

Dear Forensics Colleague,

On behalf of the forensics program at Suffolk University and the Novice National Forensic Association, we invite you to join us for the 36th annual Novice National Individual Events & Debate Tournament. This year's tournament will be hosted by Suffolk University in Boston, MA on March 9 - 11, 2018.

Novice Nationals is a collegial event with quality competition that advances forensic education for first-year competitors. Historically, competitors from Novice Nationals have continued on to qualify for elimination rounds at AFA, NFA, NPDA, and Interstate Oratory. More than 230 different colleges and universities have attended at least one Novice Nationals Tournament.

The tournament this year will offer:

- Convenient online registration, updates, and changes available at speechwire.com
- Traditional events as well as Impromptu Sales, Slam Poetry & Public Narrative.
- Parliamentary and IPDA Debate
- Reader's Theater

We hope that you will join us for the 35th Novice Nationals. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Dr. Chris Fenner
Director of Forensics
University of West Florida
Executive Director, NNFA, Tournament Host

Executive Council:

Director of Individual Events: Dr. Randy Richardson
Director of Debate: Chip Hall
Secretary: Janis Crawford, Butler University
Deputy Director / Elections Office: Cory Paul Harrison, University of Alabama,

At Large Members:

Macy Hammons, University of Louisiana, Lafayette
Jodi Nevola, Suffolk University
Dan West, Ohio University

36th Novice Nationals: Tentative Tournament Schedule

We will adjust this schedule if we need octafinals in parli or IPDA, or if we have more than 5 IE semifinals. We'll also condense the schedule whenever possible.

- Flight A: Extemporaneous, Prose, Rhetorical Analysis, Impromptu Sales
- Flight B: Dramatic Duo, Impromptu, Informative, Program Oral Interpretation, Slam Poetry
- Flight C: After Dinner Speaking, Drama Interpretation, Persuasion, Poetry, Public Narrative

Friday, March 9

Time	Event
8:00 – 8:45 am	Registration
9:00 – 10:30 am	Parli, Rd. 1, IPDA Rd. 1
10:30 – 12:00 pm	Parli Rd. 2, IPDA Rd. 2
12:00 – 12:30	Lunch Break
12:30 – 2:00	Parli Rd. 3, IPDA Rd. 3
2:00 – 3:30	Parli Rd. 4, IPDA Rd. 4
4:00 – 5:30 (or asap)	Parli / IPDA Quarterfinals
5:30 – 7:00	Parli / IPDA Semifinals
7:00 – 8:30	Parli / IPDA Finals

Saturday, March 10

Time	Event
8:00 – 8:30	IE Registration
8:30 – 9:00	Extemp Prep
9:00 – 10:15	IE Flight A, Rd. 1
10:15 – 11:30	IE Flight B, Rd. 1
11:30 – 12:45	IE Flight C, Rd. 1
12:45 - 1:30	Lunch Break
1:30 – 2:00	Extemp Prep
2:00 – 3:15	IE Flight A, Rd. 2
3:15 – 4:30 pm	IE Flight B, Rd. 2
4:30 – 5:45 pm	IE Flight C, Rd. 2
5:45 – 6:15	Extemp Prep
6:15 – 7:30	IE Flight A, Rd. 3

Sunday, March 11

Time	Event
8:00 – 9:15	IE Flight B, Rd. 3
9:15 – 10:30	E Flight C, Rd. 3
10:30 - 11:45	IE Flight A & B Semifinals/Finals (w/out Extemp)
11:45 - 1:00	Lunch & Business Meeting
12:30 - 1:00	Extemp Prep
1:00 - 2:15	IE Extemp & Flight B & C Finals
2:15 - 3:15	Readers Theater (3 Judges)
4:00 or ASAP	Awards

Entry Details

What is a novice? A novice is defined as a student in their first or second semester or equivalent of intercollegiate competition. Three tournaments shall constitute a semester of eligibility. If a student has attended a national collegiate tournament (PRP, CEDA, NDT, AFA, NFA etc.), then a student will not have eligibility in that genre (individual events/debate).

