

FLORIDA BLUE KEY SPEECH & DEBATE

2026

TOURNAMENT

PACKET



Florida Blue Key – 3160 J. Wayne Reitz Union – PO Box 118505 – Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dear Forensics Directors,

It is with great excitement and pride that we cordially invite you all to the 43rd Annual Florida Blue Key Speech and Debate Tournament. The tournament will be held in-person on the University of Florida's campus on October 30th, 31st, and November 1st, 2026. We look forward to having everyone on campus in Gainesville, FL this year.

Florida Blue Key has cemented its position as a premier national tournament with quality competitive experience. Accordingly, we are excited to offer bids for the 2027 Tournament of Champions. Quarterfinalists in Varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate, octafinalists in Public Forum Debate, finalists in World Schools Debate, and semifinalists in Congressional Debate will earn bids. In addition, bids will be awarded in all TOC speech events in accordance with the 2027 TOC ratios.

We are excited to announce that this will be Florida Blue Key's inaugural year as a bid tournament for the 2027 National Individual Events Tournament of Champions! Competitors will receive bids in all eight Speech Events in accordance with the 2027 NIETOC ratios.

This year, we are pleased to continue offering all events offered in the last two years. As is tradition, our events are directly run by the talented and determined leaders of the UF Student Body. Public Forum Debate will be led by Logan Bratter and Nathan Padron, Lincoln-Douglas Debate by Cyris Lim and Monique Scott, Congressional Debate by Alex Eidelkind and Madeline Kahn, World Schools Debate by Kamal Elbabaa and Siddharth Sudhakar, and the Individual Events by Ece Sarioglu, Julia LaMont, and Sarah Decowski. The experience of our team combined with successful tab coordinators will help create our most organized and welcoming tournament yet!

All events will begin after 3:30 PM on Friday, October 30th with final registration taking place throughout Friday. The Awards Ceremony will be held in the J. Wayne Reitz Student Union on Sunday, November 1st.

Contacts for event-specific questions are labeled throughout the invitation, but for all general inquiries please contact chair@fbkdebate.org.

As Always, Go Gators!

Carlo-Antonio J. Amoro

Carlo Amoro
Tournament Chair

A NOTE FROM FLORIDA BLUE KEY

Welcome to Florida Blue Key Speech & Debate! Florida Blue Key is extremely proud to continue to support such an important event to our community and we are excited to welcome everyone to the University of Florida.

Founded in 1923, Florida Blue Key equips the next generation of leaders through real experiences, from organizing the University's homecoming festivities to advocacy within state lawmakers' offices. Florida Blue Key celebrates over 100 years of service, leadership, and dedication to the University of Florida and the community.

Whether it is your first or fourth time competing with us, you are making a positive impact on our community through real advocacy skills.

I hope you enjoy your time at the University of Florida. Go Gators!

Sean Harkins

Sean Harkins
Florida Blue Key President



Funded in part by Visit Gainesville, Alachua County

2026 FLORIDA BLUE KEY SPEECH AND DEBATE TOURNAMENT

Executive Board

Tournament Chair – Carlo Amoro
Executive Director – Emma Okaty
Forensics Chair – Alexandra Dill
Operations Chair – Emilia McGovern
Competition Chair – Johnathan Pettross
Strategy Chair – Jordan Levitt
Finance Chair – Gianni Fillbrunn
Forensics Vice Chair – Jordan Antevy
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Directors

Public Forum: Logan Bratter and Nathan Padron
Lincoln Douglas: Cyris Lim and Monique Scott
Congress: Alex Eidelkind and Madeline Kahn
World Schools: Kamal Elbabaa and Siddharth Sudhakar
Individual Events: Ece Sarioglu, Julia LaMont, and Sarah Decowski
Round Robin: Emilia Hueller, Ammar Mansuri, and Madison Levitt
Scholarship: Kylie DesRochers and Keyes Rodriguez
Strategy: Jasur Talipov
Registration & Finance: Carlos Salas, Ella Martin, and Tristan Stavish
Hospitality: Nysa Dhamani and Ethan Simon
University Services: Lexie Trower and Michael Brunt
Outreach: Ari Meyerowitz and Raquel Tepper
Sales: Maya Sakellarios and Tobin Hertz
Deputy Chiefs of Staff: Elle Klatzko, Emma Ramsey, and Lauren Prangle

Senior Directors Underlined

GATOR GUARD LIST

Each year, the Florida Blue Key extends an invitation to a coach to join the Gator Guards and recognize their legacy and service to this tournament over the years. These coaches represent the best parts of this activity: they provide a foundation for growth, mentor us, and most importantly put an immeasurable amount of care into their students. If interested in finding more ways to get involved, please contact us at chair@fbkdebate.org.

