



2020 “ACU JOSEPH J. CARDOT FORENSIC INVITATIONAL” ABILENE, TX

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of Abilene Christian University, the Department of Communication and Sociology, and the ACU Debate Team, we invite you to the **2nd Annual Joseph J. Cardot Forensic Invitational, December 5-6, 2020**, hosted by **Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas**.

This virtual competition will feature all divisions of IPDA (Novice, JV, Varsity, and Professional) and will offer a vibrant weekend of argumentation as we wrap up the fall, 2020 semester. Tab will again be run by the amazing team of Bob Alexander and Joe Ganakos. It should be a great event to wrap up the fall.

As our early holiday gift to you, and in celebration of the end of 2020 (!!!) there will be **no entry fees** for this tournament. We do ask that you **provide ONE JUDGE FOR EVERY TWO COMPETITORS**. This requirement will make sure all your entries are covered by the required number of judges. Please understand that we 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.

As mentioned before, the advent of virtual tournaments necessitates that ALL entries be covered without exception (for this tournament, 1 judge covers 2 debaters). As ACU campus will be closed at the time of the tournament, our usual collection of qualified lay judges from faculty, staff, and students will be limited. Judges must be able to judge the entire time, though we will do our best to give judges some rounds off. Judges are required to stay in the judging pool throughout the elimination rounds, even if their teams are eliminated.

All entries must be received by Tue., December 1, 2020, at 5:00 pm CST in ForensicsTournament.net. Changes will be accepted until Wed., December 2, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. CST. **As this is a “free” tournament, we ask that changes after the deadline be made only if absolutely necessary.** For any changes after the deadline, please send changes to sheila.ritchie@acu.edu.

Our hope is that this will be another excellent chance for colleges and universities in all regions to have an accessible VIRTUAL option to end the semester strong. Pre-tournament updates will be distributed via the IPDA Listserve and ForensicsTournament.net.

In the pages that follow, you'll find all the details for the “Joseph J. Cardot Forensic Invitational”. If you have questions, please feel free to contact either myself or my assistant coach at any time.

Cordially,

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Director of Forensics and Debate
Abilene Christian University

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VIRTUAL ARRIVAL & REGISTRATION:

Registration will be conducted via ForensicsTournament.net, and all competition rounds will be through Yaatly. Registration Link: <https://forensicstournament.net/ACUJosephJCardot/20>

User guides for coaches and students, including instructional videos for ForensicsTournament.net and Yaatly guides, can be found on the IPDA Website at: <http://www.ipdadebate.info/virtual-debate-resources.html>

ENTRIES & FEES: (There are no fees for this tournament)

For registration and tabulation we will utilize ForensicsTournament.net. If you do not have a team profile in Forensics Tournament.net you will need to create one 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 you have your team set up you can find the registration for our tournament at: <https://forensicstournament.net/ACUJosephJCardot/20>

Entry confirmations will be emailed to all coaches on Wednesday, December 2 by 8:00 p.m.

Please Note: All entries must be received in ForensicsTournament.net by **Tuesday, December 1 at 5:00 p.m.** Changes will be accepted until **Wednesday, December 2 at noon.** Since this tournament is free, please limit any changes after that point to only those that are absolutely necessary. We will close the entries on ForensicTournament.net on Wednesday, December 2 at noon so any changes after that should be emailed to Sheila Ritchie at sheila.ritchie@acu.edu .

JUDGES:

All entries must be covered. One judge during debate rounds covers two (2) IPDA debaters. As is commonplace in IPDA, once eliminated from competition, IPDA competitors may be used to judge IPDA elimination rounds. All judges are obligated to judge for the entirety of the tournament. We will reserve the power to limit entries to make certain we can provide sufficient judging pools needed to keep clean rounds throughout the tournament.

