possible. However, please remember that the Tournament Director and your coach are identified as mandatory reporters by Federal law. Our University's Title IX compliance office may become involved. Dr. Corey Bowman is the University's compliance officer and may be contacted at bowman@ucmo.edu, 660-543-4114. The Title IX tournament coordinator and UCM's compliance officer will ensure that appropriate Title IX officer at your home institutions are contacted. (Adapted from Pi Kappa Delta's website.)

The tournament will also be supporting the NFA's working "Open Door" Policy

UCM Speech & Debate is committed to providing safe performance spaces for all competitors. We acknowledge the art of performance may be a healing process and/or an opportunity to speak on important issues. As a performer, it is impossible to know all the ways in which content or performance may unintentionally harm our peers. To better serve our competitors, we will be honoring the NFA's open-door practice during rounds this weekend. Meaning, competitors may choose when they feel comfortable being present in the room, which includes choosing only to be present in the room when performing. Competitors may also discreetly leave the room, even when not double-entered without question or penalty.

If one of your competitors needs to be coded to avoid competing against or being judged by a competitor or judge due to a previous or current difficulty outlined in the aforementioned policies, PLEASE contact the tournament director with your request prior to Wednesday, October 7. Competitor/Judge information will be transparent on our FTN tournament registration page. We will do everything in our power to ensure a safe and supportive competitive experience for all.

Updated ICE Activity in the Area:

The University of Central Missouri is committed to inclusiveness and welcomes students and coaches from all identities and social roles. Our program stands in solidarity with and will continue to offer a safe, educational space for our most vulnerable members. While we are not a sanctuary city, the city of Warrensburg strives to create a safe and inclusive community. We will send any updates on any ICE activity as we get closer to October.

Ethics Challenges During or Post Round:

From time to time, challenges are made both in or after the round to a competitor's ethical behavior (e.g. pre-printed evidence in IPDA rounds, misquoted or misrepresented evidence, etc.). In these cases, judges are directed to make up their own mind to the challenge, resume the round, and note both their decision and if the decision affected the outcome of the round on the ballot. If one of the competitors is dissatisfied with the judge's decision, they may appeal the decision to the tournament director. The tournament director will gather the facts and make a decision, which is final. The tournament will NOT be stopped or delayed due to this type of challenge.

Competition***Debate***

- We will offer Varsity, Junior Varsity, Novice, and Professional divisions in IPDA. We will offer Open, Junior, and Novice divisions in NFA-LD. We will only offer an Open division in Team IPDA (TIPDA). If a Novice division has seven or less entries, or one school has more than half of the entries in the division, it will be collapsed with the Junior Varsity/Junior divisions; however, novice speaker awards and top novice awards will be awarded. If a Junior Varsity/Junior division has seven or less entries, or one school has more than half of the entries in the division, it will be collapsed with the Varsity/Open divisions; however, JV/Junior speaker awards will be awarded. If the Professional division in IPDA has 7 or fewer entries, we will not be able to offer this division and invite competitors to lend their skills as judges. All divisions and formats of debate will be conducted as much as is practical in accordance with the appropriate governing organizations' rules and procedures.

Divisions:

Novice, in all formats of debate, is intended for those with less than two semesters of previous debate experience in any format, high school, or college. If you have a question about a student's novice eligibility, please contact the Tournament Director.

Junior Varsity/Junior, in all formats of debate, is intended for those with less than two years of previous debate experience in any format. If you have a question about a student's junior varsity/junior eligibility, please contact the Tournament Director.

Varsity/Open, in all formats of debate, is intended for any intercollegiate competitor.

Professional, only in IPDA, is open to anyone. Generally intended for those who have exhausted their intercollegiate eligibility.

Some of our rooms on Friday may be a bit spread out. IPDA will still have 30 minutes to draw, prep, and walk to their competition room. A 2-minute forfeiture rule will be strictly enforced. Walk early, please. IPDA rounds will be flighted. On Saturday and Sunday, we will attempt to keep LD rooms as close as possible. We will attempt to advance all winning records if the schedule allows. This will be largely dependent on entry size and whether all divisions make. This will also be dependent upon whether teams can adequately cover their debate entries. Our hired judge pool might be scarce this weekend.

