

Dear Forensics Colleague,

On behalf of the forensics programs at Lafayette College and Bethel University, we invite you to join us for the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Novice National Individual Events Tournament. This year's event will be hosted by Lafayette College on March 10-12, 2012. **Please note that this year's tournament is on a Saturday-Monday schedule.** 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. More than 230 different colleges and universities have attended at least one Novice Nationals tournament.

- 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 with multiple topics per round.
- Readers' Theater

We hope that you plan on joining us for the 30<sup>th</sup> 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  
Director of Forensics, Bethel University  
Tournament Director, Novice Nationals

Scott Placke  
Director of Forensics, Lafayette College  
Tournament Host

## **30<sup>th</sup> Novice Nationals: Tentative Tournament Schedule**

*We will adjust this schedule if we do not need octafinals in parli, or quarters in LD, or if we have more than 5 IE semifinals. We'll also adjust this schedule if there are more than 6 RT's. If at all possible, we will condense the schedule.*

### **Saturday, March 10**

7:45-8:30 – Registration (Farinon Student Center)  
8:30 – Opening Assembly  
8:45 – Training Session (Judges)  
8:45 – Extemp Draw  
9:15 – Round 1A (Ext, Per, POI, Pro)  
10:30 – Rd 1B (Imp, Duo, Inf, CA); LD Rd 1  
11:45 – Lunch/Business Meeting  
12:45 – Rd 1C (Imp Sal, Poe, DI, ADS); LD Rd 2  
2:15 – Ext Draw, RT Rd 1  
2:45 – Rd 2A (Ext, Per, POI, Pro)  
4:00 – Rd 2B (Imp, Duo, Inf, CA); LD Rd 3  
5:30 – Rd 2C (Imp Sal, Poe, DI, ADS); LD Rd 4

### **Sunday, March 11 – Daylight Savings Time Begins – Move clocks ahead 1 hour!**

*Parli schools not in IE may register from 1:30-5:30 in Farinon Student Center*

7:30 – Chapel  
8:00 – Ext Draw, RT Rd 2  
8:30 – Rd 3A (Ext, Per, POI, Pro)  
9:45 – Rd 3B, LD Quarters  
11:15 – Rd 3C  
12:30 – Lunch  
1:30 – All IE Semis, LD Semis  
3:00 – Finals Block 1  
4:30 – Finals Block 2, LD Finals  
5:45 – Parli Round 1  
7:00 – IE Awards  
7:45 – Parli Round 2

### **Monday, March 12**

8:30 – Parli Round 3  
10:00 – Parli Round 4  
11:30 – Lunch  
12:30 – Parli Round 5  
2:00 – Parli Round 6  
3:30 – Parli Octafinals  
4:45 – Parli Awards (Speakers, etc.)  
5:00 – Dinner  
5:45 – Parli Quarterfinals  
7:00 – Parli Semifinals  
8:15 – Parli Finals

## Entry Details

### What is a novice?

We define novice as a student who is a 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## Individual Events Flights/Rules

### Flights

**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

### Extemporaneous topics

Extemporaneous topics will be drawn from the general area of current events after September 1, 2011. One round will be foreign affairs, one round will be domestic affairs, and one round will be government/economy. Semis and Finals will be a mixture of questions.

### Impromptu Topics

Impromptu topics will be quotations varying by section and round.

### Impromptu Sales Topics

Impromptu Sales topics will be objects during the preliminary rounds. Students will be given an object, and their goal is to sell that object to an audience.

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. Students may endow the object with qualities, but cannot transform the object into something else (thus, a pen can have special qualities, but a pen cannot turn into a ball).

Should semifinals be necessary, the topic will be an object, and students should take the object as it stands.

The final round will be a slogan (i.e., "Nebraska Beef: It's what's for dinner" or "Gedney's: The Minnesota Pickle.").

*Please note: For Impromptu and Impromptu Sales, students should not consult brief notebooks or other notes during their preparation time.*

### **Readers' Theater**

Novice Nationals supports ARTa and Phi Rho Pi's efforts to promote RT. 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.

### **Computers in Extemp**

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

### **Multiple/Cross Entries Per Flight**

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.

## Debate Rules

### Parliamentary Debate

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.

We will power match rounds 3-6 of parliamentary debate. All power-matching will be high-low in brackets, and triple and double-pullups will be avoided when possible.

### Lincoln-Douglas Debate

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 2011-2012 resolution will be used.

All power-matching will be high-low in brackets, and triple and double-pullups will be avoided when possible.

### Judging

- **1 judge for every 8 IE slots**
- **1 judge for every 2 RT entries**
- **1 judge for every 2 parli teams**
- **1 judge for every 2 LD competitors**
- **Judges can be mixed/matched**

For example, a judge can cover 8 IE entries and either 2 parli teams or 2 LD entries.

