



TEXAS FORENSICS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER SPRING 2003 (STATE TOURNAMENT EDITION)

IT'S TOURNAMENT TIME!!

As many say, "This is a keeper." Hopefully, this newsletter will answer a number of questions that you have about the upcoming state tournament. This newsletter will update you on deadlines and give you the information necessary for you to be successful in not only entering the tournament, but making plans to travel to and from and making plans for your stay in Dallas. Read on to catch up and stay informed as to what is going on in your organization and its plans for the 2003 TFA State Tournament.

TOURNAMENT DATES AND SCHEDULE (WHERE/WHEN)

If you examine the TFA calendar, you know that the tournament will be taking place at Highland Park High School in Dallas on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, February 27-28 and March 1. Individuals at Highland Park are busy planning for the tournament and will do their best to serve as gracious tournament hosts.

A tentative tournament schedule is included with this newsletter. The schedule should help you with your arrival and departure plans. Remember, the final tournament registration will take place on the morning of Thursday, February 27. Please make sure that you make plans so that you are able to complete the registration process.

The registration process will include the payment of fees, receiving final tournament information, receiving judge information in debate, and doing judge strikes in IE's and completing the mutual preference sheet for debate. It is imperative that you take care of registration in a timely fashion so that the tournament can run smoothly and in a timely fashion.

If you have questions about that procedure, please feel free to contact your region representative to discuss them with him/her.

DEADLINES, DEADLINES, DEADLINES

Like other events, this tournament also has deadlines. Here are some of the important ones.

First, by December 13, coaches were to have submitted their intentions to judge. If you are a coach and have not submitted the form, you will find one attached to this newsletter. You may also find the form on line at the TFA website (txfa.org) If you are intending to judge at the TFA State Tournament, you must submit a judge form. Please do so as soon as possible.

One important note here as well. Some coaches complete their judge form and then attend the state tournament. Once they arrive, they are surprised that they may be scheduled to judge an event for which they don't feel comfortable (IE judges in debate; debate judges in IE's). The reason for that is they completed the coach judge form and indicated on the form that they coached the activity and completed the appropriate portion of the form. Be very careful when completing the form. Make sure you clearly indicate which events you would prefer to judge. In addition, please be aware that you must provide judges for events in which you have entries. Please read all of the entry forms so that we can smoothly run the tournament.

If you as a coach are not intending to judge, you still must provide judges for your entry. Judges must submit either a coach judge form or a hired judge form to be able to judge. The judge form includes the information necessary to complete the judges mutual preference form in the debate events. It is critical information for the persons

competing in the tournament to make good decisions about mutually preferred judges. Please assist in that process by providing the necessary information.

One significant change will also be implemented at this tournament. As many of you know, schools are charged a judge bond when they enter the tournament. **Coaches who end up forfeiting their judge bond will have a letter sent to their principal letting that individual know that they have forfeited that bond.** Unfortunately, some individuals use the judge bond as a way to “duck” their judging obligation. Please do not plan to do so unless you wish to explain to your principal why the bond was forfeited.

If you know of judges who would like to be considered to judge at the tournament, please have them complete the enclosed hired judge form. That form must be completed and sent to Keith Townsend by **February 20**. If the form is not received by that date, the person may not be considered to judge at the tournament. Hired judges will be paid at the rate of \$20 a round. We will create two different pools of judges. One pool will be designated as Debate/Public Speaking; the other as Interp. Please encourage judges that you think are qualified to complete and submit the forms. It is imperative that we receive the forms by that date so adequate plans can be made on that weekend. Please cooperate by meeting those deadlines.

