

January 26, 2012

Dear NPDA Colleagues:

On behalf of President Marty Birkholt, the Executive Council, and the membership of the National Parliamentary Debate Association, I am pleased to invite you to attend the seventeenth annual NPDA National Championship Tournament, Wednesday, March 21st through Saturday, March 24th, 2012 at Western Washington University. We anticipate a fine weekend of education and competition, culminating with the awarding of the 2012 National Championship.

Please note the following deadlines for entry submission. Many of these dates are earlier than in past years, so please ensure that all materials **arrive** in the proper location **by the prescribed date**.

- **Thursday, March 1, 2012**
 - Hotel reservations should be made by this date in order to meet the cutoff date for the hotel blocks. See page 6 of this document for full hotel details.
- **Friday, March 2, 2012 (6 p.m. CST)**
 - Tournament entry must be submitted to <http://www.forensicstournament.net>. A completed entry must include the names of all debaters and critics.
 - Tournament fees must be paid by credit card or must **arrive** to NPDA Treasurer Brent Northup's office. Unless the tournament's size prohibits inclusion of a school's team(s), fees are non-refundable. Credit card payment information will be available at www.parlidebate.org in the near future. **No personal checks are accepted.**
 - Student eligibility forms must **arrive** by mail or fax to the tournament director. The document must include the signature of the Director of Forensics/Debate of the program, the signature of the college/university Registrar, and the seal of the institution.
 - Critic certification forms must **arrive** by mail or fax to the tournament director. All critics must certify that they have read and will abide by the NPDA Rules of Debating and Judging. Failure to follow those rules will result in the removal of the critic from the tournament. Should a critic be removed, teams from that school will be removed from competition or uncovered team fees will be assessed to that judge's school.
 - Critic philosophy statements must be submitted to <http://www.forensicstournament.net>. Philosophy statements must meet minimum standards for acceptance (see page 4). Failure to complete philosophy statements for a judge will result in charging schools for uncovered teams, late fees, and/or disqualification of two teams
- **Monday, March 19, 2012 (6 p.m. CST)**
 - Critic strikes must be submitted on <http://www.forensicstournament.net>. The critic philosophy book will be available on or about March 3rd; the strike page will be available on or about March 10th. Confirmation sheets will be included in registration packets for all on-time submissions. Strikes that are submitted after the deadline or not in electronic format may be entered at the discretion of the tournament director, but are not guaranteed.
- **Wednesday, March 21, 2012**
 - Schools must register in person at the Lakeway Inn and Convention Center no later than 5 p.m. PST. Teams failing to register in person will be removed from the tournament. If an emergency arises that prevents in-person registration at this time, call 270-799-8637 (Glenn Prince) immediately.

Failure to meet any of these deadlines will result in the removal of teams from the National Championship Tournament with the surrender of all registration fees. These deadlines ensure the tournament staff adequate time to prepare for the tournament and check for errors as well as give competitors a reasonable amount of time to review critic philosophies and make strike decisions and other preparations accordingly.

Please read this document in its entirety, as it includes a great amount of information regarding our host campus, lodging, tournament procedures and other useful items. I look forward to seeing each of you March 21st as we celebrate the year's debating and crown the 2012 national champion.

For the NPDA,

Glenn Prince
National Championship Tournament Director

GENERAL GUIDELINES

TOURNAMENT RULES – The Constitution, Bylaws, Tournament Operating Procedures document and the Rules for Debating and Judging of the NPDA will govern the totality of the National Championship Tournament. The governing documents of the organization shall take precedence over errors in this document. In accordance with those documents, hybrid teams are allowed to compete, but three person teams may not participate. A school may not enter more than one hybrid team. No individual may debate without a partner.

COMPETITOR ELIGIBILITY – A new bylaw was passed that changed competitor eligibility standards for the 2012 National Tournament and for all tournaments go forward. The new bylaw reads:

No person shall be allowed to participate in more than four NPDA Championship Tournaments as a contestant.

1. Undergraduate students are limited to no more than **ten** semesters of eligibility.
 - a. A semester is considered “used” when a student competes in **two** or more tournaments during the semester.
 - b. The number of semesters in which a student competes is superseded by the number of national tournament years in which the student competes.
2. Contestants are limited to **five** national tournament years.
 - a. A national tournament year is one in which a student competes in a national tournament sponsored by any national forensic organization including but not limited to: AFA-NIET, NFA-IE Nationals, Novice IE Nationals, NDT, CEDA, NEDA, Phi Rho Pi, Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha, Pi Kappa Delta, Interstate Oratory, APDA, and any other nationally recognized organizations and tournaments that may be added to this list.
 - b. The number of national tournament years in which a student has competed supersedes the number of semesters in which he or she has competed.
 - c. The intent of this standard is to prohibit students from competing in national tournaments for more than **five** years. During their **five** national tournament years, students may attend as many national tournaments as they wish or as their programs’ budgets allow, but they may not compete in four AFA-NIET nationals or four CEDA nationals, for example, and then move on to compete in four NPDA Championship Tournaments over the course of several more years.

If you have any questions about the new bylaw, please contact the Tournament Director as soon as a question or concern arises.

ENTRY LIMITATIONS – While Western Washington University will try to find as many classrooms as needed, if more teams apply to compete than the campus can accommodate, the following procedures (taken from the NPDA governing documents) shall be followed:

At the deadline, if the number of teams nominated exceeds the maximum number of teams that can be accommodated, the Tournament Director shall enter the first team from each school, then the second, and so on. Once it is impossible to complete a movement through the list and accommodate at the tournament site, the total number of applicants for slots in the tournament, the Tournament Director will return to the top of the list and count the number of teams at this point. The director will then subtract that number from the total number of slots possible for the tournament. That number of teams will then be selected randomly from a pool consisting of one team from each school still applying for slots. After this process, the Tournament Director will notify all schools of the final number of teams they will be allowed to enter in the tournament and will return deposits for all teams that cannot be accommodated in the tournament. The Tournament Director will then continue the process, to rank the non-entered teams in priority for a waiting list.

