

	MARSHALL UNIVERSITY MEMORIAL/ OHIO UNIVERSITY BACK TO GREEN TOURNAMENTS	
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28 July 2026

Colleagues:

The Marshall University and Ohio University speech and debate teams invite you to back-to-back tournaments on the beautiful campus of Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia, from Friday, 16 October 2026, through Sunday, 18 October 2026. Competition in all events will be in person.

This year's theme is **"Where Ideas Take Root."** The theme celebrates the shared green traditions of Marshall University and Ohio University and the continued growth, renewal, and civic purpose of speech and debate.

Some changes this year:

- The tournament will start later on Friday (2:30 pm) than it did last year to make it easier for more teams to drive in on Friday morning.
- The tournament will offer 6 preliminary rounds of IPDA Debate, instead of 5. This means IPDA Debate will run throughout the whole day on Saturday.
- Coaches will be able to choose one of three options for students who do not advance to IPDA Debate elimination rounds on Saturday afternoon: (1) enter the IPDA Debate judging pool in a division in which the student did not compete; (2) compete in Pattern B events they pre-entered; or (3) do nothing. The option must be made by registration on Friday so the tournament has sufficient time to implement coaches' preferences.
- The tournament will not offer NPDA Debate nor LD Debate.

Our programs are excited to host a comprehensive weekend of competition designed to maximize student participation across debate and individual events.

We hope you will join us in Huntington for a weekend of outstanding competition and collegiality.

Questions may be directed to Dennis Taylor at taylor41@marshall.edu / +1 304.541.0332 or Jennifer Talbert at jtalbert@ohio.edu / +1 216.410.0041.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dennis Taylor

Dennis Taylor
Director of Forensics
Marshall University

/s/ Jennifer Talbert

Jennifer Talbert
John A. Cassese Director of Forensics
Ohio University

Tournament Overview

The Marshall University / Ohio University Back to Green Tournaments will take place Friday, 16 October 2026, through Sunday, 18 October 2026, on the campus of Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. Competition in speech events and IPDA Debate will be conducted in person.

The weekend is designed to support broad participation across debate and individual events. Saturday's schedule places Pattern B after the IPDA Debate break, so coaches may choose whether students who do not advance to IPDA Debate elimination rounds compete in Pattern B speech events, judge IPDA Debate elimination rounds if eligible and entered as judges, or do nothing formal, such as observing rounds and supporting their teams.

Events and Patterns

Events Offered

- Six (6) preliminary rounds and elimination rounds of IPDA Debate on Friday, 16 October 2026, and Saturday, 17 October 2026, as part of the Marshall University tournament;
- A speech tournament consisting of 2 preliminary rounds and 1 final round of all 11 NFA speech events + Broadcast Journalism on Saturday, 17 October 2026, as part of the Marshall University tournament; and
- A speech tournament consisting of 2 preliminary rounds and 1 final round of all 11 NFA speech events + Editorial Impromptu on Sunday, 18 October 2026, as part of the Ohio University tournament.

Marshall University Speech Patterns

- Pattern A: Broadcast Journalism, Dramatic Interp, Extemp, Persuasion, Poetry, Rhetorical Criticism
- Pattern B: After Dinner, Duo, Impromptu, Informative, Program Oral Interp, Prose

Ohio University Speech Patterns

- Pattern A: After Dinner, Duo, Impromptu, Informative, Program Oral Interp, Prose
- Pattern B: Dramatic Interp, Editorial Impromptu, Extemp, Persuasion, Poetry, Rhetorical Criticism

Rules and Eligibility

Speech Event Rules

NFA rules will govern speech events.

PKD rules will govern Broadcast Journalism and Editorial Impromptu.
Speech event speaker points will be awarded on a 30-point scale.

IPDA Debate Rules

IPDA Debate rules generally will govern IPDA Debate, except as follows:

- In elimination rounds (but not preliminary rounds), the two competitors will strike the topics down to one – and only after that is complete will a coin flip determine which side they will be debating. (The idea here is to produce the consensus most debatable topic from the list before side determination occurs.)

- We do not restrict computer use by judges during rounds. Judges will complete online ballots, not paper ballots.
- Competitors may use electronic devices as timers but may not research using an electronic device or receive any one-on-one help during the actual round.

IPDA Debate speaker points will be awarded on a 40-point scale.

