

Dear Colleagues:

I am thrilled to welcome you to the 2026 East Coast Early Bird Tournament! We are excited to feature IPDA, NPDA and NFA-LD Debate and Individual Speech Events. This synchronous tournament will be the 1st NEAT (Northeast Alliance Tournament) of the 2026 - 27 season. The tournament entry deadline is Tuesday, September 22nd, 2026, at 1PM ET on Speechwire. Details are provided below.

Randy Perez,

Tournament Director



OVERALL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

ALL TIMES POSTED WILL BE IN EASTERN STANDARD TIME (EST)!!

SCHEDULE FOR INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

8:00am	Registration (Zoom Registration/Tab Room)
9:00am	Round 1, Pattern A
10:15am	Round 2, Pattern A
11:15am	Lunch
11:45am	Extemp Draw (in Zoom Ext. Room)
12:15pm	Round 1, Pattern B
1:15pm	Extemp Draw (in Zoom Ext. Room)
1:45pm	Round 2, Pattern B
3:15pm	Finals, Pattern A
4:15pm	Extemp Draw (in Zoom Ext. Room)
4:45pm	Finals, Pattern B
7:30pm	Awards (TBA)

SCHEDULE FOR DEBATE

IPDA / NPDA / NFA-LD

8:00am	Registration (Zoom/Tab Room)
9:00am	Round 1
10:15am	Round 2
11:15am	Lunch
12:15pm	Round 3
1:45pm	Round 4
3:15pm	Elimination Round 1
4:30pm	Elimination Round 2
6:00pm	Elimination Round 3
7:30pm	Awards (TBA)

IE PATTERN NOTES

- **PATTERN A:** Impromptu, Dramatic Interpretation, ADS, CA, Prose
- **PATTERN B:** Extemp, Persuasive, POI, Duo, Poetry, Informative
- Additional Pattern rules are in the next page under “Entry Rules”

GENERAL SCHEDULE NOTES

- The 15-minute forfeit rule will apply if a competitor/debater fails to appear at their designated room if they are not double or triple-entered for that round.
- Updates to the schedule will be posted on Speechwire if they occur. Please be vigilant!
- **STUDENTS MAY NOT CROSS-ENTER IN BOTH I.E.’s AND DEBATE!!**

DETAILED DEBATE SCHEDULE

ALL TIMES POSTED WILL BE IN EASTERN TIME (ET)!!

8:00 - 8:30AM ET Registration

8:30	Draw for IPDA Round 1	3:15 Draw for NPDA Elimination Round 1
8:45	Draw for NPDA Round 1	3:30 Elimination Round 1, IPDA/NPDA/NFA-LD
9:00	Round 1, IPDA/NPDA/NFA-LD	4:15 Draw for IPDA Elimination Round 2
9:45	Draw for IPDA Round 2	4:30 Draw for NPDA Elimination Round 2
10:00	Draw for NPDA Round 2	4:45 Elimination Round 2, IPDA/NPDA/NFA-LD
10:15	Round 2, IPDA/NPDA/NFA-LD	5:30 Draw for IPDA Elimination Round 3
11:15	Lunch	5:45 Draw for NPDA Elimination Round 2
11:45	Draw for IPDA Round 3	6:00 Elimination Round 3, IPDA/NPDA/NFA-LD
12:00PM	Draw for NPDA Round 3	7:30 Awards & Results
12:15 Round 3, IPDA & NPDA		
1:15	Draw for IPDA Round 4	
1:30	Draw for NPDA Round 4	
1:45	Round 4, IPDA/NPDA/NFA-LD	
2:45 – 3:00	Coaches Review	
3:00	Draw for IPDA Elimination Round 1	

SCHEDULE NOTES

- 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!
- Students **MAY NOT** cross-enter in both debate and I.E.'s (Individual Events)!

I.E. & DEBATE ENTRY RULES

- All entries are due on the Tuesday afternoon at 1pm ET prior to the tournament via Speechwire.
- All students must be undergraduates enrolled at their respective institution.
- All teams are expected to provide an adequate number of judges to accommodate their entries.
- The tournament director reserves the right to reject excessive entries that are not properly covered by judges.
- It is up to your discretion to place and enter students in their proper division in IPDA debate (i.e. novice or varsity).
- No individual can debate without a partner in NPDA debate!
- Absolutely no individual can cross-enter in both I.E.'s and debate!
- Any school may enter an unlimited number of students per event provided they supply sufficient judges that cover their entry.
- Each student may be entered up to 3 events per I.E. speech pattern.
- Each student must be eligible to compete under their respective sanctioning organization's rules and guidelines for their event.
- Coaches are highly encouraged to enter their student's pronouns and pronunciation on their Speechwire entry.

