Dear Forensics Colleagues:

On behalf of CSUN Forensics, the Department of Communication Studies, and the Mike Curb College of Arts Media and Communication at CSU-Northridge, we would like to invite you to participate in the 2026 Robert Barbera Invitational. Competition will be held from November 6-8 on our campus.

This will be a full-service tournament offering two preliminary rounds in two divisions (Novice & Open) of all 11 AFA individual events on Sunday, two divisions (Novice and Open) of Lincoln-Douglas debate on Saturday, two divisions (Novice and Open) of IPDA on Saturday, two divisions (Novice & Open) of NPDA Parliamentary Debate on Sunday, and three divisions (Junior, Open, and Novice) of Policy Debate Friday through Sunday. We will have four preliminary rounds and two elimination rounds of Parliamentary debate, LD and IPDA. Policy debate will have five preliminary rounds and an appropriate number of elimination rounds based on entries. Some divisions may collapse due to entry size. We will do everything we can to preserve the integrity of all Novice divisions.

We are committed to and will uphold the ethical standards outlined in the CEDA Statement on Discrimination and Sexual Harassment and the AFA Code of Ethics.

We are excited and look forward to hosting you in Los Angeles this November. Please contact Tournament Director Joel Lemuel joel.lemuel@csun.edu if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Joel Lemuel
Director of Forensics

Andrew Yllescas,
Assistant Director of Forensics

GENERAL EVENT INFORMATION

Policy Debate and CARD entries should be submitted through the tabroom site. Entries for all other events should be submitted through https://forensicstournament.net/RobertBarbera/26

All entries will be closed the *Wednesday before the tournament at 5pm*. Please email Andrew Yllescas directly after that with any drops or changes at andrew.yllescas@csun.edu

ELIGIBILITY – Any student that meets AFA, NFA, NPDA, or CEDA requirements for their respective event is eligible. CSUN students may participate, but will not accrue sweepstakes points.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS OFFERED

Pattern A: Extemporaneous speaking, Speech to Entertain, Prose Interpretation, Poetry Interpretation, and Informative Speaking.
Pattern B: Impromptu Speaking, Persuasive Speaking, Communication Analysis, Duo Interpretation, Programmed Oral Interpretation, and Dramatic Interpretation.

IE Judging Obligation: Schools must provide one judge for every five Individual Event entries or fraction thereof in each pattern. Judging obligations are calculated separately for Pattern A and Pattern B.

INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC DEBATE ASSOCIATION (IPDA)

RULES

1. IPDA will follow guidelines as prescribed by the IPDA best practices manual.
2. Topics:
    1. Each debate will have a strike card with 5 possible topics. Once competitors receive the topics, the negative will strike one topic. The process of striking continues by alternating strikes (affirmative, negative and finally affirmative again) until one topic remains. That will be the topic for the round.
    2. 30 minutes of preparation time begins at the start of the topic draw period (meaning that any time that is used deliberating on "strikes" comes at the expense of preparation time).
    3. Students will strike in their competition room at the assigned time with the judge, but may prepare wherever they choose.
    4. The format for the event will be:
        1. 1st affirmative - 5 minutes
        2. Cross-ex - 2 minutes
        3. 1st negative - 6 minutes
        4. Cross-ex - 2 minutes
        5. 2nd affirmative - 3 minutes
        6. 2nd negative - 5 minutes
        7. Final affirmative - 3 minutes
    5. Flighting: Due to a large entry and judging needs we may flight rounds, meaning 1 judge will evaluate 2 debates in one round of IPDA in the same room.
    6. Judging: IPDA debate encourages a diverse judging pool. To that extent, traditional debate judges (degreed individuals with some degree of experience in

academic debate) are a part of the field. However, IPDA expands this field to encourage community and student involvement. Anyone (lay judges) are available to judge this event.

7. Judge Commitment: **Schools should provide 1 judge per 2 IPDA contestants or fraction thereof.**
8. There will be no speaker awards in IPDA.