1. If a student has never competed in individual events on the intercollegiate level, the student may compete in any individual event, provided she/he has 2 or less semesters or equivalents of competition in individual events.
2. If a student has never competed in debate on the intercollegiate level, the student may compete in parliamentary and/or Lincoln-Douglas debate, provided she/he has 2 or less semesters of competition in parliamentary and/or Lincoln-Douglas debate.
3. The above rules should not allow a student who has competed in more than 2 semesters of parliamentary debate to compete in Lincoln-Douglas debate, or vice versa.
4. In any event, if a student has competed during portions of at least 4 semesters – no matter how many tournaments that student has competed in – the student will not be eligible.
5. Violation of these rules will result in disqualification of the student with a forfeiture of all points earned. Debate teams shall be disqualified.

Entries

Judging Requirements

- One judge for every 6 IE slots
- One judge for every 2 RT entries
- One judge for every 2 Parli teams
- One judge for every 2 IPDA competitors
- Judges can be mixed & matched. For example, a judge can cover 6 IE entries and either 2 Parli teams or 2 IPDA entries.

If you have additional eligible judges interested in serving as hired judges, please contact Chris Fenner.

Entry Deadline

The entry deadline is Monday, Feb. 26, 2018 at 12:00 a.m. Central Time on speechwire.com. Changes may be made to registrations without penalty until 5:00 p.m., Thursday, March 1, 2018.

Entry Fees

Membership Fees:

School membership fee of \$40, included in entry fees for Novice Nationals.

Individuals / teams not attending Novice Nationals may make an individual membership payment of \$10 to maintain membership status, voting privileges, etc.

- Covered IE Entries: \$8/Slot
- Covered RT Entries: \$25/Slot
- Covered IPDA Entries: \$30/Slot
- Covered Parli Entries: \$30/Team
- Uncovered IE Entries: \$20/Slot
- Uncovered RT Entries: \$40/Slot
- Uncovered IPDA Entries: \$60/Slot
- Uncovered Parli Entries: \$60/Team

Add/Drop Fees

In addition, if your school must drop from the tournament, you are still responsible for paying the appropriate drop fees mentioned below. Schools dropping well after the deadline have affected the tournament in the past.

- Drop Fees after March 1st up to March 6, 2018: \$10/Slot
- Drop Fees after March 6, 2018: \$20/Slot
- Drops at registration or in round: \$40/Slot

Late drop changes should come to the attention of Chris Fenner at cfenner@uwf.edu or via cell at 850.418.8310.

Make check payable to Novice National Forensic Association.

Entry Options

All entries must be made via www.speechwire.com

The Novice Nationals website can be found at <http://www.novicenats.org/> for supplementary information and past national champion information.

Contact Information:

Business Meeting

There will be a business meeting held during the tournament on Sunday. If there are any items for the agenda, please contact Chris Fenner (cfenner@uwf.edu).

Tournament-Related Questions:

Chris Fenner
cfenner@uwf.edu
 (850) 418-8310

Meal Information: (This needs to be revised)

On Friday, there are several options for lunch available on campus. On Saturday, there will be a one hour lunch break which will be adequate for teams to eat off campus. On Sunday, a pizza lunch will be provided. If you or your students have any special dietary needs, please let both Chris know at the time of your entry so that we may provide information about various options.

General Rules: Traditional Individual Events

Platform Events

- Students may NOT enter both Extemporaneous Speaking and Sports Communication.
- All speeches should be original, constructed and delivered by the student.
- Speeches should adhere to the NFA Code of Ethics, Rules and Procedures. Plagiarism in any form is prohibited.
- Source citation should be specific, accurate and honest.
- Contestants may not use the same cutting/content or any portion of that cutting/content in more than one event.
- Although limited notes are permitted, speeches should be delivered from memory. Audio-visual aids are permitted.
- Computers & Internet Use in Extemporaneous Speaking: Novice Nationals will allow the use of computers and Internet use during extemp prep. Hosts are not responsible for providing Internet access, but will accommodate Internet access whenever feasible. Thus, students may use cell technology, hotspot enabling, etc. during prep time. The safety of computers is strictly the responsibility of students & teams. Host institutions cannot guarantee safety of equipment and students should not leave computers and other electronic devices unattended in extemp prep rooms.
- Maximum time limit of 10 minutes for prepared speeches, 30 minutes for extemporaneous speeches, and 7 minutes for impromptu speeches.*

