



2026 Great Salt Lake Invitational & UTEP Individual Events Classic Utah JV Round Robin

On behalf of the University of Utah and The University of Texas at El Paso, we invite you to return to the Mountain West for the Great Salt Lake Invitational/UTEP IE Classic at the University of Utah.

This year we will offer a JV policy debate round robin, two complete IE tournaments, and two five round NPDA tournaments.

The tournaments will be held on January 16-18, 2026. See Part IX for schedule details.

This year's schedule has been revised to maximize forensics participation across the curriculum of events and styles.

We look forward to seeing you in January and wish everyone the best of luck and safety in the upcoming competitive season.

The debate tournaments, and part 1 of the IE swing will be run on Tabroom <http://gsl.tabroom.com/>

The second half of IE swing will be run on Forensics Tournament (link soon).

Warmest regards,

Duncan Stewart, Ph.D.
Director of Forensics
University of Utah

Carlos Tarin, Ph.D.
Director of Forensics
The University of Texas at El Paso

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Tournament Procedures & Facilitation

Unless otherwise specified, NPDA, NFA (IEs), and CEDA constitutions and/or tournament guidelines will govern the tournament's operating procedures. The tournament directors reserve the right to make any decisions necessary to facilitate the timely and accurate completion of the tournament.

Eligibility & Entries

Tournaments are open to any regularly enrolled undergraduate in a two-year or four-year college or university in good standing with the school's debate team/society. As the weekend will offer several tournaments that run back-to-back, students may (and are encouraged to) participate in a range of competitive events. Organizational (e.g., NPDA, NFA, CEDA) eligibility requirements also apply.

To sort novice/jv/open where necessary the tournament will use the respective organization's published rules to do so. (e.g. CEDA JV eligibility will be determined by the CEDA constitution)

All entries should be submitted via the tabroom.com website. Please make sure that you enter both halves of any given swing, if that is your choice. **Entries are due by Friday, January 6th at 6:00 PM (MST)**. This early entry deadline is necessary for ordering food, compiling judges, and ensuring the timely distribution of strike forms.

The JV policy Round Robin applications are due by **December 2nd at 6:00 PM (MST)**. Please email forensics@utah.edu with your applying team's collegiate debate record.

Double Entry

Double entry is not allowed however, for maximum competitive opportunity, consider the following cross-entry possibilities:

- Friday speech & NPDA swing part 2
- Friday speech & CEDA JV Round Robin
- NPDA part 1 & Sunday speech
- OR students can do the Friday & Sunday speech swing

Campus

The tournament will make every effort to minimize the length of walks on campus. Prep rooms (for NPDA) will be assigned by the size of the squad and space needs. Competitors and judges should anticipate walking to rounds and should bring footwear appropriate for sidewalks impacted by winter weather.

PART II: JV CEDA Round Robin

With the goal of expanding developmental opportunities for novice and JV CEDA competitors via rigorous competition we would like to invite you to apply for the first annual Utah Round Robin.

Composition – the round robin will be made up of two pods of six teams. The top two teams from each pod will advance to a semifinal elimination round. Each school is required to provide one judge per entered team.

Committee – the selection committee is made up by:

Deven Cooper – CSULB

Taylor Johnson – JMU

Joel Lemuel – CSUN

Tournament – we will debate the 2025-2036 CEDA resolution:

Resolved: United States Federal Government should substantially strengthen collective bargaining rights for workers in the United States

Judging – each judge will declare only one winner per debate, and assign speaker points between 1 and 30. Ties in speaker points are not allowed. Decisions must be entered on time, and written.

Application – The JV policy Round Robin applications are due by **December 2nd at 6:00 PM (MST)**. Please email forensics@utah.edu with your applying team's collegiate debate record. The University of Utah will distribute these records to the committee for review.

PART III: Open CEDA Debate

Tournament – we will debate the 2025-2036 CEDA resolution:

Resolved: United States Federal Government should substantially strengthen collective bargaining rights for workers in the United States

Judging – each judge will declare only one winner per debate, and assign speaker points between 1 and 30. Ties in speaker points are not allowed. Decisions must be entered on time, and written.

Fifteen minutes will be allocated to post round discussion of the decision, but we must ask that the post-round cease 15 minutes after the decision deadline so debaters can move on to their next debate with adequate and fair time.

Elimination Rounds—*we will break the top 8 teams to Quarterfinals. Ties will be decided via speaker points*

Rules – We will defer to the CEDA constitution for all other rules and eligibility questions. An ombudsperson independent from tournament staff will be identified to help resolve rules questions and appeals.

PART III: NPDA

Preparation Time/Rooms: Prep rooms will be provided and pre-assigned by the tournament. Teams will receive 20 minutes of preparation time after the centralized announcement of each topic.

