

96th ANNUAL R. D. MAHAFFEY MEMORIAL FORENSICS TOURNAMENT
Linfield University
November 13-15, 2026

The Linfield University Forensics Team and the Oregon Alpha Chapter of Pi Kappa Delta welcome you to the ninety-fifth annual Mahaffey Memorial Forensics Tournament. The tournament is a Northwest Forensics Conference (NFC) designated tournament for 2026-2027 (meaning points for season sweepstakes and awards for conference schools), and we also welcome competitors from all colleges and universities outside of the Northwest. We are also offering an experimental individual event ("Podcasting") which allows for entries from students who may not be able to attend in person. We hope that many of you will be able to join us this year for what promises to be an outstanding tournament featuring excellent competition.

ENTRY DEADLINE

Please complete entries via web registration at <https://www.speechwire.com> no later than 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on Monday, November 9. We need you to also enter your judges at that time. If you are unable to do so, please email Jackson. After 12:00pm Wednesday, November 11, fees will be assessed on your entry for any **drops or adds** (with late adds only possible if we have adequate judge coverage). Please make all entry changes directly on Speechwire until 1:00pm on Thursday, November 14 (which is the hard deadline for changes with late fees). Contact Jackson Miller (jmiller@linfield.edu) with any questions about registration. Payment via credit card is an option this year with a 3.5% additional fee.

DIVISIONS/CONFLICTS

The guidelines for debate divisions follow the standards adopted by the Northwest Forensics Conference (see "bylaws" section in "archives" at northwestforensicsconference.com). Individual events will follow NFC guidelines for placement of students in divisions. Novice and open division will be collapsed if there are fewer than 9 contestants entered in the division. Lower divisions will always be moved up. Junior division will be collapsed if there are fewer than 12 contestants in the division. All competitors must be undergraduate students representing official college or university forensics programs.

All participants are responsible for reviewing and agreeing to the NFC Code of Ethics. Programs will be required to certify that all competitors and judges agree to these standards prior to the event. Additionally, no participant may record anyone without their consent.

Novice Debate: Novice divisions in debate should be reserved for students with little or no experience. This is the place for students to gain experience in debate and to learn what the activity is about. In general, a novice division competitor will be in their first full year of collegiate forensics and will not have advanced to semi-finals at more than three tournaments in collegiate competition. Coaches should refrain from placing students with two or more years of high school experience in novice divisions.

Junior Debate: Junior division should be reserved for students who have a significant amount of high school experience in debate or have had significant success at the novice levels of debate. In general, a junior competitor will be in their first or second full year of collegiate forensics and will not have advanced to quarterfinals more than eight times in collegiate competition.

Open Debate: Students should be entered in senior divisions after they have demonstrated consistent success at the junior level. In general, a senior division competitor will be in their third or fourth full year of collegiate competition and/or will have demonstrated the consistent ability to be successful at the junior level. However, senior division is open to any competitor who wishes to enter it.

Novice Individual Events: Novice divisions in individual events should be reserved for students with little or no experience. This is the place for students to gain experience in college forensics and to learn what the activity is about. In general, a novice divisions competitor will be in their first full year in collegiate forensics, and will not have won more than three first, second or third place trophies in that genre in collegiate competition. Coaches should refrain from placing students with two or more years of high school experience in novice divisions.

Junior Individual Events: Junior division should be reserved for students who have a significant amount of high school experience in competitive forensics or have had significant success at the novice levels of college forensics. In general, a junior competitor will be in their first or second full year of collegiate forensics and will not have advanced to finals more than eight times in that genre in collegiate competition.

Open Individual Events: Students should be entered in senior divisions after they have demonstrated consistent success at the junior level. In general, a senior division competitor will be in their third or fourth full year of collegiate competition and/or will have demonstrated the consistent ability to be successful at the junior level. However, senior division is open to any competitor who wishes to enter it.

In debate and duo, the team member with the highest division placement determines the division in which the team is placed. In individual events, competitors are restricted to **TWO EVENTS PER PATTERN**. Students are responsible for making it to every round for which they are scheduled. Double-entered participants who fail to make it to a scheduled round will not be allowed to make up the competition.

TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION/NOTES

The tournament staff will include Directors of Forensics from throughout the region. Therefore, Linfield students will compete and will be eligible for awards if the judging pool permits. Sweepstakes points for the tournament will be calculated according to the NFC sweepstakes point system.

Individual events will be prematched using tabulation software. Participants for final rounds in individual events will be determined on the basis of: (1) cumulative rankings and (2) cumulative ratings. Should ties exist, the NFC tie breaking procedure will be used. Places will be determined on the basis of final round rankings. Should ties exist, the tie breaking procedure outlined in the NFC Bylaws will be used.

