



Colleagues,

California Baptist University is excited to invite you to the Norene Hokett Invitational, to be held asynchronously and online between Tuesday, October 27th, and Sunday, November 1st, 2020. This will be a unique tournament in many ways, but will perhaps set a pattern for future tournaments to follow. This tournament is named after the first coach at California Baptist, Norene Hokett, who coached the team from the late 1960s until 1995. Being privileged to be only the third coach in CBU's 50+ years of speech and debate, I'm always excited to support an activity that Norene loved so much. Please send any questions about this tournament to [mmarse@calbaptist.edu](mailto:mmarse@calbaptist.edu).

Here's what you need to know:

- This is the perfect tournament for students who may have internet connection issues or other situations that make a synchronous tournament difficult.
- This is the perfect tournament for teams with limited or no budget, or who may struggle to find enough judges to cover their entry.
- The tournament will offer all AFA individual events, no debate.
- Impromptu and Extemp will be offered, but there will be no final rounds in those events. Go to the "events" section for the reasons.
- There will be no entry fees.
- There will be no traditional awards, but there will be digital recognition. Teams who win awards will be sent digital certificates they can print themselves.
- There will be a live synchronous awards ceremony on Sunday afternoon on November 1st. As with all tournaments, attendance is not mandatory.
- Tournament information and entries will be on [forensicstournament.net](http://forensicstournament.net) and due by Tuesday night, October 27th at 6pm PDT.
- Links to unlisted YouTube videos will be due to the tournament by Tuesday night at midnight. Information on how to submit those videos will be on the tournament web site.

Sincerely,

Michael Marse  
Director of Forensics  
California Baptist University

## Events

- This tournament will recognize the guidance of the AFA-NST on the peculiarities of this competition season. That means that:
  - Participants may use only a single microphone and camera while competing.
  - Live, in-person audiences are not permitted.
  - Participants competing in duo interpretation must compete in separate locations and are not permitted to be on the same screen as their partner.
  - Material (e.g., scripts, topics, programs) cannot have been run by a competitor prior to September 1, 2020.
- There are two main reasons that the limited prep events will not go to a final:
  - First, the logistics of running a limited prep event asynchronously are still being worked out by coaches around the country. At this stage in the season, the emphasis on free feedback from other coaches may outweigh competitive precision.
  - Second, while we assume every competitor would compete honestly, it seems problematic to offer AFA legs for an event that could so easily be distorted. Yes, there are ways to mitigate those unethical possibilities, and similar asynchronous tournaments will likely take advantage of those in the future. This tournament is being designed for ease and education for the competitors, judges, and tournament staff.
- Yes, that means that impromptu and extemp entries are pre-recorded just like any other event. Students should not record their prep time in Extemp, but should record their prep time in Impromptu. If you polish your impromptu for three hours and take many days of prep for extemp, you will simply get feedback that isn't as useful. If there are no legs, there are fewer reasons to cheat.
- Coaches will be e-mailed extemp questions and impromptu quotations at the beginning of the week. There will be no restriction on which question is used by which competitor, and a judge may have more than one identical quotation or question in a round. While it is the suggestion of the tournament to randomly assign the prompts before the submission deadline, any method that produces speeches is permissible.

## Fees

- There are no fees for entries.
- One judge covers 12 slots. There are no patterns. If you have one judge for every 12 slots, each judge should end up judging 3-4 prelim rounds, and 1-2 final rounds. If the diversity of entries allows, it is possible to have one judge cover more than 12 slots if a judge agrees to judge more than 4 prelim rounds and 2 final rounds. Please keep health and wellness in mind as you volunteer your judges, remembering that each round should be about an hour to 75 minutes of their time.
- Novice-only judges are fine, as are judges restricted to particular events. This is a great way to get alumni who live outside of the area involved with your team!
- If you really would like to buy out of judging, let us know and we can help. Asynchronous tournaments have a much easier time finding judges!

## Divisions

This tournament will use the following definitions:

- A novice is someone who has less than two semesters of experience in forensics at either the high school or college level. Additionally, any competitor who received a 1st-3rd place in a final round in a like-type speech event at another tournament, would not be eligible to be entered as a novice in that event. For example, a student who earned a 1st place in a final round of Novice Prose Interpretation at a tournament in September would have to be entered in open for Dramatic Interpretation at this tournament.
- Open competition is open to any currently enrolled college student who has not earned a Bachelor's degree and has the approval of the administration and coaching staff (if such a staff exists) of a recognized degree-granting institution.

## Sweepstakes

- The tournament will offer school sweepstakes awards by division (novice and open).
- Points are earned as follows:
  - Prelims: 1st-3, 2nd-2, 3rd-1
  - Finals: 1st-12, 2nd-10, 3rd-8, 4th-6, 5th-4, All other finalists-2

## Asynchronous Circuit for 2020-21

This tournament will be structured as an easy way to get practice in asynchronous tournaments. Erick Roebuck of Southeast Arkansas College is putting together asynchronous tournaments on the following dates. Contact [eroebuck@seark.edu](mailto:eroebuck@seark.edu) for details.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Tournament</u>	<u>Sponsor/Host</u>
Nov 19-Nov 22 College	Sharknado 2020 Blowout	Southeast Arkansas
Jan 21-24	Todd Lewis Invitational	Biola Forensics Alumni
Feb 17-20	Virtual Valentine	Sooner Speech Alumni

## Schedule

Tuesday, October 27th, at 6pm - All submissions are due. Prelim rounds begin.

Friday, October 30th, at 6pm - All prelim ballots are due. Judges who do not return their ballots by this time without cause will have their teams removed from advancing to finals.

Friday, October 30th, 8pm or ASAP - Final rounds begin.

Sunday, November 1st, at 10am - All final round ballots are due. Judges who do not return their ballots by this time without cause will have their teams removed from sweepstakes and award recognition.

Sunday, November 1st at 3pm - Live synchronous awards ceremony. Links and information will be e-mailed out to coaches for distribution to their teams and posted on the tournament website.

## Judge Integrity

Each judge entered will be required to either return a signed and initialed copy of the judge integrity pledge or fill out an identical digital form before their entries will be finalized. The details are below.

## Judging Integrity Pledge

I, \_\_\_\_\_, representing \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to judge each of my rounds at the with the highest levels of ethics and integrity.

Please initial each of the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ I will watch each speech in its entirety without distraction.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will eliminate or reduce sources of noise in my judging environment, including physical, psychological, or physiological.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will not discuss the round or my rankings/ratings with any coaches, competitors, or other individuals during the tournament weekend.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will complete the judging of my rounds in a timely manner.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will set aside at least 75 minutes to focus on completing the round without interruption. If I am interrupted, I will notify the tournament staff to let them know why time was exceeded.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will respect the intellectual property of the competitors by not copying and sharing the YouTube performance links. I will not capture or record any part of a competitor's performance on my computing device.

\_\_\_\_\_ If I have any technical or procedural questions, I will contact the tab director immediately.

\_\_\_\_\_ While I may consult someone about specific rules in an event, I will not consult anyone for advice on ranking or rating the individual performances.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

School Represented \_\_\_\_\_