



2021 College Championship

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Dear Forensics Community,

Building upon the success of last year's online collegiate forensics festival, *National Online Forensics* is excited to announce the **2021 National Online Forensics College Championship**. This will be a **synchronous** video conference national championship tournament held Fri May 7 - Sun May 9, 2021.

National Online Forensics sees a tremendous value in an online national championship that can afford more students and programs the opportunity to compete and showcase their skills on a national level.

Key Points:

- Registration is due by Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 8pm Pacific time on ForensicsTournament.net
- Reasonable entry fees payable by credit card on the website.
- Students will need to compete with the authorization and support of their school's coaching staffs. No independent student entries will be accepted.
- Each school is required to provide one judge for every 5 IE entries per pattern/2 debate teams. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, uncovered entries may be allowed (penalty fees apply).
- The tournament will use synchronous video conferencing on the 8x8 platform. Please see the *Best Practices* section of this invite for tips on how to effectively use the platform.
- There will be a single championship division for all events.
- All 11 individual events (with some modifications) and 3 debate events (NPDA, NFA-LD, and IPDA) will be offered.
- The Opening Ceremony, most final rounds, and the Awards ceremony will be live-streamed on YouTube.

We hope you and your team can join us May 7-9 for a celebration of the hard work our forensics students have been doing all season. If you have any questions please feel free to email us at info@nationalonlineforensics.org

Sincerely,

Danny Cantrell (Mt. SAC) Tournament Director	Twee Pham (Mt. SAC) & Jacqueline Yu (IVC) Tab	Brianna Broady (PCC) & Jedi Curva (Mt. SAC) Competitor and Judge Liaisons	Angelica Grigsby (Maricopa Speech & Debate) Topics, Extemp Prep	Robert Cannon (Wilshire Academy/NOF) Ombuds
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2021 Tentative Schedule*

Thursday, May 6 (all times Pacific)	Friday, May 7 (all times Pacific)	Saturday, May 8 (all times Pacific)	Sunday, May 9 (all times Pacific)
	8:00am Pattern D Round 1	8:00am (7:45am Draw) Pattern A Round 2	8:00am Pattern C Gold
	9:15am Pattern D Round 2	9:15am Pattern B Round 2	9:15am Pattern D Bronze
	10:30am (10:15am Draw) Pattern A Round 1	10:30am Pattern D Round 3	10:30am (10:15am draw) Pattern A & B Finals
	Noon - 1:00pm Lunch Break	Noon - 1:00pm Lunch Break	Noon - 1:00pm Lunch Break
	1:30pm Pattern B Round 1	1:30pm Pattern C Round 4	1:30pm Pattern D Gold
	2:45pm Pattern C Round 1	2:45pm (2:30pm draw) Pattern A Round 3	
	4:00pm Pattern C Round 2	4:00pm Pattern B Round 3	4:00pm Awards
5:30pm Opening Ceremony (live on YouTube)	5:30pm Pattern C Round 3	5:30pm Pattern D Round 4	
		7:00pm/ASAP Announce Breaks	

* Schedule may be adjusted depending on entries

Pattern A: Informative, After Dinner, Prose, Poetry, Extemp

Pattern B: Persuasion, Comm Analysis, Drama, POI, DUO, Impromptu

Pattern C: NPDA

Pattern D: NFA-LD, IPDA

Individual Events

- All 11 IE events will be offered (Informative, After Dinner, Comm Analysis, Persuasive, Extemp, Impromptu, Prose, Poetry, Drama, POI, DUO)
- Three prelims will be held; one final round will be held.
- Students may enter a maximum of two events per pattern
- 1 Judge is required for every 5 entries per pattern
- Prelim Ranking: Ranks/Decimal/Drop High Rank
- Elim Ranking: Total Rank/Decimal in Elim/Ranks in Elim
- Speaker Points will not be used.
- Students will be recognized with *Superior*, *Excellence*, and *Honors* awards. The top 5% of students in each event will be recognized with a superior award, the top 10% Excellence, and top 20% with Honors. For example, if an event has 50 entries there will be roughly 3 superior awards, 2 excellence, and 5 honors depending on tiebreakers and breaks. All students in elimination rounds will receive recognition.
- The top speaker in each event will be recognized as the National Champion.

