



TEXAS FORENSICS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER SPRING 2004 (STATE TOURNAMENT EDITION)

IT'S TOURNAMENT TIME!!

Many of you are attempting to get those last few students qualified for the state tournament. This newsletter will give you some very important information for you to consider when making plans to attend that tournament. Please read the information carefully so that your (and our) state tournament experience is a positive one. If you have questions, hold them until the end of the reading of this newsletter. When we are finished with reading the newsletter, you may then contact the relevant person to ask your question. Yep, I have been teaching freshmen far too long.

TOURNAMENT DATES AND SCHEDULE (WHERE/WHEN)

If you examine the TFA calendar, you know that the tournament will be taking place at Bryan High School in Bryan, Texas on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 4-6, 2004. Individuals at Bryan High School and in the Bryan community 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, March 4. Please make sure that you make plans so that you are able to complete the registration process.

The registration process will include the final 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.

We also remind you of the following. No student may be entered in the tournament unless they are accompanied by an adult chaperone. If a student is at the tournament unsupervised, they are in violation of TFA constitutional procedures and rules. Please do not put the executive committee in the position of restricting entry in the tournament because a student is at the tournament without an adult sponsor present.

DEADLINES AND DEADLINES

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

Congress Legislation

The first deadline that you may have missed is the submission of Congress legislation. **If you are planning to bring a student to compete in the Senate part of the Congress and you did not submit legislation to Dixie Waldo by December 15, please do not plan to enter the tournament.** You must have submitted that legislation to be able to participate. Notification was given by the region representatives and the deadline has been published in several places. We are sorry but we will be very steadfast in adhering to this policy.

THE NEXT DEADLINE IS A NEW ONE AND ONE TO WHICH YOU WANT TO PAY STRICT ATTENTION (YEP, IT'S IN BOLD BECAUSE THIS IS IMPORTANT; SO MUCH THAT I MOVED IT TO THE NEXT PAGE)

IQT Points Check

As many of you know, all the submissions for IQT points are taking place through an online system now. As a result, you have been able at any time during the year to check on the accuracy of your IQT reports and the students you have qualified for the state tournament. **By February 1, we are asking that you check the website and determine the accuracy of the reports submitted for your students. This is the responsibility of the individual coach of the individual program to determine whether or not points have been reported accurately.**

If you think that you have students qualified but they are not appearing on your report, please contact the IQT coordinator (Cindi Saukel) via e-mail with the following information:

--Name of school and coach

--Names of students whom you think are qualified

--Tournaments at which they earned IQT points with their events and placings

A few things to remember before you contact Cindi:

--Quarterfinalists in CX and LD debate only get 2 points if the tournament breaks to an octafinal round and there are more than 50 competitors in the division at the beginning of Round 1

--The reporting program will place students in the events alphabetically by last names of the first person listed in team events. If the order has been switched in a pairing when reported, then the program will record that as two different pairings (Jones & Smith are different than Smith & Jones) although the same students may be involved. We think we have caught all of those, but please help us out if we have not.

--Without the information we ask you to provide, it is nearly impossible for us to find out the information that you wish. Please cooperate with us by providing the state information. Again, it is the coach's responsibility to figure out whether or not the qualified student is listed.

Judging obligation

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. If your judges do not complete that information, then they will not be allowed to judge at the tournament. Please assist in that process by providing the necessary information.

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.

Hired judging applications

If you know of judges who would like to be considered to judge at the tournament, they will need to register for the tournament by going to the Joy of Tournaments website and complete the application for hired judging. That can be done now but must be completed no later than **February 20**. If persons have not registered 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 their registration. 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 one 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. The philosophy section may be completed as you register for the tournament on the Joy of Tournaments site. Again the process will be explained later in this newsletter. The formulas below should be used to calculate the number of judges you need to provide or hire. 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 20 deadline at 5:00 p.m.** for event entries. Please make sure you have made your entry by that time.

All entries this year for the 2004 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

Many of you are now familiar with this website because a number of tournaments have gone to it for tournament entry. For those of you unfamiliar with the website, please understand 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.

As many of you know, Brent Hinkle and his Joy of Tournaments website has become the home of our website as well. When using the website, you normally will do the following. 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.

