



IPDA National Championships and Convention, March 27-28 and April 9-11, 2021
Please note the two weekend schedule for our National Tournament and Convention.

The International Public Debate Association is pleased to announce our annual National Championships and Convention will be held virtually over two separate weekends. The 5 round Team IPDA championships will be held on March 27-28 (Saturday and Sunday). Then we will feature 8 preliminary rounds of debate in 4 IPDA Individual divisions: Novice, Junior Varsity, Varsity, and Professional in a 3-day, virtual championship on April 9-11.

In addition, the IPDA will also be hosting its National Convention at the end of the Team IPDA rounds on Saturday, March 27. This is an excellent opportunity for students and directors alike to feature debate-specific academic work in an educational and professional environment. If you are interested in presenting at our convention, or know someone who is, please contact IPDA Managing Director, Mary G. Jarzabek, via email at mary.jarzabek@LSUS.edu. Paper presentations are scheduled right after Saturday's TIPDA prelim competition this year (March 27th). We hope this will enable everyone to attend these enlightening convention events.

IPDA has chosen forensicstournament.net to tab both weekends of competition. Our virtual platforms for all debate rounds, meetings, and convention presentations will be provided by Yaarly.

We hope that you can join us for these competitions and virtual events. More information follows about how the tournament will be run and how to register your squad.

Sincerely,
Mary G. Jarzabek -318-797-5318
mary.jarzabek@LSUS.edu
IPDA Managing Director
Louisiana State University in Shreveport

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

TIPDA ENTRY PROCEDURE AND DEADLINE: Entry deadline is 5:00 PM, Wednesday, March 17, for TIPDA. (Earlier than usual to provide proper "set up" time). All entries will be registered through FTN (Forensics Tournament). IPDA will be able to take credit card payment for entries this year. Each entry change (including adds or drops) made after 5:00 PM, Friday, March 19 will be assessed a \$20 add/drop fee per individual change. We will send out invoices on Friday, March 19. Only drops will be accepted after Wednesday, March 25. Drops will be charged the normal entry fee since we cannot get refunds from Yaarly on our platform time.

Please note that once entries have been locked in forensicstournament.net, IPDA will be sending program invoices electronically to the coach email associated with the program which will include a secure link to accept credit card payments. This will be the preferred method of payment due to the virtual environment of the tournament. We understand that some programs have different procedures that will require a check to be cut and ask that those coaches reach out to Managing Director Jarzabek so that we may keep track of various payments and methods.

RULES AND ENTRIES: Four individual divisions will be offered: NOVICE, JUNIOR VARSITY, VARSITY, and PROFESSIONAL. One division of TEAM IPDA is offered with a "varsity" designation. If you have any questions about division eligibility, you can find your answers in the IPDA Constitution and Bylaws located on the web at ipdadebate.info. The tournament will follow IPDA guidelines and regulations as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws. **PLEASE NOTE:** The Executive Committee of IPDA reserves the right to review and make changes to the name used to identify individuals or independent programs during the National Championship.

JUDGES: You will notice when submitting your entries that there is no price for uncovered entries. **This is not an option!** We require that each program cover its entries to ensure a diverse and equitable judging pool. One judge will cover up to two individual debaters and/or two teams. **All judges are obligated to ALL rounds including ALL outrounds.** We will, of course, try to release schools as soon as possible during the out-rounds. However, out-rounds require extra judges and we need a diverse pool for balanced panels.

Judging for the National Championship Tournament

The judges are vital to the success of the National Tournament. The name of each judge should be submitted at the time of the team's entry. Judges have a 15 minute deadline to submit their ballots after each round (if additional time is needed to add comments, you can "submit" your ballot with speaker points and win/loss via ForensicsTournament.net and then click the "accept ballot" link from your original email & return to the ballot to add additional comments). Judges who are consistently late starting rounds, late finishing their ballots or who are unable to continue their duties for ANY reason during the tournament must be immediately replaced: even if this means removing a competitor from the tournament and placing them in the judging pool for the remainder of the tournament.

IMPORTANT NOTES: These procedures have been developed by IPDA schools over the last semester to help tournaments run more smoothly and stay on time.

