

IPDA National Tournament Guide for Judges

Time Zone: Please note that the tournament is being hosted in the central time zone and all times mentioned in the schedule / postings reflect central daylight time.

Before the Round

- **Chrome Browser:** Make sure you are using Google Chrome to access Yaatly.com (other browsers will not work effectively with the site)
- **Ballot Email:** The link to your ballot will be emailed – please open and click “click here to accept the ballot” ASAP – this is the equivalent of picking up your ballot from a ballot table in a face-to-face competition.
- **Standby Room:** If you are on “standby” please open a tab into the “standby room” in Yaatly. You may also go to wherever your team is prepping but should monitor the chat box in the “standby room” until receiving notification that you are released for the round.
- **Draw:** Judge’s do not have to be in the competition room when topic draw occurs but should be in the room a few minutes before the debate is set to begin. You will find your competition room on the posting in Yaatly.

During the Round

- **Room Status:** Please update “Room Status” on the left side of the screen to “Round Started” once the round begins. If help is needed or you are missing a competitor then change the room status to reflect this.
- **Your Camera:** Please keep your camera on (unless tech issues prevent you from doing so) so that the debaters can see you throughout the round.
- **Flowing the Round:** Please use paper to flow (do not use computer).

After the Round

- **No Oral Critiques:** No oral critiques should be given (please note, this is not a “suggestion” or merely a “norm” but is a tournament rule)
- **Submit Your Ballot Promptly:** You may submit your ballot decision (speaker points, winner, at least some text in the “reason for decision” section) and then can return to the ballot and continue to add comments afterwards via the “accept ballot” email link (please note, you will only be able to add comments you will not be able to change the decision or speaker points).

Problems

- **“Need Help”:** under room status in Yaatly, you can change the status to “need help” and a tournament staffer should be there promptly.
- **Help Desk:** before or after the round you can always visit the help desk to have any questions answered.
- **Audio/Video Problems:**
 - Problem seeing all participants: At times we have noticed a glitch in yaatly where if you close your browser and reopen it seems to fix this issue.
 - Pause incoming video: if you are having bandwidth issues, you may try pausing incoming video (this will not alter the experience for other participants but will make your data usage less intensive)
 - Backup Room: Each competition room includes a “backup room” that you may try as a last resort (obviously, make sure all participants are aware that the round is moving to that backup room).
- **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.

Judging During Elimination Rounds

- **Sides May Be Flipped:** Because all elimination rounds in IPDA Debate are “flip” rounds, the individual listed on the “affirmative” side of your ballot (and/or with video on the left side of the screen) may be the negative during elimination rounds (or vice versa). Please be sure to pay attention to who is Aff/Neg and on your ballot you are voting for that person by name (regardless of whether the side of the ballot aligns with their position in the round or not).
- **Independent Decision:** While you will be a part of a panel of judges, your decision should be made independently, and the round should not be discussed with anyone until you have reached your decision.
- **After the Round:** When the debate ends, judges should turn their camera’s off, but remain in the competition room. Once a judge has reached their decision and submitted their ballot then they should then turn their camera back on. Once all judge cameras are on, then each judge will simply say “I voted for the ____ (aff or neg).” If a judge is unable to turn their camera on, they may indicate “I’m ready” in the chat box, so that everyone knows once all decisions are finalized and the decision may be announced.