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Dear Forensic Colleagues,

On behalf of the University of Central Missouri's Department of Communication, the "Talking Mules" Speech & Debate Team, and our coaching staff, I am thrilled to extend this invitation to attend the 2023 Missouri Mule Speech & Debate Tournament, hosted on the campus of University of Central Missouri in beautiful Warrensburg, MO on **October 6-7, 2023**.

On Friday, we will offer 5 preliminary rounds, and an appropriate number of elimination rounds, of IPDA (V, JV, N, and Professional). Saturday offers a completion of IPDA rounds, if necessary, 5 preliminary rounds for LD (O, JV, N), with an appropriate number of elimination rounds, and all 11 AFA-NIET individual events. Entries can be received at <https://forensicstournament.net/MOMule/23>.

If you have students with special circumstances or needs, we will do everything in our power to make appropriate accommodations. Coaches, please email us your requests prior to 5:00 PM (CST), Monday, October 2. Our goal is to create a safe and supportive environment for all competitors and judges.

As always, we are committed to providing a quality, on-time, competitive experience. To accomplish this, we have asked Nikki Freeman and Gina Jensen to assist in the tab room.

**The official tournament hotels are:**

**Comfort Inn**, flat rate \$96 double queens, 660-429-4848.

**Fairfield Inn & Suites**, flat rate \$179 double queens.

**A cautionary note:** We are a small-ish town with several activities occurring in neighboring communities. Once the room blocks are gone, there will not be many additional options.

**Other hotels:**

**Holiday Inn Express**, call for rates, 660-656-2020.

**Best Western Inn**, call for rates, 660-747-3000

**Super 8 (Warrensburg)**, call for rates, 660-429-3611 or 660-429-2183.

**Day's Inn**, call for rates, 660-429-2400

**America's Best Value Inn**, (9 miles down HWY 50 in Knob Noster), call for rates, 660-563-3000.

**There are other options in neighboring communities, but you're looking at a 30 minute drive. Feel free to reach out if you need additional recommendations.**

We recognize we're a little earlier on the schedule this year, but we hope you are still able to join us in Warrensburg. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to [jordancompton@ucmo.edu](mailto:jordancompton@ucmo.edu)

We look forward to hosting you,

Jordan Compton  
Director of Forensics  
Tournament Host

Sydney Crank  
Assistant Director of Forensics  
Tournament Co-Host

## **2023 Missouri Mule Tournament Regulations:**

### **General Tournament Policies:**

#### **Statement of Support for the Ethical Treatment of Others:**

*The Talking Mules Speech & Debate Team is committed to ensuring equal opportunity to all persons, regardless of race, color, religious creed, national origin, physical ability status, age, economic status, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. As such, our tournament is opposed to all forms of discrimination and seeks to establish a tolerant atmosphere in which every individual is accorded respect. While we respect the importance of First Amendment freedoms, we respectfully remind tournament participants that with rights come responsibilities. Please refrain from disrespectful or derogatory speech. Our tournament practices a policy of zero tolerance for violations of Title IX. If you wish to register a complaint, please begin with the Tournament Director, Jordan Compton, [jordancompton@ucmo.edu](mailto:jordancompton@ucmo.edu), 660-543-4658 or if he cannot be reached, Sydney Crank, [scrank@ucmo.edu](mailto:scrank@ucmo.edu), 660-281-8187. All complaints will maintain the confidentiality of all persons involved to the maximum extent possible. However, please remember that the Tournament Director and your coach are identified as mandatory reporters by Federal law. Our University's Title IX compliance office may become involved. Dr. Corey Bowman is the University's compliance officer and may be contacted at [bowman@ucmo.edu](mailto:bowman@ucmo.edu), 660-543-4114. The Title IX tournament coordinator and UCM's compliance officer will ensure that appropriate Title IX officer at your home institutions are contacted. (Adapted from Pi Kappa Delta's website.)*

