



September 2023

Hello friends,

Minnesota State University, Mankato is pleased to invite you to the 2023 Kato Swing, which includes the Larry Schnoor Invitational on **Saturday October 14th** hosted by the Minnesota State, Mankato forensic team and the MavFAN Tournament on **Sunday, October 15th** hosted by our alumni network. All rounds will take place in-person on the MSU campus. We're happy to offer a Parli debate tournament as part of the Schnoor, which will run over both days of competition. Please see below for tournament policies and details, including our new Extemp Speaking draw format.

Open Door Policy

MNSU is committed to providing safe performance spaces for all competitors and judges. We acknowledge the art of performance may be a healing process and/or an opportunity to speak on important, personal topics. As a performer, it is impossible to know all the ways in which content or a performance may unintentionally harm or trigger members of your audience. To better serve the wellness of the forensic community, we will be using an open door practice this weekend.

An "open door practice" means competitors and other audience members may choose to leave a round when a performance threatens their mental wellbeing, or due to physical (e.g., uncontrollable coughing, vomiting) or spiritual (e.g., Salah prayer times) needs. Competitors may discreetly leave the room (before, during, or after someone's performance) even when not double-entered, without question or penalty. Anyone in the room may also disengage from a performance (e.g., actively dissociate, put their head down on a desk, cover their ears). **Judges will be asked to read the open door policy aloud at the beginning of every round** to reinforce the norm-change emphasizing mental and physical well-being over community norms.

Judges may also take steps to protect their well-being by requesting reassignment prior to rounds where they worry about the content warnings listed or taking a time between speeches to re-center before proceeding with the round.

Electronic Ballots

All judging will be completed via Speechwire. Judge contact info should be included in the registration and all judges should bring an electronic device for writing critiques and submitting ranks. Everyone may pre-register and learn more at <https://live.speechwire.com/>

Judge Strikes and Judge Accommodations

If a student has conflicts with judges for non-competitive reasons, please inform the tournament staff as to prevent conflicts within the tournament. Some non-competitive conflicts may include:

- The student and judge are family members/close friends
- The student was harassed/assaulted by the judge
- The student feels uncomfortable being judged by a former teammate
- The student feels uncomfortable being judged by a former coach

We respect the privacy of these decisions, so no explanation for the conflict is required.

If tournament staff is informed a judge has participated in improper behavior, the judge will be removed from the judging pool before interacting with students. Coaches or students may contact tournament staff directly at douglas.roberts@mnsu.edu or 530-828-6123.

Gender Equity

MNSU is committed to providing a place where all competitors', judges', and observers' gender identities are observed and respected. **Pronoun indicators** will be available at registration and in the student and judge lounges.

Tournament staff also commit to providing **maps and signage to gender-neutral and single-stall restrooms** to provide safe bathroom spaces. Maps are included at the end of this invite, will be available online at Speechwire.com, provided at registration, and in the student and judge lounges.

Name Pronunciation

MNSU recognizes the power being called by your correctly pronounced name has in creating an inclusive, welcoming, respectful space. To aid judges and award readers, please provide student name pronunciation through Speechwire. Depending upon Speechwire service availability, tournament staff will attempt to make name pronunciations available on cover ballots for judges.

Content Warnings

MNSU requests performers consider the nature of their topic; when possible, please list a content warning in the "Event Title" content box on Speechwire when registering for the tournament and list a content warning on the board when signing in to the round. At registration, each team will be asked if they entered content warnings for their students' pieces. Content warnings will appear on schemats online and posted at the tournament.

Accessibility

MNSU recognizes not all bodies comfortably move through tournament spaces. Tournament staff worked hard to select rooms with **desks where all body types may comfortably compete, observe, and judge**. Rooms were prioritized so freestanding chairs were used for rounds before desk-chair combinations or similar options. When rooms do not include large seating options, the tournament staff pledges to provide chairs where everyone can feel included during the competition round.

Tournament staff also pledges to arrange rooms to create ample space for competitors and judges who use wheelchairs to move throughout competition rounds without needless obstacles.

Additionally, tournament schematics will also be posted on every floor for visual accessibility. Extra schematics will also be available at the info table. Quiet rooms will also be available.

Information Available Upon Request

Upon request, the tournament staff will have the following information:

- Procedures for Title IX violations
- Regional ICE activity
- Campus emergency procedures
- Local support service phone numbers

Information about competitive event offerings and fees are listed below. We hope you find it possible to attend the Sunday portion of the Southern Minnesota Swing in October! If you have questions, feel free to email/call Douglas Roberts at douglas.roberts@mnsu.edu. See you then!

Competitive Event Offerings

Both tournaments will offer two preliminary rounds in one open division of all 11 NFA individual events with the **addition of Parliamentary Debate at The Schnoor**. Please note: students may enter a maximum of **THREE** events per pattern. Students in **Parli may not be entered in any other Flight A** events. *Students who triple enter in a pattern are responsible for getting to all events during the scheduled time period.*

Events will be offered in 2 conflict patterns:

Flight A

Impromptu
After-Dinner Speaking
Informative
Drama
Poetry
Parli

Flight B

Extemp Speaking
Prose
Communication Analysis
Persuasion
Duo
POI
Mini Interp

Experimental Event–Mini Interp

A performance of literature no less than 30 seconds and not more than three minutes in length. The performer should identify the title and author(s) of the selection but make no additional introductory comments. This literature should come from only one source (i.e. just one poem or just one piece of prose/drama). No programs of literature will be allowed. Any genre of literature is acceptable for performance. Performers may not use a selection from an event which they are currently running in another category, nor previously performed. Use of a book/script is not required.

Extemp Speaking

We will continue experimenting with a new draw system for Extemp Speaking. Instead of three different questions, each speaker will receive the same set of 4 questions ranging in complexity.

