

Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Association

September 1, 2026

Dear PSCFA Community,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 forensics season! It is time to get the competition year started at the PSCFA Warm-up at El Camino College on Saturday, September 26th and Sunday, September the 27th. **The tournament will be HQ out of the Social Science building instead of the Music building this year.** Parking permits have been reinstated for \$3 per day paid in cash at kiosks but you may park in staff lots.

There are numerous reasons why your team should choose the Warm-Up to start off the competitive year. First, the Warm-Up is a great way to introduce students who are new to competitive collegiate forensics to the activity in a relaxed environment. It also allows returning students to ease into the new year. Second, it is a wonderful way to catch up with all of your forensics colleagues and meet coaches who are new to our region. Finally, it provides the opportunity to try out new topics and approaches to our activity.

****Be sure to double check the invite AFTER the Coaches Conference for potential rule changes.****

KEY POINTS:

- Registration: Entries are due by Tuesday, September 22rd at 6:00 PM on the Forensics Tournament website.
- Judging: Each school must cover its judging commitment (you may only enter uncovered slots if prior tournament approval is granted). All judges must read and sign the PSCFA Judge's handbook and complete the [F.R.E.D. Certification](#) each year. Any judges you wish to pay through the tournament need to be designated as ICC judges when you enter them.
- Direction: El Camino College's address is 16007 Crenshaw Blvd. Torrance, CA 90506. The tournament headquarters and registration will be in the Social Science building.
- Parking: Attendees should park in Lots J or K (Closest to the Music and Social Science buildings). Parking permits have been reinstated for \$3 per day paid in cash at kiosks but you may park in staff lots.
- Tournament Service: On Saturday, the 26th, we will offer four rounds of Open, Junior, and Novice NFA-LD, NPDA and IPDA debate. On Sunday, the 27th, we will offer two rounds of all PSCFA individual events for Open, Junior, and Novice competitors. Divisions may be collapsed due to lack of entries.

New Rules/Policies from the 2025 Coaches Conference & 2026 Cool-off Business Meeting:

(Please note: Additional New Rules/Policies may/will be updated after the 2026 Coaches Conference)

We've returned to previous wording for definitions of Novice and Junior which are explained below:

- Novice Debate: A team comprised of debaters, neither of whom has participated in more than two semesters of debate and/or participated in elimination rounds at three or more debate tournaments or won any medal at CCCFA or Phi Rho Pi or won an elimination round award at the NPDA, CEDA or NDT National Championship Tournaments or any national championship tournaments.

- Novice Individual Event: A student who has not won a trophy (1st, 2nd, or 3rd) in an event in which a final round occurs or a Gold /Silver/Bronze at CCCFA or Phi Rho Pi. (Readers Theatre and Oral Interpretation shall be considered similar events)
- Junior Debate: A team comprised of debaters neither of whom has participated in more than four semesters of NDT/CEDA or Parliamentary debate and/or who has not participated in elimination rounds of a junior or open division of three CEDA and/or NDT and/or Parliamentary tournaments. A gold or silver medal at CCCFA or Phi Rho Pi or winning an elimination round award at the NPDA, CEDA or NDT National Championship Tournaments or any national championship tournament shall count as a final round.
- Junior Individual Events: A student who is in their first or second year of intercollegiate competition and/or who has not placed twice in the top three in an event in which a final round occurs. Winning a Gold/Silver/Bronze at CCCFA or Phi Rho Pi shall count as a final round
- Code of conduct addition: Judges are expected to respect our students identities, including their preferred pronouns, and to require students in their rounds to do the same. Intentional or repeated violations of this may result in removal of judge from the judging pool and/or forfeiture of the round where the violation occurs.
- Rate of speed in debate rounds should not have a deleterious impact on other students and/or judges ability to engage in the activity. Violations of this principle may result in the loss of the round in which the violation occurs.
- Coach of the Day Sign-In - Each attending school must designate a “Coach of the Day.” A sign-in sheet will be located at the judges table where coaches will list their name and contact information.
- Fees - A \$50 nuisance fee will be added to a school’s tournament invoice if the school does not meet with the treasurer in-person prior to awards on the school’s last competition day to: (1) obtain an invoice, and (2) confirm the anticipated method and timing of payment for fees and/or notify the treasurer that fees have been paid electronically. Ballots will not be made available to a school until the above conditions are met.
- Wellness Fee: \$6.00 per student/per day.

We look forward to seeing you at PSCFA Warm-Up!

