

March 22, 2021

Dear PSCFA Community,

The 2020-2021 season is coming to a close. It has been far from a traditional year, but we have found new ways to continue to come together as a community and connect despite the challenges this new normal has presented. On behalf of PSCFA I would like to invite you and your teams to the 2021 Cool-Off tournament.

A unique aspect of the Cool-Off is that it is for novices and rookies only. This allows for students with little or no competition experience to compete with students of their level.

This is also a great opportunity for coaches to **take a break** and give junior and senior competitors a chance to be on the other side of the ballot and judge a few rounds. Those junior and senior students that do judge will not sacrifice any competitive eligibility for later seasons since this is a novice only event. Remember, all judges must be certified for PSCFA tournaments so please have them go to the PSCFA website, read the Forensics Related Educational Document (F.R.E.D.), and certify online <https://pscfa.org/fred/> .

Key points:

- Registration is due Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm PST on [forensicstournament.net](https://forensicstournament.net)
- Each school is required to provide one judge for every 5 IE entries per pattern/2 debate teams. ***Uncovered entries will not be permitted.*** Please see [HiredJudge.com](https://HiredJudge.com) if you need to arrange for judges.
- Because this is an online tournament, slow internet speeds can cause issues for speakers, judges, and tournament staff. Test your internet speed on [SpeakEasy.net](https://SpeakEasy.net). Anything less than 6 mbps upload/download will cause video/audio problems.
  - We strongly recommend each school has *judges on standby* who are familiar with internet tournaments in case there are internet issues for their originally registered judges.
- The tournament will use synchronous video conferencing. Please direct your students and judges to the respective guides for online tournaments if they are new to online tournaments. Those guides can be found here <https://forensicstournament.net/online>
- We will offer four (4) rounds of Open, Junior, and Novice (divisions might be collapsed due to lack of entries) NFA-LD, NPDA and IPDA debate on Saturday. Sunday will offer the usual two (2) rounds of all PSCFA individual events for Open, Junior, and Novice competitors.
- The awards ceremony will be live-streamed on YouTube.

We look forward to seeing you at The Cool-Off! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact

Angelica Grigsby, Tournament Director, Maricopa Community Colleges  
Email: [angelica.grigsby@gccaz.edu](mailto:angelica.grigsby@gccaz.edu)

**PLEASE BE FAMILIAR WITH THE PSCFA RULE CHANGES FOR ONLINE COMPETITION:**

1. Internet Loss/ Connection During Competition:
  - a. IE's Competitors who are giving a speech and lose their internet connection are allowed 3 minutes to reconnect before they forfeit their opportunity to finish the speech. They will then be judged on what was presented before they lost internet.
  - b. Debate Competitors who have their internet disconnect during their speech, the judge will start a running clock until they return to the round then that amount of time over 3 minutes will be deducted from their speech time. If the time for the speech has expired then the debate round will continue with the following speech. Note: In partnered debate, partners cannot finish the speech for the person who dropped.
2. Restrict competitors to the use of a "single camera setup" during the performance.
3. Physical audiences are prohibited from being present for the performance, with the exception of: involuntary audiences (ex: individuals/families who happen to be in the same room), and assistants/aids for individuals with disabilities. Enforcement is up to the discretion of the TD.
4. Prohibit competitors in Duo and RT from competing together in the same physical space in accordance with AFA rules.
5. Prohibit practices that would not be possible in a face-to-face environment (such as motion, video transitions, or audio manipulation) while allowing for the use of screen sharing and virtual visual aids in Individual Events.
6. No persons should participate or contribute to students who are competing during the course of the round.
7. Partners in debate rounds are allowed to communicate with their partner through other lines of communication such as chats, phone calls, other video conferencing platforms, etc.
8. In accordance with NPDA Bylaws; Electronic/laptop flowing by debaters in a round is also acceptable for the coming season. This excludes cutting and pasting previously prepared material as well as flowing done by anyone not in the round on a shared spreadsheet. As with the previous interpretations, this is only for the coming season (2020-2021)

**JUDGING**

Each school must cover its judging commitment. Please bring your coaches to judge or contact any judges you know & trust who are available for hire. In order for this tournament, to succeed, we need to have plenty of prepared judges. If you are bringing first-time judges, let them know that they must read and sign the PSCFA judge's handbook and complete the F.R.E.D. certification (this may be done online at [www.pscfa.org](http://www.pscfa.org)). Also, remind your judges of proper protocol in rounds. It is helpful to instruct them on how to do time signals for limited prep. Remember, judges may also be returning students who are not competing at the Warm-Up. If you know of any judges available for hire, please send me their contact information.

Debate Commitment: All schools must provide one judge for every two (2) team debate entries or fraction thereof. Penalty fees will be accepted at the discretion of the Tournament Director (If there is sufficient pool of Hired Judges).

