THE
PSDA

PROFESSIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE ASSOCIATION

925-285-1435

www.ProSDA.com

Welcome to the Professional Speech and Debate Association (PSDA) Online Spring Pro-Amateur Tournament! We are thrilled to have you participate in our upcoming event on Saturday, February 3rd, and Sunday, February 4th. Get ready for an exciting weekend of competitive speech and debate right from the comfort of your own space.

All tournament rounds will be conducted online through our user-friendly platform, Tabroom.com. On Saturday, February 3rd, you can look forward to a challenging day featuring four preliminary rounds of SPAR and a variety of speech events. The competition will be fierce, and it will culminate in a final round where the top competitors will showcase their skills. Then, on Sunday, February 4th, the excitement continues with five preliminary rounds of debate events, followed by two intense elimination rounds. Additionally, we'll have two preliminary rounds of Congress, leading up to the final round.

Our tournament caters to participants of all ages and experience levels. We offer divisions for Elementary, Junior, High School, College, and even a special Professional division open to individuals aged 18 and above. What's more, each school grade division includes both open and novice categories to accommodate various skill levels. The Professional division takes competition to a whole new level, offering substantial cash prizes based on the percentage of total entries in each event. As more competitors join an event, the cash prize pool grows, making success even more rewarding!

At PSDA, we understand the challenges faced by coaches, and we're committed to making your experience as smooth as possible. That's why we keep our entry fees low and refrain from imposing unnecessary charges. We've implemented policies that encourage teams to meet their judging obligations effectively. We hire additional judges from HiredJudge.com to ensure there are plenty of off-round opportunities for everyone and to provide coverage for uncovered entries. If you have any concerns about your judges, rest assured that you can leave your entries uncovered, and we'll supply a reliable judge for you.

We're thrilled to have you as part of the Online Spring Pro-Amateur Tournament. Your dedication and talent will contribute to the fantastic competition we anticipate. For more information and to register for the tournament, please visit prosda.com or register directly on Tabroom.com.

Competitors on Saturday may enter in up to **3 events in the speech pattern**, and Sunday competitors must choos**e 1 event in the debate pattern.**

The PSDA awards **cash prizes to finalists in the professional division**. Cash prize sums are calculated as a percentage of entries within each event (detailed below); larger entries means larger cash prizes! A select group of professional competitors are allowed to enter for free following their performance in other PSDA tournaments. Challengers are encouraged to enter the professional division and test their skills against these pros!

All registrations, ballots, and postings are available here

Easy Registration: If you are unfamiliar with our tournament hosting platform, Tabroom.com, and would like a simpler registration process we've made it easy! Register now on our website.

About the PSDA

The PSDA was founded with a singular mission: "Make speech and debate the most popular extra-curricular activity in the world."

We are taking multiple avenues to achieve this goal:

1. The formation and promotion of a professional division of speech and debate competition. We believe that televised and recorded rounds of professional competition will drive increased interest in all levels of speech and debate.
2. We strive to make the job of a coach easier, which enables all coaches to be more effective in other efforts like recruiting and retaining students.
3. We are focused on "the first round, not the final round." This means we hope to make a competitor's first tournament experience as positive as possible through judge training and accountability, schedule considerations, and norm formation. This increases the conversion of first-time competitors into lifelong competitors.
4. After each season any profits are committed to lobbying efforts and grants for speech and debate programs. This top-down approach again makes the job of coaches easier as it centralizes the need to advocate for the existence of forensics programs into our organization. We believe lobbying for more funding, academic credit, and awareness for speech and debate teams is the most effective way to grow this activity.

We're excited to have you join us for our next tournament on February 3rd and 4th, 2024.

If you have any questions or need any assistance, don't hesitate to reach out to us at admin@prosda.com or give us a call at (925) 285-1435. Our friendly team is here to help make your experience with us as smooth and enjoyable as possible.

Fees

IE/SPAR/Congress Entry Fee: $12 per entry
Debate Entry Fee: $30 per entry

Missed Ballots: No Charge
Late additions: No Charge
Drops: No Charge
No School Fee

You're welcome to leave your entries uncovered, we'll provide a judge for you at the following rates:

Uncovered IE/SPAR/Congress Fee: $25 per entry
Uncovered Debate Fee: $75 per entry

And remember, any team's judges that fail to accept 20% or more of their collective ballots will forfeit any students that would've advanced to elimination rounds. So make sure to accept your ballots and do your part to ensure a smooth and successful tournament for all!

Tournament Schedule

Pacific Time Zone

Saturday 2/3

8:30 – Speech/SPAR Round 1

10:00 – Speech/SPAR Round 2

11:30 – Speech/SPAR Round 3

1:00 – Speech/SPAR Round 4

Lunch Break

3:00 – All Speech/SPAR Final Rounds

Awards ASAP

Sunday 2/4

8:00 - Congress/Debate Round 1

9:15 - Debate Round 2

10:30 - Debate Round 3

11:30 - Congress Round 2

11:45 - Debate Round 4

Lunch Break

2:00 Debate Elim 1

2:30 - Congress Final Round

3:30 - Debate Elim 2

Awards ASAP

AWARDS

Congratulations on a fantastic performance! As a token of our appreciation, all PSDA tournament participants will receive a customized certificate via email, showcasing their amazing accomplishment.

But the fun doesn't stop there! Finalists will receive a medal in the mail, a physical reminder of their impressive achievements.