Entry for the state tournament will be a little bit different than the "normal" invitational tournament. First, you will log on like you normally would do. If you have not created an account, the website will ask you to do so. You may also designate one additional persons who you may wish to enter in the Senate portion of the Student Congress. You may only do so if you have met the deadline for submission of legislation (see the previous item about that.) You then will be able to enter your qualified students in the State Tournament.

We will be checking on the tournament entries the week before the tournament. We will also make sure you have entered the tournament in an

accurate fashion and that you have met all necessary deadlines.

Please notice that you must also enter all judge information on this site as well. You will be asked to not only provide judge names but also the judge philosophy information that has been requested in the past. Please complete all portions so that we can accurately assign judges for the tournament. **Judges will not be eligible to judge at the state tournament unless they have submitted this information. This will include persons who are requesting to be hired by the tournament.**

Having done tournament entries through this website 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.

You must use the website to enter the tournament. We will be checking to make sure that all have entered the tournament properly. If you are not able to enter the tournament through the website, 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
Supplemental events--\$15

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.

Payment of some form must be provided for you to enter the tournament. Payment may be in the form of a school check, a purchase order indicating that a number has been assigned, or

we will hold a personal check until the coach can provide a school check in its place. Fees must be submitted to the TFA Treasurer, Bill Schuetz at Gregory Portland High School by the required deadlines. His mailing information may be found on the TFA website. All entry payments must be postmarked by February 20.

All fees will be due prior to tournament attendance. An accounting of all fees must be made prior to students being eligible to compete in the tournament. The deadline for submission will be published on the Joy of Tournaments site as well as the TFA website.

In addition, all schools must have paid all fees from any IQT that they have attended this year. Failure to pay fees at any IQT will render that school ineligible for the state tournament. Tournament hosts will need to contact their region representative to demonstrate that they have attempted to collect those fees. Region representatives should be kept apprised of such delinquent schools or persons.

RULES? THERE ARE RULES TO THIS TOURNAMENT

The most recent version of the TFA Constitution is available on the TFA Website. We ask that you take the time to read the Constitution on the TFA Website prior to coming to the tournament. No hard copies of the Constitution will be available at the tournament site. **Please be prepared by printing a copy of the Constitution before you come 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 Keith Townsend. Petitions must be submitted with your entry. The deadline for both is February 20th.

A **typed oration** for each student in that event must be submitted at registration to the Tournament Director, Shawn Mena. 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 **ocean policy** one). **The Lincoln Douglas topic shall be the March/April NFL topic.** That may be a change from previous information you may have received.

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 in accordance with the new rules printed in the TFA Constitution.** There may be some confusion as to what an

electronic retrieval device is and is not. Some persons will try to use retrieval devices as timers. **The executive committee has decided that a timer is an electronic device whose sole purpose would be used to keep time. Palm held devices, cellular telephones, laptop computers, and other electronic devices do not meet this definition, and therefore, will not be allowed in the extemp draw.** If a student is found using these devices, the student will be disqualified.

The **use of laptop computers in debate rounds** is at the discretion of the tournament director. At the state tournament this year, **laptop computers will be allowed to be used in the debate events.**

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.

Judge strikes and preferences Judge information and strike sheet will be made available on the website on the Monday prior to the tournament. Judge preferences and strikes submitted by Wednesday at noon will be in effect by Round 1 on Thursday evening. Judge preferences and strikes submitted after that time frame will not be in effect until later in the tournament.

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, semifinal, and Super Congress sessions of Congress will be held at Bryan High School.

Please be aware that in order to bring a representative in the Senate to the 2004 State Tournament, schools were **REQUIRED** to submit legislation by the December 15, 2003 deadline. 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 February 1. 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 close to 120 schools entered, and the cap is 30 per Senate. **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.

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 call Katie at the Visitors and Convention Bureau at 979-260-9898 directly at the Bryan Chamber of Commerce to make your reservations.

SPECIAL INFORMATION AND DIRECTIONS

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.

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.

School officials at Bryan High School are asking that we arrive at the school no earlier than 4:15 p.m. Rounds will begin at 5:00 p.m. so that should give persons plenty of time to get to rounds on time.

The schedule features two 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 day. We are hoping to complete the double octafinal rounds of both CX and LD debate before we leave for the evening on Friday.

Please be aware that we will continue to try to accelerate the schedule as much as possible on Saturday. The IE schedule will remain virtually the same, but we may try to "speed up" the debate schedule if we can. 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.

