

SUNSET CLIFFS CLASSIC



**Point Loma Nazarene University
San Diego, CA 92106**

October 23-25, 2026



Dear Colleagues:

The Point Loma Nazarene University forensics squad is pleased to invite you to our annual **SUNSET CLIFFS CLASSIC** Invitational forensics tournament. The tournament will be Friday through Sunday, October 23-25, 2026. We hope you can come enjoy our beautiful seaside campus and the typically sunny weather, nicely conditioned with an ocean breeze.

We will offer open and novice division competition in all eleven AFA individual events (collapsing some events and/or divisions, should numbers so dictate); preliminary rounds of Novice, Junior and Senior divisions of IPDA (5), TPDA(4) and NPDA(4) Parliamentary Debate with appropriate elimination rounds; four preliminary rounds of junior and senior divisions of NFA LD debate if numbers allow. We will not be able to offer BP this year though. Elimination rounds are planned for all events of course.

- **British Parliamentary Debate Note:** *This year we will not be able to offer British Parliamentary Debate*
- **Topic Areas and Recommendations:** You are encouraged to provide a list of debatable, balanced resolutions for tab staff to consider for all formats of parliamentary debate. There are often ballot issues on the California ballot during this time frame, so some of those topics may be debated in various events.
- **Some noteworthy attractions of the Sunset Cliffs Classic include:**
 - Strong competition.
 - A picturesque ocean front campus.
 - Two \$5,000.00 scholarships for the top community college competitors (one each for debate & IE's) for tuition remission at PLNU the following year if accepted by our admissions.
 - Attractive trophies.
 - Enjoyable food nearby, and especially in the judge's area for judges and coaches.
 - We attempt to honor the rules and traditions of the governing bodies for these events, so for example we will not break brackets in IPDA and TPDA, and phones cannot be used in rounds for any reason, even time keeping in IPDA and TPDA. Although we will veer from the NPDA national organization's custom/rules and will not allow electronic data devices to be used in NPDA debate rounds to honor PSCFA and Phi Rho Pi protocols. Phones can be used to keep time in NPDA though, and for no other reason. In NPDA brackets are broken. We will also allow group coaching in debate.
 - IPDA, TPDA, AND NPDA DEBATE ROUNDS WILL ALTERNATE RATHER THAN RUN ON SEPARATE DAYS. THIS HELPS FOR MORE ROUNDS AND POWER MATCHING.
 - **INDIVIDUAL EVENTS:** For IE teams, please note that rounds will be Friday only and starting late enough for LA Friends to come join us for the day.

Please let me know of any questions or concerns.

Dr. Skip Rutledge, Director of Forensics
skiprutledge@pointloma.edu
Cell (619) 655-0112

2026 Sunset Cliffs Classic

Preliminary Saturday/Sunday Schedule of Events

(Assuming double flighting for IPDA – Alt schedule to follow if that's not needed)

Debaters who advance to Elim 3 of both IPDA and NPDA/TPDA must choose in which event they will continue competing.

IEs and NFA LD 2024 Sunset Cliffs Classic

FRIDAY, October 23rd, 2026

10:00-11:00 REGISTRATION -- Cabrillo Hall C 101

11:00- Extemp Draw (Starkey B 100)
11:15 -12:30 Round 1: Pattern A Events
 Round 1: NFA LD Debate

12:30 Extemp Draw
12:45 -2:00 Round 2: Pattern A Events
 Round 2: NFA LD Debate

2:00-3:15 Round 1: Pattern B Events
 Round 3: NFA LD Debate

3:15-4:30 Round 2: Pattern B Events
 Round 4: NFA LD Debate

4:30-5:00 DINNER BREAK

5:00 Extemp Draw (Starkey B 100)
5:15-6:30 Finals: Pattern A Events
 Quarterfinals: NFA LD Debate

6:30-7:45 Finals: Pattern B Events
 Semifinals: NFA LD Debate

8:00 or ASAP AWARDS CEREMONY (Crill)

ASAP Finals: NFA LD Debate (if needed)

SATURDAY, October 24, 2026

8:00 Registration: Cabrillo Hall 101
8:30 Topic Draw 1A: IPDA Debate
9:00-9:25 Round 1A: IPDA Debate
9:10 Topic Draw 1B: IPDA Debate
9:40-10:05 Round 1B: IPDA Debate

10:25 Topic Draw 2A: IPDA Debate
10:55-11:20 Round 2A: IPDA Debate
11:05 Topic Draw 2B: IPDA Debate
11:35-12:00 Round 2B: IPDA Debate

