

International Public Debate Association

CODE OF ETHICS

The International Public Debate Association (IPDA) was founded to serve the needs of those wishing to enhance their rhetorical skills by promoting the development of audience centered debate and the development of real-world communicative skills. To this end, it has sought to create an environment open to all. This Code of Ethics is intended to promote the educational value of the IPDA by serving as a guide for right conduct within the competitive model established within the Constitution.

Implicit in the idea of competition is the desire to win. However, the competitive model is merely a means to the end for the education of the participants of the IPDA. The primary goal should be to help all participants, even one's competitors, learn how to be an effective, responsible communicator. Any action that undermines that goal should be considered unethical.

Competitors:

Competitors should maintain credibility, honesty, integrity and courtesy at all times during their participation in and around tournaments. Their delivery should be of a credible nature, including topic interpretation and argumentation. They should be encouraged to constructively discuss controversial issues yet treat opponents and all persons with respect. In addition, all actions at IPDA events should promote a positive image for the IPDA.

Judges:

Judges should, at all times, practice objectivity and openness to new ideas. They should provide positive and constructive ballot comments, decisions, and evaluations to help competitors achieve success, regardless of affiliation. Judges should determine the winner of rounds with no outside influence; including, but not limited to consultation with anyone, audience reactions or interference, or the use of any outside (internet) information. After round comments or discussions must wait until the ballot has been determined and delivered to the tab room staff.

Program directors and/or coaches:

Program directors and/or coaches should strive to make pedagogy their primary goal in IPDA activities. In addition, they should strive to instill a sense of ethics in their individual squads and maintain an ethical stance on issues including, but not limited to the above issues, with their teams, judges and actions in IPDA activities.