



THE  
PSDA

## PROFESSIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE ASSOCIATION

📞 925-285-1435

🌐 [www.ProSDA.com](http://www.ProSDA.com)

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The Professional Speech and Debate Association (PSDA) cordially invites you to Season 3, a 6-month series of online tournaments to be held **July thru December, on the first Saturday of every month**. We promise to provide high quality competition, fast and efficient tournaments, and superior feedback from judges.

In the PSDA **judges are always provided by the tournament**, not the attendees. We source all of our judges through [HiredJudge.com](https://www.hiredjudge.com) ensuring a fair and reliable outcome for every tournament. Judges are reviewed and coached to provide the best possible feedback, and are prohibited from having any affiliation with the competitors. As attendees at a PSDA tournament you never have to worry about judges, and if there is ever an issue with a judge we take immediate action to replace or ban them from the judge pool.

The 1-day tournament design features a fast-paced morning with **4 preliminary rounds, a full 1 hour lunch break, followed by up to 3 elimination rounds** and awards. We use an accelerated schedule, with shorter rounds and fewer speakers, to bring you a 7 round tournament in under 8 hours. No need for a tournament to take up your whole weekend, PSDA tournaments are finished by mid-afternoon so you can enjoy the rest of your Saturday.

We offer 5 divisions based on age: **Elementary** (ages 10 and under), **Junior** (ages 10 to 14), **High School** (ages 14 to 18), **Adult** (beginners ages 18+), and **Professional** (advanced ages 18+). Please visit [our website](#) or read on for a full breakdown of division rules.

Competitors may enter in up to **3 events each, and we are offering 5 event categories** in Season 3: Prepared Speech, Spontaneous Speech, Prepared Debate, Spontaneous Debate, and Prepared Acting. Event description and rules for each of these events are offered later in this document, or on [our website](#).

The PSDA awards **cash prizes to the top 3 in each division** for season-long individual sweepstakes and team sweepstakes. Cash prize sums are calculated as a percentage of entries within each division; larger entries means larger cash prizes. Similarly, the professional division is awarded monthly cash prizes as a percentage of the entries collected in each event. For a more detailed accounting of how cash prizes are calculated please visit [our website](#).

**Professional Speech and Debate Association - Register at [www.prosda.com](http://www.prosda.com) - (925) 285-1435**

## **All entries, ballots, postings, and awards will be available at**

Online Tournament 1 (July 2nd): <https://forensicstournament.net/PSDAFallOnlineOne/22>

Online Tournament 2 (August 6th): <https://forensicstournament.net/PSDAFallOnlineTwo/22>

Online Tournament 3 (September 3rd): <https://forensicstournament.net/PSDAFallOnlineThree/22>

Online Tournament 4 (October 1st): <https://forensicstournament.net/PSDAFallOnlineFour/22>

Online Tournament 5 (November 5th): <https://forensicstournament.net/PSDAFallOnlineFive/22>

Online Season 3 Championship (December 3rd): <https://forensicstournament.net/PSDAFallChamps/22>

**Easy Registration:** If you are unfamiliar with our tournament hosting platform, forensicstournament.net, and would like a simpler registration process we've made it easy! Register now on [our website](#).

You may also register on Tabroom.com and we will manually move your entries over to forensicstournament.net for you!

**CONTACT:** Blake Longfellow

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(925) 285-1435

Questions, comments, concerns, complaints? Feel free to reach out!

**Tournament Address:**

15983 Gary Way  
Grass Valley, CA 95949

**Fee Calculation:**

Entry Fee \$50 per entry

Individual Season Membership \$800

-6 Tournaments

-3 Entries Per Tournament

Team Season Membership \$4000

-5 Competitors

-6 Tournaments

-3 Entries Per Tournament

### **Tournament Schedule**

#### **Pacific Time Zone**

7:30 – Judge Training

8:30 - Opening Ceremony

9:00 – Round 1

10:00 – Round 2

11:00 – Round 3

12:00 – Round 4

LUNCH BREAK

2:00 – Elimination Round 1

3:00 – Elimination Round 2

4:00 – Elimination Round 3

(Elims only held if necessary)

**Awards ASAP**

## **AWARDS**

All PSDA Tournament results are commemorated with a custom certificate including the competitors name and accomplishment, via email shortly after the tournament.

**Results are scored as follows:**

- 1st place - 10 points
- 2nd place - 8 points
- 3rd place - 6 points
- 4th place - 4 points
- Semifinalist - 2 points
- Quarterfinalist - 1 point

### **Team Sweepstakes**

1. Overall Team Sweepstakes will be awarded to the top 3 teams in each division.
2. Only the top 5 competitors from each team will count towards team sweepstakes.
3. Sweepstakes points are totalled from all tournaments within a season.
4. All points scored at the season championship tournament are tallied at 3 times the normal value.
5. Cash prize pools will equal 5% of the total entry fees collected within each respective division.
6. 1st place will be awarded 50% of the prize pool, 2nd place will be awarded 30%, and 3rd place will be awarded the remaining 20%.

