



February 1, 2018

Hello Colleagues:

On behalf of the National Forensic Association, I am excited to invite you to the 2018 NFA National Championship Tournament, to be held in Oshkosh, WI, at the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh on April 19-23. Our host Elliott Fischer is working hard to prepare an amazing experience for you and your students.

Congratulations on the many amazing achievements from the 2017 National Championship Tournament: Open Sweepstakes and Lincoln-Douglas Sweepstakes winners, **Western Kentucky University**, President's Division I winner **Wiley College**, President's Division II winner **Arizona State University**, and President's Division III winner **Rice University**, Pentathlon winner **Jerome Gregory** from the Bradley University, and Lincoln-Douglas Speaker Award champion, **Damon Brown** from Western Kentucky University.

In this invitation you'll find quite a bit of valuable information, listed in sections below. I also encourage you to visit the tournament registration site: [www.speechwire.com/nfa](http://www.speechwire.com/nfa).

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Please review all of these areas carefully! In particular, note page 3, which details all of the changes resulting from the 2017 NFA Fall Ballot. Additionally, you can find more information about our organization at [www.nationalforensics.org](http://www.nationalforensics.org). If you have any questions not answered here, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I hope to see you in Oshkosh!

Rebecca Buel Young  
NFA Tournament Director

## DEADLINE CHECKLIST

| DATE  | DEADLINE   |
|---|--|
| <b>MONDAY, MARCH 12</b>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposals for research at the 2018 National Tournament must be submitted to <a href="mailto:westd1@ohio.edu">westd1@ohio.edu</a></li> <li>Consider beginning your Student Verification Form process to allow for institutional delays!</li> </ul>   |
| <b>MONDAY, APRIL 2<br/>(5:00 PM CST)</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All qualifications must be obtained and reported</li> <li>All entries must submitted through SpeechWire</li> <li>Scanned copy of <b>Student Verification Form</b> must be emailed to <a href="mailto:rbuel@monmouthcollege.edu">rbuel@monmouthcollege.edu</a></li> <li><b>Judge Coverage Appeal Form</b> must be emailed to <a href="mailto:rbuel@monmouthcollege.edu">rbuel@monmouthcollege.edu</a></li> <li>Mobility related accommodation requests should be submitted to <a href="mailto:rbuel@monmouthcollege.edu">rbuel@monmouthcollege.edu</a></li> <li>Impromptu speaking related accommodation requests should be submitted to <a href="mailto:sabarfield@gmail.com">sabarfield@gmail.com</a></li> </ul> |
| <b>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4<br/>(12:00 PM CST)</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nuisance fees begin</li> </ul>  |
| <b>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18<br/>(7:00 – 9:00 PM CST)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early registration at UW Oshkosh</li> </ul>   |
| <b>THURSDAY, APRIL 19<br/>(9:00 – 10:30 AM CST)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On site registration at UW Oshkosh</li> <li>All fees due</li> <li><b>Student Verification Form</b> original copy due</li> </ul>   |

## 2018 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT CHANGES

The 2017 NFA Fall Ballots brought lots of exciting changes to the National Championship tournament. Please review changes listed below as they may impact your entry process!

- **POI:** Students may now enter Program Oral Interpretation in Flight D of the tournament. Qualifications from any point during the 2017-18 academic season will be accepted. For the full event description, see page 17 of the invitation.
- **Novice Finals:** We will continue to offer novice finals, but the guidelines have changed. The NFA definition of novice remains a student in their first year of forensics experience, including college and high school. Coaches must designate students as novice prior to the start of the tournament. Beginning in 2018, a minimum of 7 non-advancing students must remain in each individual event, and a minimum of 4 non-advancing students must remain in LD for a Novice final to occur. No more than 50% of the non-advancing field will be awarded.
- **Pentathlon:** Students must be entered in five or more events and must compete in at least two genres (public address, oral interpretation, limited preparation) to be eligible.
- **Fair Judging Practices:** practices for reporting judge conflicts have been updated. Please review the following:

*No judge will judge students from their current school. No judge will judge students from any other school where the judge served as a competitor or coach until a minimum of 2 years has passed after that judge has left the program. In addition, no judge will judge individual competitors or students from a school with which that the judge declares an additional type of association or conflict. Such declarations might include but are not limited to: recent coaching at another school entered in the tournament; recent coaching of any individual student entered in the tournament by another team; an interpersonal connection which the judge feels would promote bias; or any other potentially significant conflict of interest.*

- **President's Sweepstakes Divisions:** slot limits for each president's division are now capped to reflect:
  - President's III: 1-12 entered slots
  - President's II: 13-29 entered slots
  - President's I: 30-55 entered slots
  - Open Sweepstakes: 56 or more entered slots
- **LD Warm Room:** all wins and losses will be posted online and a "warm room" document will be made available. More details on this process will be made available as the tournament approaches.

## QUALIFYING FOR THE TOURNAMENT

### RULES FOR QUALIFICATION

- In order to enter the National Championship tournament, students must qualify each event entered by **April 2, 2018 at 5:00 pm**. For procedures and requirements, see section III of the NFA By-laws, which can be found here: [Qualification Procedures](#)

### REPORTING RESULTS

Per the NFA Constitution, all tournament results must be reported by the third Monday prior to the beginning of the National Championship Tournament. This year, results must be reported by **April 2, 2017 at 5:00 pm CST** following the guidelines below:

#### If you use SpeechWire to host or attend a tournament:

- Results will be automatically reported!
- Please take a moment to update your team roster and mark students appropriately as active or inactive. Additionally, work to enter student names the same way for every tournament. Typos, extra spaces, abbreviations, or other variations will create multiple records for the same student and may complicate the verification process.

