



Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of the Minnesota Collegiate Forensics Association and the St. Cloud State University Forensics Team, we invite you to attend the 34th annual Minnesota State Intercollegiate Speech and Debate Championship Tournament. The tournament will be held February 16 – 18 (Friday through Sunday) at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, MN.

This tournament is open to any Minnesota community college, college or university. All eleven of the AFA-NIET events, plus Parliamentary Debate will be offered. This tournament also serves as the state qualification tournament for the Interstate Oratorical Contest. The two top finishers in oratory will represent Minnesota at the IOA tournament in April 2018. Please see the entry description page for special notes for Extemporaneous Speaking, Oratory, and Impromptu Speaking. You will find all the necessary details for the tournament in this invite letter and on the tournament website. If you have any questions feel free to contact any member of the executive committee or the tournament hosts.

Registration will take place Friday afternoon or Saturday morning in Ritsche Auditorium lobby, 2nd floor. Parking locations are noted in subsequent pages. The coaches' meeting lunch will be \$12 per coach.

Based on discussion at the fall MCFA meeting, the following are changes to the state tournament:

- ▶ There will be no banquet at this year's state tournament. Senior Sendoff will occur on Sunday prior to awards. This change was decided by a vote during the fall 2017 meeting.
- ▶ Oratory fees from the state tournament will be used to sponsor the Minnesota entries for the Interstate Oratorical Competition.
- ▶ Procedure for breaking to final rounds of individual events have been clarified.
- ▶ The tournament schedule has changed from previous years.
- ▶ Due to financial concerns, the fee structure has changed, including uncovered slot fees.
- ▶ Due to concerns related to judge usability, the initial entry due date (including student and judge intentions) is February 2nd on Speechwire. **Please plan ahead to provide enough judges to cover your team's entries.**
- ▶ The final entry due date is Friday, February 9th by 4 pm.
- ▶ Fees will be assessed Monday, February 12th by 4 pm.

Further discussion of the changes are discussed in subsequent pages.

We hope to see everyone in February. We are sure the state championship tournament will prove to be an exciting weekend of competition.

Scott Wells, tournament host (sdwells@stcloudstate.edu)

Julie Walker, member at-large (julie.walker@smsu.edu)

Phil Voight, former tournament host (pvoight@gustavus.edu)

Najla Amundson, member at-large (namundso@cord.edu)

2018 Tournament Fees:

Covered IE Slots (non-Oratory): \$8/each

Uncovered IE Slots: \$12/each

Oratory Slots: \$15/each

Covered Parliamentary Debate Team: \$30/team

Uncovered Parliamentary Debate Team: \$30/each (in addition to entry fees)

Dropped Entries: \$10/slot plus cost of entry

Dropped Judges: \$50/judge

Each judge covers 6 slots OR 2 debate teams. Judge usability will impact uncovered slot fees. If a judge is deemed “unusable” by MCFA committee members, the judge will not be allowed to defray the cost of individual event or parliamentary debate slots. In the event clean judges are not provided by your school, it may be necessary to “double up” students from your school during preliminary rounds to keep the judging pool clean and productive.

2018 Tournament Schedule

Friday, February 16

3:00 pm: Registration

3:30: Parli 1

4:45: Parli 2

6:00: Parli 3

Saturday, February 17

7:30 am: Registration

8:00: EXT Draw

8:30: Round 1A (EXT, ORA, POI, DUO)

9:45: Parli 4

11:00: Round 1C (ADS, POE, DI, CA)

Noon: Coaches Meeting

1:30 pm: EXT Draw

2: Round 2A (EXT, ORA, POI, DUO)

3:15: Round 1B (PRO, INFO, IMP)

4:30: Round 2C ((ADS, POE, DI, CA)

5:45: Round 2B and Parli Quarter Finals (PRO, INFO, IMP)

Sunday, February 18

8:00 am: EXT Draw

8:30: Round 3A (EXT, ORA, POI, DUO)

9:45: Round 3C (ADS, POE, DI, CA)

11:00 Round 3B and Parli Semifinals (PRO, INFO, IMP)

Noon: Lunch

1:00 pm: EXT Draw

1:30: Finals A (EXT, ORA, POI, DUO)

2:45: Finals C (ADS, POE, DI, CA)

4:00: Finals B/Parli Finals (PRO, INFO, IMP)

5:15: Senior Send-Off

6:00: Awards

2018 Flights

Group A: Extemp, Oratory, POI, Duo

Group B: Prose, Informative, Impromptu

Group C: ADS, Poetry, DI, CA

Competitors may enter up to two events in each grouping with the following exceptions:

- A competitor may enter up to two Duo Interpretations (with different partners), however, may not enter any other category in Group A.
- Competitors in Parliamentary Debate may enter ONE individual event in Group C
- Each school is limited to a maximum of 4 teams/entries per event.

