

2021
Tennessee Intercollegiate Forensics Association Tournament –
Debate Portion

Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of TIFA, please allow me to invite you to the 2021 TIFA Tournament to be held via Yaatly. Join us for competition and fun on Saturday, February 13, 2021.

Please enter you teams at www.speechwire.com. If you have any problems with speechwire, please let me know.

All entries must be received by Wed., February 10, 2021, at 5:00 pm CST in Speechwire. Changes will be accepted until Thu., February 11, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. CST. As this is a “free” tournament, we ask that changes after the deadline be made only if absolutely necessary. For any changes after the deadline, please send changes to Pat Richey (Patrick.richey@mtsu.edu) or Abigail Barnes (abigail.m.barnes@usm.edu). Abigail has kindly agreed to help with Yaatly in tab.

So come celebrate, witness, and participate in the 2021 Tennessee Forensics State Championship. If we can aid you in any way, please contact me or Pat Richey.

Sincerely,

Chip Hall
Director of Forensics
Carson-Newman University
865-471-3443 (office)
865-257-1632 (cell)
chiphall72@gmail.com

Patrick G. Richey
Middle Tennessee State University
Director of Forensics
1301 E. Main St, P.O. Box 200
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
601-898-2273 (office)
patrick.richey@mtsu.edu

ENTRIES & FEES: (There are no fees for this tournament) – We will dip into TIFA reserves.

RULES and GUIDELINES:

For NPDA, No 3 person debate teams will be allowed. One hybrid or maverick (1 person) team will be permitted per school. Students on a hybrid must enter as the school where they are currently enrolled and team sweepstakes points will be divided evenly between the hybrid students’ schools. IPDA will follow guidelines set forth in the IPDA Constitution www.ipdadebate.info . There will NOT be a Professional or Junior Varsity division at TIFA.

Remember that NPDA judges cannot be current undergraduate students.

One judge covers 2 NPDA teams or 2 IPDA debaters.

***All teams/debaters MUST BE COVERED!!! THERE WILL BE NO UNCOVERED TEAMS/DEBATERS.

This is a necessity for this year because of the pandemic. A judge must commit to the entire tournament. No split judging! In IPDA, it may be necessary to use debaters who didn't break to be used as judges but we will avoid that if at all possible. We will not break brackets. If a team hits itself in out rounds, the coach must decide who advances. We cannot spare judges for intermural rounds. Judging will be super tight this year. Please be patient and work with us.

In NPDA, we will allow students to use programs like Google docs to collaborate when flowing during the round, however, only the competitors in the round may use the document and no research is allowed once the round begins. In IPDA, only what is written down is allowed in round per the IPDA Constitution.

VIRTUAL ARRIVAL & REGISTRATION:

User guides for coaches and students, including instructional videos for Yaatly, can be found on the IPDA Website at: <http://www.ipdadebate.info/virtual-debate-resources.html>.

We will use a similar approach for NPDA.

In addition to entering the tournament via speechwire, coaches should create the appropriate team Yaatly accounts several days prior to the tournament. **Yaatly must be accessed through a Chrome browser**. You will find instructions for this at <http://www.ipdadebate.info/virtualdebate-resources.html> Before the tournament:

- Familiarize your team with Yaatly: Accessing the platform prior to the start of the tournament will be especially useful to confirm cameras and mics are working well. Use your Team Room for this.
 - Familiarize yourself with Yaatly: There will be a "Tab Room" and "Coaches/Judges Lounge". Make plans to connect with other coaches in that area
 - Look at the schedule, timing, etc and be familiar with the Event Chat. During the tournament: All competitors and judges should be in their competition room 5 minutes before the start of the round. Cameras and mics can be off but individuals should be in the rooms. Rounds will start at the set times but this allows for troubleshooting of audio and video. It also allows time to remedy other issues so the rounds can start on time. Schools will be given 1 warning, then the offending judges and the competitors they are covering will be removed from the tournament. If the school has another issue with judges the entire entry may be removed
 - If a competitor or judge is not present in the room by the start of the round please contact Pat Richey or Abigail Barnes through Yaatly chat or the tab room immediately.
 - If a competitor is more than 5 minutes late to draw, their opponent will choose the topic and put it in chat in the competition room.
 - Coaches should confirm that all team judges have their ballots five minutes prior to the beginning of each round. All ballots will be delivered electronically via the email addresses the team's coach has provided.
 - Competitors should mute their audio during opponent's speeches; In IPDA only during cross-ex should both microphones be turned on. It is useful to use headphones during the round to help ensure everyone can hear you properly. Judges should also mute their microphones once the round has started.
- In NPDA a debater should only unmute their mic for a point of information ONCE RECOGNIZED.
- Competitors and judge webcams must be activated the entire debate round, and they should not change their backgrounds.

- Judges should be in a stable environment. This means seated and watching the round. Not walking, driving or doing any other things that would be a distraction to the competitors.
- Judges should activate the in-round timer function appropriate for each debate segment BUT competitors are expected to be timing themselves as well. In IPDA cellphones are not allowed.
- TECH ISSUES - If a competitor's internet drops in the middle of a round, the judge should freeze the timer and the competitor should try to re-enter the competition room
- If a competitor drops connection, the competitor will have a maximum of five minutes to reconnect before the round is forfeit. Rounds will not be re-run, due to timing.
- If a competitor re-enters within the 5 minutes but loses connection a second time in a single round, the round is forfeit. The judge may assign speaker point on performance to that point.
- If a competitor has more than 3 disconnections in a tournament, they forfeit remaining rounds. o If a judge drops connection, the competitors should immediately pause their timers and contact the tournament directors through Yaatly chat or the Tab Room after two minutes have elapsed.

SCORING:

Sweepstakes: Sweepstakes will be awarded in Individual Events using finals only. Points will be awarded using the following formula:

For NPDA Debate, each win receives 5 points. In addition, debate speaker awards follow the same point value scoring as final rounds for pentathlon (see below).

For IPDA Debate, each win receives 3 points. In addition, debate speaker awards follow the same point value scoring as final rounds for pentathlon (see below).

FINALS: 1st place speaker receives 6 points
 2nd place speaker receives 5 points
 3rd place speaker receives 4 points
 4th place speaker receives 3 points
 5th place speaker receives 2 points
 6th place speaker receives 1 point

REGISTRATION:

1. Each school may enter an unlimited number of students per event.
2. Students may compete in either NPDA or IPDA, but not both.

Please enter on www.speechwire.com. Please be sure to **TYPE** both first and last names on your school's entry. **Entries Wed., February 10, 2021, at 5:00 pm CST.** No additions will be accepted after this time.

If you have issues with Speech Wire, E-MAIL your entry to: patrick.richey@mtsu.edu

Awards:

Since there is no entry fees we will email certificates to all elimination round participants in all events (via emailed files). Awards shall be presented to the top six speakers in each debate division. The three top programs and the top community/junior college shall receive awards for Sweepstakes.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE – ALL TIMES ARE IN CENTRAL TIME

Saturday NPDA, February 13

8:30	Announcement Assembly
9:00	Round 1
10:30	Round 2
12:00-12:30	Lunch
12:30	Round 3
2:30	Round 4
4:00	Awards
4:30	Elim1
6:00	Elim 2
7:30	Elim 3 (if needed)

Saturday IPDA, February 13

8:30	Announcement Assembly
9:00	Round 1
10:15	Round 2
11:30	Round 3
12:30 -1:00	Lunch
1:00	Round 4
2:15	Round 5
3:15	Coaches Review
4:00	Awards
4:30	Elim 1
5:45	Elim 2
7:00	Elim 3 (if needed)