PLEASE READ

Judges: We will be using electronic ballots. Please wait until after you have submitted your ballot to provide any oral critiques. Additionally, please submit your ballot as soon as a decision has been made. You can always go back and add comments after the ballot has been officially submitted. This will help keep our tournament running on time. JUDGES are responsible for keeping themselves and their debaters ON TIME. If you get involved in a long oral critique and are late accepting your ballot for the next round, YOU WILL BE CHARGED \$25 FOR THE PUSHED BALLOT. If the debaters are late (10-minute forfeit rule) they will forfeit that round and a 0 will be entered for speaker points. Please make every effort to help keep us on schedule.

IPDA Judges: Please note that we are flighting IPDA. So we can power-match rounds 3-5, we ask that you submit your results from your Flight A debate **before** starting your Flight B debate. If this does not occur, we may have to lag power in IPDA to attempt to keep the tournament on time.

Individual Events:

I.E.'s will be conducted in accordance with the AFA-NIET guidelines. The conflict patterns are: Pattern A: Extemp, Informative, Persuasive, Prose, POI, Duo; Pattern B: Impromptu, Interviewing, Poetry, DI, ADS, CA. A student may enter up to three events in both conflict patterns. It is the student's responsibility to make their rounds on time. No student will be allowed to enter more than three events per conflict pattern or more than two Duos. **No exceptions.** It tends to make the tournament run late. Any student who enters a minimum of five events in **two genres** - limited prep (EXT, IMP, INT), platform (ADS, PER, INF, CA), and/or interpretation (DUO, POE, POI, DI, PRO) will be eligible for Pentathlon. Broadcast Journalism, our asynchronous event, will only count for The Mule portion of the weekend and will count towards The Jack, but not Pentath. Any student competing in a debate format and IEs

across both tournaments will be eligible for The Jack award. Any IE event that has 50 or more entries will be advanced to a semi-finals round.

Broadcast Journalism topic areas will be released on Monday evening after entries have been submitted. Submissions will be due on Thursday, October 8 by 5:00 PM. Any school entering Broadcast Journalism will be expected to provide a minimum of 1 judge (Does not have to be present at the tournament). Schools with numerous entries will have students stacked in the same sections in order to be able to use a judge, if warranted.

Students entered in Interviewing will participate in-person for Rounds 1 and 2. Finals will be the resume round. All students participating in Interviewing must have their resumes submitted on FTN before the start of the tournament on Saturday and Sunday.

We will follow the current practice of allowing internet access during extemp and IPDA prep; however, we can neither guarantee equal access to all or constant, quality connectivity. Have a backup plan ready.

Cross-Overs:

Students competing in LD cannot enter individual events. Students competing in TIPDA cannot enter individual events on Saturday.

Judges:

This is Warrensburg; and as such, there is not a large pool of available judges. We're also on Fall Break this weekend, so access to our undergrad judge pool is limited for IPDA. **Please bring judges to cover your entry.** We would much rather have your judges than your money. Judges must be available for all prelim/elim round obligations to be considered a full-time judge commitment. One judge covers 4 IPDA entries. One judge covers 2 TIPDA entries and **ALL** TIPDA entries must be fully covered. One judge covers 2 LD entries (**For Sunday, we're requiring all LD entries to be fully covered**). One judge covers 8 entries in IEs. **A judge cannot cover both LD and IE entries. A judge cannot cover both LD and TIPDA entries. A judge cannot cover both TIPDA and IE entries.** All debate judges are obligated to Full Outround #1 regardless of whether your team(s) broke to elimination rounds **and 1 round past their elimination.** **NOTE: A partial elim round is NOT a Full Outround. All IE judges are obligated to the Finals of both A & B.** **Fees:** Uncovered IE entries are an additional \$16.00 each. Uncovered LD entries are an additional \$100 each. Uncovered IPDA entries are an additional \$75 each. **(Please note: The uncovered fees represent an increase from past tournaments as we had to hire a number of judges to cover debate entries, especially in LD. This is how serious we are about having your judges rather than your money.)**

Please...seriously...we'd much rather have your judges than your money! Programs must cover the majority of their entry. Some exceptions may be granted by the tournament director if hired judges are available. Hired judges are available on a first come, first serve basis. We reserve the right to limit entries based upon your ability to bring judges to adequately cover them. We also reserve the right to stack IE competitors into panels so that we may use your judges and will do so.