If more teams apply for competition than the campus will accommodate, no late entries will be accepted. Please ensure all tournament registration materials arrive before the deadline.

ENTRY PROCEDURE

ENTRY DEADLINE - Team applications and critic entries must be made by 6 p.m. CST on Friday, March 2, 2012 to <http://www.forensicstournament.net>. Critic certification and student enrollment verification forms must **arrive** by fax or by mail at Rice University by 6 p.m. CST on Friday, March 2, 2012. **Faxed forms must be replaced by originals at registration.**

If you need to communicate a change that cannot be accomplished on the site, an email message (gp3@rice.edu) is the preferred method of communicating this information. You may also reach the tournament director by phone at (270) 799-8637. **Please do not communicate entry information over voicemail.**

PLEASE ENTER ON TIME! Teams that enter during the "last minute" time period must not only pay fees significantly higher than on-time or late entry, but they also cannot have judges covering their commitment, and thus must pay as an uncovered team. This change is designed to minimize changes to the judging pool after strike entry has begun. Please note that late entries can be denied by the tournament if there is insufficient judging to cover those late entrants into the national tournament.

REGISTRATION FEES

FORM OF PAYMENT

Payment of fees for the 2012 NPDA National Championship Tournament must either be a cashier's check, a College/University check, or a credit card payment to NPDA. Unless space limitations prevent a school from entering all the teams for which they have paid, **registration fees are non-refundable.** Please include the Schedule of Fees (included in this document) with your school's check – this speeds registration.

PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD – Credit card payment will be available on the NPDA website (www.parlidebate.org/npda-nationals/onlinepayments/) on or before February 1, 2012.

PAYMENT BY CHECK - The NPDA does not accept personal checks. NPDA's tax ID number is: **EIN 81 0543496. Checks should be made payable to National Parliamentary Debate Association** (not Brent or Glenn) and sent to:

Brent Northup
Director of Forensics
Carroll College
1601 N. Benton Ave.
Helena, MT 59625

TEAM ENTRY FEES

Again, please make sure that entries arrive on time. The fees for entering teams are much higher after the deadline and can seriously impede a team's ability to attend the National Championship Tournament. Uncovered fees are per team and in addition to the team entry fee. In addition to a \$45 school fee and a \$17 per person lunch fee, the following schedule will be employed:

ON-TIME FEE SCHEDULE applies to entries received by the March 2nd, 2012 deadline.

- TEAM ENTRY – \$100 per team
- UNCOVERED TEAMS – \$150 additional

LATE FEE SCHEDULE (applies to all teams entered after March 2nd, but before March 9th)

- TEAM ENTRY FEE – \$175 per team
- UNCOVERED TEAMS – \$225 additional

LAST MINUTE FEE SCHEDULE (applies to all teams entered after March 9th)

- TEAM ENTRY FEE (includes uncovered fee) – \$600 per team

CRITIC REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION - Each entering school is required to bring a minimum of one qualified critic. Two schools with odd numbers of teams may share a full-commitment judge. Judges for the National Championship Tournament are **required** to certify that they will follow the Rules for Debating and Judging (included in this document) as well as the Rules and Guidelines for Judging. One such critic is required for every two teams entered into the tournament. Schools with teams not covered by a critic will be assessed a minimum fee of \$150.00 per uncovered team. Schools entering the tournament past the on-time deadline can expect to pay significantly higher uncovered fees. See the section above for more details.

LENGTH OF SERVICE - Unless given special permission from the Tournament Director, **ALL** critics must be available through the Octafinal round. If any teams from your school qualify for the Octafinal round, **all** critics from that school must remain available through the semifinal round.

BALLOT DISTRIBUTION AND PICKUP - All judges are required to be present at the topic announcement site from the scheduled ballot release time until all of the ballots for that round have been distributed. All judges are required to pick up their **own** ballots within 5 minutes of the ballots being released. A financial penalty of 50 dollars for each preliminary and 100 dollars for each elimination round will be imposed against any and all judges who fail to be available to judge all rounds for which they are obligated. Fines must be paid promptly, as determined by the tournament director. Judges to whom a ballot is pushed have 1 minute to pick up the ballot. If they fail to pick up the ballot they will be assessed the appropriate fine and the ballot will be pushed to the next available judge. **This is VITALLY important. It is impossible for the tournament to push ballots to critics who are not there to pick up their ballots on time and in person.**

Teams from schools who have not paid penalties for their judges failing to pick up assigned and/or pushed ballots will not be allowed to advance to elimination rounds. Furthermore, until fines are paid, the judge's affiliated or hiring school will be suspended from NPDA membership.

JUDGING PHILOSOPHIES

All critics must submit a judging philosophy to <http://www.forensicstournament.net>. These philosophies should substantively represent the critic's understanding of how debate works, and they should be written in plain language accessible to tournament participants. **At a minimum, philosophies should include the following information:**

- Background of the critic (including formats coached/competed in, # of rounds judged, etc)
- Approach of the critic to decision-making (for example, adherence to the trichotomy, stock-issues, policymaker, tabula rasa, etc.)
- Relative importance of presentation/communication skills to the critic in decision-making
- Relative importance of on-case argumentation to the critic in decision-making

These are minimum standards, and critics may go well beyond these standards in crafting a philosophy. However, philosophies that do not meet the above standards **will not be considered a sufficient philosophy**. Participants deserve the best information possible in order to make decisions regarding strikes and in-round strategy.

Critics representing schools who submit philosophies past the deadline or whose philosophies are clearly not deemed sufficient will not be counted when calculating a school's commitment. The affected school will be responsible for paying the uncovered judge fee described in this invitation. Please be diligent about this. In past years, many critics submitted philosophies significantly past the submission deadline and impeded the timely submission of strikes.

HIRED CRITICS

The Tournament Director, in cooperation with the local host, is responsible for securing additional hired critics. If you are bringing qualified critics who wish to be hired, please contact Glenn immediately (npdatd@gmail.com) to make these arrangements. Qualified judges must submit complete philosophies on time and are hired for the first two days of the tournament for a \$150.00 stipend, or \$15.00 per round.

