

@qcforensics

SUNDAY,
JANUARY 21, 2024

STRENGTH IN
NUMBERS
TOURNAMENT

Queens College Speech & Debate Society



Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of Queens College at the City University of New York (CUNY) and the Queens College Speech and Debate Society, I would like to cordially extend an invitation for you to attend our 3rd annual Strength in Numbers Tournament via Zoom on **Sunday, January 21st, 2024.**

****This tournament will be a synchronous online tournament on Zoom with registration & tabulation taking place on Speechwire.com, and online payment via PayPal. ****

The competition will feature one open division of IPDA Debate, as well as, all AFA-NST Individual Speech events. Competitors will compete in **FOUR** preliminary rounds of IPDA and two preliminary rounds of I.E.'s. Quarterfinal or semifinal debate elimination rounds for IPDA will take place in the afternoon depending on the size of the IPDA debate division.

All entries must be received by Tuesday, January 16th, 2024, at 5:00PM ET. You must register at the Speechwire.com website, which provides all of our tournament information. Emailed entries will not be accepted. Changes will be accepted without charge until Wednesday, January 17th, at 12:00 p.m. ET at which point fees will be set. Late fees will be charged for any changes after the 17th at noon (in addition to any fees associated with the entry). Pre-tournament updates will be distributed via the Speechwire website.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Randy Perez, M.A.

Director, Queens College Speech and Debate Society

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ALL TIMES POSTED ARE IN EASTERN TIME (ET)!!

SCHEDULE

Tournament registration will commence at 8:00 until 8:30AM ET on Sunday morning at our virtual tab and registration room to permit timely preliminary rounds. We anticipate debate rounds to be “flighted” so that everyone will be accommodated with minimal delays.

Sunday, Jan. 21 EASTERN TIME (ET)

Individual Events & IPDA Debate

8:00AM ET	Tournament Registration	1:15	Draw for Extemp & IPDA
8:30	Draw for IPDA Round 1	1:45	Rd 2 Pattern B & Rd 4 IPDA
9:00	Round 1, Pattern A & IPDA	2:45	Draw for IPDA Elim Rd 1
9:45	Draw for IPDA Round 2	3:15	Pattern A Finals & IPDA Elim Rd 1
10:15	Round 2, Pattern A & IPDA	4:15	Draw for IPDA Elim Rd 2 & Extemp Finals
11:15	Lunch		
11:45	Draw for Extemp & IPDA	4:45	Pattern B Finals & IPDA Elim Rd 2
12:15PM ET	Rd 1 Pattern B & Rd 3 IPDA	7:00 (approx.)	Awards & Results

IE PATTERN NOTES

- PATTERN A: Impromptu, Dramatic Interpretation, ADS, CA & Prose
- PATTERN B: Extemp, Persuasive, POI, Duo, Poetry, Informative

SCHEDULE NOTES

- The 15-minute forfeit rule will apply if a debater fails to appear at their designated virtual debate room.
- Updates to the schedule will be posted on Speechwire if they occur. Please be vigilant!
- Students MAY NOT cross-enter in both IPDA debate and I.E.'s!

ENTRY RULES

- All entries are due by Tuesday, January 16th at 5pm ET via Speechwire.
- Each judge covers 2 IPDA debaters or 5 I.E. entry slots.
- All debaters must be undergraduate students enrolled at their respective institutions.
- **All teams are expected to cover at least 50% of their entries by entering an adequate number of judges to the tournament.**
- Absolutely no individual can cross-enter both IPDA and IE's.
- All teams are expected to provide an adequate number of judges to accommodate their entries.
- The tournament director reserves the right to reject excessive entries that are not properly covered with sufficient judges.
- Each student may be entered for up to 3 events per I.E. speech pattern.
- You are encouraged to add pronunciations and your student's preferred pronouns by entering them on your team's roster on Speechwire.

FORMAT OF DEBATE DIVISIONS

We will be offering one single OPEN division of IPDA debate.

