

April 1st, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of PSCFA, I would like to invite you to the 2020 PSCFA Cool-Off...Online Tournament, on May 2nd and 3rd. In an effort to provide an educational experience for newcomers and novices, we are proud to announce that for the first time, the Cool-Off will be hosted **online**, in a video conference style. Despite our new online style, the basics of the traditional Cool-Off will stay the same, with a few adjustments.

A unique aspect of the Cool-Off is that it is for novices and rookies only. This allows for students with little or no competition experience to compete with students of their level.

This is also a great opportunity for coaches to take a break and give junior and senior competitors a chance to be on the other side of the ballot and judge a few rounds. Those junior and senior students that do judge will not sacrifice any competitive eligibility for later seasons since this is a novice only event. Remember, all judges must be certified for PSCFA tournaments so please have them go to the PSCFA website, read the Forensics Related Educational Document (F.R.E.D.), and certify online <https://pscfa.org/fred/>.

Key Points:

- There will be no entry fees.
- Registration is due by Tuesday, April 28th at 11:59 PM Pacific time on ForensicsTournament.net
- Each school is required to provide one judge for every 5 IE entries per pattern/2 debate teams. ***Uncovered entries will not be permitted.*** Please see HiredJudge.com if you need to arrange for judges.
- Because this is an online tournament, slow internet speeds can cause issues for speakers, judges, and tournament staff. Test your internet speed on SpeakEasy.net. Anything less than 6 mbps upload/download will cause video/audio problems.
 - We strongly recommend each school has *judges on standby* who are familiar with internet tournaments in case there are internet issues for their originally registered judges.
- The tournament will use synchronous video conferencing. Please see the *Best Practices* section of this invite for tips on how to effectively use the platform.
- All 11 individual events (with some modifications), NFA-LD and IPDA will be offered. This is an added tournament and we want to provide the best experience for our novice and rookie competitors therefore, due to the unforeseeable team/partner to partner communication and/or time issues that may occur, unfortunately, ***NPDA will not be offered.***
- The awards ceremony will be live-streamed on YouTube.

The debate portion of the tournament will take place on Saturday. **NFA-LD debate will be on Saturday scheduled at the same time as IPDA.** We will offer four preliminary rounds and one elimination round for the novice division. On Sunday, we will offer two preliminary

rounds and finals for all 11 individual events, plus Cultural Artifact (no scholarships awarded).

In addition to the tournament, the PSCFA Spring Meeting will take place at 1:00PM on Saturday. A Zoom meeting invite will be sent out earlier that day to those on our PSCFA list server. Directions on how the meeting will be conducted and voting will take place will be included. If you have someone that needs to be added or updated please email Nichole at pscfaexecsec@gmail.com. You may also forward the invite to them.

Items on the agenda include discussing the year in review, electing new officers, and selecting a site for the 2020 Fall Coaches Conference.

ENTRY DEADLINE is Tuesday, April 28th at 6:00pm through <https://forensicstournament.net>. Changes may be made through Wednesday, April 29th at 6:00pm at no charge.

I look forward to seeing you online at the Cool-Off! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Warm regards,

Claire Crossman
Tournament Director
(310)-346-0023
crossmanclairem@gmail.com

Cool-Off 2020 Staff

Danny Cantrell	Jackson Spencer & Angelica Grigsby	Paxton Attridge (ELAC) & Melissa DeLeon (CSULA)	Brianna Broady (PCC) & Jedi Curva (ELAC)
Administration	Speech Tab	Debate Tab	Competitor and Judge Liaisons

PSCFA COOL-OFF TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE
May 2nd and 3rd

