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The Sacramento State University debate team and the Department of Communication Studies invite you to participate in the 2022 *"Hornet Cup" Nicholas F. Burnett Classic Debate Tournament* to be held online on March 19-20, 2022.

This tournament is named to honor Professor Emeritus Dr. Nicholas F. Burnett, who was the Director of Forensics at Sacramento State from 1987 to 1996. Dr. Burnett coached Sacramento State teams to consecutive quarter-finals appearances at CEDA Nationals in 1988 and 1989 in addition to leading the team as it won many regional and national debate awards. After his nearly 10 years coaching the Sac State team, Dr. Burnett served as chair of the Communication Studies Department for five years and finally retired as the Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Letters in 2012. Dr. Burnett was a major supporter of this great activity and has touched the lives of many college debaters through the years. He had an enthusiasm for nurturing novices while at the same time coaching varsity debaters as they sought national titles. And as an administrator, he was a staunch supporter of the debate program, ensuring continued funding through the years of economic strain that hurt so many programs in the CSU. Sadly, Dr. Burnett passed away on December 1, 2021. To recognize him for his dedication and service to debaters across the nation, we host this tournament in his name. The top speaker award in both novice and varsity divisions will also be named after Dr. Burnett.

"The Hornet Cup" itself is the sweepstakes award for the top team at the tournament. The points are described below.

This tournament will feature six preliminary rounds of NFA-LD debate in both varsity and novice divisions. We will have the appropriate number of elimination debates so that we can break all winning records.

This year we are also offering something new, a limited prep "triathlon" event. The triathlon event will include one round of impromptu, one round of extemporaneous, and one round of a new limited prep event we are calling "Declamation". Details on the triathlon are provided below.

We hope you will join us as we continue to grow this tournament!

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## **Tournament Information**

The Hornet Cup will be fully online this year and the platform we will be using is ForensicsTournament.net with 8x8 rooms.

### **Deadlines:**

The deadline for entry is 5 p.m., Thursday, March 17th. (Pacific Time)

### **Fees & Judging:**

The fee for each competitor this year is ZERO DOLLARS, as long as the entry is "covered". That's right, we are not charging fees for the tournament as long as you provide enough judging to cover your entry. There is no school fee.

Each school is expected to provide one judge for every two debaters entered. And one judge for every 6 (or fraction thereof) triathlon entries.

The uncovered debater fee will be \$75.00.

The uncovered triathlon fee will be \$45.00.

Invoices will be sent out to teams who need them with payment instructions after the tournament has concluded.

## **Tournament Procedures**

### **We will use the current NFA-LD topic and adhere to NFA rules.**

Divisions may collapse if necessary, but we will make every effort to preserve a novice division. This may mean that we don't break brackets and students from the same team may debate each other. There will be no breaking of brackets in elimination rounds. We will, if necessary, have partial-elimination rounds in order to break all winning records.

We will utilize *the RKS Decimal scale for speaker points; points are awarded in one-tenth increments and no ties are allowed.*

**Tie breakers** - All winning records will break, **power-matching and seeding will be determined by opponent wins**, starting at the break line.

### **Triathlon Procedure:**

The triathlon is a new event that we are adding to the Hornet Cup this season. It will be a three round event that poses a different limited-preparation prompt for competitors in each round. Competitors would compete in all three rounds, with no final round. Each round will have three judges (depending on judge availability). Placement would be based on cumulative scores from all three rounds. We will announce the top three, with first place being the triathlon champion.

Round one: Impromptu Speaking

We will follow NFA guidelines for impromptu speaking.

Round two: Extemporaneous Speaking

We will follow NFA guidelines for extemporaneous speaking.

Round three: Declamation

This is a new event we will describe below.

### Limited Prep Declamation Procedure:

In the eighteenth century, a classical revival of the art of public speaking, often referred to as The Elocution Movement was underway. While elocution focused on the voice—articulation, diction, and pronunciation—declamation focused on delivery of the speech. For this event, we have modified the idea of declamation as a limited preparation event. Similar to the model of an extemp round, speakers will enter a common prep room to await their prompt. When their speaker number is drawn, the student will be given three speech transcripts to choose from. For our online tournament, these transcripts will be found in a speechdrop.net room and the student will be given the code at draw time. The students will then have 30 minutes to select their speech, cut/edit, and practice the speech. At the end of their 30 minute prep time, the student should go to their competition room and deliver a five minute speech. This five minute cutting should adhere to the original manuscript much in the way an interper cutting would. The student does not need to rewrite or paraphrase the speech.

Judges should evaluate the declamation speech based on delivery and effectiveness of the cutting.

### Policy for Technology Failure

- If internet fails, the student should repeat the performance or missing section of their speech if time allows. If video fails, have the student turn the camera off. If the problem is slow internet, students may call in on their phones. Often, switching to phone audio alone may be suitable.
- We will do our best to provide as much time as possible to address the problem and complete the round. Judges are encouraged to use their discretion with the aim of completing the debate, but please be conscious of the schedule.
- Students may record themselves on their phone or other device so that in the event of a connection error, the recording can be played back starting from the time the connection was lost. Judges should stop the time, and if no recording can be made available, students should be instructed to pick-up where the debate left off.
- **Observing/Streaming** - We will try to livestream one debate each round. Judges and competitors are also encouraged to allow observers as long as it doesn't interfere with the round. Teams have the ability to opt-out if they would like and will be coded off for the tournament. You must let tab know by registration. We will also be recording the final round for posterity.

### Awards:

In addition to digital awards for all elimination round participants, we will recognize the top 5 speakers in each division.

The Hornet Cup is a sweepstakes award recognizing the top team based on the results of the top 3 participants from each team (*.5 points for each prelim win, 1 point for first elim win, 2 points for subsequent elim wins. Triathlon rounds will count 1 point for 1<sup>st</sup>, .5 point for 2<sup>nd</sup>, and .25 point for 3<sup>rd</sup>, with an additional point for overall 1<sup>st</sup> place.*). Sacramento State debaters will compete but will NOT be eligible for sweepstakes awards.

This year, the name of the school that wins the Hornet Cup will be engraved on the award before it is mailed to that school.

## **Tournament Schedule (All times are Pacific)**

### Saturday

8:00 am: Registration & Pairings released

8:30 AM: LD - Round 1

9:30 AM: Triathlon Round 1 - Impromptu

11:00 AM: LD - Round 2

12:00 PM: Lunch

12:30 PM: Triathlon Round 2 – Extemp Draw

1:00 PM: Triathlon Round 2 - Extemp

2:00 PM: LD - Round 3

3:00 PM: Triathlon Round 3 – Declamation Draw

3:30 PM: Triathlon Round 3 – Declamation

4:30 PM: LD – Round 4

### Sunday

8:30am: Pairings Released

9:00 AM: Round 5

10:45 AM: Round 6

12:15 PM: Elim 1

1:30 PM: Elim 2

3:00 PM: Elim 3

Subsequent elims, if needed, will start ASAP. Awards will follow.