### **Individual Sweepstakes**

1. Overall Individual Sweepstakes will be awarded to the top 3 competitors in each division.
2. Sweepstakes points are totalled from all tournaments within a season.
3. All points scored at the season championship tournament are tallied at 3 times the normal value.
4. Cash prize pools will equal 5% of the total entry fees collected within each respective division.
5. 1st place will be awarded 50% of the prize pool, 2nd place will be awarded 30%, and 3rd place will be awarded the remaining 20%.

### **Professional Event Prizes**

1. The top 4 competitors in each event of the Professional division will receive cash prizes at every PSDA tournament.
2. Cash prize pools will equal 5% of the total entry fees collected within each respective event.
3. 1st place will be awarded 30% of the prize pool, 2nd place will be awarded 25%, 3rd place will be awarded 20%, and 15% will go to 4th place. The remaining 10% will go into the prize pool for professional division team and individual sweepstakes.

## **EVENTS**

All 5 events are in the same pattern, and competitors are allowed to enter in up to 3 events simultaneously. We have simplified event rules to run all like-kind speeches in the same event. See below an overview and event comparison for all 5 PSDA events.

### **Prepared Speech**

Overview: Competitors in this event present an original speech no longer than 10 minutes. These are typically researched and memorized before the competition.

Event Comparisons: Persuasive Speech, Informative Speech, Original Oratory, Original Advocacy, Keynote Speech, After Dinner Speech, Speech to Entertain, Communication Analysis, Rhetorical Criticism, Expository Speech, Commentary.

### **Spontaneous Speech**

Overview: Competitors are presented with a prompt, typically a quotation, and have 7 minutes to write and perform their speech based on that prompt. Original speeches should be delivered each round, unique to the prompt provided.

Event Comparison: Impromptu

### **Prepared Acting**

Overview: In a presentation no longer than 10 minutes competitors select literature, written by themselves or others, to perform. The style of performances and genre of literature are up to the competitors.

Event Comparisons: Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Oratorical Interpretation, Poetry Interpretation, Prose Interpretation, Programmed Oral Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Storytelling, Original Prose and Poetry, Monologues, Spoken Word Poetry.

### **Spontaneous Debate**

Overview: Modeled after SPAR debate, Spontaneous Debate is meant to prepare competitors for real life debates around the water cooler or dinner table. Competitors are paired into 1 versus 1 debates, but ranked against the overall skill level of all 6 debaters in each round. Competitors first strike topics from a list of 3, then are randomly assigned to one side of the debate. They take 2 minutes to prepare their arguments, then take turns delivering 2 minute

## **EVENT CONT.**

### **Spontaneous Debate Cont.**

speeches articulating their case. A 2 minute cross examination period then happens, allowing them to ask questions of each other. Finally, they both deliver a second 2 minute speech. After the judge has watched all 3 debate pairings they rank the debaters individually from 1st to 6th place.

3 topics struck to 1

2 minute preparation period

2 minute affirmative speech

2 minute negative speech

2 minute cross-examination period

2 minute affirmative speech

2 minute negative speech

Event Comparison: SPAR (Spontaneous Argumentation) Debate

### **Prepared Debate**

Overview: This event gives competitors the chance to research and prepare arguments for a debate topic in advance of the tournament, and then to enter those ideas into competition with others on the same topic. Every tournament has a predetermined topic, typically a proposed piece of legislation, and competitors will prepare a position speech either for or against the topic. Speeches from each competitor must be 3 minutes or less, followed by up to 30 seconds of questioning from fellow competitors.

Event Comparison: Congressional Debate

#### Season 3 Prepared Debate Topics:

Online Tournament 1 (July 2nd): The United States Supreme Court should have term limits.

Online Tournament 2 (August 6th): Homework should be banned in K-12 education.

Online Tournament 3 (September 3rd): The United States should build a high-speed rail line.

Online Tournament 4 (October 1st): The United States should reform its healthcare system.

Online Tournament 5 (November 5th): Schools should expand their use of electronic textbooks.

Online Season 3 Championship (December 3rd): The 2030 World Cup bid should be awarded to the "Southern Cone" bid from Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay, and Chile.

## **NOTABLE TOURNAMENT RULES AND PROCEDURES:**

1. We reserve the right to collapse divisions if entries warrant.
2. PSDA rules, as detailed on [our website](#), will govern each event.
3. Drop-ranks will be applied to all events. Competitor advancements to 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.
4. Auto-advance bids will be awarded to any 1st place winner of an event at a regular season tournament (all but championship). Auto-advance bids may be used at the championship tournament to skip preliminary rounds and advance directly to the 1st elimination round.
5. Competitors may enter up to three events per tournament. If competitors at the championship tournament are exercising an auto-advance bid they may enter in up to three events other than auto-advance bid events.
6. All judging is included in the entry fee price. 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.
7. The internet may be accessed at any time, in any event.
8. Props, costumes, lighting equipment, etc. are all permitted in any event.
9. Professional division is free entry, but is by invitation only. Invitations can be given by current professional division competitors (3 invitations per season), the tournament director, or by winning 1st place 3 times within a season in the adult division.
10. Judges must be qualified to judge all five PSDA events. No person who is currently coaching a PSDA competitor can work as a judge or 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.