2025.....	Bo Lint
2024.....	Rachel Mauchline
2023.....	Ryan Levesque
2022.....	Aly Fiebrantz-Awsare & Michael Puret
2021.....	Courtney Chipman
2020.....	Nathan Johnston
2019.....	Crawford Leavoy
2018.....	Traci Lowe & Tim Huth
2017.....	Kate Hamm
2016.....	Elizabeth Eskin & Chris Dodson
2015.....	Kristen Taylor & Paras Saxena
2014.....	Robert Sheard, Olivia Barket, & George Clemens
2013.....	Nancy Dean
2012.....	Dario Camara
2011.....	Carol Cecil & Jen Kwasman
2010.....	Harry Strong, James Wakefield, & Chelsey Campbell
2009.....	Ryan Ross & Jennifer Cohen
2008.....	William Shwayri & Jessica Meloy
2007.....	Lauren Schlosberg
2006.....	Willie Warren & Rebecca Siegel
2005.....	Lauren Murray & Andrea Shwayri
2004.....	Marc Adler & James Ferraro
2003.....	Dean Rhodes, Beth Goldman, & Denise Kim
2002.....	Tucker Curtis, John Rains III, Chris Pezon, & Marissa Brodsky
2001.....	Ann Hicks, Darcy Butrimas, & Melissa Korn
2000.....	Mindy Friedman, Brian Koch, & Carmen Adkins
1999.....	Rich Edwards, Eden Heilman, & Hunter Carroll
1998.....	Brent A. Gordon, Fran Berger, & Lisa Miller
1997.....	Nicole Fried, Mary Schick, & Kristen Flamand
1996.....	Sister Mary Patricia Plumb & Beth McMahan
1995.....	Earl English, Merie Ulery, & Lee Turner
1994.....	Rhoda Radow, Dale McCall, John McGovern, & Hoang Vu

TOURNAMENT WIDE EXPECTATIONS

Registration: Florida Blue Key will be holding all registration through the tournament website on Tabroom.com. We will **NOT** take requests from other methods of communication. Registration will open on August 31st, 2026, at 8:00 AM where schools can begin to enter students or reserve "TBA" slots. At the beginning, all students will be placed on the wait list until we begin clearing on September 18th. Registration will close on October 22nd.

Hybrid Entries: Entries composed of competitors from multiple schools are allowed, exclusively for World Schools Debate. While hybrid entries can earn TOC bids, they are not able to use them as part of their qualification for the TOC unless at least two members of that team are from the same school, and only that school may use the bid.

Adult Supervision: Students at the tournament must be with a parent, legal guardian, or a school-approved adult guardian, teacher, or coach who can handle emergencies. The adult guardian must be a high school graduate. Every participant must provide an adult contact's name and phone number for emergencies.

Entourage Rule: Anyone who is providing coaching and/or research support for any participants in Public Forum and Lincoln-Douglas must be in the judge pool for a minimum of 2 rounds (4 flights). In Congressional Debate, anyone providing support should be entered as a judge and available for elimination rounds. Please contact chair@fbkdebate.org for any issues that arise or a need for an exception to this rule. Violations can result in loss of preferences / strikes or additional fines.

Entry Caps: We will be enforcing per school and per event entry caps. Schools are limited to 9 entries in each Speech division, 9 Congressional debaters, 7 teams in Public Forum, 7 Lincoln-Douglas debaters, and 5 teams in World Schools Debate. Please note that the Tournament Chair reserves the right to alter these caps and you are not officially entered into the tournament until you have been lifted off the wait list.

- **Varsity Public Forum & Lincoln-Douglas:** 184 entries
- **Novice Public Forum & Lincoln-Douglas:** 48 entries
- **All Speech Events:** 72 entries
- **Congressional Debate:** 200 entries
- **World Schools Debate:** 48 entries

Tournament of Champions/NIETOC: Florida Blue Key is proud to announce that we have retained our status for the JW Patterson Tournament of Champions with bids being as follows: Public Forum (octafinalists), Congressional Debate (semi-finalists), Lincoln-Douglas (quarterfinalists), World Schools Debate (finalists). Florida Blue Key is also a bid tournament for the TOC in speech events, and for the first time this year, a bid tournament in all Speech events for the 2027 National Individual Events Tournament of Champions.

Final Registration: The tournament will hold final registration beginning on the afternoon of Friday, October 30th.

Protests: For all protests, the tournament will provide a form via Tabroom.com where protests are to be filed. These protests must be filed by a coach of record for the school in a timely manner. For all protests, the Tournament Chair reserves the right to appoint a regulator, including the Competition Chair, to handle all issues.

