



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI



School of Media & Communication

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Dear Colleagues,

The University of Southern Mississippi and William Carey University cordially invites you to the 12th Annual Hub City Swing to be held October 2-4. You will find all of the pertinent information in this invitation. Questions should be directed to both Paul Strait (l.strait@usm.edu) and tab director Abbey Barnes (abarne82@utk.edu).

All entries should be submitted via FTN no later than Tuesday, September 29 by 5 pm central (<https://forensicstournament.net/hubcityswing/26>).

Changes will be accepted until Thu., October 1 at 10:00 am central. For any changes after the deadline, please send changes to both Paul Strait (l.strait@usm.edu) and Abbey Barnes (abarne82@utk.edu).

We look forward to seeing you for a weekend of fun and forensic competition!

L. Paul Strait, Director of Forensics
Shelby Cumpton, Coach
The University of Southern Mississippi

Brandon Knight, Director of Forensics
William Carey University

Tentative Schedule

Friday, October 2

8:00-8:50 Registration (LAB lobby)	2:30 IPDA R4
9:00 IPDA R1	4:00 IPDA R5
10:30 IPDA R2	5:30 IPDA R6
12:00 Lunch	7:00-7:15 IPDA coaches review
1:00 IPDA R3	7:15 IPDA Elim 1

Saturday, October 3

7:30 IPDA Elim 2	1:45 TIPDA R2
9:00 IPDA Elim 3	3:15 Radio draw (round 2)
9:45 Extemp draw (round 1)	3:30 IE Flight B R2
10:00 IE Flight A R1	3:30 TIPDA R3
11:00 IPDA Elim 4	5:00-6:00 Dinner
11:30-12 Lunch	5:45 Extemp/Radio draw (finals)
11:45 Radio draw (round 1)	6:00 IE Finals/TIPDA R4
12:00 IE Flight B R1	ASAP -- Awards
12:00 TIPDA R1	
1:30 Extemp draw (round 2)	
1:45 IE Flight A R2	

Sunday, October 4

7:45 Extemp draw (round 1)	11:00 TIPDA Elim 3
8:00 IE Round 1 - TIPDA Elim 1	11:45 Extemp Draw (Finals)
9:30 Extemp draw (round 2) - TIPDA Elim 2	12:00 IE Finals
9:45 IE Round 2	ASAP Awards

Event Information

Individual Events / Speech

On Saturday, we will offer all eleven AFA events, along with editorial impromptu, radio broadcasting, and podcasting (asynchronous). There is no maximum number of events you can enter per flight, but we caution against entering more than three events per flight unless the student is very experienced with managing this kind of schedule.

Saturday Flighting for IEs will be as follows:

Flight A: CA, Duo, EI, Extemp, Persuasion, Poetry, POI

Flight B: ADS, Prose, DI, Imp, Info, Interviewing, RB

It is possible that we will move an event from one flight to the other if there is a severe imbalance in room/judging requirements, but if so we will communicate this clearly and do our best to ensure it will not prevent any individual competitor from being able to complete all of their events.

On Sunday, we will offer only the traditional 11 AFA events. Moreover, Sunday's tournament is **not flighted**, and students will be able to enter **a maximum of three events**.

All individual events (except editorial impromptu, podcasting, and radio broadcasting; see below) shall follow the rules established and followed by the American Forensics Association.

Access to the internet will be allowed during extemporaneous speaking and radio broadcasting preparation time. Students may not communicate with coaches, teammates, etc., but may use the internet for research.

For the first round of Impromptu on both Saturday and Sunday, **non-traditional prompts will be used**. These prompts will be modeled after options used at the NFA National Championship Tournament.

Non-standard event description/rules:

In **Editorial Impromptu**, students will be given a 1 page op-ed article, and will have 9 minutes to read the article, prepare a response, and deliver it. Students must speak for at least 5 minutes. The speech should involve the development of an argument in response to the thesis developed or the opinion shared in the article. In agreeing or disagreeing with the position or thesis of the article, students should introduce new information and reasoning.