#### If you do NOT use SpeechWire to host a tournament:

- Follow these step-by-step directions to create a tournament report:  
<https://www.speechwire.com/handbooks/nfa-reporting-handbook.pdf>

### STUDENT VERIFICATION

- All schools must submit a **Student Verification Form** to demonstrate that each competitor is academically enrolled. This form can be under the “Files for Download” button at [www.speechwire.com/nfa](http://www.speechwire.com/nfa).
- This form **must** be completed and affixed with an official school seal by your Registrar’s Office. This process may take some time based on your individual institution, so please prepare early and verify any student you may consider bringing to NFA.
- In order to enter the tournament, a scanned copy of this form must be submitted by **April 2, 2018 at 5:00 pm CST**, to Rebecca Buel Young, Tournament Director at [rbuel@monmouthcollege.edu](mailto:rbuel@monmouthcollege.edu).
- In order for your students to compete at the tournament, the original copy of this form **must** be submitted at on-site Registration in Oshkosh.

## REGISTERING FOR THE TOURNAMENT

### WHERE TO REGISTER

- All entries must be submitted through SpeechWire, at [www.speechwire.com/nfa](http://www.speechwire.com/nfa) by **April 2, 2018 at 5:00 pm CST**. No entries will be accepted after this date.
- If you do not currently have a SpeechWire account, please create one as soon as possible as it helps with results reporting and entry verification.
- Please remember your school name, as well as your students' and judges' names will appear the way you enter them on all tournament materials. You may also consider using SpeechWire's new pronunciation feature to assist those reading awards.
- You will receive an entry confirmation after all entries have been processed. If you do not receive a confirmation within one week of entering, please contact the National Tournament Director at [rbuel@monmouthcollege.edu](mailto:rbuel@monmouthcollege.edu).

### ACCOMODATION

- Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), Titles I and II of the ADA of 1990, and Sections 503 & 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the National Forensic Association and the NFA National Tournament will not discriminate against any competitor, judge, or student because of a physical or mental impairment. Every effort will be made to assure reasonable accommodation.
- NFA requests that you report any impairment that may impact the participation of any of your competitors or judges at the time you enter the tournament to allow time to arrange accommodations.
- **When entering, please write a note explaining the situation in the comment box for judge notes in SpeechWire. You may also contact the Tournament Director ([rbuel@monmouthcollege.edu](mailto:rbuel@monmouthcollege.edu)) with any unanswered questions or concerns about accommodation.**

## TOURNAMENT FEES

### GENERAL FEE INFORMATION

- All fees will be calculated on **April 4, 2018 at 12:00 pm CST**.
- No adjustments will be made to base fees after **April 2, 2018 at 5:00 pm CST**, except to increase the fees if changes are made. In other words, you are charged for your entry as it stands when entries are due, plus any applicable drop fees.
- All checks must be made payable to “National Forensic Association” and brought in person to the tournament. Returned checks will incur a **\$25** fee.

### INDIVIDUAL EVENTS FEES

#### ENTRY FEES:

- Each entry is **\$10.00**, except for Duo, which is **\$20.00**.
- Each Pentathlon entry is **\$10.00**.

#### JUDGING FEES:

- **Each full-time IE judge covers eight IE entries.**
- **To be considered full-time, a judge must be available all days, all rounds, including all elimination rounds.** Otherwise, they will be considered part-time by the day, and coverage will be calculated accordingly. A judge must be available for an entire day in order to provide coverage for that day.
- In order to enter the tournament, any school with **eight or fewer IE entries** must provide at least **one full-time judge**.
- Any school with **nine or more IE entries** must cover at least **50 percent** of their total IE entry with full-time judges. Appeals must be made using the **Judge Coverage Appeal** form, found under the “Files for Download” button on [www.speechwire.com/nfa](http://www.speechwire.com/nfa), and be submitted to the Tournament Director by **April 2, 2018 at 5:00 pm CST**.
- Regardless of entry size, no school will be allowed to cover more than **160 IE entries**.
- All uncovered IE entries are **\$18.00** each.

## DEBATE FEES

### ENTRY FEES:

- Each debate entry is **\$25.00**

### JUDGING FEES:

- Each full-time Debate judge covers two Debate entries.
- To be considered full-time, a judge must be available all days, all rounds, including all elimination rounds. Otherwise, they will be considered part-time by the day, and coverage will be calculated accordingly. A judge must be available for an entire day in order to provide coverage for that day.

| ENTRIES               | JUDGES REQUIRED  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1-2 debaters          | 1 full-time debate judge   |
| 3-4 debaters          | 2 full-time debate judges  |
| 5-6 debaters          | 3 full-time debate judges  |
| 7-8 debaters          | 4 full-time debate judges  |
| 9-10 debaters         | 5 full-time debate judges  |
| More than 10 debaters | 6 full time debate judges and add one judge for every 2 more debaters (or portion thereof) over 10 |

- Uncovered debate entry fees are as follows:

| UNCOVERED DEBATERS     | FEE        |
|------------------------|------------|
| 1-2 uncovered debaters | \$150 each |
| 3-5 uncovered debaters | \$250 each |
| 6-9 uncovered debaters | \$350 each |
| 10+ uncovered debaters | \$500      |

- In order to enter the tournament, any school with **two or fewer Debate entries** must provide at least **one full-time judge**.
- Any school with **three or more Debate** entries must cover at least **50 percent of** their total Debate entries. Appeals must be made using the **Judge Coverage Appeal** form, found under the "Files for Download" button on [www.speechwire.com/nfa](http://www.speechwire.com/nfa), and submitted to the Tournament Director by **April 2, 2018 at 5:00 pm CST**.

