

54th Annual Michael Dugaw Smelt Classic

February 12-14, 2027

Colleagues,

The Lower Columbia College Fighting Smelt are proud to invite you and your forensics program to attend the **54th Annual Michael Dugaw Smelt Classic**. This tournament will serve as the fourth and final designated tournament for the Northwest Forensics Conference 2026-2027 competition season.

This year's tournament to be an **in-person** event, held on our beautiful campus in Longview, WA. We will be offering **all eleven AFA speech events**, as well as the supplemental event **Editorial Commentary.** We will also offer at least **IPDA and BP debate**, and are willing to offer other formats if there is sufficient community interest and support with tabulation.

Novice, Junior, and Open divisions will all be available in all events at the time of registration. Tournament staff reserves the right to collapse divisions based on the distribution of entries and the availability of rooms and judges. In collapsed events, we will celebrate the successes of novice and junior participants by acknowledging top competitors at our awards ceremony.

The very first Smelt Classic forensics tournament was hosted by the late Mike Dugaw during the 1973-1974 season. Though the forensics landscape has changed immensely since the 1970s, this tournament has remained a constant. It is always an honor and a privilege to host the Smelt Classic. We hope that this year's edition will be a beautiful celebration of the Dugaw legacy in our forensics community.

Please let me know if you have questions or if I can provide any additional information. We look forward to hosting you in February 2027!

Sincerely,

Alex Brehm
Director of Forensics
Lower Columbia College
abrehm@lowercolumbia.edu
Cell: (651) 707-3731

REGISTRATION
Please enter online at speechwire.com
Entry Deadline: 11:00pm PST Monday, February 8th
Drop Deadline: 11:00pm PST Tuesday, February 9th

EVENTS & PATTERNS:
Debate: IPDA, BP
IE Pattern A: Impromptu, Informative, Communication Analysis, Prose, Duo, Editorial Commentary
IE Pattern B: Extemporaneous, Persuasive, A.D.S., Poetry, P.O.I., Drama

IPDA Debate: IPDA will follow the rules as presented in the IPDA constitution. We will use the standard 5-2-6-2-3-5-3 format with thirty (30) minutes between strike and the beginning of the round. IPDA rules and further information can be found at http://www.ipdadebate.info

BP Debate: BP will utilize WUDC guidelines, which can be found at worlddebating.org, with a 7-7-7-7-7-7-7-7 format and fifteen (15) minutes of preparation. The topics will be centrally announced. Each team will have an opportunity to debate in each of the positions and may debate teams from their own school. We will utilize two judges in each round. We encourage consensus judging, but given our schedule, we must insist that decisions be made in a timely fashion. If a decision has not been reached after fifteen (15) minutes after the conclusion of the debate, the chair's ballot will be considered binding.

Speech Events: AFA-NST rules will govern the 11 standard speech events. Information and event descriptions can be found at https://sites.google.com/site/afanietnew2/products-services/event-descriptions

Editorial Commentary: This is a supplemental category at our tournament that is meant to simulate a radio or television editorial commentary. The student will prepare a manuscript, which attempts to influence an audience toward a particular position related to a current event. The competitor will deliver this speech while seated at a table or desk (as a news anchor would). The time limit is 3:45-4:15 minutes and should be strictly adhered to. Judges are to give NO time signals, though the competitors may time themselves or receive time signals from a coach or teammate.

ENTRY RESTRICTIONS: Students may triple-enter within a given pattern, but they do so at their own risk. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with judges and make it to each round in a timely manner. It is particularly imperative that students with triple entries involving Extemporaneous and Duo are punctual and communicative so we can keep the tournament running on schedule.

No student may enter the same event twice, with a single exception. Students entered in Duo may enter twice, provided that they have a different duo partner for each entry.

DIVISION GUIDELINES:
Please consider the following guidelines when determining what division your students should be entered in:

- **Novice:** a novice speaker is any student who has less than two semesters (or three quarters) of high school or college experience. Once a student has earned three 1st-3rd place finishes in a speech category, or advanced to semifinals three times in a debate event (in any division), they should be moved up to the junior division in the event in question. If the circumstances warrant, a student may enter as a novice in some categories while entering at a higher level in others.
- **Junior:** a junior speaker must be in their first or second year of collegiate competition. Once a student has earned three 1st-3rd place finishes in a speech category, or advanced to semifinals three times in a debate category at the junior or open level, they should be moved up to the open division in the category in question.
- **Open:** all students meeting national eligibility requirements may enter in the Open division.

