



## INTERNATIONAL FORENSICS ASSOCIATION

### 34<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SPEECH & DEBATE TOURNAMENT AND CONFERENCE DUBLIN, IRELAND – MARCH 8-13, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

We cordially invite your students and coaches to join us in Dublin from 8-13 March 2024 to compete in the International Forensics Association's 34<sup>th</sup> Annual International Speech and Debate Tournament.

The tournament will be conducted in English and consist of team debates in National Parliamentary Debate Association and British Parliamentary format; individual debates in International Public Debate Association format; five interpretation of literature events, four platform speaking events, two limited preparation speaking events, two online events, and a nuance event designed to honor our host nation. All competition rounds will be hosted at the Hyatt Centric in Dublin.

We know that the cost of airfare is often the reason programs are unable to attend, but we hope that by identifying the dates at an early juncture, keeping our fees low, and securing an affordable hotel contract (€220 for double occupancy) will help your program participate.

Should you have any questions regarding the registration process, please consult the instructions attached or contact one of our officers directly. We look forward to the prospect of seeing your team in Ireland for the experience of a lifetime!

Kind Regards,

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**Dr. Jeannie Hunt**  
Vice-President  
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**Dr. Michael Middleton**  
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**Prof. Sarah Hinkle**  
Treasurer  
Colorado College

**Dr. Michael McHan**  
International Liaison  
Grossmont College

## ENTRIES

1. Entries are due to forensicstournament.net by **Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup> 11:59 pm (PST) No longer March 4<sup>th</sup> (Updated 1/19/24)**
2. A school may enter a maximum of 10 students and/or teams per event.
3. Students may enter a maximum of 2 events per pattern (4 total) PLUS debate: NPDA, BP **or** IPDA. Time does not permit a student to enter multiple styles of debate.
4. Schools with large entries may have to compete against fellow teammates.
5. **All rounds will be hosted in rooms at the Hyatt Centric Dublin.** Hence, 1-10 entries require 1 hotel room for competition; 11-20 entries require 2 rooms; 21-30 entries require 3, etc. Competition rooms need to be available for debate even though your school may not have debate entries.

## FEES

1. Each school must pay a \$75 annual membership fee.
2. Each event entry requires a \$12 fee (assessed on March 8, 2024)
3. Any changes made after March 8 will be subject to a \$20 drop/change fee. Please email any changes to [jeannie.hunt@utah.edu](mailto:jeannie.hunt@utah.edu).
4. All schools are required to provide competition rooms at the tournament hotel. The exact number is based on entries as noted above. All competition rooms need to be made available starting Monday morning, beginning with round 1. (Reservations need to be made at the tournament hotel for Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday at a minimum for all competition rooms.)

## JUDGES

1. Judges must be qualified educators and possess a bachelor's degree.
2. **Schools must provide as many judges as possible.** One judge covers 5 I.E. events per pattern (10 total) and 1.5 debate entries (For example, 1 judge is needed for 1 debate entry, 2 judges are needed for 2 debate entries, and 2 judges are needed for 3 debate entries, 3 judges for 4 debate entries and so on).
3. BP Debate judges are based on entry size. You must provide "n-1 judges" where n equals the number of teams entered, e.g., 3 teams= 2 judges, 4 teams= 3 judges, etc. BP judges are committed through finals. Each school with BP entries must provide a minimum of one BP judge.
4. Hired judge fees for schools without judges are \$50 per speech entry and \$200 per debate entry. No more than 2 uncovered debate entries will be allowed.
5. **All judges must be available to judge all events (speech and debate) at all times.** Specific judging requests may be made, and we will do everything we can to honor those requests, but judging needs may require the tournament to place judges into any event at any portion of the tournament.
6. **Every school is required to provide at least one judge.**

## RULES OF COMPETITION

1. Contestants must be enrolled undergraduates at the school they represent. Exceptions will be made for students who graduate mid-year.
2. Contestants may not have received a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent. Exceptions will be made for students who graduate mid-year.

3. Contestants are limited to four years of international competition. These years need not be consecutive.
4. No speech or program used by the contestant in competition should have been used prior to September 2023.
5. Contestants may not deliver performances in multiple events from the same literary work in the same year.
6. Sweepstakes results will be based on elimination rounds in speech events and team rankings at the conclusion of preliminary rounds in debate events. Scores will be calculated using 6-5-4-3-2-1 points for finals (with .5 points for semifinalists in speech events).
7. Certificates will be presented to the top finalists and semi-finalists in all events.
8. Awards will be presented to the top six overall schools and the top three community colleges.

## DEBATE EVENTS

### ***INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC DEBATE ASSOCIATION (Individual)***

Contestants will debate 4 preliminary rounds, two each as affirmative and negative. Topics will be decided in the round and 30 minutes of prep time will be allotted. Time limits Affirmative constructive=5, Negative cross ex=2, Negative constructive=6, Affirmative cross ex=2, Affirmative Rebuttal=3, Negative Rebuttal & Summary=5, Affirmative Summary=3 (5-2-6-2-3-5-3).

