



2026 University of Arkansas “Razorback Rumble” Virtual Tournament

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the University of Arkansas and the Speech and Debate Society at the University of Arkansas, we are excited to invite you to the University of Arkansas Razorback Rumble, hosted the weekend of September 25-27th, 2026, by the University of Arkansas.

This **virtual** competition will feature TIPDA and all divisions of IPDA (Novice, JV, Varsity, and Professional). We will also, for the first time, be offering **asynchronous** Individual Events (please note: we will post a separate schedule for IEs from what is on this invitation for debate events). We hope to offer a fun and productive weekend filled with many puns, jokes, and a more than a few silly topics sprinkled throughout.

This tournament will be non-flighted, so we ask that you provide **ONE JUDGE FOR EVERY TWO COMPETITORS**. This requirement will ensure that all entries are covered by the appropriate number of judges. Please note: we do reserve the right to limit the number of entries from an individual school to allow for fair competition. Schools may have up to two observers that are not judges or competitors. Judges **must** be able to judge the entire weekend, though we will do our best to give judges rounds off as we can. If your school is participating in only TIPDA or IPDA, you will only need judges for that portion of the tournament. Judges are required to stay in the judging pool throughout the elimination rounds, even if their teams are eliminated. If you are unable to meet these criteria, please reach out to Hannah at hannahm@uark.edu to discuss options.

All entries must be received by Wednesday, September 23rd, 2026 at 5:00pm CST in ForensicsTournament.net. Changes will be accepted until Thursday, September 24th, at 12:00pm CST. For any changes after the above-mentioned deadline, please email Hannah Morris at hannahm@uark.edu, call/text 318-617-4637, or send a message via ForensicsTournament.net

Our hope is that this will be a great opportunity for colleges and universities in all regions to have an accessible, virtual option to add another TIPDA and IPDA tournament. All pre-tournament updates will be distributed via the IPDA listserv and ForensicsTournament.net. In the pages that follow, you'll find all the details for the University of Arkansas Razorback Rumble.

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VIRTUAL ARRIVAL & REGISTRATION:

Registration and the event will be conducted via ForensicsTournament.net.. Registration Link:

<https://forensicstournament.net/RazorbackRumble/26>

ENTRIES & FEES:

Fees: For each TIPDA entry, the cost will be \$50, and for each IPDA entry, it will be \$25. Per observer, \$5, but please keep observers to no more than two since each person is an addition cost to the tournament host. There will be a place to enter your observers in ForensicsTournament.net. You can make checks out to Speech and Debate Society at the University of Arkansas and, if you choose to take this route, send Hannah or Austin a text to find out what the address is. If you are planning to pay via other methods, please reach out to Hannah (318-617-4637) to get information on where to send your fees. **Please note: our prices are slightly higher than our normal rate online because we are attempting to open a 501c3 account on our campus, and we have to raise \$5,000 in order to do that. If you have any issues with payment, please contact Hannah to discuss options.**

Entries: All school entries must be received in ForensicsTournament.net by Wednesday, September 23rd at 5:00 p.m. Changes will be accepted until Thursday, September 24th at noon. Email changes to Hannah (see page 1). For registration and tabulation, we will utilize ForensicsTournament.net. Please set up a team profile in ForensicsTournament.net and invite your team members (competitors and judges). All members must verify their email addresses before they can be entered in the tournament. For judges you must set their ballot preference to “email” since this is a virtual tournament. Please do this before the start of the tournament. Once set up you can register at:

<https://forensicstournament.net/RazorbackRumble/26>

JUDGES:

All entries must be covered. One judge during debate rounds covers two (2) IPDA debaters or two (2) TIPDA teams. As is commonplace in IPDA, once eliminated from competition, IPDA competitors may be used to judge IPDA elimination rounds (non-advancing TIPDA competitors are not eligible to judge TIPDA elimination rounds.) All judges are obligated to judge for the entirety of the tournament. If your school is only competing in either TIPDA or IPDA, you only need to provide judges for that portion of the tournament. We may limit the number of entries to provide sufficient judging pools needed to keep clean rounds throughout the tournament. If your team is out of the competition, all judges must remain in the judging pool until the end of the tournament. This helps to provide a diverse judging pool throughout elimination rounds Your Judges and Competitors MUST provide email addresses (in ForensicsTournament.net) to receive their ballots, and providing cell phone numbers is STRONGLY encouraged.

VIRTUAL DEBATE INFORMATION:

We will be utilizing ForensicsTournament.net’s video feature for this tournament to test it out for future online events like ours.

A. BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT:

- Familiarize your team with FTN: Accessing the platform prior to the start of the tournament will be especially useful to confirm cameras and mics are working well.
- Familiarize yourself with FTN: There will be a “Tab Room”.
- Join the Razorback Rumble 2026 GroupMe and send the invitation to all your students. This will ensure they have access to any member of our team to ask questions/receive answers.
- Look at the schedule, timing, etc. and be familiar with the Event Chat. During the tournament:
 - All competitors and judges should be in their competition room at the starting time. Judges who consistently violate this will be given 1 warning, 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.
 - If a competitor or judge is not present in the room by the start of the round, contact the tab room immediately.
 - If a competitor is more than 5 minutes late to draw, their opponent will choose the topic and put it in chat in the competition room.
 - Coaches should confirm that all team judges have their ballots five minutes prior to the beginning of each round. All ballots will be delivered electronically via the email addresses the coach has provided.
 - Competitors should mute their audio during opponent’s speeches; only during cross-ex should both microphones be turned on. It is useful to use headphones during the round to help ensure everyone can hear you properly. Judges should also mute their microphones once the round has started.
 - Competitors and judge webcams must be on the entire debate round, and they should not change their backgrounds.
 - Judges should be in a stable environment. This means seated and watching the round. Not walking, driving or doing any other things that would be a distraction to the competitors.

