



**Steve  
Sparks  
Memorial**

**Forensics  
Tourna-  
ment**

**at  
Eau Claire  
North**

**February 11  
2017**

**Extemp**

**Moments  
in  
History**

**Solo  
Acting**

**Prose**

**Informative  
Speaking**

**Storytelling**

**Special  
Occasion**

**Play  
Acting**

**Oratory**

**Demon-  
stration**

**Duo  
Interp**

**Radio**

**Oral  
Interp**

**Poetry**

**Impromptu  
Speaking**

**Farrago**

**Group  
Interp**



**Eau Claire North High School Forensics**  
1801 Piedmont Road, Eau Claire, WI 54703



Dear Coach,

We are excited to invite you and your students to celebrate Valentine's weekend by participating in the tenth annual *Steve Sparks Memorial Forensics Tournament* at Eau Claire North High School on Saturday, February 11, 2017. This tournament is both WFCA and WHSFA friendly, and students may double or triple enter. In past years we were lucky to have the tournament Valentine's Day. Even though the tournament is a few days earlier this year, we're keeping the theme in reflection of our love for our students, for the activity of forensics, and for all our dear friends involved and especially for the memory of Steve Sparks.

We will be handing out LOTS of awards!!! There will be awards for all finalists, qualitative sweepstakes awards for the top two small teams (5 - 20 entries), and sweepstakes awards for the top three large teams, based on the top 25 entries from each school.

Continuing this year, we are excited to offer the following additional awards:

- Best Double-Entry: Top 3 (based on prelim totals)
- Best Novice Entry: Top 3 (based on prelim totals - will use best category if double entered)
- Perfect Score Award: To anyone who gets straight ones in prelims

The entry fee will be \$8.00 per entry and \$12.00 per group. Please bring one judge for every 5 entries with a maximum of 5 affiliated (dirty) judges per school. Hired judges will be available for \$15.00 per uncovered entry.

The deadline for registration will be at 4 pm Friday, February 3. Drops after this time will not reduce your fees nor reduce your judging requirements. Checks are payable to: *North High School*.

Please feel free to call us if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Scott Smith  
Head Coach  
715-559-2618

Assistant Coaches:

Scott Peterson  
608-345-4556  
scott.forensics@gmail.com  
(tournament entries/scheduling)

Chloe Ackerman  
Krisany Blount  
Jonathon Idarraga

# Tournament Schedule

The North High School main parking lot and entry doors are on the north side of the building facing Piedmont Road. Look for the giant husky dog on the roof.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
5:00 / as soon as possible	Report drops or changes to Scott Peterson 608-345-4556
7:45 - 8:15	Registration in Foyer under Husky
8:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• General Meeting in Auditorium for all contestants and judges (except Radio Announcers and Extempers)</li><li>• Radio Announcers and Extempers report to Draw/Prep in IMC</li></ul>
9:00	Round One
10:15	Round Two
11:30	Round Three
Yummy concessions will be available for sale in the commons. After a brief break for lunch, the approximate times are:	
1:30	Posting of Results in Commons
1:45	Final Rounds
3:15	Awards in the Auditorium

# Tournament Guidelines

We welcome WFCAs and WHSFA schools, and to facilitate the slight differences in rules we have a basic overall philosophy: rules from either organization will be honored. If an element of a performance is allowed in either WFCAs or WHSFA, it will be allowed at this tournament. Some examples of blending the rules include:

1. Two speakers will be allowed in Demonstration Speaking (new WHSFA rule 2017). The entry fee for Demonstration will be the same price as other individual entries regardless of a Demonstration entry having one or two speakers. If there are two speakers under one entry, provide the names of both when submitting your roster.
2. Informative Speaking is a new category in WFCAs which has replaced Four Minute Speaking, and the time limit is 6 minutes. Students who are prepared in Four Minute Speaking may be registered in Informative Speaking, and judges will be instructed to not penalize shorter speeches unless they are significantly under four minutes.
3. One 4x6 note card will be permitted in Oratory. Other categories that allow notes have no specific limits, formats, or dimensions.
4. There will be no separate Public Address event, but students in Public Address can be entered in Oratory, and the judges will be alerted to this.
5. Chairs, etc. MAY be used in Solo and Group Interp, in keeping with WHSFA rules. Optional speaker's / reader's stand may be used in the categories involving scripts or notes.
6. We will NOT be separating Solo Acting Humorous and Solo Acting Serious.
7. Storytelling: the order of the stories will be set by random draw the morning of the tournament at the opening meeting. For each round, everyone will be presenting the same story category.

