

Texas Forensic Association *NEWS*

State Tournament Edition

January 2008

State Tournament Time!

It's that busy time of year again. The IQT season is winding down. Only a few more weeks are left to qualify your last few students for TFA State. This newsletter contains important information about the State Tournament. Hopefully this information will help you have a great experience as the season comes to a close.

Dates and Location

This year, state will be held at **Coppell High School** in Coppell on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, **March 6-8, 2008**. Glenda Ferguson and Maleda Kunkle are hard at work making preparations as hosts for this big event.

continued on page 2

IMPORTANT DETAILS

STATE TOURNAMENT DATE

March 6-8, 2008

TOURNAMENT LOCATION

Coppell High School in Coppell

FINAL REGISTRATION (AT THE MARRIOTT HOTEL)

Wednesday, March 5th from 7pm – 11pm

LATE REGISTRATION (AT THE MARRIOTT HOTEL)

Thursday, March 6th from 8am – 10am

DEADLINES

Congress legislation (for Senate): December 15

Honor Crew Nominations: February 15

Hired Judge Applications: February 8

IQT Point Corrections: February 15

Judging Paradigms: February 15

Entry fee payments (postmarked): February 22

Online Entry deadline: February 22 @ 5:00pm

Substitute coach petitions due: February 17

Mutual Preference Judge Ratings and IE strikes (online):
March 5 @ noon

DON'T FORGET THESE DETAILS:

A typed oration is required at registration for each competitor in Original Oratory

Titles of interpretation selections must be submitted at registration. Original scripts must be available at the state meet. Students will not be allowed to compete without adequate documentation at registration. No exceptions.

Orations and interpretation scripts need to be placed in a manila envelope with the verification form stapled outside the envelope.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** State tournament Time!
- 1** Important Details & Deadlines
- 2** On-site registration details
- 3** Strike Sheets, Student Supervision
- 3** Senate, Legislation, Rules, Online Entry
- 4** Entry Fees, Judging Requirements
- 4** School/Coach Judging Expectations
- 5** Hired Judge Expectations, Conflicts of Interest
- 5** Debate Topics / Rules
- 6** Extemp Rules, Consolation Events
- 6** T-Shirts, Scholarship, Hotels, Documentary
- 7** Honor Crew Members, IQT Points Check
- 8-9** Tentative Schedule
- 10** Interpretation Selection Packet Cover Sheet
- 11** Oratory Certification Cover Sheet
- 12-13** Documentary Model Release, Parental Letter

Registration (on-site)

Registration will take place on Wednesday night, March 5 from 7 to 11pm at the Marriott Hotel (8440 Freeway Parkway, Irving, TX). There will also be a short late registration for schools that cannot arrive on Wednesday night. Late registration will be from 8am to 10am on Thursday morning (also at the Marriott Hotel).

Please make sure that you make plans to arrive so that you may complete registration during one of the two available times.

The registration process will include several important steps. These include:

- Scripts for interpretation events will be inspected for authenticity. You must provide titles and ISBN numbers at registration for all DI, HI, Duet, and DUO entries. Copies of oratories must be submitted
- Final payment of fees
- Confirmation of judge information (MPJ, IE Strikes, names of judges fulfilling your school's obligations)

Scripts

Titles of interpretation 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.

During the online registration process, you will be asked to provide the title and ISBN number. This information will be verified during registration. A cover sheet for your use is provided at the end of this newsletter and it is also available on the TFA website.

Coaches and/or students must provide the original script or the student will not be allowed to compete in the tournament. Scripts will be checked at registration. Failure to provide the script may render the student ineligible for competition. The script must be an original. It cannot be a fax or photocopy of the script.

Oratories

A typed oration for each student in that event must be submitted at registration. If the oration is not available, the student will be disqualified. All quoted material must be underlined in red. Quoted material may not exceed 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. A cover sheet for oratories is provided at the end of this newsletter and is also available on the TFA website.

Payment of Fees

Payment of some form must be provided for your school 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, David Gardiner at Richard King High School. Entry payments must be postmarked by February 22nd.

All fees are due prior to tournament participation.

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. Region representatives are not responsible for collecting delinquent fees, but they will let the tournament committee know if a school is ineligible for competition.

Judge Information

During registration, final judge information will be collected from each school. A judging bond will be held from each school. If the designated judges for a school fail to pick up ballots, the school's bond may be forfeited.

