

March 23, 2025

Dear PSCFA Community,

The 2025- 2026 season is coming to a close. On behalf of PSCFA I would like to invite you and your teams to the 2026 Cool-Off Tournament held at Cypress College, April 25th- 26th.

A unique aspect of the Cool-Off is that it is for *novices and rookies only*. This allows for students with little or no competition experience to compete with students of their level.

This is also a great opportunity for coaches to take a break and give junior and senior competitors a chance to be on the other side of the ballot and judge a few rounds. Those junior and senior students that do judge will not sacrifice any competitive eligibility for later seasons since this is a novice only event. Remember, all judges must be certified for PSCFA tournaments so please have them go to the PSCFA website, read the Forensics Related Educational Document (F.R.E.D.), and certify online

<https://forensics.protocommunications.com/courses/fred-certification-course/>

Key points:

- Registration is **due Tuesday, April 21th by 6:00 pm PST on forensicstournament.net.**
- This tournament will be held in person at Cypress College.
- We will still be using eballots so all judges will need a device that allows them to access eballoting. Please, make sure that judge's emails are verified in the system.
- Judges should accept ballots as soon as they are notified.
- IF ballots are not picked up 10 minutes prior to the round, your ballot may be pushed and you will be charged a nuisance fee.
- Judges are encouraged to submit ballots ASAP after the round. Additional comments can be added to the ballots any time before the end of the tournament.
- Drops after the Wednesday deadline *do not* alter a school's judging commitment.
- The Tournament Director solicits submissions of **Debate topics prior to Friday, April 17th**. Please send them to jbruetsch@sdsu.edu to be forwarded to the topic committee.

- Each school is required to provide one judge for every 4 IE entries per pattern/2 debate teams. *Uncovered entries will not be permitted.* Please see HiredJudge.com if you need to arrange for judges.
- The Coaches Meeting will be held at 1:00 pm on Saturday, April 25th in Humanities 217.
- We will offer four (4) rounds of Novice and Rookie NFA-LD, NPDA and IPDA debate on Saturday. Sunday will offer the usual two (2) rounds of all PSCFA individual events for Novice competitors.

Attached, please find more detailed tournament information, a description of tournament rules, and procedures and entry forms. Please refer to the PSCFA Handbook for the newest information on Rules, available at www.pscfa.org.

We look forward to seeing you at The Cool-Off!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Mikayla Holzinger
PSCFA Cool-off Tournament Director
University of La Verne

Email: mholzinger@laverne.edu

JUDGING

Each school must cover its judging commitment. Please bring your coaches to judge or contact any judges you know & trust who are available for hire. In order for this tournament to succeed, we need to have plenty of prepared judges. If you are bringing first-time judges, let them know that they must read and sign the PSCFA judge's handbook and complete the F.R.E.D. certification (this may be done online at <https://forensics.protocommunications.com/courses/fred-certification-course/>). Also, remind your judges of proper protocol in rounds. It is helpful to instruct them on how to do time signals for limited prep. Remember, judges may also be returning students who are not competing at the Cool-off. If you know of any judges available for hire, please send me their contact information.

Debate Commitment: At Cool-off all schools must provide one judge for every two (2) team debate and every two (2) IPDA entries or a fraction thereof. Penalty fees will be accepted at the discretion of the Tournament Director (If there is a sufficient pool of Hired Judges).

Individual Events Commitment: All schools must provide one judge for every five (5) individual event slots per conflict pattern or fraction thereof. Judges for all events must meet the qualifications outlined in the PSCFA Handbook and must complete the PSCFA Judge Certification BEFORE being able to judge. **Coaches shall ensure the competency of all judges covering your commitment.**

****All judges are committed through all elimination/final rounds.**

Any school not meeting their judging commitment will be assessed the following fees:

Debate Judges	\$75.00 per team (if allowed)
IE Slots Uncovered	\$12.00 per slot

FEES: All teams are still responsible for ANY drop, no-show, or nuisance fees. Uncovered judging fees are available only with the prior approval of the Tournament Director. PSCFA rules state that all schools must cover their debate commitment and 75% of their individual event entries unless the Tournament Director believes there is a sufficient pool of judges to allow a school to pay additional judging penalties.

ENTRY DEADLINE: All entries are due by 6:00 PM on Tuesday, April 21st

You can register for the PSCFA Cool-Off Tournament using www.forensicstournament.net.

You may make changes to your entry before **Wednesday, April 22nd at 6:00 PM**. Drops are free if reported by the Wednesday deadline. Any and all changes made after Wednesday will be subject to nuisance fees. Any requests for changes made after the website closes should be sent through the “contact tournament director” messaging on the entry site.