12:20 Topic Announced: Round 1
12:40-1:30 Round One: NPDA Debate
12:50-1:30 Round One: T-IPDA Debate

1:50 Topic Draw 3A: IPDA Debate
2:20-2:45 Round 3A: IPDA Debate
2:30 Topic Draw 3B: IPDA Debate
3:00-3:25 Round 3B: IPDA Debate

3:45 Topic Announced: Round 2
4:05-4:55 Round Two: NPDA Debate
4:15-4:55 Round Two: T-IPDA Debate

5:15 Topic Draw 4A: IPDA Debate
5:45-5:10 Round 4A: IPDA Debate
5:55 Topic Draw 4B: IPDA Debate
6:25-6:50 Round 4B: IPDA Debate

7:10 Topic Announced: Round 3
7:30-8:20 Round Three: NPDA Debate
7:40-8:20 Round Three: T-IPDA Debate

SUNDAY, October 25, 2026

8:00 Topic Draw 5A: IPDA Debate
8:30-8:55 Round 5A: IPDA Debate
8:40 Topic Draw 5B: IPDA Debate
9:10-9:35 Round 5B: IPDA Debate

9:55 Topic Announced: Round 4
10:15-11:05 Round Four: NPDA Debate
10:25-11:05 Round Four: T-IPDA Debate

11:25 Elim 1A Topic Draw: IPDA Debate
11:55-12:10 Elim Round 1A: IPDA Debate
12:05 Elim 1B Topic Draw: IPDA Debate
12:35-1:00 Elim Round 1B: IPDA Debate

1:20 Topic Announced: Elim #1
1:40-2:30 Elim Round #1: NPDA Debate
1:50-2:30 Elim Round #1: T-IPDA Debate

2:50 Elim 2A Topic Draw: IPDA Debate
3:20-3:45 Elim Round 2A: IPDA Debate
3:30 Elim 2B Topic Draw: IPDA Debate
4:00-4:25 Elim Round 2B: IPDA Debate

4:45 Topic Announced: Elim #2
5:05-5:55 Elim Round #2: NPDA Debate
5:15-5:55 Elim Round #2: T-IPDA Debate

6:15 PM AWARDS CEREMONY

7:00 Elim 3 Topic Draw: IPDA Debate
7:00 Elim Round #3: NPDA Debate

ASAP Elim 4 Topic Draw: IPDA Debate

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ENTRIES

Any regularly enrolled undergraduate in a recognized two-year or four-year college program carrying 6 or more units is eligible to participate. All programs entering must be officially representing the schools in which they are enrolled. Any contestant may enter up to 2 IEs per pattern OR Lincoln-Douglas debate on Friday, plus one NPDA or TPDA debate on Saturday, IPDA entry on Sunday! So LDers may do NPDA (or) TPDA, and IPDA also, but not IEs.

RULES

AFA, NFA, IPDA and NPDA regulations will govern their respective divisions, unless specified elsewhere in this invitation or deemed necessary by Tournament Director in unique situations. Procedures described in this invitation will prevail over NPDA, IPDA, NFA, PSCFA and/or AFA and other organizational rules if conflicts exist. Please note that our divisional qualifications may be more restrictive than AFA, NFA, or NPDA. In debate, we will allow hybrid teams and three person teams to compete if necessary to allow more students to participate, though no more than two may compete during any given round. No individual may debate without a partner except in LD or IPDA. Additionally NPDA requires that all participants be certified as having completed the anti-harassment training, so coaches and directors please be able to verify that this has been done. We will also honor such requirements should other organizations have them in place as of September 2026.

ENTRY DEADLINE

While we would like to encourage early entries, **all entries must arrive no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 20th, 2026.** PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE do not have numerous changes beyond the deadline. Please double-check the web registration list before you come! We will not add entries after Tuesday. Schools still owing fees from previous years must satisfy these debts before being accepted for this year's tournament. **Judges must honor out-round commitments.**

Web Page: you may enter the Sunset Cliffs Classic through
www.forensicstournament.net once it has been posted.

E-Mail Address: (for special situations or questions for Skip, not for registration)
skiprutledge@pointloma.edu

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE –

Special note on debate judge registration: Please enter judges' email addresses for ballot dissemination and cell phone #, and Judging Philosophies for all Parli debate judges through registration. These added steps will help the tournament run more smoothly and on time, and provide a more pleasant round experience for debaters and judges alike. If you are new to the system, please verify the note from the FTN web program.