Limited Prep Events:

- Impromptu topics will be provided to each student in the Live Video Room (their competition room) chat box. Judges will need to copy/paste the topics (provided on the eBallots) in the chat window for the students.
- Each student will receive a different set of impromptu topics.
- Extemp questions will be provided for all speakers in a separate Extemp Prep Live Video Room. Students do not need to stay in the Extemp Prep Room after receiving the questions. The extemp proctor will copy/paste the questions into the chat window at the specified time.

Platform Events:

- While students are allowed to still use Visual Aids, they are encouraged to have them printed on 8.5x11 pages to show to the audience while presenting.
- Screen sharing to show a PowerPoint or image is **not permitted** due to various technology issues. Since not all students may be able to access the screen sharing function, we feel it's best to not allow that option.

Interp Events:

- These are likely the most difficult to translate to an online video conference style.
- **Books will be optional. Given the nature of the video conferencing system, holding books while performing can block many cameras. Students are encouraged to use them to hold true to traditional forensics tournaments but this adaptation is left to the students. Judges are instructed not to penalize students for not using books.**
- Students may, if they desire, stand up while performing to showcase blocking, but the technology works better sitting in front of the camera.
- Partners are encouraged **NOT** to be in the same room to respect social distancing recommendations.
- Partners, if in the same physical room, should share one live stream. Having multiple live video rooms open on the same WiFi causes poor connections.
- Students are encouraged to try out various methods of performance ahead of time and innovate!

Debate

- Standard pairing will be used with 2 random rounds followed by 2 HL rounds. In Elims, brackets will be broken to facilitate debating.
- Two final rounds will be held Phi Rho Pi Style. Teams not advancing from the first elimination round will receive Honors; teams advancing but not winning the final will receive Excellence; teams winning the final will receive Superior.
- Students may only enter one format of debate in Pattern D (IPDA/NFA-LD).
- 1 Judge is required for every 2 debate entries
- Speaker Point Scale will be 100-70
- Prelim Ranking: Wins/Total Points/HL Points/Opp Wins/Z Score
- Speakers Ranking: Total Points/HL Points/Ranks/Z Score
- A 5 minute forfeit rule will be put in place for all debate rounds.

NPDA:

- Students will receive the topic via a separate NPDA Topic Live Video Room at the start time for Pattern C. It will also be posted on the main page of the tournament on Forensics Tournament.
- Students do not need to stay in the Live Video Room after receiving the topics. The Topic Proctor will copy/paste the topic into the chat window at the specified round start time.
- Only one topic per round will be announced.
- Standard rules will be used including flex time for NPDA.
- Partners are encouraged **NOT** to be in the same room to respect social distancing recommendations.
- Partners, if in the same physical room, should share one live stream. Having multiple live video rooms open on the same WiFi causes poor connections.
- Top Teams and the top 10 speakers will be recognized

IPDA:

- Students will conduct topic strikes in the Live Video Room with their judge. Students and judges should be in the Live Video room (ie, competition room) at the start time for Pattern D.
- Judges will have the prompts available on the eBallot and should copy paste it into the chat window.
- Standard striking procedures will then be followed (Neg, Aff, Neg, Aff, 1 minute each). Prep time starts once the aff strikes their last topic.
- Coaches may help IPDA students during prep time.
- No speaker awards will be given.

NFA-LD:

- Judges should start their NFA-LD round at the start time listed for pattern D.
- Evidence sharing can be facilitated through posting links in the chat window.
- Standard NFA-LD procedures will be followed unless noted.
- Case disclosure is not required by the tournament nor will be facilitated by tournament staff.
- No speaker awards will be given.

Sweepstakes

- The top five 2yr and 4yr schools will be recognized.
- Top three Debate Sweeps and IE sweeps will be recognized.
- IE/IPDA/NFA-LD Sweep points: Superior 10, excellence 7, honors 5
- NPDA Sweep points: superior 20, excellence 15, honors 10. Only a school's top 4 NPDA teams will count towards sweepstakes.
- Top 5 individual event speakers will also be recognized.

Fees

- School Fee: \$50
- Individual Event Entries: \$15/entry
- Duo Entries: \$30/entry
- IPDA/NFA-LD Event Entries: \$20/entry
- NPDA Event Entries: \$40/entry
- Judges: First Missed Ballot - \$20 / Subsequent Missed Ballots - \$50
- Uncovered IE Slot (with Tournament Director Approval): \$30/slot
- Uncovered Debate Team (with Tournament Director Approval): \$125/team

Any schools seeking to buy out of their judging requirements must have approval by the Tournament Director. Please contact us early so we can let you know if we will be able to approve uncovered entries.

