



Hap Hingston Forensics Invitational January 9-10 2026

October 2025

Dear Forensics Colleagues:

Pacific University is pleased to invite you to the annual Hap Hingston Forensics Invitational to be held on **January 9-10, 2026**. The tournament is named after A.C. “Hap” Hingston. Hap was a faculty member at Pacific University from 1942–1973 and continued serving on Pacific’s Board of Trustees until 1983. He also served as chairperson of the department of communication and the director of forensics for many years. We are proud to have our tournament named after Hap Hingston.

We have a few tournament announcements this year:

- We have moved the tournament back to Friday-Saturday schedule. Debate, including Congress, will be on Friday only; Speech rounds will be only on Saturday.
 - Because Pacific has January-term classes in session on Friday, we will return debate entry restrictions to make sure we have classroom space available.
 - Please review our updated debate pairing policy.
- **For autopost to work in Speechwire to NSDA, students will need to be linked on the Speechwire roster prior to the end of the tournament.** Points not automatically posted will need to be manually entered.
- We will use electronic ballots—please bring a laptop and power cords to complete ballots. Typing comments is much easier on keyboards!
- Please note our registration and change deadlines are Tuesday, January 6 and Thursday, January 8. We will post schematics on Thursday afternoon so students and coaches can check for errors early.
- We are delighted to announce that the Top Individual Events Sweepstakes winner will receive a scholarship, should they choose to apply and enroll at Pacific University in the future.
- Please note that **audio and/or video recordings** of any judges or competitors during the tournament are **NOT Permitted**.
- The tournament encourages all rounds to be open to observers. Please notify Tab of any safety concerns preventing an open round.

Finally, while we use the OSAA Speech Handbook as a guide, we **WILL NOT** strictly adhere to tournament procedures that govern the OSAA State Championship. We will: a) allow exceptions for use of notes, b) utilize unique topic areas in impromptu, c) utilize speaker points to break ties in individual events, and d) have an alternative debate pairing strategy (available below).

Please let us know if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you in January.

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TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION

Entry Deadline: *Tuesday, Jan 6, 2026 at 10:00 pm*

This is your initial deadline to register for the tournament on SpeechWire. When registering judges that are available both days, they will need to be entered twice: once for Friday (Debate) and once for Saturday (IE). Please note in the comments if a judge has any restrictions to their availability or events they may judge; otherwise we will use them for any available round or style of competition.

Registration Close: *Thursday, Jan 8, 2025 at 12:00 pm*

Fees are calculated based on entries at this time. Email drops after this date to jconner@pacificu.edu. Please inform us immediately about drops past the deadline; it can affect event paneling, room and judge usage, the ability of other teams to participate, and a number of other logistical issues. We enjoy running tournaments, but they run much more effectively when we have up-to-date entry data for teams - thank you for helping us with this!

DIVISIONS & RESTRICTIONS

DIVISIONS

We will offer Junior and Senior divisions for all styles of IE and Debate with the exceptions of LIELL (Sr only), POI (Sr only), Serious Interp (Sr only) and Humorous Interp (Sr only). Please use the following guidelines to determine the appropriate divisions for your students:

- **Junior** – This division is open to first and second-year speakers. (Usually freshmen and sophomores, but upperclassmen who are just starting are welcome, too.) Students in the junior division are allowed exceptions for cases of memorization and notes.
- **Senior** – This division is open to all high-school students. Judges may use discretion in the case of memorization and notes.

Note: Students may be entered into different divisions of debate and individual events but only one division of individual events (e.g., if a student enters the junior division of Debate, they may enter the junior or senior division of IE's, but not both). The exception will be for events that only offer a senior division.

RESTRICTIONS

- **Entries** – Schools may NOT have more than 10 uncovered IE entries or 10 uncovered Congress entries or 2 uncovered Debate entries.
- **Divisions** – If there are insufficient entries in **ANY** event, divisions will be collapsed into the senior division accordingly, thereby adhering to senior division rules. (Judges may use discretion in the case of memorization and notes).
- **Topics** - Students identified as using cuttings or speeches that they used in previous years of competition will be dropped from that event for the competition. Petitions must be made exclusively to the tournament director for consideration.