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:

In addition to entering the tournament via ForensicsTournament.net, coaches should create the appropriate team Yaatly accounts several days prior to the tournament. Yaatly must be accessed through a Chrome browser. You will find instructions for this at <http://www.ipdadebate.info/virtual-debate-resources.html>

Before the tournament:

- Familiarize your team with Yaatly: Accessing the platform prior to the start of the tournament will be especially useful to confirm cameras and mics are working well. Use your Team Room for this.
- Familiarize yourself with Yaatly: There will be a "Tab Room" and "Coaches/Judges Lounge". Make plans to connect with other coaches in that area
- 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 5 minutes before the start of the round and test their audio/video.** Cameras and mics can be off but individuals should be in the rooms. Rounds will start at the set times but this allows for troubleshooting of audio and video. It also allows time to remedy other issues so the rounds can start on time. Schools 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 please contact Sheila Ritchie through Yaatly chat or 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 team's 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 activated 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.
- Judges should activate the in-round timer function appropriate for each debate segment BUT competitors are expected to be timing themselves as well.
- **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
 - 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 re-enters within the 5 minutes, but loses connection a second time in a single round, the round is forfeit. The judge may assign speaker point on performance to that point.
 - If a competitor has more than 3 disconnections in a tournament, they forfeit remaining rounds.
 - If a judge drops connection, the competitors should immediately pause their timers and contact Sheila Ritchie through Yaatly chat or the Tab Room after two minutes have elapsed.

EVENT INFORMATION:

A. General information

1. No minimum number of entries is required for schools to count toward sweepstakes awards.
2. The tab room will be available to coaches in Yaatly.

B. 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 Yaatly platform or ballots, including the judge.
4. Please remind your judges that oral critiques are not permitted after the round.

C. Tournament Ethics Statement

1. The behavior of all attending the Joseph J. Cardot Forensic Invitational will be in keeping with the [NCA Policy on Anti-Harassment Code of Conduct](#). We encourage all programs to review these expectations prior to entering this tournament.
2. The Joseph J. Cardot Forensic Invitational 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 at 10:00 am to reduce the impact on any West Coast competitors. Additionally, all rounds will be single flighted in order to encourage an on-time schedule.

Saturday, Dec. 5

10:00	Tournament Assembly	10:00
10:30	IPDA Round 1	10:30
12:00	IPDA Round 2	12:00
1:30	IPDA Round 3	1:30
3:00	Lunch Break	3:00
3:30	IPDA Round 4	
5:00	IPDA Round 5	
6:30	IPDA Round 6	

Sunday, Dec. 6

10:00	Awards
10:30	IPDA Elim 1
12:00	IPDA Elim 2
1:30	IPDA Elim 3
3:00	IPDA Elim 4 (if needed)

AWARDS:

Certificates will be presented to all elimination round participants in all events (via emailed files). Awards shall be presented to the top five speakers in each debate division. The three top programs and the top community/junior college shall receive awards for Sweepstakes. In addition, we'll be continuing to offer the "Jack Pope Award" to the school with the highest winning percentage. This will be mailed as a trophy to the winning program.

DIVISIONS & POINTS FORMULA:

The tournament reserves the right to limit entries if necessary. We will host all four divisions (Nov, JV, Var, Pro) of IPDA competition. The top three debaters in each division will count towards Sweepstakes calculations.

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

Debate points will be awarded according to the following formula:

- 3 points for each preliminary round win
- 3 points for breaking to elimination rounds
- 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.



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All Entries Should Be Made Via [ForensicsTournament.Net](https://forensicstournament.net)

Registration Link: <https://forensicstournament.net/ACUJosephJCardot/20>

Entry Deadline: Tuesday, December 2nd at 5:00 pm CST
 Changes Deadline: Wednesday, December 3rd at 12:00pm CST

	<u>IPDA Competitor</u>	<u>Division (PRO / VAR / JV / NOV)</u>
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15		
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	IPDA JUDGE (one judge covers two debaters)
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13	

REMINDER: ALL ENTRIES MUST BE COVERED – 1 Judge for every 2 competitors