Divisions – We will try to offer three divisions of NPDA Parliamentary Debate: Novice, Junior and Senior if entries allow. Novice debaters are limited to true novice debaters, with no more than one full semester of competition in any level of education though they can be in their second semester, and a semester will be counted if the debater competed in at least three tournaments. Junior debaters may have up to 4 semesters of college debate and should not have advanced in more than three tournaments to elimination rounds in Junior or Senior competition.

Any debater that has advanced to the elimination rounds in debate at NPDA, IPDA (Jr or Sr), TPDA, NPTE, NDT, Phi Rho Pi or CEDA Nationals is considered to be a Senior Division debater, regardless of the other partner's experience. Senior NPDA debaters are limited to students with 10 or fewer semesters of collegiate competition and who still maintain NPDA eligibility. Divisional eligibility is determined based upon the most experienced partner. A semester means the student has competed in three or more college tournaments of any style of debate. PLNU students may compete, but not be eligible for sweepstakes awards.

Constraints - Although we strongly discourage judge strikes at a pedagogical level, we also recognize that in certain exceptional circumstances there may be extreme personal discomfort or disagreements or long-standing conflicts or perhaps even perceived personal animosity within such a community. As such, each school will be allowed, if they feel they really must, to lodge up to four unexplained constraints for their school from particular judges (not 4 per team) in NPDA debate, wherein we will attempt to keep a particular judge from hearing your Senior debate teams if you advise us of these constraints through the Contact the Tournament tab on the web registration program by Wednesday at noon PST prior to the tournament. No additional constraints will be added later even if new judges need to be added later. All regular school and divisional constraints are of course honored.

So please ***constrain your judges from listening to teams or debaters they have recently coached, dated, owed money to or are due money from, or been teammates or roommates with, etc.*** Likewise, if your debater has a situation we should know about, or your significant other coaches another team and it might have even the appearance of bias, let us know that as well. Thanks for understanding. The tournament reserves the right to refuse the services of judges under unique and extreme circumstances or to remove them from the tournament if deemed necessary or advisable. Judges, coaches and students should be advised against ever berating or being rude or discourteous to others in the tournament environment, or behaving in ways contrary the school's or governing bodies' anti-harassment policies.

Logistics

Disclosure: For time management reasons, oral critiques immediately following the debates, if provided, may not exceed 5 minutes from the end of the last speech if that organization's rules allow it. Ballots must then be returned immediately. Please help us keep on schedule. Delays attributed to coach/judges may at the tournament director's discretion result in penalties to that school's team(s), including automatic losses or removal from the tournament. The tournament will offer on line warm room disclosure in accordance with NPDA nationals practice as a further check of accuracy for the tab room and transparency for the competitors. **However, this tournament will not allow the use of laptops during competition rounds, despite NPDA rules that may allow this practice. The organization does allow tournaments to alter NPDA rules if posted in the invitation. So please note this change and alert your teams and judges.**

Preparation Time: Topics will be announced in, at or near Crill Performance Hall or Cabrillo Hall. We allow 20-minutes for preparation and travel time to the competition room in NPDA and 30 minutes for IPDA and whatever TPDA allows. Pre-written materials may be used in preparation but not consulted in the actual debates for NPDA. Whatever notes are consulted in the debate itself must have been written or copied only by that debate's actual competitors either during the preparation period, or during the round itself. A written set of current NPDA rules may be referenced in round as at Nationals. While coaching is not banned, it can only occur once the coach has secured their ballot for that round and may not

result in a delay of the commencement of any round. Judges must start their rounds on time. NPDA practice of Flex Time will be followed with two minutes provided for questioning by the other team following the first two constructives; one minute following the MG Constructive and one minute following the Opp block. Any remaining time after questions by the non-speaking team may be used as prep time at the decision of the team to speak next.

Forfeiture: A 5-minute forfeit rule will be enforced. If either partner is more than 5 minutes late (even due to participating in IEs) the critic is asked to forfeit that team immediately and to so notify the tabulation room. Participants or their representatives are all responsible to be present for timely topic announcements. Failure to be there on time will not result in longer preparation time.

Preparation Rooms: Government teams have no preferred access rights to the use of their preparation room during the preparation period, though prepping teams must allow them access during the last five minutes of the preparation period to set up. Likewise, judges should not enter until five minutes prior to prep time elapsing to allow the team or teams to prepare. Additionally, each team is responsible for maintaining clean rooms at all times, as these same rooms are used for other competition. Teams may be charged a steep cleaning fee if rooms are left dirty. Tab will attempt to assign designated prep rooms, so let Konrad know if you have a preference from past years so we can try to honor that. But teams must surrender prep rooms to allow other competition to take place when rounds start.

