

Dear Forensic Colleagues,

The Newberry College Speech and Debate Team invites you to the 1st Newberry Knockout: A PKD Prologue, to be held asynchronously and live via Zoom on March 6-7, 2026. We will be offering the 11 AFA-NST individual events and interviewing via Zoom (Saturday) and all PKD-specific events asynchronously (Wednesday-Friday). We will also be offering open and novice divisions of LD and IPDA (Saturday), along with open and novice divisions of NPDA and Public Forum (Saturday). For each PKD event, we will be utilizing the topics and rules that PKD has established for those events. We reserve the option of making last-minute schedule changes and apologize for the uncertainty and any inconvenience that may cause.

Located along I-26 in the Midlands of South Carolina, Newberry is centrally located within the state and less than 60 miles from cities like Columbia and Greenville-Spartanburg. While advertised as a “PKD Prologue” we encourage any school to participate in the weekend’s competition. Join us online as you wrap up your season and gear up for the national tournaments that begin in the weeks following.

To help with our planning, we ***must insist*** on meeting our ***Monday, March 2nd entry deadline***.

Please contact us with any questions. We hope to see you all on our screens in March!

Sincerely,

John Wallis
Director of Speech and Debate
Tournament Director

Elyssa Mersdorf
Assistant Coach
Assistant Tournament Director

Land Acknowledgement Statement

It is important for us here at Newberry College, in alignment with our mission to enrich lives and build community through communication, to acknowledge that the land beneath us owes its vitality to generations who have come before us. In the spirit of making erased and silenced histories visible, Newberry Speech and Debate chooses to learn about, come to terms with, and share the truth of Westward Expansion. We acknowledge that our community spaces rest on the traditional land of Indigenous People that have stewarded and cared for this land for centuries. We further acknowledge that we are standing on the ancestral and occupied lands of the ᏄᏍᏏᏉᏍᏉ Tsalaguwetiyi (Cherokee, East) tribe. They are the people to whom we pay our respects. We acknowledge that this land was stolen and acquired through a history of violence. While Newberry College remains on these lands, we will attempt to honor their histories and ask you to join us in uncovering such histories at any and all public in-person and virtual events. We encourage you to learn more about Indigenous communities and land where you live and to honor those who made their homes on this land before us. To learn more about the Indigenous people whose land you occupy, please visit <https://native-land.ca/> or <https://www.whose.land/en/>.

Harassment and Discrimination Statement

Newberry Speech and Debate is committed to providing its participants, judges, coaches, staff, and all other members of the general public the opportunity to pursue excellence in their endeavors. This opportunity can exist only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. We prohibit all forms of harassment and discrimination. Accordingly, all forms of harassment and discrimination, whether written or oral, based on race, color, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, citizenship, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by any applicable federal, state, or local law are prohibited, whether committed by participants, judges, coaches, or observers. Individuals who are found to have violated this policy will be subject to the full range of sanctions, up to and including removal from the tournament premises.

