

THE WESTERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION FORENSICS TOURNAMENT

February 27- March 1, 2026

Hosted by

San Diego State University



SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Western States Communication Association and San Diego State University, we invite you to San Diego, California for the WSCA Forensics Swing! The tournament will be held on February 27 - March 1, 2026. This year, we plan to offer in-person competition opportunities in NFA individual events, NFA-LD, NPDA, and CEDA. All events will offer a single, open division, with the exception of policy, which will have open and junior divisions.

In order to make the tournament possible with the number of rooms available on campus, there will be entry limits on events. Please submit your registration early so that we may evaluate if any room trade-off between events is possible. We want as many people to be able to participate as possible and will make every effort to accommodate. Note, speech events will start with a 15-entry per event limit for the tournament and a 3-entry limit per school. Debate events will observe a 10-entry limit with a 2-entry limit per school. This also means that debate events will break to semifinals, not quarterfinals. For debate registration, all entries will be auto-waitlisted and released from the waitlist on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Registration for NFA-LD, NPDA, and IEs will be facilitated on FTN:

<https://forensicstournament.net/wsca26/26>

Registration for CX will be facilitated on Tabroom:

https://www.tabroom.com/index/tourn/index.mhtml?tourn_id=38052

As the only remaining tournament sponsored in conjunction with a regional communication conference, we also encourage attendees to participate in the WSCA Conference. On Friday, February 27, 2026, undergraduate students will have the opportunity to present their original research at the Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference (please see www.westcomm.org for submission deadlines and details). Additionally, the Western Forensics and Argumentation interest group will sponsor a showcase of IE events during the WSCA convention.

We look forward to seeing you in San Diego!

Averie Vockel
WSCA Speech Activities Coordinator
University of Utah

Dr. Justin Boren
WSCA President
Santa Clara University

DEBATE EVENTS

NPDA: Open Division
 NPDA format (7-8-8-8-4-5). Prep time 20 minutes, 2-2-1-1 Flex times.
 No ‘maverick’ (partner-less) entries will be permitted.
 NPDA eligibility guidelines will be followed.

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.

NFA LD: Open Division
 (6-3-7-3-6-6-3; 4 minutes prep) Forfeit at 5 minutes.
 One open division (with sufficient entries)
 NFA rules and guidelines will be followed.

2025-2026 NFA-LD resolution is: *“Resolved: The United States Federal Government should substantially increase its military presence and/or scientific exploration in the Arctic or Antarctic.”*

CEDA: Junior and Open Divisions (with sufficient entries)
 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.

2025-2026 CEDA resolution is: *“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 in time.

Elimination Rounds—*We will break the top 4 teams into semifinals. Ties will be decided via speaker points.*

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

A single, open division will be offered for each event. Competitors may enter a maximum of three events per pattern on Friday and Saturday. Students may participate in the IE tournament on Friday but will not be able to cross-enter IEs and debate on Saturday. Students with multiple entries in a pattern are responsible for getting to their competition rooms on time. NFA competition rules and eligibility guidelines will be followed. In all IEs, a minimum of two rounds will be held.

Pattern A: Extemp, Informative, ADS, Prose, Duo, Poetry
 Pattern B: Impromptu, Persuasive, CA, DI, POI

ELIGIBILITY

School/Team Eligibility

To compete at the tournament, students must be enrolled in a collegiate debate organization recognized by and in good standing with their home university.

Contestant Eligibility

The eligibility guidelines of the respective sanctioning organizations for each competitive event will determine the eligibility of individual competitors to take part in the WSCA tournament. **No contestant may enter the tournament unless officially representing a school/team.**

ENTRY LIMITATIONS

Students may enter no more than three individual events per pattern. *A student may not enter both debate and IEs on Saturday.* Students are responsible for making it to all rounds on time; if a student does not perform by the end of the scheduled round, they may be dropped from the event. All speech events will have a 15-entry limit. This is the maximum we can offer in each event with limited campus space. We will assess entries in the weeks leading up to the tournament to see if we can add additional entries. Please, submit your entries early so that proper assessment can occur.