To ensure timely pickup of ballots, all judges on the standby list should wait in the Standby Judge Room (<https://8x8.vc/NOFStandby>) until dismissed. This will also ensure judges are not missing ballots pushed to them during the tournament.

Key Points

Individual Events

- Three prelims will be held; two final rounds (entry size permitting) will be held.
- Students may enter a maximum of two events per pattern
- 1 Judge is required for every 5 entries per pattern
- Speaker Points will not be used.
- Students will be recognized with *Gold*, *Silver*, and *Bronze* awards. The top 5% of students in each event will be recognized with a Gold award, the top 10% Silver, and top 20% with Bronze. For example, if an event has 50 entries there will be roughly 3 Gold awards, 2 Silver, and 5 Bronze depending on tiebreakers and breaks. All students in elimination rounds will receive recognition.
- The top speaker in each event will be recognized as the National Champion.

Limited Prep Events:

- Impromptu topics will be provided to each student in the Live Video Room (their competition room) chat box. Judges will need to copy/paste the topics (provided on the eBallots) in the chat window for the students.
- Each student will receive a different set of impromptu topics.
- Extemp questions will be provided for all speakers in a separate Extemp Prep Live Video Room. Students do not need to stay in the Extemp Prep Room after receiving the questions. The extemp proctor will copy/paste the questions into the chat window at the specified time.

Platform Events:

- While students are allowed to still use Visual Aids, they are encouraged to have them printed on 8.5x11 pages to show to the audience while presenting.
- Screen sharing to show a PowerPoint or image is **permitted**.

Interp Events:

- **Books will be optional. Given the nature of the video conferencing system, holding books while performing can block many cameras. Students are encouraged to use them to hold true to traditional forensics tournaments but this adaptation is left to the students. Judges are instructed not to penalize students for not using books.**
- Students may, if they desire, stand up while performing to showcase blocking or sit while performing, if they prefer.
- Partners are encouraged **NOT** to be in the same room to respect social distancing recommendations.
- Partners, if in the same physical room, should share one live stream. Having multiple live video rooms open on the same WiFi causes poor connections.
- Students are encouraged to try out various methods of performance ahead of time and innovate!

Debate

- Standard pairing will be used with 2 random rounds followed by 2 High-Low powermatched rounds.
- In Elims, brackets will be broken to facilitate debating.
- Two final rounds will be held: teams not advancing from the first elimination round will receive Bronze; teams advancing but not winning the final will receive Silver; teams winning the final will receive Gold.
- 1 Judge is required for every 2 debate entries.
- Speaker Point Scale will be 100-70
- Prelim Ranking: Wins/Total Points/HL Points/Opp Wins/Z Score
- Speakers Ranking: HL Points/Total Points/Ranks/Z Score
- A 10 minute forfeit rule will be put in place for all debate rounds.

Competitor Logistics / Best Practices

- All competitors must have a verified text number or email saved on ForensicsTournament.net **Email is preferred**
- Coaches can save those (& verify) from the Student Roster page.
- Competitors will receive a text/email with their ePostings information.
- The ePostings will have a link to a Live Video Room where they will perform. Click that link to go to your round. No logins or passwords are required. Judges will be in the same Live Video Room to listen and rank the round. The tournament will be using the [8x8 video conference room software](#).
- If double entered, students should go to each room before competing and type in the chat window that they are double entered so judges know they will be coming back.
- Please do not immediately start to talk when entering a Live Video Room. Another student may be already performing. Please wait to be recognized by the judge.
- Students should remain in the Live Video Room as audience members with both video and audio on to the extent possible. Due to audio feedback loops or bandwidth issues, you may need to mute your audio or video feeds. But ideally, react to the performances like in a face-to-face round.
- Students can, if it fits their particular setup, sit while performing. Judges are instructed *not* to penalize students for sitting while speaking since the particular tech setup may work better while sitting.
- Students are also encouraged to use a mic/headphones since audio quality is much better than with an external mic. Judges are instructed *not* to penalize students for having mics/headphones on.
- We recognize this creates some challenges for certain events. But we trust in the ingenuity of the forensics community to adapt to this new environment. Some students may also have better quality video, lighting, sound, etc... We will all try our best.
- **If a student's internet connection drops or audio quality is poor**, they will be **required** to call into the video conference room and give their speech with audio only. While not ideal, it will ensure all student's speeches are listened to by a judge. You can get the dial-in information from the info icon in the bottom right of the screen.