Flex Time: The tournament will, per NPDA guidelines, feature two minutes of flex time after the PMC and LOC, as well as one minute of flex time after the MGC, and LOR. This time may be used for prep, CX, drinking water, etc.

Judge Strikes

An appropriate number of judge strikes will be available. Judge strikes need to be submitted by January 9th at 6:00PM PST in order to be guaranteed for the first two rounds of competition. **WE WILL USE ELECTRONIC BALLOTING!**

Please note: ALL JUDGES must enter a judging philosophy and have an activated email address on tabroom.com by the entry deadline. Schools that fail to enter their judge's philosophies will forfeit the right to complete preferences/strikes and/or be charged a fee. Please enter philosophies when you enter your judges to

ensure that other schools have access to information so that they can make appropriate decisions concerning their preferences.

Tournament Format

Topic Areas: The first half of the swing will feature a topic area tournament mirroring the spirit of the NPTE, while the second half will feature extemporaneous resolutions. **Topics will be released by November 23rd at 6:00 MST.**

Rounds: The NPDA tournament will feature 5 preliminary rounds of debate with teams advancing to appropriate elimination out rounds based on entries.

Divisions: Entries permitting, the tournament will offer both a junior and open division.

Advancing to Elimination Rounds

At the end of the preliminary rounds, all teams with a 3-2 record or better will advance. Team seeding in elimination rounds will be first based on win/loss record, then adjusted speaker points, then total speaker points, then judge variance. Elimination rounds will be single-elimination.

Brackets will be broken in elimination rounds

Forfeiture Rule

Any team that is late to a round will have that time deducted from their team's first speech (the PMC or LOC). When the full speech time has elapsed (7 or 8 minutes), the team in question will be forfeited. In the event both teams are late, both teams will have time deducted from their first speech. A universal timer will be made available at the time of topic announcement. Time deductions and forfeiture rules will be enforced by the judge assigned to the round.

Judge Disclosure & Feedback

Disclosure of decisions and other oral commentary may be conducted at the discretion of the judge, but please conduct such commentary **after** the ballot has been returned by email. We will be attempting to power-match every round without lagging, so a prompt return ensures that the tournament stays on time. A warm room of results will be provided.

PART IV: INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Events Offered

Students may not enter more than 3 events per pattern. It is the sole responsibility of the competitors to complete all events in the time given. Failure to do so will result in a no-show score for the round. We will offer the following events:

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

Pattern B – Impromptu, Persuasive, Communication Analysis, Duo, Dramatic, and POI

Divisions

We plan to offer a single, OPEN division.

Elimination Rounds

Any event with 7 contestants or fewer will not have a final round. For events with more than 7 competitors, a final round will be held. Any event with more than 36 entries will advance to semifinals.

Advancing to Elimination Rounds

No more than half of the field will be advanced to finals. Students will be rank-ordered first by cumulative rankings, then by the highest speaker points. All attempts will be made to make a clean break (by cumulative rankings).

Placement in Elimination Rounds

Students will be rank-ordered first by cumulative rankings (with an exception for majority first-place rankings), then by judge's preference, followed by the highest reciprocal score (decimal conversion), and finally by the highest cumulative ratings.

PART V: AWARDS

Individual awards will be presented to the top 10 speakers in each tournament. Because we value meaningful awards for top performances, quality awards (one per team) will be presented to all teams who advance to the quarterfinal round and beyond.

Additionally, we will present a sweepstakes award to the top three schools across speech and debate formats (one for the combined score for each IE tournament and one for the combined scored of all debate tournaments). Sweepstakes will be determined by awarding 1 point for every preliminary round win for a school's top four teams in each debate tournament. Ties will be broken in favor of the school with the most elimination round wins.

Special Awards

The award for top NPDA speaker and top NPDA team at the Great Salt Invitational honors two of Utah's emeriti faculty in argumentation & debate. First, the Malcolm O. Sillars Tournament Champion Award will be given to the team that wins the Open division of NPDA. Second, the Richard Rieke Outstanding Debater award will be given to the top ranked speaker in the Open division of NPDA.

IE AWARDS

In NFA Individual Events, both tournaments will offer awards for the first three finishers, with t-shirts for finalists and semifinalists. In addition, the Utah portion of the IE swing will once again award the prestigious Royal L. Garff Speaker of the Year Trophy.

Sweepstakes awards will be offered to the top two schools across speech and debate (one for the combined score for each IE tournament and one for the combined scored of all debate tournaments). The top three schools competing in the IE swing will receive sweepstakes trophies.

The Royal L. Garff Award: The top overall competitor in NFA Individual Events at the GSL will be awarded the Royal Garff Award, a traveling trophy given out each year. The award was created in 1997 in memory of Prof. Royal Garff, a lifetime supporter of public speaking, forensics, and public debate. The trophy has been awarded at every GSL since 1997 and continues to honor the achievements of students who compete in short prep, platforms, and interpretation events. The winner of the Garff Award will be determined based on the highest total accumulated in up to six events using the following scale: 1st place = 10 pts, 2nd place = 7 pts, 3rd place = 5 pts, Finalist = 3 pts. Please note: Only students who compete in all three genres (interp, platform, and short prep) are eligible for the Garff Award.