\*For the WFCAs rules, go to [www.wcfaforensics.org](http://www.wcfaforensics.org)

\*For the WHSFA rules, go to [www.whsfa.org](http://www.whsfa.org)

## Registration limitations:

- You will be allowed to have an unlimited number of entries in each category.
- Double or triple entries *are* allowed (students may compete in multiple events).
- Please report how many of your judges are *clean* (have no school or team affiliation other than you hiring them to judge) versus *dirty* (coaches or others close to your team). This will give us more options for scheduling judges. Each school may bring a MAXIMUM of 5 dirty judges; schools with more than 25 entries will be required to fulfill their judging quota by bringing clean judges or hiring clean judges from us. If you have extra *clean* judges, you may contact us and we may hire them.

## Remember:

- The deadline for registration is 4 pm Friday, February 3.
- Drops after this time will not reduce your fees nor your judging requirement.
- PLEASE submit a roster with your registration. This should list the names of your students in each category. The roster is used to provide a registration confirmation, helps with registration adjustments, allows us to locate students during the tournament if the need arises, and is used for awards and results. For the Best Novice Award, indicate which of your students are in their first year competing at the high school level.

## Important:

Please keep us informed about registration changes as soon as you know about them so that the tournament schedule can be balanced. One student drop might mean an entire section and judge slot can be eliminated. We would rather have multiple emails or phone calls throughout the week rather than one summary message.

**Tournament day drops MUST be called in on Saturday morning before your team departs for North.** If you have valuable information about which students are missing that morning, we need to know prior to your arrival so that the schedules can be adjusted to balance round sizes and make the tournament run smoothly. Schools whose students are not transported as a team are exempt from this request. (i.e. nearby schools like EC Memorial, Regis, etc.) REPORT ANY KNOWN CHANGES to 608 345-4556.

## **Experimental Changes for 2017**

Forensics is always evolving to provide new or fairer experiences for students. Often times the ideas are tried out at local tournaments before becoming a standard at other tournaments.

### **Impromptu Speaking**

We are implementing the WHSFA directive that Impromptu Speech be available as a pilot category at invitational contests. This will be treated as a regular category and will have the same format (three preliminary rounds + finals + awards), entry fees, and judging quota as all other entries. Students may have this as their sole category or may be double- or triple-entered in other events.

## **Experimental Changes continued from 2016**

Last year we had two tab room changes which produced a slightly fairer outcome in the results, and we offered computer preparation for Radio Announcing. We'll continue with these changes for 2017. The changes were:

### **Limiting ranks to the minimum number of students per section for that category.**

Instead of arbitrarily limiting the ranks to 5 like most tournaments (such that a 6-entry section would have ranks of 1,2,3,4,5,5), our limits will be based on section sizes for that category. If a category has sections of 4 or 5 entries, the maximum rank will be 4 for that category.

**Students will benefit in knowing that their random placement in sections does not give them an advantage or disadvantage based on the number of students in competing sections, especially for sections of less than 5 entries.**

### **Judges' Preference used for ALL places, not just ties.**

One judge's ranking can have undue weight on the final outcome. All final places (not just ties) will be reviewed so that a contestant who outperforms another in a head-to-head comparison of judges' ranks will be awarded the higher placed finish.

There may be instances where judges' preference will give a circular three-way tie. In that case the awards will be calculated based on rank totals like before.

