



Dear Indiana colleagues,

You and your students are cordially invited to compete in the **44th annual Indiana Forensics Association (IFA) Individual Events Championship** and the **15th annual IFA Debate Championship**. This year, our tournament is an in-person format with Individual Events (speech) competition on **Saturday, February 21, 2026**, and the Debate competition will offer IPDA-style debate on **Sunday, February 22, 2026**. Both tournaments will take place on the Ball State University campus.

The State of Indiana has a distinguished history of intercollegiate forensic competition. In 1874, six colleges and universities (Asbury, Butler, Hanover, Indiana, Purdue, and Wabash) organized an annual oratory contest. The winning student qualified to attend the Interstate Oratory Association's national competition, which began the same year. That contest continues to this day, and our state has claimed 23 national championships. Presently, the top two speakers in the varsity division of the Persuasive Speaking event at our state tournament qualify to represent the state of Indiana at the Interstate Oratory Association national tournament. **Therefore, every school this year may submit two entries in varsity Persuasive Speaking without incurring an entry fee.**

For the 2026 Individual Events tournament, we will offer varsity and novice divisions in the eleven speech events sponsored by the National Forensic Association. Additionally, we will offer one division of competition in two experimental events: Interviewing will feature one round of mock interviews and one round of resume critique. The other experimental event, Celebrity Eulogy, calls for students to prepare a five-minute eulogy for the celebrity of their choice, to be delivered with a manuscript. In debate, competition will feature IPDA-style debate and a novice division will be held if there are sufficient entries.

**With entry limitations and a community of helpful coaches from around the state, the IFA tournaments are an ideal setting for students and schools who may be new to the activity.** The tournaments are open to all students eligible under NFA guidelines regardless of major or if their school offers an organized team, and every school in attendance will receive a sweepstakes award.

In addition to the Individual Events and Debate tournaments, the IFA also sponsors a scholarly paper competition for student research in communication or a related discipline. Submissions for this contest are due by February 14, 2026. We will also hold our annual IFA meeting during the lunch hour on Saturday and all speech and debate coaches are invited to attend. Additional information regarding tournament procedures, entries, deadlines, and rules can be found in the remainder of the invitation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Greg or Spencer at the email addresses provided below. We look forward to seeing you in February!

Gregory E. Moser, Esq.  
[gmoser@butler.edu](mailto:gmoser@butler.edu)

I.E. Tournament Director, Indiana Forensic Association  
Assistant Director of Forensics, Butler University

Prof. Spencer Coile  
[spencer.coile@bsu.edu](mailto:spencer.coile@bsu.edu)  
President, Indiana Forensic Association  
Director of the Speech Team, Ball State University

# TOURNAMENT RULES & INFORMATION

## REGISTRATION

To help us plan, we would appreciate if each school would mark their team as attending on Speechwire as soon as possible, even if you don't yet know how many entries you will bring. Registration will close at 5:00PM (Eastern) on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, utilizing speechwire.com. No entries may be added after that time, although name changes and drops will be allowed free-of-charge until 12:00pm (noon) on Thursday, February 19, 2026.

Competitors must be degree-seeking students who are eligible to compete per NFA bylaws and are enrolled in at least one three-credit course other than forensics.

In individual events, students may enter up to **three events per flight**. If a student is found to be entered in more than three events in a flight, the tournament director may remove the student from competition as necessary to reduce the student's entries to three in each flight. The dropped events will be at the tournament director's discretion, entry fees will not be refunded for these entries, and drop fees will be assessed.

### Flight A:

Extemp, Prose, Drama, POI, Informative  
Communication Analysis, Interviewing

### Flight B:

Impromptu, Poetry, Duo, Persuasive,  
After Dinner, Celebrity Eulogy

## FEES

### We prefer payment by Venmo: **@indianaforensicassociation**

Otherwise, make checks out to "Indiana Forensic Association" and address them to Stephanie Wideman (Indiana Forensic Association Treasurer), 1400 East Hanna Avenue, Indianapolis, IN, 46227. Each school in attendance will incur a \$25.00 fee for Indiana Forensic Association membership in addition to their entry fees.

Once you have submitted your entries, Speechwire will calculate your fees. Please note that this is only a preliminary calculation and may change depending on drops and changes.

## INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Individual events incur a fee of \$7 per entry, plus an additional \$10 if uncovered. One duo team constitutes one entry. One judge covers six speech entries or any fraction thereof (i.e., 7 entries requires 2 judges). Entries are due by 5:00 PM (Eastern) on Tuesday, February 17, 2026. No entries may be added after the deadline.

Name changes and drops will be permitted until 1:00 PM (Eastern) on Thursday, February 19, 2026. After that time, no name changes will be permitted, dropped entries will incur a \$5 penalty per drop, and dropped judges will incur a \$25 penalty in addition to the recalculation of coverage-related fees. Drops after 1:00PM on Friday, February 20, will incur a \$15 fee per dropped entry and \$50 per dropped judge. Drop fees are in addition to and not in place of the entry fees.

## DEBATE

IPDA entries incur a fee of \$50 per entry, plus an additional \$50 if uncovered. One judge covers two debate entries or any fraction thereof (i.e., 3 entries requires 2 judges). Each dropped debate entry after 5:00PM (Eastern) on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 will incur a \$10 penalty. Dropped judges incur a \$50 penalty in addition to the recalculation of coverage-related fees.

## COMPETITION

Students are expected to make it to every round for which they are scheduled. Students who fail to perform an event during the allotted time will be removed from that event without refund.

No participant or observer may record anyone without prior approval of the student, the student's coach, and the tournament director.

All judges are expected to be available for every round including finals. Judging assignments may need to be amended if conflicts arise, so please be sure to check your phone and email regularly in case you are unexpectedly assigned a round.

We will be using electronic ballots via Speechwire. When entering judges, please include their email address in the space provided. Judges will need to bring their own device, preferably a laptop or tablet. **To keep things running on time, please submit your ranks/rates immediately and then continue working on your critiques.**

### INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Each school may enter a maximum of five entries per event regardless of division (i.e., 5 varsity or 5 novice or a combination not to exceed five total). Novice divisions will be held in every event that has a novice competitor entered. A novice is a competitor who has not competed in intercollegiate Individual Events competition before September 2025.

NFA rules will govern the individual events competition, with the exception of the experimental events listed below. Event descriptions can be found at <https://nationalforensicsassociation.files.wordpress.com/2021/12/nfa-bylaws-november-2020-1.pdf>.

All material should be of each student's own design and should not have been performed by that student in competition prior to the 2025-2026 academic year.

Per the IFA constitution, contestants will be ranked 1-6 and awarded a rating from 25 (excellent) to 1 (poor). All events and divisions will earn points as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	12 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	10 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	8 points
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	6 points
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	4 points
6 <sup>th</sup> Place	2 points
7 <sup>th</sup> Place	1 point

Ties will be broken first by speaker points (1-25), then by judges' preference. Sweepstakes points will not be awarded for preliminary rounds unless necessary to break a tie.

At the tournament director's discretion, competitors from the same school may compete against each other in prelims so we may utilize that school's judges in other sections.

**Impromptu Speaking** will include prompts as follows:

Round 1	Quotations
Round 2	Single words
Final round	Questions

The final round of **Extemporaneous Speaking** will feature questions related to the State of Indiana.

In **Interviewing** (experimental event for 2025-26), contestants will be subjected to a mock-interview for the first round and will have their resumes critiqued for the second round. If a final round is held, it will be another mock interview.

**Celebrity Eulogy** (experimental event for 2025-26 and 2026-27) is prepared event in which students will present a five-minute eulogy for the celebrity of their choice. Performance should be from a manuscript.

## DEBATE

Each school may enter up to five varsity and five novice debate entries. If, in the tournament director's discretion, there are insufficient entries to warrant separate divisions, divisions may be combined. A novice is a competitor who has not competed in intercollegiate debate competition before September 2025.

IPDA rules will govern the IPDA competition. The rules can be found in the IPDA constitution at <http://www.ipdadebate.info/constitution--bylaws.html>. We will use the 5-2-6-2-3-5-3 format with thirty (30) minutes of preparation time.

Four preliminary rounds will be held. If there are more than twenty entries in a division, rounds 1 and 2 will be randomly matched while rounds 3 and 4 will be high-low power matches.

During prep time, competitors are allowed to consult outside resources during prep time including, but not limited to: digital & print media, peers, coaches, etc.

During prelims, judges shall not give oral feedback until ballots are submitted. Judges also shall not divulge the results of preliminary rounds. Judges may disclose the results to competitors in elimination rounds and give minor oral feedback but must submit their ballots first.