Calculating Sweeps:

Individual Events - Sweepstakes points will be issued to all participants in semifinals and finals based on the following scale. No points will be given for preliminary rounds.

1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place	Finalist	Semifinalist
10 pts.	7 pts.	5 pts.	3 pts.	1 pt.

PART VI: FEES & JUDGING

Fees & Amenities

The fee structure for the 2026 tournament aims to reflect the costs of the tournament and their variation depending on the size of judging/coaching staff that attends with teams. We achieve this by working to maintain low “per entry fees” and assigning a per person Fees include meals as indicated in the schedule (read carefully), as well as light snacks and coffee throughout the tournament. (we will provide the meals bolded in the schedule).

Fees will be assessed at the entry deadline. Drop and/or “No Show” fees will be assessed after this deadline.

Judging Obligations

It’s cliché, but we would rather have your judges than your money. The tournament directors reserve the right to refuse entry to teams uncovered by a critic. If you have extra judges attending the tournament, please contact the tournament directors, as we may be able to hire them at a healthy stipend.

Judging requirements are as follows:

Individual Events	1 judge for every six entries
Policy Debate	1 judge for every one entry
NPDA Debate	1 judge for every two entries

Judges may not be used to cover entries across categories, For example, an IE judge may only cover IE entries. Similarly, and NPDA judge may not cover CEDA entries. Additionally, all debate judges (NPDA and CEDA) are committed through the first full elimination round and/or one round past the elimination of their teams whichever is greater. IE judges are committed through the final round. The only exception for cross entry judges is for teams doing speech and the second half of the NPDA swing.

Fee Structure

ENTRY FEES*	DROP & UNCOVERED FEES
Per Person Fee - \$15/person** NPDA Debate - \$70/team Policy Debate - \$135/team Individual Events - \$10/entry Duo Interpretation - \$20/entry	Uncovered Debate Team – Entry Fee + \$150/team Uncovered IE Entry – Entry Fee + \$20/entry IE Drop Fee - \$20/entry Debate Drop Fee - \$40/entry for any format of debate “No Show” Fee - \$60/entry for any event

*Per person fee applies to all persons in attendance, including competitors, judges, observers, coaches, etc.

Community College Fee Reduction

The University of Utah and The University of Texas at El Paso support the involvement of community colleges in competitive forensics both through our recruitment efforts and our outreach. Consistent with those efforts, all community college teams that cover their judging commitment will receive a 20% fee reduction from their total fees (excluding uncovered judging fees).

Payment

Fees may be paid by check or cash upon arrival at the tournament/on-site registration or online via Checks should be made payable to “University of Utah” for all fees.

PART VII: DRIVING DIRECTIONS AND HOTEL

From the Airport: Out of airport, follow signs toward Park City/Cheyenne. You will pass through downtown on the freeway as it curves right and then left. When you arrive at 1300E, exit the freeway and turn left onto 1300E. Go north until you reach 100S and turn right at the northwest corner of campus. Follow this street onto the U of Utah campus. The street winds around the north side of campus (it changes as it winds, ending up as North Campus Drive). Take a right following the signs to the Olpin Student Union. Any lot along this street should accommodate your parking needs. *Parking fees - the weekend and holidays are free in any lot, unless otherwise marked.*

If you are using a maps app, direct yourself to the University of Utah Olpin Student Union.

University of Utah policy prohibits us from designating a tournament hotel.

PART VIII: ACCESSIBILITY & NON-DISCRIMINATION

The University of Utah does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex (which includes prohibiting acts of sexual harassment or acts of sexual misconduct), age, status as a disabled individual, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, genetic information or protected veteran's status, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. In addition, University policy and state and federal law, prohibit retaliation against a person who participates in the discrimination complaint process. Employees, students, and persons who participate in University programs are required to comply with the University non-discrimination policies.

Disability Accommodations

The University endeavors to provide reasonable accommodations and to ensure equal access to qualified persons with disabilities. Reasonable notice is required.

For inquiries concerning discrimination, sexual harassment, the University's complaint process or to request a disability accommodation, please contact the University of Utah's Director of Forensics. If required, or if you wish, you may also contact the University's Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator:

Jess Morrison
Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
201 South Presidents Circle, Rm.135
Salt Lake City, UT, 84112
801-581-8365 (voice/tdd)
801-585-5746 (fax) www.oeo.utah.edu.