New Rules/Policies from the Coaches Conference:

- **IE Sections & Judge Coverage:** There will be up to 6 competitors in each section for IEs and 1 judge will cover 5 IE entries/slots.
- **NPDA Flex Time:** There will no longer be flex time in NPDA debate. The speaking times are listed under the event below.
- **NPDA Group Prep:** There will no longer be group prep in NPDA debate. Students may only consult the internet and their partner in preparation time. Students may NOT consult coaches or peers other than their partners during prep time.
- **E-Flowing:** With the exception of ADA accommodations, students are not allowed to use electronic devices during NPDA debate rounds. All materials used during the debate should be prepared on paper and students should only flow using paper.
- **Eligibility:** New eligibility standards are as follows:
 - Rookie: The rookie division is limited to students at their first forensics tournament.
 - Novice: The novice division is limited to students in their first two semesters of forensics who have no prior competitive experience in speech/debate. Students who have prior competitive experience in speech and are competing in debate will be excluded and vice versa.
 - Junior: The junior division is limited to students in their first four semesters of forensics (prior forensics experience is ok).
 - Open: The open division is open to all eligible students.
- **BP:** BP will no longer be offered as an event for competition.
- **Fun:** PSCFA will be experimenting with incorporating fun activities during tournaments. Stay tuned for what we have planned for the Cool-off!
- **Appeals:** All appeals must take place after the completion of a round, which includes the judge(s) submission of ballots.

PSCFA COOL-OFF 2026 SCHEDULE

SATURDAY - DEBATE	SUNDAY - INDIVIDUAL EVENTS
<p>8:30-9:00 Registration and Sign-In*</p> <p>9:30 Judges Orientation</p> <p>1:00 PSCFA Coaches Meeting</p> <p><i>Parli Schedule</i></p> <p>9:15 Topic Announced for Rounds 1 and 2</p> <p>10:00-11:00 Round 1 NPDA</p> <p>11:15-12:15 Round 2 NPDA</p> <p>12:45 Topic Announced for Rounds 3 & 4</p> <p>1:30-2:30 Round 3 NPDA</p> <p>2:30-3:30 Round 4 NPDA</p> <p>4:00 Topic Announced for Elim NPDA</p> <p>4:20 Elim Round NPDA</p> <p>5:45 Debate Awards</p> <p><i>IPDA Schedule</i></p> <p><i>There will be a central strike location.</i></p> <p>10:00-11:15 Round 1</p> <p>11:30-12:45 Round 2</p> <p>1:00-2:15 Round 3</p> <p>2:30-3:45 Round 4</p> <p>4:00-5:00 Elim Round IPDA</p> <p>5:45 Debate Awards</p> <p>* Each individual student must sign-in before the end of the registration period. If they don't sign-in they will be dropped.</p>	<p>9:00 Round 1: Pattern A</p> <p>10:45 Round 2: Pattern A</p> <p>12:00 Round 1: Pattern B</p> <p>1:30 Round 2: Pattern B</p> <p>2:45 Finals: Pattern A</p> <p>4:00 Finals: Pattern B</p> <p>5:30 Awards</p> <p>Pattern A: Extemp, Prose, Poetry, Informative, STE, Cultural Artifact</p> <p>Pattern B: Impromptu, Persuasive, Duo, POI, CA, Drama</p> <p>NOVICE COMPETITORS MAY NOT DOUBLE ENTER</p>

DEBATE (Saturday)

- There will be four prelims, followed by elims, on Saturday.
- 1 Judge is required for every 2 debate entries.
- A 5-minute forfeit rule will be put in place for all debate rounds.
 - E-Flowing: With the exception of ADA accommodations, students are not allowed to use electronic devices during NPDA debate rounds. All materials used during the debate should be prepared on paper and students should only flow using paper.

NPDA:

- Students will receive the topic in the NPDA general topic announce
- Reminder that there will be one topic for Rounds 1 and 2. Different topics will then be used for each subsequent round.
- NPDA rules will be followed.

IPDA:

- Students will conduct topic strikes at central strike.
- Judges will have the prompts available on the eBallot.
- IPDA rules will be followed.

NFA-LD:

- Standard NFA-LD procedures will be followed unless noted.
- Case disclosure is not required by the tournament nor will be facilitated by tournament staff.
- No speaker awards will be given.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS (Sunday)

- 12 IE events will be offered (Informative, After Dinner, Comm Analysis, Persuasive, Extemp, Impromptu, Prose, Poetry, Drama, POI, Duo & Cultural Artifact)
- 1 judge is required for every 5 IE entries.
- Two prelims and finals will be held on Sunday.

Limited Prep Events:

- Impromptu topics will be provided to each student in the room.
- Each student will receive a different set of impromptu topics.
- Extemp questions will be provided for all speakers in a separate Extemp Prep Room TBA

INDIVIDUAL EVENT GUIDELINES

The tournament will be run consistent with the rules and regulations in the PSCFA handbook. If there is any ambiguity or inconsistency in this invitation the handbook takes priority.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Pattern A

Extemporaneous: Contestants will be given three topics in the general area of current events. They will choose one and have 30 minutes to prepare a speech. The maximum speaking time is 7 minutes.