For questions, please contact:

Katya Azzam, Cerritos College

Email: Kazzam@cerritos.edu

Phone/Text: (915) 497 - 9819

Entry Details

Entry Responsibilities

All teams are still responsible for ANY drop, no-show, or nuisance fees. Uncovered judging fees are available only with the prior approval of the Tournament Director. PSCFA rules state that all schools must cover their debate commitment and 75% of their individual event entries unless the Tournament Director believes there is a sufficient pool of judges to allow a school to pay additional judging penalties.

As previously mentioned, entries are due by Tuesday, September 22rd at 6:00 PM on the [Forensics Tournament website](#).

You may make changes to your entries before Wednesday, September 23th at 6:00 PM. Drops are free if reported by the Wednesday deadline. Any and all changes made after Wednesday will be subjected to nuisance fees. Any requests for changes made after the website closes should be sent through the “Contact Tournament Director” messaging on the entry site.

Eligibility

PSCFA recognizes four ‘non-similar’ event groupings: (1) Debate, (2) Limited Preparation Events (Extemporaneous and Impromptu), (3) Platform Events (Persuasion, Informative, Speech to Entertain, Communication Analysis), (4) Oral Interpretation Events.

Rookie

Students with no previous competitive experience in debate or individual events at any level.

Novice

Novice Debate

A team comprised of debaters, neither of whom has participated in more than two semesters of debate, participated in high school debate, and/or won any medal at CCCFA or Phi Rho Pi or won an elimination round award at the NPDA, CEDA or NDT National Championship Tournaments or any national championship tournament

Novice Individual Event

A student who has not won a trophy (1st, 2nd, or 3rd) in an event in which a final round occurs or a Gold/Silver/Bronze at CCCFA or Phi Rho Pi. (Readers Theatre and Oral Interpretation shall be considered similar events)

Junior

Junior Debate

A team comprised of debaters neither of whom has participated in more than four semesters of NDT/CEDA or Parliamentary debate and/or who has not participated in a gold or silver medal at CCCFA or Phi Rho Pi or winning an elimination round award at the NPDA, CEDA or NDT National Championship Tournaments or any national championship tournament shall count as a final round.

Junior Individual Events

A student who is in their first or second year of intercollegiate competition and/or who has not placed twice in the top three in an event in which a final round occurs. Winning a Gold/Silver/Bronze at CCCFA or Phi Rho Pi shall count as a final round

Open

Any student eligible to participate may be entered in Open Division regardless of class standing or experience.

Judging

As previously mentioned, each school must cover its judging commitment. Furthermore, all judges must read and sign the PSCFA Judge's handbook and complete the F.R.E.D. certification. Judges for all events must meet qualifications outlined in the PSCFA Handbook and must complete the PSCFA Judge Certification before being able to judge. It is helpful to instruct new judges on how to do time signals for limited prep events as this is typically an issue at the Warm-Up. Remember, judges may also be returning students who are not competing at the Warm-Up. If you know of any judges available for hire, please send me their contact information.

Debate Commitment

All schools must provide one judge for every two team debate and NFA-LD entries or a fraction thereof. One judge will cover 2 IPDA entries or fraction thereof. Penalty fees will be accepted at the discretion of the Tournament Director (if there is a sufficient pool of Hired Judges).

Speech Commitment

All schools must provide one judge for every five individual event slots per conflict pattern or fraction thereof. Unmet Commitment: Any school not meeting a judging commitment will be assessed the following fees: Debate Judges - \$150 per uncovered team for the first 4 uncovered teams (if allowed). IE Slots Uncovered - \$40 per uncovered slot for the first 5 uncovered slots. See the fee sheet on page 9 for more information.

Events

Debate Events (Saturday)

Parliamentary Team Debate

We will offer four Divisions in Parliamentary Team debate, using the NPDA rules as guidelines with the exception of rules that conflict with PSCFA rules (see above). All Divisions (Rookie, Novice, Junior, and Senior) of Parliamentary debate will be held on Saturday.

We will allow three person teams and hybrid teams according to PSCFA regulations. We will not allow one person to debate alone. In the event that one member of a team is unable to debate, the team will forfeit the round and both team members will receive zero speaker points for that round

Parliamentary Team Debate times will be:

Prime Minister	(7 minutes)
Leader of the Opposition	(8 minutes)
Member of the Government	(8 minutes)
Member of the Opposition	(8 minutes)
Leader of the Opposition	(4 minute rebuttal)
Prime Minister	(5 minute rebuttal)

International Public Debate Association (IPDA)

IPDA primarily utilizes a one-on-one debate format in which one debater takes the side of the affirmative and the other debater takes the side of the negative. For each round, the two debaters are

given five possible resolutions. The negative begins the topic selection by striking one resolution and proceeds in a back-and-forth fashion until one resolution is left. After the topic has been selected, both debaters have thirty minutes to prepare a case. IPDA debate often utilizes lay judges to adjudicate the round and emphasizes conversational rhetoric. Visit ipdadebate.info to learn more.

