



2027 Great Salt Lake Invitational & UTEP Individual Events Tournament

On behalf of the University of Utah and The University of Texas at El Paso, we invite you to return to the Mountain West for the Great Salt Lake Invitational and UTEP IE Classic at the University of Utah.

This year we will offer a CEDA/NDT debate tournament, an NPDA tournament, an IPDA tournament, and two Individual Event tournaments. These will be running simultaneously so please check the schedule to see which entry options are available to you.

The tournaments will be held on January 15-17, 2027. See Part IX for schedule details.

This year's schedule has been revised to maximize forensics participation across the curriculum of events and styles. It is our programmatic goal to invite multiple genres of debate and public address to campus for rigorous competition and diverse learning outcomes.

The CEDA/NDT debate tournament will be managed via Tabroom. All other events will be managed via Forensics Tournament (FTN).

Please read the entire invite carefully.

Take good care,

Duncan Stewart, Ph.D.
Director of Forensics
University of Utah

Carlos Tarin, Ph.D.
Director of Forensics
The University of Texas at El Paso

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Tournament Procedures & Facilitation

Unless otherwise specified, NPDA, NFA (IEs), IPDA and CEDA constitutions and/or tournament guidelines will govern the tournament's operating procedures. The tournament directors reserve the right to make any decisions necessary to facilitate the timely and accurate completion of the tournament.

Judge Requirements

Each institution must provide adequate judges to cover their entry. If you cannot cover your entry you will be asked to reduce your entry size to what your judges can cover. Obligations are as follows:

- a. One judge covers two NPDA, IPDA or CEDA teams.
- b. One judge covers 6 IE slots per pattern.
- c. Judges cannot be entered in multiple event pools.
- d. All NPDA and CEDA judges are committed through the first full elimination debate, and/or one round past their school's elimination.
- e. All IE and IPDA judges are committed through finals.
- f. In the event of severe logistical constraints we may require judges cover an event outside of their designated pool.
- g. Failure to meet these obligations will result in the withdrawal of students from the tournament and/or fees.

If you know of qualified people who would like to judge please reach out to duncan.stewart@utah.edu

Disclosure

We believe disclosure is an educational opportunity and require it in debate events. Please always submit your ballot before disclosing the decision. This allows the tournament to continue running on time.

Eligibility & Entries

Tournaments are open to any regularly enrolled undergraduate in a two-year or four-year college or university in good standing with the school's debate team/society. As the weekend will offer several tournaments that run back-to-back, students may (and are encouraged to) participate in a range of competitive events. Organizational (e.g., NPDA, IPDA, NFA, CEDA) eligibility requirements also apply.

To sort novice/jv/open where necessary the tournament will use the respective organization's published rules to do so. (e.g. CEDA JV eligibility will be determined by the CEDA constitution). JV divisions will only occur if sufficient entries are registered, otherwise the tournament will collapse divisions.

All policy debate entries should be submitted via the tabroom.com website. All individual event, NPDA, and IPDA entries should be submitted via Forensics Tournament. Please make sure that you **enter both halves** of any given swing, if that is your choice. **Entries are due by Friday, January 8th at 6:00 PM (MST).** This early entry deadline is necessary for ordering food, compiling judges, and ensuring the timely distribution of strike forms.

Please double-check the schedules to ensure you do not cross-enter students in events that overlap. For maximum competitive opportunity, consider the following cross-entry possibilities:

Friday Speech, Saturday/Sunday NPDA
Friday Speech, Saturday Speech, Sunday IPDA
Partial Squad in Policy, Partial Squad in NPDA

Campus

The tournament will make every effort to minimize the length of walks on campus. Prep rooms (for NPDA) will be assigned by the size of the squad and space needs.

Competitors and judges should anticipate walking to rounds and should bring footwear appropriate for sidewalks impacted by winter weather. **If you need an accommodation to reduce or eliminate walks between rounds please let us know as soon as possible.**

PART II: Open CEDA Debate

Tournament – we will debate the 2026-2027 CEDA resolution:

Resolved: The United States Federal Government should substantially reduce arms transfers from the United States to one or more of the following:

- the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Japan
- the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- the Republic of China
- the Republic of the Philippines
- the State of Israel
- Ukraine
- United Mexican States.

Judging

Each judge will declare only one winner per debate, and assign speaker points between 1 and 30. Ties in speaker points are not allowed. Decisions must be entered on time, and written.

Fifteen minutes will be allocated to post round discussion of the decision, but we must ask that the post-round cease 15 minutes after the decision deadline so debaters can move on to their next debate with adequate and fair time.

We will adopt a mutual preference judge ranking system.