A few select judges may be invited, at tournament expense, to judge. In such cases NPDA pays airfare and hotel expenses and provides meal tickets for lunch, but does **not** pay a per-round fee to the judge.

TOURNAMENT OPERATION

PAIRING PROCEDURES

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS – The first round will be randomly paired. The second through eighth rounds will be power-matched, high-low within each win-loss bracket. But for teams receiving a BYE, teams will debate four times on each side, debating the opposite side of the motion in even numbered rounds from the side they debated in the previous odd-numbered round. No judge may render a decision which awards a win to both teams or a loss to both teams. A complete listing of the pairing procedures is available in the NPDA National Championship Tournament Procedures document.

ELIMINATION ROUNDS – Following round eight, all teams with five wins will advance to single elimination debates. Each team will be ranked by (1) wins, (2) adjusted speaker points, (3) total speaker points, (4) strength of opposition record, (5) double adjusted speaker points and (6) judge's variance.

If the number of teams advancing is less than a full elimination round, a partial round will be held. Those teams holding the lower seeds will debate while the teams with the highest seeds will receive a bye into the next round. The computer will randomly assign sides until the quarterfinal round unless the teams have previously debated. For the quarterfinal round and all following rounds, a coin toss will determine sides. The higher seed in the tournament will have the choice of whether or not to call the toss. If the two teams have debated previously, the two teams will debate on the opposite sides that they debated in the preliminary round. Teams will debate in single elimination round debates until one team remains undefeated in the elimination rounds. The team amassing a majority of the ballots in a panel will be declared the winner.

In the event that two teams from the same school meet in elimination rounds, brackets will be broken according to the following criteria: (1) protecting the highest seed; (2) changing the fewest number of brackets; (3) preserving original bracket order.

ASSIGNMENT OF CRITICS

JUDGE CONFLICTS – All judging assignments will be made at random from a pool that excludes judges who, according to both the perception of participants and the Tournament Director have a **legitimate** conflict of interest. Judges may not adjudicate teams from their own school (or the team's school for the past four years), former students, or anybody who that critic may not be able to objectively and fairly evaluate.

At registration, judges will be provided a team list to return to the tab staff marked with any teams they feel they should be constrained against. Any constraints entered by a team in effect for the tournament will need to be justified and accepted by the Tournament Director based on the following categories:

former coaches, former team members, romantic relationships, or other cases as approved on a case-by-case basis justified by the team to the Tournament Director. Instructions for submitting constraints will be available with the strike page.

ELIMINATION ROUNDS – Each preliminary round will be adjudicated by one judge. Each elimination round prior to the quarter final round will be adjudicated by no fewer than three judges. The quarter final and semi finals will be adjudicated by no fewer than five judges. The final round will be adjudicated by no fewer than seven judges. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, each team in the semifinal and final round of debate may be allowed to remove one or more judges from a tentative panel. In this case, the Tournament Director has the right to name one judge who cannot be removed by either team. The team will be given up to three minutes to return the judge strike card or forfeit their right to strike judges. From the remaining potential judge panel, the tab room will randomly assign judges to the debates. The final judge panel will then be announced to the teams debating.

JUDGE STRIKES – Each team will be allowed to strike up to fifteen percent of the judging pool. Strikes **must be submitted via forensicstournament.net** and are due Monday, March 19th at 6 p.m. CST. Strikes submitted by the deadline will be in effect for all rounds. **Strikes received by the tournament staff after the deadline or not online risk not being in effect.** Let me be clear – we are under NO obligation to ensure that your strikes EVER take effect if they are improperly received.

TIMELY ARRIVAL AND START OF DEBATES

PREPARATION AND TRANSIT TIME - NPDA operating procedures hold that the specified preparation and transit time shall be fifteen minutes plus the amount of time needed to walk to the furthest building in which debates are being held, as determined by the Tournament Director. Preparation and transit time for the 2010 National Championship Tournament will be **30 minutes**. This timing schedule includes time to locate buildings and find rooms; an inability to locate competition rooms will not be an excuse for late arrival to rounds. Teams are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the campus and campus maps as much as possible before rounds begin

PENALTIES FOR LATENESS - After the expiration of the allotted time between announcement of the topic and the beginning of the debate, a judge shall report violations via the ballot. Arrival within one minute of the expiration of time will be excused and the debate may proceed as normal. At 31:01, judges **MUST** forfeit teams immediately. Refusal to do this can result in the removal of the judge from the judging pool and the uncovered judge fee will be assessed to the team who the judge is representing.

BEING LATE IS AN ACT OF DISHONESTY TANTAMOUNT TO CHEATING NOT JUST YOUR OPPONENTS, BUT AGAINST THE ENTIRE FIELD AT THE TOURNAMENT.

Furthermore, judges shall arrive at their debates on time. Debaters shall be afforded the opportunity to inform the tab room of judges who are late to their rounds. The Tournament Director shall have the discretion of imposing penalties, equivalent to those imposed for a missed round, for lateness.

LODGING, TRANSPORTATION AND MEALS

LODGING

TOURNAMENT HOTELS – This year the NPDA has **ONE** official tournament hotel. Remember, all schools attending the tournament **MUST** use the tournament hotel. **THE CUTOFF DATE FOR RESERVATIONS IS MARCH 1, 2012.**

The Tournament Hotel:

Lakeway Inn and Convention Center

Address: 714 Lakeway Drive Bellingham, WA 98229

Rate: 1 King or Double beds: \$79.00 + tax

Smoking Status: The entire facility is non-smoking.

Reservations: 888-671-1011 Block name is “2012 Debate Championships”

Rooming Lists will need to be provided to Christine Jenkins at Christine@bellingham-hotel.com

RESERVATION DATES: You can make your reservation now for the Lakeway Inn and Convention Center. The cutoff date for reservations is **MARCH 1, 2012.**

SCHOOL REQUIREMENT - All NPDA participants are required to use the tournament hotel in order to register for the tournament. This point cannot be emphasized enough. It keeps the rates down and saves the organization money, which helps keep tournament fees reasonable. Should you encounter any difficulties in finding rooms at the hotels, please work with us, in concert with the hotel management, before attempting to relocate to other properties.