Judge Constraints:

We ask that if your students have any conflicts with judges for non-competitive reasons that you let us know so we can block that judge from judging the student. Examples of when this could happen might include: the student is a family member/close friend of the judge, a student was harassed/assaulted by a judge, a student was a teammate of the judge, or a student was coached by the judge. We respect the privacy of these decisions. We hope that if a judge has participated in improper behavior that the tournament director will be notified so that, if necessary, the judge can be removed from the judging pool before interacting with students. Students can inform us through their coach or inform the tournament director directly at jordancompton@ucmo.edu. The tournament director will not ask for details and do not expect any; we trust in the decision of the student. A full list of our judges should be available on FTN.

Sweepstakes Formula:

While there is no limit to the number of entries a school may enter, only the school's top 4 entries per division of debate format and IE event will count towards Sweepstakes awards. The tabroom will automatically advance your top competitors. Points for LD/IPDA debate prelim wins will be 2.5 points/win or bye. Points for TIPDA debate prelim wins will be 5 points/win or bye. Debate speakers will be awarded 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; and 1 point for 6th Speaker. IEs will earn 3 points for a ranking of 1 in prelim rounds; 2 points for a ranking of 2; and 1 point for a ranking of 3. Competitors in the finals will be awarded 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; and 1 point for 6th Place and up. Points will be awarded for the top 5 placements for Pentathlon using the same formula as the finals of IEs.

Awards:

Appropriate awards will include: Each tournament will award - 1st-3rd Overall Sweeps (must have an entry in IEs and Debate); 1st-3rd I.E. Sweeps; 1st-3rd Debate Sweeps; Top 2 year program; all debate competitors who advanced to elimination rounds; 1st-6th Debate Speakers; all finalists in Individual Events; 1st-5th in Pentathlon. In addition, a Combined Sweepstakes for the combined swing, 1st-3rd Place for teams who compete in **both** halves of the swing. 1st-3rd for The Jack will be awarded for students who compete in 1 format of debate and IEs across the

full tournament weekend. Finally, the top scoring team entered in the Missouri Mule who is a member of Pi Kappa Delta will be awarded the E. Sam Cox Trophy.

Please remember the health and sanity of your judges and competitors as you enter.

Entry

Entries can be received at <https://forensicstournament.net/MOMule/26> & <https://forensicstournament.net/Carnegie/26> All entries must be received no later than 5:00 PM (CST), Monday, October 5th. Fees will be assessed upon your entry as it stands at 5:00 PM (CST), Wednesday, October 7th. All changes after that deadline will be assessed a nuisance fee **plus** original fees. Please double check your entry (events and judges) if you have not received an email confirming your entry by Wednesday, Oct. 7th at 7:00 PM.

Fee Calculation Worksheet (For both halves of the swing):

Entries:

_____	LD @ \$25.00 each	_____
_____	IPDA @ \$25.00 each	_____
_____	TIPDA @ \$40.00 each	_____
_____	IE slots @ \$8.00 each	_____
_____	Duos @ \$10.00 each	_____

Judging Fees:

_____	Uncovered LD entries @ \$100.00 each	_____
_____	Uncovered IPDA entries @ \$75.00 each	_____
_____	Uncovered IE slots @ \$16.00 each	_____

Nuisance Fees:

_____	IE Adds or Drops after deadline @ \$15.00 each	_____
_____	Dropped debate entry after deadline @ \$25.00 each	_____
_____	Dropped Judges @ Registration @ \$200	_____

Total Tournament Fees

Please make checks payable to:

UCMO Forensics

We are not able to take credit cards. Checks made out to any other payee will be returned, and you will have to process a new check. If your accounts payable department has

questions, please have them contact the tournament director, Jordan Compton, at jordancompton@ucmo.edu.

We will also gladly accept cash for payment of fees.

If paying via check, we do have an updated W-9. Additionally, we won't make change for checks written over the fee amount. If a check needs to be mailed at a later date, we can easily make arrangements.