Awards

Individual competitor and team awards will be presented on Sunday based on performance in preliminary and final rounds.

Team Awards

- ▶ Large-Entry Sweepstakes (Cindy Larson-Casselton Award)
- ▶ Small-Entry Sweepstakes
- ▶ Greg LaPanta Quality Award: This award is earned by the school that has the highest number of average points per competitor

The practice of grouping entries into large and small categories is a perpetual discussion for best practices. Prior bylaws stated “Divisions in overall team sweepstakes shall be determined by natural break by the Executive Committee.” However, there have been some years where a natural break has not been clear. Therefore the following has been proposed as a way to clarify the decision: The division between the Large and Small school division will be in the range of the mean of total entries, plus or minus 10% of total entries rounded up.

For example, last year, the entries looked like this: 1, 4, 6, 11, 13, 15, 19, 23, 45, 47 for a total of 184 entries. The mean would be 18.4 with a range of 16.4-20.4. Therefore, the Executive Committee would have to decide if the division should be between the 15 and 19 or 19 and 23. This is a practice the Executive Committee will try, but will not necessarily bring as a constitution change to the Spring meeting.

Individual Awards

- ▶ Quadrathon: Each individual student competing in 4 or more events is entered; the five awards will be determined by number of points earned throughout the tournament.

MCFA will use funds procured through the higher fees from Oratory slots to pay for the entry fees for the Interstate Oratorical Competition entries from the state of Minnesota.

Scoring

Individual Events

Preliminary Rounds

1st Place: 3 points

2nd Place: 2 points

3rd Place: 1 point

Final Rounds

1st Place: 9 points

2nd Place: 8 points

3rd Place: 7 point

4th Place: 6 points

5th Place: 5 points

6th Place: 4 points

7th Place or higher: 3 points

Parliamentary Debate

Preliminary Rounds

Win or Bye: 3 points

Outrounds

1st Place: 9 points

2nd Place: 8 points

Semifinal: 7 points

Quarterfinal: 5 points

Octofinals: 3 points

Breaking to Finals and Tiebreaker Policies

Individual Events

Tiebreaking Procedures

- Advancing to Finals: Rank, rating, number of firsts in prelims, head-to-head results if the contestants met in prelims
- Final Placement: judges' preference, speaker points, head-to-head results if the contestants met in prelims
- Quadrathon: Number of first places in final rounds, number of events broken

When an event has six or more competitors, the top six competitors will be advanced based on ranks and ratings unless there is a tie for the sixth advancing position. All students tied for the sixth advancing position will be included in the final round.

Parliamentary Debate

Tiebreaking Procedures

- Team Advancement: Prelim record, total points, adjusted speaker points (dropping high and low speaker points), judge variance
- Speaker Awards: Total points, adjusted points, judge variance

Large and Small-Entry Team Sweepstakes

- Number of state champions, number of slots in final rounds

ADA Accommodation Requests

ADA requests should be emailed to Scott Wells and Jon Loging. Emailing requests early will help ensure the tournament staff can provide adequate time to meet reasonable accommodation requests.

Parking: Public Safety has asked that school vehicles be parked in the C Lot on Friday (near the corner of 4th Ave. S. & 6th St. S.): <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/campusmap/>. Schools can also choose to park in the 4th Avenue Parking Ramp for a small fee. Parking is available anywhere on campus on Saturday and Sunday.

Procedure for Other Special Requests

Students and coaches occasionally may have additional requests that accompany speeches given at the state tournament. Accordingly, the state tournament has the following procedure to make these requests:

1. The nature of the request and accommodation shall be sent to the Executive Secretary 4 weeks before the opening of the state tournament. The request will include a justification for the request, the impact of the request on the host school, and any other information needed to understand the request. The request should address potential concerns that other coaches and competitors might raise regarding the request; for example, how the request would not provide the competitor some additional advantage.

Justification: 4 weeks provides for the following timeline:

1 week - communication between requesting coach, host and executive secretary.