JUDGING REQUIREMENTS

1. Each institution must provide adequate judging to cover their entries. **If you cannot cover your entry, you will be asked to reduce your entry size.** Obligations are as follows:
 - a. One judge covers two NPDA or IPDA or CEDA debate teams or two LD entries. One judge covers 6 IE slots per pattern. Judges CANNOT be in multiple pools (ie. Speech and debate).
 - b. All NPDA & CEDA judges are committed through the first full elimination debate and/or one round past their school's elimination from the tournament. All IE judges are obligated through finals. All IPDA judges are obligated through finals.
 - c. We will try to keep judging pools separate, but may require judges to cover events outside their designated pool due to logistical constraints. Please understand this stipulation.
 - d. Failure of a school to meet its judging obligation may result in the withdrawal of that institution's students and/or the assignment of judging fees.
2. If you know of qualified individuals who would like to judge, please have them contact the Speech Activities Coordinator.
3. Disclosure: **Ballots must be submitted before disclosure.** Disclosure is encouraged for debate rounds, and critics may disclose as much or as little information as they see fit so long as it *does not interfere with the tournament schedule*. Delays caused by coaches/judges may, at the tournament director's discretion, result in penalties to that school's teams including removal from the tournament. We don't want to do it, so don't put us in a position where we would need to do it. NOTE TO JUDGES: All debate rounds must have one winner and one loser.

Practices and Standards

The WSCA Tournament subscribes to and will abide by the NPDA, NFA, CEDA, and IPDA rules and bylaws for debate, and the NFA rules and bylaws for individual events.

Brackets will be broken in the pairing of elimination rounds of NPDA, CEDA, and NFA-LD. As per the IPDA bylaws, brackets will not be broken in IPDA.

AWARDS

Competitor Awards

At minimum, the WSCA tournament will recognize and provide awards for the finalists in each division of debate and the top three IE competitors in each IE event.

Tournament Sweepstakes

At minimum, sweepstakes awards will be awarded to the top two four-year and the top 2 two-year institutions competing in the WSCA tournament.

Sweepstakes awards will be based on the following point system:

IEs

1st Place IE: 10 points

2nd Place IE: 8 points

3rd Place: 6 points

IE Finalists: 4 points

IE Semi-Finalist: 2 points

Debate

Debate sweepstakes will be awarded 5 points for each preliminary win for the top four teams/entries from any one school in each division.

“Best in the West” Traveling Trophy

Each year, the WSCA Tournament will award one “Best in the West” award, a traveling trophy determined by the most cumulative points from past WSCA tournaments, beginning with the 2019 tournament. Schools will total their overall sweepstakes points from each WSCA tournament, accruing a cumulative total throughout their years of participation. Each year, the school with the highest total will win this award and have their points converted to “0” entering the next year of the tournament.

“The Forensics Service Wizard” Award

In 2024, the WSCA tournament introduced a commitment to forensics award named after our 2024 host institution’s mascot, Wizard the Lizard. Even though the host institution, Truckee Meadows Community College, does not have a forensics team, they were gracious enough to accept to host us for WSCA 2024. The generosity of the TMCC Liberal Arts Department exemplifies a commitment to students and forensics. As such, as a part of official tournament awards, the WSCA accepts nominations for this student service award.

Schools may nominate up to two students, but only one student may attend the nominating institution.

Nominations should be for students who have demonstrated excellence in forensics and service to the activity. A nomination must include a letter from the nominating coach detailing why the student best reflects the spirit of the award.

A winner will be selected based on the number of nominations and evaluation by a committee of coaches that will be selected at the WSCA tournament.

Nomination letters must be emailed to Averie (avockel@gmail.com) by February 26th, 2026.