SCHOOL SWEEPSTAKES AWARDS

1. Awards will be announced to each finalist within their respective event.
2. In each debate format, there will be three elimination rounds (depending on number of entries): Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals.
3. Team sweepstakes points are awarded as follows:

POINTS FOR INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

- a) 2 points for each 6th – 7th Place Finalist
- b) 4 points for each 4th – 5th Place Finalist
- c) 6 points for each 3rd Place Finalist
- d) 8 points for each 2nd Place Finalist
- e) 10 points for each 1st Place

POINTS FOR DEBATE

- 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 across the two debate formats will be recognized

TOURNAMENT FEES

We genuinely want to provide all programs the chance to participate. Please contact us if you want to attend the tournament but are concerned about the fees, we are aware some programs have been severely affected by budget cuts and will try to make allowances for those programs.

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!
NO EXCEPTIONS!



TOURNAMENT FEES

1. The following entry fees shall be assessed:

- School fee \$30 per school
- I.E. speech slot \$9 per entry
- IPDA & NFA-LD slot \$35 per debater
- NPDA slot \$60 per team

2. Fees for uncovered debaters will be assessed as follows:

- Every uncovered speaker = \$12 per I.E. speech slot
- Every uncovered debater = \$50 per IPDA/NFA-LD debater
- Every uncovered team = \$100 per NPDA team

3. Fees will initially be calculated on the Tuesday afternoon prior to each tournament at 1PM EST. Late adds/drops will be as follows:

- Add/drops on the Wednesday & Thursday prior to the tournament: \$20 per change, plus entry fee
- **NO MORE ADDS ALLOWED ON FRIDAY!!!!**
- Drops on the Saturday prior to the tournament: \$70 per drop, plus entry fee
- **Drops at tournament registration: \$100 per drop, plus original entry fee**
- **ABSOLUTELY NO ADDS ALLOWED ON SUNDAY, September 27!!!**

4. Each judge covers:

- 5 IE slots
- 2 IPDA or 2 NFA-LD entries.
- 1 NPDA team
- Therefore, schools with excess entries 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.

5. A special note about NPDA judges:

- NPDA judges are handled differently than other debate formats.
- Therefore, each NPDA entry **MUST** provide at least one judge PER entry.
- All NPDA judges are expected for judging all rounds, including elimination round(s).
- NPDA judges may not judge other debate formats in our tournament due to time conflicts.

6. Judges who fail to pick their ballots will render their students ineligible for elimination rounds.

7. **Lastly, student-run and small teams are the life blood of our forensics community.** We recognize that so 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.

IMPORTANT TOURNAMENT INFO

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 have a judge who doesn't feel comfortable judging debate rounds, please note it when you place your entry so that we can accommodate you. We are fortunate to be placed in a region of many highly qualified judges, educators, and former debaters!

DEBATE ROUND FORFEIT RULE

Any debater who is more than 15 minutes late to their assigned virtual room 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 INDIVIDUAL EVENTS AND ALL DEBATE FORMATS

The North East Alliance 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 American Forensic Association (for I.E. speech events). Before tournament day, please take time to familiarize yourself and your team to the rules contained within the Constitution and its Bylaws of these organizations.

DEBATE PAIRINGS

Rounds 1 and 2 of debate will be randomly paired. However, Rounds 3 and 4 of debate will be power-matched. Brackets will not be broken in elimination rounds.

OPEN DOOR POLICY

This tournament will observe an open-door policy. Students should feel free to prioritize their mental health at tournaments. Students are welcome to leave the round any time before, during, or after another competitor's speech performance without any penalty from the judge.

INDIVIDUAL EVENT COMPETITION RULES

It is my wish for everyone to have an enjoyable experience at the tournament. To ensure fairness, the following rules will be observed:

The American Forensic Association National Speech Tournament (AFA-NST) rules and descriptions will govern all Individual Speech Events.