- **Evidence and Ethics Challenges:** For all events, all protests are handled by the Competition Chair and other tournament staff appointed by them. In cases where a judge has erred, the Competition Chair and other staff appointed to handle a protest can only help the judge understand the process.
- **Equity, Harassment or Discrimination Concerns:** These challenges are to be brought to the Competition Chair. There will be a form on Tabroom to be filled in the event of these concerns.
- **Any Other Challenges or Complaints:** These should be brought to the Tournament Chair. The Chair reserves the right to appoint another member of staff from the tournament to be able to handle any other outstanding issues.
- **No protests will be accepted** after the next round has started.

Varsity/Novice Clarifications: If a student has competed in a total of two or fewer tournaments in previous high school years or this is a student's first year of competition, then they shall be classified as Novice. A Novice may choose to compete in the Varsity division.

Round Robin: The Round Robin Invitational will take place on Thursday, October 29th, 2026. This year's Round Robin will be overseen by Emilia Hueller, Ammar Mansuri, and Madison Levitt. Those wishing to attend are welcome to submit an application which will be made available on September 1st via our website <https://www.fbkdebate.org/roundrobin>. Applications will close on September 29th. Please reach out to roundrobin@fbkdebate.org with any questions.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Usage Policy: The Florida Blue Key Speech and Debate Tournament will follow current National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) rules and guidance regarding artificial intelligence. Any use of AI for research, writing, evidence preparation, or analytic assistance must comply with all applicable NSDA event and evidence rules. Competitors remain fully responsible for the accuracy, sourcing, and ethical use of all material presented in competition. Violations of NSDA standards regarding evidence ethics, plagiarism, or misrepresentation may result in penalties or disqualification.

Smoke-free Campus: The University of Florida is designated as a smoke-free and tobacco-free campus. This means that the use of all tobacco products is prohibited during the events.

Construction: The University of Florida is undergoing construction around campus, which means that paths you have used in years previously may not be available. Please quickly scan the ongoing projects to be familiar with the extent of construction going into the tournament: <https://campusmap.ufl.edu>. A more comprehensive guide that explains how this impacts our tournament will be available closer to the tournament date if necessary.

Governing Rules: For all events, the NSDA rules will be the final authority. Decisions by any member of the tournament staff are final and are not open to appeal.

FOR CLUB AND INDEPENDENT ENTRIES

The Florida Blue Key Speech and Debate Tournament is primarily an interscholastic competition designed for students representing diploma-granting secondary schools. The purpose of this policy is to establish a pathway for participation by competitors and programs that are not officially representing a school while ensuring equivalent standards of supervision, accountability, liability coverage, and judging obligations.

Florida Blue Key has unique requirements for independent entries and club teams, and they will be accepted on a case by case basis.

Debate clubs may apply to participate under the tournament's Club Entry designation. Admission is not guaranteed and is granted on an application basis at the discretion of the tournament. Clubs that are approved are subject to all standard tournament policies in addition to the heightened requirements described in this section. Club entries are treated identically to school-based entries with respect to rules violations, fines, and enforcement.

Disclaimer

All rules, policies, limits, and caps set forth elsewhere in this packet that apply to school-based entries apply with equal force to club entries, whether or not they are expressly restated in this section. This includes, without limitation, division caps, entry limits, registration deadlines, drop deadlines, judging obligations, penalty fees, and conduct requirements. The provisions of this section are additional requirements that apply only to club and independent entries, and they supplement rather than replace the general rules of the tournament. Where a requirement in this section is stricter than the corresponding general rule, the stricter requirement in this section controls.

Definition of a Club Entry

Any competitor, coach, academy, club, homeschool organization, or other program not officially representing a diploma-granting secondary school shall be considered an Unaffiliated Entry and shall be subject to all requirements contained in this section. The tournament reserves the right to determine eligibility based on the substance of a program's structure and participation rather than the label it adopts.

A Club Entry is any squad that does **NOT** meet both of the following criteria for school-based status:

- Official sanctioning by a diploma-granting secondary school in which all competitors are primarily enrolled for diploma-seeking purposes, such that attending Florida Blue Key is a fully official school-sanctioned event; and
- Accompaniment by a chaperone who is an employee of that school, or who has been formally appointed by that school to serve as its official representative.

Any competitor or program not officially representing a diploma-granting secondary school is subject to all requirements contained in this section, regardless of whether they identify as an independent entry, homeschool program, club, academy, private coaching organization, or any other non-school-based entity. **For the avoidance of doubt, an organization whose school provides only a "non-objection to attendance" does not meet the standard for school-based status and must comply with Club Entry requirements.**

Lastly, for the purposes of these rules, the tournament will evaluate the actual structure, supervision, and affiliation of an entry rather than the terminology used by the participant or organization. Organizations may not avoid the requirements of this section through alternative labels or organizational structures.