SATURDAY - DEBATE	SUNDAY - INDIVIDUAL EVENTS
9:00-9:30 Registration and Sign-In	9:00 Round 1: Pattern A
9:30-9:45 Judges Orientation via Video Conference	10:30 Round 2: Pattern A
1:00 PSCFA ZOOM Coaches Meeting	11:45 Round 1: Pattern B
	1:15 Round 2: Pattern B
	2:30 Finals: Pattern A
	4:00 Finals: Pattern B
<i>LD Schedule</i>	
10:00-11:00 Round 1 NFA-LD	5:30 Awards
11:15-12:15 Round 2 NFA-LD	
1:30-2:30 Round 3 NFA-LD	Pattern A:
2:30-3:30 Round 4 NFA-LD	Extemp, Prose, Poetry, Informative, STE, Cultural Artifact
4:00-5:00 Elim Round NFA-LD	Pattern B:
5:15 Debate Awards	Impromptu, Persuasive, Duo, POI, CA, Drama
<i>IPDA Schedule</i>	DOUBLE ENTRIES ARE ALLOWED
10:00-11:15 Round 1	
11:30-12:45 Round 2	
1:00-2:15 Round 3	
2:30-3:45 Round 4	
4:00-5:00 Elim Round IPDA	
5:15 Debate Awards	
❖ Teams that are not in their video room by 9:30AM will be dropped from the tournament.	
❖ Judges must attend the orientation meeting	
❖ Judges will not discuss decisions until after the ballot has been turned in.	

Individual Events

- All 11 IE events will be offered (Informative, After Dinner, Comm Analysis, Persuasive, Extemp, Impromptu, Prose, Poetry, Drama, POI, DUO)
- 1 judge is required for every 5 IE entries.
- Students may enter a maximum of two events per pattern.
- Two prelims and elims will be held on Sunday May 3rd. If an event has more than 30 entries a semi-final round will be held.

Limited Prep Events:

- Impromptu topics will be provided to each student in the Live Video Room chat box. Judges will need to copy/paste the topics (provided on the eBallots) in the chat window for the students.
- Each student will receive a different set of impromptu topics.
- Extemp questions will be provided for all speakers in a separate Extemp Prep Live Video Room. Students do not need to stay in that room after receiving the questions. The extemp proctor will copy/paste the questions into the chat window at the specified time.
- This is, admittedly, **not** the same as a face-to-face tournament. We appreciate your patience and willingness to still try it out.

Platform Events:

- While students are allowed to still use Visual Aids, they are encouraged to have them printed on 8.5x11 pages to show to the audience while presenting.
- Screen sharing to show a PowerPoint or image is **not permitted** due to various technology issues. Since not all students may be able to access the screen sharing function, we feel it's best to not allow that option.

Interp Events:

- These are likely the most difficult to translate to an online video conference style.
- Students may, if they desire, stand up while performing to showcase blocking, but the technology works better sitting in front of the camera.
- Partners are encouraged **NOT** to be in the same room to respect social distancing recommendations.
- Partners, if in the same physical room, should share one live stream. Having multiple live video rooms open on the same WiFi causes poor connections.
- Students are encouraged to try out various methods of performance ahead of time and innovate!

Debate

- There will be four prelims, followed by elims, on Saturday May 2nd.
- 1 Judge is required for every 2 debate entries
- A 5 minute forfeit rule will be put in place for all debate rounds.

IPDA:

- Students will conduct topic strikes in the Live Video Room with their judge. Students and judges should be in the Live Video room at the start time for Pattern B.
- Judges will have the prompts available on the eBallot and should copy paste it into the chat window.
- Standard striking procedures will then be followed.

NFA-LD:

- Evidence sharing can be facilitated through posting links in the chat window.
- Standard NFA-LD procedures will be followed unless noted.
- Case disclosure is not required by the tournament nor will be facilitated by tournament staff.
- No speaker awards will be given.

Fees

- None! The PSCFA executive committee has decided that due to the new online format all fees will be waived.
- However, you must have one judge for every 5 entries per pattern and 1 judge for every 2 debate teams.
- Hopefully the online nature of the event makes finding judges easier. If needed, please see HiredJudge.com if you need to arrange for judges.

Competitor Awards

- 1st, 2nd, 3rd place will receive gift cards.

