

Dear Forensics Colleague,

On behalf of the forensics programs at the University of Houston and Bethel University, we invite you to join us for the 27th Annual Novice National Individual Events Tournament. This year's event will be hosted by the University of Houston on March 6-8, 2009. We believe that you'll enjoy this year's competition.

Novice Nationals seeks to be a low-key atmosphere, with quality competition. In the past several years, competitors from Novice Nationals have qualified for elimination rounds at AFA, NFA, NPDA and Interstate Oratory.

- Updates, information about the area, and changes available on the Novice Nationals Web Site: <http://www.novicenats.org/>
- Online registration to make it easier to make changes!
- Lunch and dinner breaks built into the schedule
- The usual AFA events and Impromptu Sales
- NPDA-Sanctioned Parliamentary Debate – now with multiple topics per round.
- Readers' Theater

We hope that you plan on joining us for the 27th anniversary of the tournament. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. We are working hard to make this the best Novice Nationals ever.

Sincerely,

Michael Dreher, PhD
Director of Forensics, Bethel University
Tournament Director, Novice Nationals

Mike Fain, JD
Director of Forensics, University of Houston
Tournament Host

27th Novice Nationals: **Tentative Tournament Schedule**

We will adjust this schedule if octafinals in parli, quarters in LD, or more than 5 semifinals are needed. We'll also adjust this schedule if there are more than 6 RT's. This schedule will be updated in March 2009 with specific locations for registration on the University of Houston campus. A business meeting will also be scheduled - details will be coming later about time and location.

Friday, March 6:

9:00-9:45 Debate Registration (Lobby, Social Work Building)
10:00-11:15 Parli, Rd. 1
11:15-12:30 Parli, Rd. 2
12:30-1:30 Lunch
1:30-2:45 Parli, Rd. 3 (Power Matched)
3:15-4:30 Parli, Rd. 4 (Power Matched)
5:00-6:15 Parli, Rd. 5 (Power Matched)
6:15-7:00 Dinner (*Provided by tournament*)
7:00-8:15 Parli, Rd. 6 (Power Matched)

Saturday, March 7:

7:45-8:30 IE Registration (Lobby, Social Work Building)
8:30 Extemp. Draw, Readers' Theater, Rd. 1
9:00-10:15 IE Round 1A (Ext., Pers., POI, Pro)
10:15-11:30 Parli Quarterfinals (ALL PARLI JUDGES COMMITTED), Readers' Theater, Rd. 2
11:30-12:30 Lunch
12:30-1:45 IE Round 1B (Imp., Duo, Inf., CA), Lincoln-Douglas, Rd. 1 (LD'ers go first in IE's)
1:45-3:00 Parli Semifinals, Readers' Theater, Rd. 3
3:00-4:15 IE Round 1C (Imp Sales, Poe, DI, ADS), Lincoln-Douglas, Rd. 2 (LD'ers go first in IE's)
4:15-5:30 IE Round 2B (Imp, Duo, Inf., CA)
4:45 LD, Round 3
5:30-6:45 IE Round 2C (Imp Sales, Poe, DI, ADS)
6:00 LD, Round 4
7:00 Parli Finals
7:30 Readers' Theater Finals

Sunday, March 8:

7:30 Chapel
8:00 Extemp. Draw
8:30-9:45 IE Round 2A (Ext, Pers, POI, Pro)
9:45-11:00 IE Round 3B (Imp, Duo, Inf, CA), LD Elim Round #1
11:00 Extemp Draw
11:30-12:45 IE Round 3A (Ext, Pers, POI, Pro)
12:45-1:45 Lunch
1:45-3:00 IE Round 3C (Imp Sales, Poe, DI, ADS), LD Elim Round #2
3:00-4:15 Semis as needed; first flight of finals
4:15 Extemp Draw – Finals
4:45-6:00 Second flight of finals
6:30 Awards

Other LD elims will be scheduled as needed. Parli breaks announced at Drury and Spring Hill Suites.

General Notes:

1. What is a novice?

We define novice as a student who is a 1st year intercollegiate competitor. If you're in your first year of IE's, you can compete in IE's. If you're in your first year of debate (any style), you can compete in debate. If you've competed in IE's, but never debate, you're welcome in debate only. The same is true for IE's: if you've competed in debate, but never in IE's, you're welcome in IE's.