Application Process

Clubs wishing to participate must submit a Club Entry Application in addition to registering on Tabroom. Applications will be made available on the tournament website at www.fbkdebate.org/clubs when registration opens on August 31st, 2026. Applications close on September 18th, 2026 (the date on which the tournament begins clearing entries from the waitlist). The tournament will review applications and notify clubs of their status before the waitlist clearing process begins.

The application must include the following:

- Full legal name of the organization and proof of non-profit or registered business status;
- Certificate of Insurance naming the Florida Blue Key Speech and Debate Tournament and the University of Florida as additional insureds;
- Names, titles, and contact information for all club leadership members who will be present on campus during the tournament as well as proof they are listed on the club's website;
- A complete list of anticipated entries and judges by event; and
- Acknowledgment of all Club Entry requirements and consequences as stated in this section.

Clubs that are approved will be permitted to register during the general registration window. Club entries will only be added to each division after school-based entries are processed; club registrations submitted before the September 18th clearing date will remain on the waitlist until that date. Approved status in a given year does not guarantee approval in future years.

Division Caps for Club Entries

Club entries are subject to a separate per-division cap and collectively will not comprise more than 25% of any single division's total entries. This cap is enforced at the time of waitlist clearing. If demand from club entries exceeds the cap in a given division, the tournament will prioritize clubs that submitted their applications earliest.

Pre-Tournament Requirements

The following must be completed before a club entry will be confirmed. Failure to complete any item by the deadlines specified may result in removal from the tournament without refund.

- **Certificate of Insurance:** Clubs must provide a valid Certificate of Insurance, naming the Florida Blue Key Speech and Debate Tournament and the University of Florida as additional insureds, at the time of application. Clubs must be formally registered as a legal entity (e.g., an LLC or non-profit) in order to obtain this certificate. This requirement is firm and non-waivable.
- **Squad-Level Hold Harmless & Release:** A club leadership member with authority to act on behalf of the organization must complete a Hold Harmless & Release Agreement prior to the tournament. This will be made available through the Tabroom registration process.
- **Competitor Waivers:** Each individual competitor must complete an Individual Liability Waiver and a Parent or Guardian Permission Letter prior to competing. These documents must be uploaded as separate PDF files for each competitor through Tabroom. We cannot accept forms submitted by email or any other method. Instructions for uploading will be provided in the Club Entry Application confirmation.
- **Advance Payment:** Once a club's application is confirmed, all registration fees for club entries must be paid in full no later than October 20th, 2026. Club entries that have not paid in full by this date will be dropped from the tournament. See the Fees section of this packet for applicable rates. Clubs are also subject to all standard penalty fees.

At-Tournament Requirements

Club Leadership Presence: At least one named club leadership member or chaperone who is at least 21 years of age must be physically present on campus and reachable by tournament staff at all times throughout the tournament. The names and phone numbers of all on-site club leadership must be submitted to registration@fbkdebate.org no later than October 26th, 2026, and must match the individuals listed in the approved application. This is an absolute requirement. Any changes to on-site leadership must be disclosed and approved in advance. Any club discovered to be unaccompanied by leadership at any point during the tournament will be immediately disqualified from all events with no exceptions and no refund.

Judging Obligations

Club entries must independently satisfy all judging obligations in every event in which they are entered. The standard per-event judging ratios listed in the Judging section of this packet apply. Club entries may not fulfill judging requirements through hired judges. Please contact execdirector@fbkdebate.org for any issues that arise or a need for an exception to this rule. All judges provided by club entries are subject to the same standards, paradigm requirements, conflict policies, and elimination round obligations as judges provided by school-based programs.

Judges provided by club entries who miss preliminary rounds will be fined at the standard rate. Judges who miss elimination rounds are subject to the enhanced fine. All fines are the responsibility of the club and will be assessed against the club's account. Per the tournament's entourage rule, any individual providing coaching or research support to competitors in Public Forum or Lincoln-Douglas must be in the judge pool for a minimum of two rounds (four flights).

Fees

All club entries are assessed a surcharge of 25% in addition to the standard rates listed in the Fees section of this packet. The surcharge applies to every per-entry fee and to the one-time \$60 administration fee, yielding an administration fee of \$75 for club entries. The surcharge does not apply to penalty fees, which are assessed at the standard rates listed in the Fees section.

Entry Eligibility and Team Naming

A competitor may not participate under a club entry if the diploma-granting secondary school in which they are primarily enrolled is also competing in the same tournament. This rule applies on an event-by-event basis: a competitor whose school is entered in Public Forum, for example, may not also compete under a club name in Public Forum, even if competing in a different event under the club would otherwise be permissible.

Team names for club entries must reflect the name of the registered club organization. If the students otherwise attend a school, the entry name must distinguish itself from that school's name and may not create the impression that the entry is school-based. The tournament reserves the right to require a name change. Requests to change a Tabroom account name should be directed to Tabroom's support channels.

