

Northern California Forensics Association Spring Championship Tournament 2021

Hosted by Modesto Junior College
February 26-28

Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of the Northern California Forensics Association and our executive board, I am pleased to invite you to our 2021 Spring Championship Tournament hosted by Modesto Junior College. NCFA Champs is sanctioned by the governing body of NCFA and the tournament shall be governed by the Constitution and By-Laws of NCFA unless otherwise specified in this invite or determined by the executive board. If there are any issues that cannot be solved, we invite members to petition the executive board for consideration. Issues that arise during the tournament will be referred to the Ombuds. We also encourage everyone to read the NCFA constitution, which outlines rules for the events and the tournament.¹

The Spring Championship Tournament will be a full-service tournament, including; 11 individual events categories, Reader's Theatre (provided there are entries), and four forms of debate: Lincoln-Douglas, Parliamentary, International Public (IPDA), and Policy Debate (again, pending entries). 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. This year we will be using Forensic Tournament (forensicstournament.net) for all entries. All coaches, competitors, and judges should create a profile on forensicstournament.net prior to the start of the tournament. We will email detailed instructions on how to do this if you are unfamiliar. Registration will be available no less than two weeks before the start date of the tournament and remain open until February 26th. All entries are due by 11:59 PM on Wednesday, February 24th, 2021. Drops and name changes may be made up until registration for competition. You must use the web entry system on forensicstournament.net to enter competitors AND judges. IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR OPEN DIVISION AND FULL COVERAGE FOR DEBATE, JUDGES MUST SUBMIT A JUDGING PARADIGM!

The NCFA Spring Business Meeting will take place at the Spring Fling tournament later this year.

Please email Daniel López at drlopez@hartnell.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 Daniel to be added, promptly.

Sincerely,

Daniel López
Tournament Director

¹ Please note: any unresolved issues or content or content that is contradictory between this tournament invite and the Constitution and/or its bylaws, the Constitution/Bylaws will ALWAYS take precedent.

ENTRY DETAILS

Student Eligibility:

Eligibility: Students must be currently enrolled in a class at the college they are representing. No student may compete in the Spring Championship tournament for more than a total of five years and no more than three years for any 2-year program. Any student may enter open division, regardless of experience. If students fail to meet the eligibility requirement but have a compelling justification, a coach or representative from the institution may petition the executive council and tournament staff for consideration to participate.

Division Eligibility: Students with four semesters of collegiate experience in an event type must enter open division. Students with less than four semesters of collegiate experience in an event type may enter junior divisions. Junior eligibility is lost when a student places first, second, or third in Junior and/or Open division at three different tournaments. If a student has been in final rounds of junior and/or open division of debate at three tournaments he/she must move to open division.

Novice Division shall be open only to those students meeting the following NCFA Eligibility Requirements. (NOTE: NCFA Novice Eligibility is stricter than national organization rules, and will be adhered to.)

- High school experience in debate and Individual Events--if a student has competed in high school for two semesters, the student must compete in junior division.
- College experience in debate--If a student has advanced beyond the first elimination round at two tournaments, or if the student has competed in the final round at three tournaments in any debate format (team or Lincoln-Douglas) then he/she must enter in a higher division.
- College experience in Individual Events--A novice competitor must advance to junior (or open) division if he/she places (first, second, third) in an event, or like event type (i.e.-interpretation, limited prep, group event, and platform speeches), twice.

Participation in Novice Division at Spring Fling will not affect a student's 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 in NFA-LD may be cross entered in one event of pattern A and/or B but not Extemporaneous Speaking 5) Students in IPDA may be cross entered in one I.E. event of Pattern A and/or B, but may not 6) Students who are in elimination rounds of LD will not be eligible for IPDA.

NOTE: If you are having difficulty registering on forensictournament.net please contact the tournament director to assist you in solving the problem.

Online Competition Guidelines

General Guidelines:

- No persons may participate or contribute to students who are competing during the round.
- Single camera set-up only is allowed.
- Video and/or audio manipulation is prohibited.
- Physical audiences are prohibited from being present for the performance, with the exception of: involuntary audiences (ex: individuals/families who happen to be in the same room), and assistants/aids for individuals with disabilities. Enforcement is up to the discretion of the TD.
- Prohibit practices that would not be possible in a face-to-face environment (such as motion, video transitions, or audio manipulation).

Technology Failure During Competition:

IE competitors who are giving a speech and lose their internet connection are allowed 3 minutes to reconnect before they forfeit their opportunity to finish the speech. They will then be judged on what was presented before they lost internet.

For Debate Competitors, the judge will start a running clock until they return to the round and the amount of time over 3 minutes will be deducted from their speech time. If the time for the speech has expired, the debate round will continue with the following speech. In partnered debate, partners cannot finish the speech for the person who dropped.

