

A Quick Look at Foley Events A& Event Rules

Student Congress: We will host four levels of congress, novice, junior varsity, open, and champ. **Awards will be presented to the top five speakers in each level.** To be eligible for the *Foley Speaker's Award*, a student must be entered in either the open or the champ division. The number of chambers will depend on the number of students entered in the tournament.

Students will deliberate the merits of bills and resolutions using Robert's Rules of Order. The State of Washington follows the so-called "Kansas rule." As such, bills have been submitted to the appropriate WSFA committee for approval. Only approved bills may be considered in any division. Copies of these bills are on Tabroom.com. NFL, WSFA and GSL rules will apply. Copies of the Washington State approved legislation, applicable WSFA, NFL, and GSL rules will be forwarded to any school upon request. **Note:** *Student congress does not conflict with any other event except International Diplomacy.*

Super Congress Reserved Legislation: Pursuant to WSFA guidelines, only accepted Super Congress legislation may be used at any level of Super Congress. WSFA Reserved Super Congress Legislation is included in the WSFA Spring Legislation packet on the website.

Congress Divisions:

Champ:

Open to All Competitors Seeking the Top Level of Competition.
Students who meet the following benchmarks SHOULD ENTER THIS LEVEL.

- (1) Any student desirous of winning one of the six Tournament of Championship (TOC) bids** available at this tournament or **prequalifying for Washington State Division 6 State Congressional Debate berths, or having qualified for Super Congress at his/her/their last tournament before Foley MUST enter the championship division;**
- (2) Any student who has qualified for/and or attended the NSDA, CNFL, or TOC, National Competition in Student Congress/Legislative Debate should enter this division; OR**
- (3) Any student who has qualified for/and or attended the competitor's applicable State Student Congress/Legislative Debate Tournament should enter this division;**
- (4) Any student who has broken to super congress or placed in the top third of a student congress tournament which does not hold a super congress at least three times in the last two years at the open or varsity level should enter this division. [TOC CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE BID]**

Open:

This division is open to all competitors regardless of experience, except for students seeking a TOC bid/Washington State Division 6 Prequalifying Position, who must enter the champ division.

JV:

This division is open to

- (1) Any student who has limited student congress experience (individual coach's preference) may enter this division.
- (2) First year students who have been competing in novice congressional debate should enter **JV or Open Congressional Debate**.
- (3) Any student who qualified for Super Congress at his/her/their last tournament before Foley MUST enter the JV (or higher) division.

Novice:

This division is intended for first year novice debaters who have not regularly debated in student congress this year (e.g. students who have been competing in novice LD/Public Forum/World Debate etc. or who are brand new to debate).

Policy Debate: We will provide *junior varsity and open divisions* in policy/CX debate. Three and four person teams are allowed. However, only two students may compete at any one time. We will use the **2025/2026 National Forensics League policy topic**. WSFA and GSL rules will apply. Copies of these rules will be forwarded to any school upon request.

Open Policy will run in accordance with NSDA rules, with the exception that if divisions are collapsed, when an open team hits a JV team, the open team must also abide by the WSFA JV rules (see below).

We are excited to be helping Washington State rebuild the “granddad of all high school debate, policy/CX.

We are running all policy/CX on a hybrid live/online format. More information will be emailed to policy/CX teams prior to the tournament.

Please see the special rates for online policy teams only (see page 5).

Washington State Forensics Association (WSFA) JV Policy Debate Rules

Policy has a JV division rather than a novice division. The JV division is open to anyone. Thus, kids who competed last year in novice PF (or another debate event), moved up to the open division, but are not doing well in the open division, **we are encouraging you to let them try JV policy, where they can compete with other kids who are also learning the event. It may just turn out that your kids are natural champions in policy!**

Like traditional novice policy, Washington JV has case limitations.