#### **The tournament will also be supporting the NFA's working "Open Door" Policy**

*UCM Speech & Debate is committed to providing safe performance spaces for all competitors. We acknowledge the art of performance may be a healing process and/or opportunity to speak on important issues. As a performer, it is impossible to know all the ways in which content or a performance may unintentionally harm our peers. To better serve our competitors, we will be honoring the NFA's open door practice during rounds this weekend. Meaning, competitors may choose when they feel comfortable being present in the room, which includes choosing only to be present in the room when performing. Competitors may also discreetly leave the room, even when not double-entered without question or penalty.*

*If one of your competitors needs to be coded to avoid competing against or being judged by a competitor or judge due to a previous or current difficulty outlined in the aforementioned policies, PLEASE contact the tournament director with your request prior to Wednesday, October 4. We will do everything in our power to ensure a safe and supportive competitive experience for all.*

#### **Updated ICE Activity in the Area:**

The University of Central Missouri is committed to inclusiveness and welcomes students and coaches from all identities and social roles. Our program stands in solidarity with, and will continue to offer a safe, educational space for our most vulnerable members. While we are not a sanctuary city, the city of Warrensburg strives to create a safe and inclusive community. We will send any update on any ICE activity as we get closer to October. We have found <https://www.mira-mo.org/> to be a useful resource.

### **Ethics Challenges During or Post Round:**

From time to time, challenges are made both in or after the round to a competitor's ethical behavior (e.g. pre-printed evidence in IPDA rounds, misquoted or misrepresented evidence, etc.). In these cases, judges are directed to make up their own mind to the challenge, resume the round, and note both their decision and if the decision affected the outcome of the round on the ballot. If one of the competitors is dissatisfied with the judge's decision, they may appeal the decision to the tournament director. The tournament director will gather the facts and make a decision, which is final. The tournament will NOT be stopped or delayed due to this type of challenge.

### **Student led programs:**

*If you are a student led program or a program with limited resources, we will do everything in our power to assist you with judges and fees. Simply make a request with the Tournament Director at [jordancompton@ucmo.edu](mailto:jordancompton@ucmo.edu).*

## **Competition**

### ***Debate***

- We will offer Varsity, Junior Varsity, Novice, and Professional divisions in IPDA. We will offer Open, Junior, and Novice divisions in NFA-LD. If a Novice division has seven or less entries, or one school has more than half of the entries in the division, it will be collapsed with the Junior Varsity/Junior divisions; however, novice speaker awards and top novice awards will be awarded. If a Junior Varsity/Junior division has seven or less entries, or one school has more than half of the entries in the division, it will be collapsed with the Varsity/Open divisions; however, JV/Junior speaker awards will be awarded. If the Professional division in IPDA has 7 or fewer entries, we will not be able to offer this division and invite competitors to lend their skills as judges. All divisions and formats of debate will be conducted as much as is practical in accordance with the appropriate governing organizations' rules and procedures.

### ***Divisions:***

**Novice**, in all formats of debate, is intended for those with less than two semesters of previous debate experience in any format, high school or college. If you have a question about a student's novice eligibility, please contact the Tournament Director.

**Junior Varsity/Junior**, in all formats of debate, is intended for those with less than two years of previous debate experience in any format. If you have a question about a student's junior varsity/junior eligibility, please contact the Tournament Director.

**Varsity/Open**, in all formats of debate, is intended for any intercollegiate competitor.

**Professional**, only in IPDA, is open to anyone. Generally intended for those who have exhausted their intercollegiate eligibility. A general note about this division: We will do everything possible to run these rounds as scheduled. However, if we find ourselves in a judge shortage, we will prioritize the student divisions. Teams entering this division will be expected to provide an ample amount of judges for their entry.

Some of our rooms on Friday will be a bit spread out. IPDA will still have 30 minutes to draw, prep, and walk to their competition room. A 2 minute forfeiture rule will be strictly enforced. Walk early, please. IPDA rounds may be flighted, depending upon classroom availability. On Saturday, we will attempt to keep LD rooms as close as possible. Both debate formats will offer 5 prelim rounds, with appropriate outrounds. We will attempt to advance all winning records if the schedule allows. This will be largely dependent on entry size and whether all divisions make.