TOURNAMENT FEES

School Fee	\$50.00 per school
NPDA Debate	\$50.00 per team
CEDA Debate	\$50.00 per team
IE's	\$8.00 per slot/\$16 for Duo
NFA-LD	\$20.00 per debater
Hired Judges	\$75.00 per uncovered debate team
	\$25.00 per uncovered IE slot
	\$40.00 per uncovered LD debater
Nuisance fee	\$10.00 per change post deadline

Fees will be assessed as of 10:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

ALL fees must be paid through forensicstournament.net or with cash by the end of the tournament. If you need an alternative payment method, you must contact Averie (avockel@gmail.com) by Wednesday February 25, 2026. If your institution MUST pay by check, that check must be brought to the tournament and made out to Western States Forensics Association.

ENTRY DEADLINE

Entries must be received by 10:00 p.m. MST on Tuesday, February 24, 2026. Changes will be allowed on ForensicsTournament.net until 12:00 pm MST on Thursday, February 26, 2026.

Any changes after Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 12:00 pm MST should be e-mailed to Averie Vockel at: avockel@gmail.com. Please note that changes after the deadline of Thursday, February 26, 2026 will incur a nuisance fee of \$10 per change for the school. No exceptions. This is due to the extreme judging constraints that exist as the tournament runs with the conference. Changes create extreme difficulty with tabbing and room assignments. Please triple-check all entries!

Entries will be facilitated through ***ForensicsTournament.net*** for NDPA, NFA-LD, and IEs. Entries for CX will be facilitated through ***Tabroom.com***.

Forensics Showcase

The Western Forensics and Argumentation interest group will sponsor a showcase of IE events during the WSCA convention. If you have students who will be able to participate in this event, please let us know at registration. The showcase will occur on Sunday, March 1st at 4:15 pm.

Food

Details will be made available on Forensics Tournament as the event gets closer.

Lodging

There is not a 'tournament hotel' for the 2026 WSCA tournament, if they wish attendees may stay at the WSCA conference hotel ([The Westin San Diego Gaslamp Quarter](http://TheWestinSanDiegoGaslampQuarter.com) (910 Broadway Circle, San Diego, CA). Information about conference rates can be found at: <https://www.westcomm.org/page/HotelandTransportation>.

2026 WSCA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Friday – Policy, & Speech Part 1

Policy	Speech pt. 1
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	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 Break 6:30-7:30 Flight A Finals 7:30-8:30 Flight B Finals AWARDS WILL BE SATURDAY at 6:00 pm

Saturday – NPDA, NFA-LD, Policy, & Speech Part 2

NPDA	NFA-LD	Policy	Speech pt. 2
8:00 Round 1 Topic 8:20 Round 1 Starts 9:40 Round 2 Topic 10:00 Round 2 Starts 11:20 Round 3 Topic 11:40 Round 3 Starts 1:30 Lunch Break 2:00 Round 4 Topic 2:20 Round 4 Starts 3:40 Round 5 Topic 4:00 Round 5 Starts 5:00 Dinner Break 6:00 Awards 6:00 Elim 1 Topic 6:20 Elim 1 Starts 7:40 Elim 2 Topic 8:00 Elim 2 Starts	8:00 Round 1 9:30 Round 2 11:00 Round 3 1:30 Lunch Break 2:00 Round 4 3:30 Round 5 5:00 Dinner Break 6:00 Awards 6:00 Elim 1 7:30 Elim 2	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 Break 2:30 Round 5 Pairings 3:00 Round 5 Starts 5:15 Round 5 Decision Time 5:30 Dinner Break & 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 Break 2:00 Flight A Finals 3:00 Flight B Finals 5:00 Dinner Break 6:00 Awards

Sunday – Policy Elims

Policy
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 Break & Elim 2 Decision Time 2:00 Policy AWARDS

The Forensics Spotlight Panel will occur on Sunday Evening from 4:15-5:30 pm at the WSCA conference. If you have students or coaches who would like to have their work featured, please contact Averie at avockel@gmail.com.

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

- Both halves of the speech swing.
- OR Speech half 1 and NPDA or NFA-LD.