Judging paradigms (online) are required for each judge in the events in which they will be judging. Failure to provide paradigms will render the judge unusable and appropriate penalties will be levied.

Strike Sheets

Judge information and strike sheets will be available on the Joy of Tournaments website on Monday, March 3. Mutual Preference sheets for CX and LD debate will be submitted online as will strikes for individual events. No sheets will be available during registration, so if you want to strike judges, you must complete the process online. **Strike sheets and MPJ sheets are due on Wednesday, March 5th by noon.** A supplemental MPJ sheet may also be handed out at registration. Judge preferences may be verified during registration.

Student Supervision

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 rules.

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 Rhonda Bell and must be submitted with your entry. Deadline for substitute coach petitions is February 17th.

Student Congress Senate

Each school is allowed to bring one student to participate in the Senate provided that they also submit legislation. The deadline for submitting legislation was December 15. A list of schools eligible for participation in the Senate has been posted on the TFA website. If you are not on the list, do not bring a student and expect them to be seated in a chamber.

Legislation

All legislation that was submitted by the December 15 deadline 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.

Rules

The most recent version of the TFA Constitution is available on the TFA website. Please take the time to read the Constitution prior to attendance. No hard copies of the Constitution will be available at the tournament site.

Familiarity with the rules will make your state tournament experience a much more positive one. Ignorance will not excuse coaches and contestants from penalties. Please help us avoid potentially difficult situations by being knowledgeable about and adhering to the current TFA rules.

Online Entry

All entries for the 2008 TFA State Tournament will be made using the Joy of Tournament website. Entries are due by Monday, February 22nd at 5:00pm. Please make sure that you have made our entry by that time.

Entry Fees

C-X Debate (team)	\$50.00
L-D Debate	\$25.00
Student Congress	\$20.00
Duet Acting/Duo	\$20.00
Individual Events	\$20.00
Supplemental Events	\$20.00
Judge Bond	\$300.00
Hired Judges (each)	\$200.00
School Fee	\$50.00

Last minute changes at registration: \$25.00

Judging Requirements

Individual Events, Congress, Duo, and Duet

1 full-time judge per 8 entries

C-X Debate

1 full-time judge per 2 teams

L-D Debate

1 full-time judge per 4 entries

Each full-time judge is obligated for 8 rounds.

The judge bond is \$300.00 and will be returned when schools have met all of their judging obligations. Schools have the option of donating the judge bond to TFA to be used for scholarship money for students.

Each school is obligated to provide judges for one round beyond the elimination of all of their students. At the very least, this obligates all judges to the first elimination round in both IEs and Debate. Please do not ask to get out of the first elimination round on Saturday morning.

Failure to meet the judging obligation will result in the loss of the judge bond. If a designated judge fails to meet a school obligation a second time, all remaining students from that school will be disqualified. If no students remain, additional penalties may be assessed.

Coaches / School Judges

1) All coaches and school judges should fill out philosophy forms only for the events they are required* to judge.

* All coaches and school judges must be represented in any category (Congressional Debate, Lincoln Douglas Debate, Policy Debate, Performance, Public Speaking) that a school has contestants. For example, if a coach has students in Oratory and Duet they would need to fill out questions in **BOTH** the performance and public speaking categories.

Performance: Duet, Duo, Humorous, Dramatic

Public Speaking: Oratory and Extemp

By vote at the 2006 convention, judges for Congressional debate must be available to serve as either parliamentarian or scorer based on the needs of the tournament judging committee.

2) All coaches and school judges must be available to judge eight rounds. Petitions for substitutes must be submitted (and approved) a minimum of one week in advance. Requests for substitutions must be submitted to Bill Schuetz.

3) All debate judges are required to be on standby for all preliminary rounds. Standby is defined as being in the judges' room when pairings and postings are released until all ballots are handed out.

4) All coaches/school judges must pick up ballots at least 15 minutes before the round is supposed to start. Judges designated to fulfill school obligations that miss ballots will result in the school's judge bond being removed and potential removal of their students from the tournament. If judges miss rounds they must see Bill Schuetz (TFA Vice President and director of judges) to have the situation resolved.

5) All mutual preference/strike sheets for both individual events and all divisions of debate will be filled out online. NO forms (other than supplemental forms) will be taken at registration. All coach/school judges must have a philosophy online for your entry to be complete and for your students to be allowed to compete.