IPDA Eligibility

For **IPDA Debate**, the tournament follows IPDA rules:

- They may compete in the Novice Division if they have not competed “in eight debate tournaments in any capacity at any level in any combination (e.g., high school or college; novice, junior or open, CX, Policy, Value, NDT, CEDA, Parliamentary, NFA, LD, etc.)”.
- They may compete in the Junior Varsity Division if they have not competed “in eight tournaments beyond their novice eligibility OR ... in sixteen debate tournaments in any capacity at the collegiate level in any combination (e.g. novice, junior or open, IPDA Debate, CX, Policy, Value, NDT, CEDA, Parliamentary, NFA, LD, etc.)”.
- Otherwise, they must compete in the Open Division. (We will not run a Professional Division, nor will we accept Professional Division entries.)

Entry and Cross-Entry Rules

Student Entries

A school may have unlimited student entries in all events. If entries permit, we may divide IPDA Debate into novice, junior varsity, and/or open divisions.

The tournament schedule is designed to maximize speech and IPDA Debate cross-entry:

- Coaches may choose how to use students who do not advance to IPDA Debate elimination rounds: they may compete in Pattern B speech events, judge IPDA Debate elimination rounds if eligible and entered as judges, or do nothing formal, such as observing rounds and supporting their teams.
- Students who advance to IPDA Debate elimination rounds should expect to be dropped from Pattern B events at no cost. They also may enter all speech events during the Ohio University tournament.
- A student may enter up to three speech events per Pattern at both tournaments.
- Students may not cross-enter Extemp and Broadcast Journalism at the Marshall University tournament.

Judging Requirements

One judge is owed for each six (6) speech entries per tournament. One judge is owed for each two (2) IPDA Debate entries.

Elimination Rounds and Sweepstakes

Advancement to Elimination Rounds

Speech event advancement to final rounds will follow NFA rules. IPDA Debate advancement to elimination rounds will follow IPDA Debate rules. The tournament staff may adjust elimination-round size when entries require it, but any such adjustment will be made consistently within the affected event or division.

Individual Sweepstakes

To be eligible for Individual Sweepstakes, a student must compete in at least four events.

Speech Sweepstakes

Speech sweepstakes points will be awarded for preliminary-round performance and final-round placement.

Preliminary ranks will earn 3 points for first place, 2 points for second place, and 1 point for third place. Final-round placement points will be awarded as follows: 12 points for first place, 10 points for second place, 8 points for third place, 6 points for fourth place, 4 points for fifth place, and 2 points for sixth place.

IPDA Debate Sweepstakes

IPDA Debate sweepstakes will be calculated so that a debater completing six preliminary rounds has a realistic opportunity to contribute approximately the same number of sweepstakes points as a student competing in three speech events. Each preliminary-round win will earn 3 sweepstakes points, up to 18 preliminary sweepstakes points. Elimination-round advancement will earn 15 points for each finalist, 12 points for each semifinalist, 9 points for each quarterfinalist, and 6 points for each octofinalist.

Overall Sweepstakes

Overall sweepstakes will combine speech sweepstakes and debate sweepstakes points. Speech sweepstakes, debate sweepstakes, and overall sweepstakes will be calculated separately before being used for any combined awards.

For team sweepstakes purposes, only the top three competitors from each team in each competition grouping will score sweepstakes points. Additional competitors may earn individual awards and placements, but they will not contribute to that team's sweepstakes total in that competition grouping.

Tentative Schedule

*** All times Eastern Time.**

Friday, 16 October 2026 (Marshall U Tournament)

2:00 PM - MU IPDA Debate Registration

2:30 PM - IPDA Debate Draw

3:00 PM - IPDA Debate Round 1

3:50 PM - IPDA Debate Draw

4:20 PM - IPDA Debate Round 2

5:10 PM - IPDA Debate Draw

5:40 PM - IPDA Debate Round 3

6:30 PM - IPDA Debate Draw

7:00 PM - IPDA Debate Round 4

Saturday, 17 October 2026 (Marshall U Tournament)

Pattern B is scheduled after the IPDA Debate break so coaches may choose whether students who do not advance to IPDA Debate elimination rounds compete in Pattern B speech events, judge IPDA Debate elimination rounds if eligible and entered as judges, or do nothing formal, such as observing rounds and supporting their teams. Students who advance to IPDA Debate elimination rounds should expect to be dropped from Pattern B events at no cost.

7:45 AM - Registration

8:00 AM - IPDA Debate Draw / Extemp Draw/ Broadcast Journalism Prep

8:30 AM - IPDA Debate Round 5 / Speech Round 1A

9:30 AM - IPDA Debate Draw / Extemp Draw/ Broadcast Journalism Prep

10:00 AM - IPDA Debate Round 6 / Speech Round 2A

11:00 AM - IPDA Debate Break Announced

11:10 AM - Lunch Break

12:00 PM - Speech Round 1B / IPDA Debate Octofinals Draw *

*The IPDA Debate schedule will be collapsed if Octofinals or two flights are not needed.