SPEAKING OF JUDGING—HERE ARE YOUR OBLIGATIONS

Your school is responsible for the following judging obligations. The assigned judging obligations must be filled by the coach(es) at the school unless you have submitted a substitute judge petition and received approval. Judging assignments for all coaches will be included in the registration packet for each school. It is the responsibility of the school coach to see that all assignments are met. **Failure to meet judging obligations will result in a loss of the \$100 judge bond and the potential disqualification of the school.**

Note: if a school has only coach/sponsor, that person may cover both IE's and debate. However, they must be prepared to judge the required number of rounds in both areas. For the purpose of judging obligations, Congress and Duet will be considered as an individual event.

A Congress session will count as three rounds of judging.

Schools cannot buy out of their judging assignments. Schools must provide at least one judge to cover events in Debate and IE's. A judge philosophy form must be submitted for all coaches judging. Debate judges need to complete philosophies for both LD and CX if they have students entered in those events. Judge forms should be faxed or mailed to Keith Townsend at El Paso Community College. Each coach will be assigned rounds based on the following formula; however, the Vice President in charge of judges has the authority to adjust judging requirements based on the needs of the tournament.

Formula for determining judging requirements:

IE's and Duet

1-12 entries	6 rounds (1 judge can cover)
13-24 entries	12 rounds (must have 2 judges)
24-36 entries	18 rounds (must have 3 judges)

CX* and LD

1-4 entries	6 rounds (1 judge can cover)
5-11 entries	12 rounds (must have 2 judges)
12-18 entries	18 rounds (must have 3 judges)

(*A CX team counts as 2 entries)

EVENT ENTRY DEADLINE (WHY DIDN'T YOU PUT THIS IN THE OTHER SECTION? WELL, BECAUSE THERE IS A LITTLE SURPRISE)

So, by when do you need to have entered your students in the tournament? We are glad you asked. The process is going to be significantly different this year than in past years. Please read the next section carefully.

We will maintain the **February 12 deadline** for event entries. Please make sure you have made your entry by that time.

We are making the entry process different this year. As we grow in size and breadth, tournament management and data entry has become increasingly difficult. Accuracy, especially when reading students' names from various forms, sometimes is not achieved.

We are therefore taking steps to take care of that. Many of you have attended tournaments this year which asked you to make entries online. We, the TFA Executive Committee, have also decided to make that commitment.

All entries this year for the 2003 TFA State Tournament will be made using the Joy of Tournaments website. You may enter the tournament by going to the following website:

www.joyoftournaments.com

For those of you not familiar with the website and a little leery about its operation, please be assured of the following. First, the site is maintained and the program run by an individual very familiar with the needs of tournament directors. Second, once you visit the site, you will notice that numerous tournaments have used the site for tournament entry. Finally, very clear and extensive directions are given on the site for tournament entry. We hope to make this as painless as possible for all involved.

Very quickly, here are some key things to consider when trying to enter things on the site. First, you must create an account including username and password. The program will also ask you to create the names of individuals on your squad. You then use the squad names to make tournament entries in appropriate categories. You do so by going to an individual student name and indicating the events in which that student will be involved. Finally, you will be directed to the printing of an invoice as well as a confirmation e-mail.

Having done this a number of times for tournaments in the Dallas area, I have found the site to be very user friendly and very easy to use. The site provides a great deal of very useful information. Tournament information will be available on that site as well as the TFA website. You will have plenty of places in which you access that data.

Please use the website to enter the tournament. We will be checking to make sure that all have entered the tournament properly. You must use the website to enter the tournament. If you are not able to do so, then please contact your region representative and we will make sure that

we put you in contact with someone who can help you in that process.

FEES, FEES, FEES (SO WHAT IS THIS GOING TO COST MY SCHOOL?)

The fees for this year's state tournament have changed. Please use the following fee schedule to determine the cost of your state tournament entry:

CX team--\$50 per team
LD entry--\$30 per entry
Congress--\$25 per entry
Duet--\$30 per entry
IE's--\$20 per entry

For persons making last minute changes, there will also be a \$25 nuisance fee that must be paid before a school will receive its judge bond. We will hold a personal check until the coach can provide a school check in its place.

