RAFL 2020-21

Coaches,

In an effort to streamline and standardize the virtual community college-sponsored tournaments in the state of Illinois for the 2020-21 season, the coaches in *Phi Rho Pi Region 4* have created the '**R**egion4 **A**ffiliated **F**orensics **L**eague" - **RAFL**.

7 On-Line-Synchronous tournaments will be hosted by this league and will follow the same rules, schedule, groupings, fee structure, judging requirements, tab staff, and so on. As we evolve these tournaments we may need to make adjustments. They will be highlighted and dated here.

We will actually be raffling off prizes at each tournament :-)

Email: RAFL.tournaments@google.com

Facebook & Instagram-TBA

Hosting Platform

ForensicsTournament.net (with 8x8) will be utilized for registration, competition, and tabbing. Coach and student guides can be found HERE. You will find that understanding how tournaments will be run, will help put students and judges at ease.

The following invitation will give you all the necessary information you need to begin your planning. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions. Rules and

procedures may be adjusted from tournament to tournament based on needs and feedback.

Tim, Kacy, Jeff, and John

RAFL 2020-21 Tab Staff

Jeff Przybylo- Harper College (847-567-2512)- Judges

John Nash- Moraine Valley (773-318-2460)- Tournament Director

Tim Anderson- Elgin CC (217-549-1970)- Region IV Governor, Awards, and Accounting

Kacy Abeln- COD (630-901-6900)- IPDA

Jeff Rieck- Extemp Prep

Harry Bodell- IPDA Common draw/strike

Host Schools- LP Prompts, fun, “judge lounge”, Opening video, awards assembly/postings, more TBD…

*As needed, additional coaches will be asked to serve

Eligibility

Students from both two-year and four-year institutions in their first four semesters of competition may enter individual events. *Exceptions may be considered by the tournament staff, but are not guaranteed.

All students with less than 8 semesters of collegiate competition may enter International Public Debate.

While these tournaments are hosted by *PRP Region 4*, these tournaments are open to all colleges and universities.

RAFL #7 is the Phi Rho Pi Region 4 Tournament. Only Phi Rho Pi members are eligible.

Tournament Dates

RAFL #1 “Minute to Win It” Wednesday, Oct 21, 7-10 pm

This practice tournament is designed to get students and judges acclimated to the synchronous online tournament system. Specifics will be forthcoming. Essentially, students will perform the first minute of one of their presentations. ‘Rounds’ will likely be at 7:30 pm, 8:30 pm, and 9:30 pm. This tournament will be free of charge.

RAFL #2 - Friday & Saturday, October 23-24, 2020

Co-hosted by Moraine Valley College and Illinois Central College.

RAFL #3 - Friday & Saturday, November 13-14, 2020

Co-hosted by Prairie State College and Highland College.

RAFL #4 - Friday & Saturday, December 11-12, 2020

Co-hosted by Elgin CC and College of Lake County.

RAFL #4.5 Friday & Saturday, January 8-9, 2020

Co-hosted by the RAFL Tab Staff.

RAFL #5 - Friday & Saturday, January 22-23, 2021

Co-hosted by College of DuPage and Oakton CC

RAFL #6 - Friday & Saturday, February 12-13, 2021

Co-hosted by Harper College and Spoon River

RAFL #7 - Friday & Saturday, March 19-20 *Region 4 REGIONALS*

Co-hosted by Southeastern IL College and McHenry County College.

Groupings

Debate- IPDA

IE-A -- Duo, Pers, Imp, DI, CA and POI

IE-B -- Ext, Pro, STE, Inf, Pot

Fees

$10 per slot (Applied Wed 5 pm)

Checks should be made out to *Tim Anderson (Region 4 Governor)*

ENTRY DEADLINE - TUESDAY, 5:00 PM

Drops/Changes from entry deadline thru 5 PM Wednesday – No Charge

Drops after 5:00 PM *Wednesday*- **$10.00 per slot**

Drops after 5:00 PM on *Thursday* - **$15.00 per slot**

Day of Drops- **$30 per slot**

Student-Run or underfunded teams may request discounted fees from the tournament staff. Email RAFL.tournaments@gmail.com

Judges

For IPDA on Friday, each judge will cover 2 IPDA entries. Separately, for IEs on Saturday, each judge will cover 6 IE slots. Schools must cover a minimum of 50% of their entries each day. Uncovered slots are an additional $15 per slot.