## ADDITIONAL REQUIRED ENTRY FEES FOR ALL SCHOOLS:

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| NFA Membership Dues for 2017-18 (if not paid previously) | <b>\$75</b> |
| NFA Membership Dues for 2018-19                          | <b>\$75</b> |
| Expenses for Host School                                 | <b>\$20</b> |

## NUISANCE FEES

**ENTRY DROPS:** These penalties will be added to your base fee as of **April 4, 2018 @ 12:00 PM CST.**

| DATE                                  | FEE           |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| April 4 @ 12:00 pm – 6, 2018          | \$5 per slot  |
| April 7-9, 2018                       | \$10 per slot |
| April 10-12, 2018                     | \$15 per slot |
| April 13-15, 2018                     | \$25 per slot |
| April 16-18, 2018                     | \$30 per slot |
| April 19, 2018 (On-Site Registration) | \$50 per slot |

## JUDGE DROPS:

- Any judge dropped (IE AND/OR L-D) after the **April 16, 2018** will be assessed a penalty fee of \$300.00/judge.
- Dropped judges after **April 19, 2018** will also be penalized \$10.00 per assigned round and school fees adjusted to reflect one less judge.

## NO SHOWS:

- Competitors who do not attend assigned rounds at the tournament will be penalized **\$75 per scheduled/assigned round.**
- Judges who do not pick up ballots for assigned rounds will be assessed a **\$25 fee payable immediately.** This includes any and all ballots for rounds on days for which judges have been given credit for covering entries, including elimination rounds.
- NO STUDENT FROM A SCHOOL WILL ADVANCE TO OCTAFINAL ROUNDS UNTIL ALL OF THAT SCHOOL'S PENALTY FEES, INCLUDING NO SHOW FEES, ARE PAID. SHOULD A JUDGE NOT PICK UP AN ELIMINATION ROUND BALLOT, NO STUDENT FROM THAT SCHOOL WILL ADVANCE TO THE NEXT ROUND UNTIL THE FEE HAS BEEN PAID.**
- No Show fees that remain unpaid at the end of the tournament must be resolved before a school will be allowed to enter another National Championship Tournament.

## TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

### **Wednesday, April 18**

7:00-9:00 pm Early Registration

### **Thursday, April 19**

9:00-10:30 Registration  
 10:30-11:30 Opening Assembly  
 11:30-1:00 Round 1 LD  
 1:20-2:30 Round 2 LD  
 2:30-3:00 Extemp Draw  
 3:00-4:30 Round 1A (EXT, PRO)  
 4:45-6:00 Round 1B (ADS, DI, RC)  
 6:15-7:35 Round 2B (ADS, DI, RC)

### **Friday, April 20**

8:00-9:15 Round 3 LD  
 9:30-11:30 Student/Business Meetings  
 11:30-12:40 Round 4 LD  
 12:40-2:00 Round 3B (ADS, DI, RC)  
 2:00-3:30 Round 1C (INF, PER, POE)  
 3:30-4:00 Extemp Draw  
 4:00-5:30 Round 2A (EXT, PRO)  
 5:30-7:00 Round 1D (DUO, IMP, POI)

### **Saturday, April 21**

8:00-8:30 Extemp Draw  
 8:30-9:45 Round 3A (EXT, PRO)  
 9:45-11:00 Round 2C (INF, PER, POE)  
 11:00-12:15 Round 5 LD  
 12:30-1:45 Round 2D (DUO, IMP, POI)  
 2:15-3:45 Round 3C (INF, PER, POE)  
 3:45-5:00 Round 3D (DUO, IMP, POI)  
 5:00-5:30 Extemp Draw  
 5:30-7:00 Octafinals A and Novice A  
 7:00-8:30 Round 6 LD

### **Sunday, April 22**

8:00-9:15 Double-Octafinals LD  
 9:15-10:45 Octafinals B and Novice B  
 10:45-12:15 Octafinals C and Novice C  
 1:00-2:30 Octafinals LD/D, Novice LD/D  
 2:45-3:15 Extemp Draw  
 3:15-4:45 Quarterfinals, A/B  
 4:45-6:15 Quarterfinals C/D/LD

### **Monday, April 23**

7:30-8:00 Extemp Draw  
 8:00-10:00 Semifinals, A/B  
 10:20-12:00 Semifinals, C/D/LD  
 12:10-12:40 Extemp Draw  
 12:40-2:00 Finals, A/B  
 2:30-4:00 Finals, C/D/LD  
 4:00-6:00 Dinner Break  
 6:00 Awards

### **NFA EVENT PATTERNS**

GROUP A: Prose Interpretation, Extemporaneous Speaking

GROUP B: Rhetorical Criticism, Dramatic Interpretation, After-Dinner Speaking

GROUP C: Persuasive Speaking, Poetry Interpretation, Informative Speaking

GROUP D: Duo Interpretation, Impromptu Speaking, Program Oral Interpretation

DEBATE: Lincoln-Douglas

## WHERE TO STAY

### TOURNAMENT HOTELS WITH GUARANTEED RATES

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Hawthorn Inn &amp; Suites</b><br><b>3105 S. Washburn Street</b><br><b>Oshkosh, WI</b><br><b>920-303-1133</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guaranteed state rate of \$82 for 2 adults per night; \$10 per additional adult up to 4 adults</li> </ul>                             |
| <b>LaQuinta Inn</b><br><b>1886 Rath Lane</b><br><b>Oshkosh, WI</b><br><b>920-233-4190</b>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guaranteed state rate of \$82 per room per night</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Motel 6</b><br><b>1015 S. Washburn Street</b><br><b>Oshkosh, WI</b><br><b>920-233-4300</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$48.99 per room per night for 1 adults</li> <li>\$54.99 per room per night for 2 adults</li> </ul>                                   |
| <b>Gruenhagen Conference Center</b><br><b>UWO on-campus guest housing</b><br><b>920-424-1106</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$30 per room per night for 2 adults with standard service</li> <li>\$40 per room per night for 2 adults with full service</li> </ul> |