For **Interviewing**, students must prepare the following in advance: 1) a job advertisement (you must find this; it must be a real advertisement for a real job that is posted publicly); 2)

a résumé (this must be truthful; you can only claim experience that you actually have in real life, though you can assume you are applying for a position to begin after you graduate). The résumé should be professional as if you are giving it to an actual employer. The event will consist of three rounds: one in which the student is the interviewer, one in which the student is the interviewee, and an asynchronous résumé round. The interviewer will assume the role of a manager at the designated firm and should conduct the interview in order to determine the candidate's fitness for the position advertised. The interviewee will assume the role of candidate for the position advertised. Each pair of interviewers and interviewees will enter the room together and the interview will commence. Other interviewer/interviewee pairs who are scheduled to compete in the same room should wait outside until after they complete their interview. The interview should last for 8-10 minutes. Time signals will be provided to the competitors. For each round, interviewers will be ranked against each other. Interviewees will also be ranked against each other. Both the interviewer and interviewee will be evaluated on their professionalism, polish, and ability to articulately fulfill their respective roles. All interviewing contestants who are double-entered in flight B must report to interviewing FIRST. You must have printed copies of your résumé and job advertisement for the interviewer and the judge. There will be a bit of "quick thinking on your feet" required of the interviewers since they may not have much time with the interviewees' resume prior to the start of the round. That is okay though, because this too is an important interviewing skill. We encourage interviewees to give their documents to the interviewers in advance while you are waiting so that the interviewer can prepare. Remember that you aren't competing against your interview partner. Competitors entered in Interviewing must provide an accessible link to their resume (either Google Doc, Dropbox, or other similar option) of their résumé by Friday morning debate registration. **General criteria for the interviewer:** Courtesy, Fluency, Professionalism, Effective Questioning and Question Selection. **General criteria for the interviewee:** Enthusiasm, Fluency, Professionalism, Effective Responses to Questions. **General criteria for the resume:** Clarity, Organization, Self-Presentation, Professionalism.

For **Podcasting**, students asynchronously upload a single podcast episode they create with trailer, interview with an outside source, and commentary. 10 mins. Can be done as a duo or single entry.

For **Radio Broadcasting**, contestants will be given a packet of source materials and will have 30 minutes to select, organize, and present a simulated radio broadcast. The source material packets will include international, national, state, and local news. All informational material used in the broadcast must be provided by the tournament with the exception of any hypothetical station call letters, time, and current weather conditions or forecast (but students can choose what information they want to present and be creative with advertisements, presentational style, etc.). Students will present their broadcasts seated at a table with the judge facing away from the contestants during the speech. Students may time themselves as no time signals will be given by the judge. Students may organize their material and notes however they choose (and may use scissors, highlighters, tape, or

whatever other tools may help them stay organized). Maximum time limit for the speech is 5 minutes. Posting of source materials will be staggered.

Debate Events

All TIPDA rounds shall follow the time limits and rules established by the International Public Debate Association. Students will have thirty minutes of preparation time (includes walking time to rounds). We will offer an Open division only. TIPDA will take place during individual events (*students must choose between IEs and TIPDA*). We will offer four preliminary rounds and the appropriate number of elimination rounds.

All IPDA rounds shall follow the time limits and rules established by the International Public Debate Association. Students will have thirty minutes of preparation time (which includes walking time to rounds). We will offer professional, varsity, JV, and novice divisions. We will offer six preliminary rounds and the appropriate number of elimination rounds.

Debate Judges should attend a Judges Training session as suggested by the IPDA constitution.

Important Notes

1. Schools shall not be limited in entries per event, but only the top three entries in each individual event/debate division will count for sweepstakes awards (except TIPDA which counts the top 4 entries).
2. Awards shall be presented to the elimination round participants in all debate events, the **top six speakers** in every division of debate, the **top six** competitors in every individual event, the **top novice competitor** in every individual event, the **top five** quadrathlon competitors, and the **top five Golden Eagle** award competitors (must compete in at least one debate event and at least one IE event to be eligible). The top **three** schools in IPDA, the top **three** schools in TIPDA, the top **three schools** in Individual Events for Swing 1, the **top three** schools in Individual Events Swing 2, and the top **Five** schools Overall (must compete all three days to be eligible) will receive sweepstakes awards. No minimum number of entries is required for schools to count toward debate or individual events sweepstakes awards.
3. Judges: We need and want your judges. We prefer judges over money. One judge covers four IPDA debaters, two TIPDA teams, or six IE entries per flight. Judges may cover multiple events if the events **do not conflict**. For example: one judge could cover four IPDA debaters and six IE entries per pattern, as those events do not occur at the same time, but that same judge could not cover two TIPDA teams and six IE entries on the same day.
4. ****ForensicsTournament.Net**** We are not Luddites, and will therefore not be using paper ballots at this tournament. Whatever email address you enter for your judges, make sure your judges create an account that matches that email address. Students should also make