The first two round of debate will be prematched, so please report drops promptly. Powermatching will be done after every subsequent round, and the matching procedure will follow the NFC guidelines for designated tournaments. The debate tab room staff will determine variations in the procedure prior to the beginning of the tournament. NOTE: If it is necessary to keep the tournament running on time, we may use a lag power match. Participants for elimination rounds in debate will be determined on the basis of: (1) win-loss record; (2) adjusted cumulative speaker ratings after dropping highs and lows; (3) cumulative speaker ratings; (4) quality of competition (win-loss record of opposing teams).

AWARDS

Award will be presented to the top three speakers or teams in all events and divisions. Sweepstakes awards will be given to the top schools in each of the three NFC Divisions. The Linfield travelling trophy will be awarded to the institution with the highest sweepstakes points, regardless of division.

The Mahaffey Outstanding Speaker Award will be presented to the individual speaker earning the highest number of sweepstakes points in open division individual events, and the Marshall Award will be presented to the individual novice/junior speaker earning the highest number of sweepstakes points in individual events. For the Mahaffey/Marshall awards points earned in the speaker's top SIX individual events will count and the winner will be determined using the following criteria: (1) total number of sweepstakes points, (2) number of events advancing to finals, (3) number of first place finishes in finals. Note: junior/novice level competitors can still earn points toward the Marshall award in events that are collapsed due to small entries.

The Singletary Outstanding Debater Award will be given to the top debater regardless of style of debate. For the Singletary award, the top individual speakers from each division of the three debate formats (BP, LD, IPDA) will be determined, and the winner will be selected using the following criteria: (1) standard deviation/z-score in their respective debate formats & divisions, (2) record in elimination rounds, (3) total number of competitors in the division. If all criteria have been exhausted and the tie cannot be broken, division may be used to break the tie with preference given to competitors in the higher division.

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.**

School Fee:	\$55.00 (waived for all non-NFC schools)
Debate Fee:	\$96.00/team, \$48.00/IPDA or LD
Individual Events Fee:	\$12.00 per slot
NFC Fee (for students from NFC schools):	\$5.00 per person
Uncovered Debate:	\$190.00/team, \$95.00 IPDA or LD
Uncovered Individual Events:	\$25.00 per slot
Late Drop Fee:	\$30.00
Late Add Fee:	\$30.00 (on top of reg. fees & uncovered fees)
Late Judge Drop Fee:	\$30.00

Each school must provide the equivalent of one full-time judge for students to compete at this tournament. Programs that do not have a DOF should contact Jackson regarding a waiver of this rule. **IE judge coverage:** one full-time judge covers ten total individual events regardless of pattern. **Debate judge coverage:** one full-time judge covers two debate teams or four contestants in IPDA or LD. School constraints may require us to move judges between debate pools. All debate judges are committed through the first elimination round, and judges from schools with advancing teams and speakers are committed through the next round AFTER their teams or speakers are eliminated.

Please note that the tournament will not be obligated to accept more than 2 uncovered debate or 5 uncovered IE entries from any one school. If we need to ask schools to drop some teams due to judge limitations, programs with uncovered entries will be asked to drop first.

HOTELS (worth checking short term rentals too since this is a slower weekend for wine tourism)

Best Western McMinnville Inn	2035 South Hwy 99W	503/472-4900
Red Lion Inn	2535 NE Three Mile Lane	503/472-1500
McMinnville Inn	381 Hwy 99W	503/472-5187
Comfort Inn	2520 SE Stratus Avenue	503/472-1700
McMenamins Hotel Oregon	310 NE Evans St.	503/472-8427
Towne & Country Motel	1864 Portland Rd., <u>Newberg</u>	503/538-2800
Shilo Inn	501 Sitka Ave., <u>Newberg</u>	503/537-0303
Best Western Newberg Inn	2211 Portland Rd., <u>Newberg</u>	503/537-3000
Travelodge Suites	2816 Portland Rd., <u>Newberg</u>	503/537-5000

DEBATE GUIDELINES

All debate formats will follow NFC guidelines for division placement. A contestant may not enter more than one debate format. Finally, three-person debate teams and “mavericks” are not eligible for awards.