PARLIAMENTARY, LD, and POLICY DEBATE

RULES

1. Parliamentary debate

a. Parliamentary debate will abide by NPDA rules and guidelines.
b. A five minute forfeit rule is in place for all debate rounds.
c. The format for the debate will be:
    1. First Proposition Constructive Speaker: 7 minutes
    2. Opposition Flex Time: 2 minutes
    3. First Opposition Constructive Speaker: 8 minutes
    4. Proposition Flex Time: 2 minutes
    5. Second Proposition Constructive Speaker: 8 minutes
    6. Opposition Flex Time: 1 minute
    7. Second Opposition Constructive Speaker: 8 minutes
    8. Opposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 4 minutes
    9. Proposition Flex Time: 1 minute
    10. Proposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 5 minutes

d. Flex time may be used by the controlling team to prepare arguments, drink water, set up stands, ask questions of their opponents, etc. Flex time may not be used as additional speech time.
e. Brackets will be broken

2. Lincoln-Douglas debate

a. Lincoln Douglas debate will abide by NFA-LD guidelines.
b. Brackets will be broken.
c. There will be no speaker awards in LD.

3. Policy Debate

a. The Junior and Open division of Policy debate will abide by NDT/CEDA guidelines. The Novice Division will abide by guidelines for PNW-CARD.
b. We will use a 30-point scale, allowing for tenth of a decimal place, and NO TIES between debaters in the same round.
c. We will follow CEDA's Council of Tournament's directions for best practices unless otherwise stated within the invite.

4. General guidelines for all events

a. Hybrids/Mavericks - Hybrid teams are welcome but all Parliamentary debaters must compete with a partner.
b. 3-person teams require tournament director approval. 3-person teams can break but are not eligible for speaker awards.
c. Judging - Each school is expected to provide one judge for every two teams (or 2 LD slots) they enter. Each judge will be obligated through the first elimination or one round beyond the elimination of their team. The tournament will hire as many judges as we can, but our ability to do so is limited. Hired judges will be provided on a first come, first served basis at a fee of $200 per uncovered team (or $100 for LD). Judges that do not possess a Bachelor's degree can judge some novice events but will not be paid by the tournament for any rounds past their obligation.

HOTEL INFORMATION

The tournament hotel is the **Courtyard Marriott Woodland Hills** (21101 Ventura Blvd, Woodland Hills, CA 91264). The rate is $177 per night for a double room with complimentary continental breakfast. Use this direct booking link to reserve your rooms. The last day to reserve rooms under the block is November 4, 2026. Other hotels in the area are below.

Residence Inn by Marriott Chatsworth

Address: 20524 Lassen St., Chatsworth, CA 91311

- Phone: (747) 206-5385
- Distance from CSUN: Approximately 3 miles

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Chatsworth

- Address: 21340 Devonshire St., Chatsworth, CA 91311
- Phone: (818) 280-3767
- Distance from CSUN: Approximately 4.5 miles

Courtyard by Marriott Los Angeles Sherman Oaks

- Address: 15433 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
- Phone: (818) 981-5400
- Distance from CSUN: Approximately 8.6–9.4 miles

DIRECTIONS

From Interstate 405
Exit at Nordhoff and go west. About 5 miles down Nordhoff the school will be on your right. Tournament HQ is in Manzanita Hall on the southwestern corner of campus. Park in lot B1 or B2. Buy a parking permit.

From Highway 101
Exit on Reseda. Go North. About 5 miles later you will come to Nordhoff, go right (east); take a quick left (the next street) for parking into B1 or B2. Buy a parking permit.

From Highway 118
Exit on Reseda and go south. About 4 miles later you will come to Nordhoff – go left (east); take a quick left (the next street) for parking into B1 or B2. Buy a parking permit.

PARKING

Please park in **Parking Lot 3**, the uncovered student parking lot closest to Goodman Hall and Manzanita Hall.

A valid CSUN parking permit is required. Daily permits may be purchased at a campus pay station or by texting **CSUNPKG** to **25023**. The current daily permit price is **$10.45**. CSU Northridge Parking Information. **CSUN tickets people without passes every day of the week**.