Preliminary Rounds

We will have 6 preliminary rounds, the first two rounds will be preset, and the following 4 will be power matched.

Elimination Rounds

We will break to at most a double-Octofinal elimination bracket. Ties will be decided via speaker points. Brackets will not be broken.

Rules

We will defer to the CEDA constitution for all other rules and eligibility questions. An ombudsperson independent from tournament staff will be identified to help resolve rules questions and appeals.

PART III: NPDA

Preparation Time/Rooms:

Prep rooms will be provided and pre-assigned by the tournament. Teams will receive 20 minutes of preparation time after the centralized announcement of each topic.

Flex Time:

The tournament will feature two minutes of flex time after the PMC and LOC, as well as one minute of flex time after the MG, and LOR. This time may be used for prep, CX, drinking water, etc.

Tournament Format

Topic Areas: The GSL will feature a topic area tournament mirroring the spirit of the NPTE. Topics will be released by November 20th at 6:00 MST.

Rounds: The NPDA tournament will feature 6 preliminary rounds of debate with winning record teams (no more than half of the pool) advancing to at most a double octo-final.

Divisions: Entries permitting, the tournament will offer both a junior and open division if there are sufficient entries.

Brackets will be broken in elimination rounds

Forfeiture Rule

Any team that is late to a round will have that time deducted from their team's first speech (the PMC or LOC). When the full speech time has elapsed (7 or 8 minutes), the team in question will be forfeited. In the event both teams are late, both teams will have time deducted from their first speech. A universal timer will be made available at the time of topic announcement. Time deductions and forfeiture rules will be enforced by the judge assigned to the round.

Feedback

Disclosure of decisions and other oral should be conducted, but please conduct such commentary after the ballot has been returned by email. We will be attempting to power-match every round without lagging, so a prompt return ensures that the tournament stays on time.

PART IV: IPDA

Rules and Procedures

The tournament will follow IPDA guidelines and regulations as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws which are available on the IPDADebate.info website. **Team prep will be allowed.** Note the IDPA constitution: “The use of extemporaneous preparation files and collaboration with coaches and colleagues is encouraged.”

All preliminary rounds will be double flighted, and elim rounds will be double flighted when possible.

Advancing to Elimination Rounds

After four rounds, the top 8 debaters will advance to a single elimination bracket. The top 8 will be determined by record, then by speaker points.

Judge Disclosure & Feedback

Disclosure of decisions and other oral commentary may be conducted at the discretion of the judge, but please conduct such commentary **after** the ballot has been returned by email. We will be attempting to power-match every round without lagging, so a prompt return ensures that the tournament stays on time. A warm room of results will be provided.

Forfeiture Rule

Any team that is late to a round will have that time deducted from their team’s first speech. When the full speech has elapsed that team will be forfeited. A universal timer will be made available at the time of topic announcement. Time deductions and forfeiture rules will be enforced by the judge assigned to the round.

PART V: INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Events Offered

Students may not enter more than 3 events per pattern. It is the sole responsibility of the competitors to complete all events in the time given. Failure to do so will result in a no-show score for the round. We will offer a single open division in the following events:

Pattern A – Extemp, Informative, After Dinner Speaking, Prose, and Poetry

Pattern B – Impromptu, Persuasive, Communication Analysis, Duo,
Dramatic, and POI

Elimination Rounds

Any event with 7 contestants or fewer will not have a final round. For events with more than 7 competitors, a final round will be held. Any event with more than 36 entries will advance to semifinals.

Advancing to Elimination Rounds

No more than half of the field will be advanced to finals. Students will be rank-ordered first by cumulative rankings, then by the highest speaker points. All attempts will be made to make a clean break (by cumulative rankings).

Placement in Elimination Rounds

Students will be rank-ordered first by cumulative rankings (with an exception for majority first-place rankings), then by judge's preference, followed by the highest reciprocal score (decimal conversion), and finally by the highest cumulative ratings.

PART V: AWARDS

Debate Awards

Individual awards will be presented to the top 10 speakers in each debate tournament. Because we value meaningful awards for top performances, quality awards (one per team) will be presented to all teams who advance to the quarterfinal round and beyond.

Malcom O. Sillars Award: Will be given to the team that wins the Open division of CEDA in memory of *Malcom O. Sillars*. Sillars was the Dean of the College of Humanities and a Director of Forensics at the University of Utah. He published pivotal argumentation and reminded the field that humor, kindness, and argument belong together. The award honors the achievements of students that demonstrate a similar commitment to excellence in argumentation.