Drops/Changes from entry deadline thru 5 PM Wednesday – No Charge

Drops after 5:00 PM *Wednesday*- **$25.00 per judge**

Day of Drops- **$50 per judge**

Students from the same school may be scheduled in the same section to make best use of all judges.

Entry Limits

Each school may enter 8 students in each event. (IPDA - 8 entries total are allowed, not 8 in Open and 8 in Novice.)

Team "Rooms"

Team zoom rooms will not be set up by the tournament. Individual coaches are encouraged to set up a "Team Zoom Room" for students to utilize for things such as team warm-ups, team meetings, and team socialization. Please contact a member of the tournament staff if you would like an 8x8 room. That room can be used all season.

IE Rounds

All rounds of IE Competition will be scheduled with 5 students or less.

Rounds will be ranked 1st-4th with ties allowed for 4th place.

There will not be speaker points for Individual Events.

Students may DE. TE is allowed at a student's own risk. Rounds will not be held up.

Rules for IE Advancement into finals (semi-finals)

All students who attain a cumulative rank of 2, 3,4, or 5 for individual events will automatically advance to the medal rounds in that event. If this does not represent 20% of the field *and at least 6 students* in that event, all ranks of "6" will also break to the medal rounds. This process will continue until at least 20% of the field and at least 6 students advance to the medal rounds. This may result in multiple sections of medal rounds in a single event (see "Awards" below)

Rules for IPDA Debate

Novice (first 4 semesters) and Open (5-8 semesters) divisions will be created when possible. This may manifest itself in separate tournament divisions or medal round divisions. Novice students may be entered into the Open Division during registration upon coaches' discretion.

RAFL tournaments follow the spirit of Ph Rho Pi with breaking following the Phi Rho Pi break system with Bronze, Silver, and Gold. There will be a Bronze Round (Semi-Final Rounds), and a Gold Round (Final Rounds). We will break the top 30% of the debate field into the Bronze Round.

Note: only Novice Debate points will count towards overall sweepstakes.

Topic Strike: Topic strike will occur in a common draw room. Negative strikes first. Prep time begins as soon as the topics are announced/released to the opposing partners.

Debaters should strike on time. Should one debater not appear at the scheduled time, a five minute grace period will be started. At the end of the five minutes, the topic list will be given to the debater in attendance who will choose the topic to be debate and the round will begin 30 minutes from the time of the topic selection. The absent debater will only have the prep time available that remains. If a debater fails to appear after the prep time has elapsed they will automatically forfeit the round.

Debaters will NOT be allowed to consult any other person during prep time.

As per IPDA rules, debaters can consult paper and/or electronic research material during preparation, which may be quoted or paraphrased from notes during the round.

Event Rules

Phi Rho Pi national rules will govern sweepstakes, and event rules (www.phirhopi.org). Some exceptions to Phi Rho Pi rules are as follows. Students are limited to single camera setup and duo partners must perform in separate rooms.

Tournament Awards

Awards will be presented to all competitors who advance to a medal round. The order of finish will be determined by the cumulative ranks on all ballots (prelims plus final rounds).. Gold, Silver, and Bronze awards will be divided among all competitors advancing to a medal round.

Medals will be snail-mailed to each head coach.

Team sweepstakes awards will be presented to the top 6 Overall Teams (2 Gold, 2 Silver, 2 Bronze), the top 6 Debate Teams (2 Gold, 2 Silver, 2 Bronze), and the top 6 IE Teams (2 Gold, 2 Silver, 2 Bronze).

Note: only Novice Debate points will count towards overall sweepstakes.

Individual Sweepstakes will be added for the 2021 tournaments.

The final Placements will be posted. There will not be a live-streamed Awards Ceremony. This MAY change as this series evolves.

Note: As the tournaments progress, some rules and schedules may need to be revised.

Scoring

Gold = 10 points (15 Duo)

Silver = 7.5 points (11 Duo)

Bronze = 5 points (7.5 Duo)

Competition Schedule

<u>Friday- IPDA Debate</u>

10:15am – 10:45am – Registration – Go to the Registration Room to verify entry

Draw 11:00 am	11:30 Speak Round 1
Draw 12:30 pm	1:00 pm Speak Round 2
Draw 1:45 pm	2:15 pm Speak Round 3
Draw 3:15 pm	3:45 pm Speak Round 4
Draw 5:15 pm	5:45 pm Speak Bronze Round
Draw 6:45 pm	7:15 pm Speak Silver/Gold Round

Saturday- Individual Events

[redacted]

8:15am – 8:45am – Registration – Go to the Registration Room to verify entry and pay fees.