- **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 3<sup>rd</sup> year sophomores, and didn't compete their second year. We have had complaints in the past about 2<sup>nd</sup> year judges, and thus, we need to enforce this rule more closely.*

### Do you have additional eligible judges?

Please contact Scott Placke.

## Entry Deadline

The entry deadline is **Thursday, March 1 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.

## Change Deadline

Changes may be made to your entry up through **Tuesday, March 6 at 2:00 p.m. Central Time** without penalty. The schematics will be generated on Tuesday at 2:00 p.m.

## Entry Fees

- Covered IE entries: \$8/slot
- Covered LD entries: \$20/slot
- Covered RT entries: \$20/slot
- Covered Parli entries: \$30/team
- Uncovered IE entries: \$20/slot (\$8/slot + \$12/judging fee)
- Uncovered LD entries: \$40/slot (\$20/slot + \$20/judging fee)
- Uncovered RT entries: \$35/slot (\$20/slot + \$15/judging fee)
- Uncovered Parli entries: \$60/team (\$30/slot + \$30/judging fee)

## 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 Friday, March 9: \$10/slot
- Saturday/Sunday morning/afternoon registration \$20/slot

## Check Information

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.

## **Entry Options**

Our preference is that you use the Joy of Tournaments website set up for the tournament.

- The Novice Nats website can be found at: <http://www.novicenats.org/>
- You can link to the Joy of Tournaments website from: <http://register.novicenats.org/>

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

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

## **Contact Information**

### **Tournament Related Questions:**

- Michael – Office: 651-638-6052      Email: [mdreher@bethel.edu](mailto:mdreher@bethel.edu)
- Michael – Cell: 612-850-3755

### **Host Related Questions:**

- Scott - Office: 610-330-5802      Email: [plackeh@lafayette.edu](mailto:plackeh@lafayette.edu)

## **Meal Information:**

### **Saturday/Sunday:**

A food-court style lunch will be offered in the Farinon Building on campus.

### **Monday:**

We will set up orders for lunches on Monday, or teams may choose to eat off campus.

## **Break Rules: Debate**

### **Breaking Brackets:**

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.

### **Break size:**

- up to 7 entrants = finals
- 8-14 entrants = semifinals
- 15-28 entrants = quarterfinals
- 29-57 entrants = octafinals

### **Judging:**

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.

### **Individual Events Finals:**

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 break to semifinals in any IE event over 35 students.**

### **Breaking ties:**

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.

## **Pentathlon and Sweepstakes Awards:**

### **Prelim/Elim points**

- 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<sup>st</sup>, 2 points for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1 point for 3<sup>rd</sup> (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 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>
  - Debate Elims: 3 points for non-advancing octafinalists; 5 points for non-advancing quarterfinalists; 7 points for non-advancing semifinalists; 10 points for 2<sup>nd</sup>; 12 points for 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Readers' Theater: Same as IE above, with all points multiplied by 1.5.
- 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).
  - Students must enter 1 interpretation event (including RT)
- Ties in pentathlon will be resolved using the following system:
  - Number of 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Number of finals
  - Number of 2<sup>nd</sup>, etc.
  - For purposes of equating debate with individual events, semis count as a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish, and quarters count as a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish. Octas do not count for purposes of breaking pentath ties.

### **Team Awards**

- 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.

## **Hotels**

*Note: We have changed our tournament hotel due to problems with the previous hotel.*

The tournament hotel is the Best Western Lehigh Valley hotel, 300 Gateway Drive, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, 18017. The rate is \$79, which includes a hot breakfast each day. The block will be released on February 17. To book rooms, contact Donna Plunkett at 610-954-5007.

Details on hotel:

<http://book.bestwestern.com/bestwestern/US/PA/Bethlehem-hotels/BEST-WESTERN-PLUS-Lehigh-Valley-Hotel---Conference-Center/Hotel-Overview.do?propertyCode=39115>

## **Business Meeting**

This year's business meeting will vote to approve a constitution and bylaws for Novice Nationals. Copies of the proposed constitution and bylaws will be available on the Novice Nationals website prior to the tournament, and schools at the tournament will have a chance to vote on the constitution and bylaws. Any suggestions for changes should be sent to Michael Dreher ([mdreher@bethel.edu](mailto:mdreher@bethel.edu)) before the tournament.



Lincoln-Douglas:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Parliamentary Debate:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Readers' Theater Entries: (Theater name and cast members)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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 \$20.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Covered Parli entries (1 judge covers 2 teams) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Uncovered Parli entries \_\_\_\_\_ x \$60.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Covered LD entries (1 judge covers 2 entries) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Uncovered LD entries \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Covered RT entries (1 judge covers 2 entries) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Uncovered RT entries \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Drop Fees: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Total Entry Fees: \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to Bethel University**