### **PLEASE READ**

**Judges:** We will be using electronic ballots. Please wait until after you have submitted your ballot to provide any oral critiques. Additionally, please submit your ballot as soon as a decision has been made. You can always go back and add comments after the ballot has been officially submitted. This will help keep our tournament running on time. JUDGES are responsible for keeping themselves and their debaters ON TIME. If you get involved in a long oral critique and are late accepting your ballot YOU WILL BE CHARGED \$25 FOR THE PUSHED BALLOT. If the debaters are late (10 minute forfeit rule) they will forfeit that round and a 0 will be entered for speaker points. PLEASE make every effort to help keep us on schedule.

### ***Individual Events:***

I.E.'s will be conducted in accordance with the AFA-NIET guidelines. The conflict patterns are: Pattern A: Extemp, Persuasive, Prose, POI, Duo; Pattern B: Impromptu, Informative, Poetry, DI, ADS, CA. A student may enter up to three events in both conflict patterns. It is the student's responsibility to make their rounds on time. No student will be allowed to enter more than three events per conflict pattern or more than two Duos. **No exceptions.** It tends to make the tournament run late. Any student who enters a minimum of five events in **two genres** - limited prep (EXT or IMP), platform (ADS, PER, INF, CA), and/or interpretation (DUO, POE, POI, DI, PRO) will be eligible for Pentathlon. Any event that has 50 or more entries will be advanced to a semi-finals round.

**We will follow the current practice of allowing internet access during extemp and IPDA prep; however, we can neither guarantee equal access to all or constant, quality connectivity. Have a backup plan ready.**

***Cross-Overs:***

The only restriction is that students competing in LD cannot enter individual events.

***Judges:***

This is Warrensburg; and as such, there is not a large pool of available judges. **Please bring judges to cover your entry.** We would much rather have your judges than your money. In the event that you cannot bring enough judges to cover your entry, a few judges are available for hire. One judge covers 2 LD or IPDA entries. One judge covers 8 entries in I.E.'s. **A judge cannot cover both LD and IE entries. All debate judges are obligated to Full Outround #1 regardless of whether your team(s) broke to elimination rounds and 1 round past their elimination. All IE judges are obligated to the Finals of both A & B. Fees:** Uncovered IE entries are an additional \$12.00 each. Uncovered LD or IPDA entries are an additional \$75.00 each.

**Please...we'd much rather have your judges than your money! Programs must cover the majority of their entry. Some exceptions may be granted by the tournament director if judges are available.** Hired judges are available on a first come, first serve basis. We reserve the right to limit entries based upon your ability to bring judges to adequately cover them. We also reserve the right to stack IE competitors into panels so that we may use your judge but will only do so as a last resort.

**Judge Constraints:**

We ask that if your students have any conflicts with judges for non-competitive reasons that you let us know so we can block that judge from judging the student. Examples of when this could happen might include: the student is a family member/close friend of the judge, a student was harassed/assaulted by a judge, a student was a teammate of the judge, or a student was coached by the judge. We respect the privacy of these decisions. We hope that if a judge has participated in improper behavior that the tournament director will be notified so that, if necessary, the judge can be removed from the judging pool before interacting with students. Students can inform us through their coach or inform the tournament director directly at [jordancompton@ucmo.edu](mailto:jordancompton@ucmo.edu). The tournament director will not ask for details and do not expect any; we trust in the decision of the student. We will attempt to provide a full list of judges to all coaches the week of the tournament.

**Sweepstakes Formula:**

While there is no limit to the number of entries a school may enter, only the school's top 4 entries per division of debate format and IE event will count towards Sweepstakes awards. The tabroom will automatically advance your top competitors. Points for debate prelim wins will be 2.5 points/win or bye. Debate speakers will be awarded 6 points for 1st Speaker; 5 points for 2nd Speaker; 4 points for 3rd Speaker; 3 points for 4th Speaker; 2 points for 5th Speaker; and 1 point for 6th Speaker. I.E.'s will earn 3 points for a ranking of 1 in prelim rounds; 2 points for a ranking of 2; and 1 point for a ranking of 3. Competitors in the finals will be awarded 6 points for 1st Place; 5 points for 2nd Place; 4 points for 3rd Place; 3 points for 4th Place; 2 points for 5th Place; and 1 point for 6th Place and up. Points will be awarded for the top 5 placements for Pentathlon using the same formula as the finals of I.E.'s.

