



On behalf of the University of Central Arkansas, the UCA School of Communication, and UCA Debate and Forensics, we invite you to our campus for the Thirteenth Annual End of Hi-BEAR-Nation Debate Tournament. Though we will be holding the tournament virtually using the FTN and Yaatly platforms, we still looking forward to hosting you on March 13-14, 2021, for a weekend of IPDA Debate. Our tournament is open to all who wish to participate.

In addition, in previous years, we have billed our tournament as preparation for the IPDA National Championship. While we will be limiting our tournament to six rounds of preliminary competition, we will be implementing the protocols to be used at the IPDA National Championship as they pertain to technology issues, disconnections, ballot submissions, and topic selections.

You will find pertinent information included with this invitation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Go Bears!

Anthony L. McMullen, Director of Forensics
University of Central Arkansas
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Email: AMcMullen@uca.edu



Tournament Ethics Statement: The behavior of all attending the End of Hi-BEAR-Nation Debate Tournament will be in keeping with the [NCA Policy on Anti-Harassment Code of Conduct](#). We encourage all programs to review these expectations before entering this tournament. We expect that behavior between all participants, coaches, judges, and observers be respectful and appropriate at all times. If any participant has concerns over propriety or good sportspersonship, they should discuss the matter with their coaching staff. Any coach or judge should address any concerns with the Tournament Director. As a condition of entry, all participants, coaches, judges, and guests agree that any decision issued by the Tournament Director is final.

Tournament “Headquarters”: The tournament will be hosted on the ForensicsTournament.net (FTN) and Yaatly platforms. [The IPDA website contains several resources to help you use these platforms](#). The FTN link is <https://forensicstournament.net/HiBEARNation/21>.

Registration and Fees: This year, we are only charging \$10.00 per entry. However, all entries must be covered. No exceptions. One judge covers two entries. All judges are obligated to judge the entire tournament. We will not charge for observers, but we ask that you keep them to a minimum, as we have to pay for that capacity.

The entry deadline is Wednesday, March 10 at noon. Teams will be able to make changes without penalty until Thursday, March 11 at noon. At that time, FTN will shut down for accepting changes. Any changes after that point should be sent via email to AMcMullen@uca.edu.

We are not able to process credit cards or electronic payments. Please make checks out to the UCA Foundation, with “Speech and Debate Fund” in the memo line. Checks should be mailed to:

UCA Debate and Forensics
c/o Anthony L. McMullen
College of Business 204E
201 S. Donaghey Ave.
Conway, AR 72035

Tournament Notes: All rules guiding IPDA debate, including division eligibility and times, will apply to this tournament. These rules can be found at ipdadebate.info. Per our tradition, preliminary rounds will be themed (e.g., domestic policy, economy and finance, education, pop culture, etc.).

Judging: Judges are vital to the success of any tournament. Judges should submit their ballots no later than fifteen minutes after the round. If additional time is needed to add comments, judges can “submit” their ballot with the speaker points and win/loss via FTN, then return to their ballot to add additional comments. Judges who are consistently late starting rounds, late finishing ballots, or who are unable to continue for ANY reason during the tournament must be replaced, even if that requires removing a competitor from the tournament.

Other Notes:

- Starting Rounds on Time: Our goal is to honor the time of all schools participating. Schools will be given one warning if their participants or judges are late, 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. Competitors who are over 5 minutes late will be forfeited.
- Technology: Competitors are to adhere to IPDA guidelines on the use of technology. Flowing and timekeeping should be done in the traditional manner (judges are encouraged to use the timer in Yaately, but competitors should not rely upon this and should be running a timer themselves).
- Competitor disconnects: If a competitor disconnects please stop the timers and attempt to reconnect immediately. Competitors will be given five minutes to reconnect, if they are unable to do so then the round will be forfeited. Additionally, ON THE THIRD disconnection in a single round by the same competitor, the round will be forfeit. We hope that this does not occur, but in an effort to keep the tournament on time and to avoid excessive cost for platform time we will strictly enforce this rule.
- Judge disconnects: If a judge disconnects please follow the same procedures as for a competitor disconnect, after the second disconnect have a participant enter the tab room to

inform the tournament administration of the problem. If a judge continues to have connectivity issues we will contact the program director/coach and ask for an alternative judge to take their place. **COMPETITORS - IF A JUDGE HAS DISCONNECTED FOR 5 MINUTES OR MORE, PLEASE COME TO THE VIRTUAL TAB ROOM TO INFORM US.**

- Judge ballot pickup: We ask that coaches instruct their judges to immediately accept and open all ballots sent to them via email through the FTN server. This will allow us to watch for possible needs to substitute judges for rounds. Any judge that does not pick up their ballot for a round twice, will be removed from the tournament. The program that the judge is affiliated with will then have to replace that judge with another, even if this means removing a competitor from the debate field. **Judges have a 15-minute deadline to submit their ballots after each round.**
- Topics: Strike will take place in the competition rooms. Judges are not required to be in the room for strike to occur. At the time of draw, topics will be posted in the topic tab of each room. Competitors should strike per IPDA guidelines. After the strike process has been completed place the topic in the chat for the room and be sure that both sides agree that the topic is the correct one. Any confusion on topic selection should be cleared before the competitors leave the competition room. Any challenges to the topic after the round will result in a double loss for the competitors. The strike process is part of the draw/prep time allotted in the tournament schedule.
- Disclosure: Disclosure on topic direction or scope should be discussed before leaving the room for prep, or contact information should be exchanged if the debaters choose to do so. Disclosure can also be put in the chat for the room. Disclosure is not mandatory but rather a courtesy if the debaters choose to do so.
- Judge Disclosure: There should be NO discussion from the judge/judges before or after the round other than greetings and issues about the starting of the round. No oral critiques are allowed and there will be no discussion of decisions or ballot elements between the judges in the elimination rounds.

Awards: PDF Awards will be given to all out round participants, the top five speakers in each division, and the top three programs. Sweepstakes will be calculated as follows:

IPDA: 3 points per prelim win, 3 points for breaking (three individuals per division max)
 Top Speakers in each Division: 5 pts for 1st place, 4 pts for 2nd place, etc.

We will also present the “Big Bear” award to the division with the highest preliminary round winning percentage across all forms and divisions of debate, regardless of team size (three competitors minimum.)

Schedule (all times listed are in Central Time)

Saturday, March 13

10:00 – Tournament Assembly

10:30 – IPDA Round 1

12:00 – IPDA Round 2

1:30 – IPDA Round 3

3:00 – Lunch Break

3:30 – IPDA Round 4

5:00 – IPDA Round 5

6:30 – IPDA Round 6

Sunday, March 14

10:00 – Awards

10:30 – IPDA Elim. 1

12:00 – IPDA Elim. 2

1:30 – IPDA Elim. 3

3:00 – IPDA Elim. 4