All fees will be due prior to tournament attendance. The deadline for submission will be published on the Joy of Tournaments site as well as the TFA website.

RULES? THERE ARE RULES TO THIS TOURNAMENT

Once you arrive at the tournament, you will receive a new copy of the TFA Constitution. We ask that you not only read the Constitution then, but take the time to read the Constitution on the TFA Website prior to coming to the tournament.

We ask that you pay particular attention to the entry limitations and conflict patterns for your students. Please read the use of evidence in debate rounds and the procedures used to break ties in various events.

Much like other rules and regulations, ignorance will not excuse coaches and contestants from penalties if they indeed violate these rules and regulations. Please help us avoid potentially difficult situations by being knowledgeable about and adhering to various rules and regulations.

Familiarity with the rules will make your state tournament experience a much more positive one.

RULES FOR REGISTRATION AND THE TOURNAMENT OF WHICH YOU OUGHT TO BE AWARE (YEP, HERE ARE SOME OF THAT RULES STUFF THAT YOU HAVE TO FOLLOW)

The TFA coach of record must be present at registration and throughout the tournament as long as their students are in attendance. **Petitions for substitute coaches** should be made to Randy Ellis. Petitions must be submitted with your entry. The deadline for both is February 19th.

A **typed oration** for each student in that event must be submitted at registration to the Tournament Director, Larry Balfe. If the oration is not available, the student will be disqualified from the event. All quoted material must be underlined in red. It may not exceed a maximum of 150 words. A **cover sheet** with the title, student's name and signature, coach's name and signature, and the school name must be attached to the oration.

Titles of interp selections must be submitted at registration. Once the titles are submitted, a change in selection will result in the student's disqualification. Separation of selections will begin in elimination rounds if feasible. Please read the section following this one regarding the availability of original scripts. Please cooperate so that we don't find ourselves in an unfortunate situation of having to disqualify a competitor because the lack of availability of an original script.

In accordance with the TFA Constitution, the **CX debate topic** will be the national topic for this year (the **mental health** one). **The Lincoln Douglas topic shall be the January/February NFL topic.** That may be a change from previous information you may have received. **No electronic retrieval devices** will be allowed in rounds (no laptops, handheld devices, etc.) for flowing or as storage systems for extemp or debate.

In **extemporaneous speaking**, **NO hand prepared notes or outlines** may be taken into or out of the draw room. Only published materials may be taken into the draw. **Extemp finals** will be conducted using the **cross examination**

format. No electronic retrieval devices will be allowed in the draw.

Consolation events—Students eliminated from all tournament events are eligible to enter **one consolation event**. Students not advancing to Congress semi-finals are also eligible to enter. Consolation slots must be reserved on the official entry form. A school may reserve **3 slots in each event, the fee is \$15 per slot.** **Registration is required on Saturday** for students who actually compete. The student or coach must re-register. Re-registration must take place during the scheduled time. No exceptions will be made. There will be no late registration. Fees for unused slots will not be refunded.

REMINDER OF SCRIPTS FOR THE INTERP EVENTS (AND ORATORIES)

By a vote from the Executive Council, all competitors in the interp events (Duet Acting, Humorous and Dramatic Interp) must provide the original source of their interp scripts including the ISBN number. This check will begin with the quarterfinals. Coaches and/or students must provide the script or the student will not be allowed to compete in the elimination rounds of the tournament.

The script must be the original. It can not be a fax or photocopy of the script. Please comply so that your students can compete with no problems in the tournament.

CONGRESS ANNOUNCEMENT (PLEASE READ IF YOU ARE ENTERED OR ARE CONSIDERING ON ENTERING)

The preliminary sessions of Congress will be held at the Doubletree Hotel. The semifinal and Super Congress sessions will be held at Highland Park High School.

