

28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
 FLORIDA BLUE KEY SPEECH & DEBATE TOURNAMENT  
 TOURNAMENT RULES PACKET  
 UPDATED OCTOBER 17, 2011

This packet contains the official rules governing the Blue Key Speech & Debate Tournament at the University of Florida. The tournament uses the National Forensic League event rules as preliminary guidelines for all events, except for Oral Interp, which uses NCFL rules. **Issues that are unclear, inadequately addressed, or not covered in this packet, will be left up to the sole discretion of the tournament chairperson.**

**A. ELIGIBILITY**

Competitors must be high school students in grades 9-12 and in good standing. **With permission from the executive director, large teams may also register a junior high school, in which they must register only 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, in certain circumstances, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students may be permitted to attend.** All entries in Duo Interpretation, Public Forum, and Policy Debate, must consist of two students who attend the same school. We will not accept the registration of one person teams or “mavericks” in Policy Debate. Independent or unaffiliated entries will be accepted, so long as there is no objection from their school.

**B. EVENTS**

Speech Events	
Pattern A	Pattern B
United States Extemp (USX)	International Extemp (IX)
Oral Interp (OI)	Original Oratory (OO)
Duo Interp (DUO)	Humorous Interp (HI)
	Dramatic Interp (DI)

Debate Events	
Event	TOC Bid
Lincoln Douglas Debate (LD)	Finals Round
Policy Debate (TD)	
Public Forum Debate (PF)	Octafinals Round
Congressional Debate (SC)	Semifinals Round

Supplemental Events
Impromptu Speaking (IPS)
Extemporaneous Duo (XDU)

Students may register for a maximum of two individual events or one debate event. Double entries may select individual events from one or both patterns, but cannot select both individual and debate events. The Congressional Debate is the student congress division of the Blue Key Speech & Debate Tournament. This should not be confused with the Legislative Invitational, which is the student congress division of the Blue Key Round Robin Invitational tournament that takes place on the Thursday prior to the general tournament.

### C. EVENT ENTRY LIMITS

Each event has a per school limit of 6 entries, except for the congressional debate, which has an entry limit of 18 students; there is no preset entry limit or restrictions for the supplemental events. The registration for both of the supplemental events will begin immediately after the first set of breaks, in Turlington Plaza (near IE ballot check-in). **We will consider an increase in the event entry limits of any school on a first come first serve basis. With permission of the executive director, schools may register a Jr. High team consisting of only 9th grade students.** In this situation, teams may be able to transfer unused entry limits in congressional debate between the two schools, as needed, so long as the total number of entries does not exceed 36.

### D. JUDGE REQUIREMENTS

Judge Requirements	
Speech Events (Congressional Debate included)	1:5
Public Forum Debate	1:3
Lincoln Douglas Debate	1:2
Policy Debate	1:2

### E. ENTRY AND REGISTRATION FEES

Event Entry Fees *	
Speech Events (IX, USX, OO, DUO, HI, DI, OI)	\$40
Debate Events (PF, LD, TD, SC)	\$40
Supplemental Events (IPS, XDU)	\$10
Round Robin (LD, TD, ME, PF, SC)	\$75
* Event entry fees are assessed per student, per event they are registered.	

Registration Fees	
School Registration	\$25
Hired Judge: IE, SC	\$150
Hired Judge: LD, TD, PF	\$175

<b>Drop Fees &amp; Penalties</b>	
Drops (10/20 – 10/27)	\$50
Drops at Registration	\$75
Hidden Drops	\$125
Judge Bond	\$100

#### **F. JUDGE BOND \* New Policy for 2011 Tournament \***

Schools are expected to provide qualified, trained, and experienced judges. A school may forfeit its bond should the qualifications or training of their provided judges come into question. **Schools will automatically forfeit their judge bond if any one of their judges fails to appear for judge call or does not show up to the round.** This policy applies to all registered schools, including those with Gator Guard coaches.

Judges must be available for all preliminary rounds, as well as the first break round in each event. Judge obligations extend to one round after all of a school's students have dropped out of the competition. **A limited number of hired judges will be available on a first-come first-serve basis, with priority given to out of state schools.**

#### **G. HIDDEN DROPS**

Any hidden drops found during the tournament will result in a \$125 penalty and possible withdrawal / disqualification of all entrants from the school. Any hidden drop fees must be paid by the delinquent school prior to the following scheduled round or contestants from the school will not be scheduled for the next round.

#### **H. REGISTRATION (Friday, October 28, 2011)**

Preliminary registration will be conducted online from our website, [www.bluekeydebate.com](http://www.bluekeydebate.com). The registration site will begin accepting entries no later than September 1, 2011 and will stop accepting changes on Wednesday, October 26, 2011. Absolutely no changes will be accepted after that date. **Please do not mail your entry fees to our office prior to the tournament; we may return any checks sent directly to our office.**

Each year we begin the tournament by inviting coaches and accompanying adult chaperones to attend a breakfast reception in their honor. The Coaches' Breakfast will start at 8:00am on Friday, October 28, and will be held on the second floor of the J. Wayne Reitz Union. We encourage coaches to pickup their school's registration folder, proceed to the breakfast and review its contents, and then complete registration when they are finished. Breakfast will continue to be served through registration until 10:00am.