Richard Rieke Award: Will be given to the top-ranked overall speaker in either NPDA or CEDA debate to honor Richard Rieke who evolved the Dept. of Speech at the University of Utah to the Dept. of Speech Communication. Rieke was an advocate for forensics, longtime supporter of the team, and his career reminded us that argumentation is not opposed to conflict resolution.

IE Awards

In NFA Individual Events, both tournaments will offer awards for the first three finishers, the GSL half will offer shirts for other finalists and semifinalists.

The Royal L. Garff Award: The top overall competitor in NFA Individual Events at the GSL will be awarded the Royal Garff Award, a traveling trophy given out each year. The award was created in 1997 in memory of Prof. Royal Garff, a lifetime supporter of public speaking, forensics, and public debate. The trophy has been awarded at every GSL since 1997 and continues to honor the achievements of students who compete in short prep, platforms, and interpretation events. The winner of the Garff Award will be determined based on the highest total accumulated in up to six events using the following scale: 1st place = 10 pts, 2nd place = 7 pts, 3rd place = 5 pts, Finalist = 3 pts. Please note: Only students who compete in all three genres (interp, platform, and short prep) are eligible for the Garff Award. Ties will be broken by number of first places.

Sweepstakes

Sweepstakes awards will be offered to the top three schools across speech and debate (one for the combined score for each IE tournament, one for the combined scored of all debate tournaments, and one for the combined score across speech and debate).

Debate events - Sweepstakes will be determined by awarding 2 points for every preliminary round win for a school's top four teams in CEDA and NPDA, and 1 point for every preliminary win in IPDA. Ties will be broken in favor of the school with the most elimination round wins.

Individual Events - Sweepstakes points will be issued to all participants in semifinals and finals based on the following scale. No points will be given for preliminary rounds.

1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place	Finalist	Semifinalist
10 pts.	7 pts.	5 pts.	3 pts.	1 pt.

PART VI: FEES & JUDGING

Fees & Amenities

The fee structure for the 2027 tournament aims to reflect the costs of the tournament and their variation depending on the size of judging/coaching staff that attends with teams. Fees include meals as indicated in the schedule (read carefully), as well as light snacks and coffee throughout the tournament. We will also provide the meals bolded in the schedule. Fees will be assessed at the entry deadline. Drop and/or “No Show” fees will be assessed after this deadline.

Judging Obligations

It’s cliché, but we would rather have your judges than your money. The tournament directors reserve the right to refuse entry to teams without sufficient judge coverage.

Please review the judging obligations in the general information section and on Tabroom and FTN, respectively.

ENTRY FEES*	DROP & UNCOVERED FEES
Per Person \$20/person** NPDA Debate \$70/team CEDA Debate \$135/team IES and IPDA \$15/entry \$20/entry duo	Uncovered Debate Team – Entry Fee + \$150/team Uncovered IE Entry – Entry Fee + \$20/entry IE Drop Fee - \$20/entry Debate Drop Fee - \$40/entry for any format of Debate “No Show” Fee - \$60/entry for any event

**Per person fees apply to all persons in attendance, including competitors, judges, observers, coaches, etc.

Community College Fee Reduction

All community college teams that cover their judging commitment will receive a 20% from their entry fees

Needs based entry

If your program is in financial need and fees would be a barrier to entry, please talk to us. We would rather work something out than have you self-select out of the tournament due to financial barriers.

Payment

Paying by card: a payment link will be posted to tabroom.com (for those entered in CX) and <https://forensicstournament.net/> (for IEs, IPDA, and NPDA). If your school is entered in CX and any other event your CX entry fees will be posted to FTN to create a single invoice.

Paying by check: Checks should be made payable to “The John R. Park Debate Society”. Please write “Great Salt Lake Invitational” in the memo line.

PART VIII: ACCESSIBILITY & NON-DISCRIMINATION

The University of Utah does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex (which includes prohibiting acts of sexual harassment or acts of sexual misconduct), age, status as a disabled individual, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, genetic information or protected veteran's status, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. In addition, University policy and state and federal law, prohibit retaliation against a person who participates in the discrimination complaint process. Employees, students, and persons who participate in University programs are required to comply with the University non-discrimination policies.

Disability Accommodations

The University endeavors to provide reasonable accommodations and to ensure equal access to qualified persons with disabilities. Reasonable notice is required.

For inquiries concerning discrimination, sexual harassment, the University's complaint process or to request a disability accommodation, please contact the University of Utah's Director of Forensics. If required, or if you wish, you may also contact the University's Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator:

Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative
Action 201 South Presidents Circle, Rm.135
Salt Lake City, UT, 84112
(801) 581-8365 (voice/tdd)
801-585-5746 (fax) www.oeo.utah.edu.