1 week - if additional information is needed (say, from an external provider on campus)

1 week - conduct vote

1 week before tournament.

2. The Executive Secretary shall contact both the host and the coach and/or student within 7 days of the request, seeking to clarify what impacts the request would have on the functioning of the tournament. For example, if any additional tables or other items are needed, this should be determined within that 7 day period.
3. If the host needs additional time to fulfill the request, that shall be made known to both the Executive Secretary and the coach and/or student.
4. Once the Executive Secretary and host have been satisfied that all information has been gathered, that will be communicated to the coach and/or student to clarify if the request has been understood correctly. Once this has been ascertained, then the Executive Council shall have 5 days to discuss and vote upon the proposal. The proposal must be ruled upon no later than 2 days before the entry deadline. If these two dates are in conflict, the 2 days before the entry deadline shall rule.
5. If the petition involves the Executive Secretary's or an Executive Committee member's school, the Executive Secretary or Executive Committee member shall abstain from voting. No other communication of information shall be allowed during the process that otherwise would be available to any other school.
6. At the conclusion of the vote, the results of the vote shall be communicated to the coach and/or student. Three affirmative votes shall be required to approve the request.

Event Descriptions:

After Dinner Speaking. An original humorous speech by the student, designed to exhibit sound speech composition, thematic coherence, direct communicative public speaking skills and good taste. The speech should not resemble a night club, an impersonation, or comic dialogue. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Communication Analysis. An original speech by the student designed to offer an explanation and/or evaluation of a communication event such as a speech, speaker, movement, poem, poster, film, campaign, etc. through the use of rhetorical principles. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Manuscripts are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Drama Interpretation. A cutting which represents one or more characters from a play or plays of literary merit. This material may be drawn from stage, screen, or radio. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Duo Interpretation. A cutting from any genre, humorous or serious, involving the portrayal of two or more characters presented by two individuals. This material may be drawn from any literary genre. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc. are to be used. Presentation is from the manuscript and the focus should be off-stage and not to each other. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Extemporaneous Speaking. Contestants will be given three topics in the general area of current events, choose one, and have 30 minutes to prepare a speech that is the original work of the student. The third round of questions will be questions pertaining to Minnesota taken from the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*, the St. Paul *Pioneer Press*, *Minnesota Post* (<http://www.minnpost.com>), and Minnesota Public Radio. Speakers are required to use notes. Maximum time limit for the speech is 7 minutes. Students will speak in the listed order. Posting of topics will be staggered.

Impromptu Speaking. An impromptu speech, serious in nature, with topic selections varied by round, section by section. Topics will be determined by the executive committee but the rounds will consist of these general themes: Round 1-quotations Round 2-Cartoons Round 3-Objects Finals-Quotations

Speakers will have a total of 7 minutes for both preparation and speaking. Timing commences with the acceptance of the topic or item. Limited notes are permitted. In each round, enough topics will be provided so that contestants may all be in the room to observe.

Informative Speaking. An original, factual speech by the student on a realistic subject to fulfill the general aim to inform the audience. Audio-visuals may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including introduction.

Oratory: The oration must be delivered without the aid of notes or manuscript. No oration may contain over 1800 words. Although no minimum word limit is established, a 1500 word limit is suggested. Orations will not be timed. For the purpose of definition, quoted words are those written or spoken by a person other than the orator. Such quoted material shall be limited to 20% of the total number of words in the oration. All quoted material shall be documented. A copy of each oration shall be submitted at registration.

Parliamentary Debate. We will offer 4 preliminary rounds, breaking to octafinals if entries warrant. NPDA Guidelines will be followed with the following exceptions: No warm room will be provided. No coaching or team preparation during the 15 minutes of preparation time.

Round 1 of Parli will be a Minnesota-based resolution. Participants can expect resolutions of value, policy, and fact throughout the tournament.

Poetry Interpretation. A selection or selections of poetry of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. Play cuttings are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Program Oral Interpretation. A program of thematically-linked selections of literary merit, chosen from two of the three recognized genres of competitive interpretation (prose/poetry/drama). A substantial portion of the total time must be devoted to each of the two genres used in the program. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction and/or transitions.

Prose Interpretation. A selection of prose material of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. Play cuttings are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including introduction.

Learning Goals

For many years, the MCFA has discussed the possibility of formally defining learning goals for each event offered at the State Championship. Below are some suggested ideas. Please bring your thoughts regarding these suggestions, as well as your own suggestions, to the Business Meeting on Saturday for further discussion!