Judges and Ballots: Judge changes from pushed ballots will be announced when possible and or posted on line, but in order to keep to schedule, it may be necessary to move ballots after prep time has started negating chances to notify effected parties in a timely manner. We hate this practice, but hate late delays more. Judges please pick up or confirm ballots in a timely manner, or your teams may be penalized or removed from competition. In fairness to teams who are encouraged to read your judging philosophies on line at forensictournament.com, we wish to minimize pushed ballots. Such ballot pushes delay an already long day. Electronic balloting in some formats has helped to alleviate many of these difficulties. We do expect to post changes on line as well, if time allows.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE - IPDA and TPDA Format

Eligibility Differences: IPDA/TPDA Debaters must meet the IPDA eligibility standards published on their homepage for the various divisions. Novices are allowed to be in 8 or fewer tournaments including this one and also including their high school experience. Juniors may have competed in up to 16 tournaments including this one and high school competition. Senior division are for those with a desire to go senior, or who must move up due to 16 prior tournaments. This means all formats of debate, not just IPDA. And any college student enrolled in a degree granting program may compete.

Judging Differences: IPDA/TPDA can be judged by any critic at least 18 years old regardless of experience or credential. Some IPDA critics may have little to no experience, so debaters should thoroughly explain concepts and weigh impacts in the round.

Stylistic Differences: Cleaner, clearer speaking styles seem to work better than quicker, technical or higher speed styles for many traditional IPDA/TPDA judges. Avoid gamey, techy

tactics. Kritiks, Topical Counterplans, etc. . . are frowned on by the IPDA community, and some regulations. Please review their homepage for details.

Time differences: No additional prep time is allocated beyond the 30 minutes of prep following reading of the topic, which by the way is negotiated by the debaters as each can strike two of the five resolutions provided per round. Judges should factor time violations into their decision calculations. By the way, IPDA and TPDA do not allow the use of phones in rounds for timing. Nor are Points of Information, Order or Personal Privilege allowed. We will honor those rules.

And in elimination rounds for IPDA and TPDA we won't be breaking brackets.

Special Note for TPDA. We will be abiding by the IPDA/TPDA custom with regards to divisions. In IPDA we will offer Nov, Jr, and Senior Divisions, assuming the entries warrant, which it has in the past. But TPDA is only in one Open division. TPDA may count as a second tournament for those counting numbers of tournaments for eligibility. So novices and juniors can enter Team, and should, but it may count as one tournament against eligibility calculations. Probably no big deal for us, as we do not have all that many tournaments for IPDA in our region this year.

IPDA Times shown below:

5 minute First Affirmative
2 Cross Examination
6 minute First Negative
2 Cross Examination
3 minute Affirmative Rebuttal
5 minute Negative Rebuttal
3 minute Affirmative Summary

TPDA Times Shown Below

4 min 1st Aff Constructive
2 min 2nd Neg Cross Examination
5 min 1st Neg Constructive
2 min 1st Aff Cross Examination
5 min 2nd Aff Constructive
2 min 1st Neg Cross Examination
4 min 2nd Neg Constructive
2 min 1st Aff Cross Examination
3 min 1st Neg Rebuttal
4 min 1st Aff Rebuttal
4 min 2nd Neg Rebuttal
3 min 2nd Aff Rebuttal

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Students may not have competed with the selections in any interscholastic competition prior to September 1, 2026. PLNU students may compete. **Students may not enter more than two events per pattern.** Due to the layout of the campus and the arrangement of the schedule, no exceptions can be made. If a student is mistakenly entered in more than two events and we are unable to clarify the error with the coach in a timely manner, we will randomly remove the student from one or more of the remaining events. In accordance with Phi Rho Pi and PSCFA regulations Duo Interp may include genres other than just drama.

Novice Division I.E.'s

A student who has not won 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Place **twice in an event or like event, in which a final round occurred.** Students competing in an event which is similar; must be eligible for novice in all of those similar events. (Platform, Interp., Limited Prep). As an example; a student who

must be in Open Division in Prose, must also be open in Poetry, even if they have never competed in Poetry. Anyone who has won Gold, Silver or Bronze (or the equivalent) at Phi Rho Pi or any other major national tournament (in college or high school) is not a novice in that event or similar events.

Extempers may double enter in IEs at their own risk, but must compete in both events in the required time frame. We do not revise Extempers' speaking order to accommodate double entry, expecting instead that speakers will work their other speaking times around extemp. The following events will be offered in open and novice divisions of competition (though this tournament often maintains novice in only Imp, Ext and Prose:

Pattern A – Extemp, Informative, After Dinner Speaking, Prose, Poetry.

