

## **Competition Rules (Section 2 from the Tournament Brochure)**

**I. ELIGIBILITY:** Tournament competition shall be limited to those contestants who meet the following eligibility requirements:

- A. A student must be a member of Phi Rho Pi currently enrolled for a minimum of nine (9) semester hours, or its equivalent, in an institution with an active Phi Rho Pi chapter. (Verification of each student's credit-unit eligibility must be certified by the signature and official college seal of the records officer of a college entering the National Tournament.)
- B. No student may participate in the Phi Rho Pi National Tournament who has already participated in more than (5) semesters of college competition. A semester shall be defined as the time period of July 1 - December 31, and January 1 - June 30. A semester shall not count unless the student competed in three or more tournaments during that semester. In addition, a student may not compete in national collegiate championship tournaments (two-year or four-year) in more than two different years.
- C. No student may compete at the Phi Rho Pi National Tournament who is competing for two or more college forensics programs concurrently.
- D. Academic qualifications for participants shall be set by the local chapter.
- E. Students, who graduate from their college through spring term commencement in the same calendar year as the National Tournament but preceding the Tournament, are eligible to represent their college, provided they meet all eligibility requirements during the spring term.
- F. Ineligible students entered into competition in the National Tournament shall be removed from competition by the Tournament

Committee as soon as the ineligibility has been established.

**II. JUDGING REQUIREMENTS:** The following rules govern the provision of judges by Colleges entering students into competition in the National Tournament.

- A. Each college shall be required to bring one competent (as defined below) judge for each four (4) contestants, or fraction thereof entered. However, no school shall be made to bring more than 3 judges (No fees are charged for not having 4 judges).
- B. There shall be no provision for penalty fees in lieu of judges, except as the Tournament Director can GUARANTEE that competent judges can be hired with that money. Penalty fees in these instances shall be determined by the Tournament Director on a per-student- not-covered-by-a-judge ratio. If only a limited number of competent judges can be obtained, the colleges most distant from the National Tournament site will receive preference for such option.
- C. No coach may code him/herself out of judging any event.
- D. Judges shall be responsible for judging all rounds (including eliminations) assigned by the Tournament Management. (Room and judging commitments includes the entire tournament.) Failure to judge as assigned will result in a \$50 penalty for each ballot not judged. If the assessed fines are not paid during the course of the tournament, the school's Administration will be billed. If the failure to pick up a ballot is due to tournament administration error, an exception can be made.
- E. Once a ballot has been assigned, it may not be exchanged with, or given away to, another judge (even one from your own school!) without approval by the Judges Table.
- F. If a school is requesting special consideration in splitting a judging

commitment, the school years; must provide explanation submitted with each of the judge's information form, including specific available days and times for each judge.

- G. All judges are required to call roll at the beginning of a round.
- H. Attendance at one of the two judging meetings held prior to the beginning of competition is required of all individuals judging at the National Tournament.
- I. Coaches/Judges should not recruit students while actively judging.
- J. Students from colleges not meeting their judging responsibilities shall not be permitted to continue in competition.
- K. Competent Judges
  1. In order to meet a school's commitment a "competent debate judge" must be one the following:
    2. A college debate coach;
    3. A former college debate coach who has coached within the past twelve
    4. A high school debate coach with two or more years of intercollegiate debate experience;
    5. A person who has debated inter-collegiately two or more years (within the last twelve years, unless he/she has been actively involved in debate activities during this time); and removed from junior college competition for three semesters or five quarters and who is judged competent by the Director of Forensics.
    6. Debate judges are to rank themselves A, B, C, D on the enclosed form to indicate level of judging experiences (coding does affect judge assignments). Distinctions should be made between policy

debate rankings and parliamentary debate rankings.

7. A Judging Philosophy must be submitted by each judge along with the judge qualification and preference forms. Judging philosophies will be in open narrative form and will include, but are not limited to:

- i. Number of rounds judged on the current policy topic and/or in parliamentary for that year.
- ii. Years of experience coaching/judging policy (either NDT or debate).
- iii. Limited explanation of preferences regarding delivery, evidence, issue selection.

8. Judging paradigms and philosophical differences between policy debate parliamentary debate as applicable.

(At Registration Confirmation, one set of philosophies will be distributed to each school entered in debate. Any extra copies are the responsibility of the school, but the Host School may have extra copies available for sale.)

2. In order to meet a school's commitment, a "competent judge" for the Individual Events and Interpreters' Theatres must be one of the following:

- a. A forensics coach (high school or college);
- b. A speech instructor; graduate student in speech;
- c. An undergraduate student in speech removed from junior college competition for three (3) semesters or five (5) quarters, who is judged competent by the Director of Forensics.
- d. A person with prior forensics coaching or participation experience at the college level.
- e. IE and IT judges are to rank themselves A, B, C, D on the enclosed

form to indicate level of judging experiences (coding does affect judge assignments).

**III. NUMBER AND DISTRIBUTION OF ENTRANTS:** The following rules shall govern the number and distribution of entrants in the National Tournament.

