

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of Northeast Alliance Tournaments (NEAT), I would like to cordially invite you to attend our 6th annual Big Apple Debate Tournament online on **Friday, September 25th, and Saturday, September 26th, 2026.**

****This tournament will be a synchronous online tournament on Zoom, with registration & tabulation taking place on Speechwire.com and online payment via PayPal. ****

The competition will feature novice and varsity divisions of IPDA Debate and open divisions of NPDA, NFA-LD Lincoln Douglas and PKD Public Forum debate. On Friday, September 26th, and Saturday, September 27th, competitors will compete in **SIX** preliminary rounds of IPDA Debate and **FOUR** preliminary rounds of NPDA, NFA-LD and PKD PF. **IPDA resolutions in preliminary rounds will contain a variety of domestic, international, and NYC-themed topics!!**

All entries must be received by Tuesday, September 22nd, 2026, at 1:00PM ET. You must register at the Speechwire.com website, which provides all of our tournament information. Emailed entries will not be accepted. Changes will be accepted without charge until Wednesday, September 23rd, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. ET at which point fees will be set. Late fees will be charged for any changes after the 23rd at noon (in addition to any fees associated with the entry).

My hope is that this will be an excellent opportunity for new debaters to have their first tournament experience and for returning varsity competitors within our district to get into their groove for the 2026-2027 competition season. Pre-tournament updates will be distributed via the Speechwire website.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Randy Perez, M.A.

Tournament Director

(516) 858-3156 | randy@neatspeech.info



ALL TIMES POSTED ARE IN EASTERN TIME (ET)!!

Registration for IPDA will commence at **6:00PM ET** on Friday evening and NPDA, NFA- LD & PKD PF Debate on Saturday morning at **8:00AM ET** at our virtual tab and registration room to permit timely preliminary rounds. We anticipate debate rounds to be “flighted” so that everyone will be accommodated with minimal delays.

Friday, Sept. 26 EASTERN TIME (ET)

6:00PM ET IPDA Registration Only 6:30 Draw for Round 1 of IPDA Debate 7:00 Round 1, IPDA	7:45 Draw for Round 2 of IPDA Debate 8:15 Round 2, IPDA 9:00 – 9:15 PM ET Tournament End
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Saturday, Sept. 27 EASTERN TIME (ET)

8:00 – 8:30AM ET NPDA/NFA-LD/Public Forum Registration Only 8:30 Draw for Round 3 of IPDA Debate 8:45 Topic Released for NPDA Round 1 9:00 Round 1, NPDA/LD/PF & Round 3, IPDA 10:00 Draw for Round 4 of IPDA Debate 10:15 Topic Released for NPDA Round 2 10:30 Round 2, NPDA/LD/PF & Round 4, IPDA 11:15 Draw for Round 5 of IPDA Debate 11:30 Topic Released for NPDA Round 3 11:45 Round 3, NPDA/LD/PF & Round 5, IPDA 12:45 – 1:15PM Tournament Break 1:15PM ET Draw for Round 6 of IPDA Debate 1:30 Topic Released for NPDA Round 4 1:45 Round 4, NPDA/LD/PF & Round 6, IPDA	2:45 – 3:00 Coaches Review 3:00 Draw for IPDA Debate Elim Round 1 3:15 Topic Released for NPDA Elim Round 1 3:30 NPDA, LD, PF & IPDA Elimination Round 1 4:15 Draw for IPDA Elimination Round 2 4:30 Topic Released for NPDA Elim Round 2 4:45 NPDA, LD, PF & IPDA Elimination Round 2 5:30 Draw for IPDA Elimination Round 3 5:45 Topic Released for NPDA Elim Round 3 6:00 NPDA, LD, PF & IPDA Elim Round 3 7:15 PM ET (approximate time) Awards & Results
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- The 15-minute forfeit rule will apply if a debater fails to appear at their designated virtual debate room.
- Updates to the schedule will be posted on Speechwire if they occur. Please be vigilant!