B. TECH ISSUES:

- If a competitor’s internet drops in the middle of a round, the judge should freeze the timer and the competitor should try to re-enter the competition room o If a competitor drops connection, the competitor will have a maximum of five minutes to reconnect before the round is forfeit. Rounds will not be re-run, due to timing. If a competitor disconnects 3 times in a round, the round is forfeit. The judge may assign speaker point on performance to that point. If a judge drops connection, the competitors should immediately pause their timers and contact the Tab Room after two minutes have elapsed.

C. EVENT INFORMATION:

General information

1. The tab room will be available to coaches in FTN.

IPDA Considerations

1. Please adhere to all rules expressed in the Bylaws and Constitution of the IPDA.

2. In order to keep the tournament running on time, please remind your competitors that they should activate their timers when draw begins, not after the strike process ends.

3. Please remind your judges that electronic devices are NOT permitted for anyone in a round other than for accessing the FTN platform or ballots, including the judge.

4. Please remind your judges that oral critiques are not permitted after the round.

Tournament Ethics Statement

1. The behavior of all attending the Razorback Rumble will be in keeping with the NCA Policy on Antiharassment Code of Conduct. We encourage all programs to review these expectations prior to entering this tournament.

2. The Razorback Rumble and UARK Speech and Debate Team expects that behavior between all participants, coaches, judges, and guests be respectful and appropriate at all times. If any participant has concerns over propriety or good sportspersonship, they should discuss the matter with their coaching staff. Any coach, judge, or guests should address any concerns with the Tournament Director exclusively.

3. As a condition of entry, all participants, coaches, judges, and guests agree that any decision issued by the Tournament Director is binding and final.

SCHEDULE:

Due to the constraints of online competition, we'll be starting rounds at 10:00 am CST to reduce the impact on any West Coast competitors as much as possible. Rounds are single flighted.

Friday:

9:30 am –Announcements
(all should be logged into FTN)
10:00 am – TIPDA Round 1
11:30 am – TIPDA Round 2
1:30 pm – TIPDA Round 3
3:00 pm – TIPDA Round 4
ASAP – Coaches Review
5:00 pm – TIPDA Elim 1
ASAP – TIPDA Elim 2
ASAP – TIPDA Elim 3

Saturday:

9:30 am – Announcements
10:00 am – IPDA Round 1
11:30 am – IPDA Round 2
1:00 pm – IPDA Round 3
BREAK
3:00 pm – IPDA Round 4
4:30 pm – IPDA Round 5
6:00 pm – IPDA Round 6
ASAP – TIPDA Elim 4 (if necessary)

Sunday:

10:00 am - Awards
10:30 am – IPDA Elim 1
ASAP – All rounds after

ASAP: Coaches Review & Break

***NOTE: All times are CST**

Send any issues by 8:30 am Sunday

AWARDS:

Certificates will be presented to all elimination round participants in all events and to the top five speakers in each debate division (via emailed files.). The three top programs and the top community/junior college shall receive awards for Sweepstakes.

In addition, we'll be offering the "Razorback Rockstar" award, which will be an award based upon nominations from coaches in attendance. A reminder will be sent out on Saturday, September 26th, to request nominations.

- This award shall be presented to a student who has the **passion, drive and conviction** to do their very best and always grow in this endeavor. This student is always at practice, always willing to learn and listen to constructive criticism, and has a great spirit within the debate atmosphere. Above all else, this student upholds the ideals of the IPDA community.

DIVISIONS & POINTS FORMULA:

The tournament reserves the right to limit entries if necessary. We will host all four divisions (Novice, Junior Varsity, Varsity and Professional) of IPDA competition, as well as TIPDA. The top three debaters in each division will count towards sweepstakes calculations. No minimum number of entries is required for schools to count toward sweepstakes awards.

All IPDA debate rounds shall follow the 5-2-6-2-3-5-3 time format with 20 minutes of preparation time. All TIPDA debate rounds shall follow the 4-2-5-2-5-2-4-2-3-4-4-3 time format with 30 minutes of preparation time. 6 preliminary rounds and the appropriate number of elimination rounds will be offered for IPDA, and 4 preliminary rounds with the appropriate number of elimination rounds will be offered for TIPDA.

If the University of Arkansas places competitors in the tournament, they will neither be counted toward sweepstakes nor will they be eligible for speaker awards. No UARK competitors will be judged by UARK judges or those affiliated with UARK.

Debate points will be awarded according to the following formula:

- 3 points for each preliminary round win (6 points for team debate)
- 3 points for breaking to elimination rounds (6 points for team debate)
- 5 points for 1st speaker
- 4 points for 2nd speaker
- 3 points for 3rd speaker
- 2 points for 4th speaker
- 1 point for 5th speaker

TIEBREAKER FORMULA:

Debate: for determining competitors advancing to elimination rounds in individual debate we will look first to the number of wins, second to high/low adjusted speaker points and third to the number of total speaker points. For determining speaker awards in individual debate, we will look first to high/low adjusted speaker points and second to total speaker points.