For Readers' Theater only - we will allow non-novice competitors. For every 4 members of the RT cast, one of the four may be a varsity member. Thus, if you have a five person cast, four of the five must be novice. If you have questions about casting, please contact the tournament director.

2. Individual Events:

Flight A: Extemporaneous, Persuasion, Program Oral Interpretation, Prose

Flight B: Impromptu, Dramatic Duo, Informative, Communication Analysis, LD

Flight C: Impromptu Sales, Poetry, Drama Interpretation, After Dinner Speaking, LD

a. Extemporaneous topics will be drawn from the general area of current events after September 1, 2008. One round will be foreign affairs, one round will be domestic affairs, and one round will be government/economy. Finals will be a mixture of questions from each of the three types.

b. Impromptu topics will be quotations varying by section and round.

c. Impromptu Sales topics will be objects during the preliminary rounds.

In preliminary rounds, students should take the object as it stands. The student may choose to elaborate upon the object, but may *not* take the object on the metaphorical level.

Should semifinals be necessary, the topic will be an object. The final round will be a slogan (i.e., "Nebraska Beef: It's what's for dinner" or "Gedney's: The Minnesota Pickle.").

d. Students may only **triple-enter** in any particular flight. Two duos count as two entries for purposes of this rule. People in LD may only enter one other event in flights B & C.

e. Readers' Theater: This year, we continue to support ARTa and Phi Rho Pi by offering Readers' Theater. Trophies will be given to the top RT casts based on entry size. We will use Phi Rho Pi rules with the exception that the 25 minute maximum includes setup and takedown. The rules include the following:

1) The audience must have a sense of production being interpreted from a manuscript. Director, performer, and judges should be allowed freedom to exercise artistic, interpretive judgment; however, manuscripts must be interpreted from during the presentation.

2) Suggestions in contemporary or ensemble dress may be used. The literature should determine the nature of this suggestion, although costuming should not be a focus of this presentation.

3) Reading stands, chairs, stools, ladders, platforms, steps, props, lighting effects may be used. However, facilities limitations (space equipment, time etc.) should govern a director's choice.

Readers may stand, sit, or both and may move from one locale to another so long as the movement is consistent with the ideas or moods of the literature and the director's concept.

- f. Use of computers in Extemporaneous Speaking: Per the 2005 business meeting, we will allow the use of computers. Please realize that the tournament nor the University of Houston will not be providing electrical outlets, and that the safety of computers is strictly the responsibility of those bringing them, and not of the University of Houston nor the tournament. Students are expected not to consult the internet during prep time, as is the custom at other national tournaments.

3. Judging:

- a. Schools will be expected to provide **one judge for every 8 IE slots**. 1 judge should be provided for every 2 RT entries. For debate, schools will be expected to provide one judge for every two parliamentary teams and one judge for every two LD competitors. This **does** mean you can mix and match IE and debate judges. One judge, for example, can cover 8 IE entries and either two parliamentary teams or two LD teams. ***Please try to cover as much of your entry as you can!***
- b. You may use senior varsity competitors as judges. Students must be removed **at least 2 years** from the novice level in events they judge. If there are questions, please contact the tournament director. *Note: Sophomores should not be listed as judges unless they are 3rd year sophomores, and didn't compete their second year. We have had complaints in the past about 2nd year judges, and thus, we need to enforce this rule more closely.*
- c. If you have additional eligible judges please contact Mike Fain.

4. Entries:

The entry deadline is Tuesday, February 24 at 12:00 p.m. Central Time. We would like your initial entry at that point to help us with judging and other tournament planning.

Changes may be made to your entry up through Tuesday, March 3 at 12:00 p.m. Central Time without penalty. The schematics will be generated on Tuesday at 12:00 p.m. (Note: The tournament director will be attending the Twin Cities Forensics League tournament on that day, so we appreciate your making the changes before that tournament starts.)