ENTRY FEES

School fee:	$25
Individual event slot:	$10.00
Uncovered individual event slot:	$20.00
NFA-LD Debate slot:	$20.00
IPDA Debate	$20.00
Uncovered NFA-LD slot:	$100.00
Uncovered IPDA slot:	$40.00
Debate team (NPDA, Policy, CARD):	$50.00
Uncovered debate team:	$200.00
Missed Ballot Fee:	$25.00

All payments must be by check (made out to "CSUN" or "CSUN Forensics") **or by credit card through the University's e-market site.** University policy prevents us from accepting cash payments.

E-market payment link: [UPDATE LINK BEFORE RELEASE]

Schedule

NFA-LD - SATURDAY
7:30-8:00am - Debate Sign-in
8:00am – Pairings Released Round 1 & 2
8:30am - Round 1
9:30am - Round 2
10:45am – Pairing Released Round 3
11:15am - Round 3
12:30pm - Lunch (Provided by Tournament)
1:30pm – Pairings Released Round 4
2:00pm - Round 4
3:10pm – Pairings Released Bronze Elim
3:30pm - Bronze Elim
4:30pm – Pairings Released Gold Elim
4:50pm - Gold Elim

6:00pm – Awards

IPDA - SATURDAY
7:30AM-8:00AM - Sign-In
8:30 am - Topic Announce for Round 1
9:00 am - Round 1 Start
9:45am - Topic Announce for Round 2
10:15am - Round 2 Start
11:00am - Topic Announce for Round 3
11:30am - Round 3 Start
12:30pm - Lunch (Provided by Tournament)
1:30pm - Topic Announce for Round 4
2:00pm - Round 4 Start
3:15pm - Topic Strike for Elim 1
3:45pm - Elim 1 Start
4:45pm - Topic Strike for Elim 2
5:15pm - Elim 2 Start
6:00pm - Awards or ASAP

Parli - SUNDAY
7:30-8:00am - Debate Sign-in
8:00am - Topic Announce Round 1 & 2
8:45am - Round 1 Parli
10:00am - Round 2 Parli
11:30am - Topic Announce Round 3
11:50am - Round 3 Parli
12:30pm - Lunch (Provided by Tournament)
1:30pm - Topic Announce Round 4
1:50pm - Round 4 Parli
3:00pm - Topic Announce Bronze Elim
3:30pm - Bronze Elim
4:30pm - Topic Announce Gold Elim
4:50pm - Gold Elim
6:00pm - Awards

Individual Events - SUNDAY
8:00am - RD 1 Pattern D - Extemp Draw

8:30am - RD 1 Extemp
9:15am - RD 1 Pattern E
10:30am - RD 2 Pattern D - Extemp Draw
11:00am - RD 2 Extemp
11:45am - RD 2 Pattern E
1:00pm - Lunch (Provided by Tournament)
2:00pm - Finals Pattern D- Extemp Draw
2:30 pm - Finals Extemp
3:30pm - Finals Pattern E
6:00pm - Awards

Policy/CARD Debate
FRIDAY
12:00-1:00pm - Policy Debate Sign-in
2:30pm - Pairings Released Policy Round 1 & 2
3:00pm - Policy Round 1
5:00pm - Policy Round 2
SATURDAY
8:30am - Pairings Released
9:00am - Policy Round 3/CARD Round 1
11:30am – Policy Round 4/CARD Round 2
1:30pm – Lunch (Provided by Tournament)
3:00pm – Policy Round 5/CARD Round 3
5:00pm – Pairings Released
5:30pm – Policy Elim # 1/CARD Round 4
SUNDAY
8:00am – Pairings Released
8:30am – Policy Elim # 2/CARD Round 5
10:15am – CARD Showcase Pairing Released
10:45am – CARD Showcase Round
Immediately following Elim # 2: Awards
1:00-2:00 pm – Lunch (Provided by Tournament)
2:15 pm – CARD Showcase Round