Other special event information is now posted on the website. Please check there for tournament updates and information.

YEAR END REMINDERS FOR IQT'S (YEP, THIS ISN'T STATE TOURNAMENT STUFF BUT IT'S IMPORTANT ANYWAY)

Student Congress

Please review the procedures and guidelines that are highlighted on the TFA Website. Also, remember that elimination round Presiding Officers are to be adults and not students. Students are not to serve as Presiding Officers in the elimination rounds of Student Congress

Hired Judge Fees

It has come to the attention of the Executive Council that some tournament directors are charging hired judge fees and are not hiring judges for the tournament. Hired judge fees are not to be used to pad the profits of a tournament. Please act in a professional fashion by hiring persons as judges if you are charging fees for that service. Protests may be filed if coaches feel that fees were charged but no judges were hired. Tournament hosts may be asked to produce financial records which prove the payment to judges for those services.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Schuetz, TFA Treasurer, has filed the following financial report. All figures are accurate as of the December 20th TFA Executive Council Meeting.

Current Bank Balance: \$11,455.60

Convention Expenses:

Kinko's:	\$99.94
New Coaches Lunch (1/2)	\$679.70
American Express Credit Card	
October	\$37.00
November	\$113.21
National Federation	\$7,000
Membership Dues	

Bill reported that we have approximately 416 members currently in the organization.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE—TFA STATE TOURNAMENT—2004

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Registration
5:00 p.m.	Round 1 Cross-Examination and Lincoln Douglas Debate, Duet Acting
7:00 p.m.	Extemporaneous Speaking—Draw Begins
7:30 p.m.	Round 1 Individual Events
9:00 p.m.	Round 2 Cross-Examination and Lincoln Douglas Debate, Duet Acting

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

9:00 a.m.	Round 3 Cross-Examination and Lincoln Douglas Debate
9:00 A.m.	Round 3 Duet Acting
11:00 a.m.	Extemporaneous Speaking—Draw Begins
11:30 a.m.	Round 2 Individual Events
1:00 p.m.	Round 4 Cross-Examination and Lincoln Douglas Debate
3:00 p.m.	Extemporaneous Speaking—Draw Begins
3:30 p.m.	Round 3 Individual Events
5:00 p.m.	Round 5 Cross-Examination and Lincoln Douglas Debate
5:00 p.m.	Quarterfinals Duet Acting
7:00-9:00 p.m.	Registration Consolation Events
7:00 p.m.	Extemporaneous Speaking—Draw Begins
7:30 p.m.	Quarterfinals Individual Events
9:00 p.m.	Partial Triple Octafinals Debate Events (if necessary)

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

8:00 a.m.	Double Octafinals Cross Examination and Lincoln Douglas Debate
8:30 a.m.	Round 1 Consolation Events
10:00 a.m.	Extemporaneous Speaking—Draw Begins
10:30 a.m.	Semifinals Individual Events and Duet Acting
11:00 a.m.	Quarterfinals Consolation Events
12:00 p.m.	Octafinals, Cross Examination and Lincoln Douglas Debate
1:30 p.m.	Semifinals Consolation Events
2:00 p.m.	Extemporaneous Speaking—Draw Begins
2:30 p.m.	Finals Individual Events and Duet Acting
4:00 p.m.	Quarterfinals Cross Examination and Lincoln Douglas Debate
3:30 p.m.	Finals Consolation Events
6:00 p.m.	Semifinals Cross Examination and Lincoln Douglas Debate
7:00 p.m.	Finals Lincoln Douglas Debate
8:00 p.m.	Awards Assembly
9:30 p.m.	Finals Cross Examination Debate

Please note: Debate rounds on Saturday will be accelerated if possible. Please prepare for that contingency.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE—TFA STATE TOURNAMENT—2004

STUDENT CONGRESS

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

5:00-7:00 p.m. Session 1A—Student Congress
8:00-10:00 p.m. Session 1B—Student Congress

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

9:00-11:00 a.m. Session 2A—Student Congress
12:00-2:00 p.m. Session 2B-- Student Congress
5:00-8:30 p.m. Semifinal Student Congress

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Super Congress

**TFA STATE TOURNAMENT 2004
BRYAN HIGH SCHOOL
BRYAN, 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 20:

J.W. Lee
Bryan High School
3450 Campus Dr
Bryan, TX 77802