## 2018 IMPROMPTU SCHEMA

*NFA promotes accessibility for all students. Any of these prompts can and will be modified for students with special needs. All prompts will be printed in Open Dyslexic font at the National Championship Tournament. Please send any requests for accommodation to Impromptu Committee Chair Sade Barfield ([sabarfield@gmail.com](mailto:sabarfield@gmail.com)) by **April 2, 2018 at 5:00 PM CST.***

### **PRELIM ROUND 1: Quotations**

#### **EXAMPLES:**

"All that you touch You Change. All that you Change Changes you." –Octavia Butler

"Why men great 'til they gotta be great?" –Lizzo

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**PRELIM ROUND 2: Questions**— students will be given a question and asked to provide an opinion-based answer with structured reasoning and supporting evidence. Questions will not require specific cultural knowledge.

#### **EXAMPLES:**

What was the most important moment of 2016?

What will define your generation?

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### **PRELIM ROUND 3: Single Words**

#### **EXAMPLES:**

Ambiguous

Silence

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**OCTAFINALS: Potpourri** – Competitors will be given either a quotation, question, or single word but will not know which until they prep. All sections will receive the same style of prompt.

#### **EXAMPLES:**

"Determination could easily become obsession." –N.K. Jemisin

"Nobody's as powerful as we make them out to be." –Alice Walker

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### **QUARTERFINALS: Quotation from Hall of Fame.**

"When you start to feel like you're a big deal, just remember how many times you've explained speech to your parents." –Annie Kintade

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**SEMIFINALS:** Ethical Dilemmas--these will be limited to 2 sentences and ask students to analyze an ethically ambiguous situation that has at least two viable answers. Students should be judged on their ability to provide an opinion-based answer with structured reasoning and supporting evidence as opposed to the stance or values they advocate within the speech. Prompts will not require specific cultural knowledge.

**EXAMPLES:**

You are offered a 5% raise for an increase in workload, but your co-worker will be fired. Do you give up the raise so they can keep their job?

Your sibling is dating someone whose values you vehemently oppose. Would you still support their relationship?

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**FINALS:** Single Word

**EXAMPLE:** Grift

## NFA EVENT RULES

### 1. EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING

**PURPOSE:** A speech designed to motivate audience consideration of a significant argument related to a current domestic or international issue or event.

**DESCRIPTION:** Extemporaneous speeches are characterized by content that is directly and specifically topical, clearly stated and well-supported arguments, demonstration of a knowledge of current events, credible sources, timeliness, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose.

**RULES:**

- Students will construct and deliver a 5 to 7 minute speech\*, after choosing from among three questions, with 30 minutes of preparation. The use of limited notes is allowed.
- Extemporaneous speeches must be the original work of the speaker. Consultation with coaches, teammates, other speakers, or anyone else after the draw has begun is strictly prohibited.
- Extemporaneous speeches should be prepared after topics have been drawn. While speakers are encouraged to draw from their own knowledge of current events, no student is allowed to speak from outlines, briefs, or other materials prepared before the round. Students are encouraged to consult and reference research from a variety of sources including newspapers, magazines, journals, books, websites and blogs providing these resources lack excessive notation and alteration.
- Electronic methods of resource material storage and retrieval may be used within the previously prescribed parameters. Students should be able to retrieve cited material upon judge request. Students may not obtain new research during their preparation time through the use of electronic devices such as but not limited to computers, cell phones, and personal data assistants.

*\* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.*

**PROCEDURES:**

- The National Championship Tournament host and National Forensic Association are not responsible for supplying support of any kind for electronic storage or retrieval methods.
- The National Championship Tournament host and National Forensic Association are not responsible for the security of computers or other devices stored in the extemporaneous preparation room.
- Standard time signals should be given noting the time remaining for the speaker beginning at five minutes remaining and indicating each minute thereafter, the final 30 seconds and the closing five seconds nonverbally.

### 2. IMPROMPTU SPEAKING

**PURPOSE:** A speech designed to motivate audience engagement of a significant argument.

**DESCRIPTION:** Impromptu speeches are characterized by a clearly articulated argument comprising a specific, direct response to the given prompt, well-supported claims, clear structure, uniqueness, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose.

**RULES:**

- Students will construct and deliver an original argument in response to a prompt. Limited notes are allowed.
- Impromptu prescribes a limit of 7 minutes, with speeches lasting at least 5 minutes.\* Prompts include ideas that can be comprehended and interpreted quickly such as quotations, both actual (from history or contemporary culture) and fictional (from movies, plays, novels etc.), single-frame cartoons, song lyrics, proverbs, rhetorical situations etc..

*\* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.*

**PROCEDURES:**

- a. Standard time signals should be given noting the expiration of preparation time verbally in 30-second intervals, and the remainder of speaking time beginning at five minutes remaining and indicating each minute thereafter, the final 30 seconds and the closing five seconds nonverbally.
- b. Contestants who have not spoken should not watch the performance of their competitors.
- c. One judge per section will receive a prompt with their ballot, and is responsible for delivering the provided prompt to each contestant in the round.

**Announcement and description of prompt types by round can be found in the section labeled  
"2018 Impromptu Speaking Schema"**

**3. RHETORICAL CRITICISM**

**PURPOSE:** A speech designed to describe, analyze and evaluate the rhetorical dynamics related to a significant rhetorical artifact or event.