This will give competitors more options when selecting their topics and allow judges to directly compare speeches and answers. We believe this format will make judging more equitable overall.

Sample:

- 1) Who will be the next president of the Moon?
- 2) Can Madison Ackers convince voters to make her the next Moon president?
- 3) What issues will the next Moon president make a priority for 2023?
- 4) How can Moon leadership fight off a challenge from Mars for universal recognition?

Parliamentary Debate

Resolutions will be read in-round and competitors will have 20 minutes of prep time. Internet access and warm rooms allowed.

Competitive Standards

We will follow NFA rules and codes of conduct, and request attending teams to familiarize themselves with those guidelines.

- NFA Code of Standards, Event Descriptions, and Bylaws:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1028kLG5Dy-Y2e_veNvVupXZcpxIXmbGy/view

Schedule

Schnoor - Saturday

	3:30 A Finals
7:30-9 Registration	4:30 Ext Draw
8:00 Parli R1	4:45 B Finals
9:15 A1 (<i>IMP, ADS, INFO DRAMA, POE</i>) & Parli R2	6:00 Awards
10:30 Ext Draw	
11:00 B1 (<i>EXT, PRO, CA, PERS, DUO, POI, MI</i>)	
12:00 Lunch	
12:30 A2, Parli R3	
1:45 Ext Draw	
2:15 B2	

MavFAN - Sunday

7:45-8:15 Registration

8:00 Parli SF

8:30 Ext Draw

9:00 B1 (*EXT, PRO, CA, PERS, DUO, POI, MI*)

10:15 A1 (*IMP, ADS, INFO DRAMA, POE*)

11:15 Lunch

11:45 Ext Draw

12:15 B2

1:30 A2, Parli Finals

3:00 Ext Draw

3:30 B Finals

4:45 A Finals

6:15 Awards

**If possible, we will attempt to collapse finals into one flight, dependent on judges*

MNSU Student Competitors

As hosts, the Minnesota State, Mankato forensic program will enter students at the Schnoor who are in their **first semester** of college competition. We engage in this practice because we have plenty of experienced competitors to assist with tournament management, and have found that competing on our own campus in early fall has been an effective and nonthreatening way to introduce novices to college forensics.

Hired Judges

Our hired judge pool consists primarily of alums from our own program, other regional programs, and the Minnesota State, Mankato Communication Studies Graduate Teaching Assistants. The graduate assistants receive a judge training session where they are informed of event descriptions and rules, as well as methods for writing effective ballots.

Wireless Internet

Minnesota State, Mankato provides free guest access to university Wi-Fi, at your own risk. We do not guarantee the reliability of wireless internet service.

Food Options

The Centennial Student Union is *possibly* open, but we suggest utilizing other food options (including Weggy's, Noodles & Company, Jimmy John's, Caribou Coffee, Chipotle, & Jonny B's) within walking distance of campus.

Tab Room

The tab room will be run by the MNSU coaching staff and Alumni volunteers. We will use SpeechWire to schedule and tab the tournament.

Awards

The award ceremony will be held outside - weather permitting. Trophies will be awarded to finalists in each individual event. Additionally, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies will be awarded in both Team Sweeps and Individual Sweeps. Individual Sweeps includes all students entered in 4

events with at least one interpretation event and one Public Address or Limited Preparation event. Sweepstakes awards will be given using the following point system: In prelims 3pts for every 1st, 2pts for every 2nd, and 1 pt for every 3rd. In finals, 1st place = 10 points, 2nd place = 8 points, 3rd place = 6 points, 4th place = 4 points, 5th place = 3 points, and 6th place = 2 points. Any non-advancing semi-finalists in IEs will receive 2 points.

The Larry Schnoor Invitational also includes a Team Quality Award (team sweep pts. divided by number of entries). Each year, Minnesota State, Mankato names the quality award after a distinguished individual(s) in forensics who has shaped the activity on either a regional or national scale. The designees are nominated and chosen by current students involved with the Minnesota State, Mankato forensic program. Previous designees include:

Brian Halleen	Kelly Jo Wright	Megan Orcholski
George Armstrong	Dan Cronn-Mills	Karen Morris
Grace Walsh	Michael Dreher	Sade Barfield
Guy Yates	Penni Pier	Ben Walker
Joel Hefling	Craig Brown	David Brennan
Susan and Stephen Collie	Brian Klosa	Andrea Carlisle
Mike Wartman	Kittie Grace	Leah White
Mark Fokken	Rebecca Buel	

Fees

Entry fees are \$8.00 per slot. One full-time judge covers 6 IE entries. The cost per uncovered IE slot is an additional \$15.00. Cost per uncovered Parliamentary Debate team is \$50.00. Fees are assessed as the entry stands at noon on Wednesday, October 5th. A fee of \$10.00 is assessed for each drop or add after this time. All judges are expected to be available for final rounds. All judges are considered “clean” for final rounds. Teams will be charged a fee of \$50.00 for every judge dropped from the tournament.

Tournament Entry

Entries are due via **Speechwire**

Entry Deadline: 5 p.m., Tuesday, October 10th

Fees Assessed: Noon, Wednesday, October 11th

If you have questions, feel free to contact Douglas Roberts or David Brennan by email (brennan.davidj@gmail.com) or phone (507-382-5400).

Hotel Information

The following link will bring you to a list of hotels in the Mankato area (<http://www.mnsu.edu/admissions/visit/hotels.html>). Please contact the hotels directly for reservations.

We hope you find it possible to attend a weekend full of excellent competition and bright fall foliage at the 2023 Kato Swing!

Sincerely,

Douglas Roberts
Schnoor Tournament Director

David Brennan
MavFAN Tournament Director