Individual Events Commitment: All schools must provide one judge for every five individual event slots per conflict pattern or fraction thereof. Judges for all events must meet qualifications outlined in the PSCFA Handbook and must complete the PSCFA Judge Certification BEFORE being able to judge. **Coaches shall insure the competency of all judges covering your commitment.**

**\*\*All judges are committed through all elimination/final rounds.**

Any school not meeting their judging commitment will be assessed the following fees:

Debate Judges           \$75.00 per team (if allowed)

IE Slots Uncovered   \$12.00 per slot

FEES: All teams are still responsible for ANY drop, no-show, or nuisance fees. Uncovered judging fees are available only with the prior approval of the Tournament Director. PSCFA rules state that all schools must cover their debate commitment and 75% of their individual event entries unless the Tournament Director believes there is a sufficient pool of judges to allow a school to pay additional judging penalties.

ENTRY DEADLINE: All entries are due by 11:59 PM on Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

You can register for the PSCFA Warm-Up Tournament using [www.forensicstournament.net](http://www.forensicstournament.net).

You may make changes to your entry before Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. Drops are free if reported by the Wednesday deadline. Any and all changes made after Wednesday will be subject to nuisance fees. Any requests for changes made after the website closes should be sent through the “contact tournament director” messaging on the entry site.

## PSCFA COOL-OFF 2021 SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, MAY 1ST, 2021			
PARLI		IPDA & NFA-LD	
Each individual student must sign-in with the Help Room before the end of the registration period. If they don't sign-in they will be dropped.			
9:15-10	Registration & Sign-in	10-10:45	Registration & Sign-in
10:15	Topic Announce for Rds 1 & 2 <a href="https://8x8.vc/pscfacooloffparli">https://8x8.vc/pscfacooloffparli</a>	11:00 Strike	11:30 Round 1 Starts
11:00	Round 1	12:30 Strike	1:00 Round 2 Starts
12:15	Round 2	2:00 Strike	2:30 Round 3 Starts
1:45	Topic Announce for Rds 3 & 4 <a href="https://8x8.vc/pscfacooloffparli">https://8x8.vc/pscfacooloffparli</a>	3:30 Strike	4:00 Round 4 Starts
2:30	Round 3		
3:30	Round 4		
<b>ASAP</b>	<b>AWARDS</b>	<b>ASAP</b>	<b>AWARDS</b>
<p><b>Sign-in procedure:</b>  <b>Go to the Help Room, type your name, school, division, and event into the chat. Once the Help Room staff tells you they have checked you in you are all set!</b>  <a href="https://8x8.vc/CoolOffHelpRoom">https://8x8.vc/CoolOffHelpRoom</a></p>			

SUNDAY, May 2nd, 2021	
10:00 am	Extemp Draw - Round 1 (ext draw: <a href="https://8x8.vc/cooloffextempprep">https://8x8.vc/cooloffextempprep</a> )
10:00 am	Pattern A - Round 1
11:15 am	Pattern B - Round 1
12:30 pm	Extemp Draw - Round 2 (ext draw: <a href="https://8x8.vc/cooloffextempprep">https://8x8.vc/cooloffextempprep</a> )
12:30 pm	Pattern A - Round 2
1:45 pm	Pattern B - Round 2
<b>3:00 pm or ASAP</b>	<b>AWARDS</b>
<p>Pattern A: EXT, PRO, POE, INFO, STE   Pattern B: IMP, PERS, DUO, POI, CA, DI  <b>Impromptu topics will be distributed in-room with your judge.</b></p>	

## **DEBATE (Saturday)**

- There will be four prelims, followed by elims, on Saturday, October 3rd, 2020.
- 1 Judge is required for every 2 debate entries.
- A 5 minute forfeit rule will be put in place for all debate rounds.
  - In accordance with NPDA Bylaws; Electronic/laptop flowing by debaters in a round is also acceptable for the coming season. This excludes cutting and pasting previously prepared material as well as flowing done by anyone not in the round on a shared spreadsheet. As with the previous interpretations, this is only for the coming season (2020-2021)

## **NPDA:**

- Students will receive the topic in the NPDA Live Video Room: <https://8x8.vc/pscfacooloffparli>
- Reminder that there will be one topic for Rounds 1 and 2. Different topics will then be used for each subsequent round.
- Partners in debate rounds are allowed to communicate with their partner through other lines of communication such as chats, phone calls, other video conferencing platforms, etc.

## **IPDA:**

- Students will conduct topic strikes in the Live Video Room with their judge. Students and judges should be in the Live Video room at the strike time on the provided schedule.
- Judges will have the prompts available on the eBallot and should copy paste it into the chat window.