12:30 PM - IPDA Debate Octofinals Flight A (if needed)

1:10 PM - Speech Round 2B / IPDA Debate Octofinals Flight B (if needed)

2:00 PM - IPDA Debate Quarterfinals Draw

2:10 PM - Extemp Draw / Broadcast Journalism Prep

2:30 PM - IPDA Debate Quarterfinals

2:40 PM - Speech Finals A

3:20 PM - IPDA Debate Semifinals Draw

3:50 PM - IPDA Debate Semifinals / Speech Finals B

4:40 PM - IPDA Debate Finals Draw

5:10 PM - IPDA Debate Finals

5:45 PM - Awards

Sunday, 18 October 2026 (Ohio U Tournament)

8:00 AM - Registration

8:15 AM - Speech Round 1A

9:25 AM - Speech Round 2A

10:25 AM - Extemp Draw

10:55 AM - Speech Round 1B

12:00 PM - Lunch Break

12:30 PM - Extemp Draw

1:00 PM - Speech Round 2B

2:45 PM - Extemp Draw

3:15 PM - Speech Finals (All)

4:45 PM - Awards

Registration, Deadlines, and Fees

Registration for all events for both tournaments may be completed on Speechwire.

The registration deadline is Tuesday, 13 October 2026, at 5:00 PM, but you are encouraged to register earlier so we may better prepare. You may make changes through Thursday, 15 October 2026, at 5:00 PM without any nuisance fees applying.

Deadlines

Student entries: Tuesday, 13 October 2026, at 5:00 PM

Judge entries: Tuesday, 13 October 2026, at 5:00 PM

Fees & obligations freeze: Thursday, 15 October 2026, at 5:00 PM

Online drops & name changes: Thursday, 15 October 2026, at 5:00 PM

Nuisance fees apply after Thursday, 15 October 2026, at 5:00 PM

Entry Fees

Speech individual events: \$11.00 per entry

Duo Interpretation: \$15.00 per entry

IPDA Debate: \$25.00 per entry

Judging Fees

Uncovered speech entries: \$12.50 per uncovered entry per tournament

Uncovered IPDA Debate entries: \$25.00 per uncovered entry

Student Add/Drop Fees

Thursday, 15 October 2026, after 5:00 PM: \$15.00 + entry fee

On day of tournament: \$30.00 + entry fee

Judge Drop Fees

Thursday, 15 October 2026, after 5:00 PM: \$25.00 + uncovered judge fee

On day of tournament: \$50.00 + uncovered judge fee

Checks for both tournaments may be made out to Marshall University Speech and Debate. The Marshall University Foundation accepts credit card payments, but we must complete a paper form, which is then hand-keyed by Foundation staff.

Awards

The MU tournament probably will provide competitors with stuffed bison as awards in speech and debate events. Top novices will receive cinnamons (baby bison). The goal: To collect a Thundering Herd of awards at your school. Additionally, awards will be provided to at least the top three IPDA Debate speakers in each division and at least the top three in Individual Sweepstakes, as well as at least the top 3 overall in Overall Sweepstakes, Speech Sweepstakes, and Debate Sweepstakes.

The OU tournament probably will provide individual competitors with Bobcat medals. Additionally, awards will be provided for Individual Sweepstakes and Team Sweepstakes.

Lodging

Below are some lodging options reasonably close to campus (within three miles). Additionally, there are hotel options in Ohio and Kentucky, directly across the Ohio or Big Sandy River from Huntington and in Barboursville, WV, about 15-20 minutes away from Huntington.

DoubleTree Hotel (Hilton) – 1001 Third Avenue, Huntington, WV 25701

+1 304-525-1001

- 0.7 miles west of campus
- Swimming Pool
- Breakfast is an Additional Charge

Delta Hotel (Marriott) – 800 Third Avenue, Huntington, WV 25701

+1 304-523-8880

- Renovated

- 0.9 miles from campus
- Swimming pool

Hampton Inn – 177 Kinetic Drive, Huntington, West Virginia, 25701

+1 304-523-8001

- 2.6 miles from campus
- Complimentary continental breakfast
- Free Parking
- Swimming Pool

Comfort Inn – 3094 16th Street Road Huntington, WV 25701

+1 304-523-4242

- 2.6 miles southeast of campus
- Complimentary continental breakfast
- Indoor swimming pool

Fairfield Inn & Suites – 536 Kinetic Drive, Huntington, WV 25701

+1 304-696-8777

- 2.6 miles from campus
- Complimentary continental breakfast
- Indoor swimming pool

Quality Inn – 3090 16th Street Road, Huntington, WV 25701

+1 304-525-1410

- 2.6 miles southeast of campus
- Complimentary continental breakfast
- Indoor swimming pool