**DESCRIPTION:** Rhetorical Criticisms are characterized by enlightening critical insight, in-depth analysis, description and application of rhetorical principles or a theoretical framework, topic significance, credible sources, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose.

**RULES:**

- a. All speeches should be original, constructed and delivered by the student.
- b. Speeches should adhere to the NFA Code of Ethics, Rules and Procedures.
- c. Plagiarism in any form is prohibited.
- d. Source citation should be specific, accurate and honest.
- e. Although limited notes are permitted, speeches should be delivered from memory.
- f. Audiovisual aids are permitted.
- g. Maximum time limit of 10 minutes.

*\* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.*

**4. PERSUASIVE SPEAKING**

**PURPOSE:** A speech designed to influence audience attitudes and/or actions.

**DESCRIPTION:** Persuasive speeches are characterized by sound rhetorical strategy, well-supported arguments, credible sources, effective organization, timeliness, significance, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose.

**RULES:**

- a. All speeches should be original, constructed and delivered by the student.
- b. Speeches should adhere to the NFA Code of Ethics, Rules and Procedures.
- c. Plagiarism in any form is prohibited.
- d. Source citation should be specific, accurate and honest.
- e. Although limited notes are permitted, speeches should be delivered from memory.
- f. Audiovisual aids are permitted.
- g. Maximum time limit of 10 minutes.

*\* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.*

## 5. INFORMATIVE SPEAKING

**PURPOSE:** A speech designed to clarify and/or explain a significant development, process, concept, person, place or topic.

**DESCRIPTION:** Informative speeches are characterized by in-depth content development that likely enhances audience understanding beyond what was previously known, well-established topic relevance, clear organization, credible sources, timeliness, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose.

**RULES:**

- a. All speeches should be original, constructed and delivered by the student.
- b. Speeches should adhere to the NFA Code of Ethics, Rules and Procedures.
- c. Plagiarism in any form is prohibited.
- d. Source citation should be specific, accurate and honest.
- e. Although limited notes are permitted, speeches should be delivered from memory.
- f. Audiovisual aids are permitted.
- g. Maximum time limit of 10 minutes.

*\* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.*

## 6. AFTER-DINNER SPEAKING

**PURPOSE:** A speech designed to entertain by advancing a relevant point through the use of humor.

**DESCRIPTION:** After-Dinner speeches are characterized by humorous content development, creativity, uniqueness, timeliness, clear organization, significance, credible sources, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose.

**RULES:**

- a. All speeches should be original, constructed and delivered by the student.
- b. Speeches should adhere to the NFA Code of Ethics, Rules and Procedures.
- c. Plagiarism in any form is prohibited.
- d. Source citation should be specific, accurate and honest.
- e. Although limited notes are permitted, speeches should be delivered from memory.
- f. Audiovisual aids are permitted.
- g. Maximum time limit of 10 minutes.

*\* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.*

## 7. PROSE INTERPRETATION

**PURPOSE:** An interpretive performance designed to engage the audience through the development of a story.

**DESCRIPTION:** Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections of original and/or published prose material of literary merit.

**RULES:**

1. Prose material includes: short stories, novels, essays, and story-centered new media. Prose material from new media should first be referenced against the original source to ensure it is not drama. If the original source is non-genre specific then material where the performance focuses on the development of story would be acceptable. Focus of non- genre specific material as described above will be critiqued by the preference of the judging pool, not cause for disqualification.
2. Use of manuscript is required.
3. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including any introductory and/or transitional comments.

*\* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.*

## 8. DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION

**PURPOSE:** An interpretive performance designed to engage the audience through the development of character(s) within a dramatic context.

**DESCRIPTION:** Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections of original and/or published dramatic material of literary merit.

**RULES:**

1. Dramatic material includes: plays, material written for stage/screen/radio, documentaries, and character(s)-centered new media. Dramatic material from new media should first be referenced against the original source to ensure it is not Prose. If the original source is non-genre specific then material where the performance focuses on the development of character(s) would be acceptable. Focus of non-genre specific material as described above will be critiqued by the preference of the judging pool, not cause for disqualification.

2. Use of manuscript is required.

3. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including any introductory and/or transitional comments.

*\* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.*

## 9. DUO INTERPRETATION

**PURPOSE:** An interpretive performance by two individuals designed to engage the audience through the interaction of multiple characters.

**DESCRIPTION:** Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections of original and/or published material of literary merit. This is not an acting event. Selected literature must present the perspectives of multiple characters, representing those different characters using voice and/or body. The focus of this event is the interaction of multiple and related voices

**RULES:**

a. Any type of material(s) of literary merit may be used as long as the performance highlights interaction.

b. Use of manuscript is required, which prohibits physical contact between performers.

c. Offstage focus is required

d. No costumes, props, etc. are to be used.

e. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including any introductory and/or transitional comments.

*\* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.*

## 10. POETRY INTERPRETATION

**PURPOSE:** An interpretive performance designed to engage the audience through the development of linguistic imagery.

**DESCRIPTION:** Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections of original and/or published poetry of literary merit.

**RULES:**

a. Poetry can include poems, slam poetry, and lyrics any material with poetic elements.

b. Use of manuscript is required.

c. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including any introductory and/or transitional comments.

*\* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.*

## 11. PROGRAM ORAL INTERPRETATION

**PURPOSE:** An interpretive performance designed to engage the audience through the development of a theme or argument using multiple genres of literature as support.

**DESCRIPTION:** Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections of original and/or published prose, poetry, drama, etc., of literary merit. Selections should be constructed around a theme, argument or thesis and should utilize at least two different genres of literature.

**RULES:**

- a. Any material(s) of literary merit may be used.
- b. Use of manuscript is required
- c. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including any introductory and/or transitional comments.

