



Dear Colleagues:

The 4th Annual District IV Fall Qualifying Tournament will be held virtually on Sunday December 7th! Please indicate through Speechwire if you plan on attending - even if you are not ready to submit your entry.

We will be using Speechwire (registration site forthcoming) for entries, e-ballots, tabulation, extemp draw, and imp quotation dissemination, and we will use Zoom for our synchronous platform (please make sure that your Zoom applications are updated). If you have any questions about this Fall's district tournament, the Spring district tournament, or the National Speech Tournament, please don't hesitate to contact D4 Chair, Chris Outzen at outzencp@uwec.edu or via cell at 563-219-0265

Entries:

Entries are due on Speechwire by Tuesday, Dec. 2nd at 6pm (CST). Any student from an AFA-NST District IV member school who has not qualified an event at-large may enter that event in the fall district qualifier.

*Students may enter no more than three (3) events in each flight.

*Each school may enter a maximum of five (5) entries per event.

Entry Fees:

Entry fees are \$8 for each slot entered. Schools should provide one judge for every six slots entered. Each uncovered slot will be charged \$15. Fees will be calculated Wednesday, Dec. 3rd @ noon. Any changes in entry after this time will incur a \$10.00 drop/add fee per slot (exception: any event that qualifies at-large Dec. 5-6) and any judge drops will incur a \$50 judge drop fee.

Membership Fees:

AFA-NST membership fees must be paid by member schools in order for students to compete in the District IV Fall Qualifier (as per the AFA-NST by-laws).

In the past, District IV had all member schools pay through the AFA website. However, to increase transparency and ensure NST membership fees are disseminated to both the district and the NST, all NST member school fees will be added to Fall District Qualifier tournament entry fees on speechwire. The NST membership fee is \$30 when registering for the District IV Fall Qualifier. If you have already paid this year's NST membership fee through the AFA website, please send your payment confirmation to the D4 chair.

Checks:

Please make checks out to "Doane Forensics"

And mail them to:

Jennifer Torres

1014 Boswell Ave.

Crete, NE 68333

Credit Card or Cash:

Please use the Zelle payment system

Send to Zelle Account: doaneforensics@doane.edu

Any member schools not attending the District IV Fall Qualifier that need to pay their membership fee, please contact the D4 chair.

Reminder: Each member school must have one person who is a member of the AFA parent organization. For the AFA membership fee, you can pay any time before the AFA-NST in April, here is the website:

<https://www.americanforensicsassoc.org/product/afa-one-year-individual-or-institutional-membership/>

At-Large Forms:

At-large qualification verification is conducted on the district level. All digital, at-large student qualification forms must be completed and shared online (via Google Drive or email) with the D4 chair by 5pm on Tuesday December 2 at outzencp@uwec.edu. Updates from tournaments with results December 6th and 7th can be added after the fact.

Earlier in the semester, all student event at-large qualification forms were shared with the head coach or student of each program. If you are having difficulty finding your form, please email outzencp@uwec.edu

Tournament Rules:

The top three competitors in all 11 AFA-NST events at the Fall Qualifier will count as district qualifiers to the 2026 AFA-NST. If that placement qualifies the student at large, the district qualification will “trickle-down” to the next student. No student that has already qualified an event at-large to the 2026 AFA-NST may enter the Fall District Qualifying Tournament in that event.

All events with 2 or more sections will have a final round. Advancement to elimination rounds will be based on preliminary rank and rate. Ties in preliminary rank and rate mean that all tied contestants advance to elimination rounds. When possible, ties in rank and rate resulting in a final of 8 or larger will be broken using reciprocals to create a final of 7.

Placing in final rounds will be based on predominance of 1's, followed by cumulative rank. Ties in rank in finals will be broken by the following: judges' preference, drop low rate, and cumulative rate.

On SpeechWire, please indicate if your judges have any student or school blocks. Additionally, please email the District Chair with any judge blocks for a student, event, or team.

Schedule (TENTATIVE):

8:45 am	EXT Draw (using Speechwire)
9:00 am	Round 1 A (ADS, CA, DI, EXT, POE, POI)
10:15 am	Round 1 B (PERS, DUO, IMP, INFO, PRO)
11:30 am	Ext Draw
11:45 am	Round 2A
12:45 pm	Lunch
1:15 pm	D4 Meeting & D4 Student Meeting
2:00 pm	Round 2 B
3:15 pm	Finals A
4:30 pm	Finals B
ASAP	Awards!

***Flights/rounds may be collapsed depending on the number of entries.

We look forward to seeing you virtually at Fall Districts!

Our Best,

Your 2025-2026 D4 Committee and Fall Tournament Hosts:

Chris Outzen	D4 Chair University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Eau Claire, WI
Jennifer Torres	D4 Vice Chair Doane University Crete, NE
Thomas Muscha	D4 Committee Member University of North Dakota Grand Forks, ND
Amanda VonGoodrich	D4 Committee Member University of Nebraska-Omaha Omaha, NE
Andrea Carlile	D4 Committee Member South Dakota State University Brookings, SD
Darren Valenta	D4 Committee Member Concordia College Moorhead, MN
Austin McDonald	D4 Committee Member Hastings College Hastings, NE
Reed Greger	D4 Student Representative University of Nebraska-Lincoln Lincoln, NE