AWARDS

1. Awards will be announced to each finalist in each Individual Speech event.
2. In IPDA, there will be one, two, or three elimination rounds depending on the number of entries: Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals.
3. Sweepstake points are awarded as follows:

POINTS FOR INDIVIDUAL EVENTS:

- a. 2 points for each 6th – 7th Place Finalist
- b. 4 points for each 4th – 5th Place Finalist
- c. 6 points for each 3rd Place Finalist
- d. 8 points for each 2nd Place Finalist
- e. 10 points for each 1st Place Finalist

POINTS FOR IPDA DEBATE:

- f. 3 points for each preliminary win (regardless of how many teams per division; teams earning less than 2 wins receive no sweepstakes points)
 - g. 3 additional points for reaching Quarterfinal Rounds
 - h. 3 additional points for reaching Semifinal Rounds
 - i. 3 additional points for reaching Final Round
4. In addition, the top individual speakers for I.E.'s and IPDA and the top three IPDA debate schools will be recognized.

WARM ROOMS

Our tournament will not have "warm rooms." While we encourage cordial and constructive feedback between judges and debaters, judges should not be obliged to engage in conversation with students. Debaters should not pressure their judges for commentary after rounds. **JUDGES SHOULD NOT DISCLOSE THEIR REASON FOR DECISIONS (RFD) DURING OR AFTER ROUNDS!**

JUDGING

All schools should attempt to properly cover their entries. If you don't feel comfortable judging a particular debate format or speech event, please note it on your Speechwire entry so that we can accommodate you. We are fortunate to be placed in a region of many highly qualified judges, educators, and former debaters.

DEBATE ROUND FORFEIT RULE

Any debater who is more than 15 minutes late automatically forfeits their round, resulting in a "bye" or automatic win for the opposing debater. Please make every effort to have your debaters appear at their appointed rounds so that our tournament runs smoothly.

TOURNAMENT ETHICS STANDARDS

The Strength In Numbers Tournament will adhere to the rules prescribed by the International Public Debate Association and the American Forensic Association. Before tournament day, please take time to familiarize yourself and your team with the rules contained within the Constitution and the Bylaws of these two organizations.

DEBATE ROUND PAIRINGS

Rounds 1 and 2 of IPDA will be randomly paired. However, rounds 3 and 4 of IPDA will be power-matched. Brackets will not be broken in elimination rounds.

IPDA COMPETITION RULES

Our tournament will follow IPDA rules found within the IPDA Constitution and Bylaws, which were last updated on October 2018. To view the constitution, please visit the website at: <http://www.ipdadebate.info/constitution--bylaws.html>.

According to the IPDA Constitution, “IPDA” or the “International Public Debate Association” is an audience-friendly debate format with great emphasis on persuasion, rhetorical speaking abilities, and inclusivity of interested individuals who are encouraged to debate “regardless of educational background, prior experience, or any other demographics.” The philosophic tenets of the IPDA Constitution are sevenfold, which are *inclusivity, lay judging, limited preparation, extemporaneous delivery, rhetorical delivery, and ethos*.

It is important to note that IPDA Debate differs from other collegiate debate formats since it encourages *lay judging* – judges with limited debate experience and training to ensure fairness within debate rounds. Therefore, handouts of the IPDA debate format will be distributed at check-in to all lay judges who request a copy of the IPDA Debate rules.

The IPDA Debate format is as follows:

- A. Topics will be announced in-round with 5 topics (2 value, 2 policy, 1 metaphor) provided for strikes. Negative strikes first, and then turns are taken until one topic remains to be debated.
- B. **While topic disclosure is encouraged, debaters will not be allowed to consult any other person during prep time - including coaches.**
Per IPDA rules, they will be allowed paper and/or electronic research material, which may be quoted or paraphrased from notes during the round, but not read directly, as extemporaneous delivery is required.
- C. Time limits:

Affirmative Constructive	5 minutes
Cross Examination	2 minutes
Negative Constructive	6 minutes
Cross Examination	2 minutes
First Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes
First Negative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Second Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE IPDA DEBATE FORMAT

- Competitors will receive their topics at their designated competition room 30 MINUTES BEFORE THE ACTUAL ROUND BEGINS. (Example: if the first round

starts at 9:00AM, then competitors **MUST** be at their designated rooms ***no later*** than 8:30AM).