2026 Newberry Knockout Tournament Schedule
ALL TIMES ARE EASTERN

Friday March 6

8:00-9:00AM - Registration

9:00AM - LD Rd 1 Start/IPDA Rd1 Flight A Draw

9:30AM - IPDA Rd 1 Flight A Start/Flight B Draw

10:00AM - IPDA Rd 1 Flight B Start

10:30AM - LD Rd 2 Start/IPDA Flight A Draw

11:00AM - IPDA Rd 2 Flight A Start/ Flight B Draw

11:30AM - IPDA Rd 2 Flight B Start

12:00-1:00 - LUNCH BREAK

1:00PM - LD Rd 3 Start/IPDA Flight A Draw

1:30PM - IPDA Rd 3 Flight A Start/IPDA Flight B Draw

2:00PM - IPDA Rd 3 Flight B Start

2:30PM - LD Rd 4 Start/IPDA Flight A Draw

3:00PM - IPDA Rd 4 Flight A Start/IPDA Flight B Draw

3:30PM - IPDA Rd 4 Flight B Start

4:00PM - LD Rd 5 Start/IPDA Flight A Draw

4:30PM - IPDA Rd 5 Flight A Start/IPDA Flight B Draw

5:00PM - IPDA Rd 5 Flight B Start

5:30PM - LD Elim 1/IPDA Draw

6:00PM - IPDA Elim 1 Start

6:30PM - LD Elim 2/IPDA Draw

7:00PM - IPDA Elim 2 Start

7:30PM - LD Elim 3/IPDA Draw

8:00PM - IPDA Elim 3 Start

Saturday March 7

8:00-9:00AM - Registration

8:45AM - EXT Draw/NPDA Topic Announce

9:00AM - Rd 1 Flight A Events Start/PF Rd 1

9:05AM - NPDA Rd 1 Start

10:30AM - EXT Draw/NPDA Topic Announce

10:45AM - Rd 2 Flight A Events Start/ PF Rd 2

10:50AM - NPDA Rd 2

12:05PM - NPDA Topic Announce/SC Rd 1

12:25PM - NPDA RD 3

12:30PM - Rd 1 Flight B Events/ PF Rd 3

1:30PM-2:30PM - LUNCH BREAK

2:00PM - NPDA Topic Announce/SC Rd 2

2:20PM - NPDA Rd 4

2:30PM - Rd 2 Flight B Events/ PF Rd 4

4:00PM - EXT Draw/NPDA Topic Announce

4:15PM - Flight A Finals/PF Elim 1

4:20PM - NPDA Elim 1

5:45PM - NPDA Topic Announce/SC Finals

6:05PM - NPDA Elim 2

6:00PM - Flight B Finals/PF Elim 2

7:30PM -NPDA Topic Announce/PF Elim 3

7:50PM -NPDA Elim 3 Start

ASAP - Awards and Topic Announce
(only if more than 3 elims are needed)

General Tournament Notes

Awards

Awards will be presented to all students reaching elimination rounds--including duplicate awards for dramatic duo and NPDA. Pentathlon, debate speaker, and top novice individual event awards will also be presented (top novice will not be awarded for asynchronous events). Additionally, sweepstakes awards will be given to the top three teams in individual events, debate, and overall sweepstakes (a school must be entered in debate and individual events to be eligible for overall sweepstakes). Awards will also be given to the Pi Kappa Delta chapter and two-year school earning the most sweepstakes points.

Student Eligibility

Students must be currently enrolled at the college or university for which they are competing. Students are not eligible for competition if they have attended a collegiate national forensic/debate tournament in four or more academic years **OR** completed eight semesters of collegiate competition.. **Either** of these standards being met (eight semesters of college competition or four years of collegiate national tournament participation) will render a student ineligible to compete in this tournament. Novice debaters are defined as any competitor within their first year of competition while open debaters will be any student having competed beyond their first year.

Local Host Entries

Newberry may enter some events, although host entries will be very limited. Competing Newberry students will be eligible for awards, but the team will not be eligible for sweepstakes. Sweepstakes Points will be awarded to a school's top three individual event entries per event and top six debate entries total (Lincoln-Douglas and IPDA entries will count as half debate entries). ALL of a school's elimination round entries will count toward sweepstakes. The points system will be:

IEs	3-2-1 for a 1, 2 or 3 rank in preliminary rounds 6-5-4-3-2-1 for 1st through 6th or 7th in finals
Debate	7 points per win, up to 5 wins per team/IPDA entry 7 points per advancement to elimination rounds for teams and LD entries

Fees and Judging

The tournament fees schedule is...

IE entries (including duos)	\$ 12.00
PF/NPDA teams	\$ 50.00
LD/IPDA entries	\$ 35.00
Uncovered IE entries	\$ 10.00 plus entry fee
Uncovered PF/NPDA teams	\$ 75.00 plus entry fee
Uncovered LD/IPDA entries	\$ 50.00 plus entry fee
Changes after Wednesday, March 4th	\$ 15.00 per change

Changes at registration check in	\$ 25.00 per change
Dropped judge after Thursday, March 5 th	\$100.00 per round dropped

One individual events judge will cover ten entries. One debate judge will cover two teams/IPDA entries.

A single judge may cover the following:

- Two IPDA/LD entries and 10 IE entries, OR Two IPDA/LD entries AND Two PF/NPDA entries

A judge may not cover:

- 10 IEs and NPDA/PF

Schools needing to hire a substantial number of judges should contact the tournament director before tournament week. PLEASE--we would rather have your judges.

Please make your checks payable to “Newberry Speech and Debate”. They can be mailed to:

John Wallis
Newberry College
Speech and Debate
2100 College St
Newberry, SC 29108

Please e-mail John with any questions at john.wallis@newberry.edu.

Virtual Judging

We ask that all judges go to the virtual ballot once they see their assignment for the current round and accept their ballot immediately. This will allow us to know that the round is covered and that we don't need to seek out a standby judge. Judges may wait for adjudicating the round until later, but initially accepting the ballot helps ensure that we don't have to locate a new judge for that round. If coaches, judges, or students need help, do not hesitate to email John or utilize the tournament contact option within FTN.

Entry Deadlines and Instructions

This year's Newberry Knockout is using the tournament entry services at www.forensictournament.net. The invitation, tournament notes, and tournament entry are all located at this site. Search for ***Newberry Knockout***. Schools not using this service in the past will need to enter a roster of students and judges prior to entering the tournament. Please make sure that emails and phone numbers are current and have been verified before the day of the tournament. Please also check that all judges' ballots are changed from “paper” to “e-mail” and that all competitors' communication preference is set to e-mail or text to ensure they receive updates. This site will also allow schools to view the entire tournament entry. ***All schools must submit entries on www.forensictournament.net by Monday, March 2nd. Entries will not be accepted in any other form.***

Fees are assessed at **10:00 pm EST Wednesday, March 4th**. Direct questions to John Wallis at john.wallis@newberry.edu.