Original Oratory

- ▶ Students must endeavor to alter audience members' thoughts, actions, beliefs, or feelings. Students should select a socially significant topic for which they demonstrate a personal concern and a rich understanding.
- ▶ Students should be well informed on the topic at hand, and demonstrate detailed and coherent knowledge of the topics discussed.
- ▶ Students should effectively employ organizational structures, which may vary in form but clearly include:
 - a thesis statement
 - a forecasting device
 - smooth and effective transitions
- ▶ Students will demonstrate their awareness of, concern for, and focus on reaching the general community embodied by the "listening other."
- ▶ Students should employ language, which is accurate, appropriate, concise, clear, concrete, interesting, aesthetically pleasing, and supports and enhances the content of the speech.
- ▶ Students should employ vocal delivery, which is intelligible, varied, conversational, enthusiastic and confident.
- ▶ Students must follow ethical rules of source citation and avoid plagiarism

Informative Speaking

- ▶ Students should seek to develop audience members' knowledge and understanding of a topic for which the speaker demonstrates a clear personal concern
- ▶ Students should be well informed on the topic at hand, and demonstrate detailed and coherent knowledge of the topics discussed
- ▶ Students should effectively employ organizational structures, which may vary in form but clearly include:
 - a thesis statement
 - a forecasting device
 - smooth and effective transitions
- ▶ Students will demonstrate their awareness of, concern for, and focus on reaching the general community embodied by the "listening other."
- ▶ Students should employ language, which is accurate, appropriate, concise, clear, concrete, interesting, aesthetically pleasing, and supports and enhances the content of the speech.
- ▶ Students should employ vocal delivery, which is intelligible, varied, conversational, enthusiastic and confident.
- ▶ Students must follow ethical rules of source citation and avoid plagiarism

Dramatic Interpretation

- ▶ The student demonstrates character development as the primary goal of the performance. Through performance, students should be able to demonstrate they have analyzed the structural and aesthetic components of the selected text.
- ▶ Students should be able to discern if a text demonstrates "literary worth" based on the literature's universality, uniqueness, and suggestion.
- ▶ Students will demonstrate their awareness of, concern for, and focus on reaching the general community embodied by the "listening other."
- ▶ Students will demonstrate their understanding of the difference between internal voice and external voice of characters
- ▶ Students will demonstrate an understanding of the environment with which character(s) interact. The student will demonstrate and honor the literary voice inherent in the selection of literature

Prose Interpretation

- ▶ The student demonstrates story development as the primary goal of the performance.
- ▶ Through performance, students should be able to demonstrate they have analyzed the structural and aesthetic components of the selected text.
- ▶ Students should be able to discern if a text demonstrates "literary worth" based on the literature's universality, uniqueness, and suggestion
- ▶ Students will demonstrate their awareness of, concern for, and focus on reaching the general community embodied by the "listening other."
- ▶ The student will demonstrate and honor the literary voice inherent in the selection of literature.

Extemporaneous Speaking

- ▶ The student will demonstrate the ability to provide a direct and clear answer to a given question
- ▶ The student will demonstrate the ability to craft well-organized arguments
- ▶ The student will demonstrate the ability to deliver a conversational, reasonably fluent speech with limited notes
- ▶ The student will demonstrate that they have studied and adhered to relevant principles of audience analysis; demonstrate their awareness of, concern for, and focus on reaching the general community embodied by the "listening other."
- ▶ The student will demonstrate that they can critically evaluate the ethos of source material

Impromptu Speaking

- ▶ The student will demonstrate the ability to deliver a speech centered on a given prompt
- ▶ The student will demonstrate the ability to craft well-organized arguments
- ▶ The student will demonstrate the ability to make effective rhetorical choices grounded in critical inquiry regarding topic and rhetorical situation
- ▶ The student will demonstrate the ability to deliver a conversational, reasonably fluent speech with limited notes

Parliamentary Debate

- The students will demonstrate the ability to engage in clear and direct clash with others' ideas
- The students will demonstrate the ability to treat the resolution and the round as examples of public citizenship
- The students will demonstrate the ability to craft well-organized arguments
- The students will demonstrate the ability to support assertions with appropriate warrants
- The students will demonstrate the ability to treat opponents with respect
- The students will demonstrate the ability to differentiate among debates of fact, debates of value, and debates of policy
- The students will demonstrate the ability to appropriately engage and connect with varied audiences