

NCFA Spring Championship Tournament 2017

Colleagues,

On behalf of NCFA, the executive board is pleased to invite you to the NCFA 2017 Spring Championship Tournament, hosted by California State University Sacramento, CA on February 24-26, 2017.

NCFA Champs is sanctioned by governing body of NCFA. We will uphold all the rules of the tournament as outlined by the Constitution and By-Laws. If there are any issues that cannot be solved they will be referred to the Vice President of NCFA who serves as the Ombudsmen. We also encourage everyone to read the NCFA constitution, which outlines rules for the events and the tournament. Please note: that if any content is either vague or contradictory between this tournament invite and the Constitution and/or its bylaws, the Constitution/Bylaws will ALWAYS take precedent.

Please note that this year we will be using Tabroom for all entries, as opposed to Forensicstournament.

All entries are due by 6:00pm on Wednesday, February 22nd, 2017. You must use the web entry system on tabroom.com to enter competitors and judges. Tournament entry will begin on Monday, January 16th, 2017.

The Spring Championship Tournament will be a full-service tournament, including; 11 individual events categories, Reader's Theatre, and three forms of debate. We will have a novice and open division in all Individual Events' and a novice, junior, and open division offered for all forms of debate.

A Special Note about the Schedule and Hotel Information: The schedule is tentative based on judge availability and rooms at the host school. I will post any updates to the schedule in a timely manner so that all schools can plan accordingly.

We have secured a tournament hotel for the tournament. We have also made other recommendation of hotels that are near to the CSUS campus.

The NCFA Spring Business Meeting will take place in the evening on Saturday, February 20, during the second elimination round of parliamentary debate. Please inform me in advance if you cannot make it so we can arrange a proctor for your votes.

Please email Alexis Litzky at alitzky@ccsf.edu if you have any questions. If you believe that you are not part of the NCFA list serve where we share a lot of pertinent tournament information please email Alexis to be added, promptly.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Bruce, President of NCFA

Kristen Tudor & Sue Peterson, Co-hosts of NCFA 2017

Events

Individual Events

We will offer the following Patterns of Individual Events:

Pattern A: Prose, Poetry, Persuasion, After Dinner Speaking, Extemporaneous, Duo interpretation

Pattern B: Programmed Oral interpretation, Dramatic interpretation, Informative, Communication Analysis, Impromptu

Novice eligibility: Students cannot compete in Novice Individual Events if they 1) placed first, second, or third in an event type (interpretation, limited prep, and platform speeches) at two tournaments. 2) compete in high school individual events in the varsity/open division.

Collapsing Divisions: Every effort will be made to protect novice competitors; however, if there fewer than 12 entries in a division, that event may be collapsed. If this occurs, top novices will be recognized at the awards ceremony.

Forfeiture Rule: Competitors not fulfilling their obligation to comply with the tournament schedule will be subject to forfeiture. Individual events competitors, regardless of double entries, must arrive to rounds within 45 minutes of a round's scheduled start time or risk forfeiture.

Criteria for Elimination Rounds: Any event with less than seven entries will not have a final round. Events with thirty-four entries should have semi-final round, if possible.

Advancement to Elimination Rounds: No more than half of the field will be advanced to finals. Students will be rank-ordered first by lowest cumulative rankings, then by the highest cumulative ratings, and finally by the highest reciprocal score (a.k.a. decimal conversion).

Placement/Advancement in Elimination Rounds: Students will be rank-ordered by lowest cumulative rankings, then by judge's preference, then by the highest cumulative ratings, and finally by the highest reciprocal score (a.k.a. decimal conversion).

Debate Events

We will offer the following debate events: CEDA, NPDA, and NFA-LD.

Event Descriptions

1. NPDA: topics released by group announcement, group preparation permitted debaters may access the Internet during preparation period only. Only notes made during preparation period can be brought into the round. Prep time will be 20 minutes with a strict 5 minute forfeit rule. Speaking times are as follows:

PMC	LOC	MG	MO	LOR	PMR
7min	8min	8 min	8 min	4 min	5 min

2. CEDA/NDT: The 2016-2017 topic will be used. Resolved: The United States Federal Government should establish a domestic climate policy, including at least substantially increasing restrictions on private sector emissions of greenhouse gases in the United States.