*\*Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.*

## 12. LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE

**PURPOSE:** A debate event designed to engage the audience through a policy-oriented dialogue.

**DESCRIPTION:** NFA Lincoln-Douglas Debate is a one-person, persuasive, policy debate on the traditional stock issues of policy debate (harms, inherency, solvency, and topicality). It is a communication event, in which competitors will be evaluated on their analysis, use of evidence, and ability to effectively and persuasively organize, deliver and refute arguments. Rapid-fire delivery, commonly called "spread delivery," is considered antithetical to the purpose and intent of this event.

**RULES:**

A. Paradigm for Judging Lincoln-Douglas Debate: The official decision-making paradigm of NFA-LD is that of Stock Issues: Harm (Advantage or Goals), Inherency, Solvency, and Topicality. The affirmative is required to propose a plan that meets four initial burdens. The plan need not be detailed, but should be sufficient to prove the plan's propensity to solve the problem area.

1. The affirmative must prove:

- a. The harm of the present system or that a comparative advantage or goal can be achieved over the present system;
- b. The inherency which prevents solving those harms or achieving those advantages or goals;
- c. The proposed plan's propensity to solve the harm or achieve the advantage or goal claimed by the affirmative; and
- d. The topical nature of the proposed plan as an inductive proof of the resolution. If, at the end of the debate, the negative has convinced the judge that the affirmative proposal has violated the parameters set by the resolution, then the decision in the debate should be awarded to the negative. However, the plan does not need to deal with all the possible problem areas suggested by the resolution. Topicality is a voting issue.

2. The negative may attack any of these issues, but need only win one to win the debate. Additionally, the negative may argue that one or more disadvantages to the proposed plan outweigh its benefits. The negative may also present one competitive counterproposal specific to the affirmative problem area and not dealing with the form of government, economic system, or need for further study (unless specifically identified as a key issue in the resolution).

3. Counterproposals should be logically consistent with all other negative arguments constructed during the debate. If inconsistencies arise and the affirmative points them out, the judge should reject the arguments inconsistent with the counterproposal. Counterproposals are subject to the same burden of solvency as are required of affirmative plans.

4. Rebuttals are to be used to respond to the opposition's lines of argument and to extend arguments made in constructive speeches. No new lines of argument may be presented in rebuttals. By new lines of argument, we mean those which are not clarifications or responses made to arguments made in constructive, but those which are completely new and unrelated to previous argumentation. New

evidence to extend or clarify constructive arguments is permitted in rebuttal.

5. Speeches should be pleasant, comprehensible, and persuasive in tone, especially since not all judges will have traditional debate experience. Speech delivery and quantity of evidence should not be excessive. Since LD debate adheres to the communication principles of individual events, judges are encouraged to give a verbal warning to debaters speaking too rapidly in a round. If the speaker does not heed the warning in that particular round, the judge is strongly encouraged to give that speaker a loss for that round even if the student has otherwise “won” the debate on the basis of the stock issues. On the other hand, judges who encourage students to speak rapidly should be reported to the tournament director. At the national tournament, these judges will be pulled from the judging pool and their schools assessed judging fees for the rounds not covered. Local tournament directors are encouraged to develop their own responses to such judges

B. Use of Evidence in Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Students should only use evidence that is accurate and thoroughly referenced in their speeches. In both prepared speeches and speeches composed with limited preparation time, debaters should use evidence that is accurately and directly quoted. The evidence should be quoted with proper respect to the context of the original source. Students may use evidence from non-written sources as long as the veracity of the evidence may be verified. Information gathered from personal and/or phone interviews, as well as information from electronic sources, may be used, provided the student does the following:

1. Indicates during the performance the name of the source, date the information was collected, and method used to collect the information; and
2. Possesses a means to verify the accuracy of the evidence should it be formally challenged. Verification may include a transcript of the interview, broadcast, etc., a notarized letter of authenticity from the source identifying specific passages from the performance as accurate, and/or phone numbers at which the source may be reached to verify the veracity of the information. (This last option is not recommended as the sole option since the source may not be reachable at the time an ethical charge is made.)
3. The first time a source is presented, the debater should read the full source aloud when introducing the evidence. A “full source” is assumed to include author’s name, author’s qualifications (when apparent in the original), full date, and title of source. Page numbers need not be read during the debate, but should be available upon request. Once a source has been cited, evidence subsequently cited from the source need only include the author’s and/or publication’s name as well as a phrase along the lines of “previously cited.”
4. Both speakers in a debate are required to make available to their opponent copies of any evidence used in the round, including the affirmative constructive speech. The evidence must be returned to the speaker at the end of the debate. If the evidence is only available in a digital format, the debater is required to make a digital version of the evidence available for the entirety of the debate at the opponent’s discretion. For example, if an affirmative case is only available on a laptop, the negative should be allowed to keep the laptop for reference until the debate is over. At the conclusion of the debate, competitors and judges may review evidence read in the round and record sources. Competitors must provide access to a written version of the source citation, in either physical or digital format, upon request by the judge or other competitor in the round. Time to record sources may be limited based on tournament schedule constraints. When time restrictions prevent recording of sources during the round, round participants may ask to review sources at a later point during the tournament. Competitors wishing to photograph, film, or otherwise copy pieces of opponent’s evidence in their entirety must first request permission. Competitors are not required to grant permission for photographing of the evidence. Judges may not photograph evidence during a round, nor may judges ask debaters for permission to do so. After the ballot has been returned judges may approach a coach for permission to photograph the evidence.