Standard striking procedures will then be followed

## **NFA-LD:**

- Evidence sharing can be facilitated through posting links in the chat window.
- Standard NFA-LD procedures will be followed unless noted.
- Case disclosure is not required by the tournament nor will be facilitated by tournament staff.
- No speaker awards will be given.

## **INDIVIDUAL EVENTS (Sunday)**

- All 11 IE events will be offered (Informative, After Dinner, Comm Analysis, Persuasive, Extemp, Impromptu, Prose, Poetry, Drama, POI, Duo)
- 1 judge is required for every 5 IE entries.
- Students may enter a maximum of two events per pattern.
- Two prelims and finals will be held on Sunday, May 2nd, 2021

## **Limited Prep Events:**

- Impromptu topics will be provided to each student in the Live Video Room chat box. Judges will need to copy/paste the topics (provided on the eBallots) in the chat window for the students.
- Each student will receive a different set of impromptu topics.
- Extemp questions will be provided for all speakers in a separate Extemp Prep Live Video Room: <https://8x8.vc/cooloffextempprep>. Students do not need to stay in that room after receiving the questions. The extemp proctor will copy/paste the questions into the chat window at the specified time.

## **Platform Events:**

- As per changes to the PSCFA bylaws for online competition, screen sharing to show a

PowerPoint or image as a visual aid is now permitted.

### **Interp Events:**

- Students may, if they desire, stand up while performing to showcase blocking, but are not required.
- As per changes to the PSCFA bylaws for online competition, competitors in Duo are prohibited from competing together in the same physical space in accordance with AFA rules.

### **FEES**

For '20- '21 competition year, PSCFA will be suspending school & facility/wellness fees, and reducing event fees:

- Individual Events = \$5/entry
- Duo Interpretation = \$10/entry
- Debate = \$10/entry

### **Payments can be made**

- Through credit card payment using Square, to be collected at tournament.
- Through cash payment through Venmo, to be collected at tournament.
- With checks made payable to PSCFA and mailed to PSCFA treasurer, Das Nugent.

### **Competitor Logistics / Best Practices**

- All competitors must have a verified text number or email saved on ForensicsTournament.net. **Email is preferred.**
- Coaches can save those (& verify) from the Student Roster page.
- Competitors will receive a text/email with their ePostings information. That message will have a link to view all postings for a particular round.
- The ePostings will have a link to a Live Video Room where they will present. Click that link to go to your round. No logins or passwords are required. Judges will be in the same Live Video Room to listen and rank the round. The tournament will be using the [8x8 video conference room software](#). Tournament participants **must be using Google Chrome**. They should not use the app or extension for 8x8.
- Please do not immediately start to talk when entering a Live Video Room. Another student may be already performing. Please wait to be recognized by the judge.
- Students should remain in the Live Video Room as audience members with both video and audio on to the extent possible. Due to audio feedback loops or bandwidth issues, you may need to mute your audio or video feeds. But ideally, react to the performances like in a face-to-face round.
- Students can, if it fits their particular setup, sit while performing. Judges are instructed *not* to penalize students for sitting while speaking since the particular tech setup may work better while sitting.
- Students are also encouraged to use a mic/headphones since audio quality is much better than with an external mic. Judges are instructed *not* to penalize students for having mics/headphones on.

- We recognize this creates some challenges for certain events. But we trust in the ingenuity of the forensics community to adapt to this new environment. Some students may also have better quality video, lighting, sound, etc. We will all try our best.
- **If a student's internet connection drops or audio quality is poor**, they will be encouraged to call into the video conference room and give their speech with audio only. While not ideal, it will ensure all student's speeches are listened to by a judge. You can get the dial-in information from the info icon in the bottom right of the screen.

### **Judge Logistics / Best Practices**

- All judges must have a verified phone or email saved on ForensicsTournament.net
- Coaches can save those (& verify) from the Judge Roster Page
- Judges will receive a text/email with their eBallot link. Judges should click on that link within 5 minutes of receiving it to indicate that they have "picked up" their ballot. Tournament participants **must be using Google Chrome**. They should not use the app or extension for 8x8.
- On your eBallot you will have all of the competitors in that round along with a link to a live video room. Click that link to go to your video conference room.
- Your eBallot will then have a feedback form where you can type your feedback to the student while they are performing or afterwards. The eBallot also has a timer to make it easy to time each speaker.
- If a judge's keyboard is loud they are encouraged to mute their audio during performances but please leave the video feed on so competitors can receive your visual feedback.
- Judges are instructed *not* to penalize students for sitting while speaking since the student's particular tech setup may work better while sitting.
- Judges are also instructed *not* to penalize students for having mics/headphones on since audio quality is usually much better using a mic/headset.
- Judges are also instructed *not* to penalize students for lighting, video/audio quality, video background to the extent possible.
- **If a judge's internet connection drops or audio quality is poor**, they will be encouraged to call into the video conference room and listen to speeches with audio only. While not ideal, it will ensure all student's speeches are listened to by a judge. You can get the dial-in information from the info icon in the bottom right of the screen.
- For Impromptu/Extemp, the eBallot will have the quotations/questions listed on it.