Declaring Club Entry Status

Club coordinators must clearly indicate their status as a Club Entry during the application process and at all registration steps on Tabroom. Entries discovered during or after the tournament to be of Club Entry status that did not correctly declare and fully complete all required documentation in advance may be dropped from the tournament without refund.

Enforcement and Consequences

The Tournament Chair, Competition Chair, and any other official reserves the right to determine club entry eligibility on a case-by-case basis and to make judgments based on the clear intent of these rules. Club entries are held to the same standard as school-based programs with respect to all rules, fines, and conduct expectations. Violations may result in the following consequences:

- Immediate disqualification from any or all events;
- Forfeiture of all entry fees;
- Potential fines if violations are discovered after the tournament; and
- Prohibition from applying to future Florida Blue Key tournaments.

Questions regarding club entry eligibility, the application, or any of the above requirements should be directed to competition@fbkdebate.org.

Independent Entries

An Independent Entry is a competitor who seeks to attend without registering through a club and without being part of a fully school-sanctioned squad. Florida Blue Key strongly recommends that all competitors register through their school. Competitors who are unable to do so may seek to register as an Independent Entry by emailing execdirector@fbkdebate.org. Admission is not guaranteed, and each request will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the tournament.

All requirements that apply to club entries under this section with respect to division caps, chaperones, judging obligations, fees, and team naming apply with equal force to Independent Entries, whether or not they are expressly restated here. The provisions specific to Independent Entries are additional requirements that supplement, and do not replace, those rules and the general rules of the tournament. Where any requirement is stricter, the stricter requirement controls.

An Independent Entry will only be considered once the following have been provided:

- A signed letter from the competitor's school administration granting the competitor permission to attend. This letter must place responsibility for the competitor's permission to attend with the school rather than the tournament.
- The name and contact information for an adult chaperone who is responsible for the competitor and who must be present at all times during the tournament.

We will not accept Hired Judge Requests for Independent Entries. Any judging obligation attached to an Independent Entry must be satisfied without the use of a hired judge.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Key Contacts

The main contact for any questions is the Tournament Chair, Carlo Amoro, who can be reached at chair@fbkdebate.org. Specific contacts are as follows:

Forensics: forensics@fbkdebate.org

Protests: competition@fbkdebate.org

Round Robin: roundrobin@fbkdebate.org

Public Forum: publicforum@fbkdebate.org

Individual Events: individualevents@fbkdebate.org

Congressional Debate: congress@fbkdebate.org

Lincoln-Douglas: lincolndouglas@fbkdebate.org

World Schools Debate: worldschools@fbkdebate.org

Finance / Payments: finance@fbkdebate.org

Registration: registration@fbkdebate.org

Scholarship: scholarship@fbkdebate.org

Independent Entry Queries: execdirector@fbkdebate.org

JUDGING AND FEES

JUDGING

We highly prioritize having capable judges for all our events. Please assist us in maintaining the judging quality by exclusively bringing judges to the tournament who have received proper training and are qualified. Kindly refrain from including judges who are unsure about event assessment or lack the necessary qualifications. All judges, coaches and competitors must have a valid Tabroom account. **The Tab room reserves the right to fine your school if a judge has been removed because they are unable or unwilling to judge.**

For each event, judge requirements are as follows:

- 1 judge per 9 Congressional Debate entries
 - **Schools with more than 6 entries must indicate at least one judge who can serve as parliamentarian**
- 3 rounds of Lincoln–Douglas judging per entry
- 3 rounds of Public Forum judging per entry
- 1 judge per 5 Speech entries
- 1 judge per 2 World School Debate entries
-

Hired Judges: Florida Blue Key will offer hired judges on a limited basis. We encourage all schools to request these at the earliest point possible to prevent last-minute needs being denied. All hired judge requests must be in by October 26th. The price for hired judges is as follows:

- \$67 per round in Public Forum
- \$67 per round in Lincoln–Douglas
- \$280 per uncovered judge in World Schools Debate
- \$280 per uncovered judge in Speech Events
- \$280 per uncovered judge in Congressional Debate

Paradigms: For debate events, please have your judges post their judge philosophy on Tabroom under the paradigms section. Your school will not be allowed to enter prefs or strikes until all your judges have provided a paradigm.

