

2026 Seattle Classic Invitational

Hello,

The Debate Society at the University of Washington cordially invites you and your team to participate in the second ever *Seattle Classic*! We envision this tournament as an annual celebration of debate and forensic excellence: fostering collaboration and education in the Pacific Northwest and ensuring adherence to the highest standards of forensics. The Seattle Classic is a two-day tournament that permits students to enter in IEs (as the Northwest NST qualifier) and IPDA or BP. It will take place on February 28th and March 1st at the University of Washington. The tournament will adhere to the AFA-NST Code of Standards and Northwest Forensics Conference Codes of Ethics. Please let us know if you have competitors, coaches, or critics who need ADA accommodation. Feel free to contact us with any questions you have about our tournament. We are so excited to welcome you to Seattle!

Griffin Hehmeyer

ETHICS & EQUITY PROVISIONS

All participants are expected to adhere to the AFA-NST Code of Standards and the NFC Code of Ethics. The Seattle Classic has adopted these codes to foster an environment of inclusion, equity, and respect. Participants and judges must ensure their actions uphold these standards. Additionally, recording any participant without their consent is strictly prohibited.

<https://northwestforensicsconference.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/NFC-Code-of-Ethics-passed-Sept.-2017.pdf>.

ENTRY DEADLINE & REGISTRATION

Please complete entries via web registration at <https://www.speechwire.com> no later than:

Entry Deadline: Monday, 2/23 at 6:00 PM (If you need extra time, please contact griffheh@uw.edu)

Drop Deadline: Tuesday, 2/23 at 6:00 PM

We require that you also enter your judges by that time. If you are unable to do so, please email Griffin Hehmeyer at griffheh@uw.edu. After 2/23 at 6:00 PM, fees will be assessed on your entry for any drops or adds (with late adds only possible if we have adequate judge coverage). Please make all entry changes directly on Speechwire until the drop deadline. Afterwards, please contact Griffin.

Contact Griffin Hehmeyer (griffheh@uw.edu) with any questions about registration.

JUDGES & FEES

Judging Requirements

Schools **MUST** provide qualified judges for the tournament. Please limit your uncovered entries. We are restricting teams to a maximum of five uncovered IE entries and two uncovered IPDA/BP entries from any one school. If you will have more uncovered entries, please reach out. We want to ensure as many people as possible can attend.

One full-time IE judge covers 8 total individual events regardless of pattern.

One full-time debate judge covers two debate teams or four competitors in IPDA.

Judging will be N-1 for BP Debate with a minimum of 1 judge required for 1 team.

School constraints may require us to move judges between debate pools. All debate judges are committed through the first elimination round, and judges from schools with advancing teams and speakers are committed through the next round AFTER their teams or speakers are eliminated.

Fees:

School Fee: \$40 (waived for teams traveling from over 400 miles away)

IE entry: \$10 per slot

Uncovered IE: \$20 per slot (in addition to the entry fee)

BP entry: \$80 per team

BP Uncovered: \$150 per team (in addition to the entry fee)

IPDA entry: \$40 per entry

IPDA Uncovered: \$75 per competitor (in addition to the entry fee)

Late Fees on top of registration fees & uncovered fees:

Late Drop Fee: \$24

Late Add Fee: \$24

Late Judge Drop Fee: \$24

We want to provide all the programs the chance to participate. If you have concerns regarding these fees or need any special assistance, please contact Griffin Hehmeyer (griffheh@uw.edu).

TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION NOTES

Entries

In individual events, competitors are restricted to THREE EVENTS PER PATTERN. Students are responsible for making it to every round. Students who are triple-entered must keep in mind the timing conflicts and commitment to making it to scheduled rounds. We may not be able to offer make up rounds.

Collapsing Divisions:

We will refer to NFC guidelines to determine whether an event is collapsed or not. Novice and open divisions (for events with both divisions) will be collapsed if there are fewer than 9 entries in novice. The junior division will be collapsed into open if there are fewer than 12 entries in the division.