COLLAPSING EVENTS: Novice, Junior, and Open divisions will all be available in all events at the time of registration. We may need to collapse divisions based on the distribution of entries and the availability of rooms and judges. Some events that are collapsed for preliminary rounds may have breakout finals if we have sufficient rooms and judges. In collapsed events, we will celebrate the successes of novice and junior participants by acknowledging top competitors at our awards ceremony.

JUDGES: Please make every effort to cover your entries. One judge covers:

- 3 IPDA entries
- 2 BP entries
- 8 speech entries (regardless of pattern)

We will assume that your judges will be available at the point in the tournament where your students start competition and will be committed at least one full round round beyond the point where your students are eliminated**.**

REGISTRATION FEES:

- School Fee: $50 per school
- NFC Fee: $5 per student (only for NFC schools)
- Speech Entry: $10 per entry
  - Uncovered Speech Entry: $20 per entry (in addition to the entry fee)
- IPDA Entry: $40 per entry
  - Uncovered IPDA Entry: $80 per entry (in addition to the entry fee)
- BP Entry: $80 per team
  - Uncovered BP Entry: $150 per team (in addition to the entry fee)

Fees will be set Thursday, February 11th

Fee breaks are available for programs who have had recent budget cuts or freezes, as well as student-led programs. *We do not want cost to be a barrier for participation. This tournament will be better if more programs can participate. Please reach out in advance of the registration deadline to request a fee reduction.*

AWARDS: Any student who participates in an elimination round, as well as top novices and juniors in collapsed events, will receive an award. At this early stage in planning, we're not exactly sure what those awards will be… but we aspire to give meaningful physical tokens to acknowledge students' excellence.

TEAM SWEEPSTAKES: Awards will be given for the top three programs in 2-year, 4-year, and limited entry divisions. Sweepstakes will be calculated using the point scheme below. Only competitors placing in the top 50% of their field are eligible to earn sweepstakes points.

Speech	1st	2nd	3rd	Finalist	Semifinalist
	10	8	6	4	2
IPDA	1st	2nd	Semifinalist	Quarterfinalist	Octofinalist
	10	8	6	4	2
BP	1st	2nd	Finalist	Semifinalist	Quarterfinalist
	15	12	9	7	6

INDIVIDUAL SWEEPSTAKES: The Shark Trophy, presented in honor of northwest forensics legend Shannon Valdivia, is a traveling trophy given each year to the top individual competitor based on the total number of sweepstakes points earned in open division events. We will additionally honor individual sweepstakes champions in the novice and junior divisions.

Points will be earned based on the above schematic, with individual BP debaters earning points according to the IPDA scheme. Additionally, the following bonuses for placing among the top five speakers in debate:

Speaker	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
	5	4	3	2	1

GENERAL MISCELLANEOUS RULES: All materials used in competition shall not have been used by the student in any tournament prior to September, 2025. A contestant may not use the same cutting/content or any portion of that cutting/content in more than one prepared event at this tournament.

Out round brackets in debate will be broken to avoid teams from the same school meeting.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

54th Annual Dugaw Smelt Classic

(all times Pacific Standard Time)

Friday, February 12th

9:00 am: Registration (Rose Center for the Arts, room 141)
10:00 am: Round 1A
11:30 am: Round 2A
1:00 pm: LUNCH
1:30 pm: Round 3A
3:15 pm: Round 1B (first EXT draw at 3:00)
4:45 pm: Round 2B (first EXT draw at 4:30)
6:15 pm: Round 3B (first EXT draw at 6:00)

Saturday, February 13th

8:00 am: Pattern A Finals (may include some semis)
9:45 am: Pattern B Finals (first EXT draw at 9:30)
11:15 am: Debate 1 (IPDA/BP)
1:00 pm: LUNCH
1:30 pm: Speech Awards

IPDA/ Schedule

2:30 pm: Debate 2
4:15 pm: Debate 3
6:00 pm: Debate 4

BP Schedule

2:30 pm: Debate 2
4:45 pm: Debate 3

***Sunday, February 14th**

IPDA Schedule

8:00 am: Debate 5
10:15 am: Elim 1
12:30 pm: Debate & NFC Awards
1:00 pm: Elim 2
2:45 pm: Elim 3
4:30 pm: Elim 4 (if needed)
6:15 pm: Elim 5 (if needed)

BP Schedule

9:00 am: Debate 4
**Elims as needed*
12:30 pm: Debate & NFC Awards

**Sunday's schedule is subject to change based on speed of tabulation, availability of judges, and other factors*

Pattern Key

Pattern A: Impromptu, Informative, Communication Analysis, Prose, Duo, Ed Comm
Pattern B: Extemporaneous, Persuasive, A.D.S, Drama, P.O.I., Poetry