2026 Missouri Mule Tournament Schedule

Friday, October 9 (IPDA Rounds should start 30 minutes after draw)

7:45-8:15	IPDA Registration, (Location will be posted on FTN)
8:15	Round 1A, IPDA Draw
8:45	Round 1B, IPDA Draw
9:45	Round 2A, IPDA Draw
10:15	Round 2B, IPDA Draw
11:15	Round 3A, IPDA Draw
11:45	Round 3B, IPDA Draw
11:45-12:45	Lunch - (on your own)
1:15	Round 4A, IPDA Draw
1:45	Round 4B, IPDA Draw
3:00	Round 5A, IPDA Draw
3:30	Round 5B, IPDA Draw
5:00	Elim 1, IPDA Draw
5:30	Elim 1, IPDA Round Start
6:30	Elim 2, IPDA Draw
7:00	Elim 2, IPDA Round Start
7:45	Elim 3, IPDA Draw
8:15	Elim 3, IPDA Round Start

Saturday, October 10 (TIPDA Rounds should start 30 minutes after draw)

7:30-8:15	IE/LD/TIPDA Registration, (Location will be posted on FTN)	
7:30	Elim 4, IPDA Draw (if necessary)	
8:00	Elim 4, IPDA Start (if necessary)	8:00 LD Round 1
8:30	Extemp Draw - (Location will be posted on FTN)	
8:30	Round 1, TIPDA Draw (Location will be posted on FTN)	
9:00-10:15	RD 1, Pattern A (EXT, PER, PRO, POI, DUO, INFO)	9:15 LD Round 2
10:00	Round 2, TIPDA Draw	
10:15-10:45	Extemp Draw -	10:45 LD Round 3
10:45-12:00	RD 2, Pattern A	
12:30	Round 3, TIPDA Draw	
1:00-2:15	RD1, Pattern B (IMP, INT, POE, DI, CA, ADS)	1:00 LD Round 4
2:00	Round 4, TIPDA Draw	
2:30-3:45	RD2, Pattern B	2:45 LD Elim 1
3:45	Elim 1, TIPDA Draw	
4:00	Extemp Draw -	4:15 LD Elim 2
4:30-6:00	FINALS A	
5:30	Elim 2, TIPDA Draw	5:45 LD Elim 3
6:00-7:30	FINALS B	
7:00	Elim 3, TIPDA Draw	
8:00ish	Awards Ceremony	

2026 Carnegie Tournament Schedule

Sunday, October 11

7:30-8:00	Registration for any new schools.		
8:00	Extemp Draw -	8:00	LD Round 1
8:15-9:30	RD 1, Pattern A (EXT, INFO, PER, PRO, POI, DUO)	9:15	LD Round 2
9:30	Extemp Draw -		
9:45-11:15	RD 2, Pattern A	10:45	LD Round 3
12:15-1:30	RD 1, Pattern B (IMP, INT, POE, DI, CA, ADS)	12:30	LD Round 4
1:45-3:00	RD 2, Pattern B	2:00	Elim 1
3:00	Extemp Draw		
3:15	Finals A	3:30	Elim 2
4:30	Finals B	4:45	Elim 3 (if needed)
6:00ish	Awards Ceremony		

***NOTE: We reserve the right to make schedule changes as necessary to accommodate the tournament.**

Dear Forensics Coaches,

I am contacting you to invite your interpretation of literature competitors to be part of a research project examining the physiological stress responses that occur when performing literature pieces in collegiate forensics. The purpose of the research is to gain a better understanding of the stress impacts literature choice and performance have on participants. If your students participate in this project, they will sign up for performance time slots on Friday of The Mule, Oct. 9. It will take your students roughly 45 minutes to participate in the research. They will perform their pieces in UCM's NeuroCall Lab, where their heart rate, respiration rate and stress rate will be monitored before, during and post-performance. We ask that participants are at least 18 years of age, and that students perform one of their interp (prose, DI, poetry, POI) pieces.

Since their literature is self-selected, the risk of participation is very minimal. Participants may experience minor emotional distress due to wearing a heart rate monitor and stress detecting patches for data collection. Participation in this study will improve the forensics community's understanding of how much literature selection choices impact the performers (students). The goal of this research is to aid in the understanding of the cognitive and physiological stress experienced by performers to facilitate a discussion regarding better mental and emotional health practices within the activity. As such, participants will also better understand their own stress responses to performing highly emotional pieces of literature.

Participation is voluntary, but we hope you will share this opportunity with your team. For more information, or should your students want to sign up, please have them contact Dr. Nikki Freeman at nfreeman@ucmo.edu.

Thank you very much,

Dr. Nikki Freeman

Dr. Jordan Compton

Dr. Adam Runyan