Each team will be allowed 10 minutes of preparation time during the round. Speaking times are as follows:

1AC	CX	1NC	CX	2AC	CX	2NC	CX	1NR	1AR	2NR	2AR
9min	3min	9min	3min	9min	3min	9min	3min	6min	6min	6min	6min

NFA L-D: The 2015-21016 topic will be used. Resolved: the United States Federal Government should substantially reduce the role of the United States Southern Command in Latin America.

1. Each debater will be allotted four minutes of prep time to use throughout the debate. The following speech times will be used:

1AC	CX	1NC	CX	1AR	1NR	2AR
6min	3min	7min	3min	6min	6min	3min

Novice Eligibility: Students cannot compete in Novice Debate Events if they...1) advanced beyond the first elimination round at two tournaments in one debate format. 2) Competed in the final round at three tournaments in any debate format (parli, policy, or LD). 3) Competed in a high school debate event for one year in varsity/open division.

Collapsing Divisions: Three divisions will be offered (novice, junior, and open). If there are less than eighteen entries in a division of debate, the lower division may be collapsed into the higher division.

Preliminary Rounds: There will be four preliminary rounds of NFA-LD and six preliminary rounds in both NPDA and CEDA debate Rounds 3-6 of NPDA and CEDA will be power matched (high-low), although lag powering may be used to keep tournament running on time. NFA-LD round four will be power match off rounds one and two.

Criteria for Elimination Rounds: Events with 32 or more entries will break to an octo-final round. Events with 16-31 entries will break to a quarter-final round. Events with 8-15 entries will break directly to a semi-final round. For NFA-LD we will break to a bronze/silver round and then a gold round.

Advancement to Elimination Rounds: No more than half of the field will be advanced to finals. The tournament, whenever possible, will break brackets. Seeding in elimination rounds will be determined by the following sequence of preferences:

1. Number of wins
2. Adjusted speaker points

3. Total speaker points
4. Opposition record
5. Judge variance (z-score)

Disclosure: NCFA Bylaws require that judges be afforded time to disclose, but please help keep the tournament on time by returning the ballot no more than 1 hour and 15 minutes from the start of the round.

Forfeiture Rule: Competitors not fulfilling their obligation to comply with the tournament schedule will be subject to forfeiture. Debaters arriving more than five minutes past a round's scheduled start time will forfeit that round.

Hybrid & Three Person Teams: Each school may enter one hybrid team OR one 3-person team in each debate event (all divisions); schools should enter as many 2-person teams with partners from the same school as mathematically possible—even if this means novice competitors move up to compete in open division. A school is permitted one hybrid CEDA team AND one hybrid parliamentary team. No one-person teams permitted.

ENTRY DETAILS

Student Eligibility

Students must be currently enrolled in a class at the college they are representing. No students may compete in the Spring Championship Tournament for more than four years. Any student may enter open division, regardless of experience. Students with four semesters of collegiate experience in an event type must enter open division see the specific event protocols for more details on novice division eligibility.

Cross Entries: 1) Students may enter in a maximum of three events in each I.E. pattern. 2) Students entered in Policy cannot compete in individual events, NFA-LD or NPDA debate. 3) Students may compete in both NFA-LD and NPDA. 4) Students may enter in both I.E.s and NFA-LD and/or NPDA debate. 5) Students who advance to NFA-LD elimination rounds may only be entered in one NFA-LD event

JUDGING

The tournament is committed to managing the judge pool to minimize the expense of hired judging. It is imperative that we have accurate information about your judges. When you enter your judges on-line please indicate if judges will be: unavailable at any time, ineligible to judge open division rounds, or conflicted by prior association that prevent them from hearing competitors from other schools.

Please make sure that there is a judging philosophy for each open division parliamentary and policy debate judge. The philosophies should be uploaded to tabroom.com by Wednesday, January 22 at 5:00P.M.

Guidelines for all Judge entries

- 1) Please make all attempts to cover your entry. If you cannot please encourage people you know from the community to volunteer or sign up as a hired critic.
- 2) Novice only judges will NOT cover your Open competitor entries. They will ONLY cover the novice level entries.
- 3) Enter all constraints that you have knowledge of at the time of registration. If any conflicts or constraints come up after registration, please contact the TD as soon as possible.
- 4) Judges must remain one elimination round past when their competitors are eliminated. This applies to both IE and Debate judges.

The Director of each program shall vouch that each of their judges are qualified. Qualified is defined as having either two-year's minimum experience and/or possessing a BA degree. We prefer that all judges have some experience in judging at collegiate speech and debate tournaments.