Individual Events Notes

Events/Flights

All 11 AFA-NST events plus interviewing will be offered in two flights.

Flight A--extemp, persuasive, informative, dramatic, poetry, interviewing

Flight B--prose, impromptu, poi, duo, after-dinner, communication analysis

Rules

AFA rules will be followed for all events. Students should not enter material that has been used in competition before September 1, 2025.

Extemp topics will be taken from economic, international, and domestic areas. Each round will be one of these three. In the instance that the tournament holds semifinals, final round topics will be **editorial cartoons**. There will be a virtual draw room for students to get their topics. They do not need to prep in the draw room.

Students in impromptu will have a choice of two topics that will vary by round and section. Topics will be selected from a number of areas. The judge should either assign the previous speaker to get the next speaker in the virtual impromptu lounge or the judge should themselves join the breakout room and locate the next speaker/wait for the next speaker.

The event description for **Interviewing** is as follows:

Interviewing will mirror the rules to be used at the Pi Kappa Delta National Comprehensive Tournament. Rounds 1 and 2 will consist of an interview lasting no longer than 10 minutes, conducted by a judge utilizing the same question-set for each competitor. In round 3, judges evaluate/rank student résumés based on writing techniques and overall strength. Competitors entered in Interviewing must provide an accessible link to their resume (either Google Doc Dropbox or other similar option) of their résumé by registration. Please double check the permissions settings on document links to ensure judges are permitted to view the document. The third round is the final round for interviewing.

The event descriptions for **Asynchronous PKD Events** are as follows:

Asynchronous Events

Registration & video links are due by Tuesday, March 3rd on Forensics Tournament. Links will be sent to judges by approx. 9 am EST on Wednesday, March 4th for preliminary rounds and will be due by 5 pm on Thursday, March 5th. Final ballots will be sent out shortly after tabulation that evening and will be due by Saturday, March 7th at 2 pm. All limited preparation events will have prompts released via FTN on Friday, February 27th. Students will then be able to view topics, make selections, and begin preparing videos for those events.

Link Upload Process

The tournament will require you to upload a URL with your student's speech. Unlisted YouTube videos are recommended. The video uploaded for the Newberry Knockout should be unique to this tournament. Previously recorded versions of the speeches are not allowed. Coaches are responsible for ensuring unique recordings for the tournament.

Cross-Entering

Individual event competitors may enter up to three events per flight. We are, however, committed to running a tournament that stays on time. Judges will be instructed to not wait beyond the allotted ending time for each round. A student may enter only two duos. We will make efforts to accommodate multiple entered students in flight A with early speaking positions in extemp.

Students may compete in IPDA OR LD and all IEs.. Students may also compete in IPDA OR LD and NPDA OR PF. Students may only enter **one form of debate on Friday and one on Saturday** (we will do our best to accommodate for elimination rounds should double entries beyond Elim 2 exist). **Students in NPDA or PF may not enter live IEs but may compete in asynchronous events.**

Elimination Rounds

Semi-finals will be held in all events with 50 or more entries. Semi-final round brackets will be seeded into unbroken brackets. Final place finishes will be determined based on (1) majority of 1's, (2) ranks, (3) judges' preference, (4) points, and (5) seedings.

Pentathlon

In an attempt to reward diversity in competitive excellence, students must enter **a minimum of five events** and compete in **public address, limited preparation, and interpretation events** to be eligible for pentathlon. A maximum of five events will count toward a student's pentathlon score.

Novice Awards

The top novice in each AFA event will be given a special award. To be eligible, the student should be in their first collegiate year in the appropriate genre of event (public address, interpretation, or limited preparation).

IMPORTANT IE JUDGING NOTE: In addition to the obligation of the final round in each flight, all judges are obligated for any semifinal rounds in either flight. Again, ***all individual event judges*** are obligated for final rounds, regardless of whether or not they are used in or qualify students for semi-final rounds. All judges are "clean" in elimination rounds.

Debate Notes

Divisions Defined

Any student may enter an open division. Novice division is open to students with less than two collegiate semesters of any debate experience.

IPDA

An open and novice division of IPDA will be offered. Debates will use a 5-2-6-2-3-5-3 format for IPDA with 30 minutes of preparation. Students and judges should go immediately to the designated strike area five minutes before the strike begins. Once the strike begins, the 30 minutes of preparation has begun. All divisions will adhere to the IPDA rules for debate. More information can be found at <http://www.ipdadebate.info/constitution--bylaws.html>

VERY IMPORTANT...we are committed to an efficient, on-time schedule. It is imperative that debaters respect the schedule so announcements can be sent out on time. This means...