Coaches/School Judges (continued)

6) The Executive Council reserves the right to substitute judges. If required, an adequate search will be conducted to find a judge that fits in a particular round, but any available judge may be used to adjudicate the round. Both mutual preference requests and strikes may be suspended if the situation becomes critical. In the next round, preferences and strikes will be reinstated provided sufficient judges exist. Questions regarding such circumstances may be addressed by the region reps at the appropriate ballot table of the event(s). We anticipate that such situations either won't occur or will be EXTREMELY rare.

7) All coaches have a responsibility to check pairings and/or give students MPJ/strike information to ensure students are not being judged by individuals that have been struck. Concerns must be raised before the round in question begins. **No protests will be heard after a round has begun.**

8) All coaches who have students entered in Congress must be willing to serve as a Scorer and/or Parliamentarian. Each congress session will count as 1 round.

9) **All coaches are required to be available for all time periods.** Please do not ask to be released early.

Hired Judge Information

1) Payment. Hired judges on contract will be paid \$250.00 (10 rounds required / 17 rounds possible) and must be available for the duration of the tournament. Contract judges that judge more than 10 rounds will receive the \$250.00 plus \$25.00 for each extra round. Hired judges may also judge on a per round basis for \$25.00 per round. Congressional sessions count as 1 round.

2) We expect all hired judges to be on time for all rounds. If you miss a round and you are on contract you will immediately revert back to a per round basis with no guarantee.

3) Comments on ballots. Our purpose is to provide the best (positive) educational experience for our students and we expect all comments to be constructive in nature.

4) Hired judge applications including contact information and judging paradigms must be submitted online.

Hired Judges / Conflicts of Interest

1) If you have ever worked with a student/school (whether paid or on a volunteer basis) during the current school year you should recuse yourself from judging that school/student.

2) Judges that have had personal relationships with competitors should recuse themselves from judging those students.

3) Judges that actively participate in pre-round preparation of a competitor should recuse themselves from judging that student in later rounds at the tournament.

4) Judges who socialize with competitors should refrain from judging those competitors to address actual or perceived issues regarding a lack of complete partiality.

Debate Topics / Rules

The CX debate topic will be the current national topic:

RESOLVED: The United States federal government should substantially increase its public health assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa.

The LD topic will be the **March/April** NFL topic.

Laptop Computers are allowed in the debate events.

Extemporaneous Speaking Rules

No hand prepared notes or outlines may be taken into or out of the draw room.

Only published materials may be taken into draw.

Finals will be conducted using the cross examination format.

No electronic retrieval devices will be allowed in the draw.

A timer is an electronic device whose sole purpose would be to keep time. Palm held devices, cellular telephones, laptop computers and other electronic devices do not meet this definition and will not be allowed in extemp 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.

*The consolation events this year are
Impromptu and Prose.*

Consolation slots must be reserved during the online registration process. A school may reserve 6 slots in each event and the cost is \$20 per slot.

Re-registration is required on Friday for students who actually compete. There will be no late registration. Fees for unused slots will not be refunded.

Registration for consolation events will be conducted online via Joy of Tournaments. Computers will be available to aid in this process. Registration for consolation events will open Friday morning and must be completed by midnight on Friday.

T-Shirts

The TFA will have T-Shirts available for sale to commemorate your trip to state. As usual, the proceeds from these shirts will go back into the scholarship fund to directly benefit TFA students. Shirts will be available at registration. All schools will be responsible for all shirts ordered. Watch the TFA website for an order form to be posted soon.

Lanier Law Firm Scholarship

TFA is proud to announce that Lanier Law Firm will sponsor Lincoln-Douglas Debate for the 2008 State Tournament. The L-D Debate champion will receive a \$500.00 scholarship.

Hotels

If you are looking for information about hotels near Coppell High School, that information is on the website.

Schools who elect to stay at the Host Hotel (Marriott DFW) will receive a rebate of \$5 for every room/night spent at the Marriott DFW upon checkout from the tournament.

The executive council is requesting that schools select hotels in Irving if at all possible. The Irving Visitor's Bureau has pledged \$5 to TFA for student scholarships per room (per night) spent in an Irving hotel.

Documentary Film Crew

Michael Urie, star of "Ugly Betty" is planning on sending a crew to film a documentary at TFA State. Release forms are included at the end of this newsletter for everyone to fill out and while we don't want to add more work for our members, this is an opportunity for our students to be showcased. A letter from Michael Urie to parents about this project is also included at the end of this newsletter.