C. Violations of the Code of Ethics: If a debater, during the course of the debate, charges his/her

opponent with violating an ethical standard, as established by the National Forensic Association Code of Ethics, the debate shall immediately cease. The judge will bring the students to a member of the tournament committee and the debater making the charge will fill out a formal complaint according to the provisions under (1) in the section "Violation of the Code of Ethics." The complaint will then be adjudicated as in any other complaint. If the debater making the charge during the round refuses to file a formal complaint, that debater will receive a loss for the debate. Complaints made after a round will follow the standard procedure listed in the "violation" section of the Code of Ethics.

D. Electronic devices may be used in the round (e.g. cell phones as timers, laptops with evidence or for notes), but competitors must agree to NOT communicate with anyone else, either inside or outside the room, during the course of the debate via their electronic devices.

E. Time Limits for Lincoln-Douglas Debate

|                          |           |                       |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Affirmative Constructive | 6 minutes | Cross-Examination     | 3 minutes |
| Negative Constructive    | 7 minutes | Cross-Examination     | 3 minutes |
| Affirmative Rebuttal     | 6 minutes | Negative Rebuttal     | 6 minutes |
| Affirmative Rebuttal     | 3 minutes | Prep time per debater | 4 minutes |

**THE FOLLOWING RULES APPLY TO ALL EVENTS:**

1. No speech or program used by the contestant in competition should have been used prior to September 1, preceding the National Championship Tournament.
2. No student may perform two cuttings from the same literary work at the National Championship tournament in the same year.

## NFA CODE OF ETHICS

A. Directors, coaches and students must ensure compliance with the association's ethics, rules and procedures. Any director, coach or student who violates these ethics, rules or procedures is subject to the sanctions as indicated in the Code of Ethics and as applied at the discretion of the National Council.

B. Those in doubt as to compliance with these ethics, rules or procedures should correspond with the President or National Tournament Director in advance of the National Championship Tournament to ensure compliance. Those suspecting violations of ethics, rules or procedures should report alleged violation(s) to a member of the National Tournament Committee as soon as practical and if at all possible, well in advance of the National Championship Tournament.

1. **Repetition of Materials (In Prepared & Interpretation Events):** It is unethical for students to reuse materials from year to year.
2. **Literary Definitions for Interpretive Events:** Contestants must use literary selections in the appropriate event category and must perform those selections primarily in English.
3. **Authorship of Materials Used in Competition:** Students should author their own materials in non-interpretation events and should cite sources for any materials they employ which are not original. Violations of this rule include all forms of plagiarism. Students shall not represent another's words or ideas as their own. Examples include, but are not limited to, delivering a speech authored by another student in the event "Persuasive Speaking," paraphrasing a personal story found in a magazine without citing the source, presenting a professional comedian's joke as if it were your own, or cutting and pasting the definition of a term from Wikipedia into the introduction of a Poetry program without verbally attributing it to the website. Violations also include fabrication, the invention or falsification of information or citations. Examples include citing the wrong source for the nation's GDP in an extemporaneous speech or updating a citation in an informative speech with a new source that does not contain the information claimed. Additional guidelines for the citing of sources appear below.
4. **Timing:** The judge(s) in each round must ensure accurate timing of all performances and provision of accurate time signals in limited preparation events.
5. **Student Affiliation with an Institution:** Students who attend more than one institution may only represent one institution at the National Championship Tournament. Students may compete at the National Championship Tournament only in those events they qualified. Students who officially transfer from one institution to another may compete in any events for which they have qualified.
6. **Student Status:** Students who compete at the National Championship Tournament must be making progress toward an initial undergraduate degree.
7. **Evidence:** Students should only use evidence that is accurate and thoroughly referenced. Institutions should be prepared to provide source verification of all materials used in competition at the National Championship Tournament. Students may use evidence from non-written sources as long as the veracity of the evidence may be confirmed.
8. **Ethical Judging Behavior:** Judges should act professionally and demonstrate respect for academic freedom when engaged in the critique, ranking and rating of students.
9. **Students must also abide by Article III of the American Forensic Association's Competitor Practices in Individual Events (16E), last updated in 2009.** This section of the AFA's Student Code is appended below. In addition to our own code of ethics, these rules from an affiliate organization, the AFA, will be enforced at the NFA's National Championship Tournament.

**Code of Forensic Program and Forensic Tournament Standards for Colleges and Universities**  
The American Forensic Association (2009)

**ARTICLE III: COMPETITOR PRACTICES IN INDIVIDUAL EVENTS**

1. Students competing in individual events are expected to provide sufficient support for their claims. The ethical use of evidence includes appropriate citations, accurate representation of evidence content, and avoidance of plagiarism and reflection of autonomous student work.

2. Appropriate Citations of Evidence: Outside sources shall be verbally cited during the speech. A verbal citation shall include sufficient information for an audience member to locate the source. The AFA-NIET recommends the following (additional information may be included):

A. Print periodicals shall be cited with the title of the periodical and date of the publication regardless if the material was electronically retrieved. The date a source is accessed online is not considered the primary publication date. For example: "According to the May 21, 2009, New York Times"

B. Materials distributed via electronic means only should be indicated as such. For example: "According to a May 21, 2009 online report by the Associated Press"

C. Books shall be cited with the title, date and author. Essays or articles collected in an anthology should be cited using the primary author's name not the editor of the collection. When applicable, students should find and cite the original publication of the anthologized work. For example: "Augusto Boal argues in his 1979 book *Theatre of the Oppressed*"

D. Webpages shall be cited using either a brief URL or the name of the sponsoring organization and the date on which the page was posted. In absence of a posted-on date, students should use the date the page was last updated. The date a source is accessed online is not considered a primary publication date. For example: "As reported on [www.ptoweb.org](http://www.ptoweb.org) last updated May 2009" and "The AFA-NIET states on its website last updated April 10, 2009."