### ***NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ASSOCIATION (Team)***

Two-person teams (mavericks not allowed) will debate four rounds, two each as government and opposition. Fifteen minutes of preparation time will be allotted once the topic has been announced in the round. Time limits are 7-8-8-8-4-5. Topics will vary by round and will focus on issues related to Japan.

### ***BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE (Team)***

Two-person teams will debate four rounds, two each as government and opposition. Fifteen minutes of preparation times will be allotted once the topics have been announced. WUDC rules regarding prep restrictions (no internet, no coaching during prep, etc.) will be observed. Each speech will be 7 minutes in length.

### ***TABULATION CRITERIA (NPDA & IPDA)***

Preliminary round pairings and teams advancing to elimination debates will be determined based on the following criteria:

1. Win/Lose (Low Point Wins Allowed)
2. Z-Score
3. Adjusted Speaker Points
4. Total Speaker Points
5. Random Number

### ***TABULATION CRITERIA (BP)***

1. Points
2. Ranks
3. Speaker Points
4. Adjusted Speaker Points
5. Random Number

### ***DEBATE OUTROUNDS (NPDA & IPDA)***

The number of teams that will advance to elimination rounds will be based on the following parameters:

- 1-7 Entries- 2 Entries Advance
- 8-15 Entries- 4 Entries Advance

- 16-31 Entries- 8 Entries Advance
- 32+ Entries- 16 Entries Advance

### **DEBATE OUTROUNDS (BP)**

The following parameters will be utilized:

- 1-16 entries – 4 entries advance
- 17-32 entries – 8 entries advance
- 32+ entries – 16 entries advance

### **ELIMINATION ROUND PROCEDURES**

**Please note:** Brackets WILL NOT be broken in elimination rounds. In the event opponents from the same school meet, the tab room will advance the higher seed unless otherwise instructed by the head coach of the competitors.

1. In the event that 4 or less teams advance, a traditional semi and final round will be utilized.
2. In the event 8 teams advance, 4 debates will be scheduled with one judge per round. Teams who lose will be awarded Bronze. Advancing teams will compete in a second and Final set of elimination rounds where; 1) the bottom two seeds (based on the elimination bracket) will compete for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> place finishes while 2) the top two seeds (based on the elimination bracket) will compete for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> (The Grand Championship Round).
3. In the event 16 teams advance, 8 debates will be scheduled with 1 judge per round. Those who lose will be awarded Bronze. Advancing teams will then debate in a second elimination debate with 4 debates scheduled and 1 judge per round. Those who lose will be awarded Silver. Advancing teams will then debate in a third elimination debate where; 1) the bottom two seeds (based on the elimination bracket) will compete for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> place finishes while 2) the top two seeds (based on the elimination bracket) will compete for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> (The Grand Championship Round).

### **SPEECH EVENTS**

There will be 2 preliminary rounds of competition followed by a final round in each of the following patterns (semis in events which warrant, typically 37+ entries):

**Pattern A: Duo, Prose, Informative, Impromptu, Rhetorical Criticism**

**Pattern B: Poetry, Drama, Persuasion, After Dinner, POI, Extemporaneous**

**NOTE: Visual aids in all events cannot exceed 8 1/2" x 11" in size.**

### **DRAMATIC DUO**

A cutting from a play, humorous or serious, involving the portrayal of two or more characters presented by two individuals. This is not an acting event. Thus, costumes, props, etc. are not permitted. Presentations must be from a manuscript and the focus should be off stage. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

### **PROSE INTERPRETATION**

Each contestant will present a 10-minute maximum program of prose literature including original introductory and transitional remarks. The program may consist of single or multiple selections. Plays are not eligible. Use of manuscript is required.

### **INFORMATIVE SPEAKING**

The contestant will deliver an original factual speech on a realistic subject to fulfill a general information need of the audience. Visual aids that supplement/reinforce the message are permitted. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

## **IMPROMPTU SPEAKING**

Contestants will receive prompts related to the host nation and have seven minutes to divide between preparation and speaking. All contestants in the same section will speak on the same topic.

## **EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING**

Contestants will construct and deliver a speech not to exceed 7 minutes after choosing from among three questions on current events, with 30 minutes of preparation. The use of limited notes is allowed. Electronic methods of resource material may be used, and students should be able to retrieve cited material upon judge request. The IFA is not responsible for providing for any electronic storage or retrieval methods.

