



**BALL STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

Dear Colleagues:

We are thrilled to invite you to the Annual Age of Aquarius Tournament on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> in beautiful and bustling Muncie, Indiana. This year, we are delighted to be swinging with our friends at Eastern Michigan on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. Both halves will be hosted at Ball State. We encourage you to join us in October for an exciting and fun invitational tournament.

We will be offering two IE tournaments, making for a busy weekend. BSU's IE tournament will take place on Saturday and on Sunday, EMU will offer another opportunity for a competitive tournament. We will offer NFA and AFA events at both tournaments. For both halves of the swing, awards will be presented to the top six speakers in each event, top five speakers in individual sweepstakes, and top three schools in team sweeps.

Please register on Speechwire. Additionally, please bring electronic devices, as we will be utilizing Speechwire's electronic balloting feature.

On-campus registration will be held in the lobby of the David Letterman Communication and Media Building on Saturday and Sunday morning. We look forward to seeing you and if you have any questions regarding the tournament, directions, or hotels please let us know. See you in October!

Safe travels,  
Spencer Coile (Director)  
Gavin Millard, Zoe Pointer, Jo Randall, Alex Rapp (Graduate Assistants)  
Ball State University

Bill Heinze (Director)  
Raechel Zoellick (Assistant Director)  
Joseph Cyrus, Nimnan Wuyep (Graduate Assistants)  
Eastern Michigan University

## Tournament Schedule Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> (BSU)

Registration Lobby of LB	7:30-8:00
Extemp Draw	8:00
Rd 1 A	8:30-9:45
Extemp Draw	9:45
Rd 2 A	10:00-11:15
Rd 1 B	11:15-12:30
Rd 2 B	1:15-2:45
Extemp Draw	2:45
Finals of A	3:00-4:30
Finals of B	4:30-6:00
Awards	ASAP

### **Pattern Groupings:**

Pattern A: ADS, DUO, EXT, PER, POI, PRO

Pattern B: CA, DI, IMP, INF, POE

## Tournament Schedule Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> (EMU)

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## **Entries**

1. For this tournament, NOVICE is defined as a student for whom 2025-2026 is their first year of collegiate competition.
2. A novice division will be offered in any IE event that has 1) more than 30 entries AND 2) at least 12 novice students. We will make every effort to offer a novice division and maintain quals for the national tournaments.
3. For this tournament, we will be using NFA eligibility, which can be found under Article IV (Eligibility of Contestants) in the NFA by-laws. If you have any students who fall under Section C (unusual circumstances, such as accelerated master's students), please just contact Spencer Coile, and we will be happy to accommodate.
4. A student may enter **only 3** events per pattern. However, rounds are one hour and 15 minutes and will not be extended if a student is unable to complete all three events in time allotted.
5. Semi-Finals will be held for events containing over 50 entries.
6. The deadline for receiving entries is 6:00 pm (EST) on Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. Entries should be submitted via Speechwire.

## **Fees for BSU Age of Aquarius (Day 1)**

1. Each IE entry is \$10.00.
2. One judge is required for every 6 IE entries.
3. There is a \$10 fee per uncovered IE entry (plus the entry base fee)
4. DROP FEES will be assessed after 6 pm on Wednesday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>. The drop fee for IE is \$15.00. The drop fee for a judge is \$50.
5. Please make checks out to **Ball State University**.

## **Fees for EMU Aquarius (Day 2)**

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1. Each IE entry is \$10.00.
2. One judge is required for every 6 IE entries.
3. There is a \$10 fee per uncovered IE entry (plus the entry base fee)
4. DROP FEES will be assessed after 5 pm on Wednesday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>. The drop fee for IE is \$15.00. The drop fee for a judge is \$50.
5. Please pay via [this link](#) or write a check to EMU Forensics.

## **Individual Sweepstakes**

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We will give awards to the top 5 students competing in three or more OPEN events. If a student is entered in four or five events, their BEST THREE will count toward Individual Sweepstakes. Novice final rounds do NOT count toward Indy Sweeps tabulation.

## **Sweepstakes**

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Team sweepstakes for Age of Aquarius will be awarded to the top three schools based on open final round points.

## **Parking**

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It is suggested that you park north of the Robert Bell building (RED R2 lot) and gain access to the Letterman building through the Robert Bell building. Be sure to look for signs. Meters and "Reserved" (handicapped, business, and numbered) spaces are enforced 24/7. You will be ticketed! If you are having trouble with parking, finding Muncie, Ball State University, or the Letterman building please contact Spencer Coile at (309) 838-2354.

## **Open Door**

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Ball State University 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 opportunity to speak on important 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 our audience. To better serve our competitors, we will be honoring the NFA's open door practice during rounds this weekend. An "open door policy" means competitors and other audience members may choose to leave or stay in a room when a performance negatively impacts their wellbeing. Competitors may discreetly leave the room (e.g., before, during, or after someone's performance) even when not double-entered, without question or penalty. Competitors may disengage from a performance (e.g., actively dissociate, put their head down on a desk, cover their ears). If competitors need to leave a round due to physical (e.g., uncontrollable coughing, vomiting) or spiritual (e.g., Salat times) needs, they may also excuse themselves without question or penalty. Judges may also take steps to protect their well-being and will be asked to read the open-door policy at the beginning of every round to reinforce the norm-change emphasizing mental and physical well-being over community norms.

## **Ethical Treatment of Others**

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Ball State University is fully committed to a safe and healthy educational, work and competition environment that is free from unlawful discrimination and harassment. As such, we prohibit

discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex, gender, sexual orientation, sexual identity, race, disability, religion and other lawfully protected categories. This prohibition includes sexual assault and misconduct, and stalking. Should you experience a Title IX violation while attending our Tournament, please report the violation to your coach or someone you trust, and the tournament host. The tournament host will ensure that the Title IX officers from the host institution, your home university/college, and from the institution of the perpetrator are notified so that investigative procedures can begin. Please report behavior that is not in line with our stated anti-harassment policy. If, at any point in time, behavior is reported that is antithetical to a positive learning environment for any tournament participants, it will be handled accordingly. Directors, please remember, you are responsible for the people that you bring to our campus.

## **Judge Strikes**

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We ask that if your students have any conflicts with judges for non-competitive reasons that you let us know so we can block the judge from judging the student. Examples of when this could happen might include: the student is a family member/close friend of the judge, a student was harassed/assaulted by a judge, a student was a teammate of the judge, a student was coached by the judge. We respect the privacy of these decisions. We hope that if a judge has participated in improper behavior that the tournament director will be notified so that, if necessary, the judge can be removed from the judging pool before interacting with students. Students can inform us through their coach or inform the tournament director (Spencer) directly at 309-838-2354. The tournament director will not ask for details and do not expect any; we trust in the decision of the student. We will provide a full list of judges to all coaches the week of the tournament.