Judge Logistics / Best Practices

- All judges must have a verified phone or email saved on ForensicsTournament.net
- Coaches can save those (& verify) from the Judge Roster Page
- Judges will receive a text/email with their eBallot link. Judges should click on that link within 5 minutes of receiving it to indicate that they have “picked up” their ballot.
- On your eBallot you will have all of the competitors in that round along with a link to a live video room. Click that link to go to your video conference room.
- Your eBallot will then have a feedback form where you can type your feedback to the student while they are performing or afterwards. The eBallot also has a timer to make it easy to time each speaker.
- If a judge’s keyboard is loud they are encouraged to mute their audio during performances but please leave the video feed on so competitors can receive your visual feedback.
- Judges are instructed *not* to penalize students for sitting while speaking since the student’s particular tech setup may work better while sitting.
- Judges are also instructed *not* to penalize students for having mics/headphones on since audio quality is usually much better using a mic/headset.
- Judges are also instructed *not* to penalize students for lighting, video/audio quality, video background to the extent possible.
- **If a judge’s internet connection drops or audio quality is poor**, they will be **required** to call into the video conference room and listen to speeches with audio only. While not ideal, it will ensure all student’s speeches are listened to by a judge. You can get the dial-in information from the info icon in the bottom right of the screen.
- For Impromptu/Extemp/IPDA/NPDA, the eBallot will have the quotations/questions listed on it.

FAQ

(will be updated as more questions are sent our way)

- **How can I register?** Coaches will need to register their teams on ForensicsTournament.net
- **Can I have 2 uncovered IE entries/just 1 uncovered debate team?** Ideally no. If you need hired judges, please contact the Tournament Director ASAP for approval.
- **Where is the Extemp Prep/NPDA Topic announce Room?** As we get closer to the tournament links will be sent out to a special video room for these events.
- **How will I get my impromptu quotation?** The judge will have the impromptu quotations on their eBallot. When it's your turn to speak your judge will copy/paste the prompts into the chat window in the Live Video Room.
- **How will we strike IPDA topics?** The judge will have all five IPDA topics on their eBallot. At the start of the round go to your Live Video Room. The judge will copy/paste the resolutions into the chat window. Each team will strike as normal. Turn off your audio/visual feeds in the room during prep. 30 minutes later the round will commence.
- **Where will we prep for NPDA?** Each school has access to practice rooms through ForensicsTournament.net. Please use those rooms.
- **What type of awards will be given out?** National Championship quality trophies will be mailed to each school for distribution to students. Sweepstakes awards will be sent out to each school following the tournament.
- **Can NPDA debaters read from prepared files on their computer?** While the nature of a video conference room debate opens up a lot of different options, we would like NPDA to mirror as closely as possible the tournament experience. While it may be difficult to enforce, debaters should only be using material prepared during the preparation time and **not** reading from prepared scripts. If that's your jam, please enter NFA-LD.
- **What type of NPDA topics should we expect?** A variety of fact, value, policy, and possibly metaphor topics will be used at the tournament. Students will receive the topics 20 minutes before the debate round starts in a separate NPDA Topic Video Conference room that will be announced later.
- **Can coaches help prep during NPDA/IPDA prep time?** Yes. But coaches who are judging IPDA should first ensure their topic draw is completed before going to help prep their teams.
- **What about poor internet connections?** In order for the video conference to work, your internet should be at least 6 Mbps. You can check your internet speed [here](#). There is also an asynchronous tournament being offered which may work better if you have a poor internet connection. Each Live Video Room has an option to "call in" via phone. While there will be no visual, at least you can still present the audio portion of your speech.
- **But isn't it unfair I can't compete because I have a poor internet connection?** Yes. We are sorry. But we see this as analogous to students who can't compete at national tournaments due to costs / entry limits / time commitments / family or job obligations / etc... No tournament is accessible to all students. But we are trying our best to afford many students an end of the year tournament. Again, please see the Asynchronous tournament which may work better for people with slow internet connections.