JV students are limited to this case list:

Domain Awareness Affirmative
Science Diplomacy Affirmative
Russia Natural Gas Affirmative
Native Renewables Affirmative

(**Note:** These are NDCA case affirmatives; however, students may write their own cases on any of the NDCA Affirmative topics. The affirmative's case must simply meet one of the case areas above. If it does not, the negative team may run a "JV Case List Topicality Argument" arguing that the affirmative case is not topical because it does not meet the resolution or the JV topic case list).

Negative teams may run a Cap K and an EU counterplan.

Debaters are not limited on the evidence they can use; however, they may access evidence and information at the NDCA at

<https://www.debatecoaches.org/resources/novice>

Judges!

We welcome new policy judges! If you have new or inexperienced judges in policy, please ask them to view the 15 minute NSDA judge training for policy debate at: <https://www.speechanddebate.org/learn/courses/judging-policy-debate/>

Lincoln Douglas Debate: We will provide *junior varsity and open* divisions in Lincoln Douglas debate. We will be using the **2026 January/February National Forensics League topic**. WSFA and GSL rules will apply. Copies of these rules will be forwarded upon request.

Public Forum: We will provide *junior varsity and open divisions* in Public Forum Debate. Three and four person teams are allowed. However, only two students may compete at any one time. NSDA and WSFA rules will apply. The **2026 February National Forensics League topic** will be used, which will be available on the NFL website.

World Style Debate: We will provide an *open division only* in World Style Debate. Three, four, and five person teams are allowed. However, only three students may debate at any one time. In impromptu rounds all members of the team may help prep; however, only three members may actually debate the resolution.

We will use the WSFA/NSDA format.

We will use the WSFA Spring topics for prepared motions:

1. **This House believes that charter schools have done more harm than good to the education system.**

(Info Slide: A charter school is a school that receives government funding but operates independently of the established state school system in which it is located. It is independent in the sense that it operates according to the basic principle of autonomy for accountability, that it is freed from the rules but accountable for results.)

2. **This House believes that the African Union should prioritize strengthening regional alliances as opposed to continental unification.**

(Info Slide: Regional alliances refer to cooperative blocs among nearby African nations (such as ECOWAS, SADC, or the East African Community) that coordinate on security, trade, and political issues within a specific sub-region. Continental unification refers to broader, Africa-wide integration efforts (similar to the structure of the EU) that aim to centralize political decision-making, harmonize institutions, or move toward continent-wide economic or political union.)

TOC Congress, TOC Individual Events, & National Individual Events (NITOC) Bid Tournament

We are pleased to announce that the *Thomas S. Foley Memorial Forensics Tournament* is a **top 6 2026 TOC bid tournament in congressional debate and a bid tournament in both the National Individual Events Tournament of Champions and the TOC National Individual Events Tournament of Champions**. If you have any questions about the qualification process for either of these tournaments, please contact the applicable tournament website.

Individual Events Pattern A *This pattern contains Informative Speaking, Dramatic Interpretation, Extemp, Dual Interpretation, After Dinner Speaking, John Clark Legal Argument, Radio Speaking, and Editorial Commentary. Students may enter up to **two** events in this pattern.*

Informative Speech: The student shall deliver a speech, the purpose of which is to describe, clarify, explain and/or define an idea, concept or process. Audio or visual aids may be used, but are optional. The tournament will not provide special facilities or aids for the students. Notes are permitted. A maximum of 150 words may be quoted. The time limit for this event is 10 minutes with a 30 second grace period. WSFA and GSL rules will apply. Copies of these rules will be forwarded to any school upon request. **[NITOC & TOC BID]**

Dramatic Interpretation: The speaker shall interpret one or more selections, serious in nature, from published prose, poetry, drama, radio, television, or recordings. Selections must be cuttings

from a single work of literature (one short story, play, or novel), as per NSDA rules. The presentation must be memorized. Students may not use props, makeup, or costumes. Physical movement is permitted insofar as it suggests characterization and limited singing is permissible. Title and authors must be presented. The time limit for this event is 10 minutes with a 30 second grace period. WSFA and GSL rules will apply. Copies of these rules will be forwarded to any school upon request. **[NITOC & TOC BID]**