TRANSPORTATION

Western Washington University campus is located in Bellingham, WA. Teams flying to Bellingham can utilize either the Bellingham or Seattle airports. If everyone on your squad has a passport, flights to Vancouver could also be an option. The Seattle airport is approximately 100 miles from Bellingham.

MEALS AND FOOD OPTIONS

RECEPTION – There will be two receptions at this year’s national championship tournament; an opening reception held during registration in the Whatcom Room at the Lakeway Inn, and a closing reception held in the time period between the semifinal and final round of the tournament at Western Washington University.

MEALS- A lunch will be provided for all coaches, competitors and judges. The fee for this lunch is \$8.50 per person per day for the first two days of competition at Western Washington University (\$17 total). This is a **mandatory** fee. Each participant will receive a meal ticket that is used at the Viking Commons cafeteria. There are numerous options available to tournament participants in the cafeteria, but if there is an exceptional food concern that you wish to discuss, please contact the site host, Steve Woods at steven.woods@wwu.edu (vegetarian, vegan, and gluten free options have already been requested).

TOURNAMENT AWARDS

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

TEAM AWARDS – Each person who is the member of a team that advances to elimination rounds will receive an award. Placing will be determined by the round of a team’s elimination or their placing in the championship debate (for first and second). Additionally, the members of the top three (3) novice teams at the tournament will receive an award. **Per NPDA rules, ANY form or length of high school debate (but not individual events) competition excludes competitors from consideration for novice awards** (so yes, participation in JUST ONE tournament in high school disqualifies a competitor from novice standing).

Novice placing will first be determined by a team's placing in elimination rounds. If a tie still exists, the seeding of the tied teams after preliminary rounds will determine placing.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS – Based upon the speaker points assigned by the eight critics in the preliminary debates, the top twenty speakers in the National Championship Tournament will receive awards appropriate to the placing earned. The top speaker in the tournament receives the James “Al” Johnson top speaker trophy, named after one of NPDA’s founders. Rank ordering of speakers is determined by (1) adjusted speaker points, (2) total speaker points, (3) double adjusted speaker points and (4) judge variance. Awards will be given to the top five novice debaters as well.

SCHOOL AWARDS

SEASON SWEEPSTAKES – The top twenty schools in the season long sweepstakes standings will receive awards. The top five community colleges will also receive awards. The procedures used to calculate these standings are available online at <http://www.parlidebate.org>.

TOURNAMENT SWEEPSTAKES – The top twenty schools will receive tournament sweepstakes awards. Two points are awarded for each preliminary round win for the top four teams from each school. Additionally, two points are awarded for participation in each elimination round (win, loss or bye) for the top four teams from each school – these need not be the same teams as those in preliminary rounds. The tournament champion receives an additional two points for its school. The top five community colleges will also receive awards.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ADA ACCOMODATIONS – If you or one of your students needs ADA accommodations while on campus, please contact the tournament director by March 19, 2012 (the day that strikes are due).

OPENING ASSEMBLY – A great deal of important information regarding tournament logistics will be provided during the opening assembly. The opening assembly will be held in the Sehome/Fairhaven Room at the Lakeway Inn. **It is the responsibility of every participating school to have at least one person present at the opening assembly.** The tournament director is not responsible for disseminating information to those who do not attend the assembly.

PREPARATION ROOMS – Prep areas will be assigned at random according to size of entry. Prior to the start of the tournament, the tournament host will provide the tournament director a list of available preparation rooms and their capacities. Schools will then be randomly assigned to one of the rooms that will accommodate the size of their entry. Priority will be given to schools that require ADA accommodations. You may only prep in the room assigned to you or a common area. You may not take it upon yourself to occupy a room that appears to be unused. You will be notified of your prep room at tournament registration. There is no guarantee of availability of white boards, chalkboards, or any other resources to be available in preparation rooms. At his discretion, the tournament director may reassign preparation rooms during elimination rounds in an effort to keep teams still competing as close to topic announcement as possible. Teams are responsible for returning the room to its original condition at the end of preparation time. Teams prepping in competition rooms must completely vacate the room at the end of prep time. Notify the ballot table after the round if you are competing or judging in a room that is left in disarray. Teams failing to comply with these guidelines shall be stripped of the privilege of using host rooms for preparation for the duration of the tournament. If costs are incurred by the host school to clean the space, these costs will be billed to the offending school and that school shall be excluded from NPDA membership until such fees are paid.

**2012 NPDA CHAMPIONSHIP
TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE
WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, MARCH 21-24, 2012**

WEDNESDAY, March 21st, 2012 (LAKEWAY)

| | | | |
|-------------|--|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| 10:00-11:00 | Site Selection Committee, President's Suite | 8:30 | Release Round 1 Pairings |
| | | 8:40 | Topic Announced: Round One |
| | | 9:10-9:55 | Round One Debates |
| 11:00-12:30 | Championship Tournament Committee Meeting, President's Suite | 10:20 | Ballots Due to Tabroom |
| 1:30-2:30 | Early Registration (Schools with no changes/financial issues), Lakeway Inn | 10:45 | Release Round 2 Pairings |
| | | 10:55 | Topic Announced: Round Two |
| 1:30-4:00 | Opening Reception, Whatcom Room, Lakeway Inn | 11:25-12:10 | Round Two Debates |
| | | 12:35 | Ballots Due to Tabroom |
| 2:30-4:00 | Tournament Registration (Open to all schools) – Lakeway Inn | 12:15-2:00 | LUNCH BREAK, Viking Commons Cafeteria |
| 4:00-4:30 | Opening Assembly, Sehome/Fairhaven Room, Lakeway Inn | 2:00 | Release Round 3 Pairings |
| | | 2:10 | Topic Announced: Round Three |
| | | 2:40-3:25 | Round Three Debates |
| | | 3:50 | Ballots Due to Tabroom |
| 4:30 | Introduction of NPDA vs. Irish Debate | 3:50-4:35 | NATIONAL STUDENT MEETING |
| 4:45-5:30 | NPDA vs. Irish Champions Debate, Sehome/Fairhaven Room, Lakeway Inn | 4:35 | Release Quadra-octafinal Pairings |
| | | 4:45 | Topic Announced: Quadra-octafinals |
| 5:45-6:30 | SAAID (Sisters and Allies Against Inequality in Debate) Meeting, Tournament Director's Suite | 5:15-6:00 | Quadra-octafinal Debates |
| | | 6:25 | Ballots Due to Tabroom |
| 7:30-10:00 | NPDA Business Meeting, San Juan Room, Lakeway Inn | 6:50 | Release Triple-octafinal Pairings |
| | | 7:00 | Topic Announced: Triple-octafinals |
| | | 7:30-8:15 | Triple-octafinal Debates |
| | | 8:35 | Ballots Due to Tabroom |