Honor Crew Members

One of the things needed at the tournament are students willing to serve as runners and ballot distribution personnel. If you have a student or students interested in such a role, please nominate them for the honor crew. You may place their names in nomination by sending a recommendation to Rhonda Bell -TFA President (email: Rhonda.Bell@humble.k12.tx.us; you will receive a confirmation that your nomination has been received)

All students chosen will need to commit to be available for the duration of the state meet. If coaches and students are unwilling or unable to agree to this request we respectfully ask that you not submit a nomination for that student.

Two members from each region will be chosen. Please understand that the expense to travel to the tournament, housing, and meals must be borne either by the school or the individual student. The student must also have an adult supervisor with them as well. We hope that you consider for nomination students who do deserve to attend the tournament, but for some reason have failed to qualify. They will receive a tournament T- shirt in recognition of their contribution. Nominations must be submitted no later than **February 15**. Nominations should include a statement from the coach as to why the student is deserving of the nomination and the student's t- shirt size. The honor crew will be named by **February 18**.

Coaches may not substitute students in the event that the nominee qualifies for the state tournament or can not attend. An alternate will be named for each region and that student will be asked to attend. We encourage you to submit the names of your deserving students for this honor.

IQT Points Check

IQT results have been submitted thru the online point system on the TFA website. During the year, you have been able to check on the accuracy of the IQT reports and the students that you have qualified for the state tournament.

By February 15th, 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 coach of each program.

If you think that you have students qualified (8 points) but they are not appearing on your report, please contact the IQT coordinator (Alicia Dunson) via email with the following information:

- Name of school and coach
- Name of student that you think is qualified
- Tournaments at which they earned their points (be sure to include event and placing)

No changes will be accepted for mistakes on IQT reports after February 15.

Breakfast of Champions

Sunday morning from 9:00 - 10:30, the Breakfast of Champions will be held at the Marriott Hotel. All coaches with state champions should plan to attend. The speaker will be National Forensic League Secretary Scott Wunn.

TENATIVE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, March 5

7:00 - 11:00 pm - Registration – Marriott Hotel (8440 Freeport Parkway, Irving, TX)
(There will be snacks and refreshments provided for coaches and students.)

Thursday, March 6

8:00 - 10:00 am - Late registration (discouraged) – Marriott Hotel
2:00 – 3:00 pm - Tab Staff Meeting (Coppell High School)

ALL ROUNDS AT COPPELL HS, COPPELL

3:00 – CX Debate Round 1, LD Round 1, Duet Round 1, Duo Round 1
3:00 - 5:00 pm - Congress Prelims A (2 hour session)
5:00 – CX Debate Round 2, LD Round 2, Duet Round 2, Duo Round 2
7:00 - Extemporaneous Speaking Draw Begins, Individual Events - Round 1
9:00 – CX Debate Round 3, LD Round 3, Duet Round 3, Duo Round 3
9:00 - 10:30 pm - Congress Prelims B (One and one - half hour session)

Friday, March 7

1:30 – CX Debate Round 4, LD Round 4
1:30 – 3:00 Congress Prelims C (One and one half - hour session)
3:00 - Extemporaneous Speaking Draw Begins, Individual Events - Round 2
5:00 – CX Debate Round 5, LD Round 5, Duet Quarters, Duo Quarters
5:00 – 7:00 pm - Congress Semis A (Two - hour session)
7:00 - Extemporaneous Speaking Draw Begins, Individual Events - Round 3
8:00 – Debate Pairings Released
9:00 - Debate - CX Double Octos/LD Debate - off as needed, Duet Semis, Duo Semis
9:00 – 11:00 pm - Congress Semis B (Two - hour session)
10:30 - Posting of Quarterfinalists in Individual Events - Posted at Coppell and www.txfa.org
*Midnight - All Coaches must re-register online on Joy of Tournaments for Consolation Events
11:00 pm - Posting of Congress Students advancing to Super Congress - Posted at Coppell and www.txfa.org

*Registration for consolation events will be opened on Friday morning and MUST be completed by Midnight Friday. Computers will be in the library that may be used to aid in the process. Coaches are responsible for getting students registered by the deadline. No late entries will be accepted past the deadline.