Speech to Entertain: A speech designed to entertain the audience. This speech should not be a series of jokes, but should emphasize wit and creativity following a central theme. The use of a manuscript is discouraged. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Poetry: Students will prepare a selection or selections of poetry of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. Use of a manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Informative: An original, factual speech on a realistic subject to fulfill the general goal of informing the audience. Visuals may or may not be used to reinforce the message. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Prose: A selection or selection of prose materials of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. Play cuttings are prohibited. Use of a manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Cultural Artifact Speech: To offer a discussion of some tangible aspect of culture. Five minutes maximum. Visual or audio aid required.

Pattern B

Dramatic Duo: A cutting (scene) from a play (either humorous or serious), involving the portrayal of at least two characters presented by two individuals. This is not an acting event. No costumes, props, lighting, etc., are permitted. Manuscripts are required. Focus should be off-stage. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Persuasive: The speech must be the work of the student and be persuasive or inspirational in nature. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Programmed Oral Interp (POI): A Program of thematically linked selections of literary merit, chosen from two or more of the recognized genres of competitive interpretation (prose;poetry;drama). A substantial portion of the total time must be devoted to each genre used in the program. Use of a

manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes, including the original introduction and transitions.

Impromptu: Topic selection is varied by round using brief quotations, personalities, events, etc. Speech should not exceed 7 minutes; time begins when topic is drawn.

Communication Analysis: A speech which is carefully researched and developed which applies a student's knowledge of rhetorical communication principles to a communication event such as a speech, speaker, movement, campaign, etc. This speech should pay primary attention to the analysis and less attention to description. The student may deliver the speech in any manner (memorized or manuscript). Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Drama: A cutting from a play or plays of literary merit. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

ENTRY DEADLINE is Tuesday, April 22th at 6:00pm PST through forensicstournament.net. Changes may be made through Wednesday, April 23rd at 6:00pm PST at no charge.

Fees will be assessed on **Wednesday, April 23th at 6:00 PM**. Changes after that time will not reduce your fees and may result in nuisance fees.

FOOD, LODGING, PARKING, AND DIRECTIONS

Food	Water & light snacks will be available for both students and judges.
Off Campus Food	Places will be updated on the splash page
Map	Cypress College campus map
Housing	There is not an official tournament hotel.

Parking: **Please park in Lot 7. A day pass purchase is NOT necessary. There will be someone(s) at the entrance of Lot 7 to let you into the parking lot. Just show them the "Parking Pass to Lot 7" paper that will be posted on the splash page of FTN.**

(Please do not back into parking places, it will result in a fine from the campus.)

The Swap Meet happens every weekend! Lot 7 is reserved for Cool-off participants. Lots 1, 4, & 5 are also open for parking.

Tournament will be held in the Humanities Building at Cypress College

Student Registration for Debate: Table outside of Hum 201

Student Wellness Room: Hum 201

IPDA Central Strike: Hum 306

NPDA Topic Announce: 2nd Floor outside patio

Extemp Prep: Hum 306

Judge's Room/Orientation: Hum 209

Tabroom: HUM 219

PSCFA Meeting Room- Saturday 1:00 pm: Hum 217

Tournament Fees Payment - Nick Matthews, Treasurer: Hum 206

Awards: HUM 131

COOL-OFF STAFF

Tournament Director: Mikayla Holzinger, La Verne University

**Tournament Host: Cypress College
Jen Page & Justin Perkins**

Tab: TBD

Judges Table: TBD

PSCFA COOL OFF FEE SHEET

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO "PSCFA."

Facilities Fee	\$35.00	x	1	=		\$35.00

Mandatory School Fee <i>(Choose your number of students below)</i>		
1-5 students - \$ 25.00	6-10 students - \$ 30.00	11 + students - \$ 35.00

Entry Fees	Fee					Entries			Total
LD Debate	\$ 10.00	x		=					\$
IPDA	\$ 10.00	x		=					\$
Parliamentary	\$ 20.00	x		=					\$
Pattern A IE Slots	\$ 6.00	x		=					\$
Pattern B IE Slots	\$ 6.00	x		=					\$
Duo Interp	\$ 12.00	x		=					\$

Judging Fees	Fee					Entries			Total
Per any uncovered team(if allowed)	\$ 75.00	x		=					\$
IE's Pattern A	\$ 12.00	x		=					\$
IE's Pattern B	\$ 12.00	x		=					\$

Nuisance Fees	Fee					Entries			Total
No-Show IE	\$ 10.00	x		=					\$
No-Show Debate	\$ 20.00	x		=					\$
Nuisance IE	\$ 5.00	x		=					\$
Nuisance Debate	\$ 10.00	x		=					\$
Judge Nuisance (per rd)	\$ 25.00	x		=					\$
Drop after Wed deadline	\$ 5.00	x		=					\$
Late Add Fee	\$ 50.00	x		=					\$

TOTAL FEES \$