ENTRY RULES

- All entries are due by Tuesday, September 22nd at 1pm ET via Speechwire.
- All debaters must be undergraduate students enrolled at their respective institutions.
- Students are allowed to use timers or phones as timekeeping devices during debate rounds.
- **All teams are expected to cover at least 50% of their entries by entering an adequate number of judges to the tournament.**
- It is up to your discretion to place and enter students in their proper division in IPDA debate (i.e. novice or varsity).
- **Experienced debaters found to be in Novice IPDA debate will face tournament disqualification and the team will be charged a nuisance drop entry fee! Please do not place experienced debaters in the novice division of IPDA.**
- Absolutely no individual can cross-enter in both IPDA and NPDA, NFA-LD, or PF debate.
- Absolutely no individual can debate without a partner in NPDA and Public Forum debate.
- You are encouraged to add pronunciations and your student's preferred pronouns by entering them on your team's roster on Speechwire.

FORMAT OF DEBATE DIVISIONS

We will be offering novice and varsity divisions of IPDA Debate and open divisions of NPDA, NFA-LD and PKD Public Forum (PF).

(NOTE: A novice IPDA debater is a student who has absolutely NO prior debate experience, including middle and high school. Experienced debaters found in Novice IPDA will be disqualified and the team will be charged a nuisance drop entry fee. Please do not place experienced debaters in the novice division of IPDA.)

AWARDS

1. Awards will be presented to each finalist within their respective divisions.
2. In IPDA, NPDA, NFA-LD and PKD Public Forum, there will be one, two, or three elimination rounds depending on the number of entries: Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals.
3. Sweepstake points are....

POINTS FOR ALL DEBATE FORMATS:

- a. 3 points for each preliminary win (regardless of how many teams per division; teams earning less than 2 wins receive no sweepstakes points)
 - b. 3 additional points for reaching Quarterfinal Rounds
 - c. 3 additional points for reaching Semifinal Rounds
 - d. 3 additional points for reaching Final Round
4. In addition, the top individual speakers and top debate schools within the two debate formats will be recognized.
 5. If IPDA entries are collapsed into one single, open division, we will also have an IPDA Novice breakout final for the top two non-advancing novices.

WARM ROOMS

Our tournament will not have "warm rooms." While we encourage cordial and constructive feedback between judges and debaters, judges should not be obliged to engage in conversation with students. Debaters should not pressure their judges for commentary after rounds. **JUDGES SHOULD NOT DISCLOSE THEIR REASON FOR DECISIONS (RFD) DURING OR AFTER ROUNDS!**

JUDGING

All schools should attempt to properly cover their entries. If you don't feel comfortable judging a particular debate format, please note it on your Speechwire entry so that we can accommodate you. We are fortunate to be placed in a region of many highly qualified judges, volunteers, educators, and former debaters.

TOURNAMENT FORFEIT RULE

Any debater who is more than 15 minutes late automatically forfeits their round, resulting in a "bye" or automatic win for the opposing debater. Please make every effort to have your debaters appear at their appointed rounds so that our tournament runs smoothly.

ETHICS STANDARDS OF IPDA / NPDA / NFA-LD DEBATE

The Big Apple Debate Tournament will adhere to the rules prescribed by the International Public Debate Association for IPDA Debate, the National Parliamentary Debate Association for NPDA Debate and the National Forensic Association (NFA) for NFA-LD. Before tournament day, please take time to familiarize yourself and your team with the rules contained within the Constitution and the Bylaws of these three organizations.

DEBATE PRELIMINARY ROUND PAIRINGS

Rounds 1 – 3 of IPDA and Rounds 1 and 2 of NPDA, NFA-LD and PKD Public Forum Debate will be randomly paired. However, Rounds 4 – 6 of IPDA and Rounds 3 and 4 of NPDA, NFA-LD and PKD Public Forum will be power-matched. Brackets will not be broken in elimination rounds.

IPDA COMPETITION RULES

Our tournament will follow IPDA rules found within the IPDA Constitution and Bylaws, which were last updated in October 2018. To view the constitution, please visit the website at: <http://www.ipdadebate.info/constitution--bylaws.html>.

According to the IPDA Constitution, "IPDA" or the "International Public Debate Association" is an audience-friendly debate format with great emphasis on persuasion, rhetorical speaking abilities, and inclusivity of interested individuals who are encouraged to debate "regardless of educational background, prior experience, or any other demographics." The philosophic tenets of the IPDA Constitution are sevenfold: *inclusivity*, *lay judging*, *limited preparation*, *extemporaneous delivery*, *rhetorical delivery*, and *ethos*.

