

Point Loma Nazarene University

2025 Point Loma TPDA Round Robin: Tournament of Champions

Introduction:

On Friday October 24th, 2025 Point Loma Nazarene University will host the 26th Annual Point Loma Round Robin Tournament of Champions. This one-day event matches 10 of the top TPDA schools across the nation against each other in a modified round robin format.

Philosophy & History:

Our goal at this Round Robin is to celebrate the community's top teams and treat them to top competition, great judging, wonderful catered meals, handsome trophies, and participation gifts. The Round Robin will host 10 of the nation's top TPDA debate teams in a pleasant yet competitive environment with three quality judges per round for excellent feedback and tips on avenues for improvement, and nicely catered meals to celebrate those that have risen to the top of our activity. This tournament not only offers a nice opportunity for iron to sharpen iron, but it creates a nice learning atmosphere for others to watch and learn from those who have consistently reached a high level of success. The goal is to serve the community in several areas. The top teams can improve by debating other top teams. Other debaters can improve by watching some of these stellar matches. And the entire community can benefit from a strong field of competition at the Sunset Cliffs Classic held the following two days. Since this TPDA format for teams may be new to some of the local programs, please know that you can easily combine some of your top IPDA debaters into teams for bids. We want local and community colleges competing.

Methodology:

The 10 schools whose successful bids will be selected will be divided into two pools of five teams, and will debate every team in their pool, plus receive a bye round in the preliminary five rounds. Pools will be rank ordered, and seeded on win-loss records, ballots, then speaker points from rounds 1-5. The top two winners per pool will advance to semifinals, power protecting the teams as they hit the top two teams from the other pool. The winner of each of those semifinal debates will meet in the Final Round to be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Cunningham A & B Nicholson Student Center. This public debate is open to the community, as will be the earlier rounds if seats are available.

Tournament Bids:

Schools from around the nation will be invited to submit bids for a top TPDA team to be considered for entering the Round Robin Tournament of Champions. The bid should contain the names and some competitive highlights from the two debaters proposed as a team, whether with their previous team or individual debate accomplishments, mentioning the format being highlighted in the bid. The school bid should also include the name of the critic being submitted as a judge for the event and their judging philosophy. Tournament TPDA judges cannot also be judging other events that same day. Hybrid team bids will not be allowed, nor should schools submit multiple bids per school. Bids should be submitted by Friday, September 26th, 2025. Please email them to Dr. Skip Rutledge, Tournament Director at skiprutledge@pointloma.edu

Fees

A charge of \$100 dollars per team will be assessed and every team is required to provide a qualified critic for each round through finals. Catered meals will be provided to the two debaters and one judge. Checks can be made payable to PLNU and please notate PLNU Speech and Debate Tournament somewhere on the check.

Schedule:

Here is a tentative schedule of events for the Round Robin. Audiences are MORE than welcome at all of these events. You are encouraged to attend! All meals though are reserved for the actual Round Robin participants. Thanks for understanding. Closest parking will be in the Commuter Lot/Parking Structure across from Ryan

Learning Center. The registration will take place in the Cunningham rooms of the Nicholson Student Center.

7:30-8:30 Registration/Breakfast -- Cunningham in Nicholson Student Center

8:30 - Topic Announce
9:00 - Round 1 Debates
9:55- Topic Announce
10:25 - Round 2 Debates
11:20 - Topic Announce
11:50- Round 3 Debates
12:45- LUNCH
1:30 - Topic Announce
2:00 - Round 4 Debates
2:55 - Topic Announce
3:25- Round 5 Debates

4:25 – 4:40 Mid-Day Break: Nicholson Recreation Room (Basement) called the ARC

4:45 – Announcement of Semi Finalists and Topic Announce in the Rec Room

5:15- Semifinal Rounds

6:00-7:15 – Round Robin Awards Banquet Cunningham A & B (Nicholson Student Center, Commons)

7:30 - Topic Announce

8:00 - Final Round

Resolutions and Resolution Areas

The resolutions may be in any format, such as fact, value, policy, metaphor, etc. or even possibly case scenarios. Suggestions for resolutions can be submitted via e mail to the Tournament Director skiprutledge@pointloma.edu up to the Monday prior to the actual tournament. These recommendations will also be considered for the Sunset Cliffs Classic parliamentary topics in IPDA, TPDA and NPDA.

Rules and Guidelines

First and foremost, we are governed by the rules of the campus, which, for example, disallow smoking, drinking alcoholic beverages, recreational use of drugs, sexual harassment, or harassment of any kind, etc. . . Then we will make every attempt to follow IPDA sanctioned practices and norms regarding times, rules, prep, delivery, content, not breaking brackets, etc. for TPDA rounds, though the Tournament Director reserves the right to make changes from those practices if circumstances call for it. For example, we are governed by a tight schedule due to catering demands, so we hope no time-consuming formal protests are lodged, and if they are, we will attempt to resolve those as fairly and quickly as possible but will not be bound by IPDA or PSCFA appeals procedures as this is not the IPDA National Championship Tournament or a PSCFA Sanctioned Tournament. Per IPDA rules, phones may not be used to keep time in rounds, and brackets will not be broken though that should not be an issue here.

Judges, coaches, and competitors alike are asked to be respectful of others both in oral and written comments. Debate at this tournament aims to promote disagreeing in an agreeable manner. Thanks for understanding.

Tournament Hotel: No tournament hotel is noted. Please use travel apps for the greatest deal

We sincerely hope this tournament experience is enjoyable and informative for you. Contact me with any questions please.

Sincerely,

Dr. Skip Rutledge,
Tournament Director
(619) 655-0112 Cell
skiprutledge@pointloma.edu