### **FAQ**

- **Where is the Extemp Prep/NPDA Topic announce Room?** Please inform your students to go to the Live Video Rooms for their topic.
  - Parli Topics: <https://8x8.vc/pscfacooloffparli>
  - Extemp Topics: <https://8x8.vc/cooloffextempprep>

- **How will I get my impromptu quotation?** The judge will have the impromptu quotations on their eBallot. When it's your turn to speak your judge will copy/paste the prompts into the chat window in the Live Video Room.
- **How will we strike IPDA topics?** The judge will have all five IPDA topics on their eBallot. At the start of the round go to your Live Video Room. The judge will copy/paste the resolutions into the chat window. Each team will strike as normal. Turn off your audio/visual feeds in the room during prep. 30 minutes later the round will commence.
- **Where will we prep for NPDA?** Each school has access to practice rooms through ForensicsTournament.net. Please use those rooms. You can also setup separate rooms on zoom, 8x8, google meet, etc...

## EVENT GUIDELINES

The tournament will be run consistent with the rules and regulations in the PSCFA handbook. If there is any ambiguity or inconsistency in this invitation the handbook takes priority.

## INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

### Pattern A

Extemporaneous: Contestants will be given three topics in the general area of current events. They will choose one and have 30 minutes to prepare a speech. The maximum speaking time is 7 minutes.

Speech to Entertain: A speech designed to entertain the audience. This speech should not be a series of jokes, but should emphasize wit and creativity following a central theme. The use of a manuscript is discouraged. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Poetry: Students will prepare a selection or selections of poetry of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. Use of a manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Informative: An original, factual speech on a realistic subject to fulfill the general goal of informing the audience. Visuals may or may not be used to reinforce the message. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Prose: A selection or selection of prose materials of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. Play cuttings are prohibited. Use of a manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Cultural Artifact Speech: To offer a discussion of some tangible aspect of culture. Five minutes maximum. Visual or audio aid required.

### Pattern B

Dramatic Duo: A cutting (scene) from a play (either humorous or serious), involving the portrayal of at least two characters presented by two individuals. This is not an acting event. No costumes, props, lighting, etc., are permitted. Manuscripts are required. Focus should be off-stage. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Persuasive: The speech must be the work of the student and be persuasive or inspirational in nature. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Programmed Oral Interp (POI): A Program of thematically linked selections of literary merit, chosen from two or more of the recognized genres of competitive interpretation (prose;poetry;drama). A



substantial portion of the total time must be devoted to each genre used in the program. Use of a manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes, including the original introduction and transitions.

**Impromptu:** Topic selection is varied by round using brief quotations, personalities, events, etc. Speech should not exceed 7 minutes; time begins when topic is drawn.

**Communication Analysis:** A speech which is carefully researched and developed which applies a student’s knowledge of rhetorical communication principles to a communication event such as a speech, speaker, movement, campaign, etc. This speech should pay primary attention to the analysis and less attention to description. The student may deliver the speech in any manner (memorized or manuscript). Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

**Drama:** A cutting from a play or plays of literary merit. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

**ENTRY DEADLINE is Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm PST through [forensicstournament.net](http://forensicstournament.net). Changes may be made through Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm PST at no charge.**

Fees will be assessed on Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. Changes after that time will not reduce your fees and may result in nuisance fees.

**PSCFA WARM UP FEE SHEET**

School	
Director of Forensics	
Cell Phone Number	
Email Address	

**All checks should be made payable to PSCFA**

**ENTRY FEES**

	Number of Entries	Total Fees
IPDA/NFA-LD Debate, \$10 per slot		
NPDA Debate, \$10 per slot		
Pattern A IEs: \$5 per slot		
Pattern B IEs: \$5 per slot		
Duo Interpretation: \$10 per team		

**JUDGING FEES**

Debate: \$75 per uncovered team		
---------------------------------	--	--

IEs: \$12 per uncovered slot		
Pattern A		
Pattern B		

**NUISANCE & MISC. FEES**

No-show IE fee: \$10 per slot		
No-show debate fee: \$20 per slot		
Nuisance fee IE: \$5 per slot		
Nuisance fee Debate: \$10 per slot		
Judge Nuisance fee: \$25 per round		
Late Add fee: \$50		

<b>TOTAL FEES</b>	\$
-------------------	----