

IPDA Judging Guidelines for the Griffin Invitational Speech/Debate Tournament

This is just a very quick introduction to judging IPDA.

Thank you for judging!

1. IPDA debate often utilizes lay judges to adjudicate the round and emphasizes conversational rhetoric. When you get to your room, the competitors will have completed their 30 minute prep time. Please check with staff members in Griffin Gate to help you with double fighting or any other questions you might have.

2. **Forfeit Rule:** If one or both the competitors are not there, allow a minute or two grace period. Please keep the tournament on time. 5 minutes is the maximum tardiness allowed. If the debate was forfeited, check back at Griffin Gate, to let them know.

3. When both competitors are there, check that you have the correct competitors that correspond to your ballot names. You can give a very, very brief philosophy about what is important to you in a debate. You can say something like, "organization is important or good delivery is important or hearing evidence to support your arguments are important, etc." Then begin the debate.

3. The debaters are allowed to time themselves, but you should also time, and if they go over time, say "time".

The speech times are:

- 1st Affirmative 5 minutes
- Cross Examination 2 minutes
- 1st Negative 6 minutes
- Cross Examination 2 minutes
- Affirmative Rebuttal 3 minutes
- Negative Rebuttal 5 minutes
- Affirmative Summary 3 minutes

5. **When the debate is over:**

Do not disclose, we need to keep the tournament on time. If you want to talk to the debaters, you can find them later and share your thoughts or decision.

But the ballot is the most important place to give the debaters feedback. The ballots will go back to their coaches and this is the best way to relay the reasons for your decision. Give as much constructive criticism as possible.

6. Writing on the ballot, during and after the round:

Here are some of the guidelines that IPDA has suggested you can use to make your decision:

DELIVERY, COURTESY, APPROPRIATE TONE, ORGANIZATION, LOGIC,
SUPPORT, CROSS EXAMINATION, REFUTATION

You can also consider the following questions:

What were the key Affirmative arguments?
What were the key Negative arguments?
What did you like best about the Affirmative?
What did you like best about the Negative?
Where can the Affirmative improve?
Where can the Negative improve?

7. Making a Decision: Please submit your decision as quickly as possible. You can continue to write comments after you have submitted the decision on the ballot. Please be constructive. Rank speakers 1-4 (no ties) and rate them up to 30 points each (ties permitted). A range from 24-28 is “common”. 0-20 points are discouraged unless the debaters were very rude, or disruptive. If you give a score between 0-20, come to the Griffin Gate and check in with the monitor, to let them know there was a serious problem with a debater. 30 points is perfect, which is also rare. Reserve that score for a truly outstanding debater.

8. Final Round Judging: Do not consult with the other judges, prior to submitting your ballots. If you are asked to reveal your decision, you should have the debaters leave the room, while the 3 judges make their final critiques on their ballots. Then you can each share your decision, so that when the teams return, the “chair” will announce the winning team, giving the decision as a 3-0 or 2-1. Then each judge can briefly give their reason for their decision, knowing that the next round is about to begin. Please keep your comments brief.

10. Your ballot is the most important information for the coach to be able to help the student improve on their next tournament experience. It is very difficult for the student to relay clearly your oral comments after several rounds of competition and preparing to go to another round.

Thank you for judging at the Griffin!