Given the size of the tournament, we allow entries into novice and open for most speech events, and allow JV as well for some. **We expect most speech events to be collapsed, but with enough entries we may run a novice or JV division as well.**

We expect IPDA and BP to only have open and novice, though allow junior entries which will be entered in open barring significant attendance. Extemp, Ed-Comm, and Impromptu are likely to have multiple divisions while all other speech events will likely be collapsed.

DIVISIONS (DEBATE & IEs)

The tournament director reserves the right to reassign divisions to any student who is improperly placed in a novice or junior division. If a team or individual is found to be in violation of any eligibility rule after a tournament has begun, that person or team will be disqualified from that event for the remainder of the tournament at the discretion of the tournament director.

BP DEBATE

All entries will be competing against others regardless of their level of experience. There will be no separate divisions, and all competitors in British Parliamentary Debate will participate in the same open category. We will advance novice debaters to separate elimination debates.

IPDA

Novice Debate:

A novice is a competitor with no significant high school experience, is in their first two semesters of competitions, who has not advanced to elimination rounds at more than two tournaments in IPDA. Coaches should refrain from placing students with two or more years of high school experience in novice divisions.

Junior Debate:

A junior competitor is one who has not competed for more than four semesters, and who has not advanced to elimination rounds in the junior division at more than two tournaments in IPDA.

Open Debate:

Any student is eligible to participate and may be entered in open division IPDA regardless of class standing or experience. In general, an open division competitor will be in their third or fourth full year of collegiate forensics competition

DEBATE & IE GUIDELINES

The guidelines for debate divisions and formats follow the standards adopted by the Northwest Forensics Conference (see “bylaws” section in “archives” at northwestforensicsconference.com). Individual events will follow NFC guidelines for placement of students in divisions.

BRITISH-PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

We will follow the WUDC rules found at [WUDC RULES](#)

IPDA DEBATE (N, J, O)

We will follow the official IPDA rules found at
<http://www.ipdadebate.info/constitution—bylaws.html>.

INDIVIDUAL EVENT GUIDELINES

We will follow the official AFA-NST rules found at
<https://sites.google.com/site/afanietnew2/products-services/event-descriptions>

DIRECTIONS & MAPS

University of Washington:

Directions to campus and the campus map for UW is available at <https://www.washington.edu/maps/>.

Check-in and the main **room for draw** and prep at UW will be in Founders Hall (FNDR).

HOTELS/LODGING

We are working with the Hampton Inn & Suites Seattle Northgate to offer discounted rates for the tournament, please book with the following link using the company name NEIGHBORHOOD RATE for free parking and 18% off rooms.

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=SEANGHX&corporateCode=5600388>
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TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

(all times are in *Pacific Standard Time [PST]*)

DAY 1-

Founders Hall (FNDR)

Extemp Draw Rd 1 8:30

8:45 IE 1B

10:00 IE 1A

Extemp Draw Rd 2 11:15

11:30 IE 2B

12:45 – Lunch

1:15 IE 2A

2:30 -- Break

3:00 IE Finals

4:45 IPDA/BP Round 1 (IPDA prelims double-flighted)

7:15 IPDA/BP Round 2

DAY 2 -

Founders Hall (FNDR)

9:00 IPDA/BP Round 3

11:00 IPDA/BP Round 4

12:45 Lunch

1:45 IPDA Q/BP Elim 1

3:45 Debate Awards

4:30 IPDA S/BP Elim 2

5:30 IPDA Finals as is needed

AWARDS

All IE finalists, BP semifinalists, and IPDA quarterfinalists will be recognized, as will the top speakers in each event.

EVENT PATTERNS (divisions offered)

IE:

Pattern A (Will occur second in the day)

Communication Analysis (CA)

Duo Interpretation

Impromptu Speaking

Informative Speaking

Poetry Interpretation

Editorial Commentary (Ed Com)

Pattern B (Will occur first in the day)

After Dinner Speaking (ADS)

Dramatic Interpretation (DI)

Extemporaneous Speaking

Persuasive Speaking

Program Oral Interpretation (POI)

Prose Interpretation

Debate:

IPDA: 4 preliminary rounds plus elimination rounds.

BP: 4 preliminary rounds plus elimination rounds.