If a competitor's internet connection is lost, they are encouraged to 'dial in' to their 8x8 room. Guide: [How to dial into an 8x8 room.](#)

NPDA Debate in Online Formats:

In accordance with NPDA Bylaws, electronic/laptop flowing by debaters in a round is allowed. Cutting and pasting previously prepared material as well as flowing done by anyone not in the round on a shared spreadsheet is prohibited. Parli partners may communicate with each other during the round by phone or electronically.

Partners in debate rounds are allowed to communicate with their partner through other lines of communication such as chats, phone calls, other video conferencing platforms, etc.

Hospitality Hub:

A key feature of the tournament will be a live video room available throughout the tournament. There will be a digital ballot table where you can go to get help with questions about tournament participation and technical support.

Noff Videos:

[Best Practices Guideline for Students](#)

[Virtual Judge's Guide](#)

EVENTS

Individual Events:

We will offer the following Individual Events:

- Interpretation: Prose, Poetry, Programmed Oral Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation
- Group Events: Dramatic Duo, Readers Theatre.
- Platform Speeches: Informative, Persuasive, After Dinner Speaking, and Communication Analysis.
- Limited Preparation: Impromptu and Extemporaneous.

Collapsing Divisions: Every effort will be made to protect novice competitors; however, if there are fewer than 8 entries in a division, that event may be collapsed. If this occurs, top non-advancing novices will be recognized at the awards ceremony. Additionally, in order to best utilize judges, when the total of all three divisions of an event is 12 or fewer contestants, with no division having 6 or more contestants, the divisions could be mixed in the same room with the same judge, and the contestants ranked separately.

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, finally by the highest reciprocal score (a.k.a. decimal conversion), and finally by the highest cumulative ratings.

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).

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

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

Debate Events

We will offer the following debate events:

- CEDA
- NPDA
- NFA-LD.
- IPDA

CEDA/NDT: The 2019–2021 topic will be used. Resolved:

The United States Federal Government should establish a national space policy substantially increasing its international space cooperation with the People's Republic of China and/or the Russian Federation in one or more of the following areas:

- arms control of space weapons;
- exchange and management of space situational awareness information;
- joint human spaceflight for deep space exploration;
- planetary defense;
- space traffic management;
- space-based solar power.

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

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.

NPDA: A different resolution for each round will be presented to the debaters at a specified time prior to the beginning of each debate. The topic of each round will be about current affairs or philosophy. The resolutions will be general enough that a well-educated college student can debate them. They may be phrased in literal or metaphorical language.

Any published information, electronic or otherwise, may be consulted before the debate. Except for notes that the debaters themselves have prepared during preparation time for that debate and a copy of the NPDA “Rules of Debating and Judging,” no published materials, prepared arguments, or resources for the debaters’ use in the debate may be brought into the debating chambers.

Preparation and transit time for the 2021 NCEA Spring Championship will be 25 minutes. This timing schedule includes time to set up their technology for the round. It is the responsibility of each team to familiarize themselves with their method of entering the

room and to make a backup plan if something goes wrong. The invite includes advice on what to do to make sure students can carry on in the face of technological difficulties and we ask judges to be as patient as possible. Prep time will be adjusted if logistics necessitate it and the tournament will be notified by the Tournament Director of any changes prior to topic announcement. If you encounter a problem with a zoom room/call, please contact the tournament director at 714-863-4071, immediately.

At the expiration of preparation time, the judge will begin a timer. The team(s) are expected to make contact with the judge, or tournament if experiencing technical difficulties, within the first 7 minutes of the 1AC. If the late team(s) is/are not present by the expiration of their first speech's total time, they will receive a forfeit with zero speaker points. If neither team is present by 8:00 after prep time has expired, both shall be forfeited and both teams shall receive 0 speaker points. Refusal by a judge to do this will result in the removal of the judge from the judging pool and an uncovered judge fee will be assessed to the team who the judge is representing.

NOTE: The judge does NOT have discretion about whether to enforce this rule and their decision may be overturned by the Tournament Director if they refuse to enforce it. If a judge refuses to enforce this rule, the affected team should contact the tab room immediately. Furthermore, judges are also bound by the prep clock and must arrive at their debates on time. This means that judges must also prepare their technological setup during prep time and make sure they can be in the round at the established time. Debaters shall be afforded the opportunity to inform the tab room of judges who are late to their rounds. The Tournament Director shall have the discretion of imposing penalties, equivalent to those imposed for a missed round, for lateness.

Finally, judges will have the discretion to allow teams who have arrived BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF PREP TIME, to use the bathroom as needed. Students should do their best to fill water bottles, use restroom, etc. before the round begins. Judges should only afford this opportunity for students who have arrived before the expiration of prep time and should not allow such discretion egregiously to interrupt the tournament.