- Judges are expected to keep time during the debate round. IPDA competitors will have exactly 30 minutes of preparation time following the first negative strike.
- IPDA strike sheets will contain a variety of topics ranging from domestic, economic, social, international events to social advocacy issues.

TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION

Registration for the tournament will commence online at Speechwire on Thursday, December 28th, 2023 and will continue until the entry deadline on **Tuesday, January 21st, 2024, at 5PM ET**. As stated before, emailed entries will not be accepted. You will have an opportunity to confirm your entries at check-in on Sunday morning at 8:00am EDT at our virtual tournament registration and tab room.

TAB ROOM

The tournament tab room will be at a specified conference chat room on Zoom. Any questions about schematics can be directed to the tab-room staff. However, judges may direct all complaints, grievances, and all serious matters to me. You will find me either at the tab room or at registration.

TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEES

IF YOU ARE MAKING A PAYMENT EITHER BY CREDIT/DEBIT CARD OR BY CHECK, YOU CAN SEND US PAYMENT VIA YOUR PAYPAL INVOICE. DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE COMING DAYS NEAR TOURNAMENT DAY.

ALL FEES MUST BE PAID PRIOR TO OR AT REGISTRATION UNLESS PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE!

1. The following entry fees shall be assessed:
 - School fee \$25 per school
 - IPDA slot \$25 per debater
 - I.E. speech slot \$8 per entry
2. Fees for uncovered debaters will be assessed as follows:
 - Every uncovered speaker = \$10 per I.E. speech slot
 - Every uncovered debater = \$40 per IPDA debater
3. Fees will initially be calculated on Tuesday, January 16th at 5PM ET. Late adds/drops will be as follows:
 - Add/drops on Wednesday, Jan 17th & Thursday, Jan 18th \$20 per change, plus entry fee
 - **NO MORE ADDS ALLOWED ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 19TH!!!!**

- Drops on Saturday, Jan 20th: \$70 per drop, plus entry fee
 - **Drops at registration on Sunday, January 21st: \$100 per drop, plus original entry fee**
 - **ABSOLUTELY NO ADDS ALLOWED ON SUNDAY!!!**
4. **Each judge covers 2 IPDA debaters or 5 Individual Event slots.** Therefore, teams with excess entries will be charged “uncovered slots” for every entry that is not covered by a judge. So please make every effort to cover your entry. Schools are responsible for entering their judges as the right judge type when calculating fees.
 5. Judges who fail to pick their ballots will render their students ineligible for elimination rounds.
 6. Lastly, student-run and small teams are the lifeblood of our forensics community. We recognize that many teams are threatened with budget cuts, coaching staff turnover, and diminished resources from their institutions. If this is your first debate tournament and do not have the means to cover your entire entry fee, please reach out to us, and we will be happy to accommodate you. We want you to attend our tournament and have a great debate experience. We only ask that you bring enough judges to adequately cover your entry.

JUDGES (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!)

To encourage fairness to our competitors – and if you’re a coach – I ask that you bring as many of your judges as possible. We’d much rather have your judges than your money. **For our tournament, a judge who is available for all of the preliminary rounds and one elimination round will cover two IPDA debaters or five IE slots.** We encourage a broad range of judges, coaches, forensics alumni, students (ONLY IF THEY AREN’T COMPETITORS), fellow parents, educators, and members of the academic community.

Since the team has a very small budget, we are only able to hire judges on a very limited basis. Nevertheless, if you would like to hire a judge, please contact me at gcspeechteam@gmail.com as soon as possible. We are very fortunate to have a supportive and thriving pool of qualified hired judges within our Northeastern district and NYC metro area.