Please be aware that in order to bring a representative in Student Congress to the 2003 State Tournament, schools were **REQUIRED** to submit legislation by the December 13, 2002 deadline. The deadline was extended to December 1 to accommodate late entries, and then the registration was closed. The legislation is being reviewed by a regionally balanced

committee. The legislation is being judged by blind submission and will be ranked according to its merits.

The preliminary, Semifinal, and Super Congress calendars of legislation will be posted on the TFA website no later than January 31st. A list of entered schools will also be posted. IF YOU ARE NOT ON THE LIST, PLEASE DO NOT BRING A STUDENT AND EXPECT THEM TO BE SEATED IN A CHAMBER. Unfortunately, we can not accommodate such individuals no matter what the reason.

We have 120 schools entered, and the cap is 30 per house. **There is no waiting list, and there will be no additions.**

Sorry that we have to be so firm on these issues, but we must have strict deadlines and submissions for the Congress to be a successful endeavor. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION (LIKE WHO'S ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND AND OTHER STUFF)

We are again in the process of updating the website. You will not only find a copy of this newsletter on the website but you will also find links to the tournament entry.

We have also submitted an updated list of the IQT for you to check to make sure that your students have been accurately recorded. If they are not, please contact Cindy Saukel to discuss the discrepancy.

Important tournament information will also be communicated on the website. Please check there for information.

There will also be a link to the entry process for the tournament on the website. Check it often for tournament updates and information.

The website address is:

www.txfa.org

WHAT'S THE CONNECTION BETWEEN TOURNAMENT T-SHIRTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS?

Attached to this newsletter you will also find a form that asks you to order T-shirts. This year's shirt will be classy and stylish. It will certainly be the envy of all your fellow faculty and your students' peers. Please pre-order and pre-pay for the shirts so that we can have them available for you at registration.

Why buy a T-shirt? As many of you know, the TFA awards scholarships each year to deserving seniors. Those scholarships go to Texas high school students who have distinguished themselves in TFA events and in the classroom. They are always well deserving. The scholarships are paid directly to the student.

The scholarships are funded by the T-shirt sales. If you are generous, then we can indeed raise a great deal of much needed funds. Please consider the buying of a T-shirt to help us raise these monies.

If you have a student interested in applying for a scholarship, you and they may complete the scholarship application form. The form will have been included in numerous tournament packets. It can also be found on the TFA website as well.

SO, WHERE ARE WE SUPPOSED TO STAY

Hotel information may be found on the website. Please be aware that registration for the tournament will begin on Thursday morning at the tournament hotel. **The address information is as follows:**

Doubletree Hotel Lincoln Centre
5410 LBJ Frwy
Dallas, Tx 75240

For direct reservations call 972-934-8400. Let the reservation clerk know you are with TFA. Book your rooms now to hold! Congress will be held here.
Toll free reservations: 1-800-222-TREE

Additional Hotels:

The overflow hotel will be The Renaissance (less

than 1 mile from the host hotel). Judges will be housed here. For direct reservations call 972-385-9000. Let the reservation clerk know you are with TFA.
Nationwide reservations is 1-800-hotels1.

Rooms are cheaper at this hotel, but we have only 75 rooms blocked and 17 of these go to the judges. Get your rooms reserved now!

Shuttle Service from Hotels:

There will be complimentary shuttles to The Galleria from both locations. Numerous fast food restaurants are in the area and Kinko's is across the street from The Doubletree.

. There are numerous hotels in the area. We have not called any of them to make special arrangements for you. You are more than welcome to call to see if you can get your own rates.

Here are some things to consider when getting rooms:

--The 635 corridor is not bad for hotel space. There are numerous properties on Midway Road which will be within 20 minutes of Highland Park High School. There are some properties close to Hwy75 or Central Expressway that have been accommodating to groups in the past.

--If you try to get rooms on Central Expressway, try to stay south of the 635 corridor. There is major construction going on around the intersection of 635 and 75 that cause major delays at numerous times of the day. Staying south of there is ideal. You may also find some properties that are east of 75 on 635 that will allow you to take alternate routes that might be good for you as well.