Competitor Logistics / Best Practices

- All competitors must have a verified text number or email saved on ForensicsTournament.net. **Email is preferred.**
- Coaches can save those (& verify) from the Student Roster page.
- Competitors will receive a text/email with their ePostings information. That message will have a link to view all postings for a particular round.
- The ePostings will have a link to a Live Video Room where they will present. Click that link to go to your round. No logins or passwords are required. Judges will be in the same Live Video Room to listen and rank the round. The tournament will be using the [8x8 video conference room software](#).
- Please do not immediately start to talk when entering a Live Video Room. Another student may be already performing. Please wait to be recognized by the judge.
- Students should remain in the Live Video Room as audience members with both video and audio on to the extent possible. Due to audio feedback loops or bandwidth issues, you may need to mute your audio or video feeds. But ideally, react to the performances like in a face-to-face round.
- Students can, if it fits their particular setup, sit while performing. Judges are instructed *not* to penalize students for sitting while speaking since the particular tech setup may work better while sitting.
- Students are also encouraged to use a mic/headphones since audio quality is much better than with an external mic. Judges are instructed *not* to penalize students for having mics/headphones on.
- We recognize this creates some challenges for certain events. But we trust in the ingenuity of the forensics community to adapt to this new environment. Some students may also have better quality video, lighting, sound, etc. We will all try our best.
- **If a student's internet connection drops or audio quality is poor, they will be required** to call into the video conference room and give their speech with audio only. While not ideal, it will ensure all student's speeches are listened to by a judge. You can get the dial-in information from the info icon in the bottom right of the screen.

Judge Logistics / Best Practices

- All judges must have a verified phone or email saved on ForensicsTournament.net
- Coaches can save those (& verify) from the Judge Roster Page

- Judges will receive a text/email with their eBallot link. Judges should click on that link within 5 minutes of receiving it to indicate that they have “picked up” their ballot.
- On your eBallot you will have all of the competitors in that round along with a link to a live video room. Click that link to go to your video conference room.
- Your eBallot will then have a feedback form where you can type your feedback to the student while they are performing or afterwards. The eBallot also has a timer to make it easy to time each speaker.
- If a judge’s keyboard is loud they are encouraged to mute their audio during performances but please leave the video feed on so competitors can receive your visual feedback.
- Judges are instructed *not* to penalize students for sitting while speaking since the student’s particular tech setup may work better while sitting.
- Judges are also instructed *not* to penalize students for having mics/headphones on since audio quality is usually much better using a mic/headset.
- Judges are also instructed *not* to penalize students for lighting, video/audio quality, video background to the extent possible.
- **If a judge’s internet connection drops or audio quality is poor, they will be required** to call into the video conference room and listen to speeches with audio only. While not ideal, it will ensure all student’s speeches are listened to by a judge. You can get the dial-in information from the info icon in the bottom right of the screen.
- For Impromptu/Extemp, the eBallot will have the quotations/questions listed on it.

Sweepstakes

- We will award trophies to the top three schools in the following categories:
 - 1) Four Year
 - 2) Two Year
 - 3) Cumulative Sweepstakes (Fall Champs, Spring Champs, and Cool -Off)

FAQ

- **How much does the tournament cost?** It’s free!
- **How can I register?** Coaches will need to register their teams on ForensicsTournament.net.

- **Can I have 2 uncovered IE entries/just 1 uncovered debate team?** No. All entries must be covered or they will not be accepted. Given that the tournament is not collecting entry fees we have no funds to pay for hired judges.
- **Where is the Extemp Prep topic announce room?** As we get closer to the tournament links will be sent out to a special video room for these events.
- **How will I get my impromptu quotation?** The judge will have the impromptu quotations on their eBallot. When it's your turn to speak your judge will copy/paste the prompts into the chat window in the Live Video Room.
- **How will we strike IPDA topics?** The judge will have all five IPDA topics on their eBallot. At the start of the round go to your Live Video Room. The judge will copy/paste the resolutions into the chat window. Each team will strike as normal. Turn off your audio/visual feeds in the room during prep. 30 minutes later the round will commence.
- **Where will we prep for BP?** Each school has access to practice rooms through ForensicsTournament.net. Please use those rooms.
- **How will DUOs compete?** We are not sure. Interp is an especially tough format to translate to video conferencing. Please practice using the practice rooms on ForensicsTournament.net.
- **What type of awards will be given out?** This is still to be determined... But since we are not charging entry fees...
- **What about poor internet connections?** In order for the video conference to work, your internet should be at least 6 Mbps. You can check your internet speed here:
<https://www.speakeasy.net/speedtest/>
 - Each Live Video Room has an option to "call in" via phone. While there will be no visual, at least you can still present the audio portion of your speech.