***Awards:***

Appropriate awards will include: 1st-3rd Overall Sweeps (must have an entry in IEs and Debate); 1st-3rd I.E. Sweeps; 1st-3rd Debate Sweeps; Top 2 year program; all debate competitors who advanced to elimination rounds; 1st-6th Debate Speakers; all finalists in Individual Events; 1st-5th in Pentathlon. Finally, the top scoring team who is a member of Pi Kappa Delta will be awarded the E. Sam Cox Trophy.

Please remember the health and sanity of your judges and competitors as you enter. We want to make **everything** available, but we don't want to kill anyone either.

**Entry**

Entries can be received at <https://forensicstournament.net/MOMule/23>. **All** entries must be received no later than 5:00 PM (CST), Monday, October 2nd. Fees will be assessed upon your entry as it stands at 5:00 PM (CST), Wednesday, October 4th. All changes after that deadline will be assessed a nuisance fee **plus** original fees. To enter the tournament, log in and enter your tournament information on forensicstournament.net. Please double check your entry if you have not received an email confirming your entry by Wednesday, Oct. 4th at 5:00 PM.

**Fee Calculation Worksheet:**

**Entries:**

_____	LD @ \$30.00 each	_____
_____	IPDA @ \$30.00 each	_____
_____	IE slots @ \$8.00 each	_____
_____	Duos @ \$10.00 each	_____

**Judging Fees:**

_____	All uncovered IPDA or LD entries @ \$75.00 each	_____
_____	Uncovered IE slots @ \$12.00 each	_____

**Nuisance Fees:**

_____	IE Adds or Drops after deadline @ \$10.00 each	_____
_____	Dropped debate entry @ \$25.00 each	_____
_____	Dropped Judges @ Registration @ \$200	_____

**Total Tournament Fees** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to:**

**UCMO Forensics**

**We are not able to take credit cards. Checks made out to any other payee will be returned and you will have to process a new check. If your accounts payable department has questions, please have them contact the tournament director, Jordan Compton, at [jordancompton@ucmo.edu](mailto:jordancompton@ucmo.edu) (660-543-4658).**

**We will also accept cash for payment of fees.**

**If you need a W-9 from the University, please request it in advance and I can email you a copy.**



## 2023 Missouri Mule Tournament Schedule

### Friday, October 6

8:00-9:00	Registration, Student Union Atrium
9:00	Round 1, IPDA Draw
9:30	Round 1, IPDA
10:30	Round 2, IPDA Draw
11:00	Round 2, IPDA
12:00-12:45	Lunch - Food Court (on your own), University Union
12:45	Round 3, IPDA Draw
1:15	Round 3, IPDA
2:30	Round 4, IPDA Draw
3:00	Round 4, IPDA
4:15	Round 5, IPDA Draw
4:45	Round 5, IPDA
6:00	Elim 1, IPDA Draw
6:30	Elim 1, IPDA
7:30	Elim 2, IPDA Draw
8:00	Elim 2, IPDA

### Saturday, October 7

7:00	IE/LD Registration, Student Union Atrium		
7:30	Elim 3, IPDA Draw		
8:00	Elim 3, IPDA	8:00	LD Round 1
8:30	Extemp Draw - Wood 100		
9:00-10:15	RD 1, Pattern A (EXT, PER, PRO, POI, DUO)	9:30	LD Round 2
10:15-10:45	Extemp Draw - Wood 100	11:00	LD Round 3
10:45-12:00	RD 2, Pattern A		
12:00-1:00	Lunch On Your Own		
1:00-2:15	RD1, Pattern B (IMP, INFO, POE, DI, CA, ADS)	1:00	LD Round 4
2:30-3:45	RD2, Pattern B	2:30	LD Round 5
4:00	Extemp Draw - Wood 100	4:00	LD Octos
4:30-6:00	FINALS A		
6:00-7:30	FINALS B	6:30	LD Quarters
		8:00	LD Semis
8:00ish	Awards Ceremony	TBA	LD Finals

**\*NOTE: We reserve the right to make schedule changes as necessary to accommodate the tournament.**