E. Interviews shall be cited with the name of the interviewee, his/her qualifications and the date on which the interview occurred. Interviews include faceto face, email, chat, facebook, and other forms of electronic exchange. For example: "In an email correspondence on July 7, 2009 with Joe White, former Chair of the Tucson, AZ Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors"

3. Accurate Representation of Evidence: When incorporating evidence into a speech, students shall avoid the following:

A. Citing evidence out of context

B. Misinterpreting evidence to alter intent or meaning

C. Cutting words from or adding words to a quotation or paraphrase in such a way that the intent or meaning of the evidence is altered

4. Avoidance of Plagiarism: In individual events which require the construction of the speech to be the original work of the student (persuasion, informative, after-dinner, communication analysis (*rhetorical criticism*), impromptu, extemporaneous, or other similar speaking events) the speaker shall not commit plagiarism.

A. Plagiarism is defined as claiming another's written or spoken words as one's own, or claiming as one's own a significant portion of the creative work of another.

B. A speech in individual events competition is considered plagiarized when the student presenting it was not the principal person responsible for researching, drafting, organizing, composing, refining, and generally constructing the speech in question

5. Reflection of Autonomous Student Work: Forensics competitors are expected to do their own research.

A. Persons other than competitor (e.g., undergraduate students, graduate students, instructors/coaches) are not to be charged with the responsibility of doing a forensics competitor's research.

B. This provision shall not be construed to prevent coaches or assistants from engaging in limited research designed to:

i. Teach research techniques,

ii. Provide examples of high quality research or,

iii. Identify areas of research for students

6. Ethical Use of Literature in Individual Events (as iterated in the AFA-NIET Charter/Bylaws)

A. Contestants may not rewrite a prose, a poem, or a dramatic text so the work differs from the original text.

- B. Contestants may not add or reassign scenes or lines to the performed cutting. Although an occasional line might be added, especially if a character has been deleted, this practice should be discouraged.
- C. Contestants may not rewrite the ending of a work.
- D. Contestants may not rewrite lines to change the gender or person of a character.
- E. Contestants may not perform a text in a genre for which it has not been written.

**10. Protest of ethical violations should be filed in writing with the tournament director of the National Championship Tournament.**

**VIOLATION(S) OF ETHICS, RULES AND PROCEDURES**

1. Challenges or disputes arising from the provisions of the association must be submitted in writing to a member of the National Tournament Committee (the President of the association, the National Tournament Director or the Vice President for Administration). The written challenge must include the violation, a statement of the nature of the violation, the name of the alleged offender, the school they represent, and, if possible, any evidence in support of the allegation of violation. The National Tournament Committee will make a preliminary review of the written challenge as soon as practical and within 24 hours if the allegation occurs during the National Championship Tournament. The National Tournament Committee will utilize any and all means at its disposal to determine the validity of the allegations and the circumstances of the situation(s) surrounding them, including video and audio tapes, student manuscripts, ballots, judges' comments, etc. Any person in attendance at the National Championship Tournament may file a challenge for violation of any alleged violation.
2. After the preliminary review of the National Tournament Committee of a written challenge, the National Tournament Committee will report its findings to the National Council. The National Council will either conduct a formal hearing to investigate the allegation, dismiss the allegation, or defer action until further evidence can be made available. All parties involved will be given notice of the National Council's actions. Public notice of the National Council's ruling will be given to all member institutions.
3. The National Council may request written statements, oral testimony or interrogatories from those involved in the allegations. Failure to cooperate in the National Council's investigation will be considered a violation and subject to the penalties noted elsewhere.
4. The National Council will keep accurate records of its proceedings and any testimony received in connection with an allegation of violation(s). These records will be confidential and subject to disclosure only to the person or persons alleged to be in violation. Individuals may petition the National Council in writing to have their testimony exempted from confidentiality provisions.
5. The findings of the National Council in an allegation of violation are subject to appeal to the National Assembly.

**SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS**

1. The National Council, after its deliberations and a determination by 2/3 vote of the members present and voting, may impose penalties for violation of ethics, rules, and/or procedures. The imposition of penalties will be made public, as will the votes of the individual Council members to impose penalties. Student representatives of the National Council will not take part in the investigation of violations nor will they be permitted to vote in such matters if the challenge is presented during the National Championship Tournament.
2. For violations involving a specific event, the penalties will be selected from the following:
  - A. Disqualification from the event in question;
  - B. Issuance of letter(s) of censure to the individual(s) and/or institution(s) in violation;
  - C. Issuance of letter(s) of reprimand to the individual(s) and/or the institution(s) in violation;

- D. Disallowance of sweepstakes points or honors achieved in the event in question.
  - E. Prohibition from attendance at future national competitions.
  - F. In the case of Lincoln Douglas Debate, a round result reversal in the round challenged with an ethical violation.
3. For violations involving eligibility, the penalties will be selected from the following:
- A. Disqualification from the National Championship Tournament;
  - B. Issuance of letter(s) of censure to the individual(s) and/or the institution(s) in violation;
  - C. Issuance of letter(s) of reprimand to the individual(s) and/or the institution(s) in violation;
  - D. Disallowance of sweepstakes points or honors achieved at the National Tournament,
  - E. Prohibition from attendance at future national competitions.
4. For violations involving conduct of a coach and/or a judge, the penalties will be selected from the following:
- A. Removal from the judging pool. If the judge is hired, pay will be rescinded. If the judge is a school judge, the school will pay the drop fee for the judge.
  - B. Issuance of letter(s) of reprimand to the individual(s) and/or the institution(s) in violation;
  - C. Disallowance of sweepstakes points for the institution(s) the individual(s) represents;
  - D. Prohibition from attendance at future national competitions.

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