EVENT GUIDELINES

The tournament will be run consistent with the rules and regulations in the PSCFA handbook. If there is any ambiguity or inconsistency in this invitation the handbook takes priority.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Pattern A

Extemporaneous: Contestants will be given three topics in the general area of current events. They will choose one and have 30 minutes to prepare a speech. The maximum speaking time is 7 minutes.

Speech to Entertain: A speech designed to entertain the audience. This speech should not be a series of jokes, but should emphasize wit and creativity following a central theme. The use of a manuscript is discouraged. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Poetry: Students will prepare a selection or selections of poetry or literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. Use of a manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Informative: An original, factual speech on a realistic subject to fulfill the general goal of informing the audience. Visuals may or may not be used to reinforce the message. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Prose: A selection or selection of prose materials of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. Play cuttings are prohibited. Use of a manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

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

Pattern B

Dramatic Duo: A cutting (scene) from a play (either humorous or serious), involving the portrayal of at least two characters presented by two individuals. This is not an acting event. No costumes, props, lighting, etc., are permitted. Manuscripts are required. Focus should be off-stage. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Persuasive: The speech must be the work of the student and be persuasive or inspirational in nature. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Programmed Oral Interp (POI): A Program of thematically linked selections of literary merit, chosen from two or more of the recognized genres of competitive interpretation (prose;poetry;drama). A substantial portion of the total time must be devoted to each genre used in the program. Use of a manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes, including the original introduction and transitions.

Impromptu: Topic selection is varied by round using brief quotations, personalities, events, etc. Speech should not exceed 7 minutes; time begins when topic is drawn.

Communication Analysis: A speech which is carefully researched and developed which applies a student's knowledge of rhetorical communication principles to a communication event such as a speech, speaker, movement, campaign, etc. This speech should pay primary attention to the analysis and less attention to description. The student may deliver the speech in any manner (memorized or manuscript). Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Drama: A cutting from a play or plays of literary merit. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

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JUDGING

Debate Commitment: All schools must provide one judge for every two (2) team debate entries or fraction thereof. Penalty fees will be accepted at the discretion of the Tournament Director (If there is sufficient pool of Hired Judges).

Individual Events Commitment: All schools must provide one judge for every five individual event slots per conflict pattern or fraction thereof. Judges for all events must meet qualifications outlined in the PSCFA Handbook and must complete the PSCFA Judge Certification BEFORE being able to judge. **Coaches shall insure the competency of all judges covering your commitment.**

Any school not meeting their judging commitment will be assessed the following fees:

Debate Judges \$75.00 per team (if allowed)

IE Slots Uncovered \$12.00 per slot

Judges must remain available to judge one round beyond the elimination of their last participant. (All judges are committed to judge the first elimination round).

Entry Deadline

ENTRY DEADLINE is Tuesday, April 28th at 11:59 pm through <https://forensicstournament.net>. Changes may be made through Wednesday, April 29th at 6:00pm at no charge.

Fees will be assessed on Wednesday April 29th at 6:00 PM. Changes after that time will not reduce your fees and may result in nuisance fees.

PSCFA COOL OFF NUISANCE FEE SHEET

School	
Director of Forensics	
Office Phone Number	
Cell Phone Number	
Email Address	

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO “PSCFA.”

Judging Fees	Fee		Entries	=	Total
Per any uncovered team(if allowed)	\$ 75.00	x		=	\$
IE’s Pattern A	\$ 12.00	x		=	\$
IE’s Pattern B	\$ 12.00	x		=	\$

Nuisance Fees	Fee		Entries	=	Total
No-Show IE	\$ 10.00	x		=	\$
No-Show Debate	\$ 20.00	x		=	\$
Nuisance IE	\$ 5.00	x		=	\$
Nuisance Debate	\$ 10.00	x		=	\$
Judge Nuisance (per rd)	\$ 25.00	x		=	\$
Drop after Wed deadline	\$ 5.00	x		=	\$
Late Add Fee	\$ 50.00	x		=	\$

TOTAL FEES

\$ _____