--Staying west of Midway on 635 or 35 puts you a significant distance from Highland Park. There are a few major properties along the tollway as well. If you choose to stay there, stay as close to Beltline Road as possible. Staying in that area puts you within easy driving distance of a number of restaurants. Again, understand that you will have a 20-30 minute drive to Highland Park depending on the traffic in Dallas.

WHERE IS HIGHLAND PARK HIGH SCHOOL?

Within the next few weeks, we hope to post an early tournament packet on the website. It will hopefully answer a number of questions you will have about the location of the school and where you can park and arrangements for various modes of transportation.

These are some directions that you are certainly more than welcome to check out. To help you with any online map/driving directions source you might use, here is the address of HPHS:

Highland Park High School
4220 Emerson Ave.
Dallas, TX 75205

We are located just east of the Dallas N/S Tollway and just south of Lovers Lane (yes, that's the name of the street).

To get to the school from the tournament hotel, you need to get on the tollway going south. You will travel approximately five miles and take the Loop 12/Northwest Highway exit. Take a left at the stoplight and go to Douglas, which will be the first street on your right. Take a right onto Douglas and proceed four to five blocks. You will go through a number of stop signs. You will eventually come to Lovers Lane. Directly ahead of you on your left you should see our baseball stadium. It's called Scotland Yard. Yep, that is the name. Take a left at the light. Proceed one block until you see Westchester Drive. Take a right on Westchester and proceed for a few blocks. The school will be on your right just past the stadium.

We would suggest that you arrive as close to 3:00 p.m. as possible. If you arrive after 3:25, you will be facing hordes of SUV's, cars, trucks, and other vehicles coming out of our three story parking garage. It is a sight to behold. A frightening one at that. You may take a right onto Emerson to drop your students at the front of the school. You may also stop on Westchester and have your students proceed to our cafeteria.

We will have spaces in the parking garage available for some vehicles. The garage will accommodate most large SUV's. Many large vans may fit. Busses will not. We will give you other directions for larger vehicles in a few weeks. Once school is dismissed, we will make arrangements for larger vehicles like 15 passenger vans and busses. It is often done for our football games, and we can certainly work on making that more handy for you.

If you are coming in from the west, there are a few ways that you can come to the school. If you are coming from the Hwy 75/Central Express area from the east or north, you will want to take the Lovers Lane exit and follow that to Preston Road. If you continue one more block, you will be at Westchester and you can follow the above directions. If you are north and over by 75/Central Expressway, you may take any of the east/west major streets to Preston Road and head south to Lovers Lane, turn right and follow the above directions.

If you are coming from the south, you may come north on 75/Central Expressway to Lovers and follow the directions. You may also choose to stay on 35 and if you wish, take the tollway exit off of the I35. It would be best to exit at Lovers Lane, go to the right (east) and follow the much mentioned directions above.

If you truly have problems finding your way, you may call me directly or some one in the area and they will be able to get you here.

However, despite naysayers, we hope that we have put together a schedule that will be a difficult one but certainly manageable. It will only work with the full cooperation of all participating and competing in the tournament.

The schedule features three rounds of debate on Thursday with one round of IE's occurring after the second debate round. On Friday, we again begin with a debate round, but then alternate IE's and debate for the rest of the evening. All competitors in the elimination rounds will know if and when they are competing before they leave the building.

The debate schedule continues first thing on Saturday morning. Provisions have been made for the potential partial elimination round that may need to take place in either debate event. Hopefully, the schedule will also accommodate those students who are competing in both an individual event and one of the debate events.

The proposed/tentative schedule is included with this newsletter. Please be aware of when things

are going to occur so that you can make your travel plans accordingly.