**THURSDAY, March 22nd, 2012 (WWU)
(Central Announcement in Arntzen 100)**

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| 8:30 | Release Round 1 Pairings |
| 8:40 | Topic Announced: Round One |
| 9:10-9:55 | Round One Debates |
| 10:20 | Ballots Due to Tabroom |
| 10:45 | Release Round 2 Pairings |
| 10:55 | Topic Announced: Round Two |
| 11:25-12:10 | Round Two Debates |
| 12:35 | Ballots Due to Tabroom |
| 12:15-2:00 | LUNCH BREAK, Viking Commons Cafeteria |
| 2:00 | Release Round 3 Pairings |
| 2:10 | Topic Announced: Round Three |
| 2:40-3:25 | Round Three Debates |
| 3:50 | Ballots Due to Tabroom |
| 4:15 | Release Round 4 Pairings |
| 4:25 | Topic Announced: Round Four |
| 4:55-5:40 | Round Four Debates |
| 6:05 | Ballots Due to Tabroom |
| 6:05-6:35 | DISTRICT MEETINGS, Locations TBA |
| 6:35 | Release Round 5 Pairings |
| 6:45 | Topic Announced: Round Five |
| 7:15-8:00 | Round Five Debates |
| 8:25 | Ballots Due to Tabroom |

FRIDAY, March 23rd, 2012 (WWU)

**NPDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT
WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, MARCH 21-24, 2012
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SATURDAY, March 24th, 2012 (WWU)

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| 8:30 | Release Double Octafinal Pairings |
| 8:40 | Topic Announce: Double Octafinals |
| 9:09-9:55 | Double Octafinal Round Debates |
| 10:20 | Ballots Due to Tabroom |
| 10:40 | Release Octafinal Pairings |
| 10:50 | Topic Announce: Octafinals |
| 11:19-12:05 | Octafinal Round Debates |
| 12:30 | Ballots Due to Tabroom |
| 12:15-1:30 | LUNCH BREAK – ON YOUR OWN |
| 1:30 | Release Quarterfinal Pairings |
| 1:40 | Topic Announce: Quarterfinals |
| 2:09-2:55 | Quarterfinal Round Debates |
| 3:20 | Ballots Due to Tabroom |
| 3:40 | Release Semifinal Pairings |
| 3:50 | Topic Announce: Semifinals |
| 4:19-5:05 | Semifinal Round Debates |
| 5:30 | Ballots Due to Tabroom |
| 5:30-6:15 | CLOSING RECEPTION |
| 6:15 | Topic Announce: The Final Round |
| 6:40-7:25 | National Championship Debate |
| 7:30/ASAP | AWARDS CEREMONY |

SELECTING THE AMERICANS WHO WILL DEBATE THE IRISH

Deadline: Friday, February 3, 2012

On Wednesday, March 23, the three finest debaters in Ireland will debate three NPDA debaters at the 2012 National Tournament in Bellingham, WA

The goal: To select American debaters on the basis of three criteria ranked in this order:

Top priority: Sportspersonship and diplomacy

2nd priority: Forensic and academic achievement.

3rd priority: Effectiveness in public debate

Sportspersonship: Among other qualities, humble in victory, gracious in defeat

Diplomacy: A student who promotes understanding between different cultures.

The selection process: Nomination closing date: **Friday, February 3, 2012.**

Prelims (November-Feb 3): Nominations must include 1) a one-page forensics and academic resume (GPA) 2) two letters of reference attesting to sportsmanship, character, debate skills and suitability for public debate and 3) a statement by the nominee reflecting on why he or she wishes to be given the opportunity to debate the Irish. How would your style in the Irish round be different from a typical parli round?

E-mail applications should be sent by Feb. 3 to Brent Northup (bnorthup@carroll.edu), who will chair the selection committee. If you are at all interested, drop me a hint right now...so I have you on my tickle file to remind as deadlines approach!

Announcement of three Americans to debate the Irish: by **February 12, 2012**

The goal of the process is to give outstanding people the opportunity to debate the Irish – people who also happen to be successful debaters and good students.

Remember that a completed nomination contains:

- A forensics and academic resume
- Two letters of recommendation about the nominee's character
- A statement by the nominee reflecting on why he or she wishes to be chosen
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Please send nominations – e-mails are acceptable - by Feb. 3, 2012 to:

Brent Northup, coordinator of the Irish program

bnorthup@carroll.edu

1601 N. Benton Ave.

Helena, MT. 59625 (406) 459-2371 cell

**2012 NPDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT
TOURNAMENT FEE SCHEDULE**

If you are paying by check, include this form when mailing payment.

School Name: _____ **Director's Name:** _____

Director's Email: _____ **Director's Cell #:** _____

SCHOOL ENTRY SECTION

Each College and University entering the National Championship Tournament must be a member school of the NPDA. Membership is \$50.00 per year. Additionally, each school is required to pay a \$45.00 fee to support the administrative costs associated with the tournament.

Schools may wish to host the Irish National Champions. If your school is anticipating doing so, a space has been included on this form. Finally, schools within driving distance of Western Washington University may wish to support the Western Washington University program by indicating a District Fee.