TENATIVE SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 8

8:00 - Consolation Events – Prelims, Debate Pairings Released
8:00 - 10:00 am - Congress Finals A (2 hour session)
8:30 - CX Octos, LD Double Octos
10:00 - Extemporaneous speaking Draw Begins, Individual Events Quarter Finals
11:00 Consolation event quarterfinals
12:00 - CX Quarters, LD Octos, Duet Finals
12:00 - 2:00 pm - Congress Finals B (2 hour session)
2:00 - CX Semis, LD Quarters, Duo Finals
2:30 - Consolation event semis
3:30 - Extemporaneous Speaking Draw Begins, Individual Events Semis
5:00 - CX Finals, LD Semis
5:30 – Consolation event finals
6:00 - Extemporaneous Speaking Draw Begins, Individual Events Finals
8:00 - LD Finals
9:00 - Awards (Coppell High School Auditorium)

Sunday, March 9

9:00 - 10:30 - Breakfast of Champions, Marriott Hotel
(All coaches with state champions should plan to attend. The speaker will be National Forensic League Secretary Scott Wunn).

Note: Lincoln Douglas elimination rounds will be accelerated when no cross-entries with individual events remain. It is the responsibility of the contestant and the contestant's coach/sponsor to check postings for notice of start times for future rounds. Cross-examination debate elimination rounds will be back-to-back with breaks as needed; when no cross-entries with individual events remain, rounds will be accelerated. All teams advancing to the next round are to remain in the room in which they have just competed to await the tabulation of results. The next round's pairings will be brought to the room(s) where advancing contestants are waiting when tabulation is complete and verified

TFA STATE INTERPRETATION SELECTION PACKET

EVENT: DI HI Duet DUO PR

Student Name(s): _____

School: _____

Title: _____

Publisher: _____

Publication Date: _____

ISBN Number: _____

- Flat **copy** of the text with all lines that are performed are highlighted.
- I have the **original source** for contest?
- A copy of the **bibliographic information page**

Place the above items in an envelope and attach this form to the front of the envelope.

TFA STATE ORIGINAL ORATORY CERTIFICATION

Student: _____

School: _____

Title: _____

City: _____

Coach: _____

Quoted Words: _____ (number)

I hereby certify that the work contained herein is the original work of the student author for Original Oratory competition.

Competitor Signature

Coach Signature

Date

After completing this form, please print and attach to the front of the oration for submission at tournament registration



Untitled Michael Urie Project Model Release

Talent Name: _____

Project Title: The Untitled Michael Urie Project

I hereby consent without consideration or compensation to the use (full or in part) of all videotapes taken of me and/or recordings made of my voice and/or written extraction, in whole or in part, of such recordings or musical performance for the purposes of illustration, broadcast, or distribution in any manner.

at **Coppell High School** on **March 6,7,8th of 2008**

by **Selma Al-Faqih, Sean Fornara, Michael Urie** for **Lorenzon's Ink (a California Corp.)**

Talent's signature _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip code _____

Date: ____/____/____

If the subject is a minor under the laws of the state where modeling, acting, or performing is done:

Legal guardian _____
(sign/print name)

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Date: ____/____/____

Untitled Michael Urie Project Parental Notice

Hello Parents,

Michael Urie here, introducing myself and my partners Sean Fornara and Selma Al-Faqih. We're making a documentary about High School Speech and Debate, and may feature your children. We want to tell you what's potentially in store, so you know what your kids might be involved with.

I'm a former speech competitor, a Plano Senior High School grad, and now an actor living in LA and currently working on the show Ugly Betty. I loved every minute of my time in speech and debate, and always wanted to get the word out about the activity. So, during a time of popular documentaries that follow competition (like Spellbound), and the ever-popular interest in Texas, I want to capture the life and world of these amazing students.

We plan to get to know the students at school and in competition, and as stories touch our hearts, get to know them personally, maybe even meet some of you. Our film will be at once hilarious and touching, dramatic and suspenseful, but always a love letter to an extra-curricular activity that stays with students thru college and into the real world.

This is not a reality show. There are no prizes, no voting, and no strange challenges. We want to be flies on the wall and document, nothing else. We want to hear first hand from students and teachers, what it is that keeps them going back to tournament after tournament.

I applaud you all for supporting your students through an activity that takes a lot and gets little recognition. But, we'll fix that.

Thanks,

Producers
Michael Urie
Sean Fornara
Selma Al-Faqih