Speaking times are as follows:

First Proposition Constructive: 7 Min
Opposition Flex Time: 2 Min
First Opposition Constructive: 8 Min
Proposition Flex Time: 2 Min
Second Proposition Constructive: 8 Min
Opposition Flex Time: 1 Min

Second Opposition Constructive: 8 Min
Opposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 4 Min
Proposition Flex Time: 1 Min
Proposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 5 Min

Flex Time: Flex time may be used by the controlling team to prepare arguments, drink water, set up stands, ask questions of their opponents, etc. Flex time may not be used as additional speech time.

NFA L-D: The 2020-21 topic will be used.

Resolved: The United States federal government should implement immigration

reform that removes substantial statutory restrictions on legal immigration into the United States.

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

IPDA: Students will be provided 5 topics at the beginning of the round. Students will rotate striking one topic from the list, beginning with the opposition speaker. Students who are double entered in an Individual Event should go to their I.E. round FIRST and then go to their IPDA round. Draw will not occur after both students arrive at the round.

The times for IPDA are as follows:

1 AC CX 1NC CX 1AR 1NR 1AS
5min 2min 6min 2min 3min 5min 3min

There will be a 5 minute grace period after the 30 minute prep time for students IF a technology problem occurs and removes them from the round. Students will have 5 minutes after the 30 minute prep time to fix their issue or contact the tournament to resolve the issue. If the student does not contact the judge or tournament within that period, the student will forfeit the round.

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 Division: 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 IPDA, and five preliminary rounds in both NPDA and CEDA debate Rounds 3-5 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 matched off rounds one and two.

Criteria for Elimination Rounds: We will break half the field, schedule permitting, in NPDA debate. All winning records will break. In NFA and IPDA we will break all winning records. We will hold full elims for Open LD and full elims for Junior and Novice LD, judges and time permitting. IPDA will be broken into festival finals with a Bronze and 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.

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. We will allow three-person teams to break into elimination rounds. Any sweepstakes eligible points earned by a hybrid team will be divided in half between the two schools. If possible, hybrid teams will be protected from member schools in the out-round brackets. However, in order to limit the number of pull-ups and encourage more debates the tournament director and debate staff may require hybrid teams to debate against one or both member schools.

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. Judges can also feel free to submit conflicts directly to the tournament director at their email listed above.

Please make sure that there is a judging philosophy for all debate judges. The philosophies should be uploaded to forensicstournament.net by Wednesday, February 24th at 11:59 P.M. If a judge does not submit a philosophy by the deadline they will be exempt from judging in the open division until a philosophy has been submitted. No guarantees in terms of rounds or coverage will be guaranteed if philosophies are entered after the deadline.

We will be using electronic ballots for all events. This means that all judges will need to have two things:

- (1) a linked forensicstournament.net account and
- (2) a device that can access forensicstournament.net

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. While distance is no longer an issue, there are now multiple tournaments that judges can judge at on any given weekend. Helping us find the people will need is a great service to the community.
- 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.

5) Judges must fill out ballot with notes before turning in.

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. All judges are committed through final rounds even if your competitors do not advance.

Debate: Each school owes one judge for every two entries in Parliamentary, NFA-LD, IPDA, and/or Policy debate or fraction thereof. All debate judges are committed through the second elimination round of the respective debate type.

In order to best utilize judges, when the total of all three divisions of an event is 12 or fewer contestants, with no division having 6 or more contestants, the divisions could be mixed in the same room with the same judge, and the contestants ranked separately.

Judges will not be required to judge beyond their school's commitment unless they are: (a) asked first, and (b) paid for each round beyond their school's commitment at the prevailing rate for hired judges.

Judging Requirements. Each school's judging commitment is three rounds of debate judging for each team or Lincoln-Douglas entered (6 rounds for 2 entries) and 1 round for each 2 individual event slots entered per pattern. If the tournament has only 2 preliminary rounds of individual events, then each school is obligated to provide one round of judging for each three individual events slots per pattern. Judges will not be expected to judge beyond their commitment and will be paid if they agree to do so.

Competent Judge Standards. Each college entered shall fulfill the judging requirement outlined or pay the requisite judging fee. Only a competent judge may be used to fulfill this requirement. Competent judges shall be defined as one of the following:

1. A college Forensics coach.
2. A former college forensics coach.
3. College instructors of Speech communication or allied disciplines.
4. A high school forensics coach or former forensics coach, teacher of speech, or allied discipline.
5. A college graduate who competed in college two or more years
6. A student who has not completed a BA degree but who:
 - a. has retired from competition and has exhausted her/his competitive eligibility.
 - b. is at least two years removed from Novice competition.
 - c. had a distinguished record in Open Division the type of event he/she is judging.