- __ 1__ School Entry Fee at \$45.00 \$ _____
- _____ Meal Packages at \$17.00 per person (mandatory) \$ _____
- _____ District Fee at \$250.00 (supports local host) \$ _____
- _____ Hosting the Irish at \$400.00 \$ _____
- _____ 2011-2012 NPDA membership at \$50.00 \$ _____
- _____ 2012-2013 NPDA membership at \$50.00 \$ _____

TEAM ENTRY SECTION

Fees charged for each school depend on the date (1) the entry is posted to forensicstournament.net and (2) arrival date of registration materials. ALL materials must **arrive** by **Friday, March 2nd**. to be considered on-time. Please indicate the number of teams your school is entering in the tournament.

- _____ On-Time Debate Teams at \$100.00 \$ _____
- _____ Late Entry Debate Teams at \$175.00 \$ _____
- _____ Last Minute Debate Teams at \$600.00 (must be uncovered)..... \$ _____

JUDGING SECTION

Every school must bring a **minimum of one critic**. Beyond this, a school is responsible for bringing a full-time critic for every two teams entered in the National Championship Tournament. Teams will only be allowed to buy out of their commitment as the tournament is able to find additional hired critics. If you know of individuals who wish to be hired, please have them contact the tournament director.

- _____ On-Time Uncovered Teams at \$150.00 \$ _____
- _____ Late Entry Debate Teams at \$225.00 \$ _____

TOTAL FEES FOR SCHOOL..... \$ _____

**REMINDER – NPDA's tax ID number is: EIN 81 0543496.
Checks must be drawn on a University Check or Cashier's Check and
be made payable to National Parliamentary Debate Association. Thank You.**

**2012 NPDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT
RULES FOR DEBATING AND JUDGING**

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The purpose of these rules is to define some goals and procedures of the debates so that, to the extent possible, everyone will enter the debates with a shared set of expectations. These rules are designed to apply to the framework for debate rather than the substance. They are framed in ways that attempt to allow many degrees of freedom in regard to a debater's creativity.

These Rules apply to the NPDA National Championship Tournament. They also apply to any NPDA sanctioned tournament unless the director of a tournament publishes changes or alterations to these Rules in the tournament invitation. Sanctions for violating Section 4 of the Rules of Debating and Judging (rules that apply during the debate) shall be the province of the judge. In the case of a dispute regarding a judge's interpretation of the rules, enforcement of the rules, or adhering to the procedures of the tournament, one or both debate teams may appeal a judge's decision regarding sanctions to the Ombudsperson for a final decision.

Enforcement of all other sections of the NPDA Tournament Rules shall be the providence of the Tournament Director in consultation with the Championship Tournament Committee. Appeals of decisions made by the Tournament Director will be directed to the National Championship Tournament Ombudsperson.

RULES OF DEBATING AND JUDGING

1. RESOLUTIONS

- A. A different resolution for each round will be presented to the debaters at a specified time prior to the beginning of each debate. The specified time will be determined by adding fifteen minutes to the amount of time needed to walk to the most distant buildings in which debates are to occur.
- B. The topic of each round will be about current affairs or philosophy. The resolutions will be general enough that a well-educated college student can debate them. They may be phrased in literal or metaphorical language.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE DEBATE

The proposition team must affirm the resolution by presenting and defending a sufficient case for that resolution. The opposition team must oppose the resolution and/or the proposition team's case. If, at the end of the debate, the judge believes that the proposition team has supported and successfully defended the resolution, they will be declared the winner - otherwise the opposition will be declared the winner.

3. DURING THE DEBATE

- A. Any published information (dictionaries, magazines, etc.), which may have been consulted before the debate, cannot be brought into the debating chambers for use during the debate. Except for notes that the debaters themselves have prepared during preparation time and a copy of the NPDA "Rules of Debating and Judging," no published materials, prepared arguments, or resources for the debaters' use in the debate may be brought into the debating chambers.

- B. Format of the debate

- First Proposition Constructive Speaker: 7 minutes
 - First Opposition Constructive Speaker: 8 minutes
 - Second Proposition Constructive Speaker: 8 minutes

- Second Opposition Constructive Speaker: 8 minutes
 - Opposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 4 minutes
 - Proposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 5 minutes

**2012 NPDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT
RULES FOR DEBATING AND JUDGING**

Page 2 of 2

- C. **Constructive and Rebuttal Speeches** - Introduction of new arguments is appropriate during all constructive speeches. However, debaters may not introduce new arguments in rebuttal speeches except that the proposition rebuttalist may introduce new arguments in his or her rebuttal to refute arguments that were first raised in the Second Opposition Constructive. New examples, analysis, analogies, etc. that support previously introduced arguments are permitted in rebuttal speeches.
- D. **Points of Information** - A debater may request a point of information-either verbally or by rising-at any time after the first minute and before the last minute of any constructive speech. The debater holding the floor has the discretion to accept or refuse points of information. If accepted, the debater requesting the point of information has a maximum of fifteen seconds to make a statement or ask a question. The speaking time of the debater with the floor continues during the point of information.
- E. **Points of Order** - Points of order can be raised for no reason other than those specified in these Rules of Debating and Judging. If at any time during the debate, a debater believes that his or her opponent has violated one of these Rules of Debating and Judging, he or she may address the Speaker of the House with a point of order. Once recognized by the Speaker of the House, the debater must state, but may not argue for, the point of order. At the discretion of the Speaker of the House, the accused may briefly respond to the point of order. The Speaker of the House will then rule immediately on the point of order in one of three ways: point well taken, point not well taken, or point taken under consideration. The time used to state and address a point of order will not be deducted from the speaking time of the debater with the floor. A point of order is a serious charge and should not be raised for minor violations.
- F. **Points of Personal Privilege** - At any time during the debate, a debater may rise to a point of personal privilege when he or she believes that an opponent has personally insulted one of the debaters, has made an offensive or tasteless comment, or has grievously misconstrued another's words or arguments. The Speaker will then rule on whether or not the comments were acceptable. The time used to state and address a point of personal privilege will not be deducted from the speaking time of the debater with the floor. Like a point of order, a point of personal privilege is a serious charge and should not be raised for minor transgressions. Debaters may be penalized for raising spurious points of personal privilege.