It is important to note that IPDA Debate differs from other collegiate debate formats since it encourages *lay judging* – judges with limited debate experience and training to ensure fairness within debate rounds. Therefore, handouts of the IPDA debate format will be distributed at check-in to all lay judges who request a copy of the IPDA Debate rules.

The IPDA Debate format is as follows:

Topics will be announced in rounds with 5 topics (2 value, 2 policy, 1 metaphor) provided for strikes. Negative strikes first, and then turns are taken until one topic remains to be debated.

Topic disclosure is encouraged, and debaters will be allowed to consult with teammates during prep time - including coaches. Additionally, for our tournament, students are allowed to keep their own time using a timer or phone as a timekeeping device.

Per IPDA rules, they will be allowed paper and/or electronic research material, which may be quoted or paraphrased from notes during the round, but not read directly, as extemporaneous delivery is required.

Time limits:

Affirmative Constructive	5 minutes
Cross-Examination	2 minutes
Negative Constructive	6 minutes
Cross-Examination	2 minutes
First Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes
First Negative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Second Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes

Coaches must enter their IPDA entries in the appropriate division—novice or Varsity. For our tournament, a novice IPDA debater is defined as one with no prior debate experience. This also includes middle and high school debate! Experienced debaters found to be in Novice IPDA debate will face tournament disqualification and the team will be charged a nuisance drop entry fee!

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE IPDA DEBATE FORMAT

Competitors will receive their topics at their designated competition room 30 MINUTES BEFORE THE ACTUAL ROUND BEGINS. (Example: if the first round starts at 9:00AM, then competitors MUST be at their designated rooms **no later** than 8:30AM).

- Judges are expected to keep time during the debate round. Following the first negative strike, IPDA competitors will have exactly 30 minutes of preparation time.
- IPDA strike sheets will cover a variety of topics, from domestic, economic, social, and international events to NYC-themed issues.

NPDA DEBATE RULES

NPDA is the National Parliamentary Debate Association. Our tournament will follow the NPDA rules last updated in March 2008. NPDA Debate rules can be accessed here: <https://parlidebate.org/npda-rules/>

The NPDA Debate format is as follows

- A. Topics will be announced 15 minutes prior to the debate, where the Government and Opposition teams will receive their topic in rounds.
- B. **Debaters will not be allowed to consult any other person during prep time, including coaches.** Per NPDA rules, they will be allowed paper and/or electronic research material during their prep time. This material may be paraphrased from notes during the round but not read directly, as extemporaneous delivery is required.
- C. The topic of each round will be centered on current affairs or philosophy. The resolutions will be general enough that a well-educated college student can debate them. They may be phrased in literal or metaphorical language.
- D. Rounds 1 and 2 will be randomly preset. Rounds 3 and 4 will be power-matched. Brackets will NOT be broken in elimination rounds.
- E. Time limits:

Prime Minister Constructive	7 minutes
Opposition Flex Time	2 minutes
Opposition Leader Constructive	8 minutes
Government Flex Time	2 minutes
Member of Government Constructive	8 minutes
Opposition Flex Time	1 minute
Member of Opposition Constructive	8 minutes
Opposition Leader Rebuttal	4 minutes
Government Flex Time	1 minute
Prime Minister Rebuttal	5 minutes

NFA - LD DEBATE RULES

“NFA - LD” is Lincoln-Douglas Debate of the National Forensic Association. We will use the most recent rules and bylaws within the NFA Constitution.

The NFA-LD Debate format is as follows

- A. The 2026 – 2027 resolution shall be used.
- B. Rounds 1 and 2 will be randomly preset. Rounds 3 and 4 will be power-matched. Brackets will NOT be broken in elimination rounds.
- C. Time limits: 6-3-7-3-6-6-3 with 4 minutes of flexible prep time.
- D. All participants in NFA-LD are advised to visit the NFA website and familiarize themselves with the NFA-LD by-laws.
- E. NO disclosure in debate rounds. Please turn in ballots before offering any oral critiques.