- ✓ **Starting Rounds on Time** - Our goal is to honor the time of all schools participating. In live tournaments, it is easy to get lost and run late to a round. Since we are virtual, that should not be an issue so all judges and competitors are expected to be in their virtual competition rooms at or before start times. Schools will be given 1 warning if their participants or judges are late, then the offending judges and the competitors they are covering will be removed from the tournament. If the school has another issue with judges the entire entry may be removed. Competitors who are over 5 minutes late will be forfeited.
- ✓ **Technology**: Competitors are to adhere to IPDA guidelines on the use of technology. Flowing and timekeeping should be done in the traditional manner (judges are encouraged to use the timer in Yaately, but competitors should not rely upon this and should be running a timer themselves). The exception to these guidelines shall be during team debate when team partners who are competing in a socially distanced capacity may send chat messages to each other during the course of team rounds (similar to how they may whisper to each other or pass notes to each other during the course of a traditional face to face tournament); please note that this exchange of electronic communication is limited to the two teammates in the round communicating between each other.
- ✓ **Competitor disconnects**: If a competitor disconnects please stop the timers and attempt to reconnect immediately. Competitors will be given 5 minutes to reconnect, if they are unable to do so then the round will be forfeited. Additionally, ON THE THIRD disconnection in a single round by the same competitor, the round will be forfeit. We hope that this does not occur, but in an effort to keep the tournament on time and to avoid excessive cost for platform time we will strictly enforce this rule.
- ✓ **Judge disconnects**: If a judge disconnects please follow the same procedures as for a competitor disconnect, after the second disconnect have a participant enter the tab room to inform the tournament administration of the problem. If a judge continues to have connectivity issues we will contact the program director/coach and ask for an alternative judge to take their place. **COMPETITORS - IF A JUDGE HAS DISCONNECTED FOR 5 MINUTES OR MORE, PLEASE COME TO THE VIRTUAL TAB ROOM TO INFORM US.**
- ✓ **Judge ballot pickup**: We ask that coaches instruct their judges to immediately accept and open all ballots sent to them via email through the FTN server. This will allow us to watch for possible needs to substitute judges for rounds. Any judge that does not pick up their ballot for a round twice, will be removed from the tournament. The program that the judge is affiliated with will then have to replace that judge with another, even if this means removing a competitor from the debate field. **Judges have a 15 minute deadline to submit their ballots after each round.**
- ✓ **Topics**: Strike will take place in the competition rooms. Judges are not required to be in the room for strike to occur. At the time of draw, topics will be posted in the topic tab of each room. Competitors should strike per IPDA guidelines. After the strike process has been completed place the topic in the chat for the room and be sure that both sides agree that the topic is the correct one. Any confusion on topic selection should be cleared before the competitors leave the competition room. Any challenges to the topic after the round will result in a double loss for the competitors. The strike process is part of the draw/prep time allotted in the tournament schedule.

- ✓ **Disclosure:** Disclosure on topic direction or scope should be discussed before leaving the room for prep, or contact information should be exchanged if the debaters choose to do so. Disclosure can also be put in the chat for the room. Disclosure is not mandatory but rather a courtesy, if the debaters choose to do so.
- ✓ **Judge Disclosure:** There should be **NO discussion** from the judge/judges before or after the round other than greetings and issues about the starting of the round. **No oral critiques are allowed and there will be no discussion of decisions or ballot elements between the judges in the elimination rounds.**

Everyone who will be logging into Yaatly should be entered in FTN.

In entries to FTN, please enter all competitors and judges in their respective categories. For all other participants who will be logging into Yaatly (coaches, observers, preppers, etc.) please enter them under "coaches and observers." While we will not be charging a fee for these (and we ask you to please keep them to a minimum), we need to know how many total participants will be involved so that we can purchase the correct number of spaces in Yaatly.

Furthermore, we want to ensure the ability for all to participate, regardless of ability to pay. Accordingly, for any program whose budget has been significantly cut and/or eliminated we are happy to negotiate fees or provide a fee waiver. Fee waivers will only be provided to recognized collegiate debate programs (even those recently eliminated). Please email the IPDA Managing Director (mary.jarzabek@lsus.edu) if you would like a fee consideration. Every effort will be made to allow all that want to enter to participate in this National Championship.

Tournament Ethics Statement:

- ✓ The behavior of all attending the IPDA National Championship tournaments will be in keeping with the NCA Policy on Anti-Harassment Code of Conduct (available at: https://www.natcom.org/sites/default/files/annual-convention/NCA_Convention_Resources_Anti_Harassment_Policy.pdf). The IPDA Executive Committee and Governing Board expect that behavior between all participants, coaches, judges, and guests be respectful and appropriate at all times. Questionable behavior that cannot be resolved by contacting the coaching staff of a school should be reported to a member of the IPDA Governing Board.
- ✓ As a condition of entry, all participants, coaches, judges, and guests agree that any decision issued by the Tournament Director about specific problems, behaviors or disqualifications is binding and final.

