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October 19, 2026

Dear Colleagues,

As a moist mist settles over the Northwest, OSU is busy making plans for the 5th Annual Earl Wells *Virtual* Speakeasy (and AFA-NST District II Qualifier) to be held on the interwebs on Saturday-Sunday, Dec 5-6, 2026.

Schools from inside and outside the region can have their students participate in both IPDA and IEs in one weekend. The goal, in these ever-changing times, is to provide schools with a full-ish-service "speech and debate" tournament in a convenient, stress-free (we hope!), and *virtual* two-day tournament format.

This year, the tournament will feature:

- Five preliminary rounds of IPDA debate with two elimination rounds (bronze/silver/gold);
- Two preliminary and final (entries permitting) rounds of AFA events;
- A top-notch tab room staff featuring the amazing Jennifer Conner from Pacific University and superb Alex Brehm from Lower Columbia College.
- Top Three Certificates in all IE events and Bronze/Gold/Silver Certificates in IPDA (in handy online file format); and
- Top Two Sweepstakes Awards in 4- and 2-year categories in *both* IPDA and IEs (sent to you via the USPS).

This tournament supports the goals of the International Public Debate Association (IPDA), and NFC Code of Ethics. We believe that debate is a public communication event. Our tournament reflects this philosophy.

We hope you'll join us via SpeechWire and Yaatly this year.

Sincerely,

Mark Porrovecchio, Director of Forensics and *Titular* Tournament Director
mark.porrovecchio@oregonstate.edu

Julia Mitchell, Assistant Director of Forensics, Excellent Human, and Stupendous Critic
mitcjuli@oregonstate.edu



5th Annual Earl Wells *Virtual* Speakeasy & AFA-NST District II Qualfer
Oregon State University
December 5-6, 2026

ENTRIES:
Schools must submit entries via SpeechWire (tournament page online by early- to mid-November).
Entry deadline**: Tuesday, December 1, 2026, at 5:00pm**. We reserve the right to restrict school entries in cases where they do not upload enough judges to Yaatly (see below).

FEES:

AFA-NST Fee	$50 (for AFA schools only)
School Fee	$40
Yaatly Fee	$10 (per student)
Individual Events (per slot)	$10
IPDA	$40
Uncovered IE (1:6)	$20 (per uncovered slot)
Uncovered IPDA (1:2)	$80 (per uncovered debater)

Checks only. Please make checks payable to **OSU Forensics** and send them c/o **Mark Porrovecchio, 2001 SW Campus Way, Corvallis, OR 97331**. We cannot accept checks made out to any other entity. Fees will be assessed at 5:00pm on **Wednesday, December 2, 2026, at 5:00pm.** After that date, no adds, only drops and kind words of support. Invoice will be sent to you via email before or during the tournament with instructions for mailing the check.

AFA Schools: please contact Alyx Young to arrange for credit card payment of AFA-NST fees.

JUDGING:
Schools MUST provide qualified judges for the tournament. Teams will be restricted to a maximum of six uncovered IE entries and two uncovered Debate entries, though we reserve the right to ask you to modify entries if there is a judging 'scarcity' issue. Judges will be assigned to the IPDA or IE judging pools as needed by the tournament director.

Given our current budgetary situation, we can't provide payment for extra judges . . . though we appreciate those who are willing to volunteer.

We realize that many programs are also dealing with budgetary issues, so please contact Mark should you need any special assistance with tournament fees. We would rather figure out a way to have you take part than have you miss out.

INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC DEBATE (IPDA)
Procedures will follow standard IPDA/NFC guidelines. We will use 5-2-6-2-3-5-3 time limits and 30 minutes of preparation. Debaters will be presented with five resolutions and each side will have two strikes. Topics will be drawn from a variety of current events and include policy, value, fact and metaphor resolutions. Guidelines are at: http://www.ipdadebate.info/constitution--bylaws.html

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS
ALL Students are responsible for making it to their rounds on time – **competitors MUST arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the end of the current round to be given a chance to compete.**

AFA-NST descriptions and rules apply to individual events.
- **Pattern A:** CA, DUO, IMP, INF, PRO
- **Pattern B:** ADS, DI, EXT, PER, POI, POE

Novice divisions are offered in extemp, impromptu, prose, informative, and IPDA.

PARKING:
What parking?!?! Use your driveway.

SMOKING:
Still not allowed on campus. Still a nasty habit. But you do you. And there is no such thing as virtual-second-hand smoke so far as I know.

FOOD:
Look in your fridge.

LODGING:
Your domicile. Your bed. You're welcome.



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 5, 2026 - All times are Pacific Standard

8:00am	Round Zero (Check-in)
8:30am	IPDA 1
10:15am	IPDA 2
12:00	Lunch Break & Time to Write a Song in Honor of Dolly Parton
12:30	IPDA 3
2:15	IPDA 4
4:00	IPDA 5
5:45	Elim 1
7:30	Elim 2
ASAP	Awards

Sunday, December 6, 2026 - All times are Pacific Standard

8:00am	Round Zero (Check-in)
8:30am	Rd 1 A – CA, Duo, Impromptu, Informative, Prose
10:00am	Rd 2 A – CA, Duo, Impromptu, Informative, Prose
11:30am	Lunch Break & Time to Ponder *Elon Musk*, the Perfume!
12:15 pm	Extemp Draw
12:30pm	Rd 1 B – ADS, DI, Extemp, Persuade, POI, Poetry
2:00pm	Extemp Draw
2:15pm	Rd 2 B – ADS, DI, Extemp, Persuade, POI, Poetry
4:00pm	Finals A
5:30pm	Extemp Draw
5:45pm	Finals B
ASAP	Awards

EVENT KEY

Debate: IPDA
Pattern A: CA, DUO, IMP, INF, PRO
Pattern B: ADS, DI, EXT, PER, POI, POE
Pattern C: Reader's Theater and Interpretive Dressage (entries- and ponies-permitting)