PKD PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE RULES

Pi Kappa Delta Public Forum (PF) is a collegiate adaptation of the National Speech and Debate Association's (NSDA) Public Forum debate format. PF retains the original structure and timing while incorporating collegiate expectations for argumentation, style, and conduct. One key structural difference: **Grand Crossfire is eliminated** to prioritize structured crystallization and professionalism. Teams are made up of two individuals of the same school.

The PKD Public Forum Debate format is as follows

II. Speech Format & Timing

Public Forum follows this speech order and time structure:

Speech	Time
Team A Constructive	4 mins
Team B Constructive	4 mins
Crossfire (1st speakers)	3 mins
Team A Rebuttal	4 mins
Team B Rebuttal	4 mins
Crossfire (2nd speakers)	3 mins
Team A Summary	3 mins
Team B Summary	3 mins
Team A Final Focus	3 mins
Team B Final Focus	3 mins
Prep Time (per team)	3 mins

Total Round Time: Approximately 42 minutes

Note: "Team A" and "Team B" are used to designate sides post-coin flip (Pro/Con and speaking order).

III. Round Procedure

A. Coin Toss

A coin toss determines which team chooses **either**:

- Side (Pro or Con), or
- Speaking order (First or Second)

The opposing team selects the remaining option.

B. Crossfire

- Two **Crossfire periods only**:
 - After Constructives (1st speakers)
 - After Rebuttals (2nd speakers)
- **No Grand Crossfire** following Summary speeches.

Crossfire is a **mutual questioning period**, not a speech or debate extension. It should be civil, purposeful, and strategic. The only individuals allowed to speak during crossfire are the speakers who finished their first speech. For example, Speaker 1 on Team A and Speaker 1 on Team B will engage in the first crossfire, and Speaker 2 on Team A and Speaker 2 on Team B will engage in the second crossfire. No other speaking engagement is allowed from either side during this time, except to hand notes/evidence to one's colleague. The first speaker in that speech block (Constructive or Rebuttal) will ask the first question.

IV. Rules of the Format

A. Speech Expectations

- Emphasize **clarity over speed**; spreading is discouraged.
- All arguments must be **structured**, with clear **claims, warrants, and impacts**.
- Arguments should **progress across the round** (constructive → rebuttal → summary → final focus).
- Impact calculus and round framing should occur in all speeches.

B. Evidence Rules

- Paraphrasing is permitted, but **evidence must be accurately represented**.
- Cards must be **provided promptly** upon request (physically or digitally).
- Evidence **must include author, date, and source** details.
- Fabrication or distortion of evidence is a **disqualifying offense**.
 - Claims of fabrication or distortion must be stated in the round OR reported to tournament staff within 30 minutes of the round ending.

C. Final Focus Restrictions

- **No new arguments** may be introduced in the Final Focus speeches.
- Only arguments **extended through Summary** may be crystallized in the Final Focus.
- Impact calculus and round framing should occur in both Summary and Final Focus.

D. Technology

- Laptops and tablets are allowed for prep, flowing, and evidence management.
- Stopwatches and the use of phones for timing purposes is allowed. Use of phones for purposes other than timing are **NOT** permitted.
- Internet access during rounds is **NOT** permitted unless it is being used to access previously carded evidence by the competing team (ex. Dropbox, Google Drive)

and shared excel flow sheets between debate partners.

- The use of the internet for the purpose of gathering new evidence in the round is strictly forbidden.
- Competitors must be prepared with their evidence **before the round**.

E. Eligibility

- Students must be currently enrolled at the college or university for which they are competing.
- Any student may enter an open division.
- Junior division is open to students in their first four semesters of collegiate debate (of any kind).
- Novice division is open to students with less than two semesters of any debate at any level (high school or college).
- Students debating without a partner (maverick) may be permitted at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Maverick debaters are not permitted to break, but they will be eligible for individual speaker awards.
- Hybrid teams (one student from one school partnered with another student from a different school) may be permitted at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

V. Competitor Guidelines

A. Expectations of Debaters

- Prioritize **depth of argumentation** over quantity.
- Utilize **strategic framing and impact calculus**.
- Maintain **professionalism in tone and conduct**, especially during Crossfire.
- Deliver speeches that are **organized, signposted, and persuasive**.
- Engage with the **nuances of the topic** and **respond directly to opposing arguments**.

