



# 2026 "BULLDOG BOWL" VIRTUAL TOURNAMENT

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Union University and the Union Debate Team, it is our pleasure to invite you to the Bulldog Bowl! A virtual tournament hosted by Union University in Jackson, TN.

This virtual tournament will feature TIPDA and all divisions of IPDA. Tab will be run by Preston Langley. We are excited to offer a virtual tournament for the convenience of our guests, but also for an opportunity to prepare students for an increasingly virtual world. One of the special advantages of the virtual format this year will be that we can try our best to get everyone home in time to attend Superbowl events, should they wish to do so!

We will be running this tournament unflighted, which means we will ask for one judge per two competitors/teams. We reserve the right to limit entries from schools to allow for fair competition. Schools are also allowed to bring up to two observers who are not judges or competitors.

Judges must be able to judge for the entire time they are signed up for, but schools that are participating only in TIPDA or IPDA need only bring judges for those tournaments. Judges are in the judging pool through elimination rounds after elimination.

All entries must be received by Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> by 5pm CST in [Forensictournament.net](https://forensictournament.net). Changes will be accepted until Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at noon.

We promise a wide selection of high-quality, well balanced, pre-tested topics of all three resolution types that will educate participants, reward good prep, and appeal to a wide variety of entrants. Pre-tournament updates will be distributed via FTN.

Excitedly,

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## ENTRIES:

All school entries must be received in ForensicsTournament.net by Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. Changes will be accepted until Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at noon, when entries will close. Email changes to Seth (see page 1). No new entries will be added after Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## FEES:

Fees are based on an attempt to cover the costs incurred, as estimated from the last virtual tournament we hosted. Each IPDA entry is \$25. Each TIPDA team entry is \$40. There will be an additional fee of \$20 per uncovered competitor/TIPDA team. We will waive entry fees for coaches competing alongside their teams, as long as all entries are covered. All tournament fees will be due by the beginning of Saturday online (a link will be emailed) or via check. We reserve the right to revoke the registration of teams that have not paid their fees.

## JUDGES:

One judge is required for every two IPDA debaters and for every two TIPDA teams (for the duration of the tournament signed up for). Eliminated IPDA competitors will be used to judge IPDA elimination rounds. Schools only competing in IPDA or TIPDA do not need to provide judges for the other portion of the tournament. We reserve the right to limit the number of entries to keep clean rounds. Judges from eliminated teams must remain in the judging pool until the end of the tournament. All judges and competitors must provide email addresses in ForensicsTournament.net to receive their ballots.

## 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 “Team Lounge”
- 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.

#### 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 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.

#### EVENT INFORMATION:

- The tab room will be available to coaches in Yaatly.
- Please adhere to all rules expressed in the Bylaws and Constitution of the IPDA.
- 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.
- 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.

- Please remind your judges that oral critiques are not permitted after the round.
- The Bulldog Bowl expects that behavior between all participants, coaches, judges, and guests be respectful and appropriate at all times. If any participant has concerns regarding propriety or sportsmanship, they should discuss the matter with their coach. Concerns from any coach, judge, or guest should be taken directly to the Tournament Director, Seth Brake (704-999-8836).
- As a condition of entry, all participants, coaches, judges, and guests agree that any decision issued by the Tournament Director is binding and final.

**GENERATIVE AI AND TECH POLICY:**

The Bulldog Bowl requires that competitors who elect to use generative AI or LLMs to generate any or all of their arguments disclose this information at the beginning of the round. We also strongly recommend that any research generated through AI or AI overview be double-checked (or better yet, not used). Furthermore, because we adhere to the IPDA rules and guidelines that all materials must be handwritten during prep, reading AI-prepared cases directly from your computer screen is already prohibited. Please remind your students to refrain from reading any kind of materials from their screens.

**AWARDS & POINTS:**

The tournament reserves the right to limit entries if necessary. We will host all four divisions (Nov, JV, Var, Pro) of IPDA competition and Team IPDA. Certificates will be made available upon request via email.

The three top programs and the top community/junior college shall receive awards for Sweepstakes. Specifically, we will have awards for the top three programs in TIPDA, IPDA, and Overall. 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	IPDA Prelim Win
6	TIPDA Prelim Win
3	Elim Break
5	1 <sup>st</sup> Speaker
4	2 <sup>nd</sup> Speaker
3	3 <sup>rd</sup> Speaker
2	4 <sup>th</sup> Speaker
1	5 <sup>th</sup> Speaker

We will break cleanly according to seeding. Ties will be broken on number of wins, high/low adjusted speaker points, and number of total speaker points. Speaker awards will be determined by high/low adjusted speaker points and total speaker points.

**SCHEDULE:**

Friday (Draw)	Event	Division
9:00 am	Announcements	
9:15 am	Prelim R1	TIPDA
11:15 am	Prelim R2	TIPDA
12:30 pm	Lunch/Break	
1:15 pm	Prelim R3	TIPDA
3:00 pm	Prelim R4	TIPDA
4:00 pm	Coach's Check/Dinner	
5:15 pm	Elim 1	TIPDA
7:00 pm	Elim 2	TIPDA
8:45 pm	Elim 3	TIPDA
Saturday (Draw)		
9:00 am	Announcements	IPDA
9:15 am	Prelim R1	IPDA
10:30 am	Prelim R2	IPDA
11:45 pm	Prelim R3	IPDA
12:15 pm	Lunch/Break	
1:30 pm	Prelim R4	IPDA
2:45 pm	Prelim R5	IPDA
4:00 pm	Prelim R6	IPDA
5:15 pm	Coach's Check/Dinner	IPDA
5:30 pm	Elim 1	IPDA
6:45 pm	Elim 2	IPDA
~8:00 pm	Awards (or extra elim)	BOTH
Sunday (Draw)		
11:00 am	Elim 3	IPDA
12:15 pm	Elim 4	IPDA