## **RHETORICAL CRITICISM**

Contestants will deliver an original critical analysis of any significant rhetorical artifact. The speaker should limit the quotation of, paraphrasing of, or summary of, the analyzed artifact to a minimum. Any legitimate critical methodology is permissible as long as it serves to open up the artifact for the audience. Visual aids that supplement/reinforce the message are permitted. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

## **POETRY INTERPRETATION**

The contestant will present a program of poetic literature. Original introductory comments and transitional remarks are permitted. Programs may consist of single or multiple selections. Use of manuscripts is required. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

## **DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION**

The contestant will perform dramatic literature, humorous or serious, that represents one or more characters from material of literary merit. This material may be drawn from stage, screen, or radio. Programs may consist of single or multiple selections. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

## **PERSUASIVE SPEAKING**

A speech to convince, to move to action, or to inspire on a significant issue, delivered from memory. Visual aids that supplement/reinforce the message are permitted. Maximum time is 10 minutes

## **AFTER DINNER SPEAKING**

Each contestant will present an original speech whose purpose is to make a serious point through the use of humor. The speech should reflect the development of a humorous comedic effort, not a standup comedy routine. Visual aids that supplement/reinforce the message are permitted. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

## **PROGRAM ORAL INTERPRETATION**

Contestants will deliver a program of thematically-linked selections of literary merit, chosen from two or three recognized genres of competitive interpretation (prose/poetry/drama). A primary focus of this event should be on the development of the theme through the use of narrative/story, language, and/or characterization. A substantial portion of the total time must be devoted to each of the genres used in the program. Different genre means the material must appear in separate pieces of literature (e.g., A poem included in a short story that appears only in that short story does not constitute a poetry genre.) Only one selection may be original. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

## **NUANCE EVENT: Interpretation of Irish Literature**

***This is a non-sweepstakes event open to all IFA participants: coaches, judges, family members, and students. 3 entries per school are allowed.***

Time limit not to exceed 7 minutes. Contestants will choose any form (Prose, Poetry, Drama, etc.) of Irish Literature and perform a selection(s). Limited to one performer per entry. An introduction and manuscript are required.

## **ONLINE EVENTS**

***These are non-sweepstakes events open to all IFA participants: coaches, judges, family members, and students. 3 entries per school are allowed.***

### **VISUAL COMMUNICATION**

This event is designed for undergraduate students with an interest in using visual media to communicate a message. Subject and structure of the message are determined by the competitor. The writing, direction, and editing of the message are restricted to the competitor. Submissions must be uploaded and viewable within YouTube for prelim rounds. Maximum time is 6 minutes.

### **AUDIO NARRATION**

This event is designed for undergraduate students with an interest in using audio recordings to share a narrative story. Subject and structure of the message are determined by the competitor. The writing, editing, and delivery of the message are restricted to the competitor. Submissions must be uploaded with a blank background to hear within YouTube for prelim rounds. Maximum time is 6 minutes.

## **TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

### ***Sunday, March 10***

5:00-6:00 pm Registration at the Hyatt Centric Dublin ***followed by Coaches Meeting (Updated 1/19/24)***

### ***Monday, March 11***

8:00	Welcome Breakfast room
8:30-10:00	Round 1 Debate
10:00-11:30	Round 2 Debate
11:30-1:00	Round 3 Debate
1:00-1:30	Lunch Break
1:30-3:00	Round 4 Debate
3:00-4:30	Round 1, Speech Pattern A (Duo, Pro, Info, Imp, RC)
4:30-6:00	Round 2, Speech Pattern A
6:00-7:30	Elim 1 Debate

### ***Tuesday, March 12***

8:30	Extemporaneous Preparation
9:00-10:30	Round 1, Speech Pattern B (Poe, DI, Per, ADS, POI, EXT)
10:30	Extemporaneous Preparation
11:00-12:15	Round 2, Speech Pattern B
12:15-1:45	Potential Elim 2 Debate
1:30	Extemporaneous Prep Semis
1:45-3:15	Elim 1, Speech Eliminations
3:15-4:45	Elim 2, IE- Elim 3 Debate
4:45	Extemporaneous Prep Finals
5:00-6:30	Final Rounds & Nuance Event
ASAP	Awards <b><i>and Coaches Meeting</i></b>

## FEE CALCULATIONS

**Fees will be collected in the form of check or PayPal/Venmo transfer at registration**

Membership Fee	\$ 75.00
Individual Events entries ____ x \$12.00	\$ _____
Uncovered slots of IE A Pattern ____ x \$50.00	\$ _____
Uncovered slots of IE B Pattern ____ x \$50.00	\$ _____
Nuance Event entries ____ x \$12.00	\$ _____
BP/Parli Team entries ____ x \$12.00	\$ _____
Uncovered BP/Parli Team ____ x \$200.00	\$ _____
IPDA entry ____ x \$12.00	\$ _____
Uncovered IPDA entry ____ x \$200.00	\$ _____
Drops/changes after March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ____ x \$20.00	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____