VI. Coach Guidelines

Coaches should:

- Encourage **collaborative preparation**, grounded in credible sources and academic standards.
 - Develop student skills in **impact calculus, clash, and framing**.
 - Promote **ethical evidence use** and enforcement of PKD PF rules.
 - Help students prepare for diverse judging philosophies—**both lay and technical**.
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VII. Event Objectives

A. Team Expectations

- Within the Constructive, the proposition (PRO) team must affirm the resolution by presenting and defending a sufficient case for that resolution while the opposition (CON) team must oppose the resolution.
- Within the Rebuttal, both the PRO and CON should provide a response to their opponents' case.
- Within the Summary, the PRO and CON teams should provide responses to their opponents' rebuttal.
- Within the Final Focus, the PRO and CON teams should provide judges with voting issues that include impact calculus and explain why they have won the round.

B. Plans/Counterplans

- In Public Forum Debate, neither the PRO or CON side is permitted to offer a plan or counterplan; rather, they should offer reasoning to support their position in the round. Debaters may offer generalized, practical solutions, but it should not be a formalized proposal for implementation.
- Usually PF topics are geared towards a contention structure. Philosophical arguments are allowed, but constructed cases centered solely on a kritik are **NOT** permitted.

C. Philosophy on Speaker Time

- Oral prompting by the speaker's colleague while the debater has the floor is discouraged (though not prohibited) and may be penalized by some judges. The team that does not have the floor to speak may consult with their colleague as long as they are not disruptive to the other team. Oral prompting, by any other person in the room, is prohibited.
- Oral prompting is generally defined as verbal cues of any kind to one's colleague while they have the speaking floor.

VIII. Judging Guidelines

A. Eligibility

Judges should be:

- Experienced former competitors (holding a bachelor's degree and out of competitive eligibility), graduate students, faculty, or professionals.
 - PKD PF is also designed to be as accessible as possible. This means that, while the above experience is desired, any person can be utilized as a judge for this event.

B. Judging Philosophy

Judges should:

- Flow all speeches and render decisions **based solely on arguments in the round.**
- Prioritize:
 - Clear extension and crystallization of arguments.
 - Effective weighing of impacts.
 - Round framing and strategic focus.

- Penalize:
 - New arguments in Final Focus speeches.
 - Ethical violations (e.g., fabricated evidence).
 - Disrespectful behavior.

Note: PKD PF encourages **limited speed**; speeches should remain accessible and persuasive.

C. Ballots & Feedback

Ballots should include:

- A clear **Reason for Decision (RFD)**.
- Constructive feedback on **argument strategy, delivery, and professionalism**.
- **Speaker Points** using the following scale:

Points	Description
40	Masterful collegiate performance
39	Excellent—strategic, clear, and persuasive
38	Solid—minor delivery or strategic issues
37	Developing—needs improvement in depth or style
36↓	Underdeveloped or inappropriate tone/conduct

IX. Topic Selection

PKD PF will use:

- PKD Public Forum topics (semesterly)

Topic framing should allow for:

- Policy, philosophical, and real-world engagement.
- Strategic flexibility on both sides.

X. Ethics & Conduct

All participants must uphold:

- **Academic honesty**, including accurate evidence citation.
- **Respectful behavior** in all rounds.
- **PKD's values of citizenship, advocacy, service, and leadership**. This includes agreeing to the PKD Code of Conduct found below.

Violations of evidence ethics, harassment, or discrimination will result in disqualification and possible referral to the tournament director or governing body.

TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION

Registration for the tournament will commence online at Speechwire on Thursday, August 13th and will continue until the entry deadline on **Tuesday, September 22nd, 2026, at 1PM ET**. As stated before, emailed entries will not be accepted. You will have an opportunity to confirm your entries at check-in for IPDA Debate on Friday evening at 6:00 PM ET and NPDA and NFA-LD entries on Saturday morning at 8:00 am ET at our virtual tournament registration and tab room.

TAB ROOM

The tournament tab room will be at a specified breakout room on Zoom. The tabroom staff can answer questions about schematics. However, judges may direct all complaints, grievances, and serious matters to me. You will find me either in the tab room or at registration.