Registration will be held on the second floor of the J. Wayne Reitz Union, adjacent to the Rion Ballroom. **Late changes and fees will be accepted from 8:30 - 11:00am only.** Special accommodations will be made on a very limited basis for schools that are unable to arrive within this time frame, provided there are no changes.

#### **I. SCHEDULE**

A preliminary schedule will be posted on our website, [www.bluekeydebate.com](http://www.bluekeydebate.com), within two weeks of the tournament. The tournament runs from October 28 - 30, 2011.

The opening assembly for Policy Debate is tentatively scheduled for 11:30am in Room 285 of the J. Wayne Reitz Union. It is extremely important that all schools, competitors, and judges participating in the Policy Debate division attend this meeting. Judge call will take place and postings will be released in the Cinema Media Auditorium, at the conclusion of the assembly. Schools will be fined for any judge who misses a judge call, especially the first one.

The opening assembly – mandatory for IE, LD, and PF – will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the J. Wayne Reitz Union, located on the second floor. It is extremely important that all schools, competitors, and judges participating in the aforementioned divisions attend this meeting. Judge calls will take place after the opening assembly according to the official schedule. Schools will be fined for any judge who misses a judge call, especially the first one.

The awards assembly is tentatively scheduled for 4:00pm, and will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the J. Wayne Reitz Union, located on the second floor. We will certainly do our best to hold the awards assembly earlier if we are running ahead of schedule or if the schedule otherwise permits, but no earlier than 3:00pm.

**If a school is unwilling or “unable” to stay for the awards ceremony, they will be responsible for any costs involved with mailing ballots, trophies, or any other materials left behind. Nothing will be mailed from our office during the week immediately following the tournament.**

## **J. FOREFITURE RULE**

There will be a fifteen-minute forfeiture rule following the release of pairings in each event. If a judge fails to show up to a round or one of the participants does not show up, one of the student(s) in the scheduled round must immediately notify the tab room. If competitors fail to notify the tab room that their judge or opponent is missing, after waiting fifteen minutes, they will forfeit the round. The executive director may, at her discretion, allow the students to hold the round, if doing so will not cause the tournament to run behind schedule.

## **K. PAIRING PROCEDURES FOR INDIVIDUAL EVENTS**

There will be a maximum of five randomly paired preliminary rounds of all speech events. If five preliminary rounds are scheduled, a competitor’s lowest round will be dropped. Ties will be broken based on speaker points then reciprocals.

<b>Quarterfinal Bracket</b>	<b>Semifinal Bracket</b>
Room 1: 1, 8, 9, 16, 17, 24	1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12
Room 2: 2, 7, 10, 15, 18, 23	2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11
Room 3: 3, 6, 11, 14, 19, 22	
Room 4: 4, 5, 12, 13, 20, 21	

We may hold additional break rounds in any speech event if the schedule and number of entries permits. Speech event scores will be cleared after the preliminary rounds and each break round will be calculated individually.

## **L. PAIRING PROCEDURES FOR DEBATE EVENTS**

Rounds during the tournament will be paired in the following manner using the National Forensic League Rules as preliminary guidelines.

- Round 1: Random pairings
- Round 2: Random pairings
- Round 3: Straight Power Pairing
- Round 4: High/Low within brackets and side constraints
- Round 5: Straight Power Pairing

- Round 6: High/Low within brackets and side constraints
- Round 7: Double Octofinals
- Round 8: Octofinals
- Round 9: Quarterfinals
- Round 10: Semifinals
- Round 11: Finals

The round to which a debate event breaks will ultimately be determined based on the final number of entries. **Students without a winning record will not be eligible to advance in Varsity Lincoln Douglas debate, Public Forum, or Policy Debate; this rule will be extended to the Novice divisions, at the discretion of the directors.**

## M. LINCOLN DOUGLAS

Lincoln Douglas is split into divisions of Varsity and Novice. The novice division is ONLY for debaters with less than twenty-five National Forensic League points AND under one year of debate experience (regardless of the event).

The speaking times for LD will be as follows:

- Six (6) minute affirmative constructive
  - Three (3) minute negative cross-examination
  - Seven (7) minute negative constructive
  - Three (3) minute affirmative cross-examination
  - Four (4) minute first affirmative rebuttal
  - Six (6) minute negative rebuttal
  - Three (3) minute second affirmative rebuttal
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- Three (3) minutes of prep time will be allocated for each debater

Low point wins are discouraged, but will be allowed. Disclosing after LD rounds is **not** permitted and will not be tolerated. Judges may not ask competitors for a copy of their cases or for outlines or flows of cases before or after rounds. Ties in Lincoln Douglas Debate will be broken by 1) win/loss record, 2) speaker points, 3) high/low points, 4) opponent record.