We will plan to keep you informed as the tournament date approaches. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE—2003 TFA STATE TOURNAMENT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. **Registration at the Doubletree Hotel**
4:00 p.m. **Round 1—CX & LD debate & Duet Acting, Round 1**
4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Student Congress **Session 1A** (Doubletree Hotel)
6:00 p.m. **Round 2—CX & LD debate & Duet Acting, Round 2**
7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Student Congress **Session 1B** (Doubletree Hotel)
7:45 p.m. **Extemp Draw—Round 1**
8:15 p.m. **Round 1—All IE's**
9:30 p.m. **Round 3—CX & LD debate**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

4:00 p.m. **Round 4—CX & LD debate & Duet Acting, Round 3**
4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Student Congress **Session 2A** (Doubletree Hotel)
5:45 p.m. **Extemp Draw—Round 2**
6:15 p.m. **Round 2—All IE's**
7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Student Congress **Session 2B** (Doubletree Hotel)
7:30 p.m. **Round 5—CX & LD debate & Duet Acting, Quarterfinals**
9:15 p.m. **Extemp Draw—Round 3**
9:45 p.m. **Round 3—All IE's**
10:15 p.m. **Post partial elimination rounds and/or elimination rounds for all debate events**

11:30 p.m. **Post quarterfinalists for all IE events**

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

8:00 a.m. **Partial elimination round for all competitors at 4-1 in debate (LD)**
Double Octafinals—CX debate
8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Student Congress **Semifinals** (Highland Park High School)
9:30 a.m. **Extemp Draw—Quarterfinals**
10:00 a.m. **Quarterfinals—All IE's**
Impromptu/Prose Preliminaries
11:30 a.m. **Octofinals—CX Double-Octafinals LD debate (flighted)**
12:00 p.m. **Impromptu/Prose Semifinals**
1:00 p.m. **Extemp Draw—Semifinals**
1:30 p.m. **Semifinals—All IE's & Duet Acting**
2:00 p.m. **Impromptu/Prose Finals**
2:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Student Congress **Super Congress** (Highland Park High School)
2:30 p.m. **Quarterfinals--CX & Octafinals LD debate (single-flighted)**
4:00 p.m. **Quarterfinals—LD debate (single-flighted)**
4:45 p.m. **Extemp Draw—Finals**
5:15 p.m. **Finals—All IE's & Duet Acting**
5:30 p.m. **Semifinals—LD debate (single-flighted)**
Semifinals—CX debate

7:00 p.m. Awards assembly
8:30 p.m. **Finals of CX & LD**

**TFA STATE TOURNAMENT 2003
HIGHLAND PARK HIGH SCHOOL
DALLAS, TEXAS**

TOURNAMENT T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

_____ High School would like to order the following number of t-shirts
(School Name)
for the Texas Forensic Association State Speech & Debate tournament for 2003. We understand that we will held **financially accountable** for the number of shirts that we order. We also understand that they will be **available** to us **at registration**. We also understand that the **profits** from the sale of these shirts will go towards the **funding** of **TFA Scholarships** to worthy student competitors in the state of Texas.

As coach of the above named high school, I would like to order the following t-shirts. My signature below indicates my willingness to present payment for the shirts upon delivery.

_____ Total number of **Small** T-shirts ordered @ \$10 a shirt= _____

_____ Total number of **Medium** T-shirts ordered @ \$10 a shirt= _____

_____ Total number of **Large** T-shirts ordered @ \$10 a shirt= _____

_____ Total number of **X-Large** T-shirts ordered @ \$10 a shirt= _____

_____ Total number of **XX-Large** T-shirts ordered @ \$10 a shirt= _____

_____ Total number of T-shirts ordered @ \$10 a shirt= _____
(This is the total number of T-shirts that have been ordered
and the full amount owed)

_____ authorizing payment for these shirts.
(Coach Signature)

Please make checks payable to the **Texas Forensic Association**

Payment and order form should be sent to the following no later than February 14:

Diane Forbes
Garland High School
310 S. Garland Ave.
Garland, TX 75040
(F) 972 494 8415
(EM) Owldebate@aol.com