The speech times are:

1st Affirmative	(5 minutes)
Cross Examination	(2 minutes)
1st Negative	(6 minutes)
Cross Examination	(2 minutes)
Affirmative Rebuttal	(3 minutes)
Negative Rebuttal	(5 minutes)
Affirmative Summary	(3 minutes)

NFA LD

NFA Lincoln-Douglas Debate is a one-person, persuasive, policy debate on traditional stock issues. It is a communication event, by which we mean the philosophy of the activity is consistent with that which governs other individual events. Competitors in NFA Lincoln-Douglas will be evaluated on their analysis, use of evidence, and ability to effectively and persuasively organize, deliver, and refute arguments. Rapid-fire delivery, commonly called "spread delivery," is considered antithetical to the purpose and intent of this event.

The speech times are:

Affirmative Constructive	(6 minutes)
Cross Examination	(3 minutes)
Negative Constructive	(7 minutes)
Cross Examination	(3 minutes)
First Affirmative Rebuttal	(6 minutes)
The Negative Rebuttal	(6 minutes)
The Second Affirmative Rebuttal	(3 minutes)

Debate Pairing

For all Debate Events, the first two rounds will be randomly matched. Power matching will be used in all subsequent rounds (time constraints may require some lag power matching). If 35% or more of the teams in junior or senior division come from the same school, then at the discretion of the tournament director, those teams from the same school could meet each other if meeting is necessary to run the event. If 25% or more of the teams in novice division come from the same school then, at the discretion of the tournament director, those teams from the same school could meet each other if meeting is necessary to run the event. When both teams are from the same school, we will allow the debate to be judged by a critic of the same school. For example, a CSULB vs. CSULB debate could be judged by a CSULB critic. However, we will make every reasonable effort to make sure that is not necessary.

Critic Responsibilities

We believe every debate in the tournament deserves attention from those critics assigned to listen. At a minimum, we expect our judges to give written criticisms. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT BALLOTS THAT SIMPLY STATE "ORAL CRITIQUE GIVEN." We also expect judges to return a ballot for each round to the teams entered. Thus, a packet will not be released until all judges representing that school have turned in ballots. Judges are also required to render a decision identifying a winner, loser, and speaker points for each debate round by the start of the next scheduled round. Judges should use respectful

language on ballots. Judges should respect student's identities and pronouns at all times.

Individual Events (Sunday)

Double-Entered Guidelines

Students who are entered in more than one event per pattern are highly encouraged to sign in at the rounds they will go to last; it is the responsibility of the student to make it to the round if he/she is double entered. If a student does not sign in to a round and then misses the round, the student will be considered a no-show.

Novice competitors may not double enter. Junior and Senior competitors may double enter in both patterns.

Pattern A

Informative Speaking

An original, factual speech by the student on a realist subject to fulfill the general aim to inform the audience. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

Prose Interpretation

An original or selections of prose material of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. Focus of this event is on the development of the narrative/story. Play cuttings and poetry are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time is 10 minutes including introduction.

Extemporaneous Speaking

Contestants will be given three topics in the general area of current events, choose one, and have 30 minutes to prepare a speech that is the original work of the student. Maximum time limit for the speech is 7 minutes. Limited notes are permitted. Student will speak in listed order. Postings of topics will be staggered.

After Dinner Speaking

An original, humorous speech by the student, designed to exhibit sound speech composition, thematic coherence, direct communicative public speaking skills, and good taste. The speech should not resemble a night club act, an impersonation, or comic dialogue. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforced the message. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Poetry Interpretation

A selection or selections of poetry of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. A primary focus of this event should be on the development of language. Play cuttings and prose works are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Cultural Artifact Speech

To offer a discussion of some tangible aspect of culture. Five minutes maximum. Visual or audio aid required.

Pattern B

Impromptu Speaking

An impromptu speech, substantive in nature, with topic selections varied by round and by section. Topics will be derived from quotations. Speakers will have a total of 7 minutes for both preparation and speaking. Timing commences with the acceptance of the topics sheet. Limited notes are permitted.