- a three-minute grace period, meaning 33 minutes after topics are announced time begins for each debate
- teams not in their rooms, ready to debate, at the 33-minute point will be forfeited

Parliamentary

An open division of NPDA debate will be offered. Parliamentary rounds will follow suggested **NPDA** guidelines except where our tournament invitation outlines alternative procedures and policies. In instances wherein NPDA rules are inconsistent with rules of other associations, NPDA rules will be enforced. The 7-8-8-8-4-5 format will be followed with 20 minutes of pre-round preparation. The tournament will also allow flex time as described by NPDA. Topics will be announced in a designated announcement area (NPDA Topic Room). **VERY IMPORTANT...**we are committed to an efficient, on-time schedule. It is imperative that debaters respect the schedule so announcements can be sent out on time. This means...

- a three-minute grace period, meaning 23 minutes after topics are announced time begins for each debate
- teams not in their rooms, ready to debate, at the 23-minute point will be forfeited
- topics will be blasted via e-mail soon after announced and will also be placed on the splash page on FTN

Only the tournament invitation, NPDA constitution and by-laws, NPDA national tournament procedures, and materials prepared during the 20-minute preparation time period prior to the round may be brought into the debate room. There are no restrictions on pre-round coaching or consultation of materials during the preparation period.

Breaking Brackets

The tournament will not break brackets for elimination rounds.

Elimination Rounds and Speaker Awards

Appropriate elimination rounds will be held in accordance with the standards of the national organizations sanctioning the respective debate divisions. Teams/Debaters advancing will be determined and seeded based on (1) win/loss record, (2) adjusted points, (3) total points, (4) double adjusted total points, and (5) opposition record. Brackets will not be broken. All winning records will advance in all divisions.

Speaker awards will be determined based on (1) adjusted points, (2) total points, (3) double adjusted points, (4) z-score, and (5) speaker ranks.

Power-Matching

Rounds will be power-matched beginning with round three. Rounds three and five will be hi/hi while four and will be hi/low within brackets.

IMPORTANT DEBATE JUDGING NOTE: In addition to the obligation of the first elimination round after the point at which a school's competitors are eliminated, all judges are obligated for the first ***full*** elimination round for all formats in which they have debaters. If partial elimination rounds are held and a judge is assigned to that round, they ***remain*** obligated for the next elimination round.

Tournament Speech Statement

The St. Patrick Scrimmage affirms the importance of all tournament participants' cooperation in creating an educational and competitive environment that is fair, humane, and responsible while, at the same time, encouraging debates that are devoted to full and robust arguments about a diverse range of ideas. Specifically, this tournament affirms that:

1. Judges and students are encouraged to talk about the expectations that they have for creating a debate that focuses on ideas instead of personal attacks.
2. Debaters are encouraged to communicate with respect, not attacking each other or the judge.
3. Judges are encouraged to communicate with respect, not attacking or devaluing students.
4. Debaters and judges are encouraged to reject discourse which devalues other members of our community based on their race, age, gender, class, sexual or religious orientation, or any reason that is not directly related to the arguments that they present.
5. Students and judges are encouraged to communicate with each other when they observe instances of verbally aggressive attacks rather than silently watching something happen before them to which they object.
6. Judges are encouraged to reward courteous and respectful behavior toward the judge and other competitors in awarding speaker points.
7. If serious and/or repeated demeaning speech materially or substantially disrupts the opportunity for debaters to compete fairly or the judge to evaluate fairly, judges are encouraged to dock speaker points or give a team a loss.

Bartanen, K. & Hanson, J. (1994). Advocating humane discourse. *The Forensic of Pi Kappa Delta*, 80, 16-22.

Forensics Leadership Award

This award will be presented to a non-student member of the forensic community who advances the benefits of forensics in the broadest of terms. This should include but is not limited to outstanding teaching/coaching and service.

Nominations should include an identification of the potential award winner as well as a letter of support. There is no limit to the volume of support material that will be accepted in support of a single nomination.

Guiding Graduate Award

This award will be presented to those who are often not recognized enough in the forensics community; the dedicated graduate assistants who take time to coach and travel with their teams on top of their rigorous coursework.

Nominations should include an identification of the potential award winner as well as a letter of support. There is no limit to the volume of support material that will be accepted in support of a single nomination.

Nomination Procedures

Nominations should be submitted to John Wallis at john.wallis@mst.edu. All nominations should be received by Monday, March 2, 2026 to receive full consideration. Forensics Leadership Award and Guiding Graduate Award nominating packets will be distributed to a reading committee of intercollegiate forensic educators. Both awards will be presented at the awards ceremony.