an account to easily access eballots at the end of the tournament. IPDA competitors must also be on your team's judge roster (though not entered as judges for the tournament) so that we can add them as judges for elimination rounds. **All judges need to have some way to access the internet in order to fill out ballots.** Phones will work, but something with an actual keyboard will be more efficient.

Sweepstakes Formula

I.E.s

1. Individual events will be scored as follows: 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

Debate

1. Schools shall not be limited in entries per event, however only the top 3 entries in each event / division will count for sweepstakes awards (except for TIPDA which counts top 4 entries).

2. 5 points for each preliminary round win/bye, 6 points for breaking to elimination rounds (These are halved for individual debate.)

Quadrathon

To be eligible for Quadrathon, students must compete in a minimum of four individual events, including events from at least two of the three categories of individual events: limited preparation (extemp, impromptu, editorial impromptu, radio broadcasting), public address (ADS, persuasive, informative, CA), and interpretation (DI, POI, prose, poetry, duo). Points to determine Quadrathon placing will be according to the individual events sweepstakes formula outlined above.

Entries

Entries should be submitted via FTN.

If you have any questions about entries, please send them by email to both Paul Strait (l.strait@usm.edu) and Abbey Barnes (abarne82@utk.edu).

Entries are due no later than Tuesday, September 30 by 5:00 p.m. Changes will be accepted without charge until Thursday, October 2, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.. Each change after that will be charged \$15.00. If you wait until registration to tell us about your drops, the fee is \$30.

Fees

Covered Ind. Events (\$12.00) Uncovered Ind. Events (\$32.00) Covered IPDA (\$35.00) Uncovered IPDA (\$70.00) Covered TIPDA Team (\$60.00) Uncovered TIPDA Team (\$95.00) Late Change Fees (\$15/ea) Registration drops (\$30/ea). If the entry fees will pose a significant hardship to your program, please reach out to Paul Strait.

Payment by cash or check. Please make checks payable to the University of Southern Mississippi with "speech & debate" written in the memo line.

Tournament Headquarters

The tournament will be **headquartered in the Liberal Arts Building (LAB)** on the southern side of campus. There should be plenty of parking directly south of the building's entrance or to the west of the Theatre and Dance Building (TAD). **The University of Southern Mississippi is a Non--Smoking Campus. The prohibition against smoking extends to all USM property, including parking lots.**

Recording

NO ONE is allowed to record a round without the explicit consent of every person in the room. Any recording that involves a minor must have the written consent of a legal guardian. This will be strictly enforced.

Food

The tournament will provide dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday. Please email any dietary restrictions (e.g., vegetarian, gluten-free, etc.) to Paul Strait so that we can do our best to accommodate those students.

AI

We dissuade the use of AI in debate prep. Certainly students must independently verify any sources/evidence identified by generative AI. If you are using AI to think for you, why? With respect to speech events (especially extemporaneous speaking), we follow the AFA-NST position that the use of generative AI in prep is a violation of the rule that requires individuals to construct their speeches without consultation with others. Please communicate to your students that **the use of AI during prep for Extemporaneous Speaking is forbidden. AI must not be used in the creation of resumes or podcasts.** Finally, **judges should not be using AI to write any part of the ballot.** We ask directors to communicate these expectations to their students and judges.

Inclusion

We strive to ensure that speech and debate be an activity that respects competitors of all backgrounds including gender expressions and identities and seek to create a safe space for all competitors to feel comfortable competing at their highest potential. Coaches are encouraged to include their competitors' personal pronouns with their entries; this can be done by accessing your team roster in FTM and editing their last name to include said pronouns. As an example: John Doe (he/him), or Jane Doe (they/them). ***Please note, this is not mandatory by any means; this is simply an opportunity for those who feel comfortable being addressed differently to feel accepted in this activity, regardless of how they identify.***