Make checks payable to: Bethel University (for those who have attended in the past – Bethel College did change its name to Bethel University July 2004). Our Tax ID number is 41-0708577.

a. Entry Costs:

Covered IE entries:	\$8/slot
Covered LD entries:	\$15/slot
Covered RT entries:	\$15/slot
Covered Parli entries:	\$25/team
Uncovered IE entries:	\$16/slot (\$8/slot + \$8/judging fee)
Uncovered LD entries:	\$30/slot (\$15/slot + \$15/judging fee)
Uncovered RT entries:	\$30/slot (\$15/slot + \$15/judging fee)
Uncovered Parli entries:	\$50/team (\$25/slot + \$25/judging fee)

b. Meals: The tournament will provide Friday pizza dinner for those doing Parliamentary debate.

c. Add/Drop Fees:

In addition, if your school must drop the tournament, you are still responsible for paying the appropriate drop fees mentioned below. We hate to mention this, but have been affected by having at least 1-2 schools per year drop well after the deadline.

Drop Fees after deadline and before Thursday, March 5:	\$10/slot
Friday morning/afternoon registration	\$20/slot
Saturday morning registration	\$25/slot

d. Entry Options:

1. Our preference is that you use the Joy of Tournaments website set up for the tournament. You'll find a link to the website from the Novice Nationals website: <http://www.novicenats.org/>

The Joy of Tournaments website is at:
<http://www.joyoftournaments.com/tx/Novnats/>

(NOTE: This URL has changed from last year! Please update your favorites/bookmarks accordingly).

This will allow you to add/change your own entries and receive visual confirmation that the entries have been changed! The website will be available starting Feb. 1.

2. If you do need to fax, we will enter your entry on the Joy of Tournaments website. The fax number is 651-635-1470 – attention: Michael Dreher

3. If you have any tournament related questions:

Michael - office:	651-638-6052 (Email: mdreher@bethel.edu)
Michael - home:	651-639-0927
Michael - cell:	612-850-3755
Mike Fain:	713-385-0541

5. Debate Structure and Break Rounds:

- a. Parliamentary debate will follow NPDA guidelines, with the exception of the warm room (we will not have one), and will have the following time limits: 7-8-8-8-4-5, with 15 minutes of prep time. The 2005-2007 business meetings at Novice Nationals made the following decision on prep time: novice students who are competing in parliamentary debate at the tournament may work with each other during prep time, but coaches may not coach during prep time. We ask that those of you coming from circuits that have different guidelines to respect the tournament's parameters on coaching.

Teams entering parliamentary debate are asked to submit at least 5 resolutions with their entry. Per the 2007 business meeting, we will have three resolutions per round; the government and the opposition each will strike one resolution, and the remaining resolution will be used.

- b. NFA Lincoln-Douglas will use NFA guidelines, and will have the following time limits: 6-3-7-3-6-6-3, with 4 minutes of prep time. The 2008-2009 resolution will be used.
- c. Break size for debate based on entry sizes:
 - up to 7 entrants = finals
 - 8-14 entrants = semifinals
 - 15-28 entrants = quarterfinals
 - 29-57 entrants = octafinals
- d. In parliamentary debate, we will power match rounds 3-6. In LD, we will attempt to power match rounds 3 and 4 based on the number of entries and scheduling concerns. All power-matching will be high-low in brackets, and triple and double-pullups will be avoided when possible.
- e. We will break brackets in debate. No single school will be allowed to close out the first elimination round in order to move on to subsequent elimination rounds.
- f. It is our intent to keep all judges clean for elimination rounds. However, this intent may be modified by the tournament director or tab room staff if necessary.

6. Individual Events Finals:

We will break to semifinals in any IE event over 35 students.

Note: Change from previous years. At the recommendation of the advisory board, for preliminary rankings, we will drop the worst rank and the lowest points in events where there are two judges per preliminary round. The worst rank and worst points need not be on the same ballot. Thus, we will take a student's 5 best ranks and 5 best speaker points.

We will place students into semifinals/finals based on the following criteria: (1) ranks, (2) speaker points. If ties exist where more than 6 students would be in an elimination round, we will use the following tiebreakers:

- 1) total ranks from all ballots (in events where there are two prelim judges)
- 2) total speaker points from all ballots (in events where there are two prelim judges)
- 3) best head-to-head (if students have previously faced each other)

If ties exist where 7 or more students would advance, the following criteria will apply:

- 1) speaker points,
- 2) total ranks from all ballots (in events where there are two prelim judges)
- 3) total speaker points from all ballots (in events where there are two prelim judges)
- 4) number of 1's earned in preliminary rounds

Elimination round placings will be based on the following criteria: ranks and then judge's preference. If there is a 3-way tie, we will attempt to use judge's preference if possible first, and then use speaker points. It is our intent to keep all judges clean for elimination rounds. However, this intent may be modified by the tournament director or tab room staff if necessary.