BRITISH-PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE (J, O)

- The BP divisions will use the WUDC rules with a 7-7-7-7-7-7-7-7 format and 15 minutes to prepare. The topics will be centrally announced. Students can use any printed materials during preparation time, but internet access and electronic access to computer files is not allowed. Speaker awards in BP will be determined by: (1) total speaker score, (2) dropping lowest speaker score, (3) dropping high/low speaker scores. WUDC rules can be found at <https://www.worlddebating.org/wudc-manual>

IPDA DEBATE (N, J, O)

- The IPDA divisions will use the rules as presented in the IPDA constitution with a 5-2-6-2-3-5-3 format and 30 minutes of pre-round preparation. Debaters will be presented with 5 motions focusing on recent news and current events, and each side will have two strikes. Brackets will be broken in elimination rounds. IPDA rules can be found at <https://www.ipdadebate.info/constitution-bylaws>

INDIVIDUAL EVENT GUIDELINES

Unless otherwise noted, we will follow the official AFA-NST rules which can be found at <https://sites.google.com/site/afanietnew2/products-services/event-descriptions>

The tournament will also follow the recently adopted AFA-NST guidelines about the use of generative AI during preparation for extemporaneous speaking, which state that “the use of generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, etc.) during the preparation of an Extemporaneous Speech at the NST or NST district qualifying tournaments is not allowed.”

Note that the NFC has adopted a process for adding **content warnings** to interpretation of literature events, and you will have the option to code your competitor and judge entries for this in Speechwire. To ensure that the tournament staff can successfully code IE judges against viewing performances with content they might find potentially triggering, please complete this process at the time of entry.

PODCASTING (O; asynchronous)

Drawing inspiration from previous experimental events like “Radio” and “Editorial Commentary,” podcasting is an asynchronous event (so students who are unable to attend the tournament in person can submit entries) where students will have 10 minutes max to stitch together the following three elements and submit a single, *audio-only* file (uploaded to Speechwire):

1. The Trailer - successful podcast trailers should effectively do three things: (1) introduce the topic of the podcast in a compelling way, using their own voice. No props or sound effects (or any extraneous production) other than those made by the speaker's voice are permitted. Remember: hook but never spoil the show! (2) Speaker should make clear the reason and necessity for their podcast; and (3) provide a "narrative arc" for the season/series.
2. The Guest Interview - participants conduct an original interview with one or more individual(s). It should make clear who is participating and why.
3. Edited Segment - students will then provide a final "clip" of their podcast. It may feature elements from both the trailer and interview. It should be representative of the style and flow of a typical podcast episode from the series.

The elements above can be scripted or improvisational, episodic or serial, fast-paced or a slow-burn. Choices, number of participants, subject matter and ultimate audience is entirely up to the participant(s). The time balance for all three (trailer, interview, edited segment) is also up to the participants. Judges will assess the presentation's coherence and viability while offering comments on speech fluidity, engagement and talent (many thanks to *Pi Kappa Delta* for some of the language for these event rules and guidelines)

Tournament Schedule

(Note: all times are *Pacific*)

FRIDAY

8:00-8:45	registration (Dillin Northwest Room)
9:00-10:15	1A (2 judges in some events)
10:15-11:30	2A (2 judges in some events)
11:30-12:15	lunch break
12:00	extemp draw (Melrose Jonasson)
12:15-1:30	1B (extemp begins at 12:30)
1:30	extemp draw (Melrose Jonasson)
1:45-3:00	2B (extemp begins at 2:00)
3:00-4:15	1C
4:15-5:30	2C
5:30	extemp draw (Melrose Jonasson)
5:45-7:00	3B (extemp begins at 6:00)

SATURDAY

7:15	continental breakfast
7:30-8:00	late registration (2 nd floor of Riley)
8:00	check in/roll call (all debate formats)
8:15-10:00	Debate 1
10:00-11:15	3C
11:15-12:45	Debate 2
12:45-1:30	lunch break
1:15	extemp draw (Melrose Jonasson)
1:30-3:00	Pattern A and ½ of Pattern B (extemp, persuasion) Finals
3:00-5:00	Debate 3
5:00-6:30	Pattern C & ½ of Pattern B (duo) Finals
7:15 p.m.	IE Awards (Melrose Ice Auditorium)

SUNDAY

7:30	continental breakfast
8:00	check in/roll call (all debate formats)
8:15-10:00	Debate 4
10:15-12:00	Debate 5
12:00-1:00	lunch break
1:00	Debate elimination round 1
3:00	Debate & Team Sweepstakes Awards (Melrose Ice Auditorium)
3:30	Debate elimination rounds as needed

EVENT PATTERNS

DEBATE: BP (J, O), IPDA (N, J, O)
 PATTERN A: ADS (J, O), Communication Analysis (J, O), Poetry (J, O), Dramatic (J, O)
 PATTERN B: Extemp (N, J, O), Persuasion (N, J, O), Duo (J, O), Podcasting (O; asynchronous)
 PATTERN C: Impromptu (N, J, O), Informative (N, J, O), Prose (N, J, O), POI (J, O)