Gender Inclusive Bathrooms: Gender-inclusive bathrooms are available throughout campus. Additional details can be found here: <https://lgbt.utah.edu/campus/restrooms.php>

Tournament Quiet Space: At registration, the tournament will identify one or more "quiet spaces" for use by competitors and judges during the tournaments. Attendees should refrain from using these rooms for socializing or other activity that would disturb other participants utilizing these rooms for their intended purpose.

PART IX: Schedule

Friday – NPDA, Policy, & Speech Part 1

GSL – NPDA	GSL – Open Policy	GSL – Speech
1:00 Round 1 Topic 1:20 Round 1 Start 2:40 Round 2 Topic 4:00 Round 2 Starts 4:20 Round 3 Topic 4:40 Round 3 Starts 6:00-6:30 Dinner 6:30 Round 4 Topic 6:50 Round 4 Starts	1:00 Round 1 Pairings 1:30 Round 1 Starts 3:45 Decision Time 4:00 Round 2 Pairings 4:30 Round 2 Begins 6:45 Round 2 Decision Time 7:00 Dinner	1:00-2:15 Round 1 Flight A 2:15-3:30 Round 1 Flight B 3:30-4:45 Round 2 Flight A 4:45-6:00 Round 2 Flight B 6:00-6:30 Dinner 6:30-7:30 Flight A Finals 7:30-8:30 Flight B Finals AWARDS WILL BE SATURDAY at 6:00 pm

Saturday – NPDA, Policy, & Speech Part 2

GSL – NPDA	GSL – JV Policy Round Robin	GSL – Open Policy	UTEP – Speech
8:00 Round 5 Topic 8:20 Round 5 Starts 9:40 Elim 1 Topic 9:00 Elim 1 Starts 10:20 Elim 2 Topic 10:40 Elim 2 Starts 1:30 Lunch 2:00 Elim 3 Topic (if needed) 2:20 Elim 3 Starts (if needed) Second Half Swing Begins 4:00 Round 1 Topic 4:20 Round 1 Starts 5:30 Dinner 6:00 Round 2 Topic 6:20 Round 2 Begins	8:00 Round 1 Pairings 8:30 Round 1 Starts 10:45 Round 1 Decision Time 11:00 Round 2 Pairings 11:30 Round 2 Starts 1:45 Round 2 Decision Time 2:00 Lunch 2:30 Round 3 Pairings 3:00 Round 3 Starts 5:15 Round 3 Decision Time 5:30 Dinner & Round 4 Pairings 6:00 Round 4 Pairings 6:30 Round 4 Starts 8:15 Round 4 Decision Time	8:00 Round 3 Pairings 8:30 Round 3 Starts 10:45 Round 3 Decision Time 11:00 Round 4 Pairings 11:30 Round 4 Starts 1:45 Round 4 Decision Time 2:00 Lunch 2:30 Round 5 Pairings 3:00 Round 5 Starts 5:15 Round 5 Decision Time 5:30 Dinner & Round 6 Pairings 6:00 Round 6 Starts 8:15 Round 6 Decision Time	8:00 Round 1 Flight A 9:30 Round 1 Flight B 11:00 Round 2 Flight B 12:30 Round 2 Flight A 1:30 Lunch 2:00 Flight A Finals 3:00 Flight B Finals 5:00 Dinner 6:00 GSL & UTEP SPEECH AWARDS

Sunday on next page

Sunday – Debate

GSL – NPDA	GSL – JV Policy Round Robin	GSL – Open Policy
8:00 Round 3 Topic 8:20 Round 3 Start 9:40 Round 4 Topic 10:00 Round 4 Starts 1:30 Lunch 2:00 Round 5 Topic 2:20 Round 5 Starts 3:30 Elim 1 Topic 3:50 Elim 1 Starts 5:00 Dinner 5:30 Elim 2 Topic 5:50 Elim 2 Starts 6:00 All DEBATE AWARDS 7:00 Elim 3 Topic 7:20 Elim 3 Starts	8:00 Round 5 Pairings 8:30 Round 5 Starts 10:45 Round 5 Decision Time 11:00 Elim 1 Pairings 11:30 Elim 1 Starts 1:30 Lunch & Elim 1 Decision Time 2:00 Elim 2 Pairings 2:30 Elim 2 Starts 5:45 Elim 2 Decision Time 6:00 All DEBATE AWARDS	8:00 Elim 1 Pairings 8:30 Elim 1 Starts 10:45 Elim 1 Decision Time 11:00 Elim 2 Pairings 11:30 Elim 2 Starts 1:30 Lunch & Elim 2 Decision Time 2:30 Elim 3 Pairings 3:30 Elim 3 Starts 5:45 Elim 3 Decision Time 6:00 All DEBATE AWARDS

For maximum competitive opportunity, consider the following cross-entry possibilities:

- Both halves of the speech swing & NPDA swing part 2
- Friday speech & JV policy round robin
- QR students can do the Friday & Saturday speech swing