



THE
PSDA

PROFESSIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE ASSOCIATION

📞 925-285-1435

🌐 www.ProSDA.com

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Welcome to the Professional Speech and Debate Association (PSDA) Online Spring Classic Tournament! We are excited to have you join us on Saturday February 4th and Sunday February 5th for a weekend of competitive speech and debate events.

All rounds will be held online through our tournament hosting platform, Tabroom.com. Saturday February 4th will feature four preliminary rounds of speech events, followed by a final round for the top competitors in each event. Sunday February 5th will feature three preliminary rounds of debate events, followed by two elimination rounds, as well as two preliminary rounds of Congress and a final round.

We offer competition for all ages and skill levels, with divisions for Elementary, Junior, High School, College, and Professional. Each school grade division has an open and novice division to accommodate a range of experience, and the professional division is open to anyone over the age of 18. The professional division offers cash prizes to top competitors, calculated as a percentage of total entries in each event. This means that the more competitors in an event, the bigger the cash prize pool!

We believe that the job of being a coach is hard enough as it is, and we strive to make things as easy as possible for our coaches and competitors. That's why we keep entry fees as low as possible and never charge nuisance fees. We also believe that "punishable by fine" means "legal for a price," and so we have implemented a policy where if a team collectively misses over 20% of their ballots, their students who would have advanced will not be included in outrounds. We feel this is a stronger deterrent than fines, and allows teams grace when inevitable things come up. We hope to never have to enact this policy and that every team meets their judge obligations. We hire extra judges from HiredJudge.com to ensure everyone gets extra off-rounds, and that we'll have coverage for anyone who wants to leave their entries uncovered. If you have any concerns about the reliability of your judges, you are encouraged to leave your entries uncovered and we'll supply a judge for you.

We are excited to have you join us for the Online Spring Classic Tournament, and we can't wait to see all of the great competition that will take place. Please visit prostda.com for more information and to register for the tournament, or register directly at Tabroom.com.

We look forward to seeing you at the tournament!

Professional Speech and Debate Association - Register at www.prostda.com - (925) 285-1435

Competitors on Saturday may enter in up to **3 events in the speech pattern. and Sunday competitors must choose one 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 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 4th and 5th, 2023.

If you have any questions or need any assistance, don't hesitate to reach out to us at admin@prostda.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.

Now, let's talk about fees. Here's how it works:

IE/SPAR/Congress Entry Fee: \$12 per entry
Uncovered IE/SPAR/Congress Entry Fee: \$25 per entry

1-person Debate Entry Fee: \$25 per entry
2-person Debate Entry Fee: \$50 per entry
Uncovered Debate Entry Fee: \$70 per entry

Missed Ballots: No Charge

Late additions: No Charge

Drops: No Charge

No School Fee

But wait, there's more! If you decide to leave your entries uncovered, we'll provide a judge for you at the following rates:

Uncovered IE/SPAR/Congress Entry Fee: \$25 per entry

Uncovered Debate Entry Fee: \$70 per entry

So don't worry about finding a judge - we've got you covered (literally).

And remember, any team that fails 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 2/4

7:30 – Judge Training

8:30 – Speech Round 1 (Ext. 7:45)

10:00 – Speech Round 2 (Ext. 9:15)

11:30 – Speech Round 3 (Ext. 10:45)

1:00 – Speech Round 4 (Ext. 12:15)

Lunch Break

3:00 – All Final Rounds (Ext. 2:45)

Awards ASAP

Sunday 2/5

7:15 - Judge Training

8:00 - Congress/Debate Round 1

10:00 - Debate Round 2

11:30 - Congress Round 2

12:00 - Debate Round 3

Lunch Break

2:30 - Debate Elim 1

3:00 - Congress Final Round

4:30 - 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! Online Fall Classic finalists will receive a trophy 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:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 1st place - 10 points● 2nd place - 8 points● 3rd place - 6 points● 4th place - 4 points● 5th place - 2 points● 6th place - 1 point	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Gold - 10 points● Silver - 6 points● Bronze - 3 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 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.

Sunday - (must choose 1) - Public Forum, SPAR (Spontaneous Argumentation), 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.

Sunday - (must choose 1) - Public Forum, SPAR (Spontaneous Argumentation), 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.

Sunday - (must choose 1) - Public Forum, SPAR (Spontaneous Argumentation), 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, and Extemporaneous.

Sunday - (must choose 1) - IPDA, Public Forum, SPAR (Spontaneous Argumentation), 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.

Sunday - (must choose 1) - IPDA, Public Forum, SPAR (Spontaneous Argumentation), 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 and Congress are the only two Sunday events in which competitors may double-enter.
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 (3-0 and 2-1) 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, and 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.