Judging Commitment

Individual Events: Each school owes one judge for every six entries or fraction thereof.

Debate: Each school owes one judge for every two entries in Parliamentary, NFA-LD, and/or Policy debate or fraction thereof.

NOTE: NFA-LD Schools MUST cover their judging commitment. Last year we struggled to get judges on Friday due to schools not bringing enough judges to cover their commitment. **This year we hold the right to drop competitors from schools who do not cover their NFA-LD commitment.** This pertains to having enough judges within the division that you have entered. For example, if your school has 6 Open LDers, but you only provide 1 Open level judge along with 2 novice level judges, this does not cover your Open entry commitment. 6 open level competitors equate to 3 open level judges, period.

Uncovered Judging Commitment:

Uncovered NPDA = \$50 X #of Uncovered

Uncovered CEDA/Policy = \$100 X #of Uncovered

Uncovered IE = \$10 X #of Uncovered

Uncovered NFA-LD = NOT ALLOWED

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Fee Calculation Sheet

<u>NCFA Dues</u>	\$40 x ____	= ____
<u>Debate Teams</u>	\$50 x ____ (entry)	= ____
<u>NFA-LD</u>	\$30 x ____ (entry)	= ____
<u>IE Slots</u>	\$10 x ____ (entry)	= ____
<u>Open Persuasive</u>	\$25 x ____ (entry)	= ____
<u>Uncovered IE slots</u>	\$10 x ____ (entry)	= ____
<u>Uncovered LD</u>	\$50 x ____ (entry)	= ____
<u>Uncovered NPDA</u>	\$50 x ____ (entry)	= ____
<u>Uncovered CEDA</u>	\$100 x ____ (entry)	= ____
<u>School fee</u>	\$50 x <u>1</u> (entry)	= <u>\$50.00</u>
<u>Total Owed</u>		= ____

Note:

- 1) Fees in Open Persuasive Speaking reflect the expenses necessary to finance the open division winner's participation in the Interstate Oratory Contest.
- 2) Checks should be made payable to the Northern California Forensics Association.

AWARDS

Student Fellowship Award: NCFA will recognize, based on the votes of peers, the students who embodies the finest qualities of intercollegiate forensics. Ballots will be distributed to coaches at registration and should be deposited in the ballot box near postings by no later than Saturday at 3PM.

Interstate Oratory Representative: The students from a California school, who places highest in the open division of Persuasive Speaking will be designated the Northern California representative to the Interstate Oratory Contest. If that students cannot go, the next highest placing student from a California school will be designated the representative. The designation will be passed down until a students is found who will attend the contest. NCFA will partially fund the representative's trip.

Sweepstakes: All sweepstakes categories will be based on the number of entries at the entry deadline, not on the day of competition. Sweepstakes trophies will be awarded to the top three schools in each of the following divisions:

- a. Open University Division
- b. Limited Entry University Division (Seven or fewer contestants from a school)
- c. Open Community College Division
- d. Limited Entry Community College Division (Seven or fewer contestants from a school)

Calculation for Sweepstakes:

Individual Events Points

-10 points for each first place
 -7.5 points for each second place
 -5 points for each third place
 -2.5 points for each finalist

NFA-LD points

-15 points for first place
 -12.5 points for second place
 -7.5 points for semi-finalist
 -2.5 points for quarter and octo-finalists

NPDA Debate, Reader's Theatre, and Policy Debate Points

-20 points for first place

-15 points for second place

-10 points for semi-finalist

-5 points for quarter-finalist

-2.5 points for octo-finalist

CAMPUS & MISC DETAILS

WiFi will be available to all schools. Please be aware that the tournament is not guaranteeing internet. I recommend bringing a HotSpot if you are able. Since WiFi is available on campus you may use internet for Debate and Extemp prep.

Each School entered in Parliamentary Debate will be assigned their own prep room that they may use to prep for each round. Each school will also be held responsible for the cleanliness of their prep room.

LODGING DETAILS

Our Hosts have secured the following Hotel for you to reserve lodging:

Courtyard Sacramento Airport Natomas

2101 River Plaza Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833-3877

(916) 922-1120

The rate is \$90 plus tax and does not include breakfast. When you make the reservation state, that you are part of the **NCFA Debate**.

They have a limited number of doubles so book soon – and be sure to get a king room for singles.