Pattern B –Impromptu, Persuasive, CA, Drama, POI, and Duo Interp.

Computerized Debate or Extemp Files – Debaters or Extemporaneous speakers may use any and all electronic information retrieval systems (that are legal of course) during preparation times (this will not include Flex time in Parli should we offer it at any time). Attempts will be made to provide guest access to the internet through the school's servers but no assurances of such access can be guaranteed. Access has been good in recent years. This rule may be inconsistent with other governing national forensics organizations, but due to rapidly changing tech advances and the inability to effectively police transgressions of alternative restrictions, we feel this approach is more realistic, and fair to providing a more even playing field. Extempers' preparation work is still to be their own of course, not coached or helped by friends, coaches or outside sources.

ENTRY FEES

The following fees will be assessed at the tournament:

\$30.00 School Fee	\$10.00 per Individual Events slot (Duo = one slot).
\$75.00 per NPDA Team	\$75.00 per TPDA team
\$25.00 per IPDA Debater	

JUDGING

Commitment - Each Individual Events judge can cover up to five IE slots or portion thereof per pattern, and each debate judge can cover up to two NPDA teams and two IPDA entries. If we need to double flight IPDA, which is likely, IPDA judges can cover up to three IPDA slots, and we will try not to abuse them with ballots for each debate. Judges must be qualified to judge the level of competition at which their school's competitors are entered. Judges with any remaining eligibility in a given division are not deemed qualified to judge within that division for IEs and NPDA. IPDA has no such restrictions. Teams may not strike judges, but do read the constraint policy noted earlier for Senior NPDA Debaters. Please alert us to all judging constraints with registration, or in a separate E Mail. We need to know former coaches of your competitors, and competitors or schools which your judges cannot judge. We ask for a four-year separation per NPDA Nationals requirements.

Judging Fees - Uncovered entries will be assessed on the following basis:

- \$10.00 per uncovered Individual Events slot.
- \$150.00 per uncovered NPDA, and TPDA debate entry.
- \$75.00 per uncovered IPDA spot and NFA LD entry.
- \$50.00 per judge drop fee in addition to any uncovered fees for late judge drops, following the tournament entry deadline.

Notice on Judge Shortage - We REALLY want you to bring your judges, not your money. We will even try to hire some qualified judges that you bring beyond your commitment. Please alert us to the availability of these additional judges for hire with your entry. Due to a shortage of debate judges it will be necessary for each school to cover at least your first two teams (with rare exceptions). We will not be able to find judges to cover additional teams this year due to new school restrictions, and we reserve the right to refuse uncovered teams.

We highly recommend using Blake Longfellows HiredJudge.com third party judge service for meeting your judging needs. But please give him plenty of advance notice.

Reminder - All judges are obligated to fulfill judging requirements. This means NPDA, TPDA and IPDA Parli debate judges are needed until at least Elim Round Two and at least one round beyond their last remaining team's elimination. An individual events judge is committed through finals. Meeting your professional commitment is essential to this tournament. In the rare instance when a judge cannot attend Sunday for elimination rounds, clear it first through the tournament director. Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to topic announcement time for debate and 15 minutes prior to the commencement of IE rounds. Failure to cover judging obligations may result in future year judging bonds. Thank you all.

SCHOOL SWEEPSTAKES

Sweepstakes Awards will be presented to schools in both two-year and four-year school divisions. Sweepstakes points will be based on the following formula:

IE:	1 st Place = 10 points	Finalist = 4 points
	2 nd Place = 8 points	Semifinalist = 2 points
	3 rd Place = 6 points	

NPDA and IPDA and TPDA: -- Each preliminary win = 5 points for NPDA and TPDA, 4 points for IPDA preliminary win (teams in a division). Teams earning less than 2 preliminary wins in NPDA and TPDA and 3 preliminary wins in IPDA debate receive no sweepstakes points. Only your top 4 teams per division and event will be counted.

-- 5 additional points for each team advancing to the initial elimination round for NPDA and TPDA, with 4 points for IPDA (regardless of how many teams advance per division).

INDIVIDUAL SWEEPSTAKES

Awards for the top five open competitors will be presented for the most aggregate number of sweepstakes points earned by individual events competitors. The formula used for calculating individual sweepstakes is identical to the formula used for school sweepstakes for individual events.

PARKING

Stop at the main gate as you enter the campus. You will be directed to the commuter parking lot and will be given a map of the campus. Please do not use the main commuter lot on Sunday Morning. We must reserve it for the use of First Church members, per our university's contractual agreement for shared use of facilities between the University and First Church. There are many other free parking spaces.