- A. Students may not have competed with the selections in any intercollegiate competition prior to September 1, 2026.**
- B. As per the AFA-NST language, the use of the Internet and/or electronic files are permitted in Extemp.**
- C. The following events will be offered in open divisions of competition:**
 - PATTERN A: Impromptu, Dramatic Interpretation, ADS, CA, Prose**
 - PATTERN B: Extemp, Persuasive, POI, Duo, Poetry, Informative**
- D. Oral interpretation and Public Address individual speeches must follow the 8 – 10-minute format. Limited Preparation speeches are limited to only 7 minutes of speaking time.**
- E. Competitors are expected to cite their sources orally in Public Address and Extemporaneous speech events.**
- F. All speech events will be governed by AFA-NST rules. Rules can be found here:**
<https://sites.google.com/site/afanietnew2/products-services/afa-niet-charter?authuser=0>

IPDA DEBATE COMPETITION RULES

INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC DEBATE ASSOCIATION (IPDA)

It is my wish for everyone to have an enjoyable experience at the tournament. To ensure fairness, 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, which are inclusivity, lay judging, limited preparation, extemporaneous delivery, rhetorical delivery, and ethos.

The IPDA Debate format are as follows:

- A. Topics will be announced in-round 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.
- B. **Debaters will not be allowed to consult any other person during prep time, including coaches.** 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.
- C. 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

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 rounds. IPDA competitors will have exactly 30 minutes of preparation time following the first negative strike.
- IPDA strike sheets will contain a variety of topics ranging from domestic, economic, social and international events.

NPDA DEBATE COMPETITION RULES

NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ASSOCIATION (NPDA)

NPDA is the National Parliamentary Debate Association. Our tournament will follow the NPDA rules last updated in March 2008.

The NPDA Debate format are as follows:

- A. Topics will be announced in-round. A different resolution for each round will be presented to the debaters at a specified time prior to the beginning of each debate.**
- 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, which 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 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. 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.

NAVIGATING ZOOM & SPEECHWIRE

REGISTRATION

Registration for the tournament will commence on-line at Speechwire on Thursday, August 13, 2026 and will continue until the deadline on the Tuesday afternoon prior to the tournament at 1PM ET. As stated before, emailed entries will not be accepted. You will have an opportunity to confirm your entries at check-in on Sunday morning at 8:00am ET at our virtual tournament registration and tab room.

STEPS STUFF TO DO

1. REGISTER IN SPEECHWIRE

Register your team's entry through SpeechWire.com like normal. Nothing new or fancy here!

2. SEND ENTRY PAYMENT

Once registered, we will send an invoice through Paypal complete which includes your detailed Speechwire Invoice. Send your touchless Registration Payment as a check (or) credit card by clicking on the payment button in the email through Paypal. All teams will receive an invoice.

3. SUBSCRIBE FOR LIVE UPDATES ON SPEECHWIRE

Shortly before the tournament you will receive a URL from qcspeechteam@gmail.com and posted in Speechwire. Use this URL to log in to your Speechwire account to subscribe for live tournament updates!

4. CONNECT YOUR JUDGES TO SPEECHWIRE.COM FOR EBALLOTS

Your judges need to set up their accounts in SpeechWire.com so they can receive their eBallots. Judges will receive an email from the tournament director containing a link to sign into Speechwire to access their electronic ballots. Follow the link and instructions provided. You will receive detailed eBallot instructions for judges.

5. ENTER ZOOM BREAKOUT ROOMS ON TOURNAMENT DAY & SPEECHWIRE

Upon entering our tournament zoom link, you and your students will see a list of tournament "breakout rooms" designated for each speech event and debate round. Going to your COMPETITION ROOM is easy! Just enter the designated breakout zoom room you are scheduled to present. Remember that time is Eastern Time!

Make sure to follow live email updates from Speechwire throughout the day. All schematics and postings will be posted on Speechwire. That's where round-by-round postings will be made available including finals postings.

All participants and judges will see live tournament announcements by visiting our

tournament Zoom “Auditorium” for our opening announcements and the awards ceremony.

6. ELECTRONIC BALLOTS & RESULTS

After the tournament, be sure to go to your team’s Speechwire account to retrieve your students’ ballots as a PDF and view the tabulation sheets! As always, Speechwire will send results to the major forensics and debate organizations.