4. AFTER THE DEBATE

- A. After the final rebuttal, the Speaker of the House will dismiss the teams, complete the ballot and return it to the Tournament Director. The judge should not give oral comments before the ballot is completed and returned to the Tournament Director.
- B. After returning the ballot, the judge may, at his or her discretion, give brief constructive comments to the debaters. Such conversations should, if possible, take place in the established "warm room" area if one is designated by the tournament. No one may be required to enter the "warm room" or participate in discussions. Judges should refrain from checking the records of teams they are about to judge should such information be available.
- C. Debaters or coaches will refrain from arguing with judges' decisions or comments. Debaters or coaches who harass judges may be withdrawn from the tournament on a 2/3 vote of the Tournament Committee.

**2012 NPDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT
CRITIC CERTIFICATION FORM**

Page 1 of 2

The following form will be made available to all judges. EVERY critic adjudicating at the NPDA National Championship Tournament must sign a copy of these rules, thereby indicating their knowledge of said rules and an agreement to abide by them. Refusal to comply will result in that judge being removed from the National Championship Tournament and their squad assessed the costs of hiring an additional critic or the removal of teams from the offending judge's school.

These rules and guidelines are intended to define, to the extent possible, basic goals and procedures so that debaters and judges will enter rounds with shared expectations. The Tournament Rules attempt to allow freedom in debaters' creativity within reasonable parameters.

- PART ONE: TIMING AND LOGISTICS -

Preparation Time: Each debate must begin 30 minutes after the announcement of the motion. Judges will follow timing guidelines stated in the Invitation under "Penalties for Lateness."

Timing of the Debate: The Judge should give time signals indicating the number of minutes of speaking time remaining. During constructive speeches, judges should also alert debaters when one minute has elapsed and when one minute remains by rapping on the desk sharply. There is no preparation time between speeches. Speeches should not exceed the following time limits:

First Proposition Constructive Speaker: 7 minutes
First Opposition Constructive Speaker: 8 minutes
Second Proposition Constructive Speaker: 8 minutes

Second Opposition Constructive Speaker: 8 minutes
Opposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 4 minutes
Proposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 5 minutes

Pre-Prepared and Published Materials: Any published information, prepared arguments, or other resources may be consulted before the debate; however, such materials may not be used during the debate, with two exceptions: (1) notes made during preparation time by the debaters competing in that round may be used during the debate, and (2) a copy of the NPDA "Rules of Debating and Judging" may be used in the debating chambers.

Specific Information: Debaters may refer to any information within the realm of knowledge of liberally educated and informed citizens. If a debater believes that certain cited information is too specific, he or she may request that his or her opponent explain the information. In the event that further explanation of specific information is requested, the opponent should provide details sufficient to allow others to understand the connection between the information and his or her claim. Judges will disallow specific information only in the event that no reasonable person could have access to the information, e.g., information from the debater's personal family history.

New Arguments in Rebuttals: New arguments are appropriate during all constructive speeches. Debaters may not introduce new arguments in rebuttal speeches, except that the Proposition rebuttalist may introduce new arguments in her/his rebuttal to refute arguments first raised in the Second Opposition Constructive. New examples, analysis, analogies, etc. that support previously introduced arguments are permitted in rebuttals.

- PART TWO: PARLIAMENTARY POINTS -

Points of Information: A debater may request a point of information (either verbally or by standing) at any time after the first minute and before the last minute of any constructive speech. The debater holding the floor may accept or refuse points of information. If accepted, the debater requesting the point of information has a maximum of fifteen seconds to make a statement or ask a question. The speaking time of the debater with the floor continues during the point of information. There is no requirement that a point of information be phrased in a particular format—question, statement, or otherwise.

**2012 NPDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT
CRITIC CERTIFICATION FORM**

Page 2 of 2

Points of Personal Privilege: At any time during the debate, a debater may rise to a point of personal privilege when he/she believes that an opponent has personally insulted one of the debaters, has made an offensive or tasteless comment, or has grievously misconstrued another's words or arguments. The judge will then rule on whether the comments were acceptable. The time used for a point of personal privilege is not deducted from the speaking time of the debater with the floor. Points of personal privilege should not be raised for minor issues. Debaters may be penalized for raising spurious points of personal privilege.

Points of Order: Points of Order may be raised for no reason other than those specified in the NPDA Rules for Debating and Judging. If at any time during the debate, a debater believes that her/his opponent has violated one of these rules, he/she may address the judge with a point of order. Once recognized by the judge, the debater must state, but may not argue for, the point of order. At the discretion of the judge, the accused may respond to the point of order. The judge will then rule immediately on the point of order in one of three ways: "point well taken," "point not well taken," or "point taken under consideration." In elimination rounds, the judging panel should decide, before the first speech, how to handle points of order. The time used to state and address a point of order will not be deducted from the speaking time of the debater with the floor. A point of order is a serious charge and should not be raised for minor violations.

- PART THREE: COMPLETION OF THE BALLOT -

Written Comments on Ballots: Judges are encouraged to provide constructive and educational written comments on each ballot. While we do not have the luxury of allowing unlimited time for writing ballots, writing only that "oral critique was given" is considered inadequate. Judges doing so will be asked to explain their decisions in writing on preliminary and elimination round ballots.

After the Debate: The judge should complete the ballot and return it to the ballot table as indicated in the tournament schedule. Judges should not confer with ANYONE prior to writing a decision and awarding speaker points. **After returning the ballot**, the judge may, at his or her discretion, give brief constructive comments to the debaters. Debaters or coaches may not argue with a judge's decision or comments.