Extemporaneous Speech: Competitors are given 30 minutes to prepare a 7 minute speech with a 30 second grace period. Topic areas are selected from current events. Students may use published books, magazines, newspapers, journals, and/or copies of articles to help them prepare their speeches. WSFA and GSL rules will apply. Copies of these rules will be forwarded to any school upon request. **[NITOC & TOC BID]**

Dual Interpretation: Two students shall interpret one or more selections, serious or comedic in nature, from published prose, poetry, drama, radio, television or recordings. Selections must be cuttings from a single work of literature (one short story, play, or novel), as per NSDA rules. Presentations must be memorized and students must maintain off stage focus. Students may not use props, makeup, or costumes. Physical movement is permitted insofar as it suggests characterization and limited singing is permissible. Title and authors must be presented. The time limit for this event is 10 minutes with a 30 second grace period. WSFA and GSL rules will apply. Copies of these rules will be forwarded to any school upon request. **[NITOC & TOC BID]**

After Dinner Speaking: This event should imitate a banquet situation. The group (real or fictional) being addressed should be clear. The intent of ADS is to entertain, but the speaker must also develop an idea. Material presented must be original. Delivery may be through memorization or use of notes on one side of a 4 x 6 card, but a text may not be used. Emphasis should be placed on the concept of “speech.” While humorous quips and jokes are appropriate, they must have purpose and fit the occasion. Time: 4 - 6 minutes Time signals: not provided.

John Clark Legal Argument: Although the event is called “legal argument,” *it encompasses both opening statements*, which are expository in nature, *and closing arguments*, which are akin to persuasive oratories. The purpose of an opening statement is to preview what the evidence will show in a manner supportive of the proponent’s position – but in a non-argumentative fashion. This is usually done in a story fashion with introductory phrases such as “the evidence will show.” Closing argument “marshals the evidence” and argues it in a manner consistent with the proponent’s position. *Visual aides may be used in both opening statements and closing arguments.* Competitors may choose to deliver either an opening statement or a closing argument for either the prosecution or the defense. Speeches must be based on the facts stated in the hypothetical fact pattern. Washington State law applies and students are encouraged to research applicable legal issues. The hypothetical fact pattern is included in this invitation along with copies of Washington Pattern Jury Instructions.

The time limit for this event is **8 minutes with a 30 second grace period**. Judges will be given access to the hypothetical fact pattern. To the extent possible, the event will be judged by attorneys. Further information may be found on the website.

Radio Speaking: A radio speech is a prepared event that includes news stories, an original commercial of no fewer than 30 seconds, and a commentary about a subject covered in the news stories. The news stories presented must have taken place 30 days or less, prior to the tournament date. The commentary, which shall be an original editorial, reflecting the opinion of the contestant, should consume 1- 2 minutes of the total speech and be presented last. A hard copy of the original news story, including source citations must be available upon request. Speakers may time themselves, but may not have another person assist with timing. Time: 5:30-6:00 Time signals: not provided

Editorial Commentary: A scripted speech, which offers an analysis of, and commentary on, a contemporary news event. Speakers must read from manuscript and deliver from a sitting position. The time limit for this event is between 1:45 and 2:00 minutes. Students going under or over the time limit will be ranked one position lower than they would have been ranked had they been on time.