- A. A college may not enter more than a total of fourteen (14) contestants into sweepstakes event competition in the National Tournament.
- B. A combination of six (6) teams may be entered in Team Debate and Interpreters Theatre (Pattern A.) these entries may be apportioned in any manner among those events. A combination of six (6) slots/teams may be entered in Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Parliamentary Debate (Pattern E.) These entries may be apportioned in any manner among those events.
- C. No college may enter more than six (6) entries in any single event.
  - 1. No individual may enter in more than five (5) non-conflicting events; however no more than four (4) events can count toward team sweepstakes. The non- sweepstakes entry must be marked prior to the start of the tournament.
  - 2. Hybrid Debate and IT Teams:

**IV. DIVISIONS:**

- a. The hybrid team should only be comprised of students that the schools' directors deem eligible for nationals and have no one else eligible from their own team to partner with for national competition. Each school may only participate with one hybrid team per debate event. (In the case of IT, no more than two students may participate in the Hybrid Theatre.)
- b. Coaches of students must submit a request for the hybrid

team to the Tournament Director before the entry deadline. The request should be submitted in writing by coaches of both schools.

c. The hybrid team should also be submitted on the regular entry form of both schools along with their standard entries. The hybrid team counts toward each school's limit of six team entries.

d. If the hybrid team is comprised of students from two different regions, the normal judging and regional pairings restraints will be neutralized. The judging table will attempt to have the team judged by people from other regions, but it may not always be possible.

e. Students will be eligible for any team awards, and schools will receive sweepstakes points, but it will be half of the point total for that event. Each school will receive half.

No participant divisions shall be observed in the National Tournament.

**V. EVENTS AND CONFLICTS:** At the National Tournament the following events will be offered and be conflicted as follows:

- A. Team Debate (CEDA/NDT topic), Interpreter's Theatre, NFA L-D, Communication Analysis, and Speech to Entertain. Communication Analysis and Speech to Entertain shall not conflict with each other. Students may enter IT, CA, and STE in any combination. They may also enter NFA-LD, CA, and STE in any combination. Students may not enter IT and NFA-LD.
- B. Prose Interpretation, Poetry Interpretation, and Extemporaneous Speaking
- C. Persuasive, Duo Interpretation, and Impromptu Speaking
- D. Program Oral Interpretation, Informative, and Dramatic Interpretation
- E. Lincoln-Douglas Debate (CEDA/NDT topic) and Parliamentary Debate

- VI. NO SHOWS:** Should a coach know in advance that a student will be absent from a round of competition, the coach should notify the Ombudsperson as soon as possible. In the event a student is absent from a round without advance knowledge (“No Shows” the round), prior to continuation of competition in that event the student and his/her coach must speak with the ombudsperson. Upon hearing the reasons for missing a round, the ombudsperson will determine whether continued competition in the event will be allowed, or whether the event will be considered a drop (resulting in a \$100 drop fee).
- VII. APPEALS PROCEDURES:** All coaches, judges, and students have the right to appeal any tournament decision or ruling.
- A. The first step in the appeals procedure is to see the OMBUDSPERSON. The ombudsperson acts as a mediator in misunderstandings, rulings, or disputes between individual members, schools, or groups of the association. The ombudsperson may rule on an issue.
- B. If the ombudsperson’s decision is challenged, and the decision in question concerns a matter of ethical conduct, the matter is referred to the Ethics Committee (appointed prior to the beginning of the tournament by the President of Phi Rho Pi).
- C. If the Ombudsperson’s decision is challenged, and the decision in question is a matter of rules and procedures, the matter is referred to the Tournament Sub-Committee to be considered in a timely fashion. The Tournament Sub-Committee will consist of 3 to 5 available tab room staff to be appointed by the President and the Tournament Director when need arises. One representative for each side of the issue has a limit of 10 minutes to present their case. Others, as are needed for clarification of issue, may be called by the committee. The Tournament Sub-Committee may then rule OR they may

decide to convene with the tournament Committee as a whole. No representatives of appealing schools may speak to the Tournament Committee unless requested by the Tournament Sub-Committee. All decisions reached by this procedure are final in the case of this tournament.

## **VIII. DEBATE AND INTERPRETERS' THEATRE ELIMINATIONS:**

- A. When a Debate or Interpreters Theatre event has LESS than 16 entries:
  - 1. Elimination rounds must be held.
  - 2. All teams with a 4-2 record in Debate or an 8-4 record in Interpreters Theatre will be guaranteed advancement to an elimination round. The next highest ranking Debate or Interpreters Theatre teams may be added to fill out a bracket, as long as no more than half the field advances to elimination rounds. A bracket shall be divisible by four.
  - 3. If there are more than four (4) entries in the first elimination round, but not enough to complete a bracket, the top teams will be protected.
  - 4. Typically, there shall be two (2) GOLDS, two (2) SILVERs, and the rest BRONZE. This may be adjusted for very small events in which case there may be 1 gold, 1 silver, and 2 bronze awards.
- B. When a Debate or Interpreters Theatre event has MORE than 16 entries:
  - 1. Two elimination rounds must be held.
  - 2. All teams with a 4-2 record in Debate or an 8-4 record in



Interpreters Theatre will be guaranteed advancement to an elimination round. The next highest ranking Debate or Interpreters Theatre teams may be added to fill out a bracket, as long as no more than half the field advances to elimination rounds. A bracket shall be divisible by four. 3. All teams losing in Elimination round 1 will receive BRONZE. All teams losing Elimination round 2 will receive SILVER. Those winning in Elimination round 2 will receive GOLD.