9:00am - 10:00am	Round 1A
10:15am - 11:15am	Round 2A
11:15am-12:00pm	Lunch
12:00pm	Extemp Draw
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Round1 B
1:30pm	Extemp Draw
2:00pm - 3:00pm	Round 2B
3:30pm - 4:45pm	Finals A
4:45pm	Extemp Draw
5:00pm	Finals B

5:15pm Extemp Finals

Awards Posted ASAP

Best Practices

The shift to online competition necessitates a change in norms. Here are suggested Best Practices to help as we establish new norms together:

FLEXIBILITY- This is a new adventure for all of us. Both judges and competitors are encouraged to be flexible, reasonable, and open-minded.

AUDIENCE CAMERA- Individual observers in each round are encouraged to turn on their camera so their feedback to the speaker can be seen. However, this is not a requirement.

EQUIPMENT CHECK- Before the tournament, have each of your team members test their equipment. Check the WiFi connection. Make sure computers are charged and ready to go. Test the audio and video connections. Closeout other tabs and applications on computers to assure the best connection available. Check your webcam or laptop camera.

DE- If students are DE they will receive separate emails for each event. They can sign in (chat) in one room and move on to the other just like a F2F tournament. Students should be aware that when joining the second room That they may be enterIng during a performance. Make sure mics are muted to avoid disturbing that performance.

ENVIRONMENT- Check the environment. Do you have enough room to move? Will you have a quiet, uninterrupted space? Do you have everything you need (flow pad, pens, IMP card, script book, VAs)? Do you have good lighting?

TOURNAMENT ATTIRE- Dress for success. Virtual tournaments are no different from face-to-face tournaments. Business on top, jammies on the bottom is not a great idea.

FRAMING- This is new to the virtual environment. You want to make the choice whether you want to be framed on screen in full body and lose some facial expressions or be shot from the waist up and lose some movement and gestures. See “Flexibility” above.

Extemp- For extemp, there will be a prep/draw room. Students will be required to prep with their cameras on. The coach running prep will post questions for speaker number one in the chat. Seven minutes later speaker number two will be posted. And so on…

IMP- Go to your Competition room. Prompts will be posted in the chat (by the judge)

IPDA- Go to The IPDA prep room for strike

AUDIO- Please set your mic to mute when not speaking so it does not pick up your speaker and create an echo.

SIGNING IN- You may sign in to your Competition Rooms just like at a face-to-face tournament in the room’s Chat. Please pre-sign in if you are DE or TE!

DROPOUTS & GLITCHES- There may be connectivity challenges where folks with weaker signals may vanish momentarily. This is a challenge in any online environment and should not be counted against the participant. What do we do? The simple answer is to stop until the problem is fixed by the participant and resume once resolved. Judges should stop time if connectivity challenges arise. Give a reasonable moment for the participant to reconnect and resume. Contact the Help Room.

ETHICS- Any competitive event presents opportunities for those determined to cheat. Remember even in traditional tournaments competitors can text, chat and share documents with coaches or others who should not be assisting during a round. Certainly, online tournaments present a temptation. It is our expectation that participants make honorable and ethical choices. If you would not do it in a face-to-face tournament, do not do it in a virtual environment.

SCREEN RECORDING- Screen recording is not permitted.

SECURITY- This tournament only collects information needed for virtual communication (names, cell, email, and school information). Information will not be shared with outside parties beyond the reporting of results. Upholding copyright laws, no competition events will be publicly broadcast.

AUDIENCE- The presence of live audience members while performing is neither encouraged nor discouraged.

AFFILIATION- Students may not enter unaffiliated.

Additional best practices may be added to this list. Coaches are encouraged to email potential additions/revisions to

RAFL.tournamanets@gmail.com

RAFL #7 is the PRP Region 4 tournament. There are some special awards presented at that event.

The **Cheri Corey Individual Sweepstakes Award** will be presented to the top individual speaker. The sixth through second place overall speakers will also be recognized.

The **Don Hagerty Award** will be presented to the student in the region who reflects the fellowship qualities we find important in our region. The winner of this award will be determined by a vote of all regional competitors during the tournament.

The **Region IV Coach Award** will be presented to the coach in the region that reflects the qualities of a coach that the student's of our region value most. The winner of this award will be determined from a master list of regularly active coaches (each school will need to supply names to the governor at a date TBD). Students will vote for the one coach that they believe most exemplifies our regional values.