Such a person may judge Novice Division rounds at their first tournament, and Open Division rounds thereafter.

NOTE: NFA-LD Schools MUST cover their judging commitment. Last year we struggled to get judges due to schools not bringing enough judges to cover their commitment. This year we will allow up to one uncovered slot per school in NFA-LD. This pertains to having enough judges within the division that you have entered. For example, if your school has 6 Open LD students, 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 (this also applies to NFA-LD and Policy debate).

Note 2: Please. Please. Please bring judges and be open to judging past your commitment. If you are qualified to judge Debate, please submit a judging philosophy regardless of intent, in case the tournament needs you. If you are capable of judging an IE round, despite being in the debate pool, please consider taking a ballot if we are short. Tournaments need judges. The tournament staff will do its best to provide downtime and off-rounds if possible, but we need your support to make this tournament happen for our students.

FEES

Uncovered Judging Commitment

Uncovered NPDA = \$100 X #of Uncovered

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

Uncovered IE = \$30 X #of Uncovered

Uncovered NFA-LD = Graduated fee structure (\$50 for 1 uncovered, \$100 for 2nd uncovered, \$150 for 3rd uncovered)

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Fee Calculation Sheet

Fee	Cost per	Number Bringing	Total
NCFA Dues	\$50		
NPDA Team	\$35		
LD Entry	\$25		
IPDA Entry	\$25		
IE Entry	\$8		
Duo Entry	\$15		
Open Persuasion Entry	\$20		
Uncovered NPDA Entry	\$100		
Uncovered LD/IPDA	\$50		
Uncovered IE	\$30		
School Fee	\$50	1	50
Total Fees			

Note:

- 1) Fees in Open Persuasive Speaking reflect the expenses necessary to finance the open division winner's participation in the Interstate Oratory Contest. While it is unknown at this time if there will be an online tournament
- 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 embody 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 5PM.

NPDA District Student Representative: Since NCFA schools and students comprise a majority of District 1, and since not all of these schools and students are able to attend NPDA, NCFA has decided that students should vote for their district representative at NCFA Spring Champs. Please alert all your students who compete in NPDA debate that we will be holding an assembly for them to run for office and vote for their district representative.

Interstate Oratory Representative: The student from a Northern California school(determined to be a current or former dues paying member of NCFA), who places highest in the open division of Persuasive Speaking will be designated the Northern California representative to the Interstate Oratory Contest. If that student cannot go, the next highest placing student from a Northern California school will be designated the representative. The designation will be passed down until a student 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

- 10 points for first place
- 7.5 points for second place
- 5 points for semi-finalist
- 2.5 points for quarter and octo-finalists

IPDA Points

- 6 points for gold
- 4 points for silver
- 2.5 points for bronze

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

*Note on IPDA points: Since IPDA will be broken to festival finals, there may be more gold medals awarded than there are first places for any number of events. This could tip the sweepstakes calculations in a way we might not expect, depending on the size of the entry. To reflect this, the points assigned will not be equal to those of other Individual/Single Competitor debate events.

NCFA 2021 Master Schedule

Friday February 26th

9:00-9:30 AM	Registration
10:00 AM	Announce NPDA R1
10:25 AM	NPDA R1
11:45 AM	Announce NPDA R2
12:10 PM	NPDA R2
1:00 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM	Announce NPDA R 3
1:55 PM	NPDA R3
3:30 PM	Announce NPDA 4
3:55 PM	NPDA 4
5:30 PM	Announce NPDA 5
5:55 PM	NPDA 5

Saturday February 27th

8:30 AM	Registration
9:00 AM	LD R 1
10:15 AM	Announce NPDA Elim 1
10:40 AM	NPDA Elim 1
11:45 AM	LD R2
12:45PM	Lunch
1:15 PM	Announce NPDA Elim 2
1:40 PM	NPDA Elim 2
2:45 PM	LD R 3
4:00 PM	Announce NPDA Elim 3
4:25 PM	NPDA Elim 3
5:30 PM 4:00PM	LD 4
6:45 PM	Announce NPDA Elim 4
7:10 PM	NPDA Elim 4

5:30 PM

LD 5

Sunday February 28th

8:00 AM	Registration
8:30 AM	Extemp Draw R1
9:00 AM	Pattern A R1, IPDA R1, and LD Elim 1
10:30 AM	Pattern B R1, IPDA R2, and LD Elim 2
12:00 PM	Lunch
12:30 PM	Extemp Draw R1
1:00 PM	Pattern A R2, IPDA R3, and LD Elim 3
2:30 PM	Pattern B R2, IPDA R4, and LD Elim 4
4:15 PM	Draw Extemp Finals
4:30 PM	Pattern A Finals, IPDA Bronze
6:30 PM	Pattern B Finals, IPDA Gold
8:00 PM or ASAP	Awards