

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Texas Intercollegiate Forensics Association and Texas State University, it is my pleasure to invite you to the TIFA State Championship Tournament **to be held in person on the Texas State University campus 2/6 – 2/8, 2026**. The tournament is open to TIFA members only and will offer competition in all AFA-NST individual events, as well as NPDA, IPDA and NFA-LD styles of debate. Tournament staff will use [SpeechWire](#) for registration, tournament tabulation, event postings, ballot distribution, and information sharing.

On Sunday, February 8th, Texas State University will host the second half of the swing. The **Tx State Invitational** will offer competition in all AFA-NST individual events. Please find additional information at their [SpeechWire](#) tournament page.

We hope that you will join us for what is sure to be a weekend of fun and quality forensics competition.

Best Regards,

Wade Hescht, Lone Star College-North Harris
VP and Director of Tournaments, TIFA

Justin Blacklock, San Antonio College
President, TIFA

Texas All-State Forensic Squad

Every year, TIFA names an All-State Squad to recognize students who have excelled in forensics (in individual events, debate, or both) at either the 2-year or 4-year level while maintaining high levels of academic achievement and who are recognized as exhibiting strong character and leadership skills. To be considered for the All-State Squad, coaches must fill out the [All-State Squad Form](#) on the student's behalf and submit it by the end of Saturday registration for the Spring TIFA tournament.

Novice Awards

At the Spring Championship, TIFA recognizes the Top Novice and Top Community College student in each event category, whether or not they advance to the event final. The same student may win both recognitions in addition to placing in the event itself. A separate novice final round will not be held. **Please identify novice competitors when you register.** For the purposes of awards, a "novice" is defined as a student in their first two semesters of collegiate competition. In team debate and Dramatic Duo, both members of the team must meet TIFA novice requirements to be eligible for novice awards.

Interstate Oratorical Association

The first and second place competitors in Persuasive Speaking at the TIFA Spring Championship will represent Texas at the Interstate Oratorical Association National Tournament.

Individual Events

Students entered in individual events may not enter IPDA debate. Contestants in prepared events may not perform materials used by the student in competition prior to September 1, 2025. AFA-NST and TIFA rules govern all individual events. The tournament host reserves the right to cancel an event if entries do not warrant holding the event. There is no limit on the number of entries per school per event. The top four per event count for school sweepstakes. A student may enter three events per pattern.

Pattern A: CA, DUO, EXT, PER, POI, POE

Pattern B: ADS, DI, IMP, INF, PRO

Sweepstakes Points

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| First: | 12 Points |
| Second: | 10 Points |
| Third: | 7 Points |
| Finalist: | 5 Points |
| Semis: | 2 Point |

NPDA Debate

This event will be governed by the rules of the National Parliamentary Debate Association. Students entered in NPDA debate may not enter NFA-LD. There will be five preliminary rounds plus the appropriate number of elimination rounds. Power matching will occur in the final two preliminary rounds. Teams will debate different resolutions each round. All winning records are not guaranteed to break to elimination rounds. Schools earn 5 sweepstakes points for each prelim round win. All students should be able to participate via Zoom to facilitate online judging.

Format

First Proposition Constructive Speaker: 7 minutes

Opposition Flex Time: 2 minutes

First Opposition Constructive Speaker: 8 minutes

Proposition Flex Time: 2 minutes

Second Proposition Constructive Speaker: 8 minutes

Opposition Flex Time: 1 minute

Second Opposition Constructive Speaker: 8 minutes

Opposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 4 minutes

Proposition Flex Time: 1 minute

Proposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 5 minutes

Pre-Round Prep Time: 20 minutes

Flex time may be used by the controlling team to prepare arguments, drink water, set up stands, ask questions, etc. Flex time may not be used as additional speech time.

IPDA Debate

There will be four preset flighted preliminary rounds plus an appropriate number of elimination rounds. Schools earn 5 sweepstakes points for each prelim round win. For each flight, students will meet in the topic draw room. Five topic choices will be provided. Negative will strike first with subsequent strikes alternating between competitors until one topic remains to be debated. Should a debater not be present to draw at the scheduled time, a five-minute grace period will be started. At the end of the five minutes, the topic list will be given to the debater in attendance who will choose the topic to be debated. Schools earn 5 sweepstakes points for each prelim round win. The top four entries from each school count for sweepstakes.

- Team Prep is allowed
- Speaker Points will be out of 40
- Eliminated contestants will not be used as judges (teams must provide qualified judges)

Format

Affirmative Constructive: 5 minutes

Cross Examination: 2 minutes

Negative Constructive: 6 minutes

Cross Examination: 2 minutes

First Affirmative Rebuttal: 3 minutes

First Negative Rebuttal: 5 minutes

Second Affirmative Rebuttal: 3 minutes

Pre-Round Prep Time: 30 minutes

NFA-LD Debate

This event is governed by the rules of the National Forensics Association. Students competing in NFA-LD may not compete in NPDA. There will be five preset preliminary rounds (when possible) plus an appropriate number of elimination rounds. Schools earn 5 sweepstakes points for each prelim round win. All students should be able to participate via Zoom to facilitate online judging.

