



## INTERNATIONAL FORENSICS ASSOCIATION

### 36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SPEECH & DEBATE TOURNAMENT AND CONFERENCE ATHENS, GREECE – MARCH 8-12, 2026

Dear Colleagues,

We cordially invite your students and coaches to join us in Athens on March 8-12, 2026, to compete in the International Forensics Association's 36<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, and a nuance event designed to honor our host nation. All competition rounds will be hosted at the *Wyndham Athens Residence*.

We know that the cost of airfare is often the reason programs are unable to attend, but we hope that identifying the dates at an early juncture, keeping our fees low, and securing an affordable hotel contract (€150 for double occupancy/€130 single occupancy) will help your program participate.

Should you have any questions regarding the registration process, please consult the instructions attached or contact our Tournament Director, Dr. Bryan Malinis, about tournament-related issues or our Treasurer, Prof. Sarah Hinkle, about financial questions. We look forward to the prospect of seeing your team in Greece for the experience of a lifetime!

Kind Regards,

*Michael McHan*

Dr. Michael McHan  
President, International Forensics Association  
Grossmont College

**Dr. Bryan Malinis**  
Vice President  
San Diego Mesa College

**Prof. Jacqueline Yu**  
Secretary  
Pasadena City College

**Prof. Sarah Hinkle**  
Treasurer  
Colorado College

**Prof. Trendi Nguyen**  
International Liaison  
Texas Southern University

## ENTRIES

1. Entries are due to [forensictournament.net](http://forensictournament.net) by **Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> 11:59 pm (PST)**.
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. Students who double enter assume responsibility for managing time to make it to all rounds.
4. Schools with large entries may have to compete against fellow teammates.
5. All rounds will be hosted at the [Wyndham Athens Residence](#). Hence, 1-10 entries require 1 hotel room for competition; 11-20 requires 2 rooms; 21-30 requires 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 \$100 annual membership fee.
2. Fees will be assessed on March 4, 2025. Any changes made after March 4 will be subject to a \$20 drop/change fee. Please email any changes to [bmalinis@sdccd.edu](mailto:bmalinis@sdccd.edu)
3. All questions about tournament fees should be directed to [shinkle@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:shinkle@coloradocollege.edu)

## 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 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. It is the responsibility of the judge and school to ensure each judge has international access to internet services necessary for electronic balloting. Judges who do not pick up ballots will incur a \$50 per ballot fine for their program. Fines must be paid prior to elimination rounds, or in the case of a failure to pick up a ballot for an elimination round, before awards. Schools that do not pay their fines may have students removed from elimination rounds. **Lack of service will not be a sufficient reason for not picking up a ballot.**
5. 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.
6. **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.
7. **Every school is required to provide at least one judge.**

## **RULES OF COMPETITION**

1. Contestants must be enrolled undergraduates in good standing 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 the competition should have been used prior to September 2025.
5. Contestants may not deliver performances in multiple events from the same literary work in the same year.
6. NPDA, IPDA, and BP organizational rules will serve as the guideline for these events at this tournament.
7. 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).
8. Certificates will be presented to the top finalists and semi-finalists in all events.
9. 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. Twenty minutes of preparation time will be allotted once the topic has been announced at the central announce area (to be identified at the tournament). No group preparation will be permitted. Electronic devices may not be used for flowing in the round. Time limits are 7-8-8-8-4-5 with points of information permitted and highly encouraged. No flex time will be used. Topics will vary by round and will focus on issues related to Greece.

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

Two-person teams will debate four rounds, two each as government and opposition. Fifteen minutes of preparation time will be allotted once the topic has 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. Adjusted Speaker Points
3. Total Speaker Points
4. Z-Score
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.

1. Traditional quarterfinals, semifinals, and final rounds will take place for debate events where warranted by total entries. If necessary, the tab room may use only one judge in the quarterfinals to keep the tournament moving on time.
2. In the event that there are more than 70 entries in a debate event, the tab room may change the schedule, flight elimination rounds, or alter the number of judges in an elimination round to facilitate clearing more contestants. Any changes to facilitate numbers will be announced at the business meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **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, ADS, POI, Extemporaneous**

***NOTE: Visual aids in all events cannot exceed 8 ½" 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: GREEK LANDMARKS**

Contestants will deliver an informative platform address on a location of cultural significance to Greece. The presentation may be delivered from memory, extemporaneously, or manuscript predominantly in English. Visual aids may be used. Time is limited to 5 minutes. **NOTE: This is a non-sweepstakes event for students that is designed to honor the host nation**

## TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

### **Sunday, March 8 – Wyndham Grand Athens**

5:00-6:00 pm	Registration
5:00-7:00 pm	Student Scavenger Hunt (students only)
6:00-7:30 pm	Business Meeting in <b>Hera</b>
7:30 pm	Social at <b>Veranda of the Rooftop</b>

### **Monday, March 9 – Wyndham Athens Residence**

8:00-9:45	Round 1 Debate
9:45-11:30	Round 2 Debate
11:30-1:15	Round 3 Debate
1:15-1:45	<i>Lunch Break</i>
1:45-3:30	Round 4 Debate
3:30-5:15	Elim 1 Debate
5:15-7:00	Elim 2 Debate

### **Tuesday, March 10 – Wyndham Athens Residence**

8:00-9:15	Round 1, Speech Pattern A (Duo, Pro, Info, Imp, RC)
9:15-10:30	Round 2, Speech Pattern A
10:45	Extemporaneous Draw
11:00-12:15	Round 1, Speech Pattern B (Poe, DI, Per, ADS, POI, EXT)
12:15-12:45	<i>Lunch Break</i>
12:45	Extemporaneous Draw
1:00-2:15	Round 2, Speech Pattern B
2:30	Extemporaneous Draw Semis
2:45-4:00	Semis (events with 37+ entries) Finals (events with 36 or fewer entries)
4:15	Extemporaneous Draw Finals
4:30-5:45	Finals (for events that had semis) & Nuance Event
6:00-7:15	Elim 3 Debate (if needed)
ASAP	Awards

### FEE CALCULATIONS

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

Membership Fee	\$ 100.00
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 \$25.00	\$ _____
Uncovered BP/Parli Team ____ x \$200.00	\$ _____
IPDA entry ____ x \$12.00	\$ _____
Uncovered IPDA entry ____ x \$200.00	\$ _____
Drops/changes after March 4 <sup>th</sup> ____ x \$20.00	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____