DEBATE

CONGRESS

Congress will run three sessions on Friday only. Legislation should be submitted to jconner@pacificu.edu by Friday, Jan 2 (email attachment or Google shared document). A legislation packet will be posted on the registration website. Depending on entry numbers, one chamber will have the alt-qual designation.

DEBATE TOPICS

Public Forum (PF) and Lincoln Douglas (LD) will use current topics provided by the NSD. PF and LD will use the January Topics. For details, see: <http://www.speechanddebate.org/topics>.

For each round of Parli Debate (PD), the debaters will be given a choice of three topics from domestic and foreign affairs within the past two months. Each team will be allowed to eliminate one of the topics. Note: topic areas are not provided prior to the tournament.

Public Forum will flip a coin in their competition rooms. Parli will strike topics in their competition rooms.

DEBATE LIMITS

Due to limited classroom space on Friday, we will be limiting debate entries in Public Forum (12), LD (12), and Parli Debate (24). This means there are 12 entries allowed per division in LD and Public Forum, and 24 entries in Parli. **Teams are initially limited to four entries per style of debate.** Numbers can be adjusted if we have more teams wanting a particular division. Additional teams will be waitlisted and added in if space permits. The tournament plans to single-flight debate; we will notify teams if this changes to double-flighting. Congress entries will not be limited at this time.

DEBATE PAIRING

We will randomly pair the first round and power match the remaining preliminary rounds. The tournament will use a Bronze (quarterfinals) and Silver/Gold (semifinals) scheme to advance teams. The tournament will not break Silver/Gold brackets—see options below we offer when teams meet for this round. If the entry supports it, eight teams will advance to the Bronze Medal round. Non-advancing debaters earn a Bronze placement. Advancing debaters enter the Silver/Gold round. Winners of the Silver/Gold round are Gold Medal winners, while the remaining debaters are Silver Medal winners. The Silver/Gold round is considered our semifinal round.

When two teams from the same school meet in the Silver/Gold round, the coach may choose one of the following options:

- The highest seeded of the two teams will advance (no debate).
- The coach selects one of the two teams to advance (not necessarily the high seed; no debate).
- The teams debate the elimination round in front of three neutral judges (winner advances).
- The teams debate the elimination round in front of their coach (winner advances).

EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

For complete event descriptions and rules please visit “Specific Contest Rules” at: <http://www.osaa.org/docs/handbooks/spehandbook.pdf>.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

MULTIPLE ENTRIES

Students may **triple-enter** within either pattern of individual events. Students are responsible for getting to their rounds on time. The tournament will not wait for students entered in multiple events that do not show up on-time to complete their speech before the round is over.

PATTERNS

Pattern A: Duo Interp, Impromptu, Oratory, POI, Radio, Serious Interp, LIELL

Pattern B: After Dinner Speaking, Informative, Extemp, Humorous Interp, Poetry, Prose

ALT QUAL/PROTECTING JUNIOR DIVISION

We do not want to sacrifice competitive opportunities for junior students, especially as recruitment of students is even more difficult after the pandemic. We will not collapse events for the benefit of the Senior Division for alt qual and we will preserve the Junior Division where possible.

EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

For complete event descriptions and rules please visit “Specific Contest Rules” at:

<https://www.osaa.org/docs/handbooks/spehandbook.pdf>

LIMITED PREP PROCEDURES

Extemp Draw will be in a central draw room on campus. Tab will email extemp judges each round with a copy of the topics.

Impromptu topics will be distributed to the judge in their assigned competition rooms. Each speaker will be given a different set of topics. The tournament recommends judges give 10 seconds for the students to read the topics before starting time.

Students are permitted to time themselves in limited prep events. However, judges should always verbally confirm with students if they want time signals and at what intervals. Judges are expected to keep official time during the round in all events.