Individual Events Pattern B *This pattern contains Oratory, Humorous Interpretation, Impromptu, Program Oral Interpretation, Original Spoken Word Poetry, Prepared Storytelling, Sales Speaking, and Tall Tales. Students may enter up to two events in this pattern.*

Original Oratory: The speaker shall deliver from memory a persuasive speech, the purpose of most oratories is to convince, stimulate, or move the audience to change beliefs or actions. However, the speaker may simply alert the audience to a danger, strengthen its devotion to an accepted cause or eulogize a person. The speech must not contain more than 150 words of quoted and/or paraphrased material. WSFA and GSL rules will apply. The time limit for this event is 10 minutes with a 30 second grace period. Copies of these rules will be forwarded to any school upon request. **[NITOC & TOC BID]**

Humorous Interpretation: This event is the same as Dramatic Interpretation except that comedic materials should be used. WSFA and GSL rules will apply. The time limit for this event is 10 minutes with a 30 second grace period. Copies of these rules will be forwarded to any school upon request. **[NITOC & TOC BID]**

Impromptu: The speaker will be given a choice of three topics in each round and will pick one on which to speak. The time limit for this event, including preparation and presentation, shall not exceed 6 minutes with a 30 second grace period. Time signals must be given. WSFA and GSL rules will apply. Copies of these rules will be forwarded to any school upon request.

Program Oral Interpretation: The purpose of POI is a program of oral interpretation of thematically-linked selections chosen from two or three genres: prose, poetry, drama (plays). At

least two pieces of literature that represent at least two separate genres must be used. Unlike the other interpretation events, Program Oral Interpretation may use multiple sources for the program. The title and author of all selections must be verbally identified in either the introduction and/or transitional phrases. Competitors are encouraged to devote approximately equal times to each of the genres used in the program. This distinction pertains to these two or three genres as a whole, not types of literature within a genre (such as fiction/nonfiction). Prose expresses thought through language recorded in sentences and paragraphs: fiction (short stories, novels) and non-fiction (articles, essays, journals, biographies). Poetry is writing which expresses ideas, experience, or emotion through the creative arrangement of words according to their sound, their rhythm, their meaning. Poetry may rely on verse and stanza form.

1. The use of a manuscript during the performance is required. Common practices include the use of a binder or folder. Reading from a book or magazine is not permitted. The intact manuscript may be used by the contestant as a prop, so long as it remains in the contestant's control at all times. No costumes or props other than the manuscript are permitted. Pictures, graphics, and/or illustrations are considered a visual aid, even if included in the original manuscript, and may not be displayed. The contestant must address the script; however, introduction and transitional material may be memorized.
2. The time limit is 10 minutes with a 30-second "grace period." If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student has gone beyond the grace period. Should a student go beyond the grace period, the student may not be ranked 1st. There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period. The ranking is up to each individual judge's discretion. Judges who choose to time are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices. No minimum time is mandated.
3. All literature performed must meet the publication rules of the Association. All online material must first be vetted and approved through the NSDA national office. Approved material and/or sites will be listed on the NSDA website. Song lyrics may be used if the performer has an original, hard copy of the lyrics such as sheet music or a CD jacket. Lyrics may only be used from online sources that appear on the approved websites list.
4. Adaptations may be used only for the purpose of transition. Any word changes (to eliminate profane language) and/or additions (for transition) must be indicated clearly in ink. Failure to clearly indicate the addition of words will be subject to disqualification. Changes to the script may only be used for the purpose of transition or to eliminate profane language. Transitions may be used to clarify the logical sequence of ideas. They are not to be used for the purpose of embellishing the humorous or dramatic effect of the literature. **[NITOC & TOC BID]**

Original Spoken Word Poetry: Material: Students will write and perform original poetry. Original Spoken Word Poetry is poetry written for performance to express ideas, experience, or emotion through the creative arrangement of words according to their sound, their rhythm, their meaning.

Quotation: No more than 150 words of the original poetry may be direct quotation from any

other speech or writing, and such quotations must be identified in a printed copy of the speech. An introduction is permitted, but not required.

Delivery: The delivery must be memorized, and no book or script may be used.

Time: The maximum time limit is 5 minutes with a 30-second grace period. If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student has gone beyond the grace period. Should a student go beyond the grace period, the student may not be ranked 1st. There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period. The ranking is up to each individual judge's discretion. Judges who choose to time are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices. No minimum time is mandated.