Format

Affirmative Constructive: 6 minutes
Negative Cross-Examination: 3 minutes
Negative Constructive: 7 minutes
Affirmative Cross-Examination: 3 minutes
First Affirmative Rebuttal: 6 minutes
Negative Rebuttal: 6 minutes
Second Affirmative Rebuttal: 3 minutes
In-Round Prep Time: 4 minutes

The tournament will use the 25-26 NFA-LD topic. Resolved: The United States Federal Government should substantially increase its military presence and/or scientific exploration in the Arctic or Antarctic.

Judging Information

One judge covers two (2) NPDA teams, two (2) LD or (2) IPDA entries, or eight (8) IE entries. **The tournament reserves the right to place judges in events they have not been designated to judge. Schools whose size of entry in either IPDA debate or individual events constrains the placement of school judges in either of those categories are strongly encouraged to use "IPDA/IE" when entering judges on SpeechWire.** NPDA and NFA-LD judges are obligated for one round beyond their team's elimination. For all other events, judges are obligated through the end of the tournament.

The tournament will use electronic balloting.

Tournament Fees

Organizational Dues

Schools that did not attend the Fall TIFA Championship will be assessed \$80.00.

Covered Entries

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Individual Events: | \$10.00 / slot |
| NPDA: | \$60 / team |
| NFA-LD: | \$30 / entry |
| IPDA: | \$30 / entry |

Uncovered Judging Fees

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Individual Events: | \$20.00 / slot |
| NPDA: | \$100.00 / team |
| IPDA: | \$75.00 / entry |
| NFA-LD: | \$75.00 / entry |

Nuisance Fees

Entries are due Tuesday, February 3rd, 2026, at 5pm (CST).

For each judge dropped after Wednesday February 4th, there will be an additional \$50.00 fee. Schools that drop a judge at registration/check-in will be charged \$100.00. Entry changes after Wednesday, February 4th will be charged \$10 in addition to the original entry fee. Changes at registration/check-in will be charged \$20 in addition to the original entry fee.

Judges who do not pick up their assigned ballots on time (within 10 minutes after the round is scheduled to begin) will be penalized \$25. If their fine is not paid, the judge's students will be deemed ineligible for elimination rounds and the school's ballots will be held until the fees are paid.

Payment

Checks or cash are preferred. Checks should be made payable to Wayne Kraemer-TIFA, P.O. Box 1425, San Marcos, Texas 78667.

Schedule

NPDA/NFA LD Schedule 2/6/26

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|----------|--|
| 8:30 CST | School Registration |
| 9:00 | Round 1 |
| 10:30 | Round 2 |
| 12:00 | Round 3 |
| 1:15 | Lunch |
| 2:00 | Round 4 |
| 3:30 | Round 5 |
| 5:15 | Elim One |
| 6:45 | Elim Two |
| 8:00 | TIFA Business Meeting Remaining Elims |

Individual Events Schedule 2/7 AND 2/8

| Individual Events Schedule 2/7 AND 2/8 | | IPDA Schedule 2/7 | |
|---|---|----------------------|---|
| 8:00 | Registration | 8:00 | Registration |
| 8:30 | Extemp Draw | 8:30 | IPDA Flight A: Draw |
| 9:00 | Pattern A: Round 1 (CA, DUO, EXT, PER, POE, POI) | 9:00 | IPDA Flight A: Round 1 IPDA Flight B: Draw |
| 10:15 | Pattern B: Round 1 (ADS, DI, IMP, INF, PRO) | 9:30 | IPDA Flight B: Round 1 |
| 11:30 | Extemp Draw | 10:30 | IPDA Flight A: Draw |
| 12:00 | Pattern A: Round 2 (CA, DUO, EXT, PER, POE, POI) | 11:00 | IPDA Flight A: Round 2 IPDA Flight B: Draw |
| 1:00 | Lunch | 11:30 | IPDA Flight B: Round 2 |
| 1:45 | Pattern B: Round 2 (ADS, DI, IMP, INF, PRO) | 12:15 | IPDA Flight A: Draw |
| 3:00 | Extemp Draw (Semifinals) | 12:45 | IPDA Flight A: Round 3 IPDA Flight B: Draw |
| 3:30 | Semifinals (All IEs) | 1:00 | Lunch |
| 5:00 | Extemp Draw (Finals) | 1:15 | IPDA Flight B: Round 3 |
| 5:30 | Pattern A: Finals (CA, DUO, EXT, PER, POE, POI) | 2:00 | IPDA Flight A: Draw |
| 7:00 | Pattern B: Finals (ADS, DI, IMP, INF, PRO) | 2:30 | IPDA Flight A: Round 4 IPDA Flight B: Draw |
| | | 3:00 | IPDA Flight B: Round 4 |
| | | 4:00 | IPDA Quarterfinalists: Draw |
| | | 4:30 | IPDA Quarterfinals |
| | | 5:30 | IPDA Semifinalists: Draw |
| | | 6:00 | IPDA Semifinals |
| | | 7:00 | IPDA Finalists: Draw |
| | | 7:30 | IPDA Finals |