**Students will benefit by knowing that the final places will be based on agreement by a majority of the judges.**

### **Using electronic packets for Radio Announcing.**

If you've been to a newsroom lately, you'll notice that they don't use paper, scissors, and tape to prepare news broadcasts. The actual cutting and pasting is now done metaphorically with the computer version of cut & paste. Information is received electronically, and the scripts are assembled on a screen.

To better reflect the real world, we will again offer this optional alternative to Radio contestants. The following page of supplemental rules will be used.

**Students will benefit by using techniques that can be more efficient and more closely align with the modern radio environment.**

**Radio Announcing Supplemental Rules**  
**Use of computers for source material and script preparation**

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Modern newsrooms for radio, television, and other media receive much of their information electronically, and news scripts are prepared on screens rather than paper. With that in mind, our tournament is experimenting with the idea of going beyond paper packets as source material for Radio Announcing and is offering contestants the chance to utilize computers to receive and prepare their material.

1. Contestants will have access to a computer lab to receive the radio packet materials, to arrange the script to include the content material, and to print the script to be taken to the competition performance. Microsoft Word will be available for copying, organizing, and annotating the source material. The standard 30 minute preparation period will be used.
2. Preparation at a computer is optional. Paper packets will be available to everyone including those utilizing a computer. The electronic and paper packets will have identical content.
3. At each contestant's regular draw time, the contestant may pick up a paper packet if desired and may then use the assigned computer which will already have the source material on it.
4. Internet connectivity may be used for research but not communication with people. Contestants primarily using a paper packet may also use internet connectivity for research. Research is not meant for adding material to the packet, but instead is to help the contestant have a better performance by verifying pronunciations, geography, or other supplemental facts.
5. All other rules of Radio Announcing are in effect.

# Steve Sparks Memorial Forensics Tournament Registration

## Eau Claire North High School - Saturday, Feb. 11, 2017

\*\*\* Registration Deadline is Friday, Feb. 3, at 4 pm\*\*\*

School \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Coach \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

### # of Entries per Category

- |                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| _____ Demonstration             | _____ Oratory          |
| _____ *Duo Interp               | _____ *Play Acting     |
| _____ Extemporaneous            | _____ Poetry           |
| _____ Farrago                   | _____ Prose            |
| _____ *Group Interp             | _____ Radio            |
| _____ Impromptu Speaking        | _____ Solo Acting      |
| _____ Informative Speaking      | _____ Special Occasion |
| _____ Moments in History        | _____ Storytelling     |
| _____ Oral Interp of Literature |                        |

Number of Individual Entries \_\_\_\_\_ x \$8.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
*Record Demonstration as an Individual Entry even with two speakers*

Number of Groups (\*) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
*Duo Interp, Group Interp, Play Acting*

Total Number of Entries \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Dirty Judges (max 5) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Clean Judges \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Uncovered Entries \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Please provide one judge per 5 entries)*

Total \$ Due \_\_\_\_\_

*Please email your entry (either a copy of this sheet or the same information typed out) to Scott Peterson: [scott.forensics@gmail.com](mailto:scott.forensics@gmail.com)*

*Make checks payable to **North High School** and deliver to the tournament or mail to: **Forensics - Scott Smith, 1801 Piedmont Rd., Eau Claire, WI 54703***

*Please submit a roster with your registration. This should list the names of your students in each category. For the Best Novice Award, indicate which of your students are in their first year competing at the high school level.*

## **A word about Steve Sparks . . .**

Steve was our assistant coach and an alumnus of the North High School Forensics program. Steve died unexpectedly on August 2, 2007, due to a pulmonary embolism at the age of 26. He had been planning to attend law school.

He came in every day, Monday through Friday, for seven months out of the year to coach for us. For three years, he was a volunteer - we paid him almost nothing. He was the gentle giant who ran our radio and extemp draw. He also judged for us and traveled with us on all of our trips.

It is in honor of our dear friend, mentor, coach, and colleague that we have decided to name our tournament the Steve Sparks Memorial Forensics Tournament. If you knew Steve at all, then you know what we have lost and you understand how lost we are without him.