Conflicts: Florida Blue Key will be following the FFL Conflict Policy as seen below:

- Judges should preclude themselves from any competitor who they have previously coached, had a close, personal relationship with, or for any other reason the judge believes they cannot be objective towards them if assigned
 - A close, personal relationship can be defined as, but not limited to, familial relations, roommates, previous or current romantic relationships
- Judges should preclude themselves from judging any school which they previously coached in the four years prior to the current academic year or until the last student they coached graduates, whichever is later.
 - Coaching is defined as contractual obligations to coach as determined through a school or personal affiliation. This can be paid or volunteer coaching solicited by a student or school to the specific coach, even if conducted digitally or otherwise remotely.
- Any competitor or coach should preclude herself or himself from any competitor whom they have seriously recruited to attend their school.
- Judges should preclude themselves from judging their alma mater until 6 years after they have graduated and/or worked with the team, whichever comes later.
- It is **BOTH** the judge's obligation AND the coach's obligation to
 - communicate any conflicts to the tournament director prior to the start of the tournament
 - explain any conflicts when asked by the event directors and/or the tabroom staff
- The tab staff will make every effort to keep conflicts as confidential as possible.
- In the event a pairing is distributed, and a judge reports a conflict after the fact, resulting in a changing of the pairing, that schools involved will be charged a fee commensurate with an uncovered judge fine for the tournament.

Elimination Round Obligations: All judges are required to judge the first full elimination round on Sunday morning OR judge one round past the last elimination rounds that their school participated in (whichever comes last).

Judges that are not scheduled at the moment of pairings release should wait in the Judges' lounge. Not being initially paired does not mean that the judge has the round off. Missing a stand-by carries the same punishments as a published assignment.

FEES/PAYMENT

If you are interested in requesting a waiver for fees, please contact finance@fbkdebate.org. Florida Blue Key is committed to making our tournament accessible to students of all backgrounds, so please don't hesitate to email us and include "Financial Aid" in the email's subject line.

Event Fees: All schools entering will have a one-time \$60 administration fee. The event fees beyond that are as follows:

- \$75 per competitor in Varsity Lincoln-Douglas
- \$60 per competitor in Novice Lincoln-Douglas
- \$120 per team in Varsity Public Forum
- \$90 per team in Novice Public Forum
- \$110 per team in Duo Interpretation
- \$55 per entry in all other Speech Events
- \$70 per entry in Congressional Debate
- \$65 per entry in World Schools Debate

All unaffiliated entries, including Club and Independent Entries, are assessed a surcharge of 25% in addition to the standard rates above.

Penalty Fees:

- **Missing Judges:** Schools whose judges miss a preliminary round will be assessed \$50 for each round missed. For elimination rounds, this fine will be \$100
- **Hidden Drops:** Drops not disclosed at registration and found by the staff will incur a \$200 fine
- **Drop Fees:** All drops after October 26th will forfeit their registration fees
- **Constraint Fees:** If you provide inaccurate information regarding which teams and/or specific contestants your judges cannot judge and we need to replace your judge, you will be fined \$75 in preliminary rounds and \$150 in elimination rounds
- **Judge Name Fee:** In Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum, you will be charged a \$50 fee for needing to change the name of a judge, adding a judge or dropping a judge after the pref and strike sheets are active

Payment Methods Available:

1. **Square Invoice**
 - a. Requests are to be made through finance@fbkdebate.org
2. **Mailed Checks to:**
Florida Blue Key Speech and Debate
3160 J. Wayne Reitz Union
Gainesville, FL 32611
3. **All other payments can proceed as normal by bringing a payment method (either check or credit card) with you Friday October 30th, 2026, upon your arrival to campus**

If you have not paid and have entries advancing to elimination rounds, we will not advance those entries until all financial liabilities have been cleared.

EVENT INSTRUCTIONS AND SCHEDULES

Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum Guidelines

- We will be using a 30-point scale that allows for tenth points for speaker points. Both low-point wins and ties are permitted. We encourage disclosure of decisions and discussion of all debates within reason (we must keep the tournament on time)
- All debates must have one winner and one loser
- Lincoln-Douglas will be utilizing the 6-3-7-3-4-6-3 format. Public Forum will use the 4-4-3-4-4-3-3-3-2-2 format
- For Lincoln-Douglas, there will be 4-minutes of preparation time allowed. For Public Forum, there will be 3-minutes of preparation time allowed
- Debates in Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum will be utilizing the November / December topic
- In Public Forum, mavericks are not able to clear or advance. To advance, the team must have debated together for 4 rounds in prelims
- The tournament will be utilizing Tabroom's coin flip feature. This will work as follows: prior to the round, the service will determine the winner of the coin toss. The team that wins the flip may choose one of two options: EITHER the side of the topic they wish to defend OR the speaking position they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate). Once the coin toss winners select their favored option, the other team makes a choice with the remaining option. There is no ability to "redo" the coinflip. Only system-wide failure of Tabroom.com will be reasons to redetermine the winner of a coin toss
- All rounds are open to authorized guests, and they are allowed to flow the debates
- All teams with a 4-2 record or better will clear to elimination rounds. Participants and rankings will be determined in the following order: Ballots, H2H, Opp Wins, Drop H/L pts, Total pts, J. Var
- Only the tab room can declare forfeitures. Students not present ten minutes past the pairing time are eligible to be forfeited
- Power matching will occur at the end of Round 2 and Florida Blue Key will be utilizing a high/low pairing within brackets
- Participants are permitted to utilize internet-enabled devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones during events. However, engaging with external contacts during debates is prohibited. Breaking this rule results in losing the debate and receiving zero points. A phone ringing is acceptable, but making calls or messaging a coach is not.