AWARDS & SWEEPSTAKES

AWARDS

We will offer **certificates** to all finalists in IE’s and Debate. Additionally, we will offer awards for:

- o The top senior division will receive the coveted “Specific Peach” t-shirt.
- o The top three teams in Division I and Division II teams based on overall team entry size.
- o The top three teams with Quality Awards. This is calculated by taking the total sweepstakes points divided by the total number of entries. Schools must have at least five entries to be eligible.
- o The top three individuals in each senior style of debate
- o The top three individuals earning the most IE points in senior
- o We offer a speech scholarship to the top Individual Events performer should they choose to apply and enroll at Pacific in the future. Students may not earn the scholarship more than once.

SWEEPSTAKES

We will follow the OSAA sweepstakes guidelines summarized below. Events that go straight to finals will receive sweepstakes for the top-half placements in the round. For full details of OSAA guidelines please visit “General Contest Rules” at: <https://www.osaa.org/docs/handbooks/spehandbook.pdf>

Events	Place & Points				
	1st/Gold	2nd/Silver	3rd/Bronze	Finalist	IE Semifinalist
Debate	15pts	10pts	7pts	-	-
IEs and Congress	10pts	8pts	6pts	4pts	2pts

JUDGING & FEES

JUDGING REQUIREMENTS

Schools **MUST** provide judges for the tournament. Judges will be obligated up until the time of awards, and in the case of debate, one round past when their teams are eliminated. Schools are responsible for ensuring that their judges fulfill **ALL** judging obligations throughout the competition. Please note, the tournament plans to single-flight debate; we will notify teams if this changes to double-flighting and adjust judge requirements below accordingly. Please use the following guidelines to determine your judging needs:

IEs: one judge covers **ten entries**. One student in two events counts as two entries.

Debate: one judge covers **two entries** in PF, or LD, or PD, or **sixteen entries** in Congress.

For example, if you have five entries in Pattern A, five entries in Pattern B, and two parliamentary debate entries, one judge will cover all of those entries.

Schools may **NOT** have more than **10 uncovered IE entries** or **10 uncovered Congress entries** or **2 uncovered Debate entries**.

ENTRY FEES (per)

School:	\$30
LD Entry:	\$15
PF/Parli Entry:	\$30
Congress Entry:	\$5
IE Entry:	\$10

UNCOVERED FEES (per)

LD Entry:	\$70
PF / Parli Entry:	\$70
Congress Entry:	\$10
IE Entry:	\$20

We understand that many programs are constrained by limited budgets. We want to provide students the opportunity to participate. Please contact us if you would require any specific discounts to attend. We may be able to waive or reduce certain fees, depending on team needs.



Hap Hingston Forensics Invitational 2026 Tentative Schedule

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

7:30 Check in University Center (UC) main floor/information desk
8:30 Rd 1 – Debate
10:15 Rd 2 – Debate
12:00 LUNCH
12:30 Rd 3 – Debate
2:15 Rd 4 – Debate
4:15 Debate Elim 1 Bronze Round
6:00 Debate Elim 2 Silver/Gold Round
ASAP Awards

Congress Schedule (Friday)	
8:30am-10:30am	Session 1
11:00am-12:30pm	Session 2
1:30pm-3:30pm	Session 3

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

7:30 Check in University Center (UC) main floor/information desk
8:00 Rd 1 – Pattern A
9:15 Extemp draw @ 9:15, speeches begin @ 9:45
9:30 Rd 1 – Pattern B
11:00 Rd 2 – Pattern A
12:15 LUNCH
12:30 Extemp Draw @ 12:30, speeches begin @ 1:00
12:45 Rd 2 Pattern B
2:15 Rd 3 Pattern A
3:30 Extemp Draw @ 3:30pm, speeches begin @ 4:00
3:45 Rd 3 Pattern B
5:15 IE Elim 1
6:30 Extemp Draw @ 6:30, speeches begin @ 7:00
6:45 IE Elim 2
ASAP Awards (McCready Auditorium in Taylor Meade)

EVENT KEY

Pattern A:	Duo Interp, Impromptu, Oratory, POI, Radio, Serious Interp, LIELL
Pattern B:	After Dinner Speaking, Extemp, Humorous Interp, Informative, Poetry, Prose
Debate:	Lincoln-Douglas, Parli Debate, Public Forum