Prepared Story Telling: A single story, anecdote, myth, legend, or incident will be retold without script, books, or props. The time limit for this event is 6 minutes. If a speaker goes over a 30 second grace period, he/she may not be awarded 1st place. There is no minimum time limit. The story may be delivered standing up or sitting down. Gestures or pantomime may be used but the focus must be on the narrative. The retelling must be true to the original tale. The contestant may not add original material or change the content of the story. The contestant is allowed one note card.

Tall Tales: This event should be fun. The competitors and audience should enjoy themselves. The competitor who can tell the tallest tale utilizing all three given words, should win the round. Each speaker will be given three words to incorporate into his/her speech. The competitor will then have six (6) minutes to prepare and speak. If the speaker goes over a 30 second grace period, that contestant may not be awarded first place in the round. No minimum time limit. If a speaker does not incorporate all three words in his/her speech, the speaker will be ranked fifth.

Sales Speaking: The purpose of this event is to sell a singular, legitimate product and may include variations of that product. Contestant must identify brand. "Services" are not considered legitimate products. The **actual** product (not a model) must be displayed and/or demonstrated. Presentation may be memorized. Notes on one side of a 4 x 6 card may be used, but texts are not permitted. Video /audio aids are optional. In order to demonstrate the function of a product, that product may be put on as the demonstration begins and then removed following the demonstration. The contestant may not wear the product into the room, nor leave it on once the demonstration of that product is concluded. Additional items of clothing that might serve to enhance the visual effect of the product are considered costuming and are prohibited.

Time: 3-7 minutes + 2 min. Questioning by judge only

Time signals: not provided.

Bonus Event – SPAR **SPARFEST**

Open to any competitor on a first come first serve basis. The event will be judged by high school students who are not competing in SPAR. NSDA points may be earned for competing or for judging.

NOTE: Preregistration for SPAR is not accepted. This event is on a first come first serve basis.

SPAR does not count towards either the Foley Speaker's Award or Sweepstakes.

Spontaneous Argumentation (also known as SPAR): A brief, ten-minute debate performed without advanced preparation on a subject of interest. At this tournament, the format will be as follows: The affirmative and the negative will be given two topics. At the end of a one-minute preparation period, the affirmative will begin to debate on one of the two topics. The affirmative is allotted a two-minute constructive speech followed by a one-minute cross-examination. The negative will then have one minute to prepare a two-minute constructive speech which will be followed by a one-minute cross examination. Both speakers will then be allowed one minute for rebuttal without preparation time. **(Open division only.)**

Special SPAR Rules:

- 1) SPAR is being offered as a bonus event. Preregistration is not accepted. First Come first serve basis.
- 2) There are NO judge strikes in this event.
- 3) There are NO judge conflicts in this event. That means that a judge can judge a person from his/her own school.
- 4) There are NO limitations on who may judge this event.
- 5) Debaters who are not competing in SPAR may judge SPAR.
- 6) Each SPAR competitor will be issued a ballot with eight debate result lines. The debater will take that ballot with him/her to each round. Each judge will initial either a win or a loss on each ballot and award speaker points to each debater.
- 7) There will be eight preliminary rounds.
- 8) All rounds will be held in one large area. Debaters will start at a numbered judge and move eight times in a positive order (e.g. if a competitor started with judge 5, she would go to judge 6 in her second round and judge 7 in her third round etc. The judge's table will be marked with the judge's number).
- 9) Time limits will be strictly enforced.
- 10) The 8th round judge will collect the ballots from the two competitors that s/he has judged in the 8th round and turn them in to TAB.
- 11) Judges are NOT permitted to give critiques or write comments on the ballots. Sorry, but we have to maintain strict time limits to make this work!
- 12) The top two SPAR competitors will appear on stage at the beginning of the Awards Ceremony. In the event, there is a tie for the top two competitors both as to win loss records and speaker points, a random draw of the tied competitors will choose the speakers who will advance to the stage. The winner will be determined by audience preference.