

2026 Gorlok Gala Tournament Notes

1. Welcome to the 28th Annual Golok! Thank you so much for your flexibility and understanding as we pivoted to an online format.
2. The tournament zoom can be found at Gorlok Gala zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83626018122?pwd=y63fL7l1f8SepyzA5lQjvOjdCOi6ZG.1>

Meeting ID: 836 2601 8122

Passcode: 071832

3. Fee sheets can now be found on Forensics Tournament. They were set Thursday evening after the add/drop deadline of 5pm. The participation fee was dropped from \$12 a day per participant to \$10 total for students only. This will help cover the shipping fee for the trophies.
4. All judges and coaches must have an account on Forensicstournament.net. Please ensure your ballot preference is set to "email" and that you have included a cell number **and** an email address for each person. If your preference is set to "paper" you won't receive a ballot.
5. Judges will receive ballots in their email accounts. If you don't see ballots, be sure to check your junk mail for correspondence. It's important that you accept the ballot right away even if the round doesn't start for a while. Accepting the ballot alerts the tab room that
6. We ask all schools to send a coach to our virtual registration. This lets us know you are here and if you have any changes. Virtual check in is from 8:45 am to 9:30 am **Central Standard Time** on Friday, and 7:00 am to 7:45 am on Saturday. Virtual check-in can be done in the main room of the zoom.
7. Please remember to use ONLY **Google Chrome** for all rounds. If your e-mail opens up to a different browser, you may have to copy and paste the link into Google Chrome's browser.
8. All students must also have an account on Forensicstournament.net. Please ensure their ballot preference is set to "email" and that you have included a cell number and an email address for each person. If their preference is set to "paper" they won't receive round information.
9. Please **send us a list of all of your novices** for IE's by Saturday afternoon to jensen@webster.edu. Doing this at or before registration is preferred. A novice is anyone in their first year of collegiate-level individual events.
10. We will have a help desk breakout room on the zoom that students, judges, and coaches can all go to if they need help or have questions.
11. There will also be a separate judge breakout room for judges to pick up topics, ask questions and standby.
12. All judges should keep their camera on but muted at all times. Students are encouraged to keep cameras on to serve as good audience members.
13. **Extemp draw** can be found as a breakout room on the zoom. Students should go there to receive their questions. Students do not need to prep in the draw room. Please have your extemper do extemp first when cross entered. The ONE exception to this is for those double-entered in impromptu semifinals and extemp finals. Topics will be put on ballots for judges.
14. Students entering in impromptu should be told to first go to the breakout room where they are to perform to hear time signals at the beginning of the round. They should then be instructed by the judge to go to the impromptu breakout waiting room. Students cross entered and not coming to impromptu at the beginning of the round should go straight to the waiting room.

IMPORTANT—Judges should either ask a competitor to go to the waiting room to get the next speaker or they should go themselves to get the next speaker.

15. Impromptu topics will be given to judges in the judge breakout room.
16. Duo Improv students should also go to the breakout room where they plan to perform for time signals and then be sent by the judge to the duo improv waiting room at the beginning of the round. If they arrive after the round begins, they should go straight to the prep room.

IMPORTANT—Judges should either ask a competitor to go to the waiting room to get the next speaker or they should go themselves to get the next speaker.

17. IPDA topics will given to judges in the judge breakout room. Please instruct IPDA A flight competitors to go immediately to the competition room to strike topics and IPDA B flight competitors to go to the corresponding numbered prep room to strike their topics . 30 mins prep will be used. Students don't need to stay in the breakout room or prep room when prepping.
18. Students have 33 mins to get to their IPDA round before forfeiting that round.
19. We ask that judges return their ballots in a timely fashion as we cannot proceed with the tournament until all ballots from the last round are in.
20. You can go back and access your ballots to finish comments later if need be.
21. We will advance all winning records in debate. At minimum, novice IPDA will advance to quarter finals, junior IPDA will advance to quarterfinals, and open IPDA will advance to semifinals. At minimum, novice LD will advance to finals, junior LD will advance to quarterfinals, and open LD will advance to octafinals. All of this is subject to change depending on drops before the tournament begins.
22. Impromptu and extemp will advance to a semifinal round. Interviewing will have three rounds and no final round. All other individual events will advance to finals. All elimination rounds will be seeded in brackets that will not be broken. Prompts for semifinals in extemp will be editorial cartoons.
23. All school judges are obligated up to and including the first full elimination round in debate and one round past where their last debater is eliminated.
24. IE and Debate Competitors who are giving a speech and lose their internet connection are allowed 5 minutes to reconnect before they forfeit their opportunity to finish the speech. They will then be judged on what was presented before they lost the internet connection. Judges who are unsure are encouraged to come to the help desk.
25. Debaters who end up being double-entered in individual events and debate Sunday morning will compete in their individual event first and then move on to their debate round. In the instance that we schedule any debate concurrently with Saturday IE semifinals, cross-entered students will also perform their IE(s) first.
26. Our local judge pool is a mix of experienced and inexperienced critics. Most have seen a debate or individual event round, and many have judged for us in the past. At the same time, many will be extremely unfamiliar with the conventions of our activity—particularly regarding debate speaking rates and context-specific language. We urge you to ask your debate critics about their backgrounds and plan to adapt to the field of experience your critic brings to the round. They have all received detailed information regarding rules, norms, and sample ballots. You can also ask a Webster tournament staff member about any judges with whom you may be unfamiliar. Please understand that any refusal to adapt to our judges may (and empirically has) result(ed) in our losing judges from our pool. Particularly in our Lincoln-Douglas divisions we are pushed to

secure enough judges to compensate for uncovered entries. Losing hired judges may result in elevated fees or restricted entries in the future.

27. All awards will be part of a single ceremony on Sunday. If can be viewed on the main zoom.
28. Please contact the Gina Jensen at jensen@webster.edu or come to the help desk during the tournament for any questions.