TOURNAMENT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Entry fees may be paid by PayPal/credit card, institutional check, or purchase order.

PayPal or credit card:

To request a PayPal invoice, email **neattournaments@gmail.com** and copy **randy@neatspeech.info**. PayPal invoices will be issued under the Northeast Alliance Tournaments name.

Institutional check or purchase order:

- Legal vendor/payee: **Randy Perez d/b/a Northeast Alliance Tournaments**
- Service provider: **Northeast Alliance Tournaments**
- Check payable to: **Randy Perez d/b/a Northeast Alliance Tournaments**
- Check memo: **NEAT tournament entry fees**

Please use the mailing address provided on the invoice or W-9. An updated W-9 and any other vendor documentation required by your institution are available upon request.

For payment questions, invoice requests, or vendor paperwork, contact:

neattournaments@gmail.com
randy@neatspeech.info

The Northeast Alliance Tournaments is independently operated and is not financially administered through any college or university.

IF YOU ARE MAKING A PAYMENT EITHER BY CREDIT/DEBIT CARD OR BY CHECK, YOU CAN SEND US PAYMENT VIA YOUR PAYPAL INVOICE. DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE COMING DAYS NEAR TOURNAMENT DAY.

ALL FEES MUST BE PAID PRIOR TO OR AT REGISTRATION UNLESS PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE!

1. The following entry fees shall be assessed:
 - School fee \$30 per school
 - IPDA slot \$35 per debater
 - NFA-LD slot \$35 per debater
 - NPDA & Public Forum slot \$60 per team
2. Fees for uncovered debaters will be assessed:
 - Every uncovered debater = \$50 per IPDA & NFA-LD debater
 - Every uncovered team = \$100 per NPDA or Public Forum team
3. Fines for missing competitors or judges:
 - Every missing competitor = \$25 per forfeit (15-minute forfeit rule)
 - Every missing judge = \$100 per judge
4. Fees will initially be calculated on Tuesday, September 22nd at 1PM ET. Late adds/drops will be as follows:
 - Add/drops on Wednesday, Sept 23rd: \$25 per change, plus entry fee
 - **NO MORE ADDS ALLOWED ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH!!!!**
 - Drops on Thursday, Sept 24th: \$70 per drop, plus entry fee
 - **Drops at IPDA registration on Friday, Sept 25th & NPDA/NFA-LD/PF registration on Saturday, Sept 26th \$100 per entry drop, plus original entry fee**
 - **ABSOLUTELY NO ADDS ALLOWED ON SATURDAY!!!**
5. **Each judge covers two individual IPDA / NFA-LD debaters or one NPDA / PF team.** Therefore, teams with excess debaters will be charged “uncovered slots” for every debater that is not covered by a judge. So please make every effort to cover your entry. Schools are responsible for entering their judges as the right judge type when calculating fees.

6. Judges who fail to pick their ballots will render their students ineligible for elimination rounds. Teams with missing judges will be assessed a \$25 fine for each round.
7. Lastly, student-run and small teams are the lifeblood of our forensics community. We recognize that many teams are threatened with budget cuts, coaching staff turnover, and diminished resources from their institutions. If this is your first debate tournament and do not have the means to cover your entire entry fee, please reach out to us, and we will be happy to accommodate you. We want you to attend our tournament and have a great debate experience. We only ask that you bring enough judges to adequately cover your entry.

JUDGES (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!)

To encourage fairness to our competitors – and if you're a coach – I ask that you bring as many of your judges as possible. We'd much rather have your judges than your money. **For our tournament, a judge who is available for all of the preliminary rounds and one elimination round will cover two IPDA debaters or one NPDA team.** IPDA and NPDA encourage a broad range of lay judges, which includes coaches, forensics alumni, students (ONLY IF THEY AREN'T COMPETITORS), fellow parents, educators, and members of the academic community.

Since the team has a very small budget, we are only able to hire judges on a very limited basis. Nevertheless, if you would like to hire a judge, please contact me at randy@neatspeech.info as soon as possible. We are very fortunate to have a supportive and thriving pool of qualified hired judges nationally in our speech and debate community.