Interpretation Events

- Use of manuscript is required.
- Contestants may not use the same cutting/content of any portion of that cutting/content in more than one event.
- Maximum time is 10 minutes, including any introductory and/or transitional comments.*

*Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

Individual Events Finals & Details:

We will break to semifinals in any IE event over 40 students.

Breaking Ties:

We will place students into semifinals/finals based on the following criteria: (1) ranks, (2) speaker points. If ties exist where more than 6 students would be in an elimination round, we will use the following tiebreakers:

1. Total ranks from all ballots
 2. Total speaker points from all ballots
 3. Best head-to-head (if students have previously faced each other)
- If two students are tied with the same total of ranks, then judges' preference shall be used.
 - If three (or more) students are tied with the same total of ranks, the tie shall be first broken by attempting to use judges' preference. If this fails, then look to the total number of speaker points.

If ties exist where 7 or more students would advance, the following criteria will apply:

1. Speaker points
2. Total ranks from all ballots
3. Total speaker points from all ballots
4. Number of first place finishes earned in preliminary rounds

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Elimination round placings will be based on the following criteria:

Ranks and then judge's preference. If there is a 3-way tie, we will attempt to use judge's preference if possible first, then use speaker points. If there are more than 3 people in a tie, we'll use judges' preference first, then other tiebreakers as needed. It is our intent to keep all judges clean for elimination rounds, but the Executive Director or Director of Individual Events, if necessary, may modify this.

Debate General Rules

Breaking Brackets:

We will break brackets

Break size:

We will use the NPDA guidelines to determine number of elimination round participants.

- 1) The number of teams competing is half (round down) or less of teams competing in preliminary rounds and these teams have at least 50% win-low records including byes
- 2) All of the teams competing have a better than 50% win-loss record including byes

Judging:

It is our intent to keep all judges clean for elimination rounds. However, the Executive Director or Director of Debate may modify this intent. We especially encourage debate schools to bring enough judges to cover their entries if at all possible.

Parliamentary Debate:

Parliamentary debate will follow the NPDA guidelines and will have the following time limits: 7-8-8-8-4-5, with 15 minutes of prep time. Students competing at Novice Nationals may work with each other during prep time. Coaches and varsity team members may coach. Judges must pick up their ballots before topic announcement and attend their round on time.

We will power match starting at round 3 of parliamentary debate. All power-matching will be high-low in brackets.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate:

NFA Lincoln-Douglas guidelines will be used, as will the following time limits: 6-3-7-3-6-6-3, with 4 minutes of prep time. The current year's NFA resolution will be used.

All power-matching will be high-low in brackets.

Team Sweepstakes & Pentathlon Awards

Prelim / Elim Points

Points are awarded based on preliminary and elimination rounds. A school's top 4 entries in each event earn preliminary round sweepstakes points, while all elimination round contestants earn points for their schools. The formula for awarding points are as follows:

- Debate Prelims: 3 points for each win (maximum of 4 teams per school per division)
- IE Prelims: 3 points for each first place finish, 2 points for each second place finish, and 1 point for each third place finish (up to 4 entries).
- IE Elims:
 - 3 points for non-advancing semi-finalists
 - 12-10-8-7-5-3 points will be award for 1st – 6th finishes

- Debate Elims:
 - 3 points for non-advancing octo-finalists
 - 5 points for non-advancing quarter-finalists
 - 8 points for non-advancing semi-finalists
 - 10 points for second place
 - 12 points for first place
- Reader's Theater:
 - 18-15-12-10-8-7 points will be awarded for 1st – 6th place finishes

Pentathlon Awards

- Pentathlon entries will be scored in the same way as Team Sweepstakes, with a student's top 5 events counting.
 - Students must enter at least 1 platform event (limited prep, public address, and/or debate), 1 interpretation event (excluding RT), and 1 non-traditional event.
- Ties in pentathlon will be resolved using the following system:
 1. Number of 1st place finishes
 2. Number of total events in finals
 3. Number of 2nd places in finals
 4. For the purposes of equating debate with individual events, semis count as a 3rd place finish and quarters count as a 5th place finish. Octos do not count for purposes of breaking pentath ties.