Duo Interpretation

A cutting from one or more texts of literary merit, humorous or serious, involving the portrayal of two or more characters presented by two individuals. The material may be drawn from any genre of literature. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc..., are to be used. Presentation is from the manuscript and the focus should be off-stage and not to each other. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Communication Analysis

An original speech by the student designed to offer an explanation and/or evaluation of a communication event such as a speech, speaker, movement, poem, poster, film, campaign, etc., through the use of rhetorical principles. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Manuscripts are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Drama Interpretation

A cutting that represents one or more characters from a play or plays of literary merit. The focus of this event is on the development of characterization. This material may be drawn from stage, screen, or radio. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Persuasive Speaking

An original speech by the student designed to inspire, reinforce, or change the beliefs, attitudes, values or actions of the audience. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Program Oral Interpretation

A program of thematically-linked selections of literary merit, chosen from two or three recognized genres of competitive interpretation (prose/poetry/drama). A primary focus of this event should be on the development of the theme through the use of narrative/story, language, and/or characterization. A substantial portion of the total time must be devoted to each of the genres used in the program. Different genre means the material must appear in separate pieces of literature (e.g., A poem included in a short story that appears only in that short story does not constitute a poetry genre.) Only one selection may be original. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

PSCFA Warm-Up 2026 Schedule

SATURDAY, 9/26			
PARLI		IPDA & NFA-LD	
10 - 10:30	Registration & Sign-in	Strike	Round Start
10:15	Topic Announce for R1 & R2		
11:00	Round 1	11:00	11:30 (Round 1)
12:15	Round 2	12:30	1:00 (Round 2)
1:45	Topic Announce for R3 & R4	2:00	2:30 (Round 3)
2:30	Round 3	3:30	4:00 (Round 4)
3:30	Round 4		
ASAP	AWARDS	ASAP	AWARDS

SUNDAY, 9/27	
10:00	Extemp Draw
10:00	Round One - Pattern A
11:15	Round One - Pattern B
12:30	Extemp Draw
12:30	Round Two - Pattern A
1:45	Round Two - Pattern B
ASAP	AWARDS
Pattern A Events: EXT, PRO, POE, INFO, & STE. Pattern B Events: IMP, PERS, DUO, POI, CA, & DI. Impromptu topics will be distributed in-room with your judge.	

PSCFA Warm-Up, El Camino College, September 26 – 27, 2026

SCHOOL:

DIRECTOR OF FORENSICS:

STUDENT HEADCOUNT (Duplicated):

STUDENT HEADCOUNT (Unduplicated):

Mandatory Fees:	Fee	Multiplier	Totals
School Fee	1-5 students (\$25); 6-10 (\$30); 11+ (\$35)		
Wellness Surcharge:			
	\$6/student per day	\$ 6.00	\$ -
Entry Fees:			
	Team Debate: \$20/team	\$ 20.00	\$ -
	Individual Debate: \$10/person	\$ 10.00	\$ -
	Pattern A: \$6/slot	\$ 6.00	\$ -
	Pattern B: \$6/slot	\$ 6.00	\$ -
	Duo Interp: \$6/slot (duplicated)	\$ 6.00	\$ -
Mandatory Fees Subtotal:			\$ -
Judging Fees:			
Parli: \$150/team for first 4 uncovered slots, then \$200/ each additional slot.			\$ -
LD/IPDA \$150/team for first 4 uncovered slots, then \$200/each additional slot.			\$ -
IEs: \$40/slot for the first 5, then \$50 for each additional uncovered slot			
	PATTERN A		\$ -
	PATTERN B		\$ -
ICC JUDGE			
Judge Fees Subtotal:			\$ -
Miscellaneous Fees			
NO-SHOW DEBATE FEE -- \$20/SLOT			\$ -
NO-SHOW I.E. FEE -- \$20/SLOT			
	PATTERN A		\$ -
	PATTERN B		\$ -
NUISANCE FEE, DEBATE (DAY-OF DROP) -- \$10/ENTRY			\$ -
NUISANCE FEE, IE (DAY-OF DROP) -- \$5/SLOT			\$ -
JUDGE NUISANCE FEE -- \$50/ROUND			\$ -
LATE ADD FEE SCHOOL FEE -- \$50			\$ -
Miscellaneous Fees Subtotal			\$ -
SUBTOTAL			\$ -
Electronic Payment Fee			
Electronic payment?			
	FTN electronic transaction fee (4.5%)		\$ -
GRAND TOTAL FEES:			\$ -
PAYMENT NOTES:			
Make checks out to: Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Association			
Mail checks to: PO Box 65, Garden Grove, CA 92842			
<i>Nick Matthews, Ed.D.</i>			
TREASURER, PSCFA			
Nick Matthews, 916-531-1792, nmatthews.pscfa@gmail.com			
	CASH		
	CHECK		
	CREDIT CARD		
	ON ACCT		
	CREDIT		
	WAIVED		
	INVOICE		
	BALANCE		\$0.00
			PAID IN FULL

Campus Map