7. Pentathlon and Sweepstakes Awards:

- a. Points are awarded based on preliminary and elimination rounds. A school's top 4 entries in each event earn preliminary round sweepstakes points, while all elimination round contestants earn points for their schools. The formula for awarding points are as follows:

Debate Prelims:	2 points for each win (maximum of 4 teams per school per division)
IE Prelims:	3 points for 1 st , 2 points for 2 nd , 1 point for 3 rd (up to 4 entries). Note: in two-judge rounds, points will be halved (1.5 points per first, etc.)
IE Elims:	2 points for non-advancing semifinalists; 12-10-8-7-5-3 for 1st-6th
Debate Elims:	3 points for non-advancing octafinalists; 5 points for non-advancing quarterfinalists; 7 points for non-advancing semifinalists; 10 points for 2 nd ; 12 points for 1 st .
Readers' Theater:	Same as IE above, with all points multiplied by 1.5

- b. Pentathlon entries will be scored in the same way, with a student's top 5 events counting. Students must enter 1 platform event (limited prep, public address, and/or debate) and 1 interpretation event.

Ties in pentathlon will be resolved by the following system: Number of 1st place finishes, number of finals, number of 2nd place finishes, and so on. For purposes of equating debate with individual events, semifinals will count as a 3rd place finish, and quarterfinals will count as a 5th place finish. Octafinals do not count for purposes of finals or placing.

- c. We will award team awards in three divisions based on entry sizes. We will also award a quality award, which will be based on the average number of points earned per entry. In order to be eligible for the quality award, a school must have a minimum of 2 students and 4 entries.

8. Hotels:

The main tournament hotel will be the Drury Inn and Suites. The second hotel, located across the parking lot from the Drury, is the Springhill Suites. Both of these hotels are located approximately 6 blocks from Houston's Hobby Airport, and 7 miles from the University of Houston main campus.

If possible, schools should fly into Hobby Airport, as it's closer to the tournament than Houston George W. Bush Intercontinental. George Houston Intercontinental is about 35 miles from the hotels.

Drury Inn and Suites [Primary Tournament Hotel]

7602 Mosley Road

Houston, Texas 77061

Rate: \$65/Night for 1-4 Persons/Room

Phone: (713) 941-4300

Name of Block: Novice National Championships

Deadline for Block: February 18

Amenities: Free hot breakfast, free local phone calls, free parking, free internet., etc.

SpringHill Suites [Second Tournament Hotel]

7922 Mosley Road

Houston, Texas 77061

Rate: \$60/Night for a King Room

\$65/Night for Two Queen Rooms

Amenities: Free hot breakfast, free local phone calls, free parking, free internet., etc.

Phone: (713) 941-1713

Name of Block: Novice National Championships

Deadline for Block: March 1

9. Host questions: Any questions about host-related issues should go to Dr. Mike Fain at the University of Houston:

Email: drmikefain@aol.com

Phone: 713-385-0541

Novice Nationals Entry Form: Use **this** as a guideline when entering on the Joy of Tournaments website.

Judges:

Please list your judges below. Indicate with checkmarks events the judge **cannot** judge.

Name of Judge:	Group A				Group B				Group C				RT	LD	Parli
	Ext	Per	POI	Pro	Imp	Inf	CA	Duo	Imp Sal	Poe	DI	ADS			

Total Entry Fees:

Covered IE slots (1 judge covers 8 slots) _____ x \$8.00 = \$_____

Uncovered IE slots _____ x \$16.00 = \$_____

Covered Parli entries (1 judge covers 2 teams) _____ x \$25.00 = \$_____

Uncovered Parli entries _____ x \$50.00 = \$_____

Covered LD entries (1 judge covers 2 entries) _____ x \$15.00 = \$_____

Uncovered LD entries _____ x \$30.00 = \$_____

Covered RT entries (1 judge covers 2 entries) _____ x \$15.00 = \$_____

Uncovered RT entries _____ x \$30.00 = \$_____

Drop Fees: _____ \$_____

Total Entry Fees: _____ \$_____

Please make checks payable to Bethel University