

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of NorthWest Arkansas Community College and the Speech & Debate Team at NWACC, I invite you to the **NWACC Online Team IPDA Tournament, March 6-7, online** via ForensicsTournament.net and Yaatly and hosted by NorthWest Arkansas Community College.

The competition will feature **4 preliminary rounds of TIPDA and the appropriate number of elimination rounds – details included in the invitation.** In the pages that follow, you'll find all the details. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Hannah Morris, Coach, Speech & Debate at NWACC
hnmorris4@nwacc.edu

SCHEDULE (all times are Central Time)

Saturday, March 6th

10:00am: Team rooms available and Yaatly login may begin

10:30: All competitors and judges must be logged into Yaatly and be in the Auditorium Room

11:00: Draw for Round 1

12:45: Draw for Round 2

2:30: Break

3:00: Draw for Round 3

4:45: Draw for Round 4

Sunday, March 7th

10:00am: Team rooms available and Yaatly login may begin

10:30: Awards in Auditorium Room and all competitors and judges must be logged in.

11:00: Draw for Elim #1

1:00: Draw for Elim #2

3:00: Draw for Elim #3

5:00: Draw for Elim #4 (if needed)

Notes: In order to keep the tournament on schedule, if a team is 5 minutes late to a round then that team will automatically forfeit the round. In the event that a team loses connection during a round then they should re-enter the room ASAP; and, teams will be allowed up to 5 minutes to reenter upon the first disconnect (after five minutes they automatically forfeit the round). Upon a second disconnect by a team during a round then they shall automatically forfeit the round.

EVENT INFORMATION

1. **PDF Awards** shall be sent to **all elimination round participants**, the **top five speakers** in each division of debate, the **top three programs** shall receive awards for sweepstakes, and the **top community college** will be awarded.

2. All rounds shall follow the 4-2-5-2-5-2-4-2-3-4-4-3 time format with 30 minutes preparation time and follow the rules established under the International Public Debate Association. Four Preliminary rounds and the appropriate number of elimination rounds will be offered.

A. Although this is a team format each competitor must log in to Yaatly on separate devices. If team members are physically together they must still log in to Yaatly on separate devices.

B. For team members who are participating in a socially distanced capacity during debates, they will be allowed to communicate with each other via text and/or a chat program of their choice. Please note, this is simply a replacement for how team members could communicate with each other via whispering and/or passing notes in a traditional face to face context; therefore, no communication with others should occur during the course of the round (nor should they be looking up information during the course of the round). Obviously, this requires an honor system in enforcing and we are relying on the ethics of all involved to ensure that this is utilized only within the spirit of IPDA practices for traditional face to face competitions.

3. Points formula

A. A school's top two teams will count toward sweepstakes totals.

B. Points will be awarded according to the following formula:

- 6 points for each preliminary round win
- 6 points for advancing to elimination rounds
- 5 points for 1st speaker
- 4 points for 2nd speaker
- 3 points for 3rd speaker
- 2 points for 4th speaker
- 1 points for 5th speaker

4. Tiebreakers:

A. For determining competitors advancing to elimination rounds in individual debate we will look first to the number of wins, second to total speaker points, third to high/low adjusted speaker points, fourth to total ranks, and fifth to opposition wins. For determining speaker awards in individual debate, we will look first to total speaker points, second to high/low adjusted speaker points, third to total ranks, and fourth to opposition wins.

B. **Sweepstakes:** In the event of a sweepstakes tie, we will look first to the number of teams advancing to elimination rounds, second to total squad prelim round win percentage, third to head-to-head record between programs, and fourth to which squad had the highest ranked speaker in the competition.

5. Judges: Programs MUST cover all of their entries. There are no exceptions. One judge covers up to 2 entries. **All judges are obligated to judge the entire tournament.** If your team is out of the competition all judges must remain in the judging pool until the end of the tournament. This helps to provide a diverse judging pool through elimination rounds. If judges leave the tournament it will be treated as a withdrawal of your team and drop fees shall apply.

6. Tournament Ethics Statement:

A. The behavior of all attending the NWACC Online Team Tournament will be in keeping with the NCA Policy on Anti-Harassment Code of Conduct (available at: https://www.natcom.org/sites/default/files/annual-convention/NCA_Convention_Resources_Anti_Harassment_Policy.pdf). We encourage all programs to review these expectations prior to entering this tournament.

B. The NWACC Online Team Tournament expects that behavior between all participants, coaches, judges, and guests be respectful and appropriate at all times. If any participant has concerns over propriety or good sportpersonship, they should discuss the matter with their coaching staff. Any coach, judge, or guest should address any concerns with the Tournament Director / Tabulation Room Staff.

C. As a condition of entry, all participants, coaches, judges, and guests agree that any decision issued by the Tournament Director is binding and final.

7. Division Eligibility: per the IPDA bylaws, entries must adhere to the following definition:

Competitors must be currently enrolled students at the institution they are representing and must be representing an official program affiliated with an academic institution; they will no longer be eligible to compete in the division:

- a. once they have been awarded a 4-year, undergraduate, Bachelor's-level degree
- b. and/or following competition in any format of debate while representing a college/university during ten semesters of competition or fifteen quarters of competition (depending upon the classification system of their academic institution). For institutions observing the semester system, a semester of eligibility is used when a student competes in more than 2 debate tournaments during that period; for institutions observing the quarter system, a quarter of eligibility is used when a student competes in 2 or more debate tournaments during that period.

8. Fees: This tournament will be free of charge.

9. Entry Deadline: All entries must be received by Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021, at 5:00 pm. All entries should be made on the correct tournament page at forensicstournament.net