- PART FOUR: ADJUDICATOR RESPONSIBILITY -

Sexual Harassment Policy: The NPDA maintains that parliamentary debate should be a contest of knowledge, wit and argumentation conducted in a setting of civility and mutual respect. The organization maintains that all eligible members should have access to debate activities without regard to race, creed, age, sex, national origin, sexual or affectional preference, or non-disqualifying handicap. These principles should guide the behavior and conduct of all members and participants of the organization. The full NPDA Sexual Harassment Policy is available at <http://www.parlidebate.org/npda-nationals/sexual-harassment-policy/> and will be made available at tournament registration.

Abuse of Power by Judges: Unfortunately, this section is necessary. Judges should never use their position to impose inappropriate or artificial demands on debaters and certainly never endorse rules violations. Examples of unacceptable practices include requiring debaters to address the judge with a humorous title or requiring debaters to repeat specified words or phrases in exchange for speaker points. As clever as such practices may seem, they may create the appearance of inequity and may be unintentionally demeaning or distracting to the debaters.

- PART FIVE: ADJUDICATOR ACCOUNTABILITY -

I have read this document and I agree that the rounds under my jurisdiction will be governed by these rules.

| Name of Critic | School Affiliation | Signature of Critic | Date | E-mail address |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|------|----------------|
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|------|----------------|

**2012 NPDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT
NPDA STUDENT ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS**

Page 1 of 1

Please make sure your students fulfill these guidelines. Questions regarding eligibility should be addressed to the Tournament Director BEFORE submitting an entry.

- A. Participation in NPDA is open to officially enrolled undergraduate students in good standing at the college or university they are representing and meeting the criteria below.
 1. A student must represent a recognized degree granting institution that is a member of the NPDA and participate with the full knowledge and approval of that institution, its officials, and any existing NPDA affiliated organization operating within that institution.
 2. A student needs to be seeking a baccalaureate degree at the institution they are representing unless competing for a two-year honor, in which case, pursuit of associate's degree or equivalent two-year certification at said institution is sufficient.
 3. Possession of one of the aforementioned degrees precludes further competition for those perspective honors at the national tournament.
 4. "Good standing" and definition of degree pursuit are defined by the institution the student is representing.
 5. A student is limited to competition in four NPDA National Championship Tournaments.
- B. Midyear graduates may compete in the NPDA National Championship in the spring after graduation at the discretion of the member school. The NPDA will not accept points accrued by midyear graduates at regular season tournaments after their graduation.
- C. In unusual cases, graduate students who possess a baccalaureate degree may petition for one "tournament year" of eligibility. A "tournament year" shall include any year in which the student attends any national speech and/or debate tournament.
 1. Graduate students making such a request must have no previous experience in intercollegiate speech and/or debate activities of any kind, and must require involvement in competitive speech and debate for a specific type of degree, certification, or other professional requirement.
 2. Coaches who have a student deserving of consideration must submit a request in writing to the NPDA President prior to entering the student in competition. The request should explain the student's specific degree-related need, certify that the student has no previous experience or provide a detailed description of the student's previous experience, and outline the student's prior academic associations including other schools he/she attended and degree(s) earned. The President, in concert with the Executive Council, will consider each request and issue the "tournament year" of eligibility in writing if satisfied that the request is appropriate.

**2012 NPDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT
ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION FORMS**

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COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY CERTIFICATION

Date: _____

From: _____

To: Glenn Prince, NPDA National Championship Tournament Director

RE: Eligibility to participate in NPDA National Championship Tournament

I certify that the students listed below are registered for the Spring 2012 semester, are considered to be in good standing and are pursuing an undergraduate degree at _____. To attest to this, I hereby affix my signature and the seal of the institution.

School Registrar

Date

--- STUDENT NAMES ---

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
|--|--|

DIRECTOR OF FORENSICS CERTIFICATION

Having read the rules for student eligibility for the NPDA National Championship Tournament, I certify that all the aforementioned students meet the requirements outlined in those rules.

Director of Forensics

Date

Current email address

cell number

NPDA 2012 CHECKLIST
WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, MARCH 21-24, 2012

In an attempt to further simplify the registration process for the 2012 NPDA National Championship Tournament, the following checklist has been created. Use this list if it is helpful to you.

STEP ONE: LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS

- Hotel Reservations** are available under the NPDA block until **Thursday, March 1st**.

STEP TWO: POSTAL MAIL TOURNAMENT ENTRY

- Tournament Fees** paid via credit card or mailed to Brent Northup at Carroll College (mailing address below) and must **arrive** by **Friday, March 2nd**. Fees must be either a cashier's check, a check drawn on a University account, or a credit card payment.
- Student Eligibility Forms** must **arrive** by **Friday, March 2nd**. You may fax a copy and bring the original to registration or mail the original to me at Rice University (mailing address below).
- Critic Certification Forms** must **arrive** by **Friday, March 2nd**. You may fax a copy and bring the original to registration or mail the original to me at Rice University (mailing address below).

STEP THREE: ELECTRONIC TOURNAMENT ENTRY

- Tournament Entry** – submitted to the entry page (<http://www.forensicstournament.net>) by **Friday, March 2nd at 6:00 p.m. CST**. Remember to submit critics AND debaters names.
- Judging Philosophy Statements** should be submitted to the entry page (<http://www.forensicstournament.net>) by **Friday, March 2nd at 6:00 p.m. CST**.

STEP FOUR: SUBMIT JUDGE STRIKES

- Download Judge Philosophy Book** – Book will be made available on or about **March 12th** on the NPDA website (<http://www.parlidebate.org>) and the entry page (<http://www.forensicstournament.net>).
- Judge Strikes** need to be submitted on the entry page (<http://www.forensicstournament.net>) by **Monday, March 19th at 6:00 p.m. CST**. The strike sheet will be available on or about March 10th.

STEP FOUR: TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION

- Register in person** at the Lakeway Inn and Convention Center on **Wednesday, March 21 between 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.** If you have a travel emergency, call 270-799-8637 IMMEDIATELY.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Glenn Prince, Assistant Director of Forensics
Rice University
MS 333
Houston, TX 77005-1827
Email: gp3@rice.edu
Office: (713) 348-3263
Fax: (713) 348-4745
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