Team Awards

- We will award team awards in three divisions based on entry sizes and one division based on total points.
- We will award the top six teams in Division I, II, and III. Three awards will be given in the open division.
- We will also award a quality award, which will be based on the average number of points earned per entry. In order to be eligible for the quality award, a school must have a minimum of 2 students and 4 entries.

Event Descriptions: Traditional Platform Events

After Dinner Speaking

- **PURPOSE:** A speech designed to entertain by advancing a relevant point through the use of humor.
- **DESCRIPTION:** After-Dinner speeches are characterized by humorous content development, creativity, uniqueness, timeliness, clear organization, significance, credible sources, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose and express respect of the audience.
- **RULES:**
 - See general rules listed above.

Informative

- **PURPOSE:** A speech designed to clarify and/or explain a significant topic.
- **DESCRIPTION:** Informative speeches are characterized by in-depth content development that likely enhances audience understanding beyond what was previously known, well-established topic relevance, clear organization, credible sources, timeliness, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose.
- **RULES:**
 - See general rules listed above.

Persuasion

- **PURPOSE:** A speech designed to influence audience attitudes and/or actions.
- **DESCRIPTION:** Persuasive speeches are characterized by sound rhetorical strategy, well-supported arguments, credible sources, effective organization, timeliness, significance, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose.
- **RULES:**
 - See general rules listed above.

Rhetorical Analysis

- **PURPOSE:** A criticism designed to describe, analyze and evaluate the rhetorical dynamics related to a significant rhetorical artifact.
- **DESCRIPTION:** Rhetorical Criticisms are characterized by enlightening critical insight, in-depth analysis, description and application of rhetorical principles or a theoretical framework, topic significance, credible sources, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose.
- **RULES:**
 - See general rules listed above.

Extemporaneous Speaking

- **PURPOSE:** An argument designed to motivate audience consideration of a significant topic related to a current domestic, international, or economic issue or event.
- **DESCRIPTION:** Extemporaneous speeches are characterized by content that is directly and specifically topical, clearly stated and well-supported arguments, demonstration of a knowledge of current events, credible sources, timeliness, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose.
- **RULES:**
 - Speakers will choose from three questions during extemp draw.
 - Topics will be drawn from the general area of current events after September 1, 2015. One round will be foreign affairs, one round will be domestic affairs, and one round will be economic. Semis and finals will be a mixture of questions.
 - A notecard is permitted.
 - Extemporaneous speeches must be original works of the speaker. Consultation with coaches, colleagues, or any other individual during draw is strictly prohibited.
 - Speakers may consult newspapers, magazines, journals, books, websites, and blogs as long as the materials are void of notation and/or deliberate alteration.
 - Electronic storage of materials is permitted.
 - Computers and Internet use is allowed during extemp prep. Speakers are responsible for providing a laptop and maintaining its safety. Cell technology, hotspot enabling, etc. may also be used during preparation, but communication with anyone inside or outside of the draw room is strictly prohibited.
 - All material should be immediately retrievable upon the judges' request.
 - While speakers are encouraged to draw from their own knowledge of current events, under no circumstances may prepared outlines or materials be used. The speech must be written after the questions have been drawn.
 - Maximum of 30 minutes for preparation.
 - Speakers shall have 5-7 minutes to present.