Gender Inclusive Bathrooms

Gender-inclusive bathrooms are available throughout campus. Additional details can be found here: <https://www.utah.edu/>

Select "safety and accessibility" then "gender inclusive restroom" on the map

Tournament Quiet Space

At registration, the tournament will identify one or more "quiet spaces" for use by competitors and judges during the tournaments. Attendees should refrain from using these rooms for socializing or other activity that would disturb other participants utilizing these rooms for their intended purpose.

PART IX: Schedule

Friday –Policy, & Speech Part 1

GSL – Open Policy	GSL – Speech
12:00 Round 1 Pairings 12:30 Round 1 Starts 2:45 Decision Time 3:00 Round 2 Pairings 3:30 Round 2 Begins 5:45 Round 2 Decision Time 6:00 Dinner	12:00-1:15 Round 1 Flight A 1:15-2:30 Round 1 Flight B 2:30-3:45 Round 2 Flight A 3:45-5:00 Round 2 Flight B 5:00-5:30 Dinner 5:30-6:30 Flight A Finals 6:30-7:30 Flight B Finals AWARDS WILL BE SATURDAY at 6:00 pm

Saturday – NPDA, Policy, & Speech Part 2

GSL – NPDA	GSL – Open Policy	UTEP – Speech
8:00 Round 1 Topic 8:20 Round 1 Start 9:40 Round 2 Topic 10:00 Round 2 Start 1:30 Lunch 2:00 Round 3 Topic 2:20 Round 3 Start 3:30 Round 4 Topic 3:50 Round 4 Start 5:00 Dinner 5:30 Round 5 Topic 5:50 Round 5 Start 7:00 Round 6 Topic 7:20 Round 6 Start	8:00 Round 3 Pairings 8:30 Round 3 Starts 10:45 Round 3 Decision Time 11:00 Round 4 Pairings 11:30 Round 4 Starts 1:45 Round 4 Decision Time 2:00 Lunch 2:30 Round 5 Pairings 3:00 Round 5 Starts 5:15 Round 5 Decision Time 5:30 Dinner & Round 6 Pairings 6:00 Round 6 Starts 8:15 Round 6 Decision Time	8:00 Round 1 Flight A 9:30 Round 1 Flight B 11:00 Round 2 Flight B 12:30 Round 2 Flight A 1:30 Lunch 2:00 Flight A Finals 3:00 Flight B Finals 5:00 Dinner 6:00 GSL & UTEP SPEECH AWARDS

*All scheduling subject is to change at discretion of the tournament director.

Sunday – NPDA, Policy, & Speech Part 2

GSL – NPDA	GSL – Open Policy	GSL – IPDA
8:00 Elim 1 Topic 8:20 Elim 1 Start 9:40 Elim 2 Topic 10:00 Elim 2 Starts 1:30 Lunch 2:00 Elim 3 Topic 2:20 Elim 3 Starts 3:30 Elim 4 Topic 3:50 Elim 4 Starts 5:00 Dinner 5:30 Elim 5 (if necessary) Topic 5:50 Elim 5 Starts 7:00 All DEBATE AWARDS	8:00 Elim 1 Pairings 8:30 Elim 1 Starts 10:45 Elim 1 Decision Time 11:00 Elim 2 Pairings 11:30 Elim 2 Starts 1:30 Lunch & Elim 2 Decision Time 2:30 Elim 3 Pairings 3:30 Elim 3 Starts 5:45 Elim 3 Decision Time 7:00 All DEBATE AWARDS	8:00 Round 1 Flight A Strike 8:30 Round 1 Flight A Start / Flight B Strike 9:00 Round 1 Flight B Start 9:45 Round 2 Flight A Strike 10:15 Round 2 Flight A Start / Flight B Strike 10:45 Round 2 Flight B Start 11:30 Round 3 Flight A Strike 12:00 Round 3 Flight A Start / Flight B Strike 12:30 Round 3 Flight B Start 1:00 Lunch 1:30 Round 4 Flight A Strike 2:00 Round 4 Flight A Start / Flight B Strike 2:30 Round 4 Flight B Start 3:15 Elim 1 Strike 3:45 Elim 1 Start 4:30 Elim 2 Strike 5:00 Elim 2 Start 5:45 Elim 3 Strike 6:15 Elim 3 Start 7:00 All DEBATE AWARDS

For maximum competitive opportunity, consider the following cross-entry possibilities:

Friday Speech, Saturday/Sunday NPDA

Friday Speech, Saturday Speech, Sunday IPDA

*All scheduling subject is to change at discretion of the tournament director.