Now for the nitty gritty details:

Speech results are scored as follows:	**Debate results are scored as follows**:	**Congress results are scored as follows**:
● 1st place - 10 points ● 2nd place - 8 points ● 3rd place - 6 points ● 4th place - 4 points ● 5th place - 2 points ● 6th place - 1 point	● Gold - 10 points ● Silver - 6 points ● Bronze - 3 points	● 1st place - 10 points ● 2nd place - 9 points ● 3rd place - 8 points ● 4th place - 7 points ● 5th place - 6 points ● 6th place - 5 points ● 7th place - 4 points ● 8th place - 3 points ● 9th place - 2 points ● 10th place - 1 point

But wait, there's more! We also have team and individual sweepstakes awards.

Team Sweepstakes: The top 3 teams in each Open division will receive this award. Only the top 5 competitors from each team will count towards team sweepstakes.
Individual Sweepstakes: The top 3 competitors in each Open division will receive this award.
And for our professional division competitors, the top 6 in each event will receive cash prizes at every PSDA tournament. The cash prize pools will equal 5% of the total entry fees collected within each respective event. For speech events, 1st place gets 30% of the prize pool, 2nd place gets 25%, 3rd place gets 20%, 4th place gets 15%, and 5th and 6th place each get 5% of the total prize pool. For debate events, Gold awards will share 65% of the prize pool for their events, and Silver awards will share the remaining 35% of the prize pool.

Thank you for choosing the PSDA for your public speaking and debate needs. We can't wait to see you shine at our next tournament!

EVENTS

Elementary

The Elementary division will follow rules from the National Online Forensics Association which can be found here beginning on page 23.

The events offered in the Elementary division include:
Saturday Speech (may enter up to 3) - Original Oratory/Persuasive, Informative, Declamation, Impromptu, Duo Interpretation, Poetry, and Storytelling, and SPAR (Spontaneous Argumentation)

Sunday - (must choose 1) - Public Forum, Congress.

Middle School

The Middle School division will follow rules from the National Online Forensics Association which can be found here beginning on page 23.

The events offered in the Junior division include:
Saturday (may enter up to 3) - Declamation, Dramatic Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Extemporaneous, Humorous Interpretation, Impromptu, Informative, Original Oratory/Persuasive, Poetry, POI, Prose, Speech to Entertain, Storytelling, and SPAR (Spontaneous Argumentation).

Sunday - (must choose 1) - Public Forum, Congress, and Lincoln Douglas.

High School

The High School division will follow rules from the National Speech and Debate Association which can be found here.

The events offered in the High School division include:
Saturday (may enter up to 3) - Dramatic Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Poetry, Program Oral Interpretation, Prose, Storytelling, Declamation, Expository, Impromptu, Informative, Original Oratory, Extemporaneous, and SPAR (Spontaneous Argumentation).

Sunday - (must choose 1) - Public Forum, Congress and Lincoln Douglas.

Collegiate

The College division will follow rules from Phi Rho Pi for speech events, IPDA, and lincoln-douglas debate which can be found here. The College division will follow rules from the National Speech and Debate Association for Public Forum and Congress which can be found here. The college division will follow rules from the National Online Forensics Association for SPAR which can be found here beginning on page 23.

The events offered in the College division include:
Saturday (may enter up to 3) - Dramatic Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Poetry Interpretation, Program Oral Interpretation, Prose Interpretation, Impromptu, Informative, Persuasive, Communication Analysis, Speech to Entertain, Extemporaneous, and SPAR (Spontaneous Argumentation).

Sunday - (must choose 1) - IPDA, Public Forum, Congress, and Lincoln Douglas.

Professional

The College division will follow rules from Phi Rho Pi for most speech events (Duo, Imp, Ext, STE, Poetry, Info, Pers and POI), IPDA, and lincoln-douglas debate which can be found here. The College division will follow rules from the National Speech and Debate Association for some speech events (DI, HI, Storytelling), Public Forum and Congress which can be found here. The college division will follow rules from the National Online Forensics Association for SPAR which can be found here beginning on page 23.

Saturday (may enter up to 3) - Dramatic Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Poetry Interpretation, Program Oral Interpretation, Storytelling, Impromptu, Informative, Persuasive, Speech to Entertain, Extemporaneous, and SPAR (Spontaneous Argumentation).
Sunday - (must choose 1) - IPDA, Public Forum, Congress, and Lincoln Douglas.

NOTABLE TOURNAMENT RULES AND PROCEDURES:

1. We reserve the right to collapse divisions if entries warrant.

2. Drop-ranks will be applied to all speech events. Competitor advancements to speech elimination rounds will only be scored based on their 3 best preliminary rounds, out of a possible 4 rounds. Therefore there is no penalty for a missed round or technical issue beyond the automatic usage of one's drop-rank.

3. Competitors may enter up to three speech events, and one debate event or Congress per tournament. SPAR is the only debate style event held on Saturday, and may be counted as one of the 3 speech events so students may be triple-entered in SPAR and up to two speech events

4. Judges are hired on a 1-strike basis, meaning at the first instance of inappropriate or unethical behavior the judge will be removed from the current and all subsequent tournaments. This decision is at the tournament director's discretion, but PSDA policy dictates judge ban's should be used liberally to protect students and integrity of the tournament.

5. No person who is currently coaching a PSDA competitor can work as tournament staff. Judges that are alumni from any team competing in the PSDA are not allowed to judge the entire division their former team is entered in. All judges provided by attending teams will be used to judge all divisions their own team is not entered in.

6. All debate entries with a winning record after prelims (4-0 and 3-1) will advance to the elimination rounds. Elimination rounds of debate will award a bronze medal to all non-advancing teams from elimination round 1, then silver and gold medals to the losers and winners of elimination round 2, respectively.

7. Impromptu at all levels and divisions will include 4 prompts. A concrete noun, an abstract noun, a fun fact, and a quotation. Competitors may choose which prompt form is most suitable for their abilities and educational goals. This is intended to increase accessibility for students participating in a second language or with cultural backgrounds that put them at a disadvantage with particular prompt styles.