TENTATIVE LINCOLN-DOUGLAS SCHEDULE

DATE	ROUND	ROUND POSTED	START TIME	DECISION TIME
FRIDAY	ROUND 1	4:30 PM	5:00 PM	7:30 PM
	ROUND 2	7:00 PM	7:30 PM	10:00 PM
SATURDAY	ROUND 3	7:30 AM	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
	ROUND 4	10:45AM	11:15 AM	1:45 PM
	ROUND 5	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	5:00 PM
	ROUND 6	5:15 PM	5:45 PM	8:15 PM
	DOUBLES	8:30 PM	9:00 PM	10:30 PM
SUNDAY	OCTAS	7:30 AM	8:00 AM	9:30 AM
	QUARTERS	10:00 AM	10:30 AM	12:00 PM
	SEMIS	12:30 PM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM
	FINALS	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM

TENTATIVE PUBLIC FORUM SCHEDULE

DATE	ROUND	ROUND POSTED	START TIME	DECISION TIME
FRIDAY	ROUND 1	4:30 PM	5:00 PM	7:30 PM
	ROUND 2	7:00 PM	7:30 PM	10:00 PM
SATURDAY	ROUND 3	7:30 AM	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
	ROUND 4	10:45AM	11:15 AM	1:45 PM
	ROUND 5	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	5:00 PM
	ROUND 6	5:15 PM	5:45 PM	8:15 PM
	DOUBLES	8:30 PM	9:00 PM	10:30 PM
SUNDAY	OCTAS	7:30 AM	8:00 AM	9:30 AM
	QUARTERS	10:00 AM	10:30 AM	12:00 PM
	SEMIS	12:30 PM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM
	FINALS	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM

CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE GUIDELINES

- Florida Blue Key will utilize NSDA rules for all congressional debate procedures
- **Schools with more than 6 entries must indicate at least one judge who can serve as parliamentarian**
- Time limits for all speeches will be 3 minutes. Sponsorship speeches' cross-examination period will be 2 minutes while all other cross-examination periods will be 1 minute with all cross-examination being direct questioning
- Extending questioning that requires the suspension of the rules is not permitted
- Congress legislation will be released prior to the tournament with schools having the opportunity to submit proposals
- Three preliminary sessions will be held with 20 students. Students will then break to semifinals with a 20 student chamber and then from there a final with a 20 student chamber.
- Participants are permitted to utilize internet-enabled devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones during events. However, engaging with external contacts during debates is prohibited. Breaking this rule results in losing the debate and receiving zero points. A phone ringing is acceptable, but making calls or messaging a coach is not
- All ballots should be entered electronically via Tabroom – oral critiques are not permitted in the round
- Students should clarify with the Presiding Officer how time signals will be given in round

TENTATIVE CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE SCHEDULE

DATE	ROUND	ROUND POSTED	START TIME	DECISION TIME
FRIDAY	ROUND 1	4:30 PM	5:00 PM	7:30 PM
SATURDAY	SESSION 2		9:00 AM	11:30 AM
	SESSION 3		1:00 PM	3:30 PM
	SEMIFINALS	4:45 PM	5:30 PM	8:00 PM
SUNDAY	FINALS – I	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	11:30 AM
	FINALS – II		12:30 PM	3:00 PM

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS GUIDELINES

- Florida Blue Key will utilize NSDA rules for all Individual Events procedures
- Time limits for HI, DI, DUO, POI, INF and OO will be 10 minutes. Time limits for EXT and IMP will be 7 minutes maximum
- All rounds are open to authorized guests of the tournament
- Breaks will occur based on the number of competitors entered in each category. Events with over 50 entries will break into quarterfinals (24 competitors). All other events will break to semi-finals (12 competitors) and then finals (6 competitors). Should there be two competitors with the exact same ranking going into finals, we will allow a round of 7 competitors
- All ballots should be entered electronically via Tabroom – oral critiques are not permitted in the round
- Aside from extemporaneous speaking, students may not use the same primary source in more than one event
- As many students are competing in two or three events that coincide in the schedule, placing them in optimal speaker positions has been notably tough for the computer. Occasionally, a student involved in two simultaneous events might be the first speaker in one and the third or fourth in another. For cross-entered students in each time slot, instruct them to first go to the room where they are scheduled to speak first, and then proceed to their other event(s)
- Students should clarify with the judge their name and how time signals will be given in round
- **Patterns:**
 - Pattern A: Extemporaneous Speaking, Dramatic Interpretation, Informative Speaking and Duo Interpretation
 - Pattern B: Humorous Interpretation, Original Oratory, Impromptu Speaking and Program Oral Interpretation
- Students are able to double and triple enter, but are not able to triple enter in three events in the same pattern