In elimination rounds, competitors from the same school may be matched against each other. In this event, the team will be consulted to determine which competitor should advance.

Two points will be awarded for every "win" achieved during preliminary rounds. Additionally, points will be awarded for the results of elimination rounds within each division:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	12 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	10 points
Non-advancing Semifinalist	8 points
Non-advancing Quarterfinalist	4 points
Non-advancing Octafinalist	2 points

Ties in team sweepstakes for debate will be broken as follows (in order):

1. aggregate sweepstakes points earned by each school's top three entries,
2. aggregate sweepstakes points earned by each school's top two entries,
3. sweepstakes points earned by each school's top entry,
4. by the aggregate total speaker points earned by each school's the top four entries,
5. by the aggregate total speaker points earned by each school's the top three entries,
6. by the aggregate total speaker points earned by each school's the top two entries,
7. by the total speaker points earned by each school's top entry, and
8. by a coin flip.

## SCHOLARSHIP IN COMMUNICATION

Papers are due by February 14, 2026. Please email submissions to Greg Moser ([gmoser@butler.edu](mailto:gmoser@butler.edu)). Students are invited to submit an academic paper concerning any topic related to communication. The paper should reflect significant engagement with an academic discipline such as rhetorical studies, cultural studies, performance studies, or the social scientific study of human communicative behavior. Papers may emerge from work in class; they may not be previously published. Criteria for evaluation include the conception and justification of the project, facility with disciplinary literature, and articulation of a credible scholarly voice. Any student competing at one of the state tournaments is welcome to participate. The maximum length is 25 pages, double-spaced. Each team may enter a maximum of three students in the contest.

## LEE HORN AWARD

Giving - reaching out to others – was one of Lee Horn's strengths. The annual Lee Horn Award recognizes a student for helping others in this activity, maintaining a positive attitude, and modeling a personal commitment to improve their events. A written nomination is required, due at 5:00PM (Eastern) on Tuesday, February 14, 2026. Written nominations shall be sent in .pdf or word format to Greg Moser ([gmoser@butler.edu](mailto:gmoser@butler.edu)). Greg will then share the letters of nomination with coaches during the week of the tournament so that they may be reviewed prior to the state association coaches meeting, held during lunch at the individual events tournament. Coaches who will not be present at the meeting (i.e. attending Sunday only) may submit their school's vote to Greg in advance.

## COACH OF THE YEAR

Any coach of an intercollegiate forensics team in the State of Indiana is eligible whether they are the Director of Forensics, Assistant Director, Graduate Assistant, or any other type of coach. The winner is selected based on the performance of the competitors they coach, service to the activity, competitor testimony, and coaching character. Individuals may be nominated for the award by submitting a letter of nomination to IFA President Spencer Coile ([spencer.coile@bsu.edu](mailto:spencer.coile@bsu.edu)) or by oral nomination at the coaches meeting.

## A W A R D S

Awards will be presented to the top six competitors in all Individual Events, including novice divisions. Awards in debate will be presented to all semifinalists and finalists and the top five speakers. A quality award will be awarded to the Individual Events team with the highest average sweepstakes points earned per entry. Speaker awards in Debate will be awarded before the first elimination round is posted. Each school in attendance will receive a sweepstakes award for each tournament in which they are entered. The Scholarship in Communication contest winner, the Lee Horn Award winner, and the Coach of the Year will be announced during the Individual Events (Speech) awards ceremony on Saturday.

# SCHEDULE

## **Registration/Check-in begins at 7:30AM**

*Elimination rounds subject to change depending on entries.*

*All times Eastern.*

### **INDIVIDUAL EVENTS (Saturday)**

8:00AM Extemp Prep  
8:30AM Round 1A  
9:45AM Extemp Prep  
10:15AM Round 2A  
11:30PM Lunch Break and IFA annual business meeting  
12:45PM Round 1B  
1:30PM Round 2B  
2:45PM Final Extemp Prep  
3:15PM Finals A  
4:30PM Finals B  
ASAP Awards

### **DEBATE (Sunday)**

8:30AM Round 1 topic release  
10:00AM Round 2 topic release  
11:45PM Round 3 topic release  
1:45PM Round 4 topic release  
3:15PM Speaker Awards  
3:45PM Elimination Round 1 topic release  
5:15PM Elimination Round 2 topic release  
ASAP Team & Elimination Awards