

INTRODUCTION TO JUDGING IPDA DEBATE

You have signed up to judge IPDA debates at a tournament today! This document is intended to be a helpful guide to get used to the process of judging debates. IPDA style debate is a form of competition that is intended to be judged by any member of the public and debaters know that they should refrain from using jargon and vocabulary that is only understood by competitive debaters. Here is a step by step process to judging an IPDA debate:

STEP ONE: ACQUIRING YOUR BALLOT - When you are assigned to judge an IPDA debate, you will receive a digital ballot in your email. You will receive an email from Forensicstournament.net (sometimes listed as FTN). This email notifies you that you have a ballot and asks you to accept your ballot by clicking the link embedded in the email. Please accept your ballot as soon as you receive this email because we use that information to make sure every round has a judge.

STEP TWO: GO TO YOUR ASSIGNED DEBATE ROOM AT THE DESIGNATED TIME - Once the debate is announced, the competitors have 30 minutes of preparation time before the first speech begins. You need to be in your assigned room and ready to start the debate when the 30 minute prep time ends.

STEP THREE: WATCH THE DEBATE AND TAKE NOTES ON EACH SPEECH - Please pay close attention to the arguments made by both sides and take notes so that you can remember major issues. Here is the format for the debate:

Opening Affirmative Speech - 5 minutes

Cross Examination (Negative team asks Affirmative team questions) - 2 minutes

Opening Negative Speech - 6 minutes

Cross Examination (Affirmative team asks Negative team questions) - 2 minutes

Affirmative Response Speech - 3 minutes

Closing Negative Speech - 5 minutes

Closing Affirmative Speech - 3 minutes

STEP FOUR: FILL OUT YOUR BALLOT BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE ROOM - Once the debate ends, please fill out your ballot online. You must provide the following information:

- Winner of the debate - you must choose a winner for the debate
- Speaker Points - Each competitor should get an individual score. The scale of points goes from 0-30. However, I recommend that you only assign speaker points between 25 and 30. Please do not give a debater less than 25 speaker points unless they do something that is egregious and/or offensive

- Feedback - Please provide a brief description of your decision. Why did you vote affirmative or negative? Do you have any specific advice for the debaters? Please remember that this is the first time many people are participating in a debate and so please be nice and supportive with your feedback.

You are not required to provide an oral description to the debaters about your decision. If you do decide to speak to the debaters after the round and provide oral feedback, please make sure you submit your ballot online before anything else!