TENTATIVE INDIVUAL EVENTS SCHEDULE

SPEECH SCHEDULE – PATTERN A EVENTS

DI, DUO, EXT, INF

DATE	ROUND	ROUND POSTED	START TIME	BALLOT DUE
FRIDAY	ROUND 1	5:00 PM	5:30 PM	6:45 PM
	ROUND 2	8:00 PM	8:30 PM	9:45 PM
SATURDAY	ROUND 3	9:15 AM	9:45 AM	11:00 AM
	ROUND 4	12:45 PM	1:15 PM	2:30 PM
	ROUND 5	4:15 PM	4:45 PM	6:00 PM
	OCTAS (IF NEEDED)	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	9:30 PM
SUNDAY	QUARTERS	8:30AM	9:00 AM	10:15 AM
	SEMIFINALS	12:30 PM	1:00 PM	2:15 PM
	FINALS	2:45 PM	3:15 PM	4:30 PM

SPEECH SCHEDULE – PATTERN B EVENTS

HI, IMP, OO, POI

DATE	ROUND	ROUND POSTED	START TIME	BALLOT DUE
FRIDAY	ROUND 1	6:15 PM	6:45 PM	8:00 PM
SATURDAY	ROUND 2	7:30 AM	8:00 AM	9:15 AM
	ROUND 3	11:00 AM	11:30 AM	12:45 PM
	ROUND 4	2:30 PM	3:00 PM	4:15 PM
	ROUND 5	6:00 PM	6:30 PM	7:45 PM
	OCTAS (IF NEEDED)	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	9:30 PM
SUNDAY	QUARTERS	10:00 AM	10:30 AM	11:45 AM
	SEMIFINALS	12:30 PM	1:00 PM	2:15 PM
	FINALS	2:45 PM	3:15 PM	4:30 PM

SPEECH SCHEDULE – EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING

PATTERN A

DATE	ROUND	ROUND POSTED	PREP STARTS	START TIME	BALLOT DUE
FRIDAY	ROUND 1	4:30 PM	5:00 PM	5:30 PM	6:45 PM
	ROUND 2	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:30 PM	9:45 PM
SATURDAY	ROUND 3	8:45 AM	9:15 AM	9:45 AM	11:00 AM
	ROUND 4	12:15 PM	12:45 PM	1:15 PM	2:30 PM
	ROUND 5	3:45 PM	4:15 PM	4:45 PM	6:00 PM
	OCTAS (IF NEEDED)	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	9:30 PM
SUNDAY	QUARTERS	8:00 AM	8:30AM	9:00 AM	10:15 AM
	SEMIFINALS	12:00 PM	12:30 PM	1:00 PM	2:15 PM
	FINALS	2:15 PM	2:45 PM	3:15 PM	4:30 PM

WORLD SCHOOLS DEBATE GUIDELINES

- Florida Blue Key will utilize NSDA rules for all World Schools Debate procedures
- Time limits for substantive speeches will be 8 minutes maximum while for reply speeches they will be 4 minutes
- Interruptions: During a substantive speech, a competitor from the opposing team is permitted to offer a point of information, aside from the first full minute and the last full minute of the substantive speech. The speaker is allowed to accept or reject this point of information
- Certain rounds will be using prepared motions that will be released ahead of time and thus will not require a roll call. The Tentative Schedule assumes that these are Rounds 1, 2, 5, Semis, and Finals, but this is likely to change
- All teams with a 4-2 record or better will clear to elimination rounds. Participants and rankings will be determined in the following order: Ballots, H2H, Opp Wins, Drop H/L pts, Total pts, J. Var

TENTATIVE WORLD SCHOOLS DEBATE SCHEDULE

MANDATORY WSD JUDGE TRAINING FRIDAY 4:30PM TO 5:30PM

	ROUND	TOPIC POSTED	ROUND POSTED	START TIME	DECISION DUE
FRIDAY	ROUND 1	N/A	5:30 PM	6:00 PM	7:30 PM
SATURDAY	ROUND 2	N/A	8:00 AM	8:30 AM	10:00 AM
	ROUND 3	10:30AM	10:30 AM	11:30 AM	1:15PM
	ROUND 4	2:00PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:45 PM
	ROUND 5	N/A	5:30 PM	6:00 PM	7:45 PM
SUNDAY	QUARTERS	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:45 AM
	SEMIFINALS	N/A	11:30 AM	12:00 PM	1:45 PM
	FINALS	N/A	2:45 PM	3:15 PM	5:00 PM