Impromptu

- **PURPOSE:** A speech designed to motivate audience engagement of a significant topic.
- **DESCRIPTION:** Impromptu speeches are characterized by a clearly articulated argument comprising a specific, direct response to the given prompt, well-supported claims, clear structure, uniqueness, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose.
- **RULES:**
 - Speakers will construct and deliver an original argument in response to a prompt.
 - Topics may be historical, cultural, or fictional in nature. Prompts will be: Rd. 1 – Quotations, Rd. 2 – Cartoons, Rd. 3 – Rhetorical Situations, semi's & finals – quotations.
 - Combined time limit for speech preparation and delivery is 7 minutes. The speech itself may last no longer than 5 minutes.
 - Notecards are permitted.
 - Standard time signals denoting the end of preparation time, conclusion of each minute thereafter, and 30-second warnings should be given verbally. The last 30 seconds and closing 5-second marks should be given nonverbally.
 - Students who have yet to speak are not permitted to watch their preceding competitors.
 - Each judge per section will receive the prompt and their ballots and is responsible for distributing the prompt to the contestants.

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Event Descriptions: Traditional Interpretation

Drama Interpretation

- **PURPOSE:** An interpretive performance of literature by individuals designed to engage the audience through a rendering of the literature in its intellectual, emotional, and aesthetic entirety.
- **DESCRIPTION:** Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections of dramatic material of literary merit.
- **RULES:**
 - Acceptable material includes plays, stage/screen/radio material, character-centered news media, and documentaries.
 - If news media is used, it should be referenced against the original source to ensure the piece is not prose.
 - Material that is not genre specific is permissible if the performance focuses on character development.

Dramatic Duo

- **PURPOSE:** An interpretive performance by two individuals designed to engage the audience through the interaction of multiple characters and through a rendering of the literature in its intellectual, emotional, and aesthetic entirety.
- **DESCRIPTION:** Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections of original and/or published material of literary merit. This is not an acting event. Selected literature must present the perspectives of multiple characters, representing those different characters using voice and/or body. The focus of this event is the interaction of multiple and related voices.
- **RULES:**
 - As long as the piece emphasizes character interaction, any material of literary merit may be incorporated.
 - Use of manuscript is required.
 - No physical contact is permitted between performers.
 - Off-stage focus is required.
 - Costumes, props, etc. are not allowed.

Poetry

- **PURPOSE:** An interpretive performance of poetry designed to engage the audience through a rendering of the literature in its intellectual, emotional, and aesthetic entirety.
- **DESCRIPTION:** Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections poetry of literary merit.
- **RULES:**
 - Acceptable material includes poems, lyrics, and any other selections with poetic elements.

Program of Oral Interpretation

- **PURPOSE:** An interpretive performance of literature and other selections of literary merit that develops a central, meritorious theme.
- **DESCRIPTION:** Students choose, excerpt, and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary merit) from the genres of prose, poetry, and/or drama and perform a thematic selection.

- **RULES:**
 - Genres of prose, poetry, and/or drama may be incorporated into the program.
 - A central, meritorious theme must be distinguishable.
 - Characters should be distinct through the use of verbal and non-verbal rhetorical choices.

Prose

- **PURPOSE:** An interpretive performance of prose designed to engage the audience through a rendering of the literature in its intellectual, emotional, and aesthetic entirety.
- **DESCRIPTION:** Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections of prose material of literary merit.
- **RULES:**
 - Short stories, novels, essays, and story-centered news media are permitted in prose interpretation.
 - News media material should be referenced against the original source to ensure it is not drama.
 - If the source is not specific to a genre, material in which the development of a story is the focus is acceptable.