## N. POLICY DEBATE

Policy is split into divisions of Varsity and Novice. The novice division is ONLY for debaters with less than twenty-five National Forensic League points AND under one year of debate experience (regardless of the event).

The speaking times for TD will be as follows:

- Eight (8) minute constructives
  - Three (3) minute cross-examination
  - Five (5) minute rebuttals
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- Eight (8) minutes of prep time will be allowed for each team

Low point wins are discouraged, but will be allowed. Open or “tag-team” CX is up to the judge’s discretion. Use of computers will be allowed, for the sole purpose of flowing or outlining the round, but at the users own risk. If there are any technical problems or other malfunctions, those using computers will have to deal with any problems associated with such usage without unduly delaying the progress of the round (this includes both competitors and judges).

Ties in Policy Debate will be broken by 1) win/loss record, 2) combined speaker points, 3) high/low points, 4) ranks (speaker ranks), 5) previously met criteria.

## O. PUBLIC FORUM RULES AND PROCEDURES

Public Forum is split into divisions of Varsity and Novice. The novice division is ONLY for debaters with less than twenty-five National Forensic League points AND under one year of debate experience (regardless of the event).

The times for rounds will be as follows:

First Speaker - Team A/B: four (4) minutes  
 Second Speaker - Team A/B: four (4) minutes  
 Summary: two (2) minutes  
 Final Focus: two (2) minutes  
 All Crossfire: three (3) minutes

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 Prep Time: two (2) minutes per team

Prior to the round in the presence of the judge(s), a coin is tossed by one team and called by the other team. The team that wins the flip may choose one of two options: EITHER the SIDE of the topic they wish to defend (pro or con) OR the SPEAKING POSITION they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate). Once the coin toss winners select their favored option, the other team makes a choice within the remaining option. Once speaking positions and sides have been determined, the debate can begin.

Disclosing after PF rounds is **not** permitted and will not be tolerated.

## P. SWEEPSTAKES

Sweepstakes points will be distributed cumulatively according to the following:

-	Double Octos	Octos	Quarters	Semis	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Policy Debate</b>	8	12	20	25	30	35
<b>Lincoln Douglas</b>	8	12	20	25	30	35
<b>Public Forum</b>	8	12	20	25	30	35

-	Quarters	Semis	6 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Individual Events</b>	3	6	8	10	14	16	20	25
<b>Congressional Debate</b>	3	6	8	10	14	16	20	25
<b>Public Forum</b>	3	6	8	10	14	16	20	25

## Q. CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE RULES

The 2011 Congressional Debate will feature three sessions of preliminary debate. Students who advance from prelims will compete in two sessions of semi-final debate with the top competitors advancing to the Super Congress session on Sunday morning.

Nominations for presiding officer will be taken off the floor of the chambers during all rounds of debate. Chamber assignments and agendas for each house will be posted on the web site, [www.bluekeydebate.com](http://www.bluekeydebate.com), soon after the close of registration. Semifinal and Super Congress agendas will be announced during the tournament.

## **R. PROTESTS**

Protests may only be filed in cases of an extreme grievance. All protests must be submitted directly to the Blue Key Speech & Debate Tournament executive director, in writing, immediately upon the occurrence of an incident. **Protests will NOT be accepted after the final preliminary round.** Rulings will be made by the executive director, and all decisions will be final. The tournament staff reserves the authority to disqualify competitors for not conforming to our interpretation of the tournament rules, or if it is found that they have destroyed or damaged any University of Florida property. Any grievance sent to our office after the conclusion of the tournament will not be given consideration or be addressed.

## **S. LIMITING COMPETITION**

To the extent permitted by law, each school registered to attend the Blue Key Speech & Debate Tournament agrees to protect, indemnify, defend and hold harmless the University of Florida, Florida Blue Key, Florida Blue Key Speakers Bureau, the Blue Key Speech & Debate Tournament, and their representatives, provided that with respect to officers, directors, advisors, employees, and agents, such individuals are acting within the scope of their employment or agency as applicable, against all claims, losses, or damages to persons or property, governmental charges or fines, and costs (including reasonable attorney's fees or event entry fees), arising out of or connected with the event, except those claims arising out of intentional misconduct.

Florida Blue Key and the Florida Blue Key Speakers Bureau reserve the ability to limit or deny the privilege of attendance and competition at the Blue Key Speech & Debate Tournament to any individual whose presence makes tournament staff, directors, or coordinators feel threatened or intimidated in any way. The decision to deny entry is the sole discretion of the executive board, and will only be evoked in extreme cases which threaten the well being of tournament personnel; schools who register for the tournament, in so doing, express their intention to respect and abide by this policy. Any school found to be in violation of this agreement will have all entries immediately dropped from the tournament with extreme prejudice, and will not be invited to attend the tournament the following year.