Team IPDA National Championship Tournament Schedule – TIPDA 2021 – March 27-28

All times listed reflect CST or Central Standard Time. Draw time includes the time teams take to strike topics.

Saturday, March 27, 2021

9:30 am Team IPDA Opening: Welcome and Tournament Announcements – Via Yaatly

10:00 am Team Round 1 - (all times reflect start of IPDA draw for each round = Central Time Zone or CST)
 12:00 pm Team Round 2
 2:00 pm **Break**
 2:30 pm Team Round 3
 4:30 pm Team Round 4
 6:30 pm Team Round 5
 8:00 pm IPDA Convention Presentations
 8:30 pm **Coaches Check**
 9:30 pm Breaks posted on IPDA website (earlier, if possible)

Sunday, March 28, 2021

10:00 am Elim Round 1 - Team Double Octofinals Draw – if needed
 12:00 pm Elim Round 2 - Team Octofinals – will begin at 10 am if Double Octofinals are not needed
 2:00 pm **BREAK**
 3:00 pm Elim Round 3 - Team Quarterfinals – may be scheduled at noon
 5:00 pm Elim Round 4 - Team SemiFinals – may be scheduled at 3 pm
 7:00 pm Elim Round 5 - Team Finals – may be scheduled at 5 pm
 9:00 pm **Awards Ceremony – may be scheduled at 7 pm**

Registration deadline is March 17, 2021 for the TIPDA Championship.

Individual IPDA National Championship Tournament Schedule – IPDA NATS 2021 - April 9-11

ENTRY PROCEDURE AND DEADLINE: Entry deadline is 5:00 PM, Wednesday, March 31, for Individual IPDA. (Earlier than usual to provide proper “set up” time). All entries will be registered through FTN (Forensics Tournament). We will be able to take credit card entries this year. Each entry change (including adds or drops) made after 5:00 PM, Friday, April 2, will be assessed a \$20 add/drop fee per individual change. We will send out invoices on Friday, April. Only drops will be accepted after Tuesday, April 6. Drops will be charged the normal entry fee since we cannot get refunds from Yaatly on our platform time.

All times listed reflect CST with later start times in consideration of our West Coast colleagues.

Draw time includes the time teams take to strike topics.

Time limitations will be strictly enforced.

Judges must submit their ballot decisions to FTN within 15 minutes of the completion of each round.

Friday, April 09, 2021

3:30 pm	Welcome and Opening Announcements – via Yaatly
4:00 pm	Round 1
5:30 pm	Round 2
7:00 pm	BREAK
7:30 pm	Round 3

Saturday, April 10, 2021

10:00 am	Round 4
11:30 am	Round 5
1:00 pm	BREAK
1:30 pm	Round 6
3:00 pm	Round 7
4:30 pm	BREAK
5:00 pm	Round 8 and early coaches check – if possible
6:30 pm	Coaches Check
7:00 pm	Breaks will be posted on the IPDA Homepage ASAP by the Tab Room
7:30 pm	Elim 1 – probably Double Octofinals

Sunday, April 11

10:00 am	Elim 2 (Octos)
11:30 am	Elim 3 (Quarters)
1:00 pm	BREAK
1:30 pm	Elim 4 (Semis)
3:00 pm	Finals
5:00 pm	Awards Ceremony

Awards: IPDA will be sending PDF certificates (via email) for all awards in the tournament. Also, IPDA will send the top 2 awards for Season-Long program awards to the winning schools by snail mail. We wish we could do more, but the process is time consuming and expensive. All other Season-Long awards will be sent as PDF certificates via email.

Fee to be charged:

Program Annual Dues	\$35.00
Team IPDA Entries.....	\$60.00
Individual IPDA Entries.....	\$30.00

Each coach must register their entries through Forensic Tournament. Then a final invoice will be sent out. All payments should be received before the start of competition.

Fee Payments:

Checks payable to: International Public Debate Association

Send Checks to: Keith Milstead, 3528 Crisoforo Drive, Denton, TX 76207

Credit Card payments: The Managing Director will send out school invoices along with a link to use to make your payment with a credit card. Each invoice must have its individualized payment link.

Questions may be sent to:

Mary Jarzabek, IPDA Managing Director:

Email: mary.jarzabek@LSUS.edu – preferred contact

Phone: (318) 751-4746

All entries will be confirmed **via email** no later than one week prior to the start of either tournament.

If your entry is not confirmed, then assume it has not been received and contact the managing director.