Reader's Theater

- **PURPOSE:** An interpretation of literature by 3 to 14 speakers that engages the audience's imagination through the oral and visual enactment of the printed word and its resultant effects on the minds, emotions, and imaginations of the listeners/viewers.
- **DESCRIPTION:** Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections of material of literary merit. This is not an acting event. Selected literature may present the perspectives of one or multiple characters. The focus of this event is the interaction of multiple and related voices revolving around a specific theme.
- **RULES:**
 - Participants must be novice competitors. Varsity will not be permitted.
 - Maximum time is 25 minutes, with 2 additional minutes total for set-up and takedown.
 - Entries must include at least 3 speakers and no more than 14.
 - Students may not be entered in more than one Readers Theater.
 - Manuscripts are required. Handouts are not permitted.
 - The audience must have a sense of production being interpreted from a manuscript. Director, performer, and judges should be allowed freedom to exercise artistic, interpretive judgment; however, manuscripts must be interpreted from during the presentation.
 - Suggestions in contemporary or ensemble dress may be used. The literature should determine the nature of this suggestion, although costuming should not be a focus of the presentation.
 - Reading stands, chairs, stools, ladders, platforms, steps, props, and/or lighting effects may be used. However, the limitation of facilities (space, time, equipment, etc.) should govern a director's concept.
 - Readers may sit, stand, or both and may move from one reading stand or locale to another so long as the movement is consistent with the ideas or moods of the literature and the director's concept.
 - Music/sound effects, recorded or live, are acceptable as background accompaniment and part of the context.
 - A performer whose sole function is to play a musical instrument on or off stage will be counted in the total number of performers.

Non-Traditional Event Descriptions

Impromptu Sales

- **PURPOSE:** A speech designed to motivate the audience to purchase or invest in a product or corporation.
- **DESCRIPTION:** Impromptu sales speeches are characterized by articulate argument, clear response to the object/service/investment/slogan, creativity, strong structure, convincing claims, individuality, and delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose while respecting the audience.
- **RULES:**
 - A standard notecard may be consulted, but all other notebooks and sources of information are prohibited.
 - Maximum time to prepare and present is 9 minutes total.
 - Round 1: Object – Students will be given an object, and their goal is to sell that object to an audience. Students should take the object as it stands. The student may choose to elaborate upon the object, by may not take the object on the metaphorical level. Students may endow the object with qualities, but cannot transform the object into something else (thus, a pen can have special qualities, but a pen cannot turn into a ball).
 - Round 2: Sell a service. Students will be given a description of a service, including a short “fact sheet” of this particular service (for example, you are the proprietor of a dog walking service). Their goal is to sell that service to the audience.
 - Round 3. Sell an intangible object. Students will be given an object to sell that they can't physically hold in their hands (for example, a car). They will be given a picture and/or some information about the object. Their goal is to sell that object to the audience.
 - Semifinals: “Shark Tank” round. Students will be given either a product or service, and the goal is to convince the audience to invest in that product or service. The round is designed similar to the television show “Shark Tank.” The impromptu sales speech would be the initial presentation to the panel. Unlike the show, the judges won't be negotiating with the contestants for the actual investment. Students, however, may decide what investment they would like the judges to commit to. Note. In this round only, judges may ask 1 clarifying question of each contestant at the conclusion of her/his speech. Students may take approximately 30 seconds to respond to the judge.
 - Finals: Slogan, loosely based on the tournament's location. For example: “Nebraska Beef: It's what's for dinner” or “Dell's Lemonade: Rhode Island's Finest.” Students will create a speech based on that slogan.

Public Narrative

- **PURPOSE:** A narrative speech designed to inspire audience belief or action through the sharing of a student's personal experience.
- **DESCRIPTION:** Public Narratives are marked by clear development of the speaker's personal story, enhancement of identification between the audience and issue or set of issues, emphasis of urgency, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose. (For guidance on developing a public narrative, see Marshall Ganz work.
- **RULES:**
 - Maximum time is 10 minutes.
 - Speeches should be delivered from a manuscript.
 - The presence of a manuscript is not optional.
 - Narrative speeches should not be expected to display a 3-point structure with previews and other overt organizational devices.
 - The story should serve as the primary organizational factor

Slam Poetry

- **PURPOSE:** A performance of original slam poetry designed to engage and/or confront the audience with a creative, poetic, performative response to a significant social problem or issue.
- **DESCRIPTION:** Students compose, develop, and perform original works of slam poetry.
- **RULES:**
 - Use of manuscript is not permitted. Selections must be delivered from memory.